Willington Wire Community E-Newsletter April, May & June 2022

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Town Offices Closed

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

Good Friday Memorial Day Friday, April 15, 2022 Monday, May 30, 2022

Town of Willington Office Building Contacts

40 Old Farms Road, Willington, CT 06279 – <u>www.willingtonct.org</u> 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	
Registar 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	860-487-3136	
Talk of the Town			

Willington PTA Run for Health, Fitness & Recreation

On Saturday, May 28, 2022, the Willington PTA is again spearheading an effort to hold a 5K (3.1 mile) road race as well as a 1-mile fun run and a ½ mile fun run. Starting times are as follows:

½ mile-10:30AM,

1 mile-11:00AM,

5K-8:30AM.

The ½ mile run will proceed down Old Farms Rd. toward the Town Office Building and then turning around and heading back to Center School. The 1 Mile run will cover the same route as the ½ mile run except that runners will be turned around at Clint Eldredge Rd.

Willington Day

Saturday, May 28th 11am-3:00 p.m.

River Road Athletic Complex

The Willington Day Committee would like to invite you to participate in Willington Day 2022 on Saturday May 28, 2022 from 11am-3 p.m. The location will be at the River Road Athletic Complex at 511 River Road (Route 32) Willington. We hope many local businesses and organizations will reserve a booth and help make this a very special day in our town. Willington Day is a great way for the community to get creative and come up with a fun event or idea. Thank you for your support of and participation in this great town event. We hope to see all of our neighbors there! If you have any questions or need further information, please email Melissa McKinnon, Chair, at <u>mmckinnon@willingtonct.gov</u> or call 860-818-2221. Please follow the Willington Day Facebook page for updates!

Memorial Day Observance

The annual Town of Willington Memorial Day Ceremony will commence on Monday, May 30th, 2022, at 8:30am at the Town Green on Route 74. The parade will step off and head down Route 74 from the Town Green to the Willington Hill Cemetery, where a small ceremony will be held at the Cpl. Henry Toberman's grave. The parade will resume back up Route 74 returning to the Town Green where services will be head. As always, ice cream will be served to the children in attendance after the services.

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Important Dates

April 5th Budget Hearing April 19th Annual Town Meeting May 3rd Annual Budget Referendum (polls open 6am-8pm) May 16-May 22 Public Works Fill A Truck

May 28th Willington 5K PTA Road Race May 28th Willington Day May 30th Memorial Day Observance

Boards & Comm	Boards & Commissions – Meeting Calendar – April, May, June 2022				
Board/Commission	Day	Date	Time		
Board of Education	Tuesday	April 12, 2022	7pm		
Board of Education	Tuesday	May 10, 2022	7pm		
Board of Education	Tuesday	April 12, 2022	7pm		
Board of Finance	Thursday	April 21, 2022	7pm		
Board of Finance	Thursday	May 19, 2022	7pm		
Board of Finance	Thursday	June 16, 2022	7pm		
Board of Selectmen	Monday	April 4, 2022	6:30pm		
Board of Selectmen	Monday	April 18, 2022	6:30pm		
Board of Selectmen	Monday	May 2, 2022	6:30pm		
Board of Selectmen	Monday	May 16, 2022	6:30pm		
Board of Selectmen	Monday	June 6, 2022	6:30pm		
Board of Selectmen	Tuesday	June 21, 2022	6:30pm		
Annual Budget Referendum	Tuesday	May 3, 2022			
Conservation Commission	Wednesday	April 20, 2022	7pm		
Conservation Commission	Wednesday	May 18, 2022	7pm		
Conservation Commission	Wednesday	June 15, 2022	7pm		
Economic Development	Wednesday	April 13, 2022	6:30pm		
Economic Development	Wednesday	May 11, 2022	6:30pm		
Economic Development	Wednesday	June 8, 2022	6:30pm		
Listerias Cosist	Tuesday	April 10, 2022	7		
Historical Society	Tuesday	April 19, 2022	7pm		
Historical Society	Tuesday	May 17, 2022	7pm		

