

# **Willington Wire**

## **Community E-Newsletter**

### **January, February, March**

### **2022**



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The Town Office Building will be closed on the following holidays:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022

President's Day

Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022



## Town of Willington Office Building Contacts

40 Old Farms Road, Willington, CT 06279 – [www.willingtonct.org](http://www.willingtonct.org)

Business Hours: Monday 12:30 PM to 7:30 PM & Tuesday through Friday 9:00 AM to 2:00PM

First Selectwoman	Erika G. Wiecenski	860-487-3100
Animal Control Officer	Tina Binheimer	860-428-4422
Assessor	Walter Topliff	860-487-3122
Building Inspector	Jim Rupert	860-487-3123
Business Manager	Donna Latincsics	860-487-3134
Fire Marshal	Dick Palmer	860-429-7757
Human Services	Jennie Arpin	860-429-8321
Land Use	Michael D'Amato	860-487-4123
Parks & Recreation	Alan Humphrey	860-487-3108
Public Works	Troy Sposato	860-684-9313
Registrar of Voters	Christine Psathas & Suzanne Chapman	860-487-3120
Senior Center	Jennie Arpin	860-429-8321
Tax Collector	Janice Clauson	860-487-3111
Town Clerk	Robin Campbell	860-487-3121
Treasurer	Laurie Semprebon	860-487-3133

### Willington's Vision Statement:

Willington is a community that seeks to preserve its rural character and protect its natural, historic, and agricultural resources. At the same time, the community recognizes the need to balance the conservation of these resources with residential and business development to meet the needs of its citizens and promote long-term fiscal stability.

To achieve this vision and enhance the quality of life in the community, Willington will strive to:

- Preserve and protect our environment;
- Create social, educational, recreational, agricultural, economic, and housing opportunities;
- Balance conservation and development; and,
- Encourage civic involvement and interaction at the local and regional level.



## Boards & Commissions – Meeting Calendar – January, February, March 2022

Board/Commission	Day	Date	Time
Board of Education	Tuesday	January 11th	7:00 PM
Board of Education	Tuesday	February 8th	7:00 PM
Board of Education	Tuesday	March 8th	7:00 PM
Board of Finance	Thursday	January 20th	7:00 PM
Board of Finance (Budget)	Thursday	February 3rd	7:00 PM
Board of Finance (Budget)	Thursday	February 10th	7:00 PM
Board of Finance (Budget)	Thursday	February 17th	7:00 PM
Board of Finance (Budget)	Thursday	February 24th	7:00 PM
Board of Finance (Budget)	Thursday	March 3rd	7:00 PM
Board of Finance (Budget)	Thursday	March 10th	7:00 PM
Board of Finance (Budget)	Thursday	March 17th	7:00 PM
Board of Finance (Budget)	Thursday	March 24th	7:00 PM
Board of Finance (Budget)	Thursday	March 31st	7:00 PM
Board of Selectmen	Monday	January 3rd	6:30 PM
Board of Selectmen (Budget)	Tuesday	January 18th	5:30 PM
Board of Selectmen	Tuesday	January 18th	6:30 PM
Board of Selectmen (Budget)	Monday	January 24th	5:30 PM
Board of Selectmen (Budget)	Monday	January 31st	5:30 PM
Board of Selectmen (Budget)	Monday	February 7th	5:30 PM
Board of Selectmen	Monday	February 7th	6:30 PM
Board of Selectmen	Tuesday	February 22nd	6:30 PM
Board of Selectmen	Monday	March 7th	6:30 PM
Board of Selectmen	Monday	March 21st	6:30 PM
Conservation Commission	Wednesday	January 19th	7:00 PM
Conservation Commission	Wednesday	February 16th	7:00 PM
Conservation Commission	Wednesday	March 16th	7:00 PM
Economic Development	Wednesday	January 12th	6:30 PM
Economic Development	Wednesday	February 9th	6:30 PM
Economic Development	Wednesday	March 9th	6:30 PM
Historical Society	Tuesday	January 18th	7:00 PM
Historical Society	Tuesday	February 15th	7:00 PM
Historical Society	Tuesday	March 15th	7:00 PM



## Boards & Commissions – Meeting Calendar – January, February, March 2022

Housing Authority	Monday	January 24th	4:00 PM
Housing Authority	Monday	February 28th	4:00 PM
Housing Authority	Monday	March 21st	4:00 PM
Inland Wetlands/Watercourses	Monday	January 24th	7:30 PM
Inland Wetlands/Watercourses	Monday	February 28th	7:30 PM
Inland Wetlands/Watercourses	Monday	March 28th	7:30 PM
Library Board of Directors	Monday	January 10th	7:00 PM
Library Board of Directors	Monday	February 14th	7:00 PM
Library Board of Directors	Monday	March 14th	7:00 PM
Parks & Recreation	Monday	January 31st	7:00 PM
Parks & Recreation	Monday	February 28th	7:00 PM
Parks & Recreation	Monday	March 28th	7:00 PM
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	January 4th	7:30 PM
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	January 18th	7:30 PM
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	February 1st	7:30 PM
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	February 15th	7:30 PM
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	March 1st	7:30 PM
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	March 15th	7:30 PM
School Building Committee	Wednesday	January 5th	6:30 PM
School Building Committee	Wednesday	January 19th	6:30 PM
School Building Committee	Wednesday	February 2nd	6:30 PM
School Building Committee	Wednesday	February 16th	6:30 PM
School Building Committee	Wednesday	March 2nd	6:30 PM
School Building Committee	Wednesday	March 16th	6:30 PM
Zoning Board of Appeals	Thursday	January 13th	7:30 PM
Zoning Board of Appeals	Thursday	February 10th	7:30 PM
Zoning Board of Appeals	Thursday	March 10th	7:30 PM



# First Selectwoman's Corner

Dear Willington Residents,

On behalf of the Board of Selectmen, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year!

We are entering the 3rd year of the pandemic with Covid-19 cases still on the rise but with vaccine access open to individuals age 5+. We hope this will allow for a transition to a new normal.

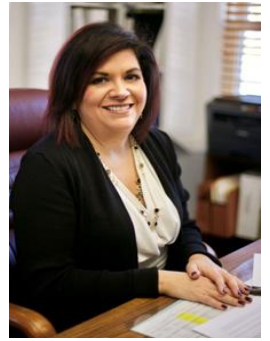
Winter is probably the toughest season for Willington and snow is always a winter challenge, but as always our Public Works crew stands ready to help us deal with whatever comes our way.

Another reason winter is tough for the Town Office staff is that it coincides with budget season and the many meetings that occur in January, February and March. What our many boards and department heads will be doing over the coming months is working together to find ways to maintain services and programs while being mindful of any tax increase. If you are interested in a particular town service, such as the library, public safety, human services, education, recreation, etc., please make contact with the boards that oversee these programs and let them know your concerns and suggestions as soon as possible. They may be able to incorporate your input as their budgets go before the Board of Finance for consideration. Please check the town website at [www.willingtonct.org](http://www.willingtonct.org) for meeting dates and times.

