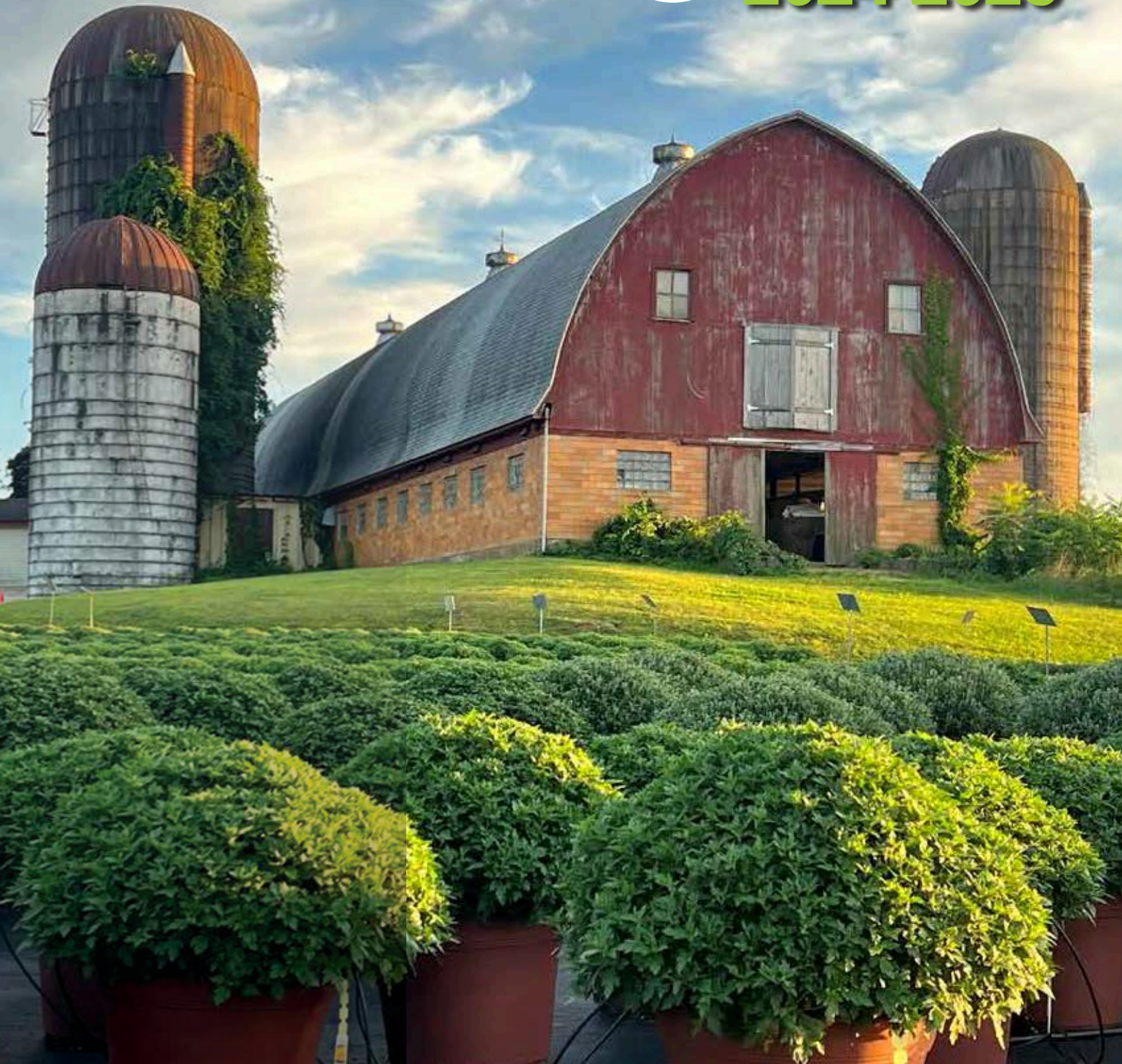


TOWN OF Ellington

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



WALL OF HONOR 2025 INDUCTEE

JOHN S. WATTS

At the May 12, 2025 meeting of the Board of Selectmen, John S. Watts was unanimously selected to be inducted to the Ellington Wall of Honor. Submitted by his son Peter, the application included multiple letters of reference from individuals whose lives have been positively impacted by John over the years.

A retired educator, John's teaching extended outside of the classroom, advocating for civic education and acting as a champion for critical thinking and personal growth in his students.

His vision, hard work, and commitment contributed to a long-lasting legacy that lives on to this day.

A 35-year educator at Ellington High School, John taught American Government and Contemporary Issues, encouraging his students to be actively involved in their community. He was known for making his classroom content relevant. Students in his introductory class successfully campaigned for the USS Nautilus to be named the official state ship; then-Governor William O'Neill and former Governor John Dempsey attended a ceremonial signing at Ellington High School.

In addition to teaching, John served as a member of the Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps, earning Lifetime Membership status, and was the driving force behind the creation of Ellington Rescue Post 512, improving emergency medical responses in the community and inspiring many high school students to pursue careers in medicine, public safety, service, and volunteerism.

Those who knew John describe him as someone who "embodies what Ellington is all about...a true mentor and educator...an integral part of Ellington's identity...always went the extra mile for anyone he knew."

In addition to the hours he spent teaching and his service with EVAC, he served as a volunteer Auxiliary State Trooper and was a part of Ellington's Marine Patrol. He was also a Justice of the Peace, a Deputy Registrar of Voters, and coached track for Ellington High School for over 11 years.



His dedication did not go unnoticed and he was the recipient of many awards and accolades, including the William H. Spurgeon Award from the Boy Scouts of America, the Mabel B. Avery Community Service Award, recognition from the American Red Cross, and the Ellington Friends of Education Award.

In the words of his son Peter, "John Watts embodies the values of service, compassion, and a steadfast commitment to education and community."

A formal induction ceremony was held on Saturday, September 6, 2025 at 4:00 pm at the Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps Building, 41 Maple Street.





Douglas B. Harding
Chairman

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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

Dear Fellow Ellington Residents

On behalf of the Board of Finance, I would like to thank you for taking the time to read the Annual Town Report. I would like to thank all those who volunteer their time and talents in making our Town a great place to live. Lastly, I would like to thank the employees of the Town of Ellington for all their hard work and dedication.

Regarding the Town's financial position, Ellington once again received an unmodified opinion from our independent auditors, which is the best opinion we can receive. Our Town's unassigned fund balance, aka our rainy-day fund, continues to grow, and now stands at 16% of budgeted expenditures. Having a healthy unassigned fund balance is important as it protects the town in the event of an economic downturn, cuts in state or federal grants, or if we have unexpected expenditures, such as from a natural disaster. A healthy fund balance also helps the Town to achieve and maintain a higher bond rating, which means lower interest rates on the money the Town borrows for projects, such as the Windermere School project.

Speaking of our bond rating, Moody's recently raised the Town's bond rating by one point to Aa1, which is the second highest rating possible. This is fantastic news that will help the Town receive lower interest rates on the bonds that are being issued for the bonding projects that were approved by residents at recent referendums.

The Town is in the process of a State mandated re-evaluation. Re-evaluation occurs every five years, and the Town must complete a re-evaluation for the October 1, 2025, grand list. Based on current market conditions and the results of surrounding towns who just underwent their own re-evaluations, we can expect to see an increase in the value of residential property. When the new grand list is completed, it will result in the mill rate being re-calculated for future budgets.

This past year, the Town again saw a decrease in our Grand List, which is the total amount of taxable property in town. The decrease was due to the State of Connecticut changing the way towns calculate the value of motor vehicles, going from the clean retail value of the motor vehicle to a method where the MSRP of the vehicle is reduced (depreciated) each year by a set schedule.

The members of the Board of Finance will continue to work hard to ensure the Town is in the best financial position possible and present the most fiscally responsible budget that provides for the services and programs that residents of Ellington have come to expect. The Board of Finance encourages all residents to attend our meetings and provide your thoughts, particularly during the budget process each spring.

Douglas B. Harding
Douglas B. Harding, Chairman

"A great place to grow."

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*Cover design and page layout by Carl White
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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 fourteen (14) regular meetings plus one (1) special meeting. Two (2) public hearings were held. The Board of Selectmen called four (4) Town Meetings; the following are some of the primary items addressed by the Board of Selectmen during fiscal year 2024-2025:

AGREEMENTS

- Authorized the Town Administrator to execute an amendment, as prepared by the Town attorney to the property tax abatement agreement between the Town of Ellington and Ellington Racquet Club, LLC
- Authorized the Town Administrator to execute the bundle-billing agreement of medical services with the Town of Somers

CONTRACTS

- Authorized the First Selectman to renew the first of the four additional one-year period contract extensions for health and benefits brokerage consulting services with USI Insurance Services, LLC of Meriden, CT
- Authorized the Finance Officer/Treasurer to renew the accounting software agreement with Tyler Technologies of Plano, Texas for a one-year extension
- Waived the formal bidding process and awarded the contract for Payroll and Human Resource Information System to ADP, Inc. of Roseland, New Jersey
- Authorized the First Selectman to renew the contract with Bibliomation, Inc.
- Waived the formal bidding process to procure hydraulic rescue tools for Ellington Volunteer Fire Department from Firematic Supply Company, Inc.

- Awarded the Contract for resourcing and contract management with Bonfire GTY Software Inc. of Oakville, Ontario
- Awarded the contract for eCivics, GTY grantee solution to GTY Software Inc. of Oakville, Ontario
- Ratified the contract between the Town of Ellington and Town Hall Employees Union, AFSCME, AFL-CIO Local 1303-473 of Council 4 and authorized the First Selectman to execute said contract
- Waived the formal bidding process and utilized the Capital Region Council of Government (CRCOG) EZIQ Program to complete the Senior Center Pickleball Court American Rescue Plan Act project through Millennium Builders, Inc.
- Waived the formal bidding process and utilized the State of CT contract to use \$42,000 of ARPA funding to procure a pool car replacement
- Waived the formal bidding process and utilized the State of CT contract to use ARPA funding to procure a roadside mower and attachments
- Waived the formal bidding process and utilized the State of CT contract to use ARPA funding to procure two police cruisers
- Waived the formal bidding process and utilized the Massachusetts Higher Education Council Contract and awarded the bid to Vulcan Security Technologies, Inc. to use ARPA funding to procure phase two of the Town security cameras
- Waived the formal bidding process and utilized the State of CT contract to complete the Crystal Lake Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting project using ARPA funding
- Waived the formal bidding process for the Board of Education emergency repair concrete work and awarded the contract to Northeast Property Construction Services, LLC of Enfield, CT
- Awarded the contract for the EVFD flooring to Cutting Edge Installations Inc. of Enfield, CT
- Authorized the Director of Public Works/WPCA Administrator to enter into an agreement with Utility Service Partners Private Label, Inc. DBA Service Line Warranties of America
- Renewed the electrical services contract with Ellington Electrical Contractor, LLC
- Awarded the elevator maintenance contract to Aligned Elevator, Amston, CT
- Awarded the contract for collection of various delinquent taxes and receivables to Taxserv Capital Services, LLC of Torrington, CT
- Waived the formal bidding process and utilized the State of CT contract to use ARPA funding to procure and install the Arbor Park Outdoor Fitness Canopy Shade
- Awarded the request for proposal for cloud services from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028 to The Computer Company of Cromwell, CT as recommended by the Director of IT and authorized the Town Administrator to execute the contract extensions

- Awarded the request for proposal for fertilization of fields to Tru Green of Windsor, CT for the period of April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2028 as recommended by the Director of Public Works and authorized the Town Administrator to execute the contract extensions
- Awarded the contract for the Town of Ellington phone system services to Ring Central of Belmont, California through April 10, 2028
- Awarded auditing services to Clifton Larson Allen, LLP (CLA) of West Hartford, CT and authorized the Town Administrator to execute the contract extensions
- Executed the lease extension for the Board of Education at 89 West Road, Unit 2A
- Ratified the contract between the Town of Ellington and Ellington Police Union by the SES Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 311 and authorized the Town Administrator to execute the contract
- Approved the Resident State Trooper Contract between the Town of Ellington and the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection

EQUIPMENT

- Authorized the Finance Officer/Treasurer and Town Administrator to dispose of the spare ambulance via auction or private party sale as recommended by the Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Chief

FINANCES

- Authorized the Human Services Director to expend \$4,500 from the Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund to cover costs related to a summer concert series and resource cards for upcoming events
- Approved transfers from the following accounts: 1010-Contingency \$131,917; 5106-Ambulance Fee Fund \$114,116; 410-General Town Roads \$155,850 to the following accounts: 120-Board Of Finance \$2,247; 130-Finance Officer \$10,302; 320-Crystal Lake Fire \$4,194; 331-Police Special Duty \$30,364; 333-Dare \$1,810; 340-Animal Control Officer \$5,199; 350-Emergency Management \$854; 360-Building Department \$25,632; 370-Evac \$114,116; 377-Preemption \$4,400; 415-New Equipment \$18; 435-Grounds Maintenance \$531; 440-Town Road Aid-Materials \$15,838; 455-Sanitary Recycling \$68,554; 480-Engineer & Inspections \$62,510; 536-Mini Programs \$25,296; 585-Crystal Lake Water Monitor \$2,738; 810-Town Hall \$8,399; 837-Crystal Lake Fire Building \$794; 838-Evfd Main St Building \$1,394; 920-Interest On Indebtedness \$1; 951-Insurance Reimbursement \$13,410; 1021-Erase Grant \$246; 1032-Adhoc Beautification Committee \$567; 1040-Miscellaneous \$1,369; 1075-Town Communications \$1,100.
- Authorized the transfer of \$69,194 for FY 2024-25 from account 1065-Salary Adjustment to various Town Departments' accounts to cover the cost of salary increases
- Approved the budget execution for FY2024-2025
- Approved the salary adjustment transfer of \$48,230 for FY 2024-2025
- Approved the ARPA pool car replacement of \$42,000
- Approved the ARPA additional police cruiser funding in the amount of \$5,345 for the purchase and installation of two new modems and equipment
- Authorized the Human Services Director to expend \$5,000

from the Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund to provide a grant to Be Part of the Solution

- Approved energy improvement projects with New England Energy Controls under the Eversource zero percent interest loan not to exceed \$500,000 and qualified for \$40,304.20 in incentives to be received by the Town
- Authorized the Finance Officer/Treasurer to expend American Rescue Plan funds for the following approved projects: additional police cruiser equipment - \$17,110; Arbor Park fitness shade canopy - \$26,290; Hall Memorial Library External Wi-Fi - \$2,500; EVFD fire safety burn trailer - \$15,794.17 and authorized any remaining available ARPA funds to the previously approved Vernon Pump Station project
- Increased the rate of pay for hiring of traffic control officers at highway construction sites/special events to \$110 per hour effective December 1, 2024
- Authorized the Human Services Director to expend \$648.50 from the Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund for the purchase of medication disposal bags and labels
- Recommended the appropriation of \$213,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund for the Crystal Lake Gym Floor Renovation Project
- Adopted a resolution directing the Ellington Assessor to apply the modified schedule of depreciation for the valuation of motor vehicles as referenced in Section 2 of House Bill 7067.
- Authorized the Town Administrator to sign the service agreement for staffing services between the Town of Ellington, Ellington Ambulance Corps and Emergency Resource Management, LLC
- Authorized the Town Administrator to sign the lease agreement for voting tabulators between the Town of Ellington and the State of Connecticut
- Granted the Town Administrator the enduring authority to sign any contract or agreement that comes before him that does not exceed the Town's bid threshold
- Authorized annual expenditures not to exceed \$2500 each year from the Mary Wadsworth Gardner Special Revenue Fund for the placing of flowers, other plantings and ornaments in public spaces of the Town for the purpose of improving the appearance of such spaces
- Approved the revisions to the Capital Improvements policy as recommended by the Finance Officer/Treasurer and the Town Administrator
- Authorized the Human Services Director to expend \$171.00 from the Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund to cover the cost of materials for 100 Naloxone leave behind kits for community members and emergency personnel to support overdose prevention efforts
- Increased the budgeted expenditures in account 1000.11.01102.70.60750 Local Capital Improvement Program by \$3,632 to bring total adjusted budgeted expenditures in line with grant award as communicated by the State of Connecticut office of policy and management. Further, increased the grant revenue budget appropriation for account 1000.01.00000.00.40154 in the amount of \$3,632, thus resulting in a net total appropriation from the unassigned fund balance for Local Capital Improvement Program activity of \$-0- for fiscal year 2024-2025
- Increased the exempt salary classification minimum and maximum ranges for fiscal year 2025-2026 by 3%