Historical Society	Tuesday	June 21, 2022	7pm
Housing Authority	Monday	April 18, 2022	4pm
Housing Authority	Monday	May 16, 2022	4pm
Housing Authority	Monday	June 20, 2022	4pm
Inland Wetlands/Watercourses	Monday	April 25, 2022	7:30pm
Inland Wetlands/Watercourses	Monday	May 23, 2022	7:30pm
Inland Wetlands/Watercourses	Monday	June 27, 2022	7:30pm
Library Board of Directors	Monday	April 11, 2022	7pm
Library Board of Directors	Monday	May 9, 2022	7pm
Library Board of Directors	Monday	June 13, 2022	7pm
Parks & Recreation	Monday	April 25, 2022	7pm
Parks & Recreation	Monday	May 30, 2022	7pm
Parks & Recreation	Monday	June 27,2022	7pm
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	April 5, 2022	7:30pm
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	April 19, 2022	7:30pm
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	May 3, 2022	7:30pm
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	May 17, 2022	7:30pm
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	June 7, 2022	7:30pm
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	June 21, 2022	7:30pm
Zoning Board of Appeals	Thursday	April 14, 2022	7:30pm
Zoning Board of Appeals	Thursday	May 12, 2022	7:30pm
Zoning Board of Appeals	Thursday	June 9, 2022	7:30pm



Dear Willington Residents,

Spring is in the air! After a long winter we are all ready to get out and enjoy the longer days and warmer temperatures. Our road crew deserves a THANK YOU for all their hard work keeping our roads clear and safe.

It has now been 2 years since we had to make difficult decisions to close schools, businesses and restaurants, and distance ourselves from others. Over the past 2 years our community persevered, helped neighbors, and did their part to fight this pandemic. Each of you showed why we are Willington Strong; you never gave up and continue to think beyond yourself as we moved

forward.

Spring in Willington is a time to get outdoors and connect with friends and neighbors and support local non-profit organizations. As we navigate this new normal, we will be renewing many of our traditions that were postponed due to the pandemic. I forward to seeing many of you at The PTA's Annual Road Race, the Memorial Day Parade and the 30th Anniversary of Willington Day!

2022 has been a productive year so far for many of our Town Boards, Commissions, and departments. The budget process for the 2022-2023 fiscal year is in full swing and The Board of Finance, Capital Improvement Committee, Board of Education, and many others have dedicated many long evening meetings to bring a sound budget to the voters of Willington. Thank you to all who have participated in the budget process from submitting requests to giving us your feedback to making the final decisions. Mark your calendar for these important dates in the budget process: Tuesday April 5th Budget Hearing, Tuesday April 19th Annual Town Meeting, and Tuesday May 3rd to vote in the budget referendum. Please check the town website (www.willingtonct.gov) to see a complete list of Meeting dates, agendas, and minutes.

I hope to see many of you out and about in Willington this Spring, until then stay Willington Strong

Erika G. Wiecenski

The Assessor's Office administers exemption programs which benefit the elderly, disabled, blind, and veterans.

Elderly/Totally Disabled Tax Relief Program: Completed applications are due biannually by May 15. Anyone applying after April 15 must apply by appointment. We will be happy to assist you in filing your application. Please call-in advance for an appointment so we may provide the time and attention necessary 860-487-3122.

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 \$38,100(single) or \$46,400(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.

Disabled: Any individual who receives a disability pension from the Social Security Administration and has been designated by the SSA is eligible for a \$1000 exemption off your assessment. To qualify you must file proof of 100% disability from Social Security (form TPQY) or a copy of your "Award Letter" that states disability. This application only needs to be filed once. Filing Deadline: October 1

Blind: Any individual that presents a Certification of Legal Blindness from the Board of Education and Services for the Blind, BESB, that states he/she is considered to be legally blind may be eligible for a \$3,000 exemption off your assessment. Filing Deadline: October 1

Veterans: If you are a veteran of any war period so declared in the Connecticut General Statutes, you may be entitled to an exemption. An original or certified copy of his/her Honorable discharge (DD-214) must be filed in the Willington Land Records prior to October 1. Filing Deadline: September 30th.

<u>Additional Veteran's Exemption</u>: Veterans who maintain a disability rating from the VA of at least 10% are entitled to an increased exemption. Depending on the disability rating and income level. Filing deadline: October 1st.

