Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy 2018!

As we begin the New Year here’s some information that I hope you find interesting regarding our town and the year just past...

East Granby is a small town of 5170 residents, which was incorporated in 1858 and occupies 17.56 square miles. We have easy access via state highways to shopping and cultural venues but maintain a rural flavor, ranking 111 out of 169 Connecticut communities in population density and 129th in population. We also have great recreational amenities such as the Metacomet Trail, East Granby Farms, and the Class III rapids at Tariffville Gorge.

Financial:
The median house value in East Granby is $296,000 with a median household income of $88,559 or 23% ahead of the state average. As of October 2017, the unemployment rate in East Granby is 3.1% (state is 4.3%). The Grand List, which is the value of all taxable property in East Granby, totaled $581,515,512 or a reduction of 0.93% to the previous year. At our May Referendum, the Town passed a budget that maintained services while increasing the mill (tax) rate by 4% to 32.4 mills. This increase was largely driven by the anticipated reduction of state aid to East Granby based on the state’s budget issues. The state budget passed by the legislature in late October contained slightly lower cuts to our state aid than expected and we are in good shape for the current fiscal year.

By the way, 56% of our tax base is composed of residences, 15% commercial, 10% motor vehicles, and 19% personal property primarily from businesses. The town continues to maintain an Aa2 bond rating, which is excellent for a small town, and on June 30, 2017 had a healthy cash balance (rainy day fund) of $3.9 million or 18% of FY16-17 expenditures.

Capital Expenditures & Grants:
At town meetings in 2017, the Town approved the following Capital Projects: Road Maintenance – $124,000 for spring paving; Police Radios – $35,000; Fire Turnout Gear – $32,900; Phase I Revaluation – $65,000 (Phase II Revaluation request for $65,000 is anticipated in February 2018; the town-wide physical revaluation will be completed by October 2018); School Technology – $60,000; Allgrove Boiler – $7,000; Middle School Parking Lot – $52,000; Middle School Carpet Replacement – $47,700.

A $800,000 Small Cities Block Grant was received by Metacomet Homes, Inc., the non-profit which owns and operates the 72 units of affordable housing for seniors and disabled residents in town. The Town facilitates the grant which was approved in 2016 with projects starting in 2017. Work completed at Metacomet Village includes new furnaces, propane tanks, and roof replacements. Work to be completed in the spring of 2018 will be the repaving of all parking areas and some sidewalk repairs. The Bright Idea Grant in December 2017 allowed residents to turn in five old incandescent light bulbs and receive five new, energy efficient LED bulbs at no charge! We'll have several more energy conservation events in 2018.

Quality of Life: What would we do without our volunteers?!
My thanks to all of our volunteers for everything that they do to make East Granby a great place to live. That includes all members of our boards and commissions, volunteer firemen, service groups such as the Lions, Women’s Club, Scouts, and everything in between. East Granby is a charter member of the Resilience Grows Here Steering Committee which assists veterans and their families. Some other activities include the Annual Empty Bowls event, Friend to Friend Fuel & Food Bank, the annual Women’s Club 5K Race, the Annual Lions Duck Race, 7th Annual Jacky Welsh Christmas Tree Lighting, leadership opportunities through the Youth Action Council for our Middle and Senior...
Snow Storm Parking Regulations

Just a quick reminder that parking in East Granby is restricted during the winter. Parking of vehicles between the hours of 12:00 AM and 6:00 AM is prohibited on the roads and highways of the town during the months of November, December, January, February, March, and April. Parking on the street is also prohibited during an active snow storm. Please move basketball hoops away from the road during winter months to facilitate snow clean up and maintain the safety of the driver. Any curbing that is broken by a plow will be picked up and replaced in the spring. Storm closing and delay announcements are broadcast on Channel 3 and Channel 30.

Emergency Assistance List

East Granby’s Emergency Operations Department maintains a list of residents who require additional assistance in the case of an emergency situation, including power outages. This list includes residents who have mobility issues or are on oxygen. Please e-mail info@egtownhall.com or call (860) 413-3301 with your contact information to be added to the list so that we can be of assistance in case of an emergency.

Seasonal Employment Opportunity: Snow Maintainer

The Town of East Granby is looking for up to three seasonal part-time employees to assist with snow removal around town buildings. The successful applicant should be 18 years of age or older and be flexible with their schedule based on weather conditions. Duties include shoveling sidewalks and operating a snow blower. The pay rate is $17 per hour. For more information, please call (860) 413-3301 or e-mail info@egtownhall.com.

Homeowner’s Tax Relief

The Town of East Granby and the State of Connecticut have programs for tax credit to provide relief to certain homeowners on their real estate taxes. These programs are age and income based. The filing period is February 1st to May 15th. Please call Mary Ellen Brown in the Assessor’s Office at (860) 653-2852 for more information.

— Continued from Page 1 —

High Schools students, and the Juvenile Review Board that gives a non-judicial option to teens who have made a poor decision. Additionally, the Town offers a discount prescription card program for residents which can be used to offset costs not covered by health insurance along with a smoke detector/battery replacement program by the Fire Marshal, a visiting nurse program at the Senior/Community Center and much more. This is just a partial list of the wonderful things that happen in East Granby mostly because of our volunteers! Thanks!

News and Information for 2018...

Budget Process:
The State passed a two-year budget in late October for the period of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019. Ongoing state budget issues will affect the East Granby FY19 budget but at this time we’re uncertain what that affect will be.

The Boards of Finance (BOF), Selectmen (BOS) and Education (BOE) have started working on Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19 budgets. The Board of Finance will discuss FY19 budget drivers with the BOS and BOE at their January 16th meeting. The BOF will provide budget guidelines to the BOS and BOE at their February 6th meeting. The BOS and BOE draft budgets will be reviewed by the BOF at their March 13th meeting. At their April 3rd meeting, the BOF will provide directives to the BOS and BOE regarding what budgets to take to the Annual Budget Hearing which will be held on April 17th. The Annual Town Budget Meeting is scheduled for April 24th. All of these meetings provide opportunities for residents to learn about planned expenditures and to provide feedback to the boards. Along the way we will put budget information on the Town website and publish a special budget edition of Let’s Talk Turkey in early April.

Additional Information:
The Shared Services Committee is looking at the efficiency of the Town providing more services to the schools both outside or inside the buildings. This study would see if there would be an opportunity for savings and improved effectiveness. A report should be out within the next couple of months. The Bonding Committee is working on a plan to address future infrastructure needs such as town roads and school/town roofs. Later this summer/fall, once the report is complete, it will be communicated to the Boards of Finance, Selectmen, and Education along with the town.

In 2018 the town will continue to apply for grants that will help pay for emergency operations improvements, oxygen packs and turnout gear for our fire fighters, along with updating Town Clerk records.

Have a great 2018!

Jim Hayden, First Selectman
Board of Assessment Appeals

The Board of Assessment Appeals will meet March 15th to hear appeals from individuals or organizations claiming to be aggrieved by the actions of the Town Assessor on the 2017 Grand List.

Appeals are heard by appointment only. Appeals must be submitted in writing on a prescribed form available from the Assessor’s Office. This form must be returned to the Board of Assessment appeals by February 20th. Please call the Assessor’s Office to be sure the form has been received if it was submitted by mail. The Board is not responsible for forms that might become “lost” in the mail.

Taxpayers who have filed a written appeal will be notified by March 1st of the date, time, and place of the hearing. Notification will be mailed by regular post. Please call the Assessor’s Office to confirm your appointment or if you have not received a hearing date. For further information, the East Granby Assessor’s Office can be reached at (860) 653-2852.

News from the Tax Office

Dorian Owens, CCMC, Tax Collector

The Tax Office is bound by the Connecticut General State Statutes (C.G.S.). Details can be found in Chapter 204, Section 12, Local Levy and Collections of Taxes. We will collect for January Real Estate Installments and Supplemental Motor Vehicle Taxes on January 2nd. Please welcome our new Tax Clerk, Sherry Siemens, when you come into pay. If mailing your taxes, please send to our Webster Bank Lock Box at this address:

Tax Collector, Town of East Granby
P.O. Box 150411
Hartford, CT 06115-0411

As stated in the past, when mailing your bill it is very important to include the payment coupon provided by our office to ensure your account is credited appropriately. If you require a receipt, include the entire bill and a self-addressed envelope. Webster Bank will send this information to our office and we will stamp and mail back your receipt. When making payments for someone else with your bank check, make sure to indicate the person’s name and what you are paying for. It is very important to verify the amount on the payment coupon to your check—we have noticed some checks are paying too much or too less. If you use Official Payments (e-checks, debit card, or credit card) make sure you enter the list number. This is the last seven digits under “list number” from the payment coupon. For example, for 2016 MS 0000236 you would enter tax year 2016 and list number 0000236.

We will still receive payments at our office Monday through Thursday from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 to 4:00 PM. On Friday our hours are 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The last day to pay taxes for January 1, 2018 Real Estate Installments and Motor Vehicle Supplemental Taxes is February 1, 2018. If you misplaced your bill, please visit the website http://www.eastgranbyct.org. Click on the tab “I want to…” and select “look up property tax.” Failure to receive a bill does not excuse the obligation of tax due per Connecticut General Statute 12-130. Taxes not paid by the grace period will result in interest being charged at a rate of 1.5% to the original due date per C.G.S 12-145. For example, a tax bill due January 1st with 30-day grace is to be paid or postmark by February 1st. Taxes paid after February 1st will be charged 3% (1.5% per month to the original due date of January 1st).

When coming into our office, bring the entire payment coupon. We will use the necessary section for our records and we will stamp the taxpayer copy for July and again in January.

Forms of payment accepted in our office are bank check, cash, money order, or personal check. When paying in coins, we only accept $20.00 since we do not have a coin counter. You also have the ability to use debit and credit cards at the counter. Please note the service fee to use a debit or credit card will remain. This is a convenience fee charged by the vendor that process the cards. The question has been asked why the charge exists if no fee is charged at the grocery store, gas stations, restaurants, and retail transactions? The answer is that those establishments are businesses that absorb the cost as a business expense. Municipal government runs on a budget and other taxpayers are not going to pay for another taxpayer who elects to use the card for paying taxes. If a taxpayer elects to use this convenience service the cost is absorbed by the taxpayer, not the Town of East Granby.

As a reminder, when a motor vehicle has been destroyed or sold, to avoid waiting in our office please bring the information to our Assessor’s Office and they will assist you with this transaction. The Tax Office cannot adjust your bill.

Community Skating Event

March 10th • Brought to you by the EGMS Youth Action Council

The East Granby Middle School Youth Action Council is proud to announce that the 2nd Annual East Granby Great Skate is scheduled for Saturday, March 10th at Simsbury Farms Ice Rink. Doors open at 5:30 PM, with skating from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. This is a free event open to East Granby residents of all ages. Skate rentals are also free, while supplies last.

We are looking for businesses and community members to help support the event. Donations will go towards rink rental and refreshments. If you are interested in providing a donation, please contact EGMS YAC facilitator, Sharon Shepherd, at sashepherd77@gmail.com.
Geissler’s Receipts: No-Cost Fundraising for Allgrove/Seymour PTO

The Allgrove/Seymour PTO collects Geissler’s receipts to help raise funds to further support the curriculum in our elementary schools. When we submit receipts over $35 we receive 5% back from Geissler’s. Please submit receipts by February 2nd so they can be included in our next submission. Receipts must be over $35, and can be submitted throughout the year at the following locations:

- The Allgrove School Office
- The Seymour School Office
- Put in the box located behind the desk at the East Granby Public Library
- Put in the box in the lobby at the East Granby Post Office

EGECS/FRC Open Enrollment Night

East Granby Early Childhood Services and Family Resource Center, located at Carl Allgrove Elementary School, is hosting Open Enrollment Night on Wednesday, February 7th from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. (Snow date is Thursday, February 8th.)

East Granby residents may register for 2018-2019 Programs: Integrated Three & Four Year Old Preschool Classes, “One, Two & You” and “Terrific Two’s” Early Learning Groups. Applications will be accepted on a first come basis on February 7th. Doors will open at 6:00 PM. Please bring a completed application and proof of residency at the time of enrollment.

Applications and brochures are available outside the Preschool/Family Resource Center classroom or online at www.eastgranby.k12.ct.us under the Early Childhood Services tab. You may contact Kerry Anthony at kanthony@eastgranby.k12.ct.us for more information.

East Granby Social Services

Office hours for East Granby Social Services are Monday from 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Tuesday from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, and Thursday from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Times outside these hours are available by appointment. For more information, please contact Elise Cosker, Director of Social Services, at (860) 413-3328 or elisec@egtownhall.com.

Holiday Basket Program

The East Granby community came together once again to support Social Services and the Friend to Friend Food Pantry with our Thanksgiving and Holiday Basket Program. This program would not exist without your generous support of monetary donations, food, and holiday gifts for children in need as well as your precious time during this busy season. This is a collaborative effort between residents, friends of East Granby, the East Granby town employees, the East Granby Library, Friend to Friend, the East Granby Middle School, the East Granby Middle and High School Youth Action Council, the East Granby Congregational Church, Copper Hill United Methodist Church, the knitting groups in East Granby, and many, many others! Our extraordinary community effort provided gifts, gift cards, books, hats, and gloves to 46 children!

The Friend to Friend Food Pantry provided fresh food baskets for almost 70 households for Thanksgiving and then again for the December holiday! The members of the Youth Action Council put forth an amazing effort to assemble these baskets and our Girl Scout and Brownie troops delivered them to our homebound residents. Also, the Youth Action Council once again had a successful Gift Recycling Program and raised over $100 for Social Services. Thank you to all who participated in making this a special holiday for seniors, families, and individuals in need.

Energy Assistance

Applications are being accepted from residents of East Granby who wish to apply for the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program. Please remember that proof of income from the previous four weeks is required for the application. Contact Social Services to review the income/eligibility guidelines and to schedule an appointment.

Food Pantry/Thrift Store

The Friend to Friend Food Pantry was established to supplement the weekly grocery needs of families who have been identified by East Granby Social Services as needing assistance. If you are in need of food assistance or are interested in becoming a volunteer at the pantry or thrift store, please contact Social Services.

Fuel Bank

The East Granby Fuel Bank provides emergency assistance with home heating costs to income eligible residents. The Fuel Bank is funded solely by donations and gifts from the community. One hundred percent of the funds raised are given back to qualifying residents in the form of fuel assistance. Please contact Social Services if you are interested in making a donation or are in need of assistance. Thank you to all of our generous Fuel Bank donors throughout 2017!

East Granby Veterans

A nice time was had by all who attended the Holiday Dinner at Gio’s Pizzeria in December. This month, we will meet on Tuesday, January 30th from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at Gio’s. Hope to see many veterans there!
News from the East Granby Land Trust

Young Forest Presentation
Thursday, February 8th, 7:00 PM, East Granby Public Library
Presented by Andrea Petruullo, Contractor to the Wildlife Management Institute at CT DEEP, Wildlife Division. Andrea will discuss the history of Connecticut’s forests, from near deforestation in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to the mature forests of today, and the measures that are needed to sustain wildlife habitat in our forests for songbirds, native pollinators, and other native species. For questions, please contact Cathy Delasco at (860) 324-4709.

Winter Hike
Saturday, January 27th, 9:00 to 11:00 AM
Come meet us at the East Granby Senior/Community Center at 8:45 AM and we can carpool to the EGLT’s Newgate Farm property on Kimberly Road, where we will hike into the Newgate Wildlife Management Area. If there’s snow we will snowshoe or ski our way along. Wear warm, layered clothing and bring water to drink. For questions please contact Cathy Delasco at (860) 324-4709.

EGLT would like to thank Don Holtman, who recently retired from the Land Trust, for his more than 30 years of service. Don was EGLT president in the 1980s and has been a board member since then, as well. He guided EGLT through land acquisitions, boundary and encroachment issues, and changing our by-laws. EGLT is awarding a scholarship to an East Granby High School senior this year in honor of Don’s years of service to EGLT. Donations to the scholarship fund may be sent to P.O. Box 39, East Granby, CT 06026. Don, thank you; we will miss you.

Historical Society News

Barns of East Granby Program
On Saturday, January 27th at 2:30 PM at the East Granby Senior/Community Center, Historical Society member J. Ward Mathis will present “Barns of East Granby.”

Have you noticed the many barns of different styles as you drive around town? Do you remember some that are no longer standing? East Granby’s past and present barns have been documented as part of a statewide project that took place between 2006-2010 by the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation and involved the participation of more than 400 volunteers all over Connecticut. One of these volunteers was J. Ward Mathis who will give a visual presentation of our town’s contributions to the state barn archives. All are welcome to come and enjoy a “tour” of these important reminders of our agricultural history. This free program will begin at 2:30 PM following a brief 2:00 PM business meeting. Refreshments will be served.

Cookbook Project
We are starting to collect your favorite family recipes, particularly those with special memories or perhaps a bit of local or historical interest. We hope to gather enough to publish a cookbook for resale. Please include a brief story or dedication associated with each recipe. Mail to Rick Woods, P.O. Box 67, East Granby, CT 06026 or e-mail rickwoods4@cox.net.

New-Gate Prison Presentation
“New-Gate Prison in 1825: A Nursery of Crime” will be presented by Gregg Mangan on Monday, February 26th at 6:30 PM (snow date: Monday, March 5th) at the East Granby Senior/Community Center. This program is presented by Old New-Gate Prison & Copper Mine, the State Historic Preservation Office, and the Department of Economic and Community Affairs in conjunction with the East Granby Historical Society.

“I have here unjustly suffered so much, and heard so much, that I am not as I was; my nature has become changed and hardened against my race—and I feel myself let loose from all the ties of society—and that I have lost almost all the feelings that belong to humanity.”
—Prisoner at New-Gate, 1825

Join us on Monday, February 26th at 6:30 PM to welcome Dr. Gregg Mangan, Manager of the Digital Humanities Program for Connecticut Humanities, as he presents a talk entitled, “New-Gate Prison in 1825: A Nursery of Crime.” The talk will give an overview of prison life at New-Gate in the mid-1820s, including living conditions, staffing, prisoner health, and the movement to close New-Gate. Learn more about who was incarcerated in the prison and why; what typical—and atypical—inmate sentences looked like, and what prisoners did during the long days of their captivity.

Gregg Mangan currently works at the Connecticut Humanities Council at Wesleyan University as the Manager of the Digital Humanities Department. Prior to his work at Connecticut Humanities, he spent seven years as a freelance historian, writer, and editor contracted to provide services to individuals, commercial businesses, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations. He also served as an intern at the Connecticut Department of Culture and Tourism (now the Department of Economic and Community Development).

He holds a Ph.D. in public history from Arizona State University. While at Arizona State, he also completed a graduate program in scholarly publishing. Prior to that, he earned an M.A. in public history from Central Connecticut State University and a B.A. from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

New Members Always Welcome!
Please check out our website at eastgranby.com/historicalsociety or pick up a brochure at Town Hall, East Granby Public Library, or the Senior/Community Center.
Adventures in Sustainable Eating

From The Ground UP

In today’s society, people will refuse to purchase produce due to a small bruise, scratch, or deformity. Little do they know that the slightly imperfect food is just as delicious, if not better, than the pristine-looking food. As students who are concerned about the relationship between food sources and consumers, we have enrolled in From The Ground UP, a high school leadership program offered by the nonprofit Nourish My Soul. As participants in this program, we spend hours learning about our food system, analyzing our local food system, and develop new ideas and projects to address the shortcomings. This year we were shocked to learn about food waste and we want to enlighten others about how much delicious, fresh food goes to waste as a result of what society has taught people is acceptable to purchase. Bun Lai, a critically acclaimed chef for the restaurant Miya’s Sushi, understands this issue. Last month all seven members of From The Ground UP as well as a Nourish My Soul Jr. Chef visited Miya’s in New Haven to learn more about Bun and his views on operating the first sustainable sushi restaurant in the world.

Miya’s restaurant had a very tranquil atmosphere. When we first arrived, we were kindly greeted by Bun himself, and his welcoming staff. After being seated, we had the honor of speaking with Bun about his views on food waste. He shared many interesting experiences he has encountered with cooking using ingredients from all around the world. Bun had very interesting, yet valid points to bring to the table. He is in agreement with us that food waste is a very prevalent issue in society today. All of the food he creates for his restaurant is made with food waste in mind. Bun Lai also focuses on where the ingredients in his food come from, recognizing how it is grown or raised. He tries to keep his menu mostly plant based for several reasons including sustainability. Bun really made us stop and think about the impact of all our food choices, not just on our health but also on the planet as a whole. We came to realize food choices are political action and can have far reaching consequences that we decide whether will be positive or negative. Bun kindly created an amazing tasting menu of sushi of all different varieties, along with a pumpkin miso soup for us to enjoy. One of our participants even got to celebrate her birthday with a specially made birthday sushi topped with ice cream. We are so grateful for the warm welcome from Bun and all the staff at Miya’s Sushi, the sharing of knowledge, and the delicious food we can all feel good about!

In an effort to continue to share the message and develop solutions to a large problem, we invited the community to a free dinner on January 14th to learn more about the problem, hear about our work, and be a part of the solution. All our food for the dinner was perfectly good food rescued from waste streams that we prepared especially for the community! We worked with local farms, restaurants, grocers, and the Farmington Valley Health District to determine what our menu would be. We hope this dinner was just the first of many and that the conversations generated will continue as we look to rethink our current food system and food choices. If you would like more information about how you can get involved, please contact Alicia from Nourish My Soul at alicia@nourishmysoul.org.

Capitol Update

Rep. Tami Zawistowski, 61st District

Before starting the 2018 legislative session in February, the legislature will have to tackle issues left over from the previous session; addressing cuts to the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) and closing the projected current year deficit. The MSP offers state financial assistance to lower income seniors and the disabled to help cover co-pays, deductibles, and Medicare Part B premiums. Eligibility reductions were first proposed by Governor Malloy last February and became part of the compromise budget passed in October. The program was set to abruptly end for seniors with incomes above the new income eligibility threshold of $12,000, and would have affected more than 100,000 state residents who depend on this assistance for adequate medical care. The legislature will convene on January 8th to restore $54 million to the program to reinstate the previous income threshold of $36,000. The funding restoration would be achieved by specifically requiring the governor to meet the targeted savings set forth in the compromise budget. The budget will continue to be an issue in 2018. So far, the promised savings from the state employee labor agreement have not materialized, overtime costs are up, and revenue has continued to decline. The budget adopted in late October—which contained some positive changes but which I did not support based on a variety of fiscal reasons—is already out of balance. The comptroller’s office is projecting a $224 million deficit in the current year which will require legislative action. The current year deficit—and the prospects of a looming projected $4.6 billion deficit in the following budget cycle—will be the main thrust of the 2018 legislative session.

If you live in the southern part of East Granby, in the Spoonville area or off Seymour Road, you are likely aware of the growing problem with commercial truck traffic on narrow town owned roads in this residential area. The traffic is related to distribution
centers, mainly Dollar Tree, located just over the town line in Windsor, plus some cut-through truck traffic. This is as a significant safety issue for residents of this area, and have been working with officials from both towns to deal with this issue over the past couple of years (I also represent the affected area of Windsor). I have held meetings in Hartford that included our First Selectman Jim Hayden, Windsor Town Manager Peter Souza, DOT officials, and the President of the Motor Transport Association of Connecticut, all of whom have been involved and helpful. There has been some progress. Signs requesting no truck traffic have been installed by officials in both towns, weight limits are posted on Stone Road in Windsor, and some signage requested by Windsor has been installed by DOT on Route 20. DOT has done some traffic counts and I have requested again that they come up with some ideas about what we can do to reduce or at least slow truck traffic on these town owned roads. One of the issues is GPS which directs traffic down Seymour Road as a short cut between Routes 20 and 187—and the GPS companies will not change their routing systems.

In the past few weeks, the Town of Windsor has sent letters and maps to all their businesses on International Drive requesting that truck traffic be directed to Route 20. I also plan to meet directly with FedEx officials from their Albany regional office in the very near future. FedEx has a new shipping center under construction on Stone Road. I will also be meeting with DOT again this month to discuss any further actions they would recommend.

I encourage you to visit my website, RepZawistowski.com, for news and the opportunity to sign up for e-mail blasts, and to visit and like my Facebook page @RepZawistowski. And as always, please contact me if you have questions, ideas, or comments about state related issues by phone at (860) 240-8700 or by e-mail at Tami.Zawistowski@housegop.ct.gov.

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**News from The Democrats**

Happy 2018 from the East Granby Democrats! We would like to thank all those who volunteered, ran for office, or came out to vote in support of our great group of candidates. The results showed the support among voters to continue the efforts which have made East Granby a great place to live. The turnout was strong, and our town is strong and will continue to be. Each election brings a chance for new ideas to be presented. We hope you will join us as we organize, improvise, and put forward policies that encourage the continuation of all that has worked and find new and better ways to manage our success.

In the upcoming year we will have statewide elections for congress, governor, lieutenant governor, all the statewide offices, state senator, and state representative. There have been many talented Democrats who have shown an interest in seeking to run for these positions and we will work to get their information to you. We will be joining with some of our surrounding towns to bring them into our area to answer your questions. If you want to ensure your Democratic voice is heard, join us as at one of our meetings which are held the third Thursday of every month at the Senior/Community Center or visit us on Facebook. Thanks again for your support!

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East Granby Republicans

It has been more than two months since our most recent municipal election. Approximately 39% of voters turned out at the polls. While this participation rate was slightly higher than some previous elections, it is far below the 80% rate during our Presidential election. That's a bit disappointing, since voters have a far greater influence in local outcomes. A mere six votes determined one of our board positions in November 2017. Now the real work begins for our First Selectman and our Boards (Selectmen, Education, and Finance), as the annual budget season is upon us.

Taxes seem to be the key topic of discussion on our national news networks, local stations, in our social settings, and media. The largest part of our local property taxes (nearly 75%) derives from spending on education. Few would argue that it is society’s responsibility to educate our children. There are not limitless resources for this purpose. It is necessary to balance the “wants” and “needs” of our education community with the ability of our citizens to pay for it.

Participation from the public at Board meetings is a hallmark of our democracy. Transparency is needed on topics such as student's test scores, education policies, financial expenditures, etc. We all live busy lives. In this age of the internet, there should be a means of viewing all Board meetings, particularly those of the Board of Education. For those that cannot attend these meetings, there should be a means of viewing them as our own time permits. A healthy community should hear the voices of all its members, and we encourage everyone to get involved in any way they can.

We are always looking for new members to join the East Granby Republican Town Committee. Among our basic principles are fiscal responsibility, and high student achievement through effective and efficient use of our tax dollars. We can be reached by contacting Lee Sandora at (860) 798-4916 or via e-mail at lsandora@gmail.com. Our meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the third Wednesday of the month at the Senior/Community center. Come join us!

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Concerned Taxpayers of East Granby

Concerned Taxpayers of East Granby is a non-partisan organization for East Granby taxpayers to promote a balance of town spending versus quality of services and affordability of living in town. CTEG promotes involvement of taxpayers in town government decision-making to ensure the economic viability of our community.

At a time of historic cuts in Connecticut state aid to towns necessitated by the State’s disastrous fiscal condition (49th out of the 50 states), the last budget season in East Granby ended with a 1.25% expansion of town spending: approval of teachers’ and school administrators’ contracts with annual 3% raises, a 4.04% property tax increase reflecting a large reduction in state aid plus drawing down the town’s “savings account” to the minimum 10% cash reserve looked at by the ratings agencies.

At the state level, economic policy has led to major corporate and population exits from Connecticut, resulting in erosion of income tax revenues. A noticeable aspect of state aid is the payment of property taxes, and the bulk of our local property taxes is paid by our small and medium-sized businesses, not the large businesses that are being courted by the State and other local government entities. There is a real need to reverse this trend.

In the upcoming year we will have statewide elections for congress, governor, lieutenant governor, all the statewide offices, state senator, and state representative. There have been many talented Democrats who have shown an interest in seeking to run for these positions and we will work to get their information to you. We will be joining with some of our surrounding towns to bring them into our area to answer your questions. If you want to ensure your Democratic voice is heard, join us as at one of our meetings which are held the third Thursday of every month at the Senior/Community Center or visit us on Facebook. Thanks again for your support!
receipts and a nearly 25% budget shortfall. Governor Malloy attempted to solve the state fiscal calamity by making a deal with state unions and extending a host of extravagant government union benefits through 2027. When that made the problem worse, both parties in the legislature recognized the fiscal crisis and Democrats crossed over to vote with Republicans to rescue the sinking ship, forcing a budget on the Governor that instituted a strong constitutional spending cap and other long needed legislative reforms.

But even then, Connecticut is already $325 million in the red over the next two years. Why? Because tax revenues continue to drop, because of a stalled economy, and a cost of living and taxes that are some of the highest in the nation, resulting in a population exit and shrinking tax base.

Governor Malloy released his deficit mitigation plan—increasing the state sales tax to 6.9 percent and increasing the hotel tax, restaurant tax, cigarette tax, and real estate conveyance tax. The first line of defense when Connecticut faces a budget crunch is to raise taxes…again…and again. But despite massive, historic state tax increases in 2011 and 2015, tax revenue has declined. And the extra revenue generated by those tax increases hasn’t gone to fund state services for taxpayers, but instead has paid for pensions for state employees. Connecticut doesn’t need to be more expensive, it needs to get its spending under control.

The new municipal budget season in East Granby has started. At the January 16th Board of Finance meeting, the Board discussed budget drivers with the BOS and BOE. The BOF schedule that follows will be:

- At the February 6th BOF meeting, the Board will provide FY2018-19 operating budget guidelines to the BOS and BOE.
- At the March 13th BOF meeting, the Board will review budget proposals from the BOS and BOE.
- At the April 3rd BOF meeting, the Board will provide directives to the BOS and BOE for what budgets they should present to the town at Public Hearing.
- On April 17th, the Annual Public Hearing on the budget will be held in the High School auditorium.
- Immediately following the April 17th Public Hearing, the BOF will convene and vote on a final budget to be presented to the town at Town Meeting.
- On April 24th, there will be a Town Meeting on the budget at the Senior/Community Center. It is anticipated that the BOS will call for a ballot referendum to be held in early May.

All BOF meetings are held in the Town Hall Hearing Room and start promptly at 7:30 PM. If you want to provide your input to the Board members, the public comment period at the beginning and end of each meeting is the time and place to have your voice heard.

Other issues currently in the works in East Granby town government are changes to the town ordinances, and the revision of East Granby’s ten-year Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). Updates are available from the office of the First Selectman, or the Planning and Zoning Commission, respectively, both in Town Hall (http://eastgranbyct.org/), (860) 653-2576, info@egtownhall.com).

We need to rein in town spending in order prepare for major cuts in state spending. Vote in the referendums, municipal elections, and at town meetings. In East Granby, every vote counts, literally—referendums, elections, and town meeting votes are often decided by margins of as little as two to four votes! If you want your voice to be heard on matters of the town budget, municipal governance, POCD, or other issues, go to Board meetings and public hearings and show Board and Commission members that you’re watching and will hold them accountable. Do whatever you can to help keep our town government oriented responsibly and encourage them to put together a good strong economic development profile for the community. Come to a CTEG meeting to talk with likeminded neighbors and discuss your ideas.

CTEG meetings are usually on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 PM at the East Granby Public Library, with the exception of holiday months. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 23rd. The following meeting will be on Monday, February 12th. All CTEG meetings are open to the public. Come and find out what’s going on in the community. Share your thoughts and concerns with people who are interested in keeping East Granby a great place to live, work, and retire. If you can’t come to meetings, we’re still interested in your ideas. For more information, call (860) 658-0268, e-mail info.CTEG@cox.net, or visit the CTEG website at www.egtaxpayers.org.

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**Spring 2018 Soccer Registration**

Open now through February 28th

- **$85 - Mini-Soccer**
- **$115 - Travel (plus uniform fee)**

**Mini-Soccer**

Saturday Mornings at Seymour School (starting 4/14/2018)

- U5 Dinomites (PreK) - 8:30-9:20am
- U6 Dinomites (K) - 9:30-10:30am
- U8 Developmental (1st & 2nd) - Practice Thursdays and games Saturday at 10:40-11:40am

Cleats and shin guards are required and bring water too!

**Travel Soccer**

- Grades 3-12
- 2 practices per week
- Typically games both Saturday and Sunday
- Most games in Farmington Valley area

Register at www.eastgranbysoccer.com
Allgrove School

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

February 13th, 14th & 15th 2018

Registration for children who are entering Kindergarten for the 2018-2019 school year will take place at Allgrove School, 33 Turkey Hills Road on the following dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday February 13th</th>
<th>Wednesday February 14th</th>
<th>Thursday February 15th</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00-11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>9:00-11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>9:00-11:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30-2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>12:30-2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>4:30 – 6:00 p.m.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The paperwork takes approximately 15-20 minutes to complete and needs to be filled out at the school. At the time of registration, we will also be scheduling a visit for kindergarten orientation that will take place in the spring. It is important that students be registered during the above dates. If you are not able to attend one of the registration dates, please call Donna Mattera at 860-653-2505.

Parents need to bring the following required items to school at the time of registration:

1. Child’s Birth Certificate – A full size original birth certificate is needed. Wallet size cannot be accepted.
2. Copy of Most Recent Physical & Immunizations
3. Proof of Residency (ie. Copy of a paid phone bill, electric bill cable bill or signed lease in the parent/guardian name)

All certificates and records will be copied and returned to you at the time of registration.

All pupils entering Kindergarten must be five years of age on or before January 1, 2019. 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 Donna Mattera at 860-653-2505.

All registration information must be completed before your child may begin Kindergarten. A health examination is required prior to August 17, 2018. Health examination forms are available from the school nurse at the time of registration.
East Granby Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary Presents

February 3rd

Snow Date February 10th

Doors open at 5:30 pm / Bingo starts at 6:00 pm

$25 to play ALL games or pay $1-$5 for specific games. Snacks and drinks will be sold.

East Granby Community/Senior Citizen Center

7 Memorial Drive * East Granby, CT 06026
Thank you to our small town — so filled with big hearts!

It’s comforting to know there are people you can rely on. Whether it’s last minute childcare, house maintenance advice or a ride to the doctor’s office, we all benefit from the many types of friendships around us. Each year the Friend to Friend Food Pantry asks for so much from our friends — and you always deliver with more donations, manpower, and smiles than we can ever imagine.

Thank you to our fabulous volunteers and financial contributors — many of whom have been contributing since our founding and remain steadfast with their support! This past year we’ve also had help from countless individuals and the following groups and businesses: A.N. Deringer (St. Albans, VT), Anytime Fitness, Boy Scouts, Brownies, Copper Hill Golf Club, Copper Hill Methodist Church, Cub Scouts, Dolce Mama’s Confections, East Granby Congregational Church, East Granby Fire Department, East Granby Motors, East Granby Police Union, East Granby Public Library, East Granby Students, East Granby Town Employees, East Granby Veteran’s Club, Expressions Pottery Workshop, First National Bank of Suffield, Geisslers, Girl Scouts, Highland Park Market, Horses and Hounds, Jack Bannon Turkey Trot, Joining Technologies, Long Stem Flower Shoppe, Overhaul Support Services, Oxen Hill Farm, Salmon Brook Veterinary Hospital, Stop and Shop, United Health Group, Voya, and the Women’s Club of East Granby.

We wish you and your families a healthy, kind and calm 2018.

Our gratitude to the East Granby Middle School Student Council who collected non perishable food and monetary donations for the Friend to Friend Food Pantry in November through their Top Turkey Food Drive. Pictured are 8th grade Student Council members Sarah Springer and Ashley Moore.

Friendship is always a sweet responsibility, never an opportunity.
— Khalil Gibran

If you need some assistance, please call us at 860.413.3328. If you want to help you can also contact us via email or through our website:

friendtofriendthriftshop@gmail.com
www.friendtofriendeg.com

Friend to Friend Food Pantry • P.O. Box 631 • East Granby, CT 06026 • 860.413.3328
Adult Cooking Series
Create better mealtime options!
Nourish My Soul’s Adult Classes
Alicia Newton

This program helps to develop a new way of eating. Focusing on nutrition, preparation and positive choices for heart healthy diets, you will learn new ways to renew old recipes.
All ingredients are supplied and food allergies/restrictions can be accommodated if known in advance to class.

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Thursday, January 18th Learn to Prepare Healthy Meals
Thursday, February 15th Love Yourself – Heart Healthy Meals
Thursday, March 15th - Beat the Winter Blues

Each Class
$35.00 Res, $35.00 Non-Res
All three classes
99.00 Res, $99.00 Non-Res
East Granby Farms Recreation Building

Yogallet and Yogazz  Adult
Meditative Dance Classes

Yogallet takes poses of Yoga adding the movements of ballet. Yogazz starts with the same positions adding modern jazz movements.
Using the positions of Yoga, body movements and added working all of the muscles to the beat of the music. Slip into the groove and get lost in a meditative state.

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Wednesday, February 7th – March 14th Drop-in for one class ($10)
Or join us for all 5 ($45) or as many as you can.
East Granby Farms Recreation Building

Men’s Recreational Basketball
Come and play a drop-in game of basketball. This program is for men over the age of 18.
* An East Granby Parks and Recreation Waiver is required in order to play.

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Wednesdays, January 10th – May 30th
Cost is $3 and the fee is collected at the door. East Granby High School Gym

Participants must wear white-soled gym shoes
No basketball during school vacation or non-school days

Zumba For Adults & Teens 16+

Fuses hypnotic Latin rhythms and easy to follow moves to create a dynamic workout system that will blow you away! Learn to Salsa, Cumbia, Merengue, Hip Hop, Belly Dance and much more!

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Tuesdays – Class is ongoing
$10 for walk-ins
10 class punch card is available for $70
Payment is made on-site the night you attend.
Cash/Checks only East Granby Farms Recreation Building
EAST GRANBY PARKS AND RECREATION
YOUTH PROGRAMS

Are We There Yet?
World Treasures ART-ventures ART-ventures for Kids - (grades 3 – 5)

Both Sessions 1/31/2018 – 05/09/2018
2:55 pm – 4:30 pm $154.00 Res.
Winter Session 1
2:55 pm – 4:30 pm $84.00 Res.
1/31/2018-03/07/2018 03/14/2018 – 05/09/2018
Winter Session 2
2:55 pm – 4:30 pm $84.00 Res.
Art-ventures experience a multitude of materials and techniques, and bring home two-to-three dimensional masterpieces each week as souvenirs from their travels. Fun facts about each country and culture are included. Held at R.D. Seymour School

HORSEBACK RIDING

FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES
(3 AND UP)
Learn to ride or improve current riding skills under the guidance of an advanced riding instructor.
An approved safety riding helmet will be provided. Riders must wear jeans or riding pants, shoes with low heals
Limited enrollment
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm
Tuesdays, January 16th – January 30th
$95.00 Res, $95.00 Non-Res
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm
Tuesdays, May 1st – May 15th
$95.00 Res, $95.00 Non-Res
Location: 1360 Hill Street, Suffield Ct
(End of Hunt Farms, Suffield CT.)

Mindfulness for Kids – Ages 7-10

Introduce your child to the practice of mindfulness using fun activities and group discussion. Mindfulness is a great way to help your child be aware of their emotions/feelings using exercises to acknowledge how they feel. An adult is required to accompany his or her child to this fun event.
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm
Saturday, February 24th 2018
$30.00 Res, $30 Non Resident
East Granby Farms Recreational Building
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm
Saturday, February 24th 2018 $30.00 Res, $30 Non Resident
East Granby Farms Recreational Building

MY ANIMAL ME & THE CLAY Ages 5-12
FEbruary vacation fun
Art-ventures for Kids
Creating with clay!
Sculpt “Tona” masks out of clay, then bring them to life with paint, feathers, and more! Plus, design and decorate ceramic #dinosaur banks, and create detailed drawings of brightly colored owls.

Please bring an over-sized old t-shirt to use as a smock, and a nut free snack and a drink.
9:00 am- 12:00 pm
Tuesday, February 20th 2018
$30.00 Res, $30.00 Non-Res.

WHAT’S COOKING JUNIOR CHEF
(Grades The 5 – program 8)
Join in this Youth Development Program exploring the fundamentals of culinary arts food systems and nutritional education. CHEF is designed to help youth develop leadership, teamwork, and culinary skills as well as gain nutrition knowledge and a new appreciation for diverse, healthy and sustainably produced food.
Instructor Alicia Newton, Nutritionist.

Winter 1 session
Wednesdays, January 10th –February 14th
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
$140.00 Res. $140.00 Non Res.
East Granby Community Center

Winter 2 session
Wednesdays, February 28th - April 4th
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
$140.00 Res. $140.00 Non Res.
East Granby Community Center
ART-ventures for Kids
Penguins and Polar Bears
Grades K – 2

Journey through the Arctic regions to learn about the captivating lives of penguins, polar bears, and other cold-weather creatures. In this fun, art-packed series, art explorers equipped with a myriad of unique materials tools, and techniques Sculpt clay polar bears and penguin reliefs. Build sand castle lighthouses and create shimmery sea jellies out of recycled materials. Paint sharks or fish on stretched canvases. Design hats as colorful as the Northern Lights, make gyotaku fish print aprons, and transform plain t-shirts into oceans teeming with creatures.

Both Sessions
3:05 pm - 4:30 pm
Thursday, February 1st – May 3rd $154.00 Res, $154.00 Non-Res
East Granby Community Center

Winter 1
3:05 pm – 4:30 pm
Thursday, -2/1/18-3/8/18
East Granby Community Center

Winter 2
3:05 pm – 4:30 pm
Thursday, 03/15/2018-05/03
East Granby Community Center

“CENTER COURT” JAZZ/ Hip Hop Dance

Have you been to a UCONN game lately? Is your child paying more attention to the dance team than the game? If so they'll LOVE this class! It is full of fun, high energy pom, jazz, and hip hop! Entertainment pop jazz, rich in performance-quality technical dance and exciting choreography, guaranteed to get the audience out of their seats! Great exercise and confidence boosting!

Learn Teamwork, respect and discipline
Increase stamina and flexibility
Builds self confidence and self esteem

3:15 pm - 4:30 pm
Tuesdays, January 30th – March 20th (No classes 2/20)
$140.00 Res, $140.00 Non Res.
R. D. Seymour School

GROWING HEALTHY KIDS

Gather once a month to learn all about healthy foods, where it comes from, how to prepare it, and of course tasting it! This class is active and hands on, where learning happens through movement, games, and preparing foods. Kids will become excited about healthier food options, understand the importance, and learn how to make it taste delicious! The series is taught by Nutritionist, Alicia Newton from Nourish My Soul. Occasionally we will have guests from our Jr Chef program to mentor this younger group and model a positive relationship with healthy food.

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Mondays, January 29th, February 26th, March 26th
April 30th, May 21st
Drop ins: $15.00 per class
East Granby Farms at the Barn

RIVERSIDE REPTILES JR ADVENTURES SCALES AND TALES AGES 3-5

Come together monthly for some Riverside Reptile Jr. fun! Children will have the opportunity to meet a live animal, create a craft, listen to some exciting stories, and engage in music and movement and play games. This class will provide the opportunity to learn more about some of our reptile and amphibian friends, while sharing Mrs. Kleinman's love of literacy, music, and finger play. This is a parent/child class open to preschool aged children.

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
Wednesdays, January 10th - May 9th
$45.00 Res, $45.00 Non-Res.
East Granby Farms Recreation Building

INDOOR PLAYGROUND

Calling all Children Aged 0 - 5 and their caregivers! Are you looking for a fun place to get out of the house and see other children? Join us for this open play time. Parents must stay and supervise their children during this unstructured time.

6 Mondays from 10:00 am - 11:30 am
January 29 - March 12, 2018
East Granby Farms - Recreation Building
Cost: Free but please register so we can notify you of any changes due to weather.
## OFFICIAL RESULTS
Town of East Granby
Special State and Municipal Election 11/07/2017

<table>
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<th>MIN. REP.</th>
<th>NO ENDOR. PER PARTY</th>
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<td>William W. O'Neill Jr.</td>
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</table>

Total number of names on the official check-off list: 3697
Total number of names checked as having voted in person: 1397
Total number of names checked as having voted by absentee: 36
Total number of names checked as having voted by EDR: 8
Total number of names checked as having voted: 1441 (39%)

Received for Record November 10th, 2017
By: Christine Gallagher, Town Clerk
EGHS Baseball Bottle Drive Fundraiser

Saturday, February 10th

East Granby residents can leave returnables at the end of their driveway and they will be picked up during the day starting at 8:30 am.

You can also drop off your donations at the front lobby of East Granby High School between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm or at Stop & Shop in Granby starting at 9:00 am, and check out our bake sale at Stop & Shop, too!

Funds raised will help support sending the team to Spring Training Camp and other team expenses!

Sponsored by Friends of East Granby Baseball, Inc.

EGHSBaseballParents@gmail.com
Friends of East Granby Baseball, Inc. is a tax exempt organization that supports the East Granby High School Baseball team.
Friends of East Granby Baseball
Thomas Hooker Brewery Night

Annual Fundraiser to benefit the
East Granby High School Baseball Team

FOOD, BEER, MUSIC, and RAFFLES!

Thomas Hooker Brewery
March 24th, 2018
6PM - 9PM

Tickets $ 20 per person
Gets you in the door for free food, dessert and beer tastings

For tickets, donations and/or sponsorship information please email:
EGHSBaseballParents@gmail.com

Friends of East Granby Baseball, Inc. is a tax exempt organization that supports the
East Granby High School Baseball Team
Superintendent’s Message

January is a great time to reminisce, bid farewell to old habits and bad memories, and much like the trees that shed their old leaves, we discard old ways of thinking. We celebrate the joys of the season, the cleansing of the winter snow and the rebirth that comes with the first burst of Spring. We look ahead to the opportunity to begin anew, acknowledge all that is good, and adopt a new mindset and outlook on life. Some people make new resolutions – usually to aspire to a better state of being.

I hope that in this new year, you take advantage of the opportunity to re-do those things you did exceedingly well and those things that require more thinking, more planning and more resolve. I hope that in the process you embrace your challenges, generate new ideas, design, innovate and create new things, learn masterfully, live thoughtfully, push purposefully, value yourself, change your circumstances, and become a positive influence on the world. You determinedly aim to do things you’ve never done before, and more importantly, you achieve beyond all expectations.

At this half way point in the New Year, our plans and efforts to achieve personal, learning, and professional goals are well underway. We are in the process of implementing strategies to achieve our district goals as outlined in our Areas of Focus for 2017-2018.

We have:

❖ Implemented strategies to help students develop positive mindsets and achieve at higher levels;
❖ Engaged students in authentic learning experiences, including several fieldtrips;
❖ Faculty and administrators participated in meaningful professional learning;
❖ Completed a successful Fall athletic season;
❖ Celebrated Veteran’s Day with our local veterans;
❖ Recognized students musicians who continue to perform and represent the East Granby Public Schools in an outstanding manner;
❖ Enjoyed a variety of concerts in our schools;
❖ Recognized two outstanding grade 12 students at the Farmington Valley Superintendents Award luncheon;
❖ Recognized two phenomenal Art students at the Connecticut Association of Schools Arts Awards banquets;
❖ Continued our display of students art work at Bradley International Airport;
❖ Donated to many worthy causes including the East Granby Food Pantry;
❖ Integrated our leadership curriculum in each of our schools;
❖ Held our first Fifth Year Advisory Board meeting for 2017-2018;
❖ Began the installation of the electronic card catalog system in the elementary schools;
❖ Expanded our partnership with Asnuntuck Community College (ACC) to launch a pathway to an Associates degree in Early Childhood;
❖ Established a new Accelerated College Consortium that will allow a cohort of students to pursue a specific sequence of college courses over a two year period, and upon successful completion, earn admission into the University of Connecticut or any CT State College or University; and
❖ Our Business Department faculty member, Dr. Waller, is designing a new on-line course to be taught during the summer 2018 with support of familiar faculty for East Granby students, allowing more students to pursue an on-line course.
We have also submitted applications for additional grants (Consolidated Entitlement Grants) that will allow us to increase the opportunities for academic assistance to our students as we endeavor to provide more opportunities for them to pursue studies and interests in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics, strengthen our learning culture and climate, and attend to the social and emotional needs of our students. We recently received information that the CHOICE Academic and Social Supports grant will be available for the remainder of the year. The funding will continue to support our Academic Intervention Program and provide needed resources to engage students and families in a variety of important activities. We also received a grant award in the amount of $5,000 from our local business partner Rockbestos Surprenant Corporation through their Education Fund. We are appreciative of the support of all our partners throughout the school year.

We are in the process of planning for our Annual School Community Forum. At this very important event, attendees will hear more about the unique variety of programs that we have implemented to help our learners develop into Intellectually and Technologically Agile Learners prepared with significant experiences and credentials to achieve success after high school. Our ACC partners will be present as faculty and administrators describe the many relevant and critical programs that will change students’ lives for the future. In our assessment, we have explored and created many pathways to assist students in pursuing post high school studies while in high school. This is an important aspect of our work as we fully recognize that a high school diploma is no longer sufficient. Students need to graduate from high school with noteworthy credentials that can advance their status in whatever path they choose after high school. A college degree and courses are very expensive and is an economic challenge for many. Why incur unnecessary debt that will place an economic stranglehold on your lives? We invite members of the community to join us for this discussion that will enlighten you and inform your decisions about the choices you will make for your economic future and the education of your children. Please join us at the Community Forum that will be held in February 2018 at the East Granby Senior Community Center. The time will be confirmed and posted on our website, and information will be shared via our mass communication system.

Our goal is to present opportunities for our graduates that will enable them to be successful participants in the unfolding 21st century. The Board of Education is committed to achieving its goals to educate East Granby learners to develop the skills and competencies that are vitally important to their futures. The process to develop the 2018-2019 Board of Education budget will begin shortly. Discussions will take place in budget workshops and in special meetings. The schedule of meetings will be highlighted on posted Board of Education agendas. On January 16, 2018, the Board of Finance will discuss budget drivers with the Board of Education and will provide 2018-2019 operating budget guidelines. Board of Finance members will also review and respond to Board of Education non-education budget estimates provided in accordance with (P.A. 13-60). On March 13, 2018, the Board of Finance will review the Board of Education operating budget proposal.

We look forward to your continued support and partnership as we move forward.

Christine F. A. S. Mahoney, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools
The following fire safety tips can help you maintain a fire safe home this winter.

**WOOD STOVES AND FIREPLACES**

- Be sure the stove or fireplace is installed properly and inspected for compliance with applicable codes.
- Wood stoves should be of good quality, solid construction and design, and should be UL listed.
- Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used for some time.
- Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.
- Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening, to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out, unwanted material from going in, and help prevent the possibility of burns to occupants.
- The stove should be burned hot twice a day for 15-30 minutes to reduce the amount of creosote buildup.
- Don't use excessive amounts of paper to build roaring fires in fireplaces. It is possible to ignite creosote in the chimney by overbuilding the fire.
- Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal can give off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide (CO).
- Keep flammable materials away from your mantel. A spark from the fireplace could ignite these materials.
- Before you go to sleep, be sure your fireplace fire is out. **NEVER** close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace. A closed damper will help the fire heat up again and will force toxic carbon monoxide (CO) into the house.
- If synthetic logs are used, follow the directions on the package. Never break a synthetic log apart to quicken the fire or use more than one log at a time. They often burn unevenly, releasing higher levels of carbon monoxide.

**FURNACE HEATING**

- It's important that you have your furnace inspected to ensure that it is in good working condition.
- Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working condition.
- Leave furnace repairs to qualified specialists. Do not attempt repairs yourself unless you are qualified.
- Inspect the walls and ceiling near the furnace and along the chimney line. If the wall is hot or discolored, additional pipe insulation or clearance may be required.
- Check the flue pipes and pipe seams. Are they well supported? Free of holes, and cracks? Soot along or around seams may be an indicator of a leak.
- Is the chimney solid? No cracks or loose bricks? All unused flue openings should be sealed with solid masonry.
- Keep trash and other combustibles away from the heating system.

**OTHER FIRE SAFETY TIPS**

- Never discard hot ashes inside or near the home. Place them in a metal container outside and well away from the house.
- Never use a range or an oven as a supplementary heating device. Not only is it a safety hazard, it can be a source of potentially toxic fumes.
- If you use an electric heater, be sure not to overload the circuit. Only use extension cords which have the necessary rating to carry the amp load.
- Avoid using electric space heaters in bathrooms, or other areas where they may come in contact with water.
- Frozen water pipes? Never try to thaw them with a blowtorch or other open flames (otherwise the pipe could conduct the heat and ignite the wall structure inside the wall space). Use hot water or a UL labeled device such as a hand-held dryer for thawing.
- If there is a fire hydrant near your home you can assist the fire department by keeping the hydrant clear of snow so in the event it is needed, it can be located.
- Keep all doorways/exits free from snow in case you need to use them in an emergency.
- Have a working CO detector in your home.

**FACTS ABOUT CARBON MONOXIDE**

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless gas produced by burning any fuel. Initial symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to the flu and include dizziness, fatigue, headache, and irregular breathing. High-level exposure to CO can cause death.

CO poisoning from the use of fuel burning appliances kills at least 200 people each year and sends more than 5,000 people to hospital emergency rooms for treatment. Consumers can avoid this tragedy by having their fuel burning appliances inspected by a qualified technician each year and by purchasing and installing CO detectors.
East Granby Fire Marshal’s Office Safety Tips

A yearly inspection of your home by a professional should include a careful look at these sources of carbon monoxide:

- Furnaces, hot water heaters, stoves (if they burn natural gas, heating oil, wood, or other kinds of fuel). These appliances are potential sources of CO.

- Chimneys, flues, and vents should be inspected before each heating season for leakage and for blockage by creosote or debris. Creosote buildup or leakage could cause black stains on the outside of the chimney or flue. These stains can mean that pollutants are leaking into the house. All vents to furnaces, water heaters, or boilers should be checked to make sure they are not loose or disconnected.

- High Temperature Plastic Venting (HTPV) pipes have been reported vulnerable to separation or cracking, a possibility that is currently being investigated by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). This could allow CO to enter the home. If you have a gas-fired mid-efficiency furnace or boiler installed between 1987 and 1993, it should be inspected for cracking or separating.

- Improper ventilation can prevent the supply of fresh air needed to help carry pollutants up the chimney, stovepipe, or flue necessary for complete combustion of any fuel.

- Finally, charcoal grills can also be a potential source of CO. Never use them in enclosed spaces such as a home, garage, vehicle, or tent. NEVER bring grills with coals indoors after use. NEVER use charcoal grills as an indoor heat source.

Stop the threat of CO in its tracks! Install a CO detector and arrange a yearly professional inspection of your home fuel burning appliances.

TWO RECALLED ITEMS FROM THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

The following are two of the many items found on the Department of Consumer Protection Website. I encourage all residents to periodically check the recall section of this website to see if any products that they own have been subjected to a recall. Their website is www.cpsc.gov.

American Honda recalls portable generators due to fire and burn hazards:

This recall involves Honda portable gasoline generators with model numbers EB2800i and EG2800i. The recalled portable generators have a red front cover and black metal frame. The Eb2800i has a silver colored control panel and the EG2800i has a black colored control panel. “HONDA” and the model number are printed on the control panel. The serial number is located on a lower black metal frame towards the rear of the unit.

Residents should immediately stop using the affected units and contact Honda to locate a local authorized service center. American Honda can be reached at 888-888-3139.

These products were sold by Honda dealers and Home Depot from September 2016 through November 2017 for about $1,150.

Melville Direct recalls fiber optic Christmas trees due to fire hazard:

This recall involves Bits and Pieces Fiber Optic indoor plug in Christmas tree. The full foliage branches have fiber optic light strands that change color. Each tree comes with an AC power adapter that is attached to the gold tone colored base that holds the tree in place. The AC power adapter plugs into a standard household outlet. The 18” tall tree item number is 43560 and the 31” tall tree item number is 43559. The item numbers are found on the UPC barcode label on the box.

The power adapters have been found to be overheating, posing a fire hazard. Residents should stop using these items and contact Melville for a full refund at 866-503-6395.

These items were sold by Bits and Pieces mail order catalogue and online from October 2017 through December 2017 for about $50.

SMOKE DETECTOR REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

The East Granby Fire Marshal’s Office has a smoke detector/battery replacement program that is free to residents. Smoke detectors have a lifespan of ten years and then they need to be replaced. Battery operated or battery back up detectors need their batteries changed to keep the detectors working. Our program offers free battery operated detector replacement and free battery replacement. If your smoke detectors are less than ten years old, we will gladly come out and test them for you to ensure they are operating correctly. If you are unsure how to check the date on these, give us a call and we will check them for you. Again this program is offered free to our residents. It has been proven that operating smoke detectors save lives!

Contact the Fire Marshal’s Office for additional information or any other questions that you might have.

The East Granby Fire Marshal’s Office can be reached by calling 860-653-3444 or by e-mail:

Fire Marshal Kenneth Beliveau
KennethB@egtownhall.com

Deputy Fire Marshal John Leahey
JohnL@egtownhall.com
EAST GRANBY SENIOR CENTER

DIAL-A-RIDE ON THE MINI BUS
① Grocery, Pharmacy & Banking every Wednesday
② Doctor, Dentist, Hairdresser & Personal Care Appointments every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Appointments should be scheduled no earlier than 9:00 AM and no later than 3:00 PM.
Transportation to the Windsor Caring Connection (Windsor’s Adult Day Health Center) will now be provided on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please call (860) 547-0251 for more information.
③ Retail Shopping, Trips & Community Events on Mondays and Fridays.
Check the Senior Moments Newsletter calendars for the bus schedule and call (860)413-3327 at least 24 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.

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC – PROVIDED BY THE FARMINGTON VALLEY VNA
Mondays~ February 5th & March 5th 11:00AM-12:00PM.
The Farmington Valley Visiting Nurses Association will be at the East Granby Senior Center providing free blood pressure screenings. No appointment necessary.

***Hearing Clinics*** Thursday February 8th and March 8th from 9:00AM-11:00AM-at the East Granby Senior Center. Howard Raff from And-How Hearing in Avon will be available for screenings, hearing aide cleanings and simple servicing. FREE at the East Granby Senior Center. Appointments can be made by calling (860) 413-3334.

CT INFO LINE—DIAL 211—Vital resource to find available community services.
CHOICES: CALL 1-800-994-9422 for assistance with Medicare, Medigap and Medicare Part-D applications.

EXERCISE CLASSES, PROGRAMS AND SHOPPING
PEDI—CARE FOR YOUR FEET—Professional foot care is provided by a licensed nurse the 1st 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 appointment. Cost $29
GET FIT EXERCISE CLASSES—Mondays and Wednesdays 10:00 AM-11:00 AM—Senior Center—$4.00 walk-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.
LINE DANCING CLASS- Tuesdays 10:00 AM-11:30AM at the East Granby Farms Recreation Center - $5.00 walk-in cost. Come on down and enjoy some great music and learn some fun line dances. It’s a great way to exercise while having fun!

SHOPPING/TRIPS:
- JANUARY 22ND, FEBRUARY 12TH - WALMART
- JANUARY 29TH, FEBRUARY 26TH – MRS. MURPHY’S & OCEAN STATE JOB LOT
- FEBRUARY 5TH – CHRISTMAS TREE SHOP

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 23RD—37th Annual Connecticut Flower and Garden Show—Hartford, CT —Enjoy this spectacular trip complete with beautiful flowers and plants as well as an amazing craft show at the CT Convention Center! On our way home we will stop for lunch at Salute for a delicious meal! Depart the Senior Center at 9:30 AM. Cost of admission to the flower show is $14 (lunch on your own). Reservation and payment due by February 14th.

Join our mailing list to receive the Senior Moments Newsletter.
Call (860) 413-3334 or email kellyj@egtownhall.com to sign up.
Take a Child to the Library Day!

ANCIENT REPTILES!
with Riverside Reptiles!
Saturday, Feb. 3rd
at 12:30 pm

Please contact the library to register.

2018 Juried Art Show Juror
Elizabeth Rhoades
Elizabeth Rhoades is an award winning and
diagnostic Connecticut artist whose
paintings are characterized by their
vibrant color and sensitivity to the natural
forms and light in the landscape.
Artist of all ages are invited to enter the
show. Check out the Library web page for
more information.

Book Discussion Group
Monday, Feb. 12th at 10am

“The Handmaid’s Tale”
by Margaret Atwood
The Handmaid’s Tale is a
novel of such power that the
reader will be unable to forget
its images and its forecast. Set
in the near future, it describes
life in what was once the
United States and is now
called the Republic of Gilead.
Books available at the library.

Drop off dates for artwork are
Thus., Jan. 18th, 6pm to 8pm &
Sat., Jan. 20th, 10am to 2pm
Eastern Public Library
Opening Reception
January 27th, 6-8pm

Afternoon at the Movies
Wednesday at 1:00pm

January 24th

“Loving Vincent”
PG-13, 95min
The life and controversial death of
Vincent Van Gogh told by his
paintings and the characters that
inhabit them.

Evening at the Movies
Thursday, January 25th
at 6:00pm

“Loving Vincent”
PG-13, 95min

January 31st at 1pm

“Goodbye Christopher Robin”
PG, 107min
This is the story behind A.A. Milne’s
classic children’s story Winnie the
Pooh and the story of Milne’s son
who the character Christopher Robin
was based.
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) .............................................. 2/6, 3/6
Conservation 7:00 (TH) ..................................................... 2/7, 3/7
Board of Education 7:00 (AS) ............................................. 2/12, 2/26, 3/12
Economic Development 7:30 (TH) ........................................ 2/26
Elementary School Committee ........................................... As Needed
Board of Finance 7:30 ....................................................... 2/6, 3/13
Parks & Recreation 7:00 (EGF) ........................................... 2/1, 3/1
Planning & Zoning 7:00 (TH) ............................................... 2/13, 3/13
Board of Selectmen 6:30 (TH) ............................................. 1/24, 2/14, 2/28, 3/14
Zoning Board of Appeals 7:30 (TH) .................................. 1/25, 2/22
Youth Services Bureau 6:30 (EGF) ..................................... 2/19

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
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 publication. Articles should pertain to an East Granby organization, agency, or business (non-advertisement) and be of general interest to the public. With the exception of Town Commissions and Boards, we will not accept submissions that are more than one page in size including pictures, objects, and text. At the discretion of the Editor, articles and graphics may be edited. The name of the submitter and a daytime phone number must accompany each article.