- Approved the transfer of \$200,000 for fiscal year 2024-2025 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 2024-2025: EVFD-HVAC 20 Main Street \$893.04, FS Senior Center Energy Project \$599.00 and DPW Parks equipment \$5,050.00

GRANTS

- Adopted a resolution regarding the Capitol Region Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, 2024-2029
- Endorsed the application for a survey and planning grant through the state Historic Preservation Office in the State of CT Department of Economic and Community Development in the amount of \$20,000 for the purpose of creating a town-wide historic resources inventory
- Endorsed the application of the DEEP Urban and Community Forestry Planning Grant
- Authorized the Ellington Trails Committee to apply for the T-Mobile Hometown Grant in order to fund the purchase and installation of a permanent canopy over the Batz amphitheater

ORDINANCES

- Adopted the proposed ordinance - Property Tax Abatement for Eligible Farming Operations

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Adopted the Fair Housing Resolution, the Fair Housing Policy Statement and the Proclamation of April as Fair Housing Month in Ellington

PROPERTY

- Authorized the sale of real property along Route 140 to the State of Connecticut as part of the geometry improvement project #0047-0122 for a total of \$2,700 as proposed by the state and authorized the First Selectman to sign necessary documents
- Accepted Garnet Lane (Ridge Crossing Subdivision) and other public infrastructure as defined in the executed deed

STAFF

- Approved revisions to the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) Technician/Maintainer I job description
- Approved revisions to the Laborer job description
- Approved the new job description for the full-time Recreation Supervisor position
- Approved the new job description for the full-time Recreation Program and Events Specialist position
- Hired Carlene Andrulat, Seasonal Tax Clerk
- Hired Jack Maloney, EMT, per diem
- Accepted the resignation of James Lockhart, Assistant Animal Control Officer, Per Diem
- Hired Karen Picard, Assistant Animal Control Officer, Per Diem
- Hired Ashley DuBois, Recording Secretary – Planning Department, Per Diem
- Promoted Kevin Barrett from Recreation Coordinator to Recreation Supervisor
- Hired Leslie Prior and Megan Audet, EMTs per diem
- Hired Robert Gorman, Recreation Program and Events Specialist
- Hired Robert Berthiaume, WPCA Tech/Maintainer 1

- Hired Casey Lombardi, DPW Laborer
- Accepted the resignation of Ashley Bastien, Deputy Tax & Revenue Collector
- Hired Lindsey Bourque, Deputy Tax & Revenue Collector
- Accepted the resignation of Linda Callahan, Hall Memorial Library, Library Assistant I
- Accepted the resignation of Lindsay McKeegan, Hall Memorial Library, Library Assistant I
- Accepted the resignation of Jack Maloney, EMT, per diem
- Promoted Xavier Riddle, Hall Memorial Library, Library Assistant I
- Acknowledged the retirement of Ann Marie Conti, Tax & Revenue Collector
- Approved revisions to the Tax & Revenue Collector job description
- Hired Maxwell Clark, EMT per diem
- Hired ten seasonal Youth Basketball Scorekeepers
- Hired six seasonal Poll Workers
- Accepted the resignation of Kimberly Gambacorta, EMT, per diem
- Hired Carolina Feliz, Tax and Revenue Collector
- Accepted the resignation of Gregory Doane, Assistant Animal Control Officer, part-time
- Accepted the resignation of Derek Wyse, EMT, part-time
- Accepted the resignation of Erin Riordan, EMT, full-time
- Transferred Karen Picard, Assistant Animal Control Officer, from per diem to part-time
- Hired Megan Bradway and Collin Stevenson, EMTs per diem
- Accepted the resignation of Evan Card, EMT, per diem
- Hired Daniel Noone, EMT full-time
- Hired Shannon Esslinger, Assistant Animal Control Officer per diem
- Hired Zachary Fontana-Howe, EMT part-time
- Hired Ali Abushaqra, Youth Services Program Instructor (seasonal)
- Accepted the resignation of Kayla Bahler, Youth Services Assistant Director
- Accepted the resignation of Saxon Marselli, Lead Mechanic
- Hired Steve Abraham and Andrew Luu, EMTs per diem
- Hired Lauren Galeota and Emir Bojic, EMRs, EVAC
- Hired Brian Novak, Lead Mechanic
- Hired Adhiti Parupalli, EMR, EVAC
- Hired Siobhan Kupferschmid, Senior Center Van Driver per diem
- Approved the revisions to the Youth Services Assistant Director job description
- Approved the Program and Prevention Coordinator job description
- Approved the job description for the new Youth Program Specialist position
- Promoted Jessica Maitland from Youth Services Program Coordinator to Youth Services Assistant Director
- Promoted Marque Mercure from Youth Services Prevention Coordinator (PT) to Youth Services Program and Prevention Coordinator (FT)
- Hired Cameron Bourbeau, EMT, part time
- Hired Carson Gaines, William Gray, and Madison Wielock, EMTs per diem
- Hired Ilana Hunt, EMT part time

- Approved the job description for the new Children's Library Assistant II position
- Hired Sarah Blais, Youth Program Specialist (PT)
- Accepted the resignation of Rachel Sollima, EMT per diem
- Accepted the resignation of Ethan Poetsch, HML Library Assistant I
- Acknowledged the retirement of Lisa Kuraska, HML Library Assistant II, 30 years
- Acknowledged the retirement of Cheryl Chamberlin, HML Library Technical Assistant, 27 years
- Promoted Leslie Prior, EMT per diem to EMT part-time

OTHER ACTIONS

- Granted the request of the Ellington Recreation Department to close portions of Sadds Mill Road, Muddy Brook Road, Jobs Hill Road and Hatheway Road for the 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run Road Race
- Authorized the Assessor to accept late-filed applications for "Local Property Tax Relief Program for Homeowners Aged 65 and Over"
- Re-established the Ad Hoc Council for Developing Positive Youth Culture
- Accepted the final draft of the Charter Revision Commission report dated August 7, 2024
- Submitted the following question to the electors of the Town of Ellington at the November 5, 2024 election: "Shall the Charter of the Town of Ellington be amended in accordance with the recommendations set forth in the final report of the bipartisan Charter Revision Commission dated August 7, 2024?"
- Granted the request of the Winterfest Committee to hold the 2024 Winterfest on the Town Green on Saturday, December 7, 2024
- Re-established the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion
- Re-established the Drug Free Graduation Party Committee
- Increased the membership of the Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee to fifteen
- Appointed Aarush Kumar as a student representative to the Ad Hoc Patriotic Committee
- Adopted the development and implementation of The Ellington Veterans: A Salute in Banners Program honoring local veterans by displaying commemorative banners throughout the Town, funded by sponsorships from individuals, families and organizations
- Re-established the Ad Hoc Emergency Services Committee
- Re-established the Ellington Trails Committee
- Re-established the Beautification Committee
- Approved the 2025 Sailboat Race Series at Crystal Lake
- Authorized the closure of Church Street during the 2025 Earth Day event
- Approved the closure of Church Street during the Ellington Women's Club Fair on the Green
- Re-established the Ad Hoc Crystal Lake Milfoil Committee
- Recommend 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 for Oakridge Dairy for a Movie Night on the Farm - June 7, 2025
- Issued a special event license for Oakridge Dairy for a Farm Day event - June 28, 2025
- Selected John S. Watts as the 2025 Wall of Honor recipient

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

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.

During fiscal year 2025, the Town of Ellington received \$340,983.96 in Town Road Aid funding from the State of Connecticut, of which \$340,983.96 was spent on the construction, reconstruction, improvement and maintenance of highways roads and their related structures.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The Finance Office accomplished or assisted in the following projects:

- Retained credit rating of 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 rate increase remains low 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
- Implemented streamlined payroll system
- Implemented Procurement Portal
- Implemented Grants Portal

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

- EVFD Flooring
- Ellington BOE Student Transportation Bus
- Cloud Services
- Fertilization of Fields
- Auditing Services

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

- Hydraulic Rescue Tools
- Health and Benefits Brokerage Consulting Services
- Accounting Software
- Library Catalog Services
- Procurement and Contract Portal
- Grantee Solution
- Payroll and HRIS System
- Electrical Services
- Elevator Maintenance
- Tax Serv Agreement
- Phone System
- Resident Trooper Agreement

The Finance Office assisted in the following Shared Service initiatives:

- Information Technology Services
- Month End Procedures

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 Abatement for Eligible Farming Operations
- Eversource and NEEC Project Financing

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 – Arborway Carport
- State Bonding Grants – Arbor Park Outdoor Fitness Equipment
- State Bonding Grants – Senior Center Outdoor Fitness Equipment
- ARPA – Vernon Pump Station
- ARPA – CL Fire Truck
- ARPA – EMS Elevator
- ARPA – Tedford Park Irrigation
- ARPA – Infield Grooming Unit
- ARPA – Town-Wide Security Cameras
- ARPA – Crystal Lake Drainage Study
- ARPA – BOE In District Transportation
- ARPA – Police Cruisers
- ARPA – Senior Center Pickleball
- ARPA – NJD Meeting Hall AV Upgrade
- ARPA – EOC Upgrades
- ARPA – Bay Floor Resurfacing
- ARPA – Knox Box Upgrade
- ARPA – External WiFi Access HML
- ARPA – WiFi Hotspots for Lending
- ARPA – Crystal Lake Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting
- ARPA – Roadside Mower
- ARPA – Gazebo Farmer's Market
- ARPA – Pool Car Replacement
- ARPA – Police Cruisers – Additional Modems
- ARPA – Police Cruisers – Additional Equipment
- ARPA – External WiFi Access at HML – Additional
- ARPA – Arbor Park Outdoor Fitness Shade Canopy
- ARPA – EVFD Burn Trailer
- Historic Resources Inventory Grant
- Emergency Management Performance Grant
- Urban and Community Forestry Planning Grant Program

TOWN ASSESSOR

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

Each year, 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 annual assessment date of October 1st. 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 Connecticut General 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 began in 2024. Sales data 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.

The Grand List of October 1, 2024 was signed on January 28, 2025. However, Ellington was one of many towns which revised their motor vehicle assessments due to a legislative change made in late February 2025.

GRAND LIST OF OCTOBER 1, 2024, TAX BASE

(Revised based on legislative changes in 2025)

Net Grand List Totals	10/1/22	10/1/23	10/1/24
Real Estate	\$1,283,716,940	\$1,287,932,630	\$1,290,539,810
Personal Property	\$77,014,340	\$76,648,700	\$185,935,200
Motor Vehicle	\$207,017,080	\$196,450,330	\$78,791,770
TOTAL	\$1,567,748,360	\$1,561,031,660	\$1,555,266,780
Date Signed	1/26/2023	1/25/2024	1/28/2025 Rev. 3/18/2025

TAX AND REVENUE COLLECTOR

FOUNDATION FOR FISCAL STABILITY

The Tax Collector's office plays a pivotal role in ensuring the fiscal health of our town. Our primary responsibility is the accurate billing and timely collection of all real estate, motor vehicle, and personal property taxes, as well as water and sewer assessments. These vital duties are carried out in strict adherence to Connecticut State Statutes, the Town Charter, and local Town Ordinances. Maintaining a consistently high collection rate is paramount to our town's financial stability, and it remains our foremost priority.

2023 GRAND LIST - FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

	# of Accounts	Original Levy	Adjusted Levy	Collections as of 6/30/25	Rate
Real Estate	6,074	46,300,098.48	46,302,044.33	46,101,230.42	99.57%
Personal Property	969	2,756,507.04	2,784,251.39	2,738,625.26	98.36%
Motor Vehicle	16,696	6,324,554.89	6,219,242.68	6,107,196.93	98.20%
Motor Vehicle Supplemental	2,625	817,318.44	807,511.77	776,380.77	96.14%
	26,364	56,198,478.85	56,113,050.17	55,723,433.38	99.31%

A NEW CHAPTER IN THE COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

This past December, after dedicated service to our town, Ann Marie Conti retired as the Collector. We extend our warmest wishes to her in her retirement.

With Ann Marie's departure, I, Carolina Feliz, have had the privilege of stepping into the role of Collector. I want to express my sincere gratitude for the incredibly warm welcome I have received from the community. I am truly excited to be here and thankful for this wonderful opportunity to serve you all.

I am also thrilled to introduce our Deputy Collector, Lindsey Bourque, who joined our team a few months before me, in October 2024. Together, we have been working hard to ensure a smooth transition and continued excellent service.

A FRESHENED SPACE AND BUSY SEASONS

You might notice a difference if you've visited our office recently! We've had some renovations and have enjoyed decorating the space to make it feel more friendly and welcoming.

We successfully navigated our busy seasons this year, including a hectic January and our even busier season this past July. It was wonderful to meet many of you in person during these times, and we truly appreciate your patience and cooperation.

We look forward to continuing to serve all residents with dedication and a friendly face. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or need assistance.

PAYMENT DUE CALENDAR	
JULY	• Real Estate 1st installment • Personal Property 1st installment • Motor Vehicle <i>single</i> payment
OCTOBER	• Sewer Usage Fee
NOVEMBER	• Trash Collection Fee
JANUARY	• Real Estate 2nd installment • Personal Property 2nd installment • Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax <i>only if applicable</i>
APRIL	• Sewer Usage Fee
JUNE	• 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

- 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	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Births	128	115	130
Marriages	81	33	97
Deaths	117	144	144
Land Records Filed	2,357	1,999	2,116
Maps Filed	28	26	32
Trade Names	24	30	33
Dog Licenses	2,328	2,342	2,311
Kennel Licenses	8	5	4
Sports Licenses	341	386	370
Liquor Permits	13	12	18
Veteran Discharges Filed	35	35	37
Cemetery Deeds Filed	35	32	39
Aircraft Registrations	11	7	6
Bazaar & Raffle Permits	-	7	7
Notary Services	-	307	283

TOWN ENGINEER

DANA STEELE, P.E.

J.R. RUSSO & ASSOCIATES, LLC

The Town engineer is appointed by the Board of Selectman 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:
 - West Road (Rt. 83) Sidewalks (DOT permitting progressing)
 - Burbank Road & Webster Road Culvert Replacement (grant funding progressing)
 - Windermere Avenue Reconstruction & Sidewalks (design completed, bidding 2026)
 - Athletic Field Lighting at High School, Tedford Park & Pinney Fields (construction completed)
 - Police carport with solar charging station (construction completed)
 - Windsorville & Pinney roadway improvements (design progressing)
 - Brush Dump Expansion (design pending)
 - Kibbe Road Improvements (evaluating possible intersection realignment)
 - Windermere Avenue Sanitary Sewer Extension (design progressing)
 - Newill Hill Road Drainage Improvements (design progressing)
 - Hoffman Road Drainage Improvements (design progressing)
 - East Porter Road Drainage Improvements (design 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 2024 through December 2024; the corrections and certification has been completed and sent to the Public Records Administrator.

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 provide 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 L. REISER

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.

During this past year, I have worked with the First Selectman, Town Administrator and Finance Department on bidding and contracting relative to various municipally provided services and municipal improvement projects. I have worked with the Public Works Department and Water and Sewer Department to review and revise the Town's sewer ordinances. I have worked with the Planning Department on new development proposals and conveyances to the Town in connection with approved developments, as well as the continued extension of sidewalks along West Road. Finally, I have worked with the Assessor on certain property tax audits and to resolve disputes in connection with the same.

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:

- Zoning regulation amendment to reference the latest Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control (published September 30, 2023, effective March 30, 2024) in Section 6.4.5 - Erosion & Sediment Control Plan and Section 6.4.6 - Minimum Acceptable Standards.
- Zoning regulation amendment to add new Section 6.7 Stormwater Management.
- Zoning regulation amendment to add new definition for Low Impact Development.
- Subdivision regulation amendment to add new Section 4.15 – Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan.