Applications can be obtained at the Assessor's Office and can be sent to you by mail or e-mail if you can 860-487-3122 during office hours, Monday 12:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. and Tuesday – Friday 9:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m.

Nicole J Snyder Assistant Assessor nsnyder@willingtonct.gov 860-487-3122

<u>Rachel Pierce</u> Assessor Office Assistant <u>Rpierce@willingtonct.gov</u> 860-487-3122

Willington Wire

Center School Pre-Kindergarten Registration

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 <u>mmcginley@willingtonct.org</u> 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@willintonct.or or mail/drop off to Center School at 12 Old Farms Road, Attention, Ms. Bergan.

Center Elementary School Kindergarten Registration

Center Elementary School, Willington, asks parents and guardians to begin the Kindergarten registration process (for next school year) for children who turn 5 years old on or before Jan 1, 2023.

Please call the school at 860.429.9367 for more information. Orientation will occur in the spring of 2022.





Willington Conservation Commission presents:

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: HELP MANAGE TOWN OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS

Stewards needed for Willington's Open Space Properties and Trails at Fenton Ruby Park and Wildlife Preserve, Royal Knowlton Preserve and Daniel W. Talmadge Tract. Open to individuals 18 years or older. Training provided. Must be willing to volunteer for at least 1 year.

TRAIL STEWARD - 6 trail positions available. Responsibilities include:

- 1) Walk designated trail at least once a season. Report conditions and concerns to Head Steward.
- 2) Review trails for excessive erosion, motorized vehicle incursions, safety concerns, etc.
- Identify work needed such as brush trimming, re-painting trail markers, repairs to trails, bridges, signs, etc., and report to Head Steward.
- 4) Request assistance as needed with assessment of trail and structures.
- 5) Keep map box filled with trail brochures / refresh trail registers as needed.
- Assist with clearing downed limbs, brush trimming, re-blazing trail paint, maintaining walkways and bridges in coordination with Head Steward.
- Attend training and work sessions to accomplish projects in coordination with Head Steward (1x-2x /year).

HEAD STEWARD - 1 position available. Responsibilities include:

- 1) Provide for stewardship training of all Trail Stewards (1x-2x /year)
- 2) Gather all information submitted by Trail Stewards (at least quarterly).
- 3) Prepare trail maintenance plans for all 3 open space properties (at least annually).
- 4) Develop resource estimates (manpower & materials).
- 5) Identify project milestones (time tables & activity schedules).
- 6) Coordinate property maintenance activities with Trail Stewards and other volunteers.
- 7) Report quarterly to the Conservation Commission regarding properties, projects and work plan.
- 8) Revise projects and work plans as required by the Conservation Commission.
- 9) Hold trail work sessions 2x-4x/ year and report results to the Conservation Commission.

<u>"FRIENDS OF WILLINGTON'S PARK & PRESERVES"</u> – You can also simply volunteer as you are available to help with scheduled work sessions at the open space properties to clear brush, remove invasive plants, repair bridges, install signs, etc. Share your email address or phone number and the Conservation Commission will contact you when work sessions and/or environmental education events are scheduled at the properties.

Fenton Ruby Park and Wildlife Preserve is located on Burma Road (off Moose Meadow Rd) and the Knowlton Preserve and the Talmadge Tract are located on Mason Road (close to Rte. 44).

For more information and/or to volunteer, please contact: Kathy Demers, Chair, Willington Conservation Commission. <u>kdemers48@gmail.com</u> or 860-377-6416 (M)

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EC-CHAP

Lecture Series: "*Reviving History in the Graveyard - Replicating Three Revolutionary War Veteran's Headstones with* Randall Nelson".



In 2019, the director of the Ancient Burying Ground Association asked Mr. Nelson if he could make new versions of three badly deteriorated headstones in the Ancient Burying Ground, which is the oldest existing cemetery in CT. These headstones mark the burials of three Revolutionary War veterans: Captain Joseph Talcott, Captain John Watson and Major Daniel Jones.

Randall Nelson will speak about the Ancient Burying Ground and the individuals for whom the stones were originally created. He will also show the steps involved in producing and installing these replicas of the original headstones, two of which

were made from Portland CT brownstone and one from Lee MA marble.

