

THE ELLINGTON CONNECTION



FROM THE
FIRST
SELECTMAN
870-3100



Hello again! I'm very happy to be back in this corner sharing my thoughts with you.

The next two years will be challenging, but offer great opportunity. Important tasks that will help us in our future are underway, including the study of our Town Charter. Our Charter is, in effect, our local constitution. It provides the basis under which town government operates and, for that reason, it can't be changed frivolously. Nevertheless, as the town changes, inevitably the Charter should be revisited to see if it properly addresses current needs, which is why we periodically establish a Charter Revision Commission. And, of course, the only way the Charter can be changed is by presenting it to you for your vote on it.

The Town Charter is available for review on the town's website at www.ellington-ct.gov and copies are available at the Hall Memorial Library and Town Hall. You are urged to provide input on changes you think should be considered by the Charter Revision Commission during their deliberations and public hearings. By doing so you become an active participant in shaping the future of our community.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and healthy New Year.

Michael P. Stupinski
First Selectman

Pam Lombardo
Tax Collector
870-3113

During the month of January, the second half of your tax bill will be due if the total bill was greater than \$600. You have already received your payment stub in July and we do not mail reminders.

The supplemental motor vehicle tax bills were mailed the last week in December. They are prorated bills for a motor vehicle you registered after October 1, 2004 and before September 30, 2005. Vehicles that were traded-in will receive a prorated credit that will be netted against the new vehicle. The supplemental tax is due in one installment.

Please keep copies of your tax payments for the preparation of your IRS and State of Connecticut Tax Returns.

Remember, if you are having trouble paying your taxes, partial payments are always accepted; although we cannot stop the interest from accruing. Feel free to give us a call at 870-3113 if you have any questions regarding a payment plan or any other tax issue you need help with.

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

1st PUBLIC HEARING

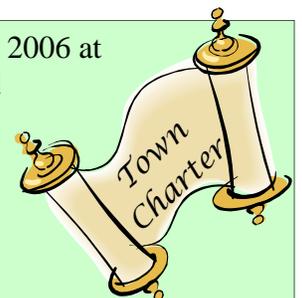
JANUARY 24, 2005 @ 7:00 PM

TOWN HALL MEETING HALL

The Charter Revision Commission will hold its first public hearing on Tuesday, January 24, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Meeting Hall for the purpose of allowing citizens to comment and recommend revisions to the Town Charter. The Charter Revision Commission has already received a number of recommendations. These include:

- Town Manager form of government
- Town-wide shared services, including building maintenance and finance

All residents are encouraged to attend and participate!



Anna Turner, Elderly Outreach
870-3131

Living Wills & Estate Planning

Attorney Laurel Mangan will give an informative program entitled, "Health and Financial Decisions: Legal Tools for Preserving Personal Autonomy".

March 6 at 1pm at the Ellington Senior Center

Please call Anna Turner @ 870-3131 to reserve your seat.

Hospice Care & The Medicare Hospice Benefit

Lee Almond, MSW with the Visiting Nurse and Health Care Services Hospice Team will speak about the Hospice philosophy, services, and eligibility guidelines.

March 16 at 10am at the Ellington Senior Center

Please call Anna Turner @ 870-3131 to reserve your seat.



Reverse Mortgage-Is it right for you?

Kathryn Freda, Reverse Mortgage Specialist with Webster Bank and Pamela Lombardo, Town of Ellington Tax Collector will give a thorough presentation about the federal government's Reverse Mortgages Program. This is a very important option for homeowners who are at least 62 years of age. Come learn about the pros and cons of reverse mortgages. Handout materials will be provided.

April 6 at 10am at the Ellington Senior Center

Please call Anna Turner @ 870-3131 by **April 4th** to reserve your seat.

Erin Graziani, Senior Center Director
870-3133



Harvest Moon Revue Fundraiser Update!

The Ellington Senior Center has raised \$10,000 towards a new senior center from proceeds from our Harvest Moon Revue Play and Variety Show! We sincerely thank the community, the individuals who came to the show, the patrons and business sponsors, volunteers and performers of all ages.

We send special acknowledgements to William Prenetta, Theater Arts Director at Ellington High School and his students in the Opening Knight Players Drama Society for working with us to accomplish our goal!! Thank you to the senior center actors; Rose Parent, Pat Stoughton, Francis Rittlinger and Noreen Staiger (who definitely missed her calling) and our other very talented performers; The Better Age Singers and Senior Center Dancers!

55 Alive Drive Class



Would you like a 10% discount on your auto insurance? Join the next 55 Alive Drive Class set for April. You must be at least 62 years or older. Call the Senior Center at 870-3133 to sign-up.

ADVOCACY GROUP

We are seeking individuals within our community who would like to be part of a new endeavor to advocate the needs of individuals age 60 and older in the areas of health, financial, transportation and socialization concerns. Our goal is to meet on a regular basis to discuss these issues and to attend public hearings at the Legislative Office Building to voice our concerns. If anyone is interested contact Erin Graziani, Senior Center Director, at 870-3133.

Rhonda McCarty, Assessor
870-3109

**HOMEOWNERS’
TAX RELIEF
PROGRAM**



The Homeowners’ Tax Relief Program allows a tax credit for qualifying individuals. To qualify the homeowner (or spouse, if domiciled together) must have been 65 years of age by the end of 2005, reside at the property and meet the income requirements*. Income is defined as adjusted gross income and tax exempt interest, plus any other income not included in the adjusted gross income. Totally disabled persons, regardless of age, are initially eligible for the program provided they have a Social Security Award letter specifying a date of entitlement during the current benefit year or a SSA-1099 with Medicare premiums.

Applications must be filed every two years. If you are currently on the program you will receive an application if it is your year to file. Anna Tuner, NSW/Elderly Outreach Social Worker is available to assist seniors in completing the application. Call her at 870-3131 before May 10, 2005.

The filing period for the homeowners’ program is February 1 through May 15. Applications will be available at the Assessor’s Office beginning in February.

**ADDITIONAL
VETERANS
EXEMPTIONS**



Any person entitled to a veteran’s exemption may also be entitled to additional exemptions if they meet the income requirements*. Applications must be filed every two years. If you are currently on this program you will receive an application if it is your year to file. The filing period for this program is between February 1 and October 1. Applications are available at the Assessors Office.

***Income requirements**

To qualify for the 2005 benefit year the maximum income is:

- \$33,900 for a married couple
- \$27,700 for a single person

From the Registrars of Voters...

The 2005 Town of Ellington Municipal election was held on November 8, 2005. Of the 8,527 registered voters in Ellington, 33 percent or 2,768 people voted on Election Day. The 2005 election turnout showed a slight increase from the 32% participation in the 2003 Municipal election.

While Ellington has one central voting place for town referendums, State law mandates that Ellington maintain two voting districts during Municipal, State and/or Federal elections. District One which votes at Ellington High School had a 33% turn out this year, while District Two had a 39% showing at Crystal Lake School. In comparison, federal elections usually experience increased voter attendance, as was the case in the 2004 Presidential race when Ellington had an 80% voter turn out.

Ellington continues to meet and surpass some surrounding town’s voter turnout percentages. Our goal however in the Registrar’s Office is to always strive for increased voter participation. If you are not a registered voter, we urge you to become one. Residents can register at Town Hall during regular business hours, at Hall Memorial Library, on line at the state’s website www.sots.ct.gov or by calling the Registrar’s Office at (860) 870-3107. Encourage your neighbors and friends to do the same.

You can contribute to Ellington’s success by becoming more familiar with Town politics and events. Please visit the Town of Ellington website at www.ellington-ct.gov for information on town board meetings and consider participating. Dates and times for the meetings and meeting minutes can be found on the town’s website and are also available for review in the Town Clerk’s Office.

As Ellington continues to thrive and grow as a community, be sure to share your personal insight and direction with our Town’s leaders by voting!!

Wanda DeLand
Republican Registrar



Susan Luginbuhl
Democratic Registrar

Winter Weather Cancellations:

Town Office closings and meetings/program cancellations will be posted on the Town’s Website: www.ellington-ct.gov under **Our Town News**. You can also check Channels 3 & 30 for cancellations. The Senior Center follows the same procedures as Ellington Schools: if the schools are closed due to hazardous weather conditions, the Senior Center is closed; no van transportation service.



Ellington Community Development Office
870-3132



Does Your Home Need Repairs?

Ellington Housing Rehabilitation Program Is Seeking Applicants

The Town of Ellington is seeking applicants for its Housing Rehabilitation Program which makes no interest loans for the rehabilitation of residential properties. The funds for the program come from a Small Cities Grant from the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development. To be eligible, low- and moderate-income people must live in the housing units. The program funds repairs to bring the property up to health and safety standards.

How to Apply:

Pick up an application form at the First Selectman's Office at Town Hall or the Community Development Office on the third floor of Town Hall, 55 Main Street, Ellington, or call the Community Development Office at (860) 870-3132 any Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or leave a message for information. Applications can be sent and returned by mail.

Who is Eligible:

All Ellington homeowners with incomes below the following limits, or owner occupant of up to four-family buildings in Ellington when all households meet the following income guidelines:

Income Limits by Family Size							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
40,600	46,400	52,200	58,000	62,650	67,300	71,900	76,550

Type of Assistance:

Financial Assistance - No-interest deferred payment loans, which do not have to be repaid as long as the applicant lives in the home. Grants will be provided for eligible lead paint and asbestos related work. When the home is sold in the future the loan must be repaid to the Town.

Technical Assistance – A Rehabilitation Specialist will inspect the home with the owner and help determine the scope of work to be done. He will also assist the homeowner with hiring a contractor and will monitor work to be done and issue payments.

Type of Rehabilitation Work:

The first priority is to address building code and serious maintenance problems. Typical items include upgrading of electrical, heating and plumbing systems, re-roofing, siding, window replacement, insulation, septic system and well repairs or hookups. Most properties will be inspected for lead paint. Handicapped accessibility modifications are also eligible.

The Town of Ellington complies with all fair housing and civil rights laws. People requesting translation services or needing special assistance will be accommodated.

Call 870-3132 for more information about the program.

Needs Assessment Study

Ellington Human Services Commission hired researchers at the University of Connecticut Center on Aging to:

- ⇒ explore the current and future needs of Ellington citizens who are forty and older
- ⇒ inquire about any concerns residents have related to living in Ellington
- ⇒ ascertain services and programs residents would like to see in Ellington

Study Groups included:

- Ellington residents born before 1946 (60+)
- Ellington residents born between 1946 and 1964 (Boomer)
- Town officials, civic organization leaders, community service providers, medical staff, and high school students.

Survey content included:

- Demographics
- Financial fitness
- Housing (area with added emphasis)
- Health
- Social supports
- Caregiving
- Senior Center: activities and outlook
- Town of Ellington: services and outlook

Selected Survey Results

Demographics

60+	Boomer
Mean age 69.8	Mean age 50.1
70% married	83% married
53% some college	73% some college
98% White	98% White
57% female	60% female
Middle income: \$20K- \$74K (15%)	High income \$100K+ (40%)

Veteran Information

Twenty-nine percent of respondents are veterans having served in World War II, the Korean War or Vietnam War.

Greatest Concerns about Staying in Ellington: 60+ and Boomers: Respondents' greatest concerns are: the cost of living, including the increase in taxes and high property taxes; that the town will lose its rural beauty and country charm; the lack of availability of transportation, and the scarcity of affordable housing for older people.

Services Desired in the Future by 60+ and Boomers

Services that would be helpful to respondents in the future include:

- ⇒ reasonably priced maintenance service and repairs
- ⇒ availability of transportation
- ⇒ health services including home health aide services
- ⇒ transportation
- ⇒ home health aide
- ⇒ homemaker services

Programs for Ellington's 60+ and Boomers

Programs Ellington's 60+ and Boomer respondents would like offered to them include:

- a wider range of recreational activities
- educational programs
- health services that include prescription
- discounts and medical screening
- reduction in cost of living that includes tax relief or discounts on taxes

Ways to make Ellington a friendlier place:

- Increase public safety and quality of living
- Improve Department of Transportation services
- Expand shops, restaurants, and develop businesses
- Expand services, such as respite services, longer library hours
- Develop and maintain parks for leisure and recreation
- Greater affordability – lower taxes

A Bright Future for Ellington

Overall, respondents want Ellington to maintain its rural, small town feel and don't want the town to become too commercial. They suggest that a more stable tax rate, affordable housing for older people, and better transportation services would make Ellington a better place to live.

Respondents stressed the importance of looking to the future when planning and for the need to have a balanced community in which all needs are being met equally. Most survey participants agree that Ellington is one of the nicest towns around and suggest that town planners protect what they value by looking to the future and developing a master plan that will control growth carefully, protect the positive aspects of Ellington, and make it possible for residents to age in place.

PUBLIC MEETING:

A public meeting will be held on January 24 (tentative date) to discuss the full Needs Assessment Report. Look for the Press Release in the Journal Inquirer or check our website—www.ellington-ct.gov to verify the date and location.

Any questions, call Human Services at 870-3128.

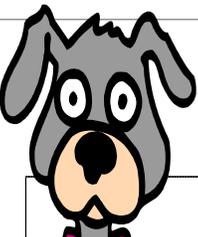
Vacancies

Board/Commission Vacancies

Several vacancies exist on the following Boards/Commissions:

- ⇒ Board of Assessment Appeals Alternate (3)
- ⇒ Central Regional Tourism District (1)
- ⇒ Conservation Commission (1)
- ⇒ Cultural Arts (3)
- ⇒ Economic Development Alternate (1)
- ⇒ Housing Authority (1)
- ⇒ North Central District Health Department Board of Directors (1)
- ⇒ Permanent Building Committee (2)
- ⇒ Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate (1)

If you are interested in serving, please call the First Selectman's Office (870-3100) to request a Statement of Interest Form or download the form from the website; www.ellington-ct.gov; select 'Government'; select 'Boards & Commissions'; select 'Vacancies'. Meetings are usually held monthly in the evening.



Barbara Murdach
Animal Control Officer
870-3155

Dogs

six months or older must be licensed. Dog licenses are available in the Town Clerk's Office.

Fee:

- \$19 Male/Female
- \$ 8 Neutered/Spayed
- \$1 per month late fee for dogs licensed after 6/30/05.

Every Town is charged under Connecticut General Statutes with the responsibility of licensing dogs annually by July 1 and conducting a diligent search thereafter for any unlicensed dogs. The Ellington Animal Control Department is presently conducting a door to door search to be sure all dogs are properly licensed as this provides a means of verifying compliance with the requirement for current rabies vaccinations. Pets not protected from rabies can serve as a vector in the transmission of this fatal virus to humans. There is a \$75 per dog fine for failure to license dogs 6 months and older. To avoid this fine, you can obtain a dog license in the Town Clerk's office. Please bring your certificates for rabies and spaying or neutering.

Peter Michaud
Public Works Director
870-3140

Winter Sand

Sand is available to resident through the winter months. The pile is located at the Town Garage, 21 Main Street on the Firehouse side.

Christmas Trees



Christmas Trees will be picked up during the first two weeks of January. Please leave them at the curb, butt-end out and free of ornamentation and tree stands. If the trees are not cleaned, they will not be picked up. If residents prefer, they may bring them to the Town Garage any time and leave them by the red shed.

Mailboxes

Public Works asks residents to make sure their mailboxes are securely fastened to the posts and that the post is not rotted. Mailboxes should be placed 12 inches behind the curb. A properly installed mailbox should not be affected by the impact of snow.

Snow Plowing



As residents may have noticed, there are many new subdivisions coming on line in Town. With these new roads, it may take longer to get all the streets plowed. We are asking residents to be patient regarding this process as we work out the details.

Hoffman Road Brush Drop Off Area

CLOSED FOR THE SEASON

It will open up again on April 1, 2006

2005 Leaf Collection



The Town of Ellington would like to thank the residents for a smooth transition into using the paper bags for this year's leaf collection. We will continue to require paper leaf bags for future pick ups.



ELLINGTON RECREATION DEPARTMENT 2006 WINTER PROGRAM FLIER

**Address:**

31 Arbor Way P.O. Box 187

Email: recreation@ellington-ct.gov**Office Hours :**

Monday 8:30 am-6 pm Friday 8:30 am-1:30 pm

Tuesday-Thursday 8:30 am-4:00 pm

Phone: (860) 870-3118**Fax:** (860) 870-3198

General Information: In the event of snow or bad weather, the Recreation Department will put all program cancellations on our website www.ellington-ct.gov and on television. Tune in to Channels 3 and 30 to check if there is a cancellation which will be listed under "Ellington Recreation Department". We reserve the right to limit class size and to cancel classes failing to meet minimum requirements. Ellington residents are given preference for all programs during the 1st week of registration.

Registration Information: All Registrations are currently being accepted in the Recreation Office by computer entry during regular office hours (see hours above).

PAYMENT: Registration is not considered valid until the program fee is paid in FULL. We accept checks and cash ONLY.

- **NON-RESIDENTS:** Add \$5/program./participant.
- **REFUNDS:** Refunds are given only prior to the start of classes or if we cancel the program. Requests for refunds must be in writing and are subject to a \$3 processing fee.

Sponsorship Opportunities: Ellington businesses continue to support the Town of Ellington Recreation programs, as well as promote their respective businesses. Opportunities for sponsorship include sponsoring athletic teams, taking out an advertisement on the outfield fence on the Lisa M. Monti girl's softball field, sponsoring an event or program, sponsoring the "Summer Concert Series" and/or making a donation. Contact Bob Tedford at the Recreation Office if you would like to discuss the possibilities.

ADA Statement: The Recreation Department complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability. ADA requires that recreation programs be implemented in the most integrated setting possible, appropriate for each individual. Persons with disabilities are encouraged to contact the Recreation Department regarding any accommodations needed to assist with participating in, and the enjoyment of, any program or event.

Insurance: All persons participating in Ellington Parks and Recreation Programs should carry their own personal health insurance. The Town of Ellington is not responsible for personal injuries. Participants in Recreation Department-sponsored programs do so at their own risk. Only those enrolled in the program may attend. Sorry, children will not be allowed in the classroom or gymnasium during adult programs, and siblings must remain seated and not disturb youth classes.

Special Recreation Department Ski Trips!

**Pre-registration required for all trips.
Winter 2006 Day Ski Trips**

**Mt. Southington Ski Area
January 21, 29; February 11, 26
9:00 AM—4:30 PM
(Saturdays & Sundays)**

Registration Information:

Registration begins immediately. In order for the program to be held a minimum of 30 skiers will be required to cover the expenses of the lift ticket and transportation. A final determination will be made 3 days prior to each printed date in regard to weather conditions and actual enrollment/paid registrants. **NO REFUNDS** (unless mitigating circumstances prevail). Fee cannot be prorated. Passes cannot be transferred to another skier or snowboarder. Pre-Registration is required at the Recreation Office (31 Arbor Way) and **FULL** payment is required at time of registration. Ages 7 to 11 require adult supervision. Minimum age for ski lessons: 7; minimum age for snowboard lessons: 9.

FREE SKIING FOR CHAPERONES

**Mt. Southington Ski Area
Group Rates:**

Bus Fee: to be added



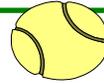
	Adults (AGES 13 & UP)	Youth (AGES 6-12)
Lift only	\$25.00	\$23.00
Ski lift & lesson	\$33.00	\$31.00
Ski lift & Rental	\$41.00	\$38.00
Ski lift/Lesson/Rental	\$46.00	\$44.00
Snowboard Lift & Lesson	\$35.00	\$31.00
Snowboard Lift & Rental	\$44.00	\$40.00
Snowboard Lift/Lesson/Rental	\$54.00	\$46.00

Please contact Rec Dept @ 870-3118 for more information.

Employment Opportunities: The Recreation Department employs part-time personnel for various seasonal positions including Waterfront Staff, Day Camp Staff, Referees, Umpires and Instructors who can share their special skills with the community. Pick up an application at the Recreation Office ~ 31 Arbor Way.



Adult Sports



CLASS	DATES	TIME	AGES	FEE	LOCATION
Men's Volleyball	Tuesdays January 11-March 15	7:30-9:30 pm	18 + up	\$10	Windermere School
Women's Volleyball	Wednesdays January 4—April 26	6:15-7:30 pm	18+ up	\$10	Windermere School
Co-Ed Volleyball	Wednesdays January 4—April 12	7:30-9:00 pm	18+ up	\$10	EMS
Men's Informal Basketball	Monday Evenings January thru June	5:00-6:45pm	Under 30	\$10	Windermere School
		6:00-8:30pm	Over 30	\$10	Middle School
Tennis Lessons (Indoor Lessons)	Session 1: Cardio Jan 20,27; Feb 3,10,17,24	9:00-10:00 am	Adult	\$75	Grande Meadows, MA
	Session 2: March 1,8,15,22	7:00-8:00pm	Adult Beginner	\$35	EHS
Instructors: Conrad McIntire & Rich Willis	Session 3: March 29; April 5,12,26	7:00-8:00pm	Ages 13 & Up	\$35	EHS
Adult Women's Indoor Soccer (pre-registration and payment required 1 week prior to each session.) Adjustments maybe made regarding actual assigned time frames pending final enrollment	Session 1: Jan. 19,26; Feb. 2,9	7:30-9:30pm	18 & up	\$20	Windermere School Gym
	Session 2: Feb. 16,23; March 29				
	Session 3: March 16,23,30; April 6				
INDOOR Golf Lessons	Session 1: Feb . 28; March 7,14,21	6:00-7:00pm	Ages 8 to 12	\$30	Crystal Lake School
	Instructor: Jamie Lloyd PGA Professional	Session 2: March 28; April 4,11,18	7:00-8:00pm		
Adult Competitive Basketball	Thursday Evenings Ongoing	7:30-10 pm	18+ up	Team Fee	Middle School
Women's Informal Basketball	Monday Evenings Ongoing	7:15-9:00pm	18+ up	\$9	Center School
Adult Indoor Soccer Co-ed	Jan. 4,11,18,25 Feb. 1,8,15,22 March 1,8,15,22,29	7:30-9:30 pm	18 & up	\$15	Windermere School

CO-ED SOFTBALL (INDOOR and OUTDOOR) Are you interested in playing WOMENS AND/OR CO-ED SOFTBALL IN TOWN? (18 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER) Skill level or prior experience does NOT matter. The goal is to provide for a recreation opportunity and to have fun together. The possibility exists of providing some pre-season indoor practice times during the month of April. Contact the Recreation Office via e-mail: recreation@ellington-ct.gov or by phone: 870-3118.



ACTIVITY	DATES	TIME	AGES	FEE	LOCATION
Tiny Tot Indoor Tennis Lessons	Session 1: Jan. 21,28;Feb 10,17,24; March 3	11:45am -12:30 pm	3-5 years	\$70	Grande Meadows MA
	Session 2: Mar 2,9,16,23,30; Apr 6, 13, 27	4:30-5:30 pm		\$35	CL School or Windermere
Pee Wee Indoor Tennis Lessons	Session 1: Jan 21,28; Feb 4,11,18,25	11am—11:45 am	5-7 Years	\$70	Grande Meadow, MA
	Session 2: Mar 9,16,23,30; Apr 6,13,27	5:30 –6:30 pm		\$35	CL School or Windermere
Munchkins Pre-school Program (potty trained) Instructors: Mary Bartley Diane Lasher-Penti	Session 2:March 2,9,16,23,30; April 6	9:30-11:00 am	3 to 4 years	\$75 Session 2	Arbor Commons 1
	Session 3:May 4,11,18,25 10 maximum per session Space is Limited			\$50 Session 3	
Intro to Art	Jan 23,30; Feb 6,13,20	4:30-5:30 pm	Adults	\$20	Arbor Commons I
Chorale	Wednesdays	10:30—11:45 am	Seniors	\$1 PER WEEK	Senior Center
Floor Hockey (Friday Nights)	Jan. 13,20,27	5:30-6:45pm	Grades 5-6	\$7	Windermere School
	Feb. 3,10,17	6:45-8:00pm	Grades 7-8		
Actor's Workshop	Session 1: Feb. 22	1:00-4:00pm	Grades 1-4	\$15	Arbor Commons 1
	Session 2: Feb. 22	9:00-12NOON	Grades 5-8		
Teen Dancercise	Session 1: Jan. 25; Feb. 1,8,15	2:30-3:30pm	Grades 7-8	\$20	EHS
	Session 2: March 1,8,15,22		Grades 9-12		
Youth Volleyball	Jan. 18,25; Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22	5:15-6:15pm	Grades 5-6	\$7	Windermere School
High School Volleyball	Jan. 18,25;Feb. 1,8,15,22	6:15-7:30pm	Grades 9-12	\$7	Windermere School
Kickboxing	Jan. 18, 25; Feb. 1,8,15	4:30-6:00pm	Grades 9-12	\$10	EHS
Music & Movement for Tots!	Session 1: March 7,14,21,28; April 4,11,25;May 2 \$60(8 week class)	9:30am-10:15am	Ages 1-3 years (minimum of 6 needed to run program)	\$60	Arbor Commons 1
	Session 2: May 9,16,23,30; June 6,13 \$45 (6 week program) (Non-residents + \$5.00)			\$45	

Tennis for Tots: Uses special racquets and balls with games designed to help your children begin to develop balance and hand/eye coordination while having lots of fun!

Pee Wee Tennis: Children are exposed to the lifetime sport of tennis with special equipment and fun games to lay the foundation of tennis, the sport for life!

Actor's Workshop: Calling all aspiring Actors, Directors, Writers and general Theater Lovers. The Rec. Dept. is now offering a one day workshop in youth theater. If you are interested in getting involved in theater production or just getting a personal introduction, join us for some fun and games (theater style). No experience necessary just bring along your imagination.

NEW Music & Movement for Tots! A program geared just for toddlers ages 1-3yrs. Come play, sing, dance, and move to the beat. This stimulating program will introduce children to a wide variety of music & instruments. Instructor Jill Maznicki will lead the class in finger plays, songs and bounces. The children will gain increased attention span, learn valuable social skills and strengthen the bond with the adult who accompanies them. So hop on the band wagon, sign up that special little someone in your life for great fun!!

ACTIVITY	DATES	TIME	AGES	FEE	LOCATION
Women's Self-Defense	March 13,20	6:00-7:15 pm	12 + up	No Fee	Center School
Jukido	Ongoing– Resuming Jan. 5—June 8	5:30-6:45 pm	6 + up	\$35 per session	Windermere School Gymnasium
Youth & Adult Tap Dance (Min. 8 to run classes)	Session 1: Jan.16,23,30 Feb. 6,13,20 Session 2: Feb. 27; Mar . 6,13,20,27;April 3	6:30-7:15 pm 7:15—8:15 pm	6-12 Years 18 & up	\$35 per session	Windermere School Gymnasium
Youth INDOOR soccer CO-ED	Session 1: Jan. 3,10,17,24,31 Session 2: Feb7,14,21,28;Mar14	7:30-10pm	Grades 7-12	\$7 per session	Ellington Middle School
Youth INDOOR Soccer CO-ED	Session 2: March 14,21,28 April 4,11	5:45-6:45pm 6:45-8:00pm 8:00-9:15pm	Grades 3-4 Grades 5-6 Grades 7-8	\$10	Ellington Middle School
CPR/First Aid (Min. 6 to run class)	Session 1: Jan. 11 & 15 Session 2: Jan. 25 & 27	6:00—9:30 pm	All Coaches	\$7 per session	Arbor Commons 2
CPOHEART Child and Babysitting Safety Course	Session 1: January 9 & 11 Session 2: February 7 & 9 Session 3: March 14 & 16 Session 4: April 11 & 13	3 -6PM MIN. 10 MAX. 14	11—15 years Boys & Girls	\$40 per Session	Arbor Commons 2 All sessions
NYSCA Coaches Clinic	Session 1: Jan. 12 Session 2: Feb. 2	6:30:-9:30pm	All Rec. Coaches	No Fee	Arbor Commons

Women's Self-Defense: Two classes with Instructor Todd Sise who will teach and demonstrate self-defense techniques. Good program for mother/daughter! Designed to provide for instruction in the basic self-defense format that may help in day-to-day life. The program will cover many items that are acceptable and non-acceptable to being prepared for one's self-preservation!! Highlighting tips on things to avoid, misnomers on self-defense and what women can and "cannot" do!!

Jukido Jujitsu: is a realistic approach to self-defense. Instructor Todd Sise is a 2nd degree black belt in Jukido Jujitsu and certified instructor of self-defense. Learn self-defense and self-esteem in a fun and relaxed environment from a well-established martial arts system!! No contracts, no hidden fees, no uniform requirements, join class at anytime during a session. Classes will accommodate all skill levels. Jukido is a Japanese style of Jujitsu. It is traditional in the sense the Jukido's techniques are drawn from many of the oldest martial arts in the world! Jukido emphasis self defense through hard work, self-discipline and self-esteem. Jukido is a great family activity.

Tap Dance: Instructor Tressa Giordano will demonstrate why TAP is a great way to improve coordination and balance while working out your heart and muscles. Learn the basics and put it all together via fun and exciting dance combinations. Listen to music from the 50's, Big Band, Broadway and much more!!

CPR/First Aid: This clinic is recommended for parent volunteer coaches that are providing assistance for children. Mary Bartley, Program Instructor, is American Red Cross certified. Attendance is required for both sessions.



Ellington Recreation Department & Vernon Lanes present...

Special After School Mini 6-Week Bowling Program

March 1, 8,15,22,29; April 5, 2006

Grades 1-8

Bus transportation provided to Vernon Lanes from the following schools: Center, Crystal Lake, Windermere and Ellington Middle Schools. Parents will be responsible for picking up their children at the Vernon Lanes.

Cost: \$60 includes 1-1/2 hours of bowling, shoe rental, transportation to Vernon Lanes and free pizza party at end of program. A flyer will be sent out the 2nd week of January with further information. Call Mary at the Recreation Department—870-3118.

Summer Day Camp: The full day and half day SUMMER CAMP programs offered in 2005 proved to be extremely popular and enjoyable for the children that had the opportunity to make new friends, renew existing friendships and enjoy the company of an energetic Camp Staff!! In order to expand the type of offerings (day trips, special events) the Recreation Department NEEDS to receive feedback from the residents as soon as possible. Day trips will require a slight fee increase to accommodate any transportation. Please take time to respond as soon as possible—recreation@ellington-ct.gov or 870-3118. A master e-mail list will be compiled from those responding which will allow for an all-points mailing with updated information. Tentative Start: June 26, 2006. *Before Care & After Care will be provided, additional fees required.*



HOT SHOT BASKETBALL SHOOTING CONTEST

Sunday, January 22 @ EMS 1-4pm

Fee: \$3/player

ELLINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Time Frame	1-2pm	2-3pm	3-4pm
Age groups:	9-10	11-12	13-15



Each player will have one minute to shoot from designated "hotspots" placed on one-half of the court. The contest challenges a player's speed, shooting, dribbling and rebounding ability. The top scorer moves on to the next level of the contest within Tolland County, and ultimately qualifies for State level qualification. Age corresponds to the age of the child on or before Dec. 31, 2005. A Parent/Child portion will also be scheduled.

Pre-Registration required no later than January 17

ANNUAL DICK GUNN AND CLARE LANDMANN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS



THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE that the 2006 Dick Gunn (boys) and Clare Landmann (girls) Recreational Division Basketball Tournaments will be held in late February to mid-March. Named after 2 long-time volunteers, who helped shape the recreational opportunities in the Town of Ellington today, the 2006 Recreation Division Tournaments will have to go a long way to match the excitement and outstanding competition that evolved during the 2005 Tournaments, involving boys and girls' teams in grades 3-4, 5-6 and 7-8.

Volunteers are being sought to help assist the Recreation Department with the 2006 Tournaments.

Please call the Recreation Office @ 870-3118 or e-mail recreation@ellington-ct.gov if you can help.

BASKETBALL OFFICIALS:

Find yourself a spot in the rotation, become one of many quality basketball officials that receive assignments within the Recreation Department's TRAVEL AND RECREATION DIVISION BASKETBALL LEAGUES. The Recreation Department is providing a mandatory pre-season basketball official's clinic, a combined classroom and floor mechanics format, to all youth and adults ages 14 and up. The Central Connecticut Board (#6) of approved (IAABO) basketball officials organization will be providing clinicians/rule interpreters for the classes. Pre-register by calling the Recreation Office at 870-3118.



Boy's Informal Basketball ~ Grades 9-12

Practice: Friday Evenings ~ 7:15-9:00 PM
Center School ~ Fee: \$15

Bob Vaida serves as Program Supervisor. Pre-registration is required at the Recreation Office. Scrimmages are held in-house and attempts are underway to schedule games with surrounding towns.

Girl's Informal Basketball ~ Grades 9-12

Dates, Times & Location to be determined
Fee: \$15

Jim Close and Rick Pallotti will serve as Program Supervisors. Scrimmages are held in-house and attempts are underway to schedule games with surround towns.



Ellington Little League Baseball

2006 Registration Information



Baseball Bash for players 7—10 years old

Date: March 25, 2006 **Time:** 9:30am—noon **Place:** Ellington Middle School

Free Skills Clinic
 Games
 Prizes

To register for the Baseball Bash, e-mail ellingtonLL@sbcglobal.net

*We are in need of Volunteers for help with field projects, coaching, registrations, web site updates, program development, fundraising, equipment, umpiring, opening day activities end of year picnic.
Please contact Jeff at ellingtonLL@sbcglobal.net*

Visit our web site
www.eteamz.com/ELL



Little League Baseball Registration

<u>Sign Up Dates:</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Feb. 4 Saturday	9:00am—12noon	Ellington High School Cafeteria
Feb. 6 Monday	6:00 pm—8:00pm	Rec Dept—Arbor Commons
Feb. 11 Saturday	9:00am—12noon	Ellington High School Cafeteria

Note: FIRST TIME PLAYERS must bring a BIRTH CERTIFICATE to registration!!
Returning players do not need their Birth Certificate

Major League Tryout Dates

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>1st Tryouts-Indoors Middle School March 30—Thursday</u>	<u>2nd Tryout-Outdoors Brookside Park April 1—Saturday</u>	<u>Rain Date Brookside Park April 2— Sunday</u>
12 yr olds	7:00-8:30pm	10:00-11:00am	1:00pm
11 yr olds	7:00-8:30pm	11:00-12:30pm	2:00pm
10 yr olds	5:30-7:00pm	12:30-2:15pm	3:15pm
13-14 yr olds	N/A	11:00am-1:00pm	1:00pm

Farm/Minor Leagues

NO TRYOUTS—League Director & Coaches will place the players on teams.

The Ellington Little League Program is an all-volunteer organization governed by a fifteen-member Board of Directors. The league is affiliated with Little League, Inc. The league follows the rules and guidelines set forth by the National Organization in Williamsport. We are not affiliated with the Ellington Recreation Department.