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

- Four (4) subdivision applications.
- Six (6) special permits pursuant to 3.1.3 Accessory Uses/ Structures of the Ellington Zoning Regulations totaling 9,320 +/- sf of new residential construction.
- Two (2) special permits and/or site development plan approvals: personal service business (yoga studio) at 106 West Road and additional business uses at 3 Jobs Hill Road.
- Modification to existing special permit, 40 Lower Butcher Road, S & S Wall Systems.
- Six (6) site development plan approvals for new buildings or additions to existing buildings at 21 and 41 Courtney Drive, West Road (APN 046-003-0002), 1 Nutmeg Drive, 5 Nutmeg Drive, 79 Windermere Avenue and 14 Village Street, and 15 Egypt Road.
- One (1) site development plan to construct an amphitheater cover at Batz open space property, 97 Shenipsit Street.
- One (1) earth excavation permit for Gale Construction at 90 Sadds Mill Road.
- One hundred and eighty-five (185) 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

- Fourteen (14) Agency permit applications approved/approved with modifications or conditions.
- One (1) Agency permit application denied.
- One (1) modification approved for an existing agency permit.
- Six (6) requests accepted for uses permitted as of right and nonregulated uses.
- Three (3) positive referrals to the Planning and Zoning Commission pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. §8-26(e) for subdivision or re-subdivision.
- Fourteen (14) Administrative Agent permit applications approved/approved with modifications or conditions.

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

- Reviewed development plans for the installation of dormers and a covered exterior stairway for Wittig Mechanical, 3 Jobs Hill Road.
- Reviewed development plans for the construction of a new retail store on the west side of Route 83 across from Meadowview Plaza, APN 046-003-0002.
- Reviewed development plans for the construction of an addition to an existing building for office space and new building for truck storage for Skip's Wastewater Services, 21 Courtney Drive.
- Reviewed development plans for the construction of an addition and remodeling of an existing building for Data Capture Solutions, 160 West Road.
- Reviewed development plans for the construction of an addition for R&S Gerber Construction, LLC, 1 Nutmeg Drive.
- Reviewed development plans for the construction of an addition for Syn-mar Products, Inc., 5 Nutmeg Drive.
- Reviewed development plans for the construction of a new warehouse/storage and manufacturing/assembly building for Village Properties Associates, LLC, 79 Windermere Avenue and 14 Village Street.

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 third annual Ellington Farm Day, September 21, 2024, an event promoting local farms and agricultural-related businesses.
- Hosted the fifth annual Shop Ellington Event, a two-week long campaign promoting local businesses in conjunction with 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 Keith Gauvin Roofing 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.
- Drafted and recommended the adoption of a new ordinance pursuant to CGS §12-81m, a municipal option to abate fifty percent of property taxes for dairy, fruit, vegetable, nursery, tobacco, and nontraditional farms.
- Recommended a tax abatement agreement for a 44,880-sf indoor pickleball and tennis facility, Ellington Racquet Club, 55 Lower Butcher Road.
- Held an Ellington Business to Business Networking meeting on June 25, 2025.

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 one newly appointed member, Allan Lawrence. The Commission received no complaints or requests for advisory opinions during the past Fiscal Year.

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 (PZC), Board of Selectmen, and others regarding planned open spaces, acquisition of farmland development rights, and other conservation strategies.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Supported Town of Ellington purchase of 79 Kibbe Road, a 27-acre property abutting Shenipsit State Forest.
- Implemented strategies to raise awareness about open space and farmland preservation.
- Applied for and received grant funding for a town-wide Historic Resources Inventory through the State Historic Preservation Office.
- Approved revisions to the Plan of Conservation Open Space, Farmland and Recreational Assets inventory and map.
- Approved updates to the Open Space brochure.
- Supported the Ellington Trails Committee and efforts to create, maintain, and enhance trails throughout town.
- Recommended trail improvements and a safe mode for pedestrians to cross the roadway while hiking the Shenipsit Trail for the CT DOT Route 140 Project 0047-0122 geometry improvements.
- Supported a Prospective Land Acquisition application to CT DEEP's Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program for a 20-acre property off Somers Road that abuts Shenipsit State Forest.

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 \$40,000. The Committee may investigate sites and make recommendations of acquisition and construction of building projects and/or work with construction costs of less than \$40,000 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 Fiscal Year 2024-25 the PBC completed the lighting project where several town athletic fields now have lighting for night use. Work is also ongoing at Windermere School with the 41,000 square feet, new construction, being completed and welcoming in the 1st-6th grade students. The renovation of the existing school began and the new kitchen and cafeteria were completed. The Board of Education HVAC project has begun in all three schools (Center School, Ellington High School and Ellington Middle School) with a primary focus on mobilization, demolition, and the submittal process.

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 standard 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

- Fourteen (14) variance applications approved/approved with conditions.
- One (1) approved Stipulated Judgement reversing a variance decision after appeal.

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 2025-26 Budget which is funded by user fees and included in the Town's budget reporting process.
- Set Sewer User Fees 2025-2026 for Hockanum and Crystal Lake systems:

Hockanum Sewer System

• Hockanum annual fixed fees (all users)	\$268.00
• Hockanum annual variable fees (well users)	\$422.00
• Hockanum price per 1000 gallons of water (CT Water Users)	\$8.4385

Crystal Lake Sewer System

• Crystal Lake annual fixed fees (all users)	\$275.00
• Crystal Lake annual variable fees (full-year users)	\$802.00
• Crystal Lake annual variable fees (seasonal users)	\$535.00

**Said charges will be effective October 1, 2025.*

- Approved code revision changes to be in line with current practice and district needs.
- Continue to update AppGeo Sewer Layer for Ellington GIS MapGeo.
- Continued to monitor H2S levels at Pump Stations.
- Maintained all infrastructure as required and necessary, responding to emergency situations as needed.
- Replaced an emergency backup generator at the Ketchbrook Pump Station.
- Fuss & O'Neill projects:
 - Vernon Pump Station upgrade 90% complete.
 - INI studying and repair planning.
 - New development and connection review.
 - Began design for a Windermere Avenue sanity sewer extension project.

REGISTRARS OF VOTERS

The two registrars are responsible for organizing and conducting elections, primaries and referenda, as well as registering new voters 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.

The Republican Registrar, Wanda DeLand, has served the town in this capacity for 18 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 members of the Tolland County Registrars organization and are active with committee positions in the state-wide Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut (ROVAC).

Budget Referenda take place in late May each year, and a November election is always held the first Tuesday after the first Monday in the month.

REGISTERED VOTERS

The number of registered voters increased more than 500, which is common during a Presidential Election year. Unaffiliated voters make up nearly one-half of the town’s voting population. The distribution across political parties has remained steady over the last several years.

ELLINGTON ACTIVE VOTERS BY MAJOR PARTY

	July 2025	%	July 2024	%
Democrats	2,789	24.7%	2,729	24.2%
Republicans	3,210	28.5%	3,084	27.3%
Unaffiliated	5,593	49.6%	5,280	46.8%
Other	199	1.8%	185	1.6%
Total	11,791		11,278	

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 Early Voting is held at the Town Hall Annex. Early Voting was introduced this year as an alternative to voting on Election Day.

In typical fashion, Ellington voters stepped up to fulfill their obligation and privilege with more than 80% participating, a bit less than in previous Presidential Elections. In a very narrow race, Ellington voted for the Democratic slate for President.

Race	Turnout
2024 Presidential Election	81%
2023 Municipal Election	35%
2022 Gubernatorial Election	63%
Recent Budget Referenda:	
June 10, 2025	16%
May 27, 2025	9%

EARLY VOTING

In 2024, Connecticut experienced Early Voting for the first time. In Ellington, the Town Hall Annex was the single location for voters to cast their ballots prior to November 5, 2024. There were 14 days, including weekends and some evenings, designated for this and one-half of all those who voted took advantage of the opportunity—from across the party spectrum. Most considered Early Voting an alternative to longer wait lines at the polls on Election Day, which is typical for a Presidential contest.

Every election will now hold a period of Early Voting, including primaries, but not referenda.

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday, November 4, 2025 is the date for the Municipal Election where Ellington voters will make their selections for local, town-wide offices. Please, mark your calendars and plan to make your voice heard. There will be a 14 day period of early voting held from October 20 through November 2 at the Annex building across from Town Hall. The hours are 10 am to 6 pm, and on October 28 and 30 the hours are 8 am to 8 pm.

If you are interested in registering to vote or wish to update your 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. As always, please use kindness and appreciation when interacting with our polling officials who uphold our national and state laws. Many neighbors have answered the call to serve our community in this way, if you have an interest in becoming part of this team, please reach out to our office.



AD HOC CRYSTAL LAKE MILFOIL COMMITTEE

SUCTION HARVESTING

New England Aquatic Services (NEAS) spent sixteen (16) days beginning on July 22, 2024 using 14 days with one (1) boat and two (2) days with 2 boats. There were two divers and two crew members on each boat, providing 231.5 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. Although the pondweed is not listed as an “invasive species” it can create problems due to excessive growth and the formation of dense mats on the water’s surface that can hinder recreational activities like boating and fishing, restrict water circulation and negatively impact other aquatic life. Over the course of the 16-day project, 434 bags of milfoil and pondweed were removed from the lake and approximately 6.14 acres were cleared. The table below shows the breakdown.

Location	Total Hours	Acres Cleared	# of Bags
Dam Area	51	0.52	99
Annual Maintenance	36.5	1.2	44
Northeast Cove	76.5	1.0	139
Aborn Rd and Aborn Cove	19.5	0.25	121
Town Beach	36.5	3.17	31
Mats at Dam (19 mats)	19.5		

The Ad Hoc Milfoil Committee received an ARPA Grant for the Suction Harvesting of Milfoil in Crystal Lake. The Grant is not part of the FY 2024-2025 Town Budget, but the work accomplished to date is summarized herein. The Grant was for 246 hours of suction harvesting of Milfoil, three (3) plant surveys and a summary report. Northeast Aquatic Research (NEAR) conducted a limited plant survey in May 2025 at the previous year’s milfoil “hot spots”. NEAS returned on June 25, 2025 for suction harvesting.

One hundred (100) hours were allotted from the ARPA Grant for milfoil and 25 hours were allotted for pondweed which was funded from the FY 2024-2025 budget and by the Crystal Lake Association. The Milfoil and Pondweed were very prolific and scattered around in many areas near the shore and docks in many locations where plants had not been found previously. This made the work more difficult and spread out because many of the plants had not been located by the limited survey. Not all of the known areas were able to be harvested with the available hours.

The breakdown of the number of bags in each area from the diver’s reports were not available for this annual report, but the approximate areas worked were as follows:

ARPA (Milfoil): Dam Area – 28 hours, Annual Maintenance – 14 hours, Northeast Cove – 30 hours, Town Beach – 28 hours. Total of 336 bags removed.

FY 2024-2025 and Crystal Lake Association Funding (Pondweed): 25 hours – various locations near shore and at docks around the lake. Total of 63 bags removed.

The NEAS Plant Removal Reports will be posted on the Crystal Lake Association web site.

NEAR has scheduled a detailed whole lake ARPA plant survey for July 24, 2025. NEAS is scheduled to return for suction harvesting on August 4, 2025. One hundred forty six (146) hours

will be ARPA funded for milfoil and 100 hours funded from our FY 2025-2026 budget for pondweed. NEAR will conduct their final ARPA plant survey after the suction harvesting and prepare a summary report prior to December 31, 2025.

The remaining 130 hours for suction harvesting from the FY 2025-2026 budget are planned to be used in June of 2026.

The ARPA Suction Harvesting grant has allowed the Milfoil Committee to double the amount of suction harvesting hours performed in a one year period. However, the invasive plant growth has also significantly increased. It had been hoped that with the 1 ½ months of ice and snow cover last winter that the plant growth would have been reduced by having a dormant period but that was not the case and significantly more invasive plant growth has been experienced. The divers stated that all lakes and ponds that they have worked this year have experienced a similar excessive growth of invasive aquatic plants.

The results of the increased suction harvesting efforts will be evaluated and utilized to determine if increased funding will be required in 2026 and beyond to help mitigate invasive plant growth in Crystal Lake. If required, additional funding will be considered through the Town and/or a grant from the CT DEEP through its boat sticker/invasive plant program.

IN LAKE WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Water Quality monitoring was performed monthly by the Crystal Lake Association (CLA) and evaluated by Northeast Aquatic Research (NEAR) from March to November in 2024 in the open water areas of the lake. Parameters being tested are water clarity, phosphorous, dissolved oxygen and temperature. The Crystal Lake Association purchased a new dissolved oxygen meter to replace the broken meter. NEAR Annual Reports are posted on the Crystal Lake Association web site.

Water Clarity: Water clarity in 2024 was generally worse than the long term average (2007 to 2024) with only September and October having better clarity than the long term average. Overall, however, the water clarity in 2024 was still relatively good at 3 meters or better for the entire season. The best clarity was 5.7 m recorded on September 19th and the worst was 3.0 m on April 21st.

Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature: In March, the lake was fully oxygenated, although there was some slight oxygen loss near the bottom, while the water temperature was isothermal (uniform) from the top to near the lake bottom. By June 20th, the water below 13 m had become anoxic, meaning that oxygen concentrations were less than 1 mg/L. Over the course of the summer, the anoxic boundary rose to a maximum height of 9.97 m (as measured down from the surface) on October 25th. This is slightly better than the maximum height of 8.9 m on October 2023, but considerably better than the anoxia in 2021, when the anoxic water crossed the 6 m threshold—a serious concern because this is the bottom of the epilimnion (warmer water near the lake surface).

By November 16th, the lake was mixed, with fully oxygenated conditions to the bottom. From May to July, there was a pronounced MOMax (Metalimnetic Oxygen Maximum) between 4 m and 6 m. A MOMax is caused by phytoplankton that have adapted to living in low light conditions and have the specific ability to regulate their own buoyancy, so they remain at that depth. The MOMax itself is dissolved oxygen created by the high to very high rates of photosynthesis that these plankton can achieve. Dissolved oxygen levels reached 11 mg/L. For

whatever reason, still at this point undetermined, the population of phytoplankton had diminished by mid-August and was completely gone by mid-September.

In Lake Nutrients: Total Phosphorous (TP) remained below 20 ppb in the top, middle and bottom of the water column during all sampled months, except April when the water surface levels reached 26 ppb. The bottom water TP concentrations were highest during the summer months due to internal nutrient release during periods of anoxia at the lake bottom.

Total Nitrogen (TN) concentrations in the top and middle layers were good in the spring months but became excellent beginning in May and remained excellent for the remainder of the season at less than 200 ppb. Total Nitrogen in the bottom water showed a dramatic increase beginning in May and culminating in September, consistent with internal release of ammonia from the bottom sediments. Nitrate is measured in April, before biological uptake removes it from the water column. Nitrate concentrations were moderate at 135 ppb. Bottom water ammonia nitrogen (NH₃) peaked in September, as is typical for internal release from sediments. The total ammonia was roughly 70% of the total nitrogen at the bottom in September.

INLET AND STORMWATER SAMPLING ANALYSIS

Inlet samples, collected monthly by the Crystal Lake Association, were analyzed for Total Phosphorous (TP) and Total Nitrogen (TN) in 2024. Background sites, Aborn Brook, Cemetery Road and the Route 140 Pond generally had low or acceptable concentrations of TP, with the exception of high values at Cemetery Road and the Route 140 Pond on July 20th. Nitrogen in these three stations was moderate to high during the season, with highest values on July 20th. Concentrations of TN were good later in the season.

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 during the beginning of major rainfall events for laboratory analysis by NEAR for nitrogen and phosphorous. Samples were collected for most of the locations for a rain event on September 7, 2024. Among the several locations sampled, waypoints 9 (storm drain just north of boat ramp) and 13 (culvert at the lake at the south corner of the Crystal Ball Court subdivision) exhibited the highest TP values. Waypoints 9, 13 and 19 (Crystal Street storm drain outlet) had excessive TN and waypoints 2 (Cemetery Road culvert) and 8 (culvert just north of boat ramp) had very high TN values. 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 January 1, 2025 to make money available to harvest Pondweed during the June 25, 2025 period. This sampling will resume in FY 2025-2026.