Please join us for this unique lecture about our history. This program is hosted by the "Eastern Connecticut Center for History, Art, and Performance" (EC-CHAP). Doors 6:30pm / Lecture 7:00pm. Admission is free. Donations gratefully accepted. Soft drinks and snacks available.

For more information, please visit: www.thepackinghouse/upcoming or call 518-791-9474.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Mr. Nelson earned his BFA in Sculpture from Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY in 1974, then served a five-year apprenticeship in woodworking with Master Sculptor Toshio Odate from 1975 to 1980. He received my MFA in Visual Art from Vermont College for the Arts in 2006, and has have been an Adjunct Faculty member at the University of CT, Storrs and the University of Hartford, Bloomfield. He has also been



Adjunct Faculty at Quinebaug Valley Community College, Middlesex Community College and Asnuntuck Community College.

Mr. Nelson has been a working artist for thirty years, teaching art courses while maintaining my own art practice and managing a sculptural restoration business specializing in the preservation of building facades, monuments and statuary. He has extensive experience in the different fields of sculptural production, including wood and stone carving, mold making, casting and metal working.

As a restoration sculptor, his company, Nelson Architectural Restoration, has worked on hundreds of decorative stone and terra cotta projects nation-wide, repairing monuments and buildings in New England and other parts of the country, including the brownstone Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch in Bushnell Park in Hartford and the famous brownstone McClellan Gate at Arlington National Cemetery. Mr. Nelson has also worked on several major monument restoration projects for the City of Savannah, GA.

Presently, Mr. Nelson is providing curatorial work for several local historic cemeteries, repairing and replicating damaged monuments and headstones. Mr. Nelson can be reached at: Nelson Architectural Restoration (860) 429-3830; andromeda1388@yahoo.com.

Willington Wire



Dye & Bleach House Community Gallery: "Fiber – Wood – Metal"

A new Exhibit, "*Fiber – Wood – Metal*" will be on display at the Dye & Bleach House Community Gallery from **Saturday, April 2nd through Saturday, May 14th**. Please visit <u>www.ec-chap.org</u> for the date of the Opening Reception for this exhibit.

The exhibit includes original work of three regional artists: Sally Rogers, Randall Nelson, and Scotty Opperman.

SALLY ROGERS: 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.



In addition to your musical talents, Sally is an accomplished textile artist, creating unique and colorful quilt panels. Her works present a variety of shapes and sizes ranging from 1-foot to over 8-feet.

RANDALL NELSON: Randall Nelson's early training as a sculptor was as a wood carver and the focus of his earliest work period was on making abstract wood

sculptures. After several years of doing abstract pieces, he began making animals, combining carved wood and other materials such as old "found object" metal castings that would suggest an element of the piece, usually as the face of the animal. Randall also started making carved furniture that incorporated ceramic elements that he had also made, all combined to tell a story.

In recent years Randall's style of production has diversified and his art has become more personal and more overtly political. Many of his more recent works are in the form of large installation pieces, designed to comment on an event or tell a specific story. However, no matter what the subject or method of production, he has always tried to maintain an element of humor in his artwork.

SCOTTY OPPERMAN: Scotty Opperman is a local artist. He made his first ring and sphere sculptures in 1976 and after setting the art aside in the early 80s to raise his daughter, returned to metal work in 2010.

Born of a love and curiosity for welding, his sculptures are a unique combination of copper, steel, brass and aluminum. Scotty enjoys the challenge and beauty of the welding and machine work techniques it takes to make his work three dimensional.

The finished pieces represent his view of the shape of the universe, celestial orbits and unknown planets. Most of his raw materials are salvaged from scrap metal yards across the country.

The Dye & Bleach House Community Gallery open Saturday mornings from 10:00am to 12:00pm and by appointment. The Gallery is located at 156 River Road, Willington, CT 06279. For information, please call 518-791-9474, or visit www.ec-chap.org.

EC-CHAP cont.





