

Ellington Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

Spring/Summer 2021

Preserve the Past...Build the Future

President's message

Greetings,

As our beautiful spring ends and summer heat begins, the Ellington Historical Society has much to celebrate and to be thankful for. So many members of our community have reached out to us helping make dream projects become a reality. Through the generosity of local businesses we have been able address one of our biggest needs. We now have a safe and easy drop off point to access the back porch of the Museum and the Barn Exhibit. We would like to thank Barber Utilities and Star Valley Construction for making this happen.



Our first Nellie Flea Market was a tremendous success, and we would like to thank our entire community for their support. Between our Nellie McKnight Mercantile, Vintage Wares Barn and circus size tents that overflowed with items ranging from antique furniture and barn finds we managed to raise nearly \$8,000 for the museum. I had the opportunity to meet and talk with one incredibly happy shopper as she showed off a cherished 19th Century Bible that had to weigh at least ten pounds.

We would like to thank Dianne Trueb and Jennifer Smyth for spearheading this undertaking. Also Homestead Fuel, Earthlight Technologies, Ellington Fire Department, all those who donated items to the flea market and a long list of volunteers who worked tirelessly to make this a success.



Another “first” for our EHS was in the form of making a connection with Ellington High School students as they prepared to attend this year’s Jr. and Sr. Prom. We would like to thank all the classic car, truck, and tractor enthusiasts who participated along with those who helped create unique and beautiful backdrops for the students. Based on the feedback, it looks like we’ve created what could turn into a tradition for prom participants.



On the west side of the museum you will notice a newly installed, state of the art, heating and cooling system. This will provide a controlled environment for our new Archives Room on the second floor. It will help to reduce the humidity throughout the museum during the summer months and provide heat in the winter. Climate control is extremely important to control the deterioration of both our “paper” archives and the many historical objects the house museum holds. We are very excited to have made this huge improvement in the house museum.



Ellington High School Honors Art Show, which showcased the creative talents of young adults, was held at the museum June 9th. The students’ artwork was displayed throughout the farm exhibit and around the grounds. The combination of art displayed amongst the antique farm equipment made for a delightful exhibit. What made this event so amazing is that the students requested they have it at

Nellie's! Several art students were inducted into the National Art Honor Society at the event. What talent we have in Ellington.

Each new event requires time and energy along with dedicated volunteers to help make them happen. Through word of mouth, [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and our [website](#) we have acquired new members and many businesses that have offered their help and services. As we move forward one thing is certain; our Ellington community is tremendously supportive of our efforts and the interest is multigenerational.

Mark Maciolek

Barnyard Animals Day

Our first Barnyard Animals Day was enjoyed by many on Saturday June 12th. This event was held in conjunction with Connecticut Open House Day which inspires Connecticut residents to learn about the experiences in their own backyards. The piglets, calves, alpacas, goats, chickens and chicks brought smiles to many. We hope to make this an annual event.



Friday Evening Car Shows

Our first classic car show, "Cruzin for the Farm" was held Friday June 18th. Over 60 classic, antique and "hot rod" cars were on display for all to enjoy. The car shows will continue at least through July, and possibly longer, every Friday 5-8 weather permitting. Food will be available for purchase and you can enjoy the DJ while browsing the cars. Admission is free.



Upcoming Events

Antique Tractor Show

Saturday, July 24th, we are hosting an Antique Tractor Show featuring the Scantic Valley Antique Engine and Tractor Club. Stop by to enjoy the tractors and pick up lunch from [Mac's Wood Fired BBQ](#). The event is free.

Ice Cream Social Thursday, August 19th, from 6-8pm bring your chairs or blankets and enjoy delicious ice cream from [The Scoop](#) while listening to live music.

Fall Harvest Fair

Saturday, October 16th from 10-2, we will be hosting a Fall Harvest Fair. Plans are underway now for activities to be offered. Stay tuned. Ideas and volunteers are welcome. Kindly email to join in the preparation.

Shop Small Saturday

Saturday, November 27th from 10-3, shop local at Nellie's Mercantile and Vintage Wares Barn.

Winter Fest 2021

Plans are underway to participate in Ellington's Winter Fest, Saturday December 4th. Ideas and volunteers are welcome. Kindly email to join in the preparation.

In Memory

A donation has been made by Jennifer Smyth in memory of Beverly Heminway, "Loving mother, grandmother, great grandmother and friend." Our condolences to Katherine Heminway, Secretary of EHS, on the loss of her mother.



The Museum Quad which includes the house museum, farm exhibit, Nellie's Mercantile and the Vintage Wares Barn will be open via appointments in July and August. Having company this summer? We'll open up just for your group! Email ellingtonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com to book a tour and private shopping experience.

How can you help?

- ◆ We are looking for a volunteer to help with one to two social media posts per week.
- ◆ Help needed in the Mercantile on Saturdays November 6th to December 18th.
- ◆ Get **ONE** person to [join](#) the Historical Society.
- ◆ Share, like and comment on our [social media posts](#).
- ◆ Make all your Amazon purchases through [Amazon Smile](#). Designate EHS as your non-profit.
- ◆ **Volunteer** some hours to help with an Historical Society event or project.