AQUATIC PLANTS

Northeast Aquatic Research (NEAR) performed a pre-management aquatic plant survey of the lake on June 18, 2024. They documented 16 plant species along with Filamentous Algae (a microscopic plant commonly known as "pond scum"). Two invasive species were found: *Myriophyllum heterophyllum* (variable-leaf milfoil) and *Glossostigma cleistanthum* (mudmat). Only *Nitella* (Stonewort) was 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 and offshore of the Northeast Cove. Occasional Variable-leaf Milfoil was found offshore of the Town Beach. Two robust pondweeds, Large-leaf Pondweed and Ribbon-leaf Pondweed, which have been targeted by suction harvesting, occurred at a low frequency of less than 10% during both the pre- and post-surveys.

Following the suction harvesting of the milfoil plants, a second plant survey was conducted on September 6th. Twenty-one plant species were documented during this survey, as well as Filamentous Algae. Quill-leafed Arrowhead (State of CT protected species) and Stonewort were dominant post-management. Variable-leaf Milfoil was present at the same frequency as in June, at roughly 10% of the waypoints. The average density of this species declined slightly, from 45% to 31%, between June and September. Mudmat, found in 5 locations in June was found in one location in September. Mudmat is a tiny plant that grows in shallow water and is difficult to locate by boat.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2025 – 2026

- CLA volunteers to continue water sampling and testing of the lake waters from March through November.
- CLA volunteers to sample inlet waters at 3 locations (Aborn Brook, Route 140 Pond and Cemetery Road Culvert) monthly for testing 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.
- Conduct a pre- and post-harvest plant survey.
- CLA volunteers to collect non-rainfall water samples at stormwater sites 8,9,11,13 and 19 during the months of March, April, May, June, October and November to establish a baseline condition.
- CLA volunteers to resume collecting stormwater samples during major storms for analysis. Sampling during three storm events would be desirable but this will depend on the rainfall events.
- NEAR to perform a long term water quality data review to determine trends in water quality.
- Coordinate stormwater sampling and results with Town DPW for their MS4.

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.

AD HOC ELLINGTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

The Ellington Trails Committee continues to work to improve, highlight, and educate the community about our trails. We welcomed three new Committee members this year - Steve Austin, Michael Emons, and Stu Lanz, and said goodbye to long-time Committee member Judi Manfre. Many thanks to Judi for her contribution to the Committee, particularly in the area of the ever-important maintenance of our Town trails.

We were excited to "launch" our newest trail, Ellington Highlands! For more information and maps of all our trails, go to the Town of Ellington website at <https://parkrec.ellington-ct.gov/facilities-parks/hiking-trails-information>.

Educational Programs and Hikes: This past spring, the Committee hosted its annual bird walk at Batz with birding expert Denise Anamani. We are grateful for the time that Denise has given us to share her expertise in hearing and siting a variety of birds! In August, the Committee was able to bring back its star gazing event at Pinney Field hosted by the CT Astronomy Club. This is one of our most well-attended events with over 30 people enjoying our solar system! Our traditional hike around Snipsic Lake was held over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. In the fall of 2024, 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.

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 Fire Dept., Ellington Public Schools' Green Earth Club, local Girl Scouts and Boy Scout Troop 96 (Eagle Scouts), and several volunteers for their work.

- **Batz:** Addition of new chess and checkers game tables; nine new bluebird houses; weeding and mulching gardens; pruning of fruit trees; addition of wildflower pollinator garden
- **Crystal Ridge:** General clean-up; new gates to protect private property; railing on Aborn Brook Bridge; widened and lined with stones the path leading to the Alborn Brook Bridge
- **Ellington Highlands:** Blazing of trails; three new picnic tables; new gate to protect private property
- **Kimball:** General clean-up
- **Metcalf:** General clean-up
- **Windermere:** New bridge; continued removal of invasive knotweed near pond; general clean-up

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, Hall Memorial Library Mini Golf event in March, the Ellington Historical Society's Fall Festival in October and the Ellington Farmer's Market in September. The Trails Committee continued to assist the Ellington Centennial Lions Club with the traditional Trail of Treats.

Through the Town newsletter, we provided information to the public on keeping your eyes out for bears, how to build a snow cake, and how to rent a plot in the community garden at Batz.

Special Projects: We had several special projects this year, most of which were led by the youth in our community:

- **Creation of a Bee Hotel by Eagle Scout Sean Ellis:** The bee hotel is designed to protect important pollinating bees. Check it out adjacent to the orchard, pollinator garden, and community garden at Batz.
- **Installation of Bluebird Houses by Cub Scouts' Pack 96 of Ellington and Pack 83 of Somers:** The bluebird houses were installed in November and birds have been seen using their new homes.

- **Creation and Installation of Game Tables by Eagle Scout Johnny Delisle:** Two new beautiful tables for chess and checkers along with the pieces are located at Batz near the sensory garden.
- **Construction and Installation of three Picnic Tables at Ellington Highlands by Eagle Scout Andrew Boan:** The picnic tables are located in a beautiful area of the trail where there can be an abundance of wildlife.
- **Painting of storage shed:** Ellington High School art students painted the Committee's storage shed adding some vibrancy and fun to a standard shed!
- **Emergency Signs on all Trails:** Many thanks to Committee member Tom Palshaw for working with emergency services to install emergency signs to assist emergency services with locating any lost or hurt hiker. The signs include specific codes which will be familiar to emergency personnel to guide them to the hiker.
- **Directional Signs to Our Trails:** The Public Works Dept. team installed several brown road signs to direct people to our trails. Thank you Public Works!
- **New Kiosks:** New kiosks were purchased and installed at Crystal Ridge, Ellington Highlands, Kimball, and Windermere. Thank you to Committee member Val Amsel for her research on the best kiosks and again for Public Works for the installation.

We look forward to seeing everyone out on Ellington's trails!

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.

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."

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 Kelly Mazza #1079, Trooper Joseph Fratini #899 and Trooper Stefanie Gurski #1140. The Ellington Town Police Officer team consists of thirteen 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 Marine Vessel Operators. 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 2025/2026 School year Officer Jeff Duda will fill the SRO position.

DARE PROGRAM

The Resident State Troopers Office continues to provide three DARE Officers for the 2025/2026 School Year. Trooper Mazza #1079, Trooper Fratini #899 and Trooper Gurski #1140 have been selected to teach the DARE curriculum.

MAJOR ACTIVITY (August 2024 - August 2025)

Totals Calls	6,067
Accidents	163
DUIs	10
Burglaries	8
Alarms	300
Larceny	27
Traffic Stops	443
Medical	140
Disturbances	62
Weapons	10
Suspicious Incident	148
Patrol Checks	3,018

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

	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
New Single-Family Homes	9	13	20
New Commercial Buildings	4	8	3
New Multi-Family Buildings	0	0	0
Residential Alterations & Additions	66	87	94
Repairs/Replacements to Existing	252	279	294
Mechanical/Electrical	608	658	660
Other	52	63	103
Totals	991	1,108	1,174
Field Inspections	1,077	1,116	1,210
Estimated Construction Value	\$24,468,676	\$92,091,450	\$49,575,726
Permit Fees Collected	\$378,653	\$499,838	\$705,616



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 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 liquor establishments, day care centers, group 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 2024 received recognition at the state level for its exceptional design, quality, and message.

The Department of Town Fire Marshal has been continually involved in the Windermere School construction project. Frequent site assessments and open communication with faculty / staff and project managers ensure fire safety and code compliance during this multi-phased project.

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

	2004-2005	2014-2015	2024-2025
Investigations	58	47	58
Criminal (Felony and Misdemeanor ¹)	23	14	0
Non-Criminal	33	30	47
Undetermined	2	3	11
Fire Casualties: Fatal	0	0	1
Non-Fatal	0	3	4
Building Fires	10	11	9
Motor Vehicle Fires	3	8	8
All Other Fires	35	21	11
Non-fire Incidents	-- ²	-- ²	29
Hazardous Materials Incidents	6	7	1
Fire Losses, Total (X \$1000)	\$218.2	\$505.9	\$488.3*
Criminal	\$60	\$0	\$0
Non-criminal	\$157.6	\$462.9	\$248.3
Undetermined	\$0	\$10	\$240
Value of All Properties Exposed to Loss (X \$1000)	\$3,488.5	\$1,913.2	\$19,550.7
Enforcement Inspections	606	1,095	1,680
Commercial	76	48	147
Public Assembly	24	32	65
Educational	9	19	18
Residential (Multi-family)	437	987	1,233
Hazardous Materials	28	5	14
Other	31	7	47
Life Safety Systems	-- ²	-- ²	37
Drills	-- ²	-- ²	43
Burn Permit Inspections	-- ²	-- ²	10
Enforcement Citations Issued (Misdemeanor)	232	127	446
State Licenses and Permits Approved	34	19	22
Open Burning Permits Processed/ Approved	18	13	10
Arrests or Referrals	2	0	7

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.



Fires can happen anywhere, anytime. This golf cart was destroyed by a fire which occurred during regular use. Early notification to 911 prevented a greater loss. Photo Credit: Ellington Department of Town Fire Marshal



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: Brendan Burke, Katherine Prato, Jake Light

SECRETARY: Michael D. Varney

TREASURER: Adam D'Agostino*

MEMBERS

Valerie Adams	Frederick Bird (A)	Brendan Burke
Joseph Carilli	Jordan Chamberlin	Dominick Cristelli
Joshua Davis	Steven Dzen	Elizabeth Feldman
Gary T. Feldman, Sr.	Jared Fongemie	Kieran Foster
Michael Gallagher	Vince Gambacorta	Brandon Hill
John Hogan	Greg Larensen	Jacob Light
Noel McCabe	Erich Martin	Kaila Morrow*
Tom Palshaw (A)	Daniel Parisi	Randy Smith
Meagan Turley	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	Kaitlyn Delaney
Cayden Herrick	Logan Herrick	Jaidyn Morrow
	Jack Spanswick	

HONORARY MEMBERS

Stephan Chase	Ted Graziani
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**2024 Firefighter of the Year*

The Ellington Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. was organized in 1928. We are proud to recognize 97 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, and 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, 2024 through June 30, 2025. During this period, the department responded to 1016 emergency calls

totaling 563 hours, which equated to more than 2855 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.....	46
Structural/building fire	5
Fire in a Structure other than a building.....	1
Cooking Fire	3
Chimney Fuel Burner/	
Boiler Malfunction or Fire Confined	1
Vehicle/Mobile Property fire	4
Forest, Brush, grass fires	6
Refuse, Construction, Dumpster, Landfill fire.....	22
Outside fire other	1
Fire Other	1
Overpressure Rupture from steam, other.....	1
Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition.....	1
Rescue, Emergency Medical Service	705
Medical assist, or assist EMS crew.....	647
Vehicle accident, Extrication from vehicle	54
Lock In	1
Rescue Incident other	3
Hazardous Condition, Standby.....	43
Hazardous Condition Other	2
Flammable/Combustible liquid spill	6
Gas Leak.....	2
Carbon Monoxide Incident.....	5
Electrical Equipment problem/Overheated Motor.....	4
Power line down.....	15
Arching, shorted electrical equipment	2
Vehicle Accident no Extrication, general cleanup.....	7
Service Call	64
Service Call, Other	4
Person in Distress	1
Lock Out.....	4
Water or Steam problem/Water Evacuation	9
Smoke, odor removal	5
Public service assistance/ Assist Invalid.....	15
Cover assignment, standby, move up.....	26
Good Intent Call.....	61
Good Intent Call, Other	20
Cancelled enroute, wrong location	36
Authorized controlled burning, Prescribed fire.....	2
Odor of Smoke Steam or vapor	3
False Call	88
False Call, other.....	4
Alarm System malfunction	19
Unintentional alarm	60
Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO.....	5
Other	9
Incident type other (EMS Call not responded to).....	9
Totals	1,016

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

MEMBERSHIP TRAINING & ACTIVITIES

During the year, Ellington firefighters spent over 2,100 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.

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 Dallas, TX and Baltimore, MD.

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 placed into service 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, 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.

The Ellington Volunteer Fire Department (EVFD) obtained funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to purchase new KnoxBox key secure systems, replacing units that were over 20 years old. This funding also supported the installation of additional KnoxBoxes on newer apparatus, improving access and operational readiness. In addition, ARPA funds allowed EVFD to complete critical repairs on our live burn training trailer. These repairs were essential to keeping the unit in safe working condition, enabling us to continue conducting live fire training exercises at our own facilities.

The EVFD also utilized funds from our Capital Improvements Program to purchase new electric/battery-powered hydraulic rescue tools—including cutters, spreaders, and a ram—for Squad 243. These updated E-tools enhance our vehicle extrication capabilities by offering faster deployment, improved mobility, and increased reliability on scene.

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.

Station 43 used ARPA funding to repair and refinish the existing apparatus bay flooring, significantly improving durability and ease of maintenance for years to come. This investment helps protect our facility infrastructure and supports a safer, more efficient working environment for our members.

The departments south end station located at 6 Nutmeg Drive houses 5 vehicles including the departments aerial, two engines, two service vehicles 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 in several capacities with the State Fire Rescue Disaster Plan, Coordinators, Strike Teams, and Task Forces. Responses of our members of these teams over the past few years has 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 of Ellington continues to experience a steady growth rate, and the EVFD remains committed to planning for the evolving needs of our community. Among our most immediate concerns are the need to improve existing facilities, the potential addition of a third fire station, and the replacement and relocation of aging apparatus to ensure effective and timely emergency response.

In recent years, the demand for volunteer firefighters has grown significantly, while the number of available volunteers has continued to decline—a challenge faced by departments across the state. Balancing today's employment demands and family commitments makes it increasingly difficult for individuals to commit the many hours of training and service required to be a part of our emergency response team.

To address this growing challenge, the EVFD is exploring the addition of paid staff during weekday hours to supplement our volunteer force and ensure consistent emergency coverage.

If you are interested in learning more about your local emergency services—or if you are considering becoming a volunteer firefighter—we invite you to visit the Ellington Center Fire House on Main Street, go online at www.ellingtonfire.org, find us on Facebook at facebook.com/ellingtonfd, or leave us a message at 860-870-3190. Your support and involvement help us continue to serve and protect our community.

Thank you for your continued support, respect and help in making this, the 98th year of our service to the community, a safe and successful year for everyone.



CRYSTAL LAKE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF: Timothy Seitz

ASSISTANT CHIEF: Robert Edwards

DEPUTY CHIEF: Michael D'Averso

FIRE CAPTAIN: Annmarie Seitz

EMS CAPTAIN: Douglas Gebhardt, Jr.

1ST LIEUTENANT: Bryan Harvell

2ND LIEUTENANT: John Streiber

3RD LIEUTENANT: Fred Sharpe, Jr.

SECRETARY: Annmarie Seitz

TREASURER: Bryan Harvell

MEMBERS

James Adkins	Anthony Gallicchio	Douglas Rogala
Michael Allen	Douglas Gebhardt, Jr.	Annmarie Seitz
Brett Cowhey	Douglas Gebhardt, Sr.	Timothy Seitz
Michael D'Averso	Bryan Harvell	Fred Sharpe, Jr.
Britney Edwards	Alberto Rivera	Scott Small
Robert Edwards	Cindy Rivera	John Streiber

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Jessica Harvell	Krystina Adkins
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LIFE MEMBERS

William Morrison	Charles Pippin
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BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Chairman: Mike Discenza

Co-Chairmen: Patricia Wendell

Clerk: Annmarie Seitz

Board: Annmarie Seitz, Victor Laptik, 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 91 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 359 calls for service, totaling 2,171 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 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 1,747 hours of training during the course of the 2024-2025 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 (TN), 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.

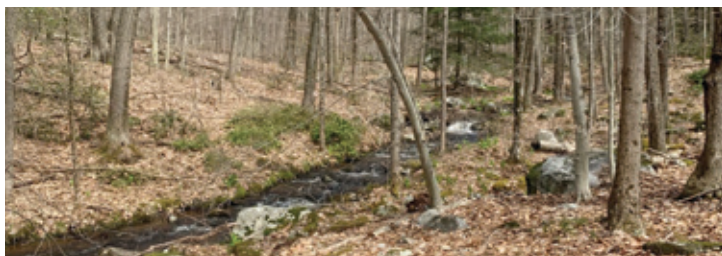
The dedicated Fire Officers of the Crystal Lake Fire Department have completed 5,818 hours of administrative and support work including, completing all incident reports, equipment testing, and town required paperwork. The Officers serve the department in a supervisory role at all emergency calls in and 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.