<u>ec-chap.org</u> <u>thepackinghouse.us</u> The Packing House – An Intimate Listening Room

We would like to thank all those who came out to our performances and events since The Packing House reopened on September 18, 2021 for **LIVE PERFORMANCES** and **FILM SCREENINGS**! Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

In closely monitoring National, State, and Local COVID Guidelines, the EC-CHAP Board of Directors relaxed our COVID protocols effective March 9th to include the following: Masks are optional (encouraged); maintain social distancing practices; and 75% capacity in The Packing House. These protocols also apply to the Dye & Bleach House Community Gallery and Gardiner Hall Jr History Museum.



We are excited to welcome <u>STEVE KATZ</u> back to The Packing House stage on Saturday, April 2nd! Steve Katz, founding member of Blood Sweat and Tears, will be offering an "*An Evening of Music and Intimate Conversation*".

Steve has been performing and doing book talks all across the country to rave reviews and rapt audiences. He will take you back to a time we all remember and to the music we all grew up with. Spend a memorable evening with Steve Katz - one you will never

forget. Click <u>HERE</u> for more information. Please visit <u>The Packing House</u> for additional details, tickets, and a full schedule of events. If you have not subscribed to our newsletter please do so at: <u>www.thepackinghouse.us</u>.

SAVE THE DATES: EC-CHAP Performance Series

APRIL 1, 2022: EC-CHAP Special Program: "<u>An Evening with Spiritual Medium Maura</u> <u>Geist</u>". 7:30pm





Seat of Our Pants

APRIL 2, 2022: EC-CHAP Acoustic Artist Series: "<u>An Evening of</u> <u>Music and Intimate Conversation with Steve Katz</u>" – Founding Member of Blood, Sweat, and Tears (Rock). 7:30pm



Maura Geist

APRIL 21, 2022: EC-CHAP Film Series: "<u>20-Feet from Stardom</u>" (PG-13) 2013. 7:00pm

APRIL 23, 2022: EC-CHAP Acoustic Artist Series: "<u>Seat Of Our Pants</u>" (Folk/Bluegrass/Americana). 7:30pm

APRIL 27, 2022: EC-CHAP Lecture Series: "<u>Reviving History in the</u> <u>Graveyard - Replicating Three Revolutionary War Veteran's Headstones</u> <u>with Randall Nelson</u>". 7:00pm

APRIL 29, 2022: EC-CHAP Acoustic Artist Series: "Sperry Creek" (Bluegrass). 7:30pm

Willington Wire

EC-CHAP cont.

MAY 14, 2022: EC-CHAP Acoustic Artist Series: "<u>Lexi Weege with JJ Slater</u>" (Indie/Rock). 7:30pm

MAY 19, 2022: EC-CHAP Film Series: A Special Film (TBA). 7:00pm

MAY 18, 2022: EC-CHAP Special Program: "<u>Drum Circle 55+ with Bob Bloom</u>". 7:00pm



Lexi Weege



MAY 21, 2022: EC-CHAP Acoustic Artist Series: "<u>Calendula – 'Loveletter', A CD</u> <u>Release Event</u>" (Indie/Folk). 7:30pm

FILM SCREENING: EC-CHAP Film Series

APRIL 21, 2022: "<u>20 Feet From Stardom</u>". 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.

MAY 19, 2022: Surprise Film (TBA). 7:00pm

Join us for a film without a name. Take a chance on a film we think most will love!

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 2nd Wednesday of the month** (Doors open at 6:30pm). For information about how you can participate in the Talent Showcase, please visit our <u>website</u>. Please call 518-791-9474 to get placed on the schedule. Walk-ins are welcome time permitting.

April Talent Showcase: Wednesday, April 13th, 7:00pm | May Talent Showcase: Wednesday, May 11th, 7:00pm

IN CLOSING...

Soft drinks and snacks available. Unless otherwise noted, we are pleased to offer our exclusive "BYOB&F" TM model - Bring Your Own Beverage & Food (Wine & Beer Only - I.D. Required). You can also bring your paid ticket to Willington Pizza House (or WP Too) for eat-in or take-out the night of the show and receive 15% off your meal purchase. Ask for "The Packing House" pizza! Click <u>HERE</u> for secret recipe.

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 <u>www.ec-chap.org</u>; email us at: <u>info@ec-chap.org</u>; or call: 518-791-9474.

Willington Wire

Economic Development Commission



The Economic Development Commission has been busy developing a proposal to assist Willington businesses that were damaged during the Pandemic. On March 21st the American Rescue Plan Commission approved our request for direct payments to small businesses. The total award to be disbursed is three hundred thousand dollars.

