Let's Talk Turkey

The Official Newsletter of the Town of East Granby

January 2025 • Volume XXX, Issue I

Wishing You a Healthy & Happy 2025!

I am so grateful for the opportunity to work as your First Selectwoman. As I look ahead to the next year I am filled with excitement and optimism for what we can achieve together. East Granby has made tremendous strides, and with your continued support we will build on this momentum to make the coming year even more impactful. From enhancing our local services to creating more opportunities for growth and connection, there is so much to look forward to. I am committed to working alongside all of you to address our community's needs, strengthen our bonds, and ensure East Granby remains a wonderful place to live, work, and thrive. The best is yet to come and I am honored to continue serving you as we make 2025 one our most successful yet.

Volunteers: Once again, I wish to offer my deepest thanks to all our volunteers who tirelessly give of their time to help make this town stronger, kinder, and better for everyone who lives here. Our town boards, fire department, and service organizations are all run by dedicated volunteers. To mention a few: Lions Club sponsors the Memorial Day Parade and the ever popular Rubber Duck Derby; Resilience Grows Here assists veterans and their families with mental health challenges, suicide prevention programs, and education; Parks and Recreation sponsors the annual Christmas Tree Lighting; Woman's Club hosts the Annual 5K Ridge Run & Golf Tournament; Friend to Friend Food Pantry & Thrift Shop and Expressions Pottery sponsor the annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser; and the Youth Action Council at the Middle and Senior High Schools give our students exposure to the community and teach leadership skills to our youth. East Granby also has six town commissions, six boards, and several committees all comprised of volunteers. Volunteerism affords our community many opportunities we otherwise would not have. If you would like information on joining a committee or service organization in East Granby, feel free to reach out to info@egtownhall.com.

Board & Commission Members Needed: The Board of Finance and the Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission are seeking full member and alternate positions. You may find the duties of each board and commission as well as meeting dates/times on the Town website. Please email info@egtownhall.com for more information and/or if you are interested in joining.

New Town Committees in 2025: The Town has two committees we are looking to create and are reaching out for interested community members who may be willing to join either committee. The committees are The 250th Anniversary (of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026) Celebration Committee and a School Expansion Committee. Please email: info@egtownhall.com for more information. Thank you!

Capital Expenditures: The following budgeted capital items were approved by residents at Town Meetings in 2024: $33,000 to equip a police vehicle; $26,000 for a generator for the ambulance building; $13,000 to saniglaze bathrooms; $10,000 for a carpet extractor; $19,000 for Sears House facia wrap; $75,000 for field irrigation; $25,000 for baseball/softball field fencing; $25,250 for classroom view boards; $40,000 for school indoor air quality testing; $20,000 for Fire Department air packs and cylinders; $26,500 for tires for Fire Department apparatus; $5,000 for IT work for the ambulance building; $30,000 for Seymour School gym air conditioning; $52,000 for school camera upgrades; $8,000 to replace High School stair nosing; $160,000 for the School Street Realignment Design Plan; $19,000 for Fire Department personal protective equipment; $8,000 for Engine 208 equipment modernization; and $14,000 for replacement of Town Hall west entrance trim.

Budget Process: The Boards of Selectmen, Education, and Finance are working on the 2025-2026 Budget. Some significant dates to note: BOF provides initial operating budget guidelines to BOS and BOE on February 19th; budget proposals are presented for review to BOF by BOS and BOE on March 18th; BOF gives directives to the Boards on April 9th for a Public Hearing presentation on April 23rd; Town Meeting is scheduled for May 7th; and a potential Referendum will be held in mid-May.

Happy New Year!
Eden Wimpfheimer, First Selectwoman

***** Look for more updates and insights from me inside each edition of "Let's Talk Turkey!" *****

Newsletter Publication Schedule

Submission Deadline	Delivered to Homes
March 3	March 15
May 5	May 17
July 7	July 19
September 2	September 13
November 3	November 15
Jan. 5, 2026	Jan. 17, 2026

submit articles via e-mail to newsletter@egtownhall.com

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Community Updates and Insights from the First Selectwoman

January Edition: Sewer System

Shortly after my time entering office the rising public sewer and water costs and the poor condition of our sewer system pipes were brought to my attention. One of the first steps we made was to adjust water rates so consumers (certain businesses and residential properties) are paying for what they are using—both the minimum allowance of usage and any overages. These rate changes occur at public Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) meetings. The Board of Selectmen acts as the WPCA. Recordings of these meetings may be found on the Town's website.

In working closely over the last few years with our Town Engineer and Department Public Works we have developed a three-phase plan to address the sewer issues. One of the main initial reasons for an in-depth study of the water and sewer system is that the Town of East Granby has experienced significant increases in water/sewer billing and usage. There are variances between actual and estimated readings for previous years and as a result we have outstanding bills with both the Metropolitan Water District Commission (MDC) and the Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA), for which we currently have payment plans in place. This approach aims to address the concerning variations in usage trends, such as increased usage during drought seasons, and ultimately resolve the financial strain on the Town's sewer system.

Phase 1: Meter Integrity Verification

- Compare readings to current billing to ensure accuracy. This first plan includes getting to the bottom of the billing both from the MDC and the CAA. The Town has separate meter pits monitored by both the MDC and CAA.
- Hire a company to install a temporary meter around Meter Pit 1 (CAA) starting in January 2025.

Phase 2: Infiltration and Inflow (I&I) Study

- To be conducted this Spring by Beta Group, Inc.
- Install temporary meters to identify large variations in flow.

Phase 3: Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Survey (SSES)

- Comprehensive evaluation of the sewer system once I&I study is completed.

Next Steps: Upon completion of the analysis phases, the Town will

- Gain a clear understanding of the reasons behind high water and sewer expenses.
- Collectively create a plan to rectify any sewer system shortcomings.

We are committed to the process of righting the ship after many years of going off course, and while it will take time, steady progress is underway. I will continue to keep you informed as we move forward. We have a WPCA meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 22nd at 5:30 PM with representatives from Town as well as BETA Group, Inc., which will serve as an information session along with Q&A. As always, my door, phone, and email are always open for any additional questions or concerns you may have.

News From the Registrars

We are happy to announce the Democratic Registrar position has been filled. We welcome our new Democratic Registrar, Robin Viets.

Are you registered to vote? To check your voter status, update your information, or register as a new voter in town, go to VoterRegistration.CT.gov or scan the QR code. If you need any assistance, the Registrar's Office is open Tuesdays from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the Senior/Community Center or you may contact us at (860) 653-0097 or email registrars@egtownhall.com.

What does our annual canvass accomplish? We have started our annual canvass which will help us keep the voter list current. Some of you may have received a letter from our office. The process helps us to validate residency. We cannot remove a voter without their written permission. If you receive a letter from the Registrars of Voters between January and May, please respond to it if it was addressed to you. The letter also contains a self-addressed stamped envelope. If it is addressed to someone other than a resident please allow the Post Office to return them to us. A returned envelope will allow us to remove the voter if they have moved and failed to provide a forwarding address.

Interested in working as a Registrar of Voters or at the Polls? We are looking for a registered Republican to work as a Deputy Registrar. Hours will be very flexible, typically one day a month on a Tuesday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM or to cover for the Registrar's absence, with additional hours as needed to cover election events throughout the year. This is a paid position and training will be provided. Contact Michele in the Registrars' Office for additional information at (860) 653-0097, ext. 2. Poll workers are always needed for election events including early voting. Contact the Registrars' Office for more information. This is a paid position and training is provided.

East Granby Social Services

East Granby Social Services is located in the Senior/Community Center and office hours are Monday through Thursday from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. For more information on programs or assistance please contact Elise Cosker, Director of Social Services, at (860) 413-3328 or email elisec@egtownhall.com. Drop boxes for Social Services can be found inside the Senior/Community Center and outside the front door of the Town Hall.

Emergency Assistance Fund: The East Granby Emergency Assistance Fund is available to income eligible residents who are in need of emergency financial assistance with fuel, housing, medical, electric, and other critical needs. The fund is supported solely through donations and gifts from the community and 100% of the funds raised are given back to qualifying residents who are facing financial hardship. We need your help to support this fund now more than ever. Donations can be made to the "East Granby

Emergency Assistance Fund" and mailed to East Granby Social Services, 20 Center Street, East Granby, CT 06026.

Energy Assistance: The CT Energy Assistance Program is administered by the Department of Social Services in partnership with local Community Action Agencies throughout the state. It is designed to help offset the winter heating costs of Connecticut's lower income households who fall at or below 60% of the state's median income. Annual household income must fall at or below $45,505 for a household of one, $59,507 for a household of two, $73,509 for a household of three, $87,511 for a household of four, $101,513 for a household of five, $115,541 for a household of six, $118,139 for a household of seven, and $120,765 for a household of eight. Applications for East Granby residents can be completed from October through May at East Granby Social Services by appointment or online at https://portal.ct.gov/heatinghelp/applyonline.