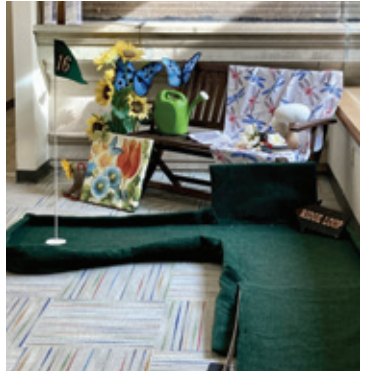
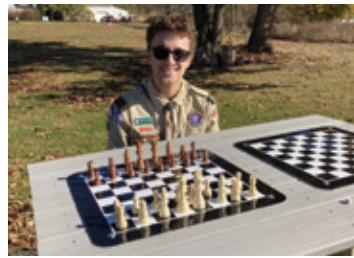
The Crystal Lake Fire Department currently has 18 members and is always looking to expand its membership with new residents who take an active interest in the fire or medical services. Training is provided by the department for new dedicated volunteers! If you would like to receive more information about 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.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the town residents as well as the ARPA committee for their support in purchasing a new 2024 Sutphen Monarch Engine Tanker which has been placed into service as Engine Tanker 142 during the course of this year. This new piece of equipment should last the department 25 or more years and now does not need to be replaced in the near future out of capital expense accounts.

Continued on page 25

ELLINGTON RAILS COMMITTEE







TRASH & RECYCLING

2026 COLLECTION SCHEDULE

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

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY

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MARCH

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29	30	31				

APRIL

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MAY

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	D	D	D	D	D	30
31						

JUNE

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JULY

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AUGUST

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30	31					

SEPTEMBER

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OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

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22	23	24	25	D	D	28
29	30					

DECEMBER

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27	28	29	30	31	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	31
Structure Fires	14
Cooking or Fuel Burner Fire, Confined	3
Passenger Vehicle Fire	5
Rubbish, Trash, or Waste Fire	3
Forest, Woods, or Wildland Fire	1
Natural Vegetation or Brush Fires	5
Rescue Call Total	164
Emergency Medical Incident or Assist	119
Emergency Medical Service Incident, Other	9
Motor Vehicle Accident/ Vehicle Extrication	34
Watercraft Rescue	1
Rescue or EMS Standby	1
Hazardous Condition Total	14
Gas Leak (Natural Gas or LPG)	1
Carbon Monoxide Incident	1
Power Line Down	9
Electrical Problem/ Arcing Electrical Equipment	1
Vehicle Accident, General Cleanup	2
Service Call Total	26
Smoke Odor Removal, Water Removal	2
Assist Police	1
Public Service Assistance	10
Unauthorized Burning	4
Cover Assignment, Standby	9
Good Intent Call Total	91
Good Intent Call, Other	1
Dispatched and Cancelled Enroute	79
No Incident Found Upon Arrival	7
Authorized Controlled Burning	1
Smoke Scare, Odor of Smoke	3
False Alarm Call Total	32
False Alarm or False Call, Other	6
Smoke Detector Activation	14
CO Detector Activation	2
Alarm System Malfunction	10
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	1
Lightning Strike (No Fire)	1



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: Rebekah Gerber

ACTIVE MEMBERS

Nicole Caron	Rebecca Heath	Harlie Locke
Dorota Gdula	Jayden Holt	Mark Mahler
Rebekah Gerber	Raisa Khaled	Melissa McCann
Isaac Gonzalez	Vikas Kumar	James O'Donnell
Peter Hany, Sr.	Mitch Laforge	Joshua Rosenfeld
	Ed Landsberg	

RESCUE POST 512 MEMBERS

Emir Bojic	Ella Hallett	Om Sachdeva
Marwa Chaudhry	Srida Kadari	Alexandra Sousa
Lauren Galeota	Sai Nimith Kapu	Caelyn Utz
Karla Greenwood	Brandon Mead	Dylan Wilcox
	Adhiti Parupalli	

PAID STAFF

Steve Abraham	Carson Gaines	Daniel Noone
Chad Adams	Aiden Ghiroli	April Phelps
Megan Audet	Mike Girard	Leslie Prior
Cameron Bourbeau	William Gray	Collin Stevenson
Megan Bradway	Ilana Hunt	Caitlin Sutyak
Kerri Cushing	Deborah Landry-Schiessl	Jennifer Wells
Abigail Edelstein	Andrew Luu	Madison Wielock
	Kaila Morrow	

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

Kim Courville	Tonya Glomboske	Noah Welti
	Tom Palshaw	

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 63 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 was dispatched to 1,677 calls. We strive to provide the best possible care, and are always training for the next call.

EVAC continues its commitment to furthering medical education with online training assignments and monthly training drills, at which both fire departments are 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 5 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 as well as 2 EMR to EMT bridge classes with 100% success rate.

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 is proud to announce the creation of a new scholarship fund, the Ellington Volunteer Ambulance Corps Scholarship Program, aimed at supporting the education and professional development of its paid and volunteer members. The scholarship is designed to provide financial assistance for continuing education and training in emergency medical services (EMS) and related fields, helping to ensure that EVAC's personnel remain well-equipped to serve the community with the highest level of expertise.

EVAC also completed some significant upgrades in the past year. Two new Zoll X-series cardiac monitors were put in service on both ambulances with training completed for all duty members. These monitors were funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) at no cost to taxpayers. This year also brought the arrival of our new state-of-the-art 2024 AEV 4-Wheel-Drive Ram ambulance. The cost of the ambulance was covered by the town budget and offset by the charging fund.

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

EVAC was honored to be presented with the 2024 Volunteer EMS Service of the Year Award at the EMS World Expo in Las Vegas in September 2024. Five of EVAC's members travelled to Las Vegas to accept the award and had the opportunity to attend the Expo, network with other EMS professionals and attend many educational

sessions and workshops. Two of EVAC's members, Nicole Caron and Bruce Hoffman, were selected as Featured Speakers at the Expo.

EVAC would like to congratulate the 2025 Volunteer of the Year, Nicole Caron, and our 2025 Paid Staff Member of the Year, Deb Landry-Schiesl for their exceptional service, and to all our members reaching milestones of 5, 10, 20, and more years of service. Several members were also awarded the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award, recognizing individuals for their exceptional volunteer contributions to EVAC. Volunteers with more than 4,000 hours dedicated to EVAC received a Lifetime Achievement Award and two members, Peter Hany Sr. and Angela Sandberg, received the Presidential Award for more than 10,000 hours of service.

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 fortunate to have such a generous community and cannot 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 in all of the exciting things that we do!

E911 MUNICIPAL COORDINATOR

John W. Turner

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 this revenue supplements operating expenses, capital improvements and dispatcher training.

The member towns of the regional dispatch center supplement the operational expenses for the dispatching services. The municipal assessment for dispatching services is now based on the previous 12 month per call for service basis. The town population is no longer part of the assessment formula.

Increased 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 a 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.

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 Karen Picard and newly hired per diem Assistant, Shannon Esslinger. 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 St. behind the Fire Station, is the holding quarters for stray, roaming and relinquished dogs and also for 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)424-3011. 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 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 our adoptable 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 to advertise 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's intent is 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. Anyone calling Ellington Animal Control with an emergency such as a dog bite, a dog or cat hit by a vehicle or livestock damage must call 911 to reach the Animal Control Officer on-call.

We are very grateful to Ellington Center Animal Clinic for hosting the 2025 Rabies Vaccination and Microchip Clinic. They generously donated their time and proceeds to benefit a fund for medical expenses for our shelter animals.

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.

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, grass 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, green spaces and Town facilities.
- **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 (via UCONN T2 Center).
- **CYBDs for DPW:** Initiated and renewed all necessary CYBD's for DPW.
- **Rain Event Management:** Monitored waterways and catch basins during rain events.
- **Dirt Roads:** Maintained dirt roads, grading and sealing with calcium when necessary.
- **SPCC Inspections:** Monthly SPCC inspections conducted, and program updates initiated.
- **MS4 Inspections:** Continued work on MS4 permit monitoring requirements and updates.
- **Roadside Maintenance:** Continued annual roadside mowing; guiderail vegetation spraying completed.
- **Beaver Dam Management:** Continued to clean and monitor beaver dams on Ladd Road & Tripp Road.
- **Roadway Improvements:** Completed Micro Seal installation on Standish Road, Ridgeview Drive and Ellridge Place. Paved various roadways including Ellington Avenue from Mountain Road to Stein Road, Davis Road, East Porter Road, Edgewood Road, Police carport parking, entrance to the EVAC building, and entrance to the cemetery.
- **Tree Elevating:** Reviewed and cleared tree issues from weather events and maintenance concerns.
- **Weather Response:** Responded to weather events as necessary.
- **Drainage improvements:** Completed catch basin repairs on various roads; installed new/replacement drainage piping as required. Installed new catch basin & drainage at Nutmeg Fire Station.
- **Road Markings:** Painted all Town-maintained stop bars and crosswalks; re-striped fire lanes and center lines.
- **Safety & Training:** Completed mandatory OSHA training; held bi-weekly tailgate safety talks.

ENGINEERING AND BUILDING PROJECTS

Held progress meetings and coordinated with contractors and engineers on projects and contracts such as:

- HML Parking Lot expansion,
- Ellington Ave sewer extension
- Vernon Pump Station
- Town Fertilizer contract
- Athletic Field Lighting Project
- Police Carport
- CT Water Projects
- Finalized and submitted grant updates and budgets

SNOW/DEBRIS REMOVAL

- **Snow Day Training:** Held annual training and route review event.
- **Snow Callouts:** Responded to 15 snow events, cleared snow from roadways, sidewalks, parking areas and pump stations.

FACILITIES AND GROUNDS

- **Town Facilities:** Continued maintenance and minor repairs of all Town facilities.
- **Recycling Center:** Daily operations of the DPW recycling shed, waste oil/antifreeze drop off, mattress & paint drop off, swap shop, scrap metal and appliance drop off.
- **Safety Inspections:** AED, fire extinguisher and emergency lighting monthly inspections completed.
- **Sports Fields:** Completed field painting, setup, maintenance, and equipment installation.
- **Safety Data Sheets:** Monitored and updated for all facilities.
- **Mail Service:** Daily pickup and delivery to Town Hall.
- **Service Calls:** Responded to various service calls at all facilities.
- **Fire Inspections:** Annual sprinkler and Fire Alarm inspections completed.
- **Trash Patrol:** Conducted trash and litter patrol at all locations.
- **Field Work:** Maintained trails, painted courts, winterized facilities, completed seasonal cleanups.
- **Fence Repair:** Repaired fencing at Meadowbrook pump station.
- **Irrigation Maintenance:** Installed, started, repaired and winterized irrigation systems.
- **Landscaping Projects:** Overseeded and maintained all grass areas and ROWs.
- **Equipment Inspections:** Completed necessary inspections and service.
- **Facility Winterization:** Winterized pavilions and irrigation systems.
- **Equipment Service:** Repaired and serviced handheld and mowing equipment.
- **Facility Improvements:** Remodeled various facility areas including but not limited to the Police & DPW Garage bathrooms, painted DPW reception areas, replaced floor tile and painted the Town Hall Elevator, remodeled the Tax and Revenue Collector's office.
- **In-Kind Services:** Coordinate with BOE on various in-kind projects.

MAINTENANCE GARAGE AND FLEET

- **Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance:** Serviced and maintained equipment for multiple departments.
- **Generator and Police Vehicle Inspections:** Weekly inspections completed.
- **Fuel Supply Management:** Monitored and maintained vehicle fuel supply.
- **Spill Prevention Plan:** Continued with monthly inspections and containment.

- **Equipment Repair:** Repaired and fabricated necessary components to ensure consistent fleet operation.
- **GPS:** Installed new systems for fleet tracking.
- **Supervisory Meetings:** Attended weekly supervisor meetings

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

- **Inflow & Infiltration Project:** Worked with Fuss & O'Neill and contractors on planning and repairs.
- **Collection System Inspections:** Conducted daily and weekly inspections of collection system.
- **Emergency Responses:** Responded to grinder pump and pump station emergencies.
- **Call Before You Dig:** Marked out CBYD requests.
- **Sewer Connections and Repairs:** Inspected and coordinated new connections and repairs.
- **Pump Station Upgrades:** Upgraded the Vernon Pump Station and maintained the 7 pump stations in Town.
- **CCTV Inspections:** CCTV inspections of sewer mains and storm drains.
- **Annual Cleanings:** Cleaned wet wells and performed grinder pump inspections.
- **Safety and Training:** Attended safety and coordination meetings and training.
- **Emergencies:** Responded to multiple grinder pumps and other sewer emergencies both during and after business hours.

MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING

- **Sustainable Materials Management:** Participated in CCSMM meetings and statewide waste initiatives.
- **Public Outreach:** Hosted recycling talks, inspections, and educational presentations.
- **Food Waste Programs:** Attended and reviewed food waste programs and tours.
- **Recycling Center Operations:** Maintained and operated the Recycling Center; refrigerant recovery.
- **Community Events:** Coordinated and participated in Earth Day and the Public Works Open House.
- **Contract and Agreement Management:** Managed agreements for trash/recycling vendors and implemented new programs.
- **Hoffman Road Brush Dump:** Implemented the Brush Dump punch card system.
- **Document Shredding:** Coordinated the annual document shredding for all Town Offices.

FISCAL YEAR TONNAGE

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Trash	4,701	4,613	4501	4,502	4,564
Bulky	528	443	394	408	328
Recycling	1,280	1,201	1,119	1,074	1,010
Recycling Center	40	38	68	110	135
TOTAL	6,549	6,295	6,082	6,094	6,037

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY & RISK MANAGEMENT

The Office of Emergency & Risk Management (OERM) consists of the Emergency & Risk Management Director, two part-time volunteer Deputy Emergency Management Directors and the Ellington Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). The CERT team is supervised by one of the Deputy Directors. The unit's mission is to prepare the town to respond to all types of emergency incidents including weather related events, incidents involving hazardous materials (hazmat), mass casualty events, and any natural or man-made disaster. The primary goals of the office are the preparation, response, and recovery from critical events as well as the education of town residents, schools and businesses in preparing for an emergency incident. The office is also charged with the safety of town employees and seeking out opportunities to limit the town's risk of injury or accident.

PURPOSE

The OERM develops, maintains and updates local emergency operations plans in accordance with state law and guidance provided by the state's Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. The emergency plans guide the town in their response to all types of emergency incidents in a coordinated manner. Preparation for emergency incidents includes training drills, testing equipment, and coordinating with fire, police, ambulance and hospitals in the Tolland County area. The OERM manages town resources during a disaster and serves as the primary liaison to State and Federal Government agencies during times of crisis.

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

The Ellington CERT team is a group of trained volunteers from Ellington and surrounding towns. The CERT Team currently has thirty-four members. The team is supported by Federal and State funds. CERT members receive training in fire safety, basic first aid, radio communications, and traffic management. Members provide traffic and crowd control at parades, fireworks displays, fairs and other activities in Ellington and will assist other towns in the Tolland County area when requested. Additionally, CERT aids first responders and assists during 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 radio team provides communication assistance to other towns in the region during emergency incidents. If you want information or would like 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.

PARKS & RECREATION

PARKS & FACILITIES GUIDE

CRYSTAL LAKE SCHOOL HOUSE

Located across from Sandy Beach, the Crystal Lake School House continues to serve as an active hub for the Parks and Recreation Department. The facility remains open during the summer and is used for various middle school and preschool programs.

ARBOR PARK

Arbor Park, centrally located on Main Street, offers a scenic setting for walking and quiet enjoyment. While not managed by the Recreation Department, reservations may be coordinated through the Office of the First Selectman. The park features a modern outdoor fitness center, complete with accessible functional training equipment, a full-length sail-shade canopy, poured-in-place safety surfacing, and QR code signage to guide users on form and workout routines. The equipment is free to use and open daily from dawn to dusk.

BATZ PROPERTY

Situated at 97 Shenipsit Street, the Batz Property encompasses nearly 45 acres of natural landscape, including a sensory garden, community garden plots, and an outdoor amphitheater. This unique space blends natural beauty with opportunities for learning and engagement.