Willington businesses that sustained a slow down or loss of business may apply for individual grants up to ten

thousand dollars. The EDC will be finalizing the online application and will advertise the program in the coming weeks. We are delighted that the Town can offer local businesses direct help.

I wanted to thank members of the ARP Commission and members of the Economic Development Commission, especially Samantha Hills.

Richard Maloney Chairman Willington Economic Development Commission



Fire Marshal

During the pandemic The Open Burning Official had been issuing Burning Permits verbally. Unfortunately, this procedure has ended. The actual Open burning Permit form is again being used, in this change, you'll need to follow this procedure.

There is no cost for this permit.

Most permits can now be obtain by simply e-mailing me at <u>dpalmer@willingtonct.gov</u> requesting an Open Burning Permit. I will e-mail you this blank permit. Once you completed the top portion, you'll need to return this back to me. I will then complete this form, highlighting the burning index web site, and a number to call prior to burning, back to you. If you can't complete this e-mailing procedure, then call my office at 860-429-7757, and we'll make arrangements to meet with you, in order to complete this form.

So far this procedure has worked well; we may through time need to adjust this. Please allow yourself plenty of time in your burning activity.

Historical Society



Springtime in Willington in Years Past

Welcome Spring! Along with the immediately recognizable smell of farmers fertilizing their fields and the deafening sound of peepers, spring in Willington brought many wonderful and fun activities in years past that the entire town could look forward to. Some of the events are still held in town now, and some are just wonderful memories. Here are a few for the spring season:

April brought Opening Day of Fishing Season, with a large Fisherman's Breakfast prepared by Willington Fire Dept. #1. Easter meant the Annual Joe Green Memorial Easter egg hunt and you could always count on Troop 82 selling plants on Good Friday and the day before Easter.

Spring brought Little League opening day ceremonies, in more recent years this has been held at the Town Hall fields. Every player, lined up in their colorful uniforms surrounded the field, accompanied by their coaches.

Memorial Day was always a big event in years gone by. Just like today, all the scouts, the teams, the Hall School Band, the fire departments, and the Veterans would assemble on the morning of Memorial Day at the town green. Some years, the parade included visiting groups, like the Governor's Footguard and people on horseback. As always, the parade proceeded down Rte. 74 to the Cemetery followed by the residents for the veterans' ceremony and gun salute. The parade would turn around in West's Garage, with the garden planted and decorated for the day, and everyone would follow the parade back up the hill. There were speeches by town dignitaries and a reading of Lincoln's Address to the Troops. The parade was followed by ice cream on the steps of Old Town Hall.

Later in the day there were hot dogs and hamburgers, a Doll Carriage Parade at Center School and a Soap Box Derby competition on Y Road.

Years later, the town separated the Memorial Day events, and a Road Race was held the Saturday prior to Memorial Day, followed by booths and events (Pizza eating! Music! Pie! Frog jumping! Horseshoe Tournament!) set up at Center School. A fishing derby followed that afternoon at Thompson's Pond.

Amazing but true, Willington had an annual Donkey Baseball Game with members of the fire departments playing baseball while riding an actual donkey. This was always great for laughs and family entertainment.

The old VFW Hall on Moose Meadow Road held Grocery Bingo and Fried Clams and Fish Nights on alternating Friday evenings. St. Jude Church, built in the late 1960's, held Bingo every Monday evening.

On a clear night, you might hear King, the Willington Game Farm lion, roaring in the distance. You might also hear the races and the announcers at Stafford Speedway.

Historical Commission cont.

Later in the summer, Independence Day and the Willington Flea Market—we'll have more memories to come.

If you have happy memories of Willington that you would like to share, please add them in the comments on our Facebook page. We would love to hear from you! https://www.facebook.com/WillingtonHistoricalSociety

Watch your mailbox for a Willington Historical Society flyer, coming your way soon.

https://willingtonhistoricalsocietyct.org/

Department of Human Services

40 Old Farms Road, Willington, Connecticut 06279 Tel. (860)487-3118 Email: humanservices@willingtonct.org

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 at the Town Office building, 40 Old Farms Road. All are welcome!