Eversource: Based on your household income or receipt of a public assistance benefit, you may be eligible for the Low Income Discount Rate Program which provides a 10% or 50% discount on your monthly electric bill. For more information, contact Eversource at 800-286-2828 or visit www.eversource.com/billhelp.

Food Pantry: The Friend to Friend Food Pantry was established to supplement the weekly grocery needs of residents who have been identified by East Granby Social Services as needing assistance. The Pantry is currently operating on Friday mornings for registered participants to shop. The East Granby Mini Bus is available for transportation to the pantry. If you are in need of food, please call Social Services at (860) 413-3328 or email elisec@egtownhall.com. To donate, please call (860) 413-9015 or email friendtofriendeg@gmail.com. Food donations may be dropped off at bins outside the East Granby Senior/Community Center and the East Granby Congregational Church, and inside the East Granby Post Office, East Granby Public Library, and Geissler's Supermarket in Granby. If you wish to make a monetary or local grocery store gift card donation you can either mail to Friend to Friend Food Pantry, P.O. Box 631, East Granby, CT 06026 or email friendtofriendeg@gmail.com.



Holiday Gift Program: The East Granby Social Services 2024 Holiday Gift Program was a success thanks to the collective support from our small but mighty community. On behalf of the families who participated in the program, we would like to express sincere gratitude for the generous donations made this year by the employees of Barnes Aerospace, the East Granby Congregational Church community, the employees of Windsor Federal Bank (Windsor and Granby locations), the East Granby Fire Department, the Westminster School community, and dozens of individual residents. Together these sponsors filled wish lists for 50 children in East Granby. In addition, toy drives were held by Almost Famous Brewing Company, Amped Fitness, and the Police Department and each child was gifted a book by the East Granby Library and its patrons, along with a new winter coat from Allgrove School's Labors of Love holiday program and beautiful handmade items from the East Granby Knit and Crochet Club. Thank you again to all the supporters, donors, and volunteers for choosing to share the spirit of the holidays with East Granby Social Services!

Medicare Savings Program: The State of Connecticut offers financial assistance to eligible Medicare enrollees through the Medicare Savings Programs (MSP). These programs may help pay Medicare Part B premiums, deductibles, and co-insurance. There are three levels of MSP. Your gross income or combined gross income with your spouse determines the category for which you qualify. The monthly income limits, effective March 1, 2024, are $3,088 for an individual and $4,191.00 for a couple. If you qualify for one of the three Medicare Savings Programs (depending on your income), DSS will pay your Medicare Part B premium each month. In addition, some enrollees will be covered for Medicare deductibles and co-insurance. Call for more information or search "Medicare Savings Program" at CT.gov for a printable or online application.

Medicare

Operation Fuel: Operation Fuel offers emergency energy assistance to households who fall outside the CT Energy Assistance guidelines or have exhausted their CT Energy Assistance grant. Applications can be completed through the Operation Fuel website at https://operationfuel.org/gethelp/.

Solar Program for Reducing Town Costs

The Town of East Granby has started a committee comprised of members of Board of Selectmen, Board of Education, Board of Finance, and Planning and Zoning as well as town residents living near the town landfill property to look into NRES (Non-Residential Renewable Energy Solutions) with Eversource. This is an incentive program that can help the Town offset the cost of the electricity we buy from Eversource with the energy we generate. Eversource looks favorably on using brownfields such as landfills over quality farmland to make use of these less desirable spaces.

We are in the beginning stages of these meetings but want to let residents know that the interconnection at our town landfill site to the power grid appears to be favorable. With the help of Greenskies Solar, we are looking at submitting an application to connect into the Eversource grid to reserve our position in a queue. Applications into the NRES program are due in mid-March. We are working with Greenskies Solar to submit a bid. The deal can either be a land lease agreement with Greenskies or a bill credit on the utility bills which are provided by the Town. The application due in March is to qualify for the incentive program. There are 25 megawatts of energy currently left available for this program in Connecticut and Greenskies estimates we can get 1 megawatt of energy from the size of our landfill property.

Qualifying for this program is only one step in the process. The project may need to be reviewed and approved by East Granby's

Inland Wetlands Commission and Planning and Zoning, as well as DEEP's review/approvals. All costs associated with the NRES bid application, engineering, permitting, construction, and maintenance are on Greenskies to pay for, at their own risk. Greenskies has many completed solar projects on previous landfill sites, including East Haven, Fairfield, Meriden, and North Haven. Under construction and/or development right now are: West Haven (2 landfills in town), New Haven, Weston, Wilton, Portland, and New London.

If this Solar Committee is something you would like to be a part of, email info@egtownhall.com and we will get you on the meeting schedule. We will keep all residents informed through future "Let's Talk Turkey" articles and the Town website.

MLK Birthday Observance

In honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, the Steering Committee and Faith Leaders from Granby Racial Reconciliation invite folks to attend East Granby Congregational Church, Granby Congregational Church, Life Church, or Valley Brook Community Church on Sunday, January 19th to hear about Rev. Dr. King's profound friendship with Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heshel. These two great religious leaders walked together at Selma and shared a deep commitment to social justice, demonstrating the power of interfaith partnership in the pursuit of moral courage and human dignity. Additionally, folks are invited to the Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation in Simsbury (the afternoon of Sunday, January 19th) to watch the short documentary film "The Preacher and The Rabbi," followed by a discussion. For more information, email info@GranbyRacialReconciliation.com.



East Granby Historical Society

"Sweethearts at Sea: A Love Story from the Whaling Age" will be presented by Dr. Amanda Goodheart Parks, historian, educator, and public speaker on Sunday, February 2nd at 2:00 PM at the East Granby Public Library. The program is free and open to the public. During the nineteenth century when Yankee whale oil lit the world, New England whalemen sailed the seven seas in pursuit of their catch, leaving their wives and families behind for years at a time. That changed in the 1840s when a small group of married couples defied tradition by going to sea together. This lecture will focus on one of these remarkable couples---Captain John and Elizabeth Marble of Fall River, Massachusetts---using the letters and journals they left behind to tell a story of love, life, and loss at sea.



Girl Scouts Help Dogs

Local Girl Scout troops recently took the time out of their days to sew blankets and make knotted dog toys for the Connecticut Humane Society. It was an instant success, with girls working together to create over 64 blankets and 26 dog toys and donate over 380 pounds of dog food! These wonderful girls made such





an impact on their community, helping those in need. The Salmon Brook Service Unit (comprised of Girl Scout troops from Granby, East Granby, and Hartland) provides opportunities for girls of all ages to become involved with a variety of activities including community service. To learn more about Girl Scouts, to join a troop, or to become a volunteer, contact Girl Scouts of Connecticut (customercare@gsofct.org) or the Salmon Brook Service Unit (salmonbrook717@gmail.com).

Start the New Year with Us at EGCC

Rev. Dr. Sandra L. Fischer

As we step into the new year, I invite you to join us at East Granby Congregational Church, where faith, hope, and community come together in a welcoming space for all. Whether you're new to the area, searching for a spiritual home, or simply looking for a place to grow in your faith journey, we'd love for you to be part of our vibrant community. At EGCC, we embrace a Christian faith that celebrates diversity, inclusion, and the love of God that transcends all boundaries. Together, we explore the deeper questions of life, offer support to one another, and seek justice and peace in our world.

We believe that children are an important part of our mission to share God's love, and vital to our community's life. This year, we're excited to have a fully staffed Christian Education program, with a Christian Education Coordinator, and two Sunday School Teachers. Along with trained volunteers, EGCC offers a variety of programs for children and families that nurture young hearts and minds, fostering a sense of belonging and spiritual exploration. From dynamic Sunday school classes to family-centered worship experiences, there's a place for children of all ages to grow in faith, while parents and guardians are supported in their own journeys.

In this season of new beginnings, we believe that God is at work in every moment and every person. We offer a variety of opportunities

for worship, fellowship, and service, all grounded in a faith that is both open and compassionate. Whether you're seeking a meaningful place to connect with your children, a supportive environment where your whole family can flourish, thoughtful Sunday services, engaging small groups, or opportunities to make a difference in the world, there's a place for you here. Come as you are, and let's walk this journey together, building a community where all are loved, valued, and invited to grow in faith. Please join us for Sunday Worship at 10:00 AM in-person at 9 Rainbow Road (Route 20) or live-streamed online on our website: egchurch.org.

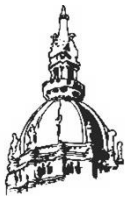
Economic Development Commission

Business Spotlight

Farmington Valley Plumbing: Brian and Eric Jones are owners of Farmington Valley Plumbing, an East Granby family-owned and operated business. Eric's wife, Jennifer, serves as office manager. Brothers Eric and Brian merged their businesses several years ago and purchased their location along Route 20. Since then, they have expanded their business to over a dozen employees and trucks. They are a full-service plumbing company serving East Granby and surrounding towns. Providing exceptional service is top priority but being an integral part of the community is also extremely important to them. Jennifer is president of the Bradley Chamber of Commerce, volunteers with the Granby Ambulance Association, and serves on the area Senior Housing Board. Volunteering and supporting area sports teams, scouts, and civic organizations has always been essential to the company. Learn more about Farmington Valley Plumbing by visiting farmingtonvalleyplumbing.com or contact them at (860) 783-7968.