ROBERT TEDFORD MEMORIAL PARK

Just two miles from the town center on Route 140, Robert Tedford Memorial Park remains a cornerstone of Ellington's recreational offerings. The park includes fields for baseball, softball, football, and soccer, as well as pickleball courts, a tennis court, a dek hockey rink, a playground, volleyball court, and a covered

pavilion available for rental. Newly added athletic field lighting enhances usability into the evening hours.

PINNEY STREET FIELDS

Pinney Street Fields is a 20-acre multi-use athletic park that plays a central role in supporting Ellington's vibrant youth sports programs. In the spring, the park serves as the home of the town's growing youth lacrosse program, featuring three full-sized lacrosse fields. As the seasons shift, the space is transformed to accommodate four soccer fields for the department's robust fall soccer offerings.

Recent upgrades to the facility include a newly installed scoreboard and athletic field lighting that illuminates all playing surfaces, greatly enhancing evening play. In addition to athletic amenities, the park also provides access to a scenic and well-maintained hiking trail, offering recreational opportunities beyond the fields.

ELLINGTON SCHOOL FACILITIES

Ellington Public Schools continue to provide essential space for recreational programs throughout the year. Gymnasiums accommodate basketball, volleyball, and other indoor activities, while outdoor fields support spring and summer athletics.

SANDY BEACH

Sandy Beach, located on Crystal Lake along Route 140, is a favorite summer destination for swimming and relaxing. The beach offers seasonal recreational opportunities for residents of all ages.

SCHWARTZ PARK

Located at Ellington High School, Schwartz Park offers four regulation tennis courts and a shaded gazebo, providing a peaceful and convenient space for casual recreation.

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

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

The Parks and Recreation Commission, together with department staff, remains committed to delivering high-quality recreational programming year-round. Our goal is to provide inclusive, engaging activities that meet the interests and needs of residents of all ages, from youth to seniors.

STAFFING

The department is comprised of four full-time recreation professionals and one part-time administrative staff member. Seasonal and program-generated part-time positions include athletic officials, special skills instructors, lifeguards, day camp counselors, and program supervisors. Employment applications are available at the Parks and Recreation office during business hours and online at the department's website.

VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE

Volunteers continue to play a vital role in the success of our programs. Each year, the department coordinates more than 300 community volunteers who contribute their time and talents to a wide range of activities and events.

PROGRAMS

A full calendar of indoor and outdoor activities is offered throughout the year, utilizing key locations such as Robert Tedford Memorial Park, Sandy Beach, Pinney Street Fields, and local school facilities. Programs include youth and adult athletics, fitness classes, enrichment workshops, special events, and early childhood programming. Recently installed field lighting at Pinney Street Fields further expands access for evening programming.

ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

The department offers a range of instructional, recreational, and travel-level athletic programs. These leagues promote physical fitness, skill development, and teamwork while emphasizing sportsmanship among coaches, participants, and spectators.

SHARED SERVICES

We continue to benefit from close collaboration with the Board of Education's business office, school and custodial staff, and the Department of Public Works. Their partnership is essential to the success of our programs. Special thanks also go to Hall Memorial Library for its ongoing support of our early childhood offerings.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 860-870-3118. Visit us online at parkrec.ellington-ct.gov or follow us on Facebook. The department office is located at 31 Arbor Way, adjacent 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 may also reach us via email at recreationstaff@ellington-ct.gov. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

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 use and enjoy 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, puzzles, puppets, online databases and reference materials. The Library of Things collection features specialty items such as cake pans, lawn games, a telescope and an ice cream maker. 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, 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 birth to 5 years old. Activities for children include the annual summer reading program, movies, craft workshops, and various entertaining and educational events. Young adults may participate in book discussions, contests, creative projects and their own summer reading program. For adults, there are book discussion series, reading challenges,

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, there is delivery service for those who are homebound or residents of the senior housing facilities, and programs offered at offsite venues.

The Library staff continues to work hard to provide the best library services and be vital resources for our community.

HIGHLIGHTS

Programs and Services: A full range of programming for all ages was provided for our 79,035 visitors during FY24-25.

Summer programming, with the theme of "Once Upon a Time..." featured fun for all ages. The whole Library was decorated in various "realms" from Hogwarts to Camelot, Oz to Wonderland, and the Shire to the enchanted Forest. There were quests, challenges, crafts, animals, music, cooking, karate, slime and ukuleles and much more. And everyone lived happily ever after. All summer programming was once again generously funded by the Friends of the Library.

Expanded story time programs were introduced and Baby Time and Toddler Time joined the Drop-in all-ages sessions, introducing our youngest patrons and their caregivers to the joy of stories and song. For those a little older, the Reading to the Dogs program continued to be a hit as well as the Lego and Nintendo Clubs. The Chess Ninjas kids' chess club was again led by members of the Ellington Chess Mates from the Senior Center. The annual Holiday Ornament Workshop was held on Winterfest weekend, and Santa's helpers answered children's letters to Santa. A fantastic multi-session STEM program was presented by the Lego Robotics League for ages 5-9.

For adults, a variety of informational and entertaining programs were offered. Topics included various health and wellness topics, financial and retirement planning, reiki, ghosts in Connecticut, nature photography, sonnet writing workshop and open mike night for National Poetry Month, and harmonic lessons! The Historical Society presented an informative program, "It Happened in Ellington...Believe It or Not!" that explored some of the myths and fables in Ellington history. Movie showings, quilting project workshops, cooking and crafting classes, the creative writing group, and the ever-popular Friday night Coffeehouse musical series were offered. The garden seed swap was held again, as well as houseplant and garden plant swaps. The Knit and Natter handcraft group and the Bridge Club met weekly, and the Veteran's Coffeehouse met monthly. A mystery date winter reading challenge for adults was a big hit. The Mysteries and More Book Discussion group met monthly to enjoy an eclectic range of titles. Copies of titles in both print and digital formats were provided for the 15 community book discussion groups that met throughout the year.

New this year was a cookbook club, in which a different chef was explored each month, complete with tasty samples. Also new is the Book Box program, a reader's advisory type service where patrons receive a curated selection of books, accompanied by a few surprises, all wrapped in a lovely box. A popular gaming club for younger adults was formed, called ABXY. The group meets monthly to interact and play video games. There is an online component available also, for those who live further away.

To serve our genealogy enthusiasts the Library applied for and was accepted as a Family Search affiliate Library. As such an expanded variety of genealogy tools are available for use in-house.

The artistic endeavors of the High School and Middle School Art students hung in the Library hallway exhibit space in the spring. The Art Honor Society held their induction ceremony in the McKnight Room. Several community artists and also the Ellington Country Quilters also shared their works.



The Stars of the Read to the Dogs Program



Book Art in our "Craft With Me" Program

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.

Hotspots and laptops to circulate were added to the Library of Things collection as part of the American Rescue Plan Act funds, to promote digital access in our community.

The Volunteer program was reinvigorated to accommodate the many requests of patrons of all ages wishing to give back to the community by helping in the Library.

The Library continued to serve as a U.S Passport Acceptance Agency, guiding 244 area residents through the application process and accepting and submitting forms and documents. Notary Service was also offered.

Ellington kicked off the America 250 celebration by making and lighting lanterns provided by the Library, marking the night of Paul Revere's famous ride.

Staff: New staff member Ryan Young joined us in May, replacing Ethan Poetsch who moved on to another position. Lindsay McKeegan and Linda Callahan, longtime evening and weekend staffers retired from the HML family. Xavier Riddle moved up from Page to Library Assistant. The faces may change, but the warm and friendly service always remains.

Building and Grounds: A renovation of the young adult space was wrapped up over the summer, generously funded by the Friends of the Library. The expanded space sports bright new furniture, a genrified collection and fun new décor.

An update of the kitchen was completed by the Public Works Department and funded by the Library. This space serves the staff breakroom and the McKnight Community Room.

As part of the parking lot and grounds upgrade project, the lovely brick signs were repaired and realigned, and outdoor wifi access that covers the whole campus was installed.

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.

The 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. And the Library worked with the Trails Committee to sponsor a star-gazing event at Pinney Field, and participated in with the Economic Development Commission's Ellington Farm Day, welcoming new feathery friends with a chick hatching event and craft activities.

To help tax payers better understand the financial processes of the Town, sessions were held with Town officials to explain the annual budget preparation process and the upcoming property revaluation.

The Library continues to collaborate with Ellington High School to host students in the Ellington Continuing Life Independence Post-Secondary Education (ECLIPSE) program. This program provides continued support and real-world experiences for students who have aged-out of the formal high school program. One of the students in the program is working toward a "real" job here at the library. Success!

Outreach: The Library participated in the Ellington Historical Society Fall Festival, and the Lions Club/Trails Committee Trail to Treats. At the Earth Day booth, participants created upcycled crafts and lawn games were enjoyed by all.

Several staff members shared their experiences of librarianship as a profession at careers nights at the High School and a local church. Children's Services Librarian Trish Brudz held story hour sessions at Little Scribblers and the Recreation Department summer day camp.

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 the Library Board served refreshments.

Friends of the Library: 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, and maintaining the armillary planter. In addition to funds raised through the annual book sale, the Book Cellar Used book sale room and the book fair sale tables, the ever-popular Minigolf in the Library event returned, providing a great day of photos, facepainting, and minigolf for more than 450 people.

STATISTICS 2023-2024

CIRCULATION

Adult Books and Periodicals	34,131
Young Adult Books and Periodicals	2,829
Children's Books and Periodicals	36,960
Audiovisual and Miscellaneous Materials	11,151
Digital (ebooks, eaudio, emagazines, etc.)	23,998
Museum Passes.....	536
TOTAL.....	109,605

COLLECTION

Adult Books and Periodicals	31,572
Young Adult Books and Periodicals	2,730
Children's Books and Periodicals.....	20,433
Audiovisual and Miscellaneous Materials.....	9,274
Databases.....	22
TOTAL.....	64,031

REGISTERED BORROWERS

Adults	5,372
Young Adults	326
Children.....	1,126
TOTAL.....	7,140

SOCIAL SERVICES

HUMAN SERVICES

PRINCIPAL FUNCTION

Ellington Human Services serves as the Town's primary resource for addressing the social service needs of individuals and families, children, adults, and seniors. The department provides a wide array of assistance including energy and food support, seasonal programs, advocacy, referrals, and help navigating state and federal benefits.

The department is staffed by a full-time Director, a full-time Elderly Outreach Social Worker, and a full-time Human Services Coordinator.

DIRECT SERVICES

Human Services delivers hands-on support by processing applications and determining eligibility for a variety of programs. These include:

- Energy Assistance
- Renters Rebate
- Food Bank, including summer CSA Fresh Produce program
- SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)
- Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program
- Fuel Bank (emergency fuel delivery and shut-off prevention)
- Benefits Counseling (Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security)
- Back-to-School Assistance
- Holiday Gift Assistance
- Camperships
- Discretionary Assistance Programs

Most services require proof of income and Ellington residency, and in some cases, asset documentation.

COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES

In addition to in-house programs, Human Services connects residents with regional partners for broader support. Services may include legal advocacy, domestic violence intervention, case management, shelter, transportation, and health education. Key partner agencies include:

- **Hockanum Valley Community Council** – Transportation, counseling, and food pantry
- **Interval House** – Domestic violence shelter and services
- **YWCA** – Sexual assault crisis counseling
- **Cornerstone Foundation** – Homeless shelter, soup kitchen, and food pantry
- **Amplify, Inc.** – Mental health and addiction services
- **Access Community Action Agency** - Nutrition Programs, Affordable Housing Programs, and Job Readiness

ELDERLY OUTREACH

The department's Elderly Outreach Social Worker provides direct support to older adults and their caregivers by connecting them with local, state, and federal resources. Weekly office hours at the Senior Center enhance accessibility.

The Human Services Director also serves as the state-mandated **Municipal Agent for the Elderly**, reporting to the town's chief executive and the Connecticut State Department of Aging and Disability Services. The Director's role includes identifying needs, advocating for services, and recommending improvements.

ELLINGTON FOOD BANK

Located in the Human Services Building, the Ellington Food Bank provides groceries, hygiene items, and household supplies to residents in need. Monthly shopping hours are offered, with emergency food available as needed. The Food Bank is supported by community donations and a partnership with the Midwest Food Bank in Manchester.

GRANDMA'S PANTRY (24/7 Little Free Pantry)

Named in honor of longtime Ellington resident and advocate Estelle Williamson, Grandma's Pantry is open year-round and available 24/7 for emergency nonperishable food needs. The pantry's high level of usage underscores its value. Human Services deeply appreciates the residents and volunteers who continuously restock this important resource.



SUMMER PRODUCE STAND

Ellington Human Services also offers a seasonal **Summer Produce Stand**, which began as a pilot program in July 2022. It provides residents with access to fresh fruits and vegetables donated by generous community members and local gardeners. This initiative ensures individuals and families can enjoy healthy, farm-fresh options.



VETERANS COFFEEHOUSE

The **Veterans Coffeehouse** is a monthly gathering offering veterans from all service branches a place to enjoy camaraderie and conversation. Each meeting features a guest speaker covering topics of interest to the veteran community. Meetings are held on the **third Thursday of each month at 10:30 AM** at Hall Memorial Library. Coffee and pastries are generously donated by **LuAnn's Café & Bakery**.

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

As outlined in the Town Charter, the **Human Services Commission** is responsible for identifying and addressing the community's health and social service needs. The Commission collaborates with both public and private organizations to enhance service delivery and reviews annual funding requests to support qualified service providers.

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

This committee's mission is to foster a welcoming, inclusive, and respectful environment for all Ellington residents. In June 2025, the committee hosted its third annual **Signing Day** at Ellington High School—a celebration of students' post-graduation plans, including college, military, trade school, or workforce entry.

OPIOID SETTLEMENT COMMITTEE

The mission of the Opioid Settlement Committee is to provide recommendations to the Board of Selectmen regarding the use of the Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund. The committee focuses on harm reduction and prevention by identifying community needs through public events, educational initiatives, and collaborative efforts with local schools, agencies, and neighboring municipalities.

NOTABLE STATISTICS FOR 2024-2025

- **Food Bank Usage:** An average of 50 families/individuals utilize the Food Bank monthly.
- **Thanksgiving Support:** 164 families/individuals received food baskets or grocery gift cards.
- **Holiday Assistance:** 71 children and 56 seniors/disabled individuals received department store gift cards, and 157 families/individuals received grocery gift cards.
- **Energy Assistance:** 218 applications processed.
- **Renters Rebate:** 86 applications processed.
- **Community Outreach Events:** 15 events held, including Earth Day, Farmer's Market, Trail of Treats, Medicare, Snipsic Village Outreach Events, Financial Education, A Salute in Banners ~ Veteran Banner Program.

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, Instagram and YouTube.

HIGHLIGHTS

Two grants were awarded from the 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 installed new flooring and an outdoor pickleball court utilizing ARPA funding.

STAFFING

The Senior Center is staffed by a full-time Director, Assistant Director and an Administrative Secretary. Part-time staff include 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 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 The Senior Center, Town Offices, grocery stores, banking, post-office and for non-emergency medical appointments. The Senior Center has provided 2,392 rides this year.

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 Garden Program produces assorted produce to distribute to seniors. The Senior Center has a holiday dinner and St. Patrick's Day dinner, an apps and jazz event and a summer cookout every year which provides a meal and entertainment. The Senior Center serves an average of 185 meals per week.

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, cardio drumming, pickleball lessons and open play, Silver Sneaker classes and Tai Chi are offered. Forever Fit Fitness Center is located on the facility. The Forever Fit Fitness Center has 11 pieces of cardio. These include treadmills, ellipticals, Peloton bike, Nu-Steps and a rower. There are 4 stand-alone weight stations and a free weight, band and stretch station. Outdoor fitness stations are located on the 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, simply strumming, acrylics on canvas, Wii Bowling, and adult coloring. Monthly Lunch Bunch. 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. Bring your own lunch program happens during the summer months where individuals can bring their own lunch to enjoy and socialize with others.