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

DRIVE THROUGH FOOD DISTRIBUTION - Offering food, household items, and masks for adults and children, FREE for all residents! Swing by the Town Offices the 4rd

Friday of every month between 10am and 11:30am- please bring your ID.

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!

RENTERS REBATE TIME –Elderly or disabled people who rented in 2021 are invited to contact our office to apply for Renters Rebate, a state tax

abatement program which can provide a payment of up to \$700 for those who qualify. Contact our office for more information.









Department of Human Services



PUBLIC WORKS FILL A TRUCK! –Join us for our FOURTH Public Works Fill-a-Truck celebration in May! During National Public Works Week, May 16-22nd, we will be accepting donations of canned and dry goods for our food pantry. Dates and times of the truck will be forthcoming. Help us help our neighbors in need and let's fill our truck!

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 Programs

There are so many exciting new things being offered at the library. People are coming in and we couldn't be happier. We've missed so many. Now that the Town's mask mandate has been lifted, it is your choice, whether to wear a mask or not in the library. Spring is here and it's nice to be getting outdoors and back into our community and participating once again in the many wonderful things we have to offer.

Communication is a wonderful thing, and we would like to keep you in the "loop". This is a great way for us to come to you with important information firsthand. Come in, call up, or from your home, we invite you to sign up for the library's E-Blast. By going on to our website and clicking on the **E-Blast Signup** bar at the top of our Home Page, you can now join up digitally. That's all it takes to keep yourself informed of all things library. We will then come to you! Be the first to know. Enjoy browsing through our website at <u>www.willingtonpubliclibrary.org</u>. We can also be found on any one of our many social medias such as, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and <u>burbio.com</u>.

What's NEW on our website...

We now have a new link to the CT State Library's **ResearchIT CT** program. This is a free online resource service for the public. It is accessible to everyone, for the purpose of reading periodicals, whether newspapers or magazines. Everything is listed by categories, so it is easy to maneuver through the many different offerings available. You will find this by going to our home page, scroll down to the bottom of the page and then clicking on the "ResearchIT CT" icon. Expand your horizons and take advantage of this great offering. It will open up your world!



Coming soon in early 2022... We are looking forward to bringing our library patrons another great resource and free program called - The Palace Project app. This free e-reader app will make it easier than ever to borrow E-Books and E-Audio content provided by the Connecticut State Library. With Palace, libraries will be able to provide a consolidated and clear view book collections.

Due to grants received, we are now able to offer...

1) Hot Spots: These were obtained through the American Rescue Plan (ARPA), for a limited time. A hotspot is an area where a user can access the Internet via Wi-Fi. A mobile hotspot device enables users to connect to the internet using a small box with a cell phone data plan that they can bring with them wherever they go. As long as the device can connect to a cell tower, users can access the Internet.

The device itself emits a Wi-Fi signal that users can connect their personal devices to, like a laptop, tablet, or smart phone, to use the Internet. This Mobile Hotspot Lending Program will offer our library patrons a world of possibilities, enabling patrons to take the Internet home and help meet your information needs. By loaning out these hot spots just like a book, we can now provide our patrons with 24/7 access to the Internet. These will be lent out with your library card much like other library media and will be available for borrowing, by mid-April.

2) **Chromebooks:** These were obtained through the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF). Chromebooks are a new type of mobile laptop computer designed to help you get things done faster and easier. It is an online-only machine that does most of its work in the cloud and runs on Chrome OS and it's all Google. These will be lent out with your library card much like other library media and will be available for borrowing, by mid-April.

Fundraisers:

We are always looking for ways to raise revenue for our library, however big or small. Every little bit helps. If you have any fundraising ideas, we would love to hear about them. We started having "**Monthly Drawings**" and they have been going very well. You can purchase a ticket for \$1.00 to receive a chance at winning. You can buy as many tickets as you'd like - no limit! We have had many wonderfully themed "gifts" that have been given and then given out.

Coming up for our April drawing and in celebration of Cinco de Mayo in May, we are asking and hoping for a gift certificate, to Margarita's here is Mansfield. We hope people will frequent these establishments who have so generously supported us. We have had local business such as Tri-County Greenhouse, