

Preserve the Past...Build the Future

President's message

On behalf of the Ellington Historical Society I would like to thank the many businesses, contractors and residents of Ellington and beyond, for their tremendous support over these past several months. We look forward to growing together and creating a special place where our history can be preserved and enjoyed. In order to do this, we need your help and support. Personal, family and business membership dues are still our number one way to generate the much needed revenue to continue the upkeep of our Nellie McKnight Museum. Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you over the upcoming months.

Mark Maicolek

Annual Dues

It's time to send in your yearly membership dues. Single membership is \$20, family \$40 and business \$150. This is a main source of income to maintain the museum property.

You can submit your dues online via <https://www.ellingtonhistsoc.org/join> or by snail mail to Ellington Historical Society, PO Box 73, Ellington CT. 06029. If you joined the Historical Society after April, 2021 you are all set until next year.



Local Business Generosity Continues

We have once again been blessed by the generosity of local businesses and we can not thank them enough for their help. Basch Masonry and Frank's Landscaping put their expertise and talents together to reconstruct the back entry granite steps. They are now both beautiful and very easy to negotiate. It is truly a work of art.

Roger Maynard, owner of H & D Welding, has refurbished and installed an additional handrail for the back steps. We now have vintage railings on both sides of the back stairway entrance. Another incredible job by a generous local craftsman.

Jeff Cowart, owner of Green Electric has installed lighting in the Farm Exhibit Building. The lights were donated by Steve Robinson, owner of Wattsaver Lighting Products. What a difference they make when viewing the exhibit.

Tim Cote, owner of Conventional Builders, resolved a leak coming from the roof into the upstairs bathroom. It had proven to be a tough one but Tim persevered to get it fixed. The roofing is in good condition but an 1812 house always has secret pathways!

We are so fortunate to live in a community with such giving business owners who are willing to volunteer their services.



New Back Porch Railings, Sink and Pump

We are in the process of adding railings to the back porch which improves the safety and adds a bit of charm. Jeff and John McKnight, nephews of Nellie, have graciously donated the railings from the porch at the McKnight farmhouse on Sadds Mill Rd. Thanks go out to Mark Wasielewski who is in the process of refurbishing and installing the railings. One section is now installed. Mark has also secured the water pump, donated by Mike Hoffman, near the stone sink.



Fall Festival

Our first ever Fall Festival took place Saturday October 16th. Twelve businesses and community organizations joined the event offering activities and games for children to enjoy, all free of charge. The event was well attended, enjoyed by many and helped to put our museum "on the map" The Ellington Congregational Church coordinated with us by holding their Farmhouse Fair at the same time. It was a great way to attract diverse crowds to both events. We look forward to expanding the event next year.



McKnight Holiday Marketplace



A NEW HOLIDAY ADDITION, FILLED TO THE BRIM WITH EVEN MORE HOLIDAY DECOR, ARTISAN FINDS, SPECIALTY COLLECTIONS AND SEASONAL BARGAINS!

New Holiday Marketplace

In an effort to fill our coffers by year's end for a bit of a financial cushion, we have set up a new Holiday Market Place in the Farm Exhibit Building. The marketplace will be open for shopping Saturdays 10-2, beginning October 23rd, through Christmas, Black Friday November 30th, Sunday December 19th and during the Ellington WinterFest December 4th from 10am-7pm.

The Holiday Marketplace is filled to the brim with holiday decor, artisan finds, specialty collections and seasonal bargains. The house museum, Nellie's Mercantile and the Vintage Wares Barn will also be open on all the dates. The classic old fashion mercantile features farmhouse collections, town themed Ellington décor, local artisan wares and an inviting wonderland of Christmas shop. In the Vintage Wares Barn you will find a great assortment of pristine vintage items ready to enhance any home at flea market pricing. The vintage items have been donated by a number of generous town residents.

The positive comments from visitors to the museum about our gift shops and exhibits have been very encouraging. Please help by spreading the word about a new local shopping venue and encourage holiday shopping at Nellie's. We can arrange to open by appointment, too. email ellingtonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com to set up your special shopping time; and bring friends!

Hometown Raffle We are now selling tickets to our Hometown Raffle, drawing to be held December 4th. Some of the prizes are shown in the photos below. Tickets may be purchased online at <https://www.32auctions.com/HometownRaffleTickets> and we will fill out your name. There is discount pricing for multiple ticket purchases. We need your help in getting the word out about our raffle. Kindly share the link with friends and family. If you would like physical tickets to sell or purchase please email ellingtonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com



Winter Fest 2021

Plans are underway to participate in Ellington's Winter Fest, Saturday December 4th. We plan to be open from 10am-7pm and need volunteers that day to help make the day successful. Kindly send us an email to join in the preparation and/or the day of the event.

Board of Directors Elections

According to our bylaws the Board of Directors are elected each January. If you would be interested in serving on the board, please let us know, we would love to have you!

Three Year Strategic Plan

The Board of Directors meet with consultant Kathy Craughwell-Varda on October 21st to begin preparation of a three year strategic plan. Kathy is an incredible facilitator and we are all looking forward to completing the plan in early 2022. We received a \$5000 grant from CT Humanities for professional help with the plan. Many grants applications require that the organizations have a strategic plan in place in order to apply.

Archives

Thanks go out to Barbara McCleary and Wendy Peterson for their continued work in organizing the archives. We have many boxes of uncategorized papers and photos. Barbara and Wendy are painstakingly going through each box. In the future we would like to get the archives loaded to a digital format. This is a long term project and we are grateful for the "stick to it" attitude of these two ladies.

Giving Tuesday November 30th

We will be participating in Giving Tuesday, a global day of generosity, which takes place on November 30, 2021. People can show their generosity in a variety of ways during GivingTuesday—whether it's volunteering, advocating for an issue, sharing a skill, or giving to causes—everyone has something to give and every act of generosity counts. Please follow and share our upcoming posts on social media or even better, consider creating a Giving Tuesday fundraiser of your own on your Facebook page to benefit the Ellington Historical Society.



Items Needed

We are looking for donations of the following items. They don't have to be new, used and in good condition would be great. (except for the wine!) Perhaps you have extras in your garage or cellar or have some wine that is just not to your taste to regift. Wine will be used for a separate raffle at Winterfest.

- *White Christmas lights
- *Outdoor extension cords
- *Bottles of wine
- *Patio table and chairs

*Thank
you for
your
support*

Help Wanted

Can you help in any of the following areas?

◆Volunteer to join the:

- *Building and grounds committee
- *Garden Tour Committee (Garden tour to take place in June 2022)
- *Winterfest Committee

- ◆Promote and sell tickets to our Hometown Raffle
- ◆Work in the Mercantile on any Saturday, October 30th - December 19th, hours 10-2
- ◆Volunteer to help at WinterFest December 4. Two shifts 10-2 or 2-7 or anything that works for you
- ◆Share, like and comment on our [social media posts](#).
- ◆Make all your Amazon purchases through [Amazon Smile](#). Designate EHS as your non-profit.
- ◆Volunteer hours to help with a Historical Society event or project.
- ◆Volunteer to help with one to two social media posts per week.
- ◆Get ONE person to [join](#) the Historical Society.