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. Book Club, Representatives from town departments present programs on services offered by the town.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

The Senior Center staff is grateful for over 60 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.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The Senior Center works in close collaboration with a variety of community partners to enhance the quality of services provided to our members. These partnerships include local attorneys, AARP, assisted living communities, real estate professionals, financial institutions and local banks, healthcare facilities, state and local lawmakers, town departments, and community presenters. The Senior Center takes part in Senior Hood every year an resource fair for Tolland County seniors that is put forth by The Tolland County Interdisciplinary team. By working together with these organizations, the Senior Center is able to expand resources, provide educational opportunities, and ensure that older adults and their families have access to comprehensive support and information.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Category	Attendees		Hours
	Duplicated	Unduplicated	
Arts & Crafts	905	98	1962.5
Cards & Games	4,647	246	15,405.8
Educational	133	74	235.5
Fitness, Health & Wellness	8,273	490	17,647.0
Information Sharing	96	92	480.0
Language Arts	217	64	249.0
Music	1,048	112	1,557.0
Nutrition	4,958	584	6,990.0
Recreation	208	8	364.0
Social	450	251	2,450.5
Special Event	1,483	317	2,276.5
Technology Classes	32	19	32.0
Trip	37	31	444.0
Total Event Sign-ins	22,516	1,172	50,122.8

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 provide 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 and prevention coordinator, a part-time program specialist, 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 year 2024-2025, 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, after school programs, outreach, and other events.

Programs: We provided 149 programs for 2024-2025 with about 2,600 participants and 15 large group events throughout the year with approximately 2,800 participants.

In-school Services: We worked with fifteen 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 three 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 nine 5th and 6th grade classrooms. Additionally, the SOS Program, Suicide Prevention Program was presented to students in 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades about 1,200 students. We also started a new Mindful Monday group at the middle school working with 7th and 8th graders weekly during lunch. We were able to start a vaping education program in partnership with EHS for students as well as our first prevention fair at the high school. At EMS we collaborated on Red Ribbon Week, EMS Unplugged Day, and Mental Health/Prevention week activities.

Outreach to the Community is a very strong component of Youth Services. This past year we had 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: The 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 10 case management and referrals this year.

Ellington Unified believes that everyone should have a sense of belonging and a part of 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 welcomed a new Unified Advisor, and we were able to offer several holiday gatherings, social skills classes, family activities, dance and basketball. We had about 100 participants throughout all our programming.

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 sponsoring end of the year celebrations for Crystal Lake School, Center School, and Windermere. We sponsored the Ellington Community Theatre program as well as the 6th Grade Ambassadors, and the EMS Field Day. We also partnered with the Ellington Recreation Department to offer the first Knight Time Egg Hunt and are planning for a End of Summer Movie Night. In addition, this year we have a parent/community survey to determine the needs surrounding prevention in our community. Members of DPYC were also present at Farmers Markets and the towns Earth Day Event as well as the Opioid Settlement Concert Series.

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 over 120 middle school participants in the dodgeball tournament. They also continued their 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 with all students in meaningful and rigorous learning this year. The following is a summary of action steps and strategies from the 2024-2025 school year.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- The reading program was instituted in all K-4 classrooms, with supports as described in the strategy. Teachers who completed a full year of pilot in 2023-24 supported the other classrooms and led the customization and extension of the CKLA resources to address specific district needs, such as writing. A grade 6 committee explored various solutions to align instruction at that grade and K-8. They chose Amplify ELA, which was presented to the curriculum committee and BOE. The new Acadience assessment was used K-6 to inform instruction and intervention. A team with literacy teachers and administrators from the three schools reviewed individual student progress in relation to the whole district at each

grade level. The reading/math MTSS team is working on alignment with special education faculty to ensure training in district curriculum and specific math and reading intervention are available for all staff. Several reading and special education teachers are attending the Orton-Gillingham five-day training in late June. Additionally, several para professionals are attending the three-day Wilson Reading System workshop in May.

- Math curriculum implementation was supported on standing PD days and grade-level meetings. Math specialists met to reflect on implementation success and challenges across schools. High school re-sequenced some key concepts to increase time for core concepts in Algebra. BTC practices were expertly adopted across high school math classrooms with support from a consultant, resulting in higher student engagement and critical thinking.
- Weekly Tech tips, curated by our Technology Integration leads, were distributed as part of Tuesday Tech tips. Presentations to faculty at EMS and EHS supported teachers in background knowledge and led to interactive workshops. Teachers used AI to modify the reading level of texts.

- To enhance instructional leadership and to support more curriculum implementation more consistently aligned to VoL, brief, unannounced administrator class visits were initiated at the high school. High school faculty collaborated on identifying "Big Ideas" and "Essential Questions" for units, which will be included in syllabi, aligned with Vision of the Learner. Google classroom is used consistently at EHS and EMS.
- Vision of the Learner was introduced across all schools. Collaborative time K-5 prioritized peer support for new curriculum implementation. High school professional learning was redesigned around cross-disciplinary teams led by Instructional Leadership Team teachers ("ILT teams"), using a train-the-trainer model. PLG's supported curriculum refresh work and department-based reflection on topics from ILT teams. Teachers rated the value of professional learning higher than in recent years.
- District data team members visited data teams across the schools to assess practices. Collaborative time at EMS was supported with the new data visualization dashboard.
- Instructional leadership was cultivated through small team administrator walkthroughs across the district and readings in the form of articles and text chapters. A draft of high-quality instruction was drafted by administrators in response to the learning walks. Administrators were supported in leveraging the new teacher evaluation model at multiple schools.

CONDITIONS FOR LEARNING

- Elementary: Crafts, games, nature scavenger hunts, and face-to-face discussions. Secondary: Unplugged days, Unplug and Connect days, Pep rallies. District-wide: Book group hosted by EMS (on Anxious Generation, a text promoting less social media and more unstructured adventurous play and experiences outdoors)
- The overarching concept of "Our Best Selves" is promoted K-12. Restorative practices are used as part of discipline (responses to challenging behavior). The four core tools are used most systematically at Windermere (in year two of implementation). Class charters and Mood Meter are used across all elementary school classrooms.
- Work at all grade levels promoted Seeds of Civility as an approach to the upcoming election in October 2024. High school Roundtable (advisory) promoted understanding and labeling emotions, face-to-face, Speak One's Truth, and conflict resolution.
- A district-wide committee identified areas of focus for ethical use of AI to support teacher planning and instruction as well as guidelines for ethical use by staff and students. The AI committee drafted a vision statement for AI, vetted it with teacher leaders and administrators, and will roll out the guidance next year. Administrators identified workshops for parents as an important element to consider.
- Cell phone policy was sustained at the high school. High School and middle school piloted unplugged days. Anxious Generation book study was held for parents from across the district at EMS, with 50 families interested.

EFFICIENT OPERATIONS

- Alternative funds were acquired for the implementation of electronic timekeeping to be in place for the start of the 2025-2026 school year.
- The Module for electronic employee onboarding will also be acquired for later implementation
- Since it was announced that there would be no third round, the HVAC was evaluated for the most important priorities. The bid was re-worked to reflect this and put back out. Two bids were received, and one was contracted with for the work to be done, starting in May.
- Full budget book converted from Word document to Excel document with formulas added to feed data from workbooks utilized to build the budget and create efficiencies.
- AI was utilized to explore the best way to streamline calculations and flows from one Excel workbook to another to eliminate manual entry.
- Use of Google Gemini to refine and streamline email and document writing for memos, procedures, emails, etc.
- Building with Notebook LM to utilize AI for quick and effective

searches of large amounts of information such as policies.

- New building opened February 2025.
- Remainder of the project is currently underway and on schedule, with currently no major foreseen issues.
- No disruptions to school operations and currently no foreseen future disruptions.
- Composting planning in process to start composting within the district at the beginning of next school year. Coordinating with DPW and Ellington's waste pickup provider.
- Continue to work with the town on shared services between maintenance departments (landscaping and trades)
- Continuing Work with relevant state and federal agencies to identify potential grant opportunities to fund replacements for aging network infrastructure.
- Identifying areas in the technology budget that can be leveraged to fund a consistent hardware replacement cycle.

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 LEARNER

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:

Engaged Learners

- Participates actively and purposefully in learning
- Demonstrates perseverance and flexibility
- Improves understanding through reflection
- Makes meaningful connections to new learning

Active Community Members

- Collaborates effectively
- Recognizes similarities and values differences
- Assumes good intentions
- Builds positive relationships

Critical Thinkers

- Comprehends, analyzes and evaluates information from diverse sources, including AI
- Solves complex problems
- Thinks creatively
- Takes intellectual risks

Effective Communicators

- Advances learning through discourse
- Communicates ideas in compelling, impactful ways
- Listens for understanding
- Asks thoughtful questions

ELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES 2024



Ellington High School Class of 2025 graduated on Friday, June 13, 2025. Dr. Scott Nicol, Superintendent of Schools, presented diplomas to 182 seniors. The statistics for the Class of 2025 are as follows: 106 graduates plan to attend four-year colleges, 32 plan to attend two-year colleges, 4 plan to attend technical school, 5 plan to join the military, 5 exchange students, 15 graduates plan to join the workforce, and 15 will pursue other opportunities or are undecided. The following class scholars represented the highest five percent of the Class of 2025: Sanavi Gokhale – Valedictorian, Shloka Nathan – Salutatorian, Elise Catlett, Saisuruth Choppakatla, Ella Hallett, Riya Kundu, Braeden Lagasse, Esha Lal, and Analisse Paton.

CLASS OFFICERS

Dylan McKee Shloka Nathan Sai Suhruth Choppakatla Lana Piretti Rebecca Willett

Gloria I. Acevedo
Lillie A. Aceycek
Marilyn F. Afriyie
Luca Albano
Zenía Aleesha
Johnathan J. Amott
Shaelyn Love Aponte
Dexter Aregood
Maura Eleanor Armstrong
Naana G. Asumadu
Dominic Anthony Attardo
Addison Rose Aubin
Jason Backman
Dean Bailey
Lauren Nicole Barnes
Christopher Joseph Beaudry
Mia Katharina Boelinger
Emily Michelle Boice
Owen R. Boucher
Sawyer K. Brown
Hannah Mary Bruno
Julia Marie Burns
Sophia Eileen Cantin
Liam T. Capshaw
Sophia Elise Carvell
Elise Marie Catlett*
Jaida Chan
Kayla Dora Chapdelaine
Jake Ryan Chipman
Sai Suhruth Choppakatla*
Nicholas Anthony Cipollini
Carter J. Covino
Amelia Mae Crocker
Audrina K. Cumbo
Grace Lauren Currier
Andrew B. Danforth
Grace Malene Davis
Kaitlyn Rose Delaney
Jonathan Marc Delisle
Everett M. Deptula
Isabel Rose Deptula
Kylee R. DeSantis
Vishal Devakumaran
Dave Dezilphane
Teagan G. Dieterle
Jovan Dimovski

Carly Faith Diwinsky
Isabella Dolago
Shaela A. Downey
Matthew J. Dudd
Alisa Hope Dwyer
Samuel J. Einsiedel
Sean Stephen Ellis
Nyasia Marie Erazo
Abigail Fackrell
Josiah J. Fasano
Camryn A. Fisher
Andrew Flickenschild
Katharine Elizabeth Forst
Alexia L. Galarza
Anna Elizabeth Gallagher
Anthony Gallicchio
Brayden R. Gavigan
Shane Edward Gesualdi
Aundrea Darlene Gillis-Crane
Emersyn Elizabeth Giordano
Sanavi Avadhoot Gokhale*
Lanie Gonzalez Rosario
Emily Hope Goodin
Gracie Rose Goodrow
Anthony Stuart Gray
Robert J. Greene
Mazie Grace Griffin
Shannon Elizabeth Griswold
Meredith T. Hagar
Ella Paige Hallett*
Emily R. Hamilton
Amy M. Harris
Fiona K. Hart
Hunter Mathew Hebert
Connor Hildebrand
Madison Margaret Hoffman
Jake Riley Hopper
Donald Hoyt
Arabella M. Inghilleri
Jeferson John Janczak
Emily Ann Janiak
Brooke Emma Johnson
Connor Kennedy
Ashlyn R. Kindall
Ella Korb
Riya Kundu*

Nathanael Labranche
Lucas Kingston Ladin
Grant Guild Laforest
Avery Kathleen Lagasse
Braeden Lagasse*
Connor Lagasse
Esha Lal*
Sylvia Lanz-Matthews
Jared C. Late
Dominick A. Lattanzio
Maxim J. LeHoucq
Liam Charles Levesque
Aidan A. Liguore
Ethan Liu
Cody Lee Lonsberry
Jillian M. Lucey
Abigail A. Lund
Sophia Mafuz
Aadhav Manivannan
Ava Lise Martin
Olivia Grace Martin
Talan Martin
Owen Mathew
Dylan McKee
Scarlett Celine McKenzie
Brandon Michael Mead
Nyla Y. Metts
Austin A. Michaud
Aayan H. Mohammed
Jaidyn Kailee Morrow
Abram Moser
Astha Natarajan
Shloka R. Nathan*
Conner Wyatt Nedwick
Cecelia Rush Nelson Kade
R. Newberg
Noah Frederick Norman
Ila M. Oliver
Darel Oliveras
Analisse Marie Paton*
Gentiano Paolo Peci
Sabastian Perez
Karli Perkins
Lana Josephine Piretti
Leo Rabus
Javier Ramírez Peña

Addison Marie Reutter
Zaniyah Kelis Kayleela Rodriguez
Tristan Rooney
Tyler M. Salisbury
Nathan Keith Scalise
Skyler W. Schulze
Brennan E. Scutt
Manon James Shannon
Pratham Chetan Shende
Landon Shirshac
Jake Anthony Siegel
Luke Xavier Simon
Jedidiah John Smalley
Elijah Smith
Emmalee Marie Soto
Jack Robert Spanswick
Madison Sarah Stavens
Tetrick Stonar
Tiane Eveah Stonar
Hailey N. Stratoudakis
Abigail E. Tait
Logan C. Takach
Naiah Talbot
Isabella M. Tevelde
Nicole J. Thomann
Allan Thornton
Emily Tietze
Manon Touchard
Rachel L. Tucker
Skye M. Turney
Adithya Ummanath
Caelyn M. Utz
Lola Gray Vallez
Luke M. Van Tassel
Gianna Marie Vannelli
Cierra Lynn Veilleux
Lilianna K. Walker
Alex Welch
Emma Rose West
Rebecca Riley Willett
Noah Winans
Jacob Pierce Wojcik
Mickyla Destiny Wong
Olivia Wood

* 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.

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. La Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica are wearing Red/Gold Cords.

Student Council Officers are wearing White Honor Cords. Senior Class Officers are wearing Black Honor Cords.

National Latin Society are wearing Purple/Gold Cords. Link Crew Members are wearing Navy Cords. Best Buddies are wearing Yellow/Orange Cords.

**Congratulations to Airman Labranche for Enlistment in the Air National Guard.*

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): Karen Picard,
Shannon Esslinger

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:

Full-time: Deborah Landry-Schiessl, Daniel Noone

Part-time: Cameron Bourbeau, Kerri Cushing,
Abigail Edelstein, Ilana Hunt, Leslie Prior

Per Diem Staff: Steve Abraham, Chad Adams,
Megan Audet, Megan Bradway, Carson Gaines,
Aiden Ghiroli, Michael Girard, William (Billy) Gray,
Andrew Luu, April Phelps, Collin Stevenson,
Caitlin Sutyak, Jennifer Wells

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 Luginbuhl

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 Clynych, Lauren Desrocher,
Heather Nosack, Luci Pantuosco, Ethan Poetsch,
Xavier Riddle, Laurie Wormstedt

Reference Librarian: 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 Supervisor: Kevin Barrett

Recreation Program & Event Specialist: Robert Gorman

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: Barbora Galovich

Recording Secretary: Ashley DuBois

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Resident State Troopers:

Resident State Troopers' Office Supervisor: Sgt. Brian Santa
TFC. Tyler Burnell, Tpr. Joe Fratini, Tpr. Stephanie Gurski,
Tpr. Kelly Mazza

Town Police Officers:

Bart Alexander, John Barth, Aaron Blank, 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: Brian Novak

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, Robert Berthiaume

Laborer: Casey Lombardi

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,
Siobhan Kupferschmid, Kimberly Scofield-Gamboa

TAX DEPARTMENT

Tax and Revenue Collector: Carolina Feliz

Deputy Tax and Revenue Collector: Lindsey Bourque

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, 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: Samuel Hubbard,
Robert Berthiaume

YOUTH SERVICES

Youth Services Director: Kristen Harp

Assistant Youth Services Director: Jessica Rosa

Youth Program & Prevention Coordinator: Marque Mercure

Youth Program Specialist: Sarah Blais

TOWN ELECTED OFFICIALS

(as of June 30, 2025)

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

John Halloran

Judy Stomberg

Deanna Wambolt-Gulick

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, 2025)

(Term Length – Month of Reappointment)

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

(One year - September)

Brian Cocuzzo, Chairman	Lenora Williams
Jaimee DelPiano	Anthea Grotton
Tammie Mangold	Nona Gaur, Student Rep.

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	Melissa O'Neil
Christopher Aguilar	

AD HOC ELLINGTON TRAILS COMMITTEE

(One year - April)

Linda Anderson, Chairman	Valerie Amsel
Cynthia van Zelm, Vice Chairman	Deanna Wambolt-Gulick
Donna Allen	Michael Emons
Lindsay Neubecker	Tom Palshaw
William Schultz	Dan Chamberlin
Robert Barone	Ann Harford
Steven Austin	Stuart Lanz
Ryan Bibeau	

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	
Karl Neubecker, Ellington Volunteer Fire Department Representative	
Robert Smith, 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	Paul Fiasconaro
Jacob Cawthorn	John O'Shaughnessy
Logan Takach, Kashish Koul, Aarush Kumar, Student Reps	

TERM EXPIRES

BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS (Three years - January)

Aston Blake	2027
Suren Thirumappan	2026
Lisa Rice	2028

Alternates (2 years)

Joseph Malone	2026
Norman Perkins	2027

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
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COMMUNITY VOICE CHANNEL ADVISORY COUNCIL

(Two years - June)

Marc Diwinsky	2026
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CT WATER COMPANY CUSTOMER ADVISORY COUNCIL

(One year - August)

Lois Timms-Ferrara (Alternate)	2025
--------------------------------	------

CONSERVATION COMMISSION (Four years - March)

Rebecca A. Quarno, Chairman	2027
Sean Dwyer	2026
James Gage	2027
Kathy Caton	2029
Robert E. Zielfelder, Jr.	2026
Laurie Burstein	2028
Alternates (2 years)	
Ann Harford	2027

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD (Four years - June)

Michele Beaulieu	2029
Gary Chaplin	2029
Ronald F. Stomberg	2028
Katherine Heminway	2029
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	2027
Michael Swanson	2027

	TERM EXPIRES
ETHICS COMMISSION (<i>Four years - January</i>)	
Derek Reed, <i>Chairman</i>	2027
Deb Lynch, <i>Vice Chairman</i>	2028
Allan Lawrence	2029
Patience Turkson	2028
Madelina Williams	2026

HOUSING AUTHORITY (<i>Five years - June</i>)	
Robert C. Sandberg, Jr., <i>Chairman</i>	2028
Michael Swanson, <i>Vice Chairman</i>	2027
Atherton "Joe" Ryan, <i>Secretary</i>	2030
Amos Smith	2026
Deborah Newton	2029

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION (<i>Four years - January</i>)	
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 (<i>Four years - January</i>)	
Jean Burns, <i>Chairman</i>	2029
Katherine Heminway, <i>Vice Chairman</i>	2027
Kenneth Braga	2027
Jonathan Kaczmarek	2029
Landon Barlow	2027
Hocine Baouche	2029
Steven J. Hoffman	2027
Alternates (<i>2 years</i>)	
Subhra Roy	2026

INSURANCE ADVISORY BOARD (<i>Four years - April</i>)	
Audrey Kubas, <i>Chairman</i>	2027
Mark Boone	2027
Elizabeth Nord	2029

MENTAL HEALTH COUNCIL #15 (<i>Three years - January</i>)	
John H. Lally	2028

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS (<i>Three years - June</i>)	
Dianne Trueb	2028
Fred Journalist	2028

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION (<i>Four years - January</i>)	
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

PERMANENT BUILDING COMMITTEE (<i>Four years - February/through November*/December 2025**</i>)	
Peter W. Welti, <i>Chairman</i>	2026
Gary Magnuson, <i>Vice Chairman</i>	2028
Thomas Adams	2026

	TERM EXPIRES
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
Liz Nord (<i>BOF Representative</i>)**	2025
Sean Kelly (<i>P&Z Representative</i>)**	2025
Tom Modzelewski, <i>Public Works Director (Ex-officio)</i>	

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION ALTERNATES (<i>Two years - September</i>)	
Ryan Orszulak	2025
Jeremiah Williams	2025

SHARED SERVICES COMMISSION (<i>Three Years - October/through November*/December 2025**</i>)	
Christopher Socha, <i>Vice Chairman</i>	2026
Sharon McLaughlin	2027
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 (<i>Four years - April</i>)	
Daniel J. Parisi, <i>Chairman</i>	2029
Paul F. Gilbert	2026
Shawn Koehler	2028
Aaron Foster	2026
Tom Walker	2027

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS ALTERNATES (<i>Two years - August</i>)	
Ronald Brown	2025
Rodger Hosig	2026
Ronald F. Stomberg	2026

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN
Cynthia Costanzo	Michael Agranoff
Thomas Curtiss	Nicole S. Albano
Keith Durao	Christopher C. Davis
Rachel Durao	Sean C. Kelly
Donald R. Francois, Jr.	Daniel C. Keune
John M. Halloran, Jr.	Lori L. Spielman
Patricia Micari	Ronald F. Stomberg
Lois Timms-Ferrara	Rhonda Villanova

UNAFFILIATED
Howard E. Dewitt
Kenzy Lee
Christina Marie Morin
Sylvie Nadeau
Judita J. Sadlak
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

Donald Trump

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
(202) 456-7041
www.whitehouse.gov



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 16,585 in 2024.

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 37.1 mills applied to the 2024 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

Ellington boasts an exceptional school system. Ellington Public Schools set a standard for high educational outcomes in Connecticut. The district enrolls approximately 2500 students across three elementary schools, one middle school, one high school, and alternative programs. Within a 20-mile radius, students can access multiple higher education institutions, including the University of Connecticut and the Connecticut State Community College system.

INCOME

The Median income per household was \$125,216.

HOUSING

According to the 2020 US Census report, the number of households in the Town of Ellington is 7,336, with 636 condos including PUDs. 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 Ellington Board of Selectmen has also formally established *Market Park*, which now serves as the home of the Town's popular weekly farmers market series. 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 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 Manufacturing, Specialty Trades, Health Care and Social Assistance, and Retail. The Ellington Farmers Market runs Saturdays from May – October, 9am -12pm at 72 Maple Street and the Winter Market typically runs on select dates 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 28, 2025
180th Day: June 12, 2026

2025 – 2026

AUGUST 2025								(2)								(19)								FEBRUARY 2026							
25-27 Prof. Development		S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	1		2		S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	Half Day – PD 13 President’s Day (obs.) 16											
							1	2					1	2	3	4	5	6	7												
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9					8	9	10	11	12	13★	14												
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16					15	16	17	18	19	20	21												
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23					22	23	24	25	26	27	28												
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30																							
SEPTEMBER 2025								(21)								(21)								MARCH 2026							
1 Labor Day 23 Half Day – PD 23 Rosh Hashanah		S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	15		16		S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	Full Day – PD 20 Eid al Fitr 20 Half Day – PD 25											
		31	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3	4◇	5◇	6◇	7												
		7	8	9	10	11	12	13					8	9	10	11	12	13	14												
		14	15	16	17	18	19	20					15	16	17	18≈	19≈	20	21												
		21	22	23★	24	25	26	27					22	23	24	25★	26	27	28												
		28	29	30									29	30	31																
OCTOBER 2025								(21)								(16)								APRIL 2026							
10 Half Day – PD 13 Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples Day 20 Full Day – PD 20 Diwali		S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	12		13		S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	Good Friday 3 Half Day – PD 10 Spring Break 13-17											
					1	2	3	4								1	2	3	4												
		5	6	7	8	9	10★	11					5	6	7	8	9	10★	11												
		12	13	14	15	16	17	18					12	13	14	15	16	17	18												
		19	20	21	22	23	24	25					19	20	21	22	23	24	25												
		26	27	28≈	29≈	30≈	31±	1					26	27	28	29	30														
NOVEMBER 2025								(16)								(20)								MAY 2026							
7 Full Day – PD 4 Election Day 27-28 Thanksgiving Break		S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	16		17		S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	Half Day – PD 22 Memorial Day 25											
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8										1	2												
		9	10	11	12	13•	14μ	15					3	4	5	6	7	8	9												
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22					10	11	12	13	14	15	16												
		23	24	25	26★	27	28	29					17	18	19	20	21	22★	23												
		30											24	25	26	27	28	29	30												
DECEMBER 2025								(15)								(10)								JUNE 2026							
24-25 Christmas Break 22-31 Winter Vacation		S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	20		21		S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	Projected Last Day* 12 EHS Graduation* 12											
			1	2	3◇	4◇	5◇	6						1	2	3	4	5	6												
		7	8	9	10	11	12	13					7	8	9	10	11	12★	13												
		14	15	16	17	18	19★	20					14	15	16	17	18	19	20												
		21	22	23	24	25	26	27					21	22	23	24	25	26	27												
		28	29	30	31								28	29	30																
JANUARY 2026								(19)								(19)								JULY 2026							
1 New Year’s Day 2 Full Day – PD 19 MLK Jr. Day		S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	22		23		S	M	T	W	TH	F	S	Ind. Day Observance 3-6											
						1	2	3								1	2	3	4												
		4	5	6	7	8	9	10					5	6	7	8	9	10	11												
		11	12	13	14	15	16	17					12	13	14	15	16	17	18												
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24					19	20	21	22	23	24	25												
		25	26	27	28	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31													

- 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
2025-2026 HOLIDAYS AND CULTURAL OBSERVANCES

*EHS Graduation will take place on June 12, 2026. This graduation date will remain June 12, 2026 in the event school closings push back the 180th day. *The last day for students will be on June 12, 2026 *In the event of excessive snow days, a decision regarding April vacation will be made as early in March as possible.

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	870-3170	Town Hall	
	41 Maple Street, P.O. Box 71		Address: 55 Main Street, Ellington, CT 06029	
Fire	Crystal Lake Volunteer Fire Department	870-3174	Mailing Address: P.O. Box 187, Ellington, CT 06029	
	316 Sandy Beach Road		Town Hall Hours	
	Ellington Volunteer Fire Department	870-3190	Monday 8:00 am to 6:30 pm	
	29 Main Street, P.O. Box 911		Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm	
Police	Resident State Troopers' Office	875-1522	Friday <i>Closed</i>	
	33 Arbor Way, P.O. Box 187		<i>*Public Works, Hall Memorial Library, and the Senior Center have different operating hours; check the website for details.</i>	
	State Police Troop C	896-3200		
	1320 Tolland Stage Road, Tolland CT			
ADMINISTRATION, 55 Main Street, P.O. Box 187		870-3100	SCHOOLS	website: ellingtonschools.org
Lori Spielman, First Selectman			Scott Nicol, Ed.D., Superintendent, 47 Main Street	896-2300
Matthew Reed, Town Administrator			Tracey Deptula, Assistant to the Superintendent	896-2300
LouAnn Cannella, Human Resources Coordinator			Carolyn Yakaitis, Human Resources Coordinator	896-2300
Julia Connor, Exec Assistant/Communications Coordinator			Special Education Services	896-2300
Rebecca Einsiedel, Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary			Center School (Michael Verderame, Principal)	896-2315
ANIMAL CONTROL, 21 Main Street		870-3155	Crystal Lake School (John Powell, Principal)	896-2322
Barbara Murchad, Animal Control Officer			Ellington High School (Jonathan Mitchell, Principal)	896-2352
ASSESSOR, 55 Main Street, P.O. Box 199		870-3109	High School Guidance Office	896-2357
John Rainaldi, Assessor			Ellington Middle School	
Laura Plona, Deputy Assessor			(Michele Murray and Michael Nash, Principals)	896-2339
Holly Petronella, Administrative Assessment Technician			Windermere School (Jennifer Hill, Principal)	896-2329
BUILDING DEPARTMENT, 57 Main Street		870-3124	SENIOR CENTER, 40 Maple Street	870-3133
Raymond Martin, Building Official			Sheila Grady, Director	
Ginger MacHattie, Administrative Secretary			Samantha Baer, Assistant Director	
BURNING PERMITS, 57 Main Street		870-3126	Erica Botti, Administrative Secretary	
CEMETERIES, Rachel Dearborn		875-8204	Transportation	870-3133
ELDERLY OUTREACH, 31 Arbor Way		870-3131		
Stephen Clapp, Elderly Outreach/Social Worker			SEWER ADMINISTRATION & MAINTENANCE	870-3140
EMERGENCY & RISK MANAGEMENT		870-3100	Tom Modzelewski, Director & WPCA Administrator	
Matthew Reed, Emergency & Risk Manager			Emergency Sewer Maintenance Number	870-3145
FINANCE, 55 Main Street		870-3115	STATE ROADS	
Tiffany Pignataro, Finance Officer/Treasurer			East Windsor DOT Garage	623-4473
Felicia LaPlante, Assistant Finance Officer/Deputy Treasurer			Vernon DOT Garage	875-4993
Patricia Choiniere, Accounting Assistant			TAX DEPARTMENT, 55 Main Street, P.O. Box 158	870-3113
Scott Naylor, Accounting & Payroll Specialist			Carolina Feliz, Tax and Revenue Collector	
FIRE MARSHAL, 57 Main Street		870-3126	Lindsey Bourque, Deputy Tax and Revenue Collector	
James York, Fire Marshal			Tax Clerk	
Sydney Kern, Deputy Fire Marshal			TOWN CLERK/VITAL STATISTICS, 55 Main Street	870-3105
HEALTH-North Central District Health Department		745-0383	Donna G. Hosey, Town Clerk	
Patricia (Patrice) Sulik, M.P.H., R.S. Director of Health			Margaret Schmidt, Assistant Town Clerk	
HOUSING AUTHORITY, 20 Main Street, PO Box 416		872-6923	TOWN PLANNER, 57 Main Street	870-3120
HUMAN SERVICES, 31 Arbor Way		870-3128	Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner	
Rebecca Stack, Director			John Colonese, Assistant Town Planner	
Stephen Clapp, Elderly Outreach/Social Worker			Barbra Galovich, Land Use Assistant	
Kelly Hearn, Human Services Assistant			TREE WARDEN, 21 Main Street	870-3140
LIBRARY, HALL MEMORIAL 93 Main St, PO Box 280		870-3160	Tom Modzelewski, Tree Warden	
Susan Phillips, Director			VETERANS' REPRESENTATIVE	870-3128
MUNICIPAL AGENT, 31 Arbor Way		870-3128	Rebecca Stack	
POLICE, 33 Arbor Way		870-1698		
Sgt. Brian Santa, Resident State Troopers' Office			VOTING, (Registrars of Voters) 55 Main Street	870-3107
POST OFFICE, 6 Church Street		875-6391	Lois Timms-Ferrara, Democrat, Registrar of Voters	
PROBATE COURT, 14 Park Place, Vernon		872-0519	Wanda DeLand, Republican, Registrar of Voters	
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, 21 Main Street		870-3140	YOUTH SERVICES, 31 Arbor Way	870-3130
Tom Modzelewski, Director & WPCA Administrator			Kristen Harp, Youth Services Director	
Taylor Olson, Foreman			Jessica Maitland, Assistant Youth Services Director	
Carolyn Kidney, Administrative Assistant			Marque Mercure, Program & Prevention Coordinator	
RECREATION, 31 Arbor Way		870-3118	Sarah Blais, Program Specialist	
Dustin Huguenin, Director			ZONING/WETLANDS ENFORCEMENT, 57 Main St.	870-3120
Mary Bartley, Assistant Director			John Colonese, Zoning/Wetlands Enforcement Off.	
Kevin Barrett, Recreation Supervisor				
Robert Gorman, Recreation Program & Event Specialist				
Tina Modzelewski, Administrative Secretary				
Recycling and Refuse 870-3140			Trash or Bulky Waste Pickup Information	
Samuel Saunders, Recycling & Refuse Manager			call All American Waste (860) 289-7850	
Department of Public Works			Household Hazardous Waste call CREOC (860) 647-3257	



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