Capitol Update

Rep. Tami Zawistowski, 61st District



The start of a new year is an exciting time, and this year it also means the start of another two-year legislative cycle. This year is the "long session" part of the cycle that began January 8th and will adjourn at midnight on Wednesday, June 6th. This session will include important negotiations regarding the state's $40+ billion budget, including renewed discussions about adjusting the "fiscal guardrails" that have worked to pay down impressive amounts of long unfunded state debt. Since the passage of these initiatives with the 2017 bipartisan budget, Connecticut has been able to fully fund the state's budget reserve—the "Rainy Day" Fund—and has paid down nearly $8 billion in unfunded pension liabilities while positioning our state for a more stable future. Not everyone in the legislature is on board with keeping these safeguards intact. This aspect of the state budget is likely to be a big part of our debate this session.

Election laws will also be a focus. During the past November election, Connecticut voters overwhelmingly approved allowing no-excuse absentee ballots for future elections, and now it's up to the legislature to determine how that will work. I look forward to spirited discussions regarding the length of voting access and the security aspects of having so many potential absentee ballots being cast, as well as the fiscal impact on our towns to accommodate those changes. Secretary of the State Thomas has been on record asking for modifications to reduce the number of days for early voting.

Other areas of concern include energy costs, including removal or at least restructuring of the public benefits charge; special education needs and costs, which will be the focus of a major bill this year; literacy; improvements to public safety; and improving efficiency and accountability of state government agencies. New committees have been formally added to the legislature this year to tackle two of these issues: a new Government Oversight Committee and a Select Committee on Special Education.

Each year, and especially during long session years, the sheer number of proposals for new laws is staggering. While some are just vague concepts intended to open a conversation and perhaps offer a public hearing about a specific topic, others are specific and targeted pieces of legislation that have been refined through the bipartisan legislative process over many years. No matter how the ideas are introduced, many of the best proposals come directly from constituents like you. As always, if you have ideas for new laws, or ways to improve existing laws, please do not hesitate to let me know. If you need assistance with state matters or would like more information about a specific bill or upcoming public hearings you can email me at Tami.Zawistowski@housegop.ct.gov or call 800-842-1423 or (860) 240-8700. You can also sign up for my email newsletter at www.RepZawistowski.com and follow my social media on Facebook @RepZawistowski and Instagram @RepZawistowski for the latest news and updates from the Capitol and our district.

EAST GRANBY FARMERS' MARKET

Showcasing local farmers & artisans

AUG & SEP FRIDAYS 3:30–6:30

WANTED...

local vendors, nonprofits/organizations & musicians to join our marvelous market highlighting the ***Power of Community***

Each market has local live entertainment along with a kid zone activity area and a food truck vendor. Weekly, we showcase special guests including local organizations, sponsors and authors. We are passionate about our mission and hope you will join us in our commitment to support/shop local at a family friendly gathering space in our community.

Let's Root for Each Other!

Our mission is to showcase a variety of local vendors focusing on farmers & artisans while highlighting and supporting nonprofits and organizations in our community. The East Granby Farmers' Market operates on a nonprofit basis with proceeds benefiting the East Granby Library.

Email: eastgranbyfarmersmarket@gmail.com

Facebook: East Granby Farmers' Market ***Instagram***: bela_egfm

friend to friend

Food Pantry & Thrift Shop

A New Year.

Thank you to all who donated time, money or food to the **Friend to Friend Food Pantry** this past year. We were the grateful recipients of over 18 food drives in addition to the generous food donations left at our drop-off sites, monetary gifts, supplemental food from Connecticut Foodshare and the Midwest Food Bank, proceeds from the 24th Annual Empty Bowls, Annual Campaign and the Friend to Friend Thrift Shop. We have a super group of hardworking volunteers and are beyond grateful to be part of such a compassionate and caring community!

The **Friend to Friend Thrift Shop** will be having our **Donation Drop-Off Event on March 8** and our **reopening on April 1**. *(Please do not leave donations until our drop-off event, we clear out the shop each year for cleaning and maintenance.)* From **March 14-16** we'll host the **Cabin Fever Online Auction** on our Facebook page. If you have new, unused items (including extra holiday gifts!) please message us on facebook or call/text 860-392-8362 to donate. We can arrange pick up, thank you. Wishing you a Happy New Year!

Food Pantry

To register with the Food Pantry call Elise at Social Services at 860.413.3328 or email elisec@egtownhall.com. To volunteer or donate to the Food Pantry or Thrift Shop please call 860.413.9015 or email friendtofriendeg@gmail.com.

- In need of the following items: baked beans, bottled juice, canned fruit/vegetables (corn and peas), canned chicken and tuna, Campbell's Chunky and Progresso Rich and Hearty Soups, coffee, granola bars, jar pasta sauce, jelly, peanut butter, sugar, laundry detergent, paper towels and toilet paper.
- Non-perishable food donations may be dropped off outside at the EG Community/Senior Center and EG Congregational Church or inside at the EG Public Library and EG Post Office. You can also purchase and donate at Geissler's Supermarket in Granby, CT
- Monetary donations can be made at: www.friendtofriendeg.com
  or mailed to:
  Friend to Friend Food Pantry
  P.O. Box 631
  East Granby, CT 06026

Spring Cleaning?

Please consider donating items you haven't used, or no longer use to the *Friend to Friend Thrift Shop*!

Two types of donations needed:

Gently worn spring/summer clothing, jewelry, pocketbooks, small housewares, artwork, home decor and complete toys/games

Drop-Off Donation Event for the Friend to Friend Thrift Shop and the Cabin Fever Online Auction

Saturday, 3/8, 10am–2pm
Friend to Friend Thrift Shop,
32 Spoonville Road, East Granby

Unused, unusual and more valuable items

CABIN FEVER ONLINE AUCTION

For donation information call/text 860-392-8362 or bring items to Drop-Off Donation Event, 3/8

Cabin Fever Online Auction
Friday, 3/14 at noon-Sunday, 3/16, 3pm
Friend to Friend Thrift Facebook Page

Donation receipts available.
We are a 501(c)3 and all Thrift Shop proceeds benefit our Friend to Friend Food Pantry.
Thank you!

friend to friend

Happy New Year!

NEWS FROM THE TAX COLLECTOR

Heidi Tucker-Dillon (860) 413-3335 heidit@egtownhall.com

What is due now?

2nd Installment of Real Estate (*bill was part of July mailing*)
Supplemental Motor Vehicle Tax Bills (*mailed December 26th*)
(Only people that registered a vehicle after 10/1/23 would receive a supplemental tax bill)



LAST DAY TO PAY TO AVOID INTEREST IS:

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The Tax Office is very excited to announce we have implemented a new online and in office card payment system for our taxpayers. Point + Pay is user friendly and cost effective for the taxpayer.

When you look your bill up on the town website (the same way you always have), there will be a green shopping cart to the right of any bill that has a balance. All you need to do is click on the shopping cart, and it will be added. You will be able to pay multiple bills in one transaction. More detailed information can be found on the website at https://eastgranbyct.org/tax-collector/
Feel free to call the tax office with any questions.

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DID YOU RECENTLY PAY YOUR MORTGAGE OFF?

Did you recently pay off your mortgage? If your answer is yes and you are responsible for the January installment, AND have not received a bill, please call the Tax Office ASAP (860) 413-3335.
THIS PAYMENT WILL BE DUE NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 3RD.

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PAYMENT OPTIONS

Pay Online (*fees apply*): at https://eastgranbyct.org/tax-collector/
Pay by phone (*fees apply***)**: 1 (833) 317-4232 (automated system) Need bill # (EX: 2023 01 1234567)
Pay in office: 9 Center Street, East Granby ***Hours:*** Monday-Thursday 8-12, 1-4 (closed 12-1) Friday 8-1
Town Hall will be closed Monday, January 20, 2025, in observance of Martin Luther King Day*

Dropbox (24/7): Located outside of building (side facing Senior Center) Checks only – ***NO CASH***
Mail: Tax Collector, Town of East Granby, PO Box 150411, Hartford, CT 06115-0411

SUPPLEMENTAL AND REAL ESTATE 2ND INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS MUST BE *POSTMARKED BY USPS* BY MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD, 2025

****OFFICE POSTAGE MACHINES DO NOT PROVIDE VALID POSTMARK****

EAST GRANBY
GREATER TOGETHER COMMUNITY FUND
at the
Hartford Foundation
FOR PUBLIC GIVING

We are pleased to announce that we have completed our **SEVENTH** round of grant funding, supporting 4-H Vex Robotics, Operation Fuel, East Granby Congregational Church and East Granby Parks and Rec!

Do you want to be part of this rewarding work? We need your help!