If you have any questions, Please contact any of the following Directors:

<i>Rich Della Penna</i>	<i>Instructional League Director</i>	<i>871-6392</i>
<i>Alex Kapinos</i>	<i>Junior/Senior League Director</i>	<i>872-6815</i>
<i>Russ Binkowski</i>	<i>Major League Director</i>	<i>872-1189</i>
<i>Paul Stein</i>	<i>Farm/Minor League Director</i>	<i>875-1539</i>



If you are interested in helping with CONCESSIONS, please contact ellingtonLL@sbcglobal.net

WE NEED UMPIRES— if interested, please contact ellingtonLL@sbcglobal.net



Ellington Little League Girls Softball

2006 Registration Information



Softball Registration Dates

Dates	Time	Place
Saturday Feb. 4	9:00am-12noon	Ellington High School Cafeteria
Tuesday Feb. 7	6:00pm-8:00pm	Arbor Commons
Saturday Feb. 11	9:00am—12 noon	Ellington High School Cafeteria

Make checks payable to:

ELLINGTON LITTLE LEAGUE GIRLS SOFTBALL

Families with two or more softball players will receive a \$5.00 reduction per child.

First 50 girls registered will be entered in a drawing for a chance to WIN a ****FREE** 2006 Registration.**

Registration forms will be mailed in mid-January to all returning players who are eligible for 2006. Parent/legal guardian must bring completed forms along with payment to one of the registration dates. First year players are required to provide an original Birth Certificate at time of registration.

FEE\$

ROOKIE & MINORS: \$50.00

MAJOR/ JUNIOR / SENIOR \$60.00

The fees listed cover ongoing expenses necessary for the league to run the program. They do not cover any enhancements to the program. For 2006, families will be expected to contribute to fundraising.

2006 Softball Evaluation Clinic

Saturday, March 25
Ellington High School

Minors 9-10 yr olds 8:30 am —10:30 am

Majors 11-12 yr olds 11:00 am—1:00 pm

Juniors/Seniors 13-16 yr olds: Evaluation date will be determined once registration is complete.

Rookies 7 & 8 year old: NO EVALUATION; league coaches will select their teams.

Important Information:

- A player's placement is based on age, not grade level, as of December 31, 2005.
- A player may play in a higher division but not in a lower. Example: an 8 year old must attend the 7-8 yr old clinic but may also take part in the 9-10 yr old clinic if she has an interest in being selected to the higher division. Placement is based on:
 1. Safety, 2. Skill Level and 3. Available Roster Space.
- Requests for team placement cannot be guaranteed.
- Practices will begin when weather conditions allow for proper pre-season maintenance of the softball fields.

Come dressed appropriately with sneakers and your glove.

No bats are needed.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: NEW LEAGUE AGE DETERMINATION DATE FOR 2006

In May 2005, the little League International Board of Directors accepted a recommendation from USA Baseball to change the league age determination date for its players starting in the 2006 season. The league age determination date is the age a player has attained as of a specific date. The old date was July 31. The new date for Little League Softball will be Dec. 31 of the previous year. **For more information go to www.littleleague.org**

Attention Parents & Coaches: Pre-Season Little League Rules/Coaches Clinic is planned for the first week of **April 2006**. Date, time and location still to be determined.

ALL MANAGERS AND COACHES FOR THE 2006 SEASON WILL BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are needed for:

- coaching
- registrations
- concession stand
- opening day activities or season ending picnic.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact

Lori Savino @ 871-7703

***Umpires are NEEDED please contact Bob Tedford @ 870-3118**

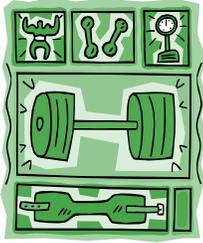


Connecticut BOMBERS Girls Softball Clinics

Two Clinics are being presented by the Connecticut Bombers & Ellington Little League Girls Softball and are open to any child who has registered for the 2006 season.

Dates & Times to be scheduled in early March. More information to follow. Players will be able to sign up for various clinics at registration.





Weight Training at EHS

A newly renovated strength and conditioning facility at the Ellington High School is available for use by Ellington residents ages 14 years and up. The facility features a complete line of new equipment including; A Smith machine, Squat and Hack squat racks, a calf machine, bicep and triceps machines, lat pull down machines, as well as adjustable benches and an array of dumbbells. The facility will be staffed by a Recreation Supervisor who will conduct orientations and facilitate proper care and use of equipment.

Open use at the Fitness Center during the hours and dates posted will be in effect unless the size of the facility does NOT allow for adequate use by the registrants. If that occurs, the Town of Ellington reserves the right to readjust the scheduled use of the facility and may implement a specific time frame/pre-registration format, on a weekly basis. Further, the Town of Ellington reserves the right to reduce or revamp the Fitness Center's operational hours based on the actual number of registrations and payments received. Revenue collected for the operation of the Center will cover the costs of staffing the facility and contributing toward the upkeep of the equipment. (2 Evenings per week, to be determined; minimum of 12 registrants per night for program to run)

Weeknights: 7:00 PM—9:00 PM

Week of January 16
Week of January 23
Week of January 30
Week of February 6

Week of February 13
Week of February 27
Week of March 6
Week of March 13

Saturdays: 1:00pm-3:00pm

Jan. 14, 21, 28; Feb. 4,11,18,25;
March 4,11,18

Fees: Students 14-18:
\$2.00 per week

Adults \$30:
includes all Sessions

Pre-Registration Required

Group Fitness Classes: Pre-registration is required. Full payment is required at time of registration. No credits unless documented illness or mitigating circumstances.

Town of Ellington Fitness Policy

- All participants must complete registration forms and a *Physical Activity Readiness Questionnaire (PAR-Q)*. A physician's referral may be required before participation.
- Children 14 years and older are welcome with a participating adult.



Kripalu Yoga

Thursdays
6:30-8:00pm
Hall Memorial Library



An athletic, flowing, challenging practice that emphasizes breath, core strength and concentration. Learn about the links between movement and breath, soothing poses, and flexibility and strength. This class brings health to the mind, body and spirit.