Selectwoman Liza Boritz, Selectman Jim Bulick and I are committed to continuing our work for all Willington residents. The Board of Selectmen meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. Our meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to join us in our virtual meetings until we can safely meet again in person.

The Town Office Building is open 12:30pm-7:30 p.m. on Mondays and 9:00am-2:00 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. If your business brings you in person, we require that you wear a mask while in the building at this time. I try to be available during office hours or by appointment. Please stop in to share your ideas and concerns as we begin to plan farther into the future. Otherwise, I hope to see you out and about in Willington!

Warmest regards,  
*Erika G. Wiczenski*  
First Selectwoman



## Assessor

### **Elderly/Totally Disabled Tax Relief Program**

Completed applications are due biannually by May 15, 2022. Anyone applying after April 15, 2022 must apply in person; be sure to call in advance for an appointment. We will be happy to assist you in filing your application. Please call (860-487-3122) in advance for an appointment so we may provide the time and attention necessary.

To be eligible for such a tax credit:

- You or your spouse must be at least 65 years of age as of Dec 31, 2021 or over 18 and permanently and totally disabled per Social Security.
- You must be a permanent resident of the State of Connecticut. You must own the property or hold a tenancy for life or for a term of years, which makes the applicable liable for payment of taxes (CGS Sec. 12-48) as of October 1, 2021. The property must be the applicant's primary residence (domicile).
- Your 2021 income cannot exceed \$ 37,600 (single) or \$ 45,800 (married). Income definition: Qualifying income is defined as adjusted gross income for IRS purposes plus any other income not included in such adjusted gross income.
- You must provide the Assessor with a copy of your SSA 1099 for 2021, or its equivalent, from Social Security and your 2021 federal income tax return if you file one. The Assessor may require any other proof of income that may be necessary for the certification of the claim, such as interest/dividend statements and pension statements.



## Assessor continued...

- **BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS NOTICE OF HEARINGS**

The Board of Assessment Appeals will meet during the month of March for the purpose of hearing appeals on the Grand List of October 1, 2021. **Applications must be received by February 22, 2022.** Dates and times of the hearings will be determined by the number of appeals received. Applicants will receive confirmation and notification of appointments by mail. Appeals will be heard only from those property owners filing written applications by the February 22<sup>nd</sup> deadline

Walter E. Topliff Jr.  
Assessor

Nicole J Snyder  
Assistant Assessor

## Conservation Commission

### **CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTES**



Winter bestows a whole new look on the parks and preserves that Willington is fortunate to have. The lack of foliage reveals a multitude of landscape features: waterways, stone walls, hill sides and other views not visible during the rest of the year. Don't let snow stop you from getting some exercise on our great trails. Especially with a fresh snowfall, the forest landscape takes on a whole new perspective. If the snow is deep enough, the Recreation Dept. has snowshoes to loan if you don't have your own and you'd like to try that experience. Much of the time, though, it isn't long after a snowfall that other enthusiastic snowshoers and hikers have packed the trails enough to not need snowshoes. Most of the trails are also cross-country skiable with the Taylor Trail being the most skier-friendly. Depending on your fitness and skill level, you may have to walk a section or two on the others. As always, please be considerate of others and help us protect wildlife by keeping dogs on leashes.

The 300-acre Fenton-Ruby Park and Wildlife Preserve and Drobney Sanctuary on Moose Meadow Road has 4-plus miles of trails through woods, over ridges and along ponds and streams. A kiosk with maps and a trailhead map with a QR code is located at the parking area and a box with nature trail guides is located a short distance down the Taylor Trail. Trail maps are located at all trail intersections. Also, a one-mile trail in Ashford is accessible via the Ashford Link Trail off the Ruby Trail.

The 28-acre Talmadge Tract, which contains the Talmadge Spur Trail with 1 ½ and 2-mile loops, will take you through scenic woodlands and along gravel Mason Road. This tract abuts the 400-acre UConn Moss Forest Tract, and on the other side of Mason Road is the 138-acre Royal Knowlton Preserve. Several miles of the Connecticut Blue Trail (Nipmuck) run through this area, with a portion along the Fenton River as it flows through a deep ravine. The 3/4-mile Knowlton Spur Trail connects the Nipmuck Trail to the Talmadge Trail. Paper maps and a map with a QR code can be found at the Talmadge/Knowlton trailheads on Mason Road where there is a parking area, and also at the sign where the Nipmuck crosses Mason Rd.

Joshua's Trust's Chenes Roches Preserve in north Willington also offers a great hike with many interesting landscape features. See a description under "Town Parks and Amenities".

If you are interested in taking an active part in helping the Town manage its environmental resources, the Commission has an opening for an alternate member. Alternate members participate in meetings and may be seated as voting members in the absence of regular members. Until further notice, our meetings will be held remotely via Zoom on the third Wednesday of every month. See the link posted on the Town website under meetings. Contact Kathy Demers, Commission Chair, at 860-377-6416 or [kdemers48@gmail.com](mailto:kdemers48@gmail.com) or Peter Andersen at 860-933-6380 or [andersen108@sbcglobal.net](mailto:andersen108@sbcglobal.net) for more information. Please visit the Conservation Commission website under "Boards and Commissions" on the Town of Willington home page, [www.willingtonct.org](http://www.willingtonct.org), for information on conservation issues, programs and links to other websites. Last, we would be happy to hear any comments you may have about your experiences regarding Willington's outdoor resources. Enjoy!



# **Button Hill Senior Apartments**

***Affordable, One-Level Living***



- Your Private Front Door is at Ground Level
- Ample Parking Right at Your Front Door
- Heating, Cooling & Electricity Included
- Washer & Dryer in Every Apartment
- Recreation Area and Pet Friendly
- Easy Access to the Senior Center

**10-16 Senior Way, Willington, CT**

**Applicants must be 62 or older and  
meet certain income eligibility requirements**

For more information call our leasing office at:

**860-498-0268**



Visit us at **[www.buttonhill.com](http://www.buttonhill.com)**



***Call Us Now to Schedule Your Tour***



## Performance Update

### The Packing House Fall Performances



### The Packing House – A Safe Performance Venue By EC-CHAP

We are pleased to announce that The Packing House reopened on September 18, 2021 for **LIVE PERFORMANCES** and **FILM SCREENINGS**! We reopened with responsible COVID practices in place including: 50% capacity (max 70); mask requirement; socially distanced tables; and mandatory sign-in (in the event of contact tracing).

EC-CHAP places highest priority to maintaining a safe environment for our visitors. Based on the current climate, Omicron variant and rising positive COVID case rate, the EC-CHAP Board of Directors updated COVID practices for The Packing House, Gardiner Hall Jr History Museum, and the Dye & Bleach House Community Gallery. **Effective January 1, 2022, Proof of Full Vaccination & Masks will be required for all patrons, performers, and visitors at all venues.** Mandatory sign-in will also be required (in the event contact tracing is necessary). The Packing House will continue to operate at 50% capacity with socially distanced tables.