The East Granby Greater Together Community Fund is in need of volunteers for our Advisory Committee. The group was created in 2020 and has awarded over $125K in funds from the Hartford Foundation to eligible parties for the benefit of East Granby and its residents. If you would like more information, please email eastgranbyac@hfpgcommunityfunds.org or visit our Hartford Foundation landing page at https://www.hfpg.org/donors/ways-to-give/community-funds/east-granby.

Traprock Ridge Land Conservancy

Traprock Ridge Land Conservancy, formerly East Granby Land Trust, is a regional land conservancy comprising Bloomfield, East Granby, West Hartford and Windsor. Our mission is to protect open space and promote public appreciation of the natural environment across the region, protecting lands from the ridgeline to the rivers.

East Granby Receives Highlands Conservation Act Designation with the help of Traprock Ridge Land Conservancy

The Highlands Conservation Act was created in 2004 to protect the 3.4 million-acre landscape that stretches along the Appalachian ridge and hills of Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The purpose of this act is to protect our clean drinking water, forests and farms, as well as threatened and endangered species.

Traprock Ridge Land Conservancy is proud to say we worked with the town of East Granby to apply for and receive this designation. East Granby, along with Farmington and Thomaston, received the Highlands Region designation as of November 25, 2024.

This designation will allow East Granby to apply for Highlands Conservation Grants in order to protect the traprock ridgeline and land surrounding the Salmon Brook and Farmington River which provide drinking water throughout the TRLC region.

We look forward to preserving and protecting the land for the betterment of our communities.

Upcoming Events:

February 5, 2025 6:30 p.m.
Bloomfield's Golf Course as a Public Asset: The Nature of Wintonbury Hills GC
By Bradley Klein & Dennis Petruzzelli, CGCS
Location: Via zoom

This PowerPoint presentation shows how the 200 acres of the town's golf course are an ecologically sustainable natural asset in terms of open space, habitat and plant diversity. Widespread benefits accrue to all town residents, regardless of whether they play golf.

Bradley S. Klein is a longtime town resident and nationally recognized golf course journalist and consultant who has written a dozen books on golf course design. He is also chair of the town's Golf Committee.

Dennis Petruzzelli is a veteran golf superintendent and director of maintenance for Wintonbury Hills GC.

March 5, 2025 6:30 p.m.
The Dark Side of Light: Light Pollution and Its Effects on Birds, Wildlife, and Human Health
By Margery Winters, Assistant Director at Roaring Brook Nature Center
Location: Via zoom

A growing body of research suggests that the glow of uncontrolled outdoor lighting is having profound ecological impacts on migrating birds and other nocturnal wildlife. It is also affecting our own health. Learn how you can reduce light pollution around your home and help provide migrating birds safe passage between their spring nesting and wintering grounds.

Margery is a long-time nature instructor at Roaring Brook Nature Center in Canton where she is delighted to share her passion for earth sciences and nature with students of all ages. Margery currently serves as chair of the Simsbury Conservation Commission, is a member of the Simsbury Open Space Committee, and is president of the Simsbury Land Trust.

Sign up for our upcoming events and donate at www.trlandconservancy.org.

★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★

Northern Connecticut Veterans Association

Upcoming Activities:

Next Meeting and Social Gathering

Tuesday, January 28th
7pm at Gios Pizzeria
All veterans are welcome.

Free Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, March 29th
8am to 11am, Mary Ellen Brown Community Center
Come see the Easter Bunny!
Donations are accepted and Everyone is welcome!

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that brings community awareness of veterans in East Granby and the surrounding towns:
- A veteran support group
- Engage students in local schools on Veterans Day, making presentations and participating in a motorcade parade
- Help veterans with their Veteran Administration benefits and medical appointments
- Scholarship fund honoring an East Granby graduating senior
- A body with elected officers and a Board of Directors

All veterans are welcome to join us.
Want to know more? Email us at NorthCTVeterans@gmail.com.

★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★☆★



Come Join Us!

EAST GRANBY LIONS CLUB

ANNUAL CORNED BEEF DINNER

Saturday, March 8, 2024
East Granby Senior/Community Center
4:30 pm to 7 pm

DINE IN OR TAKE-OUT!

Menu: Corned beef, cabbage, carrots, potatoes, Irish soda bread, and a delicious dessert

Tickets: $20 adults | $12 age 5-16 | under age 5 free

Pre-Sale Savings: **Save $2**. Order your tickets from Lion Dave at 860-324-8356 or Lion Jim at 860-463-9146 by March 7th to receive the $2 discount.

EL

venmo

All proceeds raised by our dinners and other fun events benefit Lions projects such as scholarships for East Granby High School students, programs for the blind, and donations to local organizations. All funds raised go directly to the community with no overhead costs.

Discounted tickets are available through March 7th.

East Granby Lions Club
Flea Market
Saturday May 3rd * 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

The East Granby Lions Club is pleased to bring you a Flea Market at East Granby Farms, 79 North Main Street, East Granby, CT. Please read information below. Return your completed Registration Form and payment to the address indicated below. Check and Venmo accepted.

Spaces are limited and go quickly!

Payment received on or before April 24th - $15.00 per space.
Payment received after April 24th - $20.00 per space.
Space sizes are 15' x 20'.
Set-up time is from 6:00 AM to 7:30 AM.
Cars are not allowed in space areas from 7:30 AM to 2:00 PM.
Breakdown may not begin before 2:00 PM.
Breakfast and lunch will be available.
Event is held "Rain or Shine".



****

REGISTRATION FORM * PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY**

NAME: _____ PHONE #: _____

ADDRESS: _____ E-MAIL: _____

CITY/TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

NUMBER OF SPACES: _____ PAYMENT TYPE Check _____ Venmo _____

Return completed form and payment to: East Granby Lions, 81 Kimberly Rd, East Granby, CT 06026
Contact: Lion David at (860) 324-8356

East Granby Preschool & Family Resource Center

@ Carl Allgrove Elementary School
33 Turkey Hills Road, East Granby, CT 06026
EG Preschool & Family Resource Center: 860-653-2505 x514
Student Support Services: 860-413-9079



Important Enrollment Information for 2025-2026:

The preschool classrooms will be open for prospective families to meet the teachers, view the classrooms and submit an application for the programs offered for the 2025 - 2026 school year.

Open Enrollment Night

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Snow date is Thursday, Feb 6, 2025

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 pm

Programs offered:

- 3 Year Old & 4 Year Old Integrated Preschool Classes
- "Terrific Twos" Early Learning Group (2 - 3 yrs old)
- "One, Two and You" Early Learning Group (birth - 3 yrs)

New preschool students will be selected by a lottery process.

- Preschool classes are intended for children who are not receiving preschool services elsewhere.
- Families of applicants will be notified in early April 2025.
- In the event that openings remain or become available after May 2nd, enrollment will be offered to those who may be on the waitlist.

There are 2 ways to access the application and brochures:

1. **Go to:** *www.eastgranby.k12.ct.us*
   - Click **STUDENTS** tab
   - Click **Early Childhood Services** tab

2. **Email Donna Mattera**
   dmattera@eastgranby.k12.ct.us

To Apply for the Preschool Lottery:

1. Bring completed application and all required documents to the Open Enrollment Night. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.
2. Drop completed application and all required documents to the Allgrove School office between 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. from Thursday, February 6th - Thursday, February 13th.

Be sure to include the following:

- Enrollment form
- Child's birth certificate (original with seal to show, and a copy to submit with application)
- Proof of East Granby residency (copy of a utility bill in your name at the address)
  Additionally, residence will be verified through the Town Assessor's Office.

Allgrove School
KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION
February 3 – February 17, 2025

Welcome to Allgrove School! We are beginning our kindergarten registration for the upcoming school year 2025-2026. The registration paperwork can be downloaded from the district website at www.eastgranby.k12.ct.us.
Click the "Parent Tab" then "Enroll My Child", scroll down to the bottom of the page and follow the steps to Let's Get Enrolled! Please complete the Preliminary Registration and then the Completion of Registration forms by clicking the link "Registration for UPCOMING 2025-2026 School Year.
After completion, please save as a PDF and email to: kindergarten-reg@eastgranby.k12.ct.us . Forms must be signed by the East Granby parent. The documents are fillable and typing ensures accuracy of the information submitted.

Special note regarding 2025-2026 Kindergarten registration:

In 2023, the Connecticut Assembly passed PA 23-208. This legislation changed the age requirement for registering children for kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year and beyond. Previously, under Connecticut law, a child turning 5 on or before January 1 could be registered to attend kindergarten for that school year. The new legislation moves that cutoff date to September 1 of the school year. The legislation does allow for schools to grant exemptions for students born after September 1. If you are a parent seeking such an exemption to enroll your child for the 2025-2026 school year please notify Allgrove School Principal, Bob McGrath, in writing.

We look forward to meeting you and your child(ren) in the very near future.
If you have any questions regarding registration or cannot register during February 3rd - February 17th, please contact Dina Santos at 860-653-2505 extension 500.

All forms below must be filled in its entirety for your child's registration to be complete.