Instructor: Wayne Morganson
Session Dates: 12/15-1/26/06 & 02/02-03/16/06
Fee: \$40.00 per session

Pilates

Mondays, 7:30-8:30pm
Center School

With an emphasis on breath, core conditioning and body awareness, Pilates exercise is a safe and effective way to stretch, strengthen and streamline your body. The perfect complement to cardiovascular exercise. Bring a sticky mat, water bottle and stability ball.

Session Dates:

Jan. 9,23,30;
Feb. 6,13,27

Fee: \$35.00

Instructor: Joanne Britton



Fitness Fusion

Tuesdays, 7:30-8:30pm
Center School



Lots of high-energy cardio intervals blended with multiple muscle group toning. Nearly a solid hour of continuous movement, this program is sure to build strength and improve endurance—with zero opportunity to get bored. All fitness levels welcome. Bring mat, water bottle, stability ball and two sets of dumbbells (5# and 8# OR 8# and 10#)

Session Dates: Jan 10,17,24,31;
Feb 7,14

Fee: \$40.00 per 6 week session

Instructor: Joanne Britton



What is Lacrosse?? Lacrosse is a sport which is played in the spring. It combines the physicality of football, the speed and intensity of hockey, the stamina of soccer, and the fundamentals of basketball. If you play any of these sports you'd probably be good at Lacrosse! *No previous experience necessary!*

Ellington is starting a **Boys 7th & 8th grade** travel team as well as a **Girls 7th & 8th grade** team. Play includes teams from Tolland, Granby, Suffield, Somers and Rockville. We are looking for 15-25 players per team. The preliminary cost will be **approximately \$44* per player**.—Includes: \$16 in league fees (Officials); \$28 for Uniforms.

* This fee is based on 25 players on the Team and does not include equipment. (Recreation Department is currently working on finding the lowest price for equipment packages.)

The Recreation Department will also offer youth Lacrosse for both **boys and girls in 3rd—6th Grades**. Games will be played against other surrounding towns. No previous experience required. Players will co-op with Somers Lacrosse Program. The Preliminary cost: \$55 for 3rd & 4th grade** \$65 for 4th & 5th grade + uniform**

**Does not include equipment.

Ellington currently has both boys & girls lacrosse teams at the High School. Anyone interested in playing when they get to the high school should take advantage of this opportunity. Questions? Contact the Recreation Department @ 870-3118, or Dave Giordano (EHS Boys Varsity Coach) @ 280-7739.

BEGINNERS COACHING (SOCCER) CLINICS



Individuals seeking to enter the coaching ranks or just wishing to increase their knowledge of the game of soccer will now have that opportunity as the Recreation Department will offer a series of coaching clinics designed to assist the novice or intermediate with improving his/her grasp of the game of soccer. Three (3) clinics will be provided and the following curriculum will be covered.

- **Session 1: Individual ball skills emphasizing ball control, dribbling, juggling and trapping.**
- **Session 2: Advanced skills emphasizing passing, shooting and one on one defending.**
- **Session 3: Practice drills to emphasize individual and team skills, games and drills to develop all aspects of play.**

Coordinating the clinic will be Mike Pantuosco, currently the J.V. Boys Soccer Coach at Ellington High School. Mr. Pantuosco has been active in the sport of soccer as a participant and coach for over 30 years. As a three-year member and starter on the Babson College squad, Mike had the good fortune of being on an NCAA Championship Team. Coach Pantuosco has a knack for teaching the finer points of the game, and encourages all novice and interested youth and adults to register as soon as possible. The clinics will be designed so coaches can adapt their practices to the age or grade level being taught at the time. Dates for the clinics are not finalized, pending final registration, however, mid-March is the target date. Contact the Recreation Office @ 870-3118 immediately to register .

There is No Fee for the clinics.

MOMS Club of Ellington/Tolland

Are you an at-home Mom looking for a support community? Do you want to be involved in lots of fun and educational activities for your kids? Do you want to make some great new friends who are also at-home Moms in your community? *Then we are the club for you!*

The MOMS (Moms Offering Moms Support) Club is an international non-profit organization that offers support for mothers who are at home raising their children. Some of our members work part time, work an evening shift, or have a home-based business. No matter your situation, you are welcome to come and explore our offerings!

We offer monthly calendars filled with great activities like park dates, museum trips, arts & crafts, socials, play dates, Moms Night Out and more! We have a Book Club, Recipe Club, and many different play groups. Your personal interests determine your participation! Meet other at-home Moms in your town and form great friendships. Be a supportive part of the community through our fundraising efforts and community service projects. Children are an integral part of our purpose.....they are welcomed at all of our daytime events.

If you are interested in finding out more, please call Tanya at (860) 870-8689. There is no obligation to join – just call to find out what the MOMS Club has to offer.



TOWN OF ELLINGTON HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The Town Hall will be closed on the following dates:

Jan. 16 Martin Luther King Day
Feb. 20 Presidents' Day
April 14 Good Friday*

* Rubbish collection will be delayed 1 day for the Good Friday holiday.



Blood Drive

February 3, 2006

1:00 PM—5:45 PM

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
2 Maple Street, Ellington, CT

For an appointment,

CALL 1-800-GIVE LIFE (1-800-448-3543)

Walk-ins welcome 2:00—4:00 PM



Town Hall Hours

Monday

8:30 am—6:00 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

8:30 am—4:00 pm

Friday

8:30 am—1:30 pm

A copy of this newsletter is available online ~ log onto

www.ellington-ct.gov

Go to our website and sign up for **Auto-mail** to get the latest Town info via e-mail. You will receive timely information throughout the year regarding holiday trash delays, road closings, referendums and election polling hours, special events, cancellations, reminders and the Ellington Connection. At any point you may unsubscribe from this service. Your personal information and e-mail address will not be shared or used for political campaigns.

If you would like to place an article in the Ellington Connection, contact Marie Sauvé in the First Selectman's Office @ 870-3100 or email mSauve@ellington-ct.gov

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