Please visit [The Packing House](https://thepackinghouse.us) for additional details, tickets, and a full schedule of events. If you have not subscribed to our newsletter please do so at: [www.thepackinghouse.us](https://www.thepackinghouse.us).

## SAVE THE DATES:

### PERFORMANCE: EC-CHAP Acoustic Artist Series



#### JANUARY 8, 2022: "Acoustic Duo Foolish Wisely" (Folk/Americana). 7:30pm

**FOOLISH WISELY** lives in the space between waking and dreaming. Intricate folk/american-inspired songwriting supported by a diverse variety of instrumentation lays ground for luxuriant harmonies to paint over, which bring to life a surreal-yet-familiar world that exists within us all. The band is made up of RJ Mac Carthaigh and Julia Autumn Ford, both multi instrumentalists and internationally touring artists with their own extensive histories in groups including Belle of the Fall, Field of Birds and The Slambovian Circus of Dreams. They draw inspiration from the likes of Paul Simon, David Byrne, Van Gogh, Blind Connie Williams, Ai Weiwei, Crosby Stills & Nash, Britney Spears, as well as the world and phenomena surrounding and within them.



#### JANUARY 29, 2022: "Poor Monroe" (Americana/Bluegrass). 7:30pm

Formed at the start of 2021, **POOR MONROE** is a New England-based bluegrass collaboration of long-time friends with nearly a century's worth of performing experience (cumulatively speaking). Drawing from distinct musical paths, this energetic group of seasoned players bring a unique approach to their performances, delivering unmistakably tight vocal harmonies and scorching tempos that are the benchmark of the genre. Eric Lee (guitar/fiddle), Sean Davis (guitar), Gareth Buckley (bass), John Benjamin (mandolin), & Chris Boucher (banjo), perform traditional material and Lee's original songs with a deep sense of honoring the legacy of bluegrass. Together, they show how the love of music and a good sense of humor can transcend trying times.



#### FEBRUARY 5, 2022: "Singer / Songwriter & Multi-Instrumentalist Kala Farnham" (Indie/Folk). 7:30pm

**KALA FARNHAM** is a multi-instrumentalist singer/songwriter hailing from the Quiet Corner of CT. Kala's signature songwriting has been described as a reinvention of the folk tradition made popular by artists such as Joni Mitchell and Joan Baez. She has been praised for her classical undertones and playful dose Broadway theatricality onstage, and a lyricism that springs to life with creative storytelling, cultural references, and rich metaphor. Her first full-length studio album, "Anahata: Wake Up Your Heart", was nominated for "Best Americana Album" in RI's Motif Music Awards alongside a nomination for "Best Female Americana Vocalist". In 2015, she was selected to be an Official Showcase Artist in Folk Alliance International's SERFA Music Conference. October 2016 marked the release of her 2nd studio album,



"Samadhi: Home Is Where You Are" as well as another Motif nomination for Best Americana Album. Kala is an alumni of the Johnny Mercer Songwriters Project and the winner of the 2017 Rhode Island Songwriters Association Performing Songwriter Contest.



**FEBRUARY 19, 2022: "Singer / Songwriter Sally Rogers" (Folk). 7:30pm**

Folk singer, songwriter and educator [SALLY ROGERS](#) has performed from coast to coast for forty years! She has performed for audiences around the world at festivals, concerts, schools, and most any other public place you can imagine. Sally is equally talented at stirring a crowd to sing, or at using music to draw out even the shyest child in a classroom to become an active and enthusiastic participant. Widely known for her crystal clear voice, Sally accompanies herself with guitar, banjo and mountain dulcimer. Many of these instruments are used in her solo performances, as a duo with her husband Howie Bursen, with long-time buddy Claudia Schmidt, or as part of her interactive school residencies. To date, Sally has recorded five solo albums, four children's recordings, two albums with Howie Bursen, four albums with Claudia Schmidt, and has participated in numerous other recording projects. Her most recent collaborative album, *We are Welcomed*, was released in 2016. In addition to your musical talents, Sally is an accomplished textile artist, creating unique and colorful quilt panels. Her work will be on display at the Dye & Bleach House Community Gallery, and available for viewing during her performance.



**MARCH 12, 2022: "Sperry Creek" (Bluegrass). 7:30pm**

[SPERRY CREEK](#) bring fresh harmonies and instrumentation that hold true to the bluegrass genre. This five-piece band from Connecticut formed after some local pickers spent the height of the pandemic keeping each other sane through socially distant backyard jam sessions. It didn't take the group long to realize that good sounds were happening. They soon adopted the name of a nearby creek, and the band was officially formed in the summer of 2020. Sperry Creek is made up of longtime musicians Scott Freemantle (bass); Marilyn Toback-Reveley (guitar); Bill Reveley (fiddle); Corrie Folsom-O'Keefe (mandolin) and Dan O'Keefe (banjo), who all share a passion for bluegrass music. A culmination of musicians from other well-known CT bands, Sperry Creek has allowed us to share our love of music with others throughout the New England bluegrass scene. The group can be seen performing at various events throughout Connecticut and are always available for event bookings (see contact info below). Please be sure to follow us for upcoming shows and announcements.



**MARCH 19, 2022: "Singer / Songwriter Calendula & Moon Basket" (Indie/Folk). 7:30pm**

Calendula is a singer-songwriter based in New England. Her nostalgia for past homes, daydreamed futures, and distant loved-ones fuels her folk inspired memories. Her upcoming album, *Loveletter*, focuses on social class and climate justice in hopes of inspiring positive change in her community. Moonbasket was formed in 2020 by Jeffrey DiIorio and Abigail Golec. Drawing on various musical influences such as Belly, The War on Drugs, and Sharon Van Etten to name just a few, they've created songs with a unique blend of singer-songwriter and indie-rock vibes, inspired by love, life, and nostalgia.

**FILM SCREENING: EC-CHAP Film Series**

**JANUARY 20, 2022: "The Sapphires". 2012. (R). 7:00pm**

"The Sapphires" was directed by Wayne Blair and written by Keith Thompson and Tony Briggs, the latter of whom wrote the play. The Film stars Chris o'Dowd, Deborah Mailman, Jessica Mauboy, Shari Sebbens, and Miranda Tapsell. This 2012 Australian musical comedy-drama film based on the 2004 stage play of the same name, which is loosely based on a true story. "It's 1968, and four young, talented Australian Aboriginal girls learn about love, friendship and war when their all-girl group The Sapphires entertain the US troops in Vietnam." – IMDb

**FEBRUARY 17, 2021: "Midnight in Paris". 2011. (PG-13). 7:00pm**

"Midnight in Paris" was written and directed by Woody Allen and stars Owen Wilson, Rachel McAdams, Kathy Bates, Adrien Brody, Carla Bruni, Tom Hiddleston, Marion Cotillard, and Michael Sheen. "While on a trip to Paris with his fiancée's family, a nostalgic screenwriter finds himself mysteriously going back to the 1920s every day at midnight." – IMDb. In 2012, *Midnight in Paris* won the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay and the Golden Globe Award for Best Screenplay. It was nominated for three other Academy Awards: Best Picture, Best Director and Best Art Direction.