- Allgrove Registration Form
- Public School Information System Form
- Release of Information
- Dominant Language Form
- Emergency Form
- Bus Transportation Form
- State of Connecticut Health Assessment Record

Please scan a copy of your child's full-length *original* birth certificate, most recent physical and immunization records and include when emailing your child(ren)'s completed packet.

Proof of Residency:

- If you own your home, we will additionally verify through the Town Assessor's Office
- Include a Copy of a Utility Bill
- Copy of the Sales Agreement if purchasing home and scheduled closing date

(If requesting to start school prior to closing date, written request must be submitted and approved by our Superintendent, Melissa Bavaro – mbavaro@eastgranby.k12.ct.us)

- If you are renting, a copy of your current lease agreement with lessee and lessor signatures
- If residing with family and do not have a lease, a Proof of Residency, Policy 5118, APR#1 must be completed and Notarized .

All registration information must be completed and received before your child may begin Kindergarten.

All pupils entering Kindergarten must be five years of age on or before September 1, 2025. Please be advised that pursuant to Section 10-184 of the Connecticut General Statutes, parents are required to register all children whose ages meet this eligibility for Kindergarten. If parents choose not to send their child to Allgrove Elementary School during this coming school year, please contact Dina Santos at 860-653-2505, Ext. 500.

79 North Main Street | East Granby, CT
Mailing Address: 9 Center Street, East Granby, CT 06026

phone : 860-653-7660 | fax : 860-413-3702
e-mail : eastgranbyrecreation@gmail.com
www.eastgranbyrec.com

Winter 2025 Program Guide

Please scan the QR Code above or go to EastGranbyRec.com *for more information and to register for any of the programs listed in this booklet. We offer a wide range of programs, activities, and events for members of our community from ages 0-99 and are adding new things all the time, so check back often! Payment plans are now available, if needed. Please call the Parks & Recreation Office to discuss options: (860) 653-7660.*

Adult Activities

Adult Painting in Watercolor

Designed for all experience levels, guidance is provided on drawing, color theory, composition, design elements and watercolor technique.
Tuesdays, 7:00 - 9:00 pm or
Wednesdays, 9:30 - 11:30 am

Slow Flow Vinyasa Yoga



This class is great for those newer to yoga or those wanting to slow it down in a basic flow class. **Monday & Thursday evenings - see our website for the complete schedule incl. dates & class locations**

Learn to Meditate

Learn how to reduce stress**,** sleep better**,** and practice mindfulness through meditation**.**
Wednesdays, 1/8 – 2/19 | 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Adult Drop-In Basketball



This drop-in program is for anyone 18+. Different teams are made weekly, and the number of participants is limited to twenty. We encourage you to register in advance. **Wednesdays, 7 - 9 pm, at EGHS**

Adult Tap Dance (Ages 16+)

Tap dance is a great workout that combines creative expression, rhythm, syncopation, sound, and movement, while also enhancing reflexes, memory, and coordination. **Winter Session begins Jan. 15th**

Preschool Activities

Toddler – Preschool Playgroup

An opportunity for caregivers and their little ones to bond, learn and play together while connecting with other families. **Mondays, 9:30-10:30 am**
East Granby Farms Recreation Building

Soccer Shots

This high-energy program introduces children to the fundamental soccer principles, through fun games, songs, and positive reinforcement.
3-5 yr olds: Wednesdays, 1/15 – 2/19, 5 – 5:45 pm

Youth Sports & Activities

Recreational Dance Program

Weekly classes for boys and girls, ages 2+, including Tap & Ballet, Jazz, Hip-Hop, Tumbling, Musical Theater, and Acro.
The Winter Session runs January 14 – March 11.

See our website for the most up-to-date program & event information:
www.EastGranbyRec.com

Get eggs-ited for the Annual Town Egg Hunt at East Granby Farms!
MORE INFO COMING SOON!

Introduction to Horseback Riding

Want your child to learn or improve their riding skills? Join the instructors at End of Hunt Equestrian Center in Suffield for introductory lessons for youth ages 3–17. **Winter Session: Jan. 7 – 21, | 4:30 – 5:30 pm**

After School Programs

ART-Ventures (K – 5)

This program sparks children's creativity through a variety of 2D and 3D art projects, including creating sequined mirrors, felt monsters, clay desserts, mini paintings, and more, while encouraging original ideas and artistic expression. **Thursdays, 1/16 - 2/27**

Minds in Motion (Ages 6 – 10)

Build and take home your own AI SmartCore 4 Robot, featuring four modular smart vehicles that explore, entertain, and race, all powered by cutting-edge AI technology and easy-to-assemble parts! Whether navigating tricky terrain, zooming at top speeds, or exploring new territories, every day promises hands-on fun and learning! **Tuesdays, 2/25 – 4/1**

Food Explorers (Grades 3 – 5)

Children will celebrate chocolate by making delicious treats like pancake tacos, mini donuts, and cheesecake cups, while being empowered to create food, gain kitchen confidence, and listen to their bodies! **Mondays, 1/27 – 2/24**

EG Farms Playscape Update



In the November issue of *Let's Talk Turkey*, we excitedly announced our plans to replace the wooden tractor at East Granby Farms with a modern play structure designed for children ages 2 to 12. The new structure will feature accessible elements and inclusive swings, ensuring that children and adults of all abilities can enjoy it.

We also shared that the Parks and Recreation Commission has reached out to local businesses for donations, and we are incredibly grateful for the generous support from so many companies and organizations in our community.

A heartfelt thank you to the businesses that have already contributed to the project:
Community Supporter ($250) Sponsors: Signs Plus, Inc., Caldwell's Excavating & Grading, Inc., F & L Construction, Ltd., SNE Building Systems, Inc., COPART, Simtech, Inc., AdEmbroidery/Graphic Promotions, Inc., Express Software Production, and New England Fleet Services, and The Print Hub
Joy Builder ($500) Sponsors: Fillmore Express, Inc., Talcott View Development Co., Inc., Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, Newgate Builders, Inc., Fish Enterprises/ Turkey Hill of East Granby, LLC, East Granby Congregational Church, and Alston Clinical Private Practice, PLLC
Imagination Leader ($1,000) Sponsor: R&R Power Equipment of New England
Playground Champion ($3,000+): Brignole Vineyards

This fall, East Granby Parks and Recreation also applied for a grant from **The Hartford Foundation's East Granby Great Together Community Fund**, and we are thrilled to announce that we were awarded $15,000 toward the playscape project!

While our fundraising campaign is off to a great start, we still have a way to go to fully fund the project. We now turn to our community for support. **You can help by visiting our online fundraising page via the QR code below.** If you're unable to donate yourself, please consider sharing the link on social media or forwarding it to your neighbors. *Every contribution, big or small, brings us one step closer to making this vision a reality!*

If you own a business and are interested in sponsorship opportunities, please reach out to Alicia Van Neil, Director of Parks & Recreation, at aliciav@egtownhall.com.

Let's make this happen *TOGETHER!*

Follow us on social media: /EastGranbyRec @eastgranbyrec

East Granby Youth Services

Alicia Van Neil, Supervisor
aliciav@egtownhall.com

Mason Briddell-Williams, Program Coordinator
mason@egtownhall.com

Becky Hayes, Program Coordinator
beckyh@egtownhall.com

Office Location: 79 North Main Street
Mailing Address: 9 Center Street, East Granby, CT 06026
Phone: 860-653-7800 | Website: www.eastgranbyct.org/youth-services-bureau

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- **East Granby Youth Services Bureau (YSB)**: Plans, evaluates, coordinates, and implements a range of resources and opportunities to support children, youth, and their families in East Granby. Our mission is to deliver community-based services for prevention, intervention, treatment, and follow up for at risk youth, and to provide opportunities for all youth to function as responsible members of the community.
- **Commission on Youth Services (CYS)**: Established to serve in an advisory capacity and support the mission and staff of the Youth Services Bureau. Members are appointed by the board of selectmen and represent various segments of the community including law enforcement, education, children and families, and local businesses/ organizations. Meetings are held every 3rd Monday of the month and are open to the public. ***We are currently seeking individuals to fill board vacancies, including a position for a member of law enforcement. For more info, please contact Youth Services.***
- **Counseling Services:** If your child or family needs counseling services, please contact the Youth Services Office. We would be happy to provide you with a referral to outside therapists who specialize in emotional, behavioral, and mental health issues and accept your insurance.
- **Juvenile Review Board (JRB):** Provides a community-based program for diverting eligible juvenile cases from the Juvenile Justice System, supporting families with service needs, and providing intervention at the local level. https://eastgranbyct.org/juvenile-review-board/.
- **Youth Action Council (YAC):** The Youth Action Councils are groups of youth in grades 6-8 and 9-12, brought together to work on the common goals of discovering the needs, increasing public awareness, and actively serving East Granby youth, their needs, interests, and concerns. Just like the name implies: this is a group of ACTION! Leadership skills are developed while the YAC members choose the projects, then plan & execute all aspects of them.

Upcoming Programs from East Granby Youth Services

After School Hang Out at R.D. Seymour: Join Mr. Mason for some afternoon "hang-out" time! Each week will feature different activities, including crafts, science experiments, board games, outdoor time, and more. **Thursdays, 1/9 – 2/13, After school – 4:30 pm | R.D. Seymour Cafeteria**

American Red Cross Babysitting Course (Ages 11 – 15): Learn essential skills like childcare, basic first aid, child behavior, and emergency protocols, while gaining tips from expert instructors. This course will prepare you to start your own babysitting business. **Saturday, March 15, 9 am – 5 pm**

Boys Council at R.D. Seymour School: A fun group for boys in grades 3-5 that blends play with guided discussions to help them build social skills, following the One Circle Foundation curriculum. Topics include friendship, competition, stereotypes and self esteem. **Thursdays, Feb. 27 – April 3, After school – 4:00 pm**

***EGMS Parents/ Guardians**: Keep an eye on Mr. Phelan's emails and the Principal's Blog. EG Youth Services has lots of fun activities planned to help your middle schooler(s) de-stress & reset at lunch!*

/eastgranbyyouthservices **@eastgranby_youthservices**

East Granby Soccer Association's

Spring 2025 Soccer Registration is open for Travel Teams & In-Town Program

To register visit our webpage:
https://clubs.bluesombrero.com/default.aspx?portalid=50874

Soccer Referees Needed

Interested candidates, 13+ years of age, *which includes middle schoolers, high schoolers and adults,* can visit https://ctreferee.net/become-a-referee to learn more!

Paid positions for assistant and center referees.
Cash payment distributed on game day.
Opportunity to referee multiple games over the weekend.
MENTOR opportunities available for NEW referees!

EGSA will provide reimbursement for referee training class and certification renewal for referees who primarily referee EG home games!

East Granby Soccer Association is committed to providing the best possible refereeing experience for its volunteers. The board and coaches are committed to work collaboratively with referees and the referee coordinator to ensure that ALL fans/spectators, soccer players, and coaches treat volunteer referees with respect and dignity.

If you have any questions about the process of becoming a soccer referee, please contact: Jill DeVane, EGSA President

EGCCNS Preschool

...gentle learning through play



9 Rainbow Road, East Granby, CT 06026 ♥ egccns9@gmail.com ♥ (860 653-3913)



What's the latest at our preschool?

January's cold weather has set the perfect stage for our preschoolers to learn about snow! We'll be spending the month exploring snowflakes and how they form; what animals are active in (and under) the snow; and people's traditions and customs with snow. All the kids will be crossing their fingers that we get some snow, too!

At EGCCNS Preschool, located at the back of East Granby Congregational Church, we focus our half-day classes on what's best for 3, 4, & 5-year-olds: learning through play, with an emphasis on social-emotional skills, in a beautiful classroom full of love.



Preschool-age children *need* to have regular, independent play with other children. In a loving environment away from home, our preschoolers navigate new skills, including:

- Sitting down and listening to a story
- Following simple directions and routines
- Sharing toys and resources
- Waiting their turn
- Being a kind friend

Becoming proficient at social-emotional interactions boosts preschoolers' confidence, and sets the stage for academic learning. At our school, story time, music, movement and dance, art, exposure to foreign languages and diverse cultures, and learning about science and nature help our students grow. They gain confidence in creativity, self-regulation, empathy, fine and gross motor control, and love of learning - all while having fun!

Want to know more? Visit our website at https://egccns9.wixsite.com/egccns-preschool, and email us at egccns9@gmail.com if you'd like to come see our classroom. We'd love to show you around!

Suzanne Richardson-White, Director/Head Teacher, She/Her/Hers
Linda Finkbeiner, Teacher, She/Her/Hers

East Granby Public Schools
Make a Joyful Noise
Spotlight on K-5 Curriculum: Music with Mrs. Patricia Lepak

As the students filed into the RD Seymour Elementary School gym, their excitement was unmistakable - it was time for their annual winter sing-a-long and they had been preparing for weeks. The songs and choreographed movements they'd been practicing with their classmates would finally join together in a whole-school musical number of fun winter and holiday songs. The activity time was a joyous celebration of song and movement, led with a smile by their beloved elementary music teacher.

This educator who sparks joy with students is Mrs. Patricia "Patty" Lepak, our K-5 Music teacher. Her innovative interpretations of songs chosen to appeal to the children of East Granby have made her classes and after school offerings for students a fun learning experience. She's been leading students in making joyful music since joining our district in 2016. Her music education comes from both Western Connecticut State University (Bachelor's) and the University of Hartford, Hartt School of Music (Master's).

Both Carl Allgrove and RD Seymour Elementary school students acquire musical knowledge and skills with Mrs. Lepak in such an upbeat way. At Allgrove, Principal Bob McGrath shared how students begin advancing with their rhythm skills through a variety of percussion instruments - from bells to blocks, to clapping patterns and dance. The recent Grade Two concert for families demonstrated the power of performance with a variety of musical numbers, choreographed songs, and percussion. The humor and zest of the second grade students was much enjoyed by parents, guardians, and families who attended. Mrs. Lepak's goal of helping students "*find joy in making music*" was quite evident throughout the concert. About that joy, she said, "*Everything else will come from that - students will be inspired to learn technique, theory and all the rest if they see music as being joyful!*"

When asked what parents/guardians can do to encourage music appreciation or musicality in general with young children, Mrs. Lepak had a ready answer: "*For the youngest children, sing with them! Teach them all of the nursery rhymes - bounce them on your knees. You don't have to be a fantastic singer - just sing and play with little ones. Two basic skills that are needed for all musical learning are steady beat and tuneful singing - playing with nursery rhymes and baby songs are all you need to develop those skills. It is harder to develop as we age, but baby and toddler brains are primed for that learning. Recordings are okay, but the personal interaction is the most valuable! Going to live musical events is also very beneficial - there are so many free concerts in the summer - it's a great time to hear music in person and become inspired*."

Principal Marsie Luckenbach explained how she sees such a passion for music and performance in Mrs. Lepak. After arriving in East Granby Public Schools, Mrs. Lepak created a fifth grade chorus group called the Seymour Singers, and uses her lunch and planning time to meet and mentor this small group of singers. Another labor of love Mrs. Luckenbach highlighted is how Mrs. Lepak collaboratively creates Seymour's play each spring, which showcases students' talents.

One learning unit at RD Seymour Elementary where students excel is during the general music fifth grade Jazz Unit, while doing The Blues activity. Here, Mrs. Lepak explained, students "*learn the form of the traditional 12-bar blues and write verses to perform for the class. They are encouraged to find something that gives them angst to sing about*." She expounded, "*The performances are amazing! The subject matter ranges from homework to siblings to no more cookies!*"

Mrs. Lepak's love of music is evident. Piano is her primary instrument, and she started playing at age 10. Additionally, she also plays the organ and sings. Currently, she leads the music ministry at St. Mary's Church in Simsbury and also the choir director for the adult choir. Her husband, Igor, is a cellist and she said, "*It is a joy that we get to play together each week.*" Her current new musical adventure? Mrs. Lepak said, "*I am learning ukulele along with our fifth graders!*" The ukuleles were obtained through the PTO a few years ago and have added a wonderful new layer to the Grade Five musical education. When I asked Mrs. Lepak what she would do if she received a grant or donation, she said she would "*increase our collection of Orff Instruments. We have a basic set, but it would be wonderful to have Bass bars!*"

Her love for choral music is shown through her past participation with a choir called Gaudeamus, where she sang for ten years. The group recorded a few CDs and performed all around Connecticut, in Boston, and at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York. They performed several times with the Paul Winter Consort…and even Pete Seeger.

Teaching music is definitely a passion for Mrs. Lepak and we are so fortunate to have her here in the East Granby School District. In closing, she said, "I love to see the students grow over the years. I am so fortunate to get to work with my students for several years, from K to 5. Because of that we can build relationships over time. I try to build in traditions at each school with certain songs and activities that I think help to form a community. My extended family always sang together and it created a wonderful sense of belonging. My hope is that music class can provide a similar experience for our students here in East Granby."

East Granby Middle School Honor Roll

First Quarter 2024-2025

HIGH HONORS

GRADE 6

Brayden Adams
Ayaan Ahmad
Christopher Alford
Cashton Augsberger
Naomi Aviles
Alice Ball
Gagana Bandikallu
Joshua Bowman
Muhammad Bukhari
Jaxson Burns
John Coleman
Emma Dion
Harrison Dziedzic
Ashley French
Dylan Hamilton
Jayden Hines
Sarah Holjes
Lukah Hong
Alyssa Lengyel
Kaytian Lott
Aniya Maharjan
Brianna Maillet
Lucy Maisch
Sydney Mele
Efremia Moumoulidis
Advaith Nagamalla
Mary Nagle
Alexa Nelson
Natalie Passeri
Vincent Pescitelli
Donny Pimentel
Jackson Puza
Rowan Roberts
Gavin Rolfe
Colin Roth
Lincoln Thompson
London Thompson
Isabella Torres
Ryan Turisco
Simone Verma
Bailey Wagner
Landon Wilkey
Parker Williams

GRADE 7

Brantley Alexander
Colton Alexander
Sofiia Boiarchuk
Matthew Bourdon
Alexa Bristol
Roma Caravello
Vincent Caron
Emily Catter
Luciana Catter
Connor Cavanaugh
Scarlett Cestero
Logan Conklin
Gabriel Crespo
Ella Criscitelli
Cole Dallesander
Jack Daly
Alexander Dean
Aliana Delvalle
Kylie Devane
Mark Dion
Vivaswath Donkada
Zain Ejaz
Landon Estabrook
Cassandra Fairlie
Oakley Ferguson
Finnian Flaherty
Aidan Gao
Oliver Gaudette
Jackson Gentile
Veronica Goncalves
Swastika Gupta
Andrew Houghton
Tucker Johnson
Morgan Krason
Ryan Laing
Chelsea Logie
Hunter Marinelli
Jonathan Mazzaferro
Liam McKay
Brody McKenna
Morgan McKenney
Payton McPherson
Mariana Mireles
Rachel Mullane
Darsitha Nair
Ethan Nelson
Charlie Olszewski
Jack Pellegrino
Pranitya Penujuri
Micah Perera
Emmet Phelan
Trevor Plaisted
Victoria Podbielski
Akshara Rajesh
Gavin Richter
Luke Ross
River Shevel
Quinn Skinner
Christina Spiriti
Christopher Stevens
Jahvan Theuri
Nischala Vegesana
Kelsea Walsh
Alexander Zygmunt

GRADE 8

William Adams
Mohid Ahmed
Henry Ball
Avery Bednarz
Julian Bento
Alexander Bissell
Sydney Bloom
Hannah Bouchard
Mehmet Caglar
Abbygail Cole
Lillian Cole
Joseph Copeland
McKenzie Cormier
Mason Cosker
William Fortier
Emma Gerken
Cameron Grabowski
Ryan Hamilton
Chloe Hayes
Isabella Herivaux
Brooke Hines
Alan Joby
Lylah Jones
Kayla Lengyel
Kiele Lizon
Everett Lowman
Gemma Masson
Spencer Namnoun
Joseph Pyskaty
Gideon Rich
Ashley Robison
Addyson Russo
Charlotte Rutkowski
Zachary Smith
Evan Spencer
Lily Thompson
Quinn Thompson
Makar Tkachenko
Ethan Zhang

HONORS

GRADE 6

Cole Augsberger
Andrew Boehm
Mia Doncet
Nisa Ersan
Michael Murphy
Kaitlyn Triblets
Cortland Whitehouse

GRADE 7

Cayden Blakeslee
Isabella Czuprynski
Kai Hazard
Aiden Snide
Carmelo Walker
Alexandria Wegrzyniak
Cooper Whitehouse

GRADE 8

Nathan Bourdon
Alexa Brefort
Mackenzie Brooks
Colton Cabral
Bartlett Clark
Jason Dlugolenski
Devin Hanlan
Cole Hazard
Sophia Leadbeater
Adya Maharjan
Lacey Payette
Dylan Sandora
Mason Schlagenhauf
Jacob Wyman

East Granby High School Honor Roll

First Quarter 2024-2025

HIGH HONORS

GRADE 9

Abigail Abrham
Maham Ejaz
Samuel Forero
Ivan Gao
Maria Gonzalez Cortes
Ian Griffin
McAzyh Hercule
Madeline Lundell
Stella McKay
Wesley Namnoun
Logan Nicolle
Vanessa Passeri
Tyler Rioual
Nehemiah Victor

GRADE 10

Elizabeth Adams
Amani Akedde-Bernstein
Hadley Akerlind
Gabriella Aviles
Patrick Baran
Elizabeth Bissell
Jeanette Cabrera
Gianna Caron
Stephanie Clement
Evan Arvind Bhattacharya
Gabriela Jablonska
Daniel Jacius
Kavin Jayaganesh
Khallee Kistner
Jordon LaCharite
Aislinn Moore
Dionnee Ortiz
Jamien Pedraza
Lorenzo Policella
Jake Schlagenhauf
Robyn Triblets
Brenn Vaughn

GRADE 11

Karina Baran
Alexa Bednarz
Olivia Caravello
Cassidy Clark
Genevieve Corricelli
Mackenzie Delpha
Leila Feliciano
Malia Gabbidon
Morgan Gabbidon
Mia Grabowski
Gabriella Hayes
Tamia Hewitt
Sreekirthana Kolla
Abhinav Lenkala
Hansika Lenkala
Christopher Lloyd
Beckett Lowman
Cole Malinowski
Ra'Miya Matthews
Maya Mosteanu
Elianna Russo
Leilany Sanchez
Varshny Sriganesh
Andrew Yi
Patrick Zhang

GRADE 12

Arvind Bhattacharya
Hannah Broome
Jordan Collie
Xavier Elsner
Jesse Gao
Ryan Hecht
Mia Hines
Kayla Holjes
Greta Jambard
Hailey Litchfield
Tyler Marques
Shelby Mearns
Andrew O'Connor
Ava Pasquantonio
Chloe Rapose
Robert Ravens-Seger
Kiley Rudzik
William Van Neil
Peyton VanBeek
Karla Vilchez
Ava Walsh
Cassi Worlund

HONORS

GRADE 9

Kaden Anderson
Grayson Augsberger
Avery Burke
Nathan Carlson
Deqwayne Edram
Whitney Johnson
Riley Kevorkian
Timothy McKay
Brianna Mullings
Hailey Popella
Christian Resto
Hope Robblets
Hendrix Sclare
Caitlin Van Neil

GRADE 10

Brock Brunelle
Kasey Clemens
Chennacy Copeland
Emily Dallesander
Carson Elsner
Hailey Lewis
Sean O'Connor
Benjamin Resto
Cheyenne Smith
Liam Smith
Alyana VanBeek
John Walsh
Gianna White

GRADE 11

Adarsh Atluri
Maya Betts
Noah Bouchard
Maria Caracciolo
Jacob Cyr
Izabella Dallesander
Eliza Ersan
Benjamin Guthrie
Jordyn Holness
Bartosz Jablonski
Thomas Jacius
Lucas Kleinman
Jason Lloyd
Chase Malinowski
Kaya McKay
Riley Moore
Devin Sirotnak
Genevieve Webb

GRADE 12

Owen Boehm
William Caterino
Jenna Connole
Sinead Drake
James Dubois
Davin Dziedzic
Brendan Egan
Oliver Forero
Gweneil Guthrie
Salina Ho
Maylyn Iannucci
Caelan Jones
Joshua Lemire
Michael Lemire
Lindsey Monegan
Jaden Ojeda
Riley Ruggiero
Noah Santy
Sheridan Scott
Landon Smith
Maximilian Vaughn



EAST GRANBY SENIOR CENTER

DIAL-A-RIDE ON THE MINI BUS

❶ Grocery, Pharmacy & Banking every Wednesday

❷ Doctor, Dentist, Hairdresser & Personal Care Appointments every Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Appointments should be scheduled no earlier than 9:00 AM and no later than 3:00 PM.

Call (860)413-3327 at least 48 hours in advance. Your reservation will be recorded on the voicemail system and a driver will call you to confirm. There is no charge to use the Mini Bus but an annual donation of $20 is greatly appreciated.

CHOICES: CALL 1-800-994-9422 for assistance with Medicare, Medigap and Medicare Part-D applications.
ELDER JUSTICE HOTLINE – Call (860) 808-5555 if you have been the victim of a scam, neglected, exploited or abused.

GET FIT EXERCISE CLASS

Mondays and Wednesdays 10:00 AM-11:00 AM at the Senior Center—$4.00 drop in cost. Improve fitness, balance, strength, flexibility, range of motion, and posture. This ALL LEVELS class uses hand weights, exercise bands, and loops done in or next to a chair for safety. (No Class 1/20 or 2/17)

TAI CHI & QIGONG

Tuesdays 2:00 pm- 3:00pm at the Senior Center—$8.00 drop in cost. Tai Chi is a low-impact, slow motion exercise with many health benefits. It's for people of all fitness levels and improves muscle strength, flexibility, and balance, and it is also relieves stress. Qigong is a 7,000-year-old Chinese healing system that uses specific breathing techniques, postures, and movement. Together, Tai Chi and Qigong will help you center your body, mind, and spirit, while helping you to develop flexibility, balance, and strength.

DANCING FEET—FOOT CARE—Professional foot care is provided by a licensed nurse the 1st and 2nd Thursday of each month 8:30 AM—2:00 PM in the East Granby Senior Center. Your visit includes: General assessment of your feet; trimming, filing, & cleaning nails; reduction of thickened toe nails; smoothing of corns and calluses; massaging, moisturizing lotion and powdering. Call (860)413-3334 for an appt. Cost $40

KNITTERS & CROCHETERS

The first and third Wednesdays of each month from 1:00-3:00 PM at the East Granby Senior Center. Come and socialize, work on your own project, meet other knitters and crocheters, or make items to donate to area hospitals, shelters, or schools.