### **MARCH 17, 2022: "20 Feet From Stardom". 2013. (PG-13). 7:00pm**

"20 Feet from Stardom" is a 2013 American documentary film directed by documentary filmmaker Morgan Neville and was produced by Gil Friesen. "Backup singers live in a world that lies just beyond the spotlight. Their voices bring harmony to the biggest bands in popular music, but we've had no idea who these singers are or what lives they lead, until now." IMDb. The film follows the behind-the-scenes experiences of backup singers and stars Darlene Love, Judith Hill, Merry Clayton, Lisa Fischer, Tata Vega, and Jo Lawry, among many others. On March 2, 2014, it won the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature at the 86th Academy Awards, 23 years after the similar documentary *In the Shadow of the Stars* (which focused on the members of an opera chorus instead of its stars) won the same award.

### **EC-CHAP Talent Showcase**

EC-CHAP has been offering our monthly **Talent Showcase** since 2016. Our Talent Showcase was designed as a platform for local and regional artists to share their talents before a live audience. This is a free event, and as always, acoustic musicians, film makers, poets, comedians, jugglers, puppeteers, and creative artists of all ages are invited to perform.

We continue to offer our Talent Showcase at The Packing House at **7:00pm on every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month** (Doors open at 6:30pm). For information about how you can participate in the Talent Showcase, please visit our [website](http://www.ec-chap.org). Please call 518-791-9474 to get placed on the schedule. Walk-ins are welcome time permitting.

**January Talent Showcase: Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm**

**February Talent Showcase: Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm**

**March Talent Showcase: Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm**

Should you be interested in learning more about EC-CHAP, and how you can support your Willington based cultural organization through our volunteer, membership, and sponsorship programs, please visit [www.ec-chap.org](http://www.ec-chap.org); email us at: [info@ec-chap.org](mailto:info@ec-chap.org); or call: 518-791-9474.

### **Collaborative Play: Building Big and Working Together**

By: Cate Solari

*Collaborative Play: Building Big and Working Together* is an interdisciplinary art curriculum designed to give eighth grade students confidence in innovation and fabrication, and develop collaboration and critical thinking skills. As the public education system prepares students for placement into the real world, it is important to understand that students, no matter what future careers they find themselves in, need the ability and skills to communicate effectively and work as a part of a team. The art classroom is the perfect opportunity to create a laboratory for student development that focuses on project based collaboration between the entire class, and gives agency to students as their own advocates of learning.

The future of the human race relies on innovation. Finding new ways of thinking, doing, and making, to ensure that climate change and pollution do not get the best of us. In order to prepare students to become innovative thinkers, schools must prepare students to think beyond themselves and beyond their limits as a single person. The intention of *Collaborative Play: Building Big and Working Together* is to teach students that they are stronger together, and with each other they can accomplish projects that extend beyond themselves, both physically and cognitively.

The conceptual framework for *Collaborative Play: Building Big and Working Together* stems from an understanding of the importance of team building and an interest in educational toys and the impact they can have on an eighth grade student. Students will be encouraged to think creatively and invent their own ideas, drawing from all disciplines and other classes they are taking. By providing students with the tools, skills, and guidance, a whole new level of creativity and confidence can be achieved.

In 2019, Netflix released season two of *Abstract: The Art of Design*. Episode three is titled *Design for Play*, and features artist and designer Cas Holman. Cas Holman is the founder of toy company, *Heroes Will Rise*, where she designs and "manufactures tools for the imagination" (Holman). The materials Holman designs are meant to be manipulable parts and pieces which inspire constructive play, imaginative forms, and cooperative interactions between people.





Holman's most recent tool/toy (tool/toy is Holman's term for the toys she manufactures, they are both tools for learning and construction as well as toys (Holman)) is called *Rigamajig*. *Rigamajig* is a large-scale building kit for hands-on free play and learning. The collection of wooden planks, wheels, pulleys, nuts, bolts and rope, allow children to follow their curiosity through play. Abstract in their identity, these tool/toys inspire children and adults to imagine the origin and story of the toy as well as how to use it. "What is it?" and "What does it do?" are answered in intuitive details, play prompts, and semiotic clues, making the instructions implicit in the tool/toy.



*Collaborative Play: Building Big and Working Together* is explicitly inspired by Holman's philosophy of play and the intersecting early childhood curriculum *Anji Play* designed in China by Cheng Xueqin, Director, Office of Pre-Primary Education, Anji County Department of Education, Zhejiang Province (Xueqin). Holman discovered *Anji Play* after Xueqin reached out after seeing her work with *Rigamajig*. Holman began traveling to China to study the schools in which a complete curriculum of *Anji Play* was being taught. At this point, *Rigamajig*, is just a tool for educators, but how can the philosophies of play behind *Rigamajig*, be implemented across curricula like *Anji Play*.

*Collaborative Play: Building Big and Working Together* is an attempt to incorporate the curricula of Anji Play and the philosophies of Cas Holman and *Rigamajig* into mainstream public education. Histories of the impacts of play on childhood development and creative experience are expressed in Amy F. Ogata's book, *Designing the Creative Child: Playthings and Places in Midcentury America*, and book, *Makers, Crafters, Educators: Working for Cultural Change* edited by Elizabeth Garber, Lisa Hochtritt, and Manisha Sharma. These books provide a deep historical context of educational toys and how play has been shown to aid in childhood development.

Charles Baudelaire, one of the pedagogies discussed by Ogata states, "in their games children give evidence of their great capacity for the abstraction and high imaginative power" (Ogata 36). As well as Fredrick Frobel and Maria Montessori who believe that objects teach real skill and abstract values. Toys act as an entry point for students to access greater understanding of life values.

Specifically, this curriculum has been inspired by the pedagogy of Simon Nicholson's loose parts play theory. Developed in 1970, Nicholson claimed that in a play, loose parts are materials that can be moved, carried, combined, redesigned, lined up, and taken apart and put back together in multiple ways. They are materials with no specific set of directions that can be used alone or combined with other materials. Encouraging children to use resources as they choose can provide a wider range of opportunities than one that is purely adult led.

The format of the curricula is designed based on methods of team building. Team building is a collective term for various types of activities used to enhance social relations and define roles within teams, often involving collaborative tasks. Traditionally, team building occurs in four phases: framing device, planning time, execution of the task, and debriefing. *Collaborative Play: Building Big and Working Together* uses phases two and four, planning time and debriefing, as a framework for the class's success. During planning time, students will gather collectively in a circle, making sure each student can see each other, and discuss a plan. The instructor need not offer questions or guidance during this time. Students may spend five minutes planning or an hour. It is important to let students know that they can come back to planning time. They may plan for five minutes, attempt the task, and fail, realizing that they need to plan out their task more. The teacher can play the role of a facilitator, where if everything is going wrong, offer more planning time, or if all is going very wrong, offer a clue or hint to get the ball rolling again.



In team building after each task/activity a debrief occurs. The debrief occurs even if the task was not completed or if the task was failed. During debrief the teacher can act once again as a facilitator. Offering questions that help the students understand their role, and their fellow classmates' roles during the activity and what things went well and what things need to be changed for next time. In the art classroom, debriefing can also be used to evaluate the success of an artwork and what and how the work is referencing within the art world.

*Collaborative Play: Building Big and Working Together* will help students understand one another, and that working together and supporting each other is far more effective than trying to tear each other apart. Cognitively students at this age are developing problem solving and thinking skills, question things beyond face value, aware of how current



actions can affect the future (Morin). Using the art classroom as a means to engage students socially with good intentions can be beneficial not only for the completion of a successful art project, but also throughout their careers as students in the district.

*Cate Solari is an Artist-In-Residence (visual arts discipline) at EC-CHAP; Director of the Dye & Bleach House Community Gallery; and Adjunct Professor, School of Fine Art, at the University of Connecticut. Cate can be reached at: [communitygallery@ec-chap.org](mailto:communitygallery@ec-chap.org)*

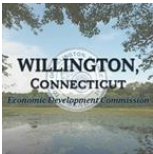
### ***A Synergistic Framework for Raising Historical Awareness***



Prior to the Pandemic, EC-CHAP developed "A Synergistic Framework for Raising Historical Awareness" representing a model of collaboration. In 2019, we initiated a dialog with historical organizations and individuals to facilitate opportunities for conversation, collaboration, and programming. There appear to be pockets of rich history just waiting for connections to be made.

The time to re-address this valuable collaboration is upon us. As your regional cultural organization, we hope to play a small part in bringing together the many folks who can share knowledge, common interests, and help to connect the historical "dots" that will yield better understandings. Please stay tuned for opportunities to share and collaborate. If you are interested in participating in conversation, or learning more about this project, please email us at [info@ec-chap.org](mailto:info@ec-chap.org), or call 518-791-9474.

## Economic Development Commission



The design commercial and South Willington Village regulations are now complete, but the Economic Development Commission has a bit more clean up. We are proposing a design district for the large commercial and industrial parcels in Town. This proposal will empower the Zoning Commission to complete an early onset review, identifying challenges that may stop projects or green light projects in the design phase. We hope this will giving certainty to a project prior to final submittal of drawings. If a project is not appropriate for a site or would fit nicely we owe the respondent a professional, preliminary review.

There have been a significant increase in the number of inquiries and interest in Town as businesses look at Willington. EDC has professional staff in the Planning Office to field business proposals. EDC anticipates that we will be moving from encouraging business development to project management in late 2021 and beyond.

All the while, EDC is keeping a keen eye of the Plan of Conservation and Development to ensure that projects fit in into that vision.

We are cleaning up the Willington business list and will be calling and visiting businesses in Town to update their contact information and determining business needs.

The Town has enacted an ordinance to distribute the American Rescue Plan monies. EDC has proposed that some of the federal funds go to small businesses in Town. As you know the Town administers the application, justification and payment of these funds. This process is a bit different than the collection and allocation of Willington taxpayer funds. ARP funding is intended as a rapid pandemic response and the Town acts as the pass through entity.

EDC meets the second Wednesday of the month please feel free to join the meeting and we would love to hear your comments. Also, anyone who would like to join the Commission please call the Planning Office at 860-487-3123.

Best wishes in the New Year,

Richard Maloney, Chairman of the Willington Economic Development Commission



# Fire Department: Willington Fire Department #1



Alexander J. Moore  
Fire Chief

**WILLINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT INC.**  
426 RIVER ROAD P.O. BOX 161  
Willington, Connecticut 06279  
860.429.0288

Ronald A. Gantick  
President

## HEARTSafe Community

Willington Fire Department Inc. #1 is pleased to announce that on September 17, 2021, the Town of Willington was officially designated a HEARTSafe Community by the Connecticut Department of Health. A recognition of our communities' efforts to improve survival from sudden cardiac arrest.

Over the last four years First Selectwoman Wiecenski, School Superintendent Stevens and Fire Chief Moore have worked hard to make sure that all Town Buildings, Schools, and Fire Houses are equipped with an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) to assist in the survival rate of a Cardiac Arrest. Along with the AED's members from Willington Fire Department #1 have held multiple CPR Classes for teachers, school staff, town employees, and residents resulting in over 50 people being trained in CPR.

Through this program we have been able to put AED's in the following locations:

- Town Office Building
- Center School
- River Road Park
- Transfer Station
- Willington Hill Fire Department
- Old Town Hall
- Hall School – (3) Machines
- Public Works
- Willington Fire Department #1



## Historical Society

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, Willington held their annual tree lighting on the Town Green and the Glazier Tavern was open for visitors. The Tavern was welcoming and warm with 2 wood-burning fireplaces going all evening and a fire pit available outside. Warm cider was available inside (it is a Tavern, after all) and baked goods were provided by Willington Historical Society volunteers. For several members of the community, this was their first opportunity to see the Tavern, although access was somewhat constrained due to COVID concerns. Visitors are welcome to attend future WHS meetings, listed on the Town and WHS websites. During winter, please check for last-minute weather changes.

We often use this space to highlight interesting events, ongoing work at the Glazier Tavern or special projects. We ask for volunteers or donations or just ask the people with present or past ties to Willington to take an interest in our history.

But this time, we are going to ask you to take an interest in your own ancestors. There are several fascinating resources available online. One favorite is **Chronicling America**, an online resource provided by the Library of Congress, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/> which is easy to navigate. The US newspapers can be filtered by date and location. Here is an interesting thing we found: search with names/places also spelled incorrectly because every publication spelled things differently. You may find, as we did, how many trout were stocked in a certain year, what vehicle was used on a local mail route and which family had holiday visitors. It's a lot of fun to see a glimpse of the past.

Interesting also is to find your ancestors' graves in the US on **Find A Grave**. Volunteers have a hobby of photographing every headstone in a cemetery all around the country. Try looking at [www.FindAGrave.com](http://www.FindAGrave.com) to see where your ancestors are buried.



## Historical Society continued...

[www.MyHeritage.com](http://www.MyHeritage.com) is a paid site with a 14-day free trial. It is interesting to see who originally entered the information from an overlapping family tree. You don't know who you may be related to until you look! Another paid site is [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) with links to census documents and ships manifests for your immigrant ancestors from the National Archives.

No discussion of genealogy would be complete without mentioning a wonderful website, [www.FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org), sponsored by the Church of the Latter-day Saints (Mormon). You can set up a free account and immediately find information and census and cemetery documentation online. Family Search also lists where the information was found for individual records. Viewing census information, you can see your ancestors' and their families, where they lived, also listing an occupation. This is your opportunity to say "I didn't know that!"

Willington Historical Society depends heavily on donations from our generous contributors for volunteering at the Tavern as well as for monetary donations. Work at the Glazier Tavern is continuing as we are striving to meet ADA compliance requirements for a public facility. It is our hope that Glazier Tavern will become a resource for small gatherings and meetings in Willington, but the building will have to meet code standards first. Please contact us if you would like to donate your skills to help us achieve our goal.

We have been very fortunate recently to have been contacted by people regarding Willington-related artifacts that relatives had in their homes. These pieces will be displayed in the future. We are always looking for photographs of Willington residents, locations and businesses, labeled ones are best.

**Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm at the Glazier Tavern and is open to all.**

Questions and suggestions may be sent to our email at: [willingtonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:willingtonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com). Like us on Facebook.

A PayPal link is available on our website at: [www.willingtonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.willingtonhistoricalsociety.org), or by mailing a check made out to Willington Historical Society, P.O. Box 214, Willington, CT 06279. The Society is a designated 501(c) 3 non-profit organization and donations are deductible.

This holiday season is the perfect time to say Thank You to all of our contributors who support the Willington Historical Society all year long, in so many ways. Thank You!

## Human Services



### Department of Human Services

40 Old Farms Road, Willington, Connecticut 06279

Tel. (860)487-3118 Email: [humanservices@willingtonct.org](mailto:humanservices@willingtonct.org)

**THANK YOU!-** The Department of Human Services wants to extend a heartfelt thank you to all have donated to holiday programs, as well as all to the Scouting for Food drive and Gobble Gobble Give during this past year! We served 73 resident families and individuals this year which is much more than last year. We appreciate all you do- we couldn't do it without your support!



**FOOD PANTRY-** The Willington Food Pantry offers canned and dry goods, seasonal vegetables, and eggs to Willington residents in need. Located at the Town Office Building, our pantry is open Mondays from 4-6pm and Fridays from 10am to noon.



**MOBILE FOODSHARE-** Please note NEW LOCATION!~ Bringing produce, breads, and on occasion, meats and more to Willington residents. The Foodshare truck comes every other Wednesday from 11-11:30 in back of the Town Office building, 40 Old Farms Road. Please remain in your vehicles and we will assist you.



## Human Services continued...



**UTILITY ASSISTANCE** – Energy Assistance Appointments are now available! We can also help with your other utilities in certain circumstances. If you are having a hard time making ends meet, please contact our office for more information.

**DRIVE THROUGH FOOD DISTRIBUTION** – We are starting back up in January; offering food, household items, and masks for adults and children, FREE for all residents while supplies last! Swing by the Town Offices the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of every month between 10am and 11:30am.



**MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES**- We have many canes, walkers, shower seats, and other supplies for our residents who might need them. Contact our office if you would like to use any of our medical equipment or supplies. Due to storage limitations, no donations are being accepted at this time.

**DONATIONS MADE EASY**- We now have a big blue Donation box out back of the Town Offices! Drop your canned and dry goods in the box for the Willington Food Pantry. Food Only, please!

**WE ARE SOCIAL!** –Be sure to “Like” Willington Human Services on Facebook! We are also now on Twitter and Instagram! Keep up with our events, programs, and happenings. Thanks for your interest and support!



## Willington Public Library

### Willington Public Library Programs

**Monthly Drawings:** Thank you to all who participated in supporting the Library and this fundraising effort. We will continue to offer other “prizes”, many who come from our community business neighbors. Anyone willing to donate for the months ahead, it would be greatly appreciated and a wonderful way for our local businesses to get recognition and support. Thank you’s go out to Tri-County Greenhouses, Willington Pizza One, and Julie Engelke for donating her tickets from The Packing House. Congratulations to our October, November and December WINNERS!

**Friends of WPL:** The Friends are always accepting new memberships. We had four young people join this past December; welcome Angelina, Bethany, Gianna and Rayanne. We had a great Book Sale in September and a great Craft Fair & Bale Sale in December; two of the Friends biggest fundraisers for the library. Thank you to all who helped in making these a great success! Their next scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday, February 8th at 6:00 pm.

We had a wonderful program in November about “**Piglet**” and his amazing mindset. We had over 70 people in attendance. We all learned a lot and fell in love with an adorable and persistent little pink, blind and deaf puppy. Thank you to Melissa Shapiro and her wonderful family for this exceptional presentation about love, determination, perseverance and acceptance.



We are very much looking forward to taking on her curriculum for the “**A Piglet Mindset**” in the months ahead. We hope you will join in.



# Willington Public Library

**The Knitting Group** meets every Tuesday afternoon from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. You are welcome to attend. Bring a project to work on.

**Adult Book Club:** Every first Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to participate. This year's reads so far are...

**January 6 - "The Kitchen Front"** by Jennifer Ryan

**February 3 - "The Finder of Forgotten Things"** by Sarah Loudin Thomas, **March 3 - "State of Terror"** by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Louise Penny, **April 7 - "The Paris Architect"** by Charles Balfour

**Family Movies:** On the last Saturday of every month at 12:30 pm, join us on the BIG screen. All movies rated G or PG. Feel free to bring a lunch or snacks to enjoy. Titles TBA

**1st Friday Noir Movie Matinee Series:** Enjoy the classic Hollywood 40's & 50's black and white movies here on the BIG screen. Join us on the first Fridays of the month at 12:30 pm. Feel free to bring your lunch or snacks.

**Upcoming movies...**

**January 7: Strange Love of Martha Ives** (1946) 117 m

Gripping melodrama with Barbara Stanwyck bound to her husband by a crime she committed long ago. Kirk Douglas' film debut!

**February 4: The Mask of Dimitrios** (1944) 95 m

Sydney Greenstreet and Peter Lorre make a marvelous team in this exhilarating and atmospheric film noir that "Daily Variety" hailed as "one of the most brilliant crime dramas yet filmed".

**March 4: The Captive City** (1952) 91 m

One of several early 1950's films to capitalize on the Kefauver Committee's investigation of organized crime, "The Captive City" stars John Forsythe as crusading editor Jim Austin.

**3-D Needle Felting Classes** with Angelina Fleury of American Made Crafter's. Join us on the first Tuesday of the month beginning in February at 6:00 pm. The cost per lesson is \$12.00 which includes all materials. Payment is due at time of registration. Class size is limited, so register early. If you are a repeated Felter, feel free to bring your own tools.

**Scheduled classes:** No class in January, February 1: set of two pastured Sheep, March 1: Organic Birds-Nest for inside of outside use, April 5: Baby Chick, May 3: Strawberry Fairy with wings



**Story Time & Craft:** Join us on the first Saturday of every month at 10:00 am for a themed story and craft.

**Scheduled times:**

January 1st: CLOSED, Happy New Year!, February 5th: "Reading with a Chicken", March 5th: Spring!

**Saturday, February 5th is "Take Your Child to the Library Day".** For this special event, we will be having Senior, Mia Beaulieu, from E. O. Smith High School, present her Senior Class Project...**"Reading With A Chicken"**. Mia has a diverse background in poultry sciences and raises poultry as a hobby. The premise is encouraging children to read to animals they likely have not closely been exposed to before. The intent is to embolden them to learn more about these animals, become more comfortable by doing something they have to do every day with the animals (read) and attempt to eliminate the development of stigma towards the particular animal. Support Mia and join us for this educational and fun event **Saturday, February 5, 2022**

**"Reading With A Chicken" part of the "Take Your Child to the Library Day" The program will begin at 10:00am**

**The Eastern CT Writers Group** headed by Author Felix Giordano meets on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month from 12:30 - 2:30 pm. "This group is for aspiring and advanced writers working on a novel, novella, a collection of short stories or poetry. Submissions are limited to no more than 10 pages. Critiques and commentary constructive to each writer's work and goals will be encouraged". If interested in attending, you may contact Felix Giordano at...[felix@jbnovels.com](mailto:felix@jbnovels.com)



# Willington Public Library

## New Program's at WPL!



**Reading with Willow:** On the third Saturday of the month, beginning in January at 1:00 p.m., come and meet Willow and her human mom, Bette. Willow is a Therapy Dog with "Cold Noses, Warm Hearts" and she is coming to the Library so children can read to her. She loves listening to stories just like you! Would you like to come and read to her? She's a wonderful listener. Four children will be able take turns and visit to read with Willow for 15 minute intervals each on the Saturdays listed below. Willow will be with us for an hour beginning at 1:00 p.m. Registration is necessary, so call to sign up for a turn to spend time with Willow. **Upcoming dates: January 15, February 19, and March 19, 2022**

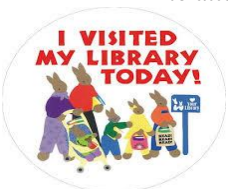
**Pokemon Club:** On the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm. First game night will be on February 8th. Come and play the Pokemon Card Game. No experience required. Limited decks will be available to borrow. Bring your own! Ages 7+. No registration needed. Snacks will be provided.



**Please return** any of your outstanding library materials that are past due. Thank you!

**Sign up for our library e-blast.** It's the best way to keep informed. Call or come in to fill out a form and get connected to what's happening, here at your library.

**FYI:** Every second Monday of the month, we hold our **Library Board meeting** at 7:00 pm via Zoom. All are welcome to attend.



During these upcoming winter months, **notice of delays and closings**, as well as program cancellations due to inclement weather can be found on our website: [www.willingtonpubliclibrary.org](http://www.willingtonpubliclibrary.org) or WFSB-TV Channel 3 (or [WFSB.com](http://WFSB.com)) and NBC 30 WVIT (or [NBC 30.com](http://NBC 30.com)) Updates can also be found on Facebook - [www.Facebook.com/willingtonpubliclibrary](http://www.Facebook.com/willingtonpubliclibrary)

## Parks & Recreation

### Message from the Parks and Recreation Director

Winter may be upon us but that doesn't mean we aren't thinking about summer and outdoor activities. Starting this summer, Parks and Recreation will be offering week-long sports camps. Some of the new camps we would like to offer are Ultimate Frisbee and Flag Football along with the classics like basketball and volleyball. Our goal is to provide an environment for children to learn about the sport of their choosing while developing the skills needed to play. The programs will be taught by an experienced staff with a background in the sport. Full information about these camps will be available in spring.

Lakes Regional Basketball League has started up and our Willington teams are off to a great start. The kids have come a long way since practice began in November. They played hard all weekend and showed great teamwork. On to week two. Keep up the good work!!!



Stay warm and safe this Winter.  
Alan Humphrey  
Director of Parks and Recreation



## Public Works

Greetings Residents,

As winter is in full swing we would like to remind you of a few things. Please see the town's ordinances and rules as follows. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call the town garage at 860-684-9313.

Have a safe and healthy new year!

### **SNOW REMOVAL ORDINANCE:**

Volume 6, Page 81: Pursuant to Section 7-148(15), Connecticut General Statutes, use of Town roads is restricted as follows:

No person shall deposit any snow or ice onto the traveled portion of any Town road. Any person found guilty of a violation of this section shall be fined fifty (\$50) dollars by the Board of Selectman or the Public Works Director.

This includes the draining of water from sump pumps and/or other property drainage. Besides the Town fine, residents are also liable for damage to the road and any accidents that may occur as a result of water, ice or snow deposited on the roads.

### **WINTER PARKING BAN:**

A parking ban is in effect during snow storms. Cars parked on Town roads overnight may be towed at the owner's expense. Tune to WFSB (CBS) or WVIT (NBC) for parking ban information.

### **MAILBOXES:**

Your mailbox should be in good repair, firmly attached to a solid post and properly placed so no part of it is over the pavement. It will have to withstand countless tons of flying snow this winter and may require periodic maintenance.

**If a mailbox or post is pushed over or damaged as a result of snow or slush coming off a snowplow, it is considered a winter hazard and the Town will not repair or replace the mailbox or post.** The height of the bottom of the mailbox to the street should be between 42" – 48" and the mailbox door should be 6 to 8 inches back from the front face of the curb or road edge. In the event a Town plow hits a mailbox, it will be repaired by the Public Works Department.

### **PORTABLE BASKETBALL HOOPS:**

Portable basketball hoops and similar items should NOT be in the Town right-of-way. The Town is not responsible for damage done by plows to such items left in the Town right-of-way.

### **CATCH BASINS & STORM INLETS:**

Help minimize street flooding by shoveling snow and ice from in front of the storm inlet nearest your house. This includes keeping catch basin grates free of leaves and other debris all year long!

### **SAND/SALT MIXTURE:**

Sand/salt mixture is available at the Transfer Station with a 10 gallon limit per storm.

## Registrar of Voters

Check the Elections Department's website for up-to-date voting event information.

Online voter registration is available 24/7 at [voterregistration.ct.gov](http://voterregistration.ct.gov). This site coordinates with the Department of Motor Vehicles, so have your current Connecticut driver's license or state-issued ID available when applying.

If you have questions, call our office at 860 487.3120 and leave a message.

Suzanne G. Chapman

Christine Psathas

Registrars of Voters/Elections Department

[www.willingtonct.org/elections-department](http://www.willingtonct.org/elections-department)



# School Building Committee

## Willington School Building Committee Update October 2021

The Willington School Building Committee (SBC) has been meeting since January 2021 and continues to research and define a Pre-K - Grade 8 school to meet Willington's educational needs. It is part of the committee's commitment to follow the SBC charge. At this time, the SBC has not determined if a new school building or renovated school building would be best for Willington. The SBC is currently in the process of hiring consultants to help move the process forward.

The SBC was made aware of concerns that community members felt the committee was only looking to build a new school on a new site because they had created a *Land Acquisition subcommittee* (recently renamed Land Assessment Committee). The SBC discussed land owned by the Town of Willington in public session and parcels of land identified by the Board of Education during executive session. The SBC will utilize executive session to review potential land sites, as discussing parcels publicly may risk causing a price increase. Land acquisition may be required as part of the process, whether building a new school on a new site or completing a renovation. As part of the funding reimbursement and grant application, the Office of School Construction Grants and Review (OSGCR) has a minimum acreage requirement that all school districts seeking funding, must meet.

The SBC continues to hold [regular meetings](#) via Zoom on the first and third Wednesday of each month and [agendas](#) and [minutes](#) can be found on the town website. We encourage townspeople to [subscribe to e-Alerts](#) found on the front page of the town website to receive notifications of meetings. Meetings are recorded and can be accessed via the town's [YouTube page](#). Official committee information and documents are available on the [SBC webpage](#). The SBC recently updated its [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document. Community members may provide feedback through email to [sbc@willingtonct.org](mailto:sbc@willingtonct.org) or participate during the present to speak portion of the SBC meetings.

## Schools

We are accepting applications for the 2022-2023 school year beginning March 1. The pre-kindergarten program is designed to provide services to children with special education needs within an inclusive setting. Peer models are accepted on a limited basis. Eligible children must be three years of age by August 31 and cannot turn 5 before January 1.

Please check the school website for more information and to obtain the application form. Also, email Marcia McGinley, Director of Pupil Services at [mmcginley@willingtonct.org](mailto:mmcginley@willingtonct.org) to obtain a copy of the Ages to Stages Questionnaire or you can pick one up at Center School. Please include your child's name and date of birth in the email.

Both the application form and Ages to Stages Questionnaire are due by April 14th. You may either scan the application and questionnaire to Stephanie Bergan at [sbergan@willingtonct.org](mailto:sbergan@willingtonct.org) or mail/drop off to Center School at 12 Old Farms Road, Attention, Ms. Bergan.

## Willington Senior Center

**Willington Seniors, Inc.**  
**20 Senior Way, Willington, CT 06279**  
**860-429-8321 [senior.center@willingtonct.org](mailto:senior.center@willingtonct.org)**

Come on out and see all the new events we have happening here at the Center! Accepting members 55 and older.

**Mondays-** Chair Yoga  
**Tuesdays-** Tai Chi and Coloring  
**Wednesdays-** Women's and Men's Pool, Bingo  
**Thursdays-** Line Dancing  
**Fridays-** Tai Chi

Also offering multiple trips per month, social events, and more!



# Tax Collector

## Motor Vehicle Supplemental Bills have been mailed

*2<sup>nd</sup> Installment RE & MVS Due by: Tuesday, February 1st, 2022*

Greetings Willington Residents:

We are strongly encouraging everyone to continue making payments by mail, by use of our drop box located outside the front entrance or online at [www.willingtonct.org](http://www.willingtonct.org). Please note that there is a convenience fee of 2.95% for credit cards and \$1.95 for EFT for online payments. As a reminder interest cannot be waived per CT State Statute 12-146.

### How can I pay My Bill?

The Revenue Office accepts cash, money orders or personal checks for payment at the office. If you need to make your payment in person, we ask that you wear your mask and practice 6 foot social distancing. If our office is closed, you can leave a check in our Drop Box outside the front door of the building. Our mailing address is 40 Old Farms Rd, Willington CT 06279 if you want to mail in a payment. Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope, if you would like a receipt mailed back to you. You may also pay on line at [www.willingtonct.org](http://www.willingtonct.org) and click on "OnLine Payments" under the "Citizen Action Center".

### Why did I get a motor vehicle tax bill in December?

This is your motor vehicle supplemental bill. This bill was generated because you were issued a new motor vehicle registration, or have transferred an existing registration, at some time after Oct. 1, 2020, but before Sept. 30, 2021. You are being billed only for the number of months from your registration date until the end of the assessment year.

### When is my Payment Due? When is it considered Late?

Payments due January 1, 2022 must be received, or postmarked, no later than Tuesday February 1, 2022.

Interest is charged at a rate of 1 ½% per month from the due date, with a minimum interest charge of \$2.00. Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the tax or interest per CT State Statute.

**WISHING EVERYONE A HEALTHY, HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!**

Janice C. Clauson  
Revenue Collector  
860-487-3111  
[jclauson@willingtonct.org](mailto:jclauson@willingtonct.org)

Michele Cyr  
Assistant Revenue Collector  
860-487-3111  
[mcyr@willingtonct.org](mailto:mcyr@willingtonct.org)

## Town Clerk

### Important information:

**Passport Forms:** Are available online at: <https://eforms.state.gov/Forms/ds11.pdf>. The Storrs Post Office processes passports. Their phone number is 860-429-9681.

**Notary Services:** There are a number of Notary Publics in the Town Office Building. There is a \$5.00 fee for each notary seal being placed on a document.

**Probate Court for Willington:** Barbara Gardner Riordan, Probate Judge; 21 Tolland Green, Tolland, CT 06084. Phone: 860-871-3640 Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 8:30am-4:30pm

We wish our residents a very happy and healthy holiday season!

If you have any questions, please call our office: 860- 487-3121.

Robin H. Campbell, Town Clerk  
Rachel L. Pierce, Assistant Town Clerk



# Willington Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars

## High School Seniors: Would YOU like to be a Class of 2022 Scholarship Recipient?



Willington Scholarship Foundation

Dollars for Scholars (WSFDFS)

- Seniors be on the lookout for letters with information on how to apply!
- The application window on our website opens Jan 15, 2022 – closes March 15, 2022.
- Willington Seniors graduating high school in 2022 and who intend to further their post-secondary education or training can apply!

As 2021 comes to a close we would like to send a special thank you to our donors for your generosity throughout the year and on Giving Tuesday. Thank You!

## Look for our Annual Appeal! It will be in mailboxes this Spring.

Every dollar you give will help fund scholarships for our Willington students.

To send a contribution, mail a check to:

The Willington Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars; P.O. Box 194; Willington, CT, 06279

Text: **WILLINGTONFORSCHOLARS** to 44321

Donate Online: Click “Donate Now” on our website at [www.Willington.DollarsforScholars.org](http://www.Willington.DollarsforScholars.org)

Want to learn more about WSFDFS? We meet every third Monday at 7:00 pm upstairs in the Town Office Building Community Room or on zoom.

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Gabriella Courtois,  
2021 Scholarship Recipient