BLOOD PRESSURE & BLOOD SUGAR SCREENING CLINIC

MONDAYS~ FEBRUARY 3RD, MARCH 3RD 11:00AM-12:00PM. The Farmington Valley Visiting Nurses Association will be at the East Granby Senior Center providing free blood pressure screenings as well as blood sugar screenings. No appointment necessary.

PARKINSON'S DISEASE SUPPORT GROUP

Second Monday of each month 2:00-3:00pm at Duncaster 4th floor, 30 Loeffler Rd., Bloomfield, You will have a chance to give/receive support to/from those who have Parkinson's, their families, and their caregivers. This is a great way to learn about the latest research, get practical information and education about Parkinson's and find emotional support. Call Karen (860) 380-5024 for more information.

SHOPPING TRIPS

- **JANUARY 27TH, FEBRUARY 24TH – BIG Y/OCEAN STATE/DOLLAR STORE**
- **FEBRUARY 3RD - ENFIELD**
- **FEBRUARY 10TH – WALMART**
- **MARCH 3RD – PRICE CHOPPER**



FRIDAY JANUARY 24TH– Financial Scams—How to Protect Yourself—You won't want to miss this important and educational program presented by People's Bank. Older adults are often the target of financial scams. This may be due to scammers' beliefs about their wealth, their generous nature, or social isolation. Older people are especially vulnerable to online scams. According to the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), roughly $3.4 billion in total fraud losses were reported by Americans over age 60 in 2023, up 11% from 2022. The average loss per case was nearly $34,000! This presentation will give an overview of fraud/scams, some of the scams that are currently being used and best practices and preventive actions. Empower yourself with the information you need to protect your financial assets and combat financial scams. Light refreshments will be served. **Program begins at 10:00 AM at the East Granby Senior Center. There is no charge for this presentation however, registration is required by January 21st.**

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8TH —Our Lady of Perpetual Help at the Majestic Theatre —West Springfield, MA —Join us for a matinee at this wonderful intimate theatre. Set in 1973, this play is a wild and tender comedy that focuses on the cash strapped O'Shea family. 19-year-old Linda O'Shea, the narrator of the story, tries to tell us about a family crisis of biblical proportions when a simple conversation between her and her younger sister, about the birds and the bees, was overheard by the parish priest. It was the most turbulent day in her life, and just might turn into a parish-wide scandal—if only her family would quit interrupting! **Depart the Senior Center at 12:45 PM (for the 2:00pm show). Cost is $34. Reservation and payment due by January 29th.**

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 14TH – Bingo — Winter time getting you down? Come enjoy a delicious lunch and have a great time playing some Valentine Bingo! It's Valentine's Day so be sure to wear some red or pink. Guaranteed to make those winter blues disappear! **Program begins at 12:00 PM at the East Granby Senior Center. Cost is $20.00 (includes lunch and cash prizes for bingo winners). Reservation and payment due by February 6th.**

FRIDAY MARCH 7TH – Cupcake decorating class- Sponsored by Stonebrook Village in Windsor Locks. Join the pastry chef from Stonebrook Village as we decorate a St. Patrick's themed cupcake to eat on site or take home for later! All materials will be provided. **Program begins at 11:00 AM at the East Granby Senior Center. There is no charge for this program however, registration is required by February 27th.**

Please call the East Granby Senior Center
(860) 413-3334 or email kellyj@egtownhall.com to register.

East Granby Public Library



GAVEL CLUB



Every 1st and 3rd Thursday
Thru June 5th
5:30pm - 6:30pm
Grades 4th-9th

New members are welcome at anytime! Improve your public speaking and leadership skills. $20 membership fee.

WINTER STORYTIMES



January 8th - March 26th

Little Ones Storytime
Wednesdays at 10:30am
Lap sitting - 3 years with caregiver

Terrific Tales Storytime
Thursdays at 10:30am & 12:30pm
3 - 6 years old with caregiver

HEART MOSIAC CRAFT



Tuesday, February 18th
10:30am - 11:15am
Ages 8-11

Visit www.egpl.org for more info, to register, and to see our complete list of programs!

BEDTIME STORIES!



Mondays: Jan 27th, Feb 24th, March 31st, April 28th, May 19th, & June 23rd
6:00pm - 6:30pm
All are welcome to join

Join Allgrove School teachers and friends for bedtime stories. Register for each bedtime story session separately.

SECRET AGENTS CLUB - VOLUNTEER CLUB



Grades 7th-12th
Runs thru August 2025

Assist with behind the scenes library tasks that will benefit our community! You only commit to the dates that work for you.

MOTIVATING YOUR UNMOTIVATED STUDENT WEBINAR



Thursday, February 6th
7:00pm

Parents are invited to learn a few tips, tools, and strategies to motivate, inspire, and support their students.



East Granby Public Library

(860) 653-3002
www.egpl.org

JURIED ART SHOW



Opening Reception
Saturday, January 25th
5:00pm - 7:00pm
Awards at 6:00pm

Immerse yourself in the vibrant world of art with the incredible creations made by New England artists. Music entertainment provided by November Sound.

Exhibition Dates: January 27th - March 1st

Read in Peace - Silent Book Club

First Saturday of Every Month
January 4th, 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Bring a book, a cozy blanket, and join us for an evening of silent reading and subtle connection. Because sometimes, the best conversations don't need words.
Light refreshments will be served.

UNLOCK YOUR MEMORIES: ONLINE WRITING WORKSHOP

Tuesday, February 27th
6:00pm - 7:00pm

Join us for an engaging online workshop where you'll learn techniques to capture your experiences and turn them into compelling narratives.

FINDING CALM IN CHAOS

Clarify, Simply, and Organize

Saturday, February 1st
11:00am - 12:00pm

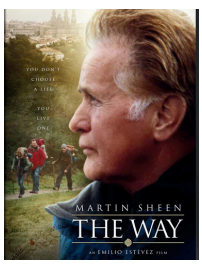
Overwhelmed by endless tasks, overflowing emails, and stacks of papers? This workshop will help you identify the biggest obstacles to your productivity and well-being. You'll discover how to simplify your priorities, align your mind, time, and environment and leave with practical organizational strategies to thrive—both at work and at home.

Afternoon at the Movies! Wednesdays at 1pm.

To register, visit www.egpl.org or call (860) 653-3002.

The Way

January 22nd
PG-13, 2 hrs



Martin Sheen plays Tom, who comes to St. Jean Pied de Port, France to collect the remains of his adult son, killed in the Pyrenees in a storm.

23 Blast

January 29th
PG-13, 1 hr 38 min



When a football star is suddenly stricken with blindness, he must decide whether to accept his new reality or return to the game he still loves.

Killers of the Flower Moon

February 5th, Rated R
3hr 26min (shown in 2 parts)



When oil is discovered in Osage Nation land, the Osage people are murdered - until the FBI steps in.

Meeting Schedules

Town Hall (TH) • Senior/Community Center (SC)
Allgrove School (AS) • East Granby Farms (EGF)
Library (L) • High School (HS)

Commission on Aging 6:30 (SC) 2/4, 3/4, 4/1

Conservation 7:00 (TH).....1/27, 2/24, 3/24, 4/28

Board of Education 7:00 (TH).....1/27, 2/10, 2/24, 3/10, 3/24, 4/14, 4/28
Second Meeting of the Month as Needed

Economic Development 5:30 (TH).....1/27, 2/24, 3/24, 4/28

Town and School Building Committee 7:30 (TH).....As Needed

Board of Finance 7:00.....1/21, 2/19, 3/18, 4/9, 4/23

Parks & Recreation 6:30 (TH).....2/6, 3/6, 4/3

Planning & Zoning 7:00 (TH).....2/11, 3/11, 4/8

Board of Selectmen 6:30 (TH) 1/22, 2/12, 2/26, 3/12, 3/26, 4/9, 4/23

Zoning Board of Appeals 7:00 (TH) .....TBD

Youth Services Commission 6:30 (EGF) 1/27, 2/24, 3/17, 4/21

The above meeting dates and times are subject to change.
Library, Board of Education, and Recreation times & dates are found in the articles. Times are PM unless noted.

Guidelines for Submitting Articles

The following are the deadlines for the upcoming "Let's Talk Turkey" editions. Please note that the deadline submission time is 9:00 AM on Monday. All articles must be submitted in Word format and sent via e-mail to newsletter@egtownhall.com. Deadlines are strictly enforced to ensure timely preparation of the newsletter. This will enable our Editor and Printer enough time for the one week turn around delivery date. Articles should pertain to an East Granby organization, agency, or business (non-advertisement) and be of general interest to the public. At the discretion of the Editor, articles and graphics may be edited. The name of the submitter and a phone number must accompany the article. If you have any questions, please call (860) 653-2576.

East Granby Town Hall
9 Center Street
East Granby, CT 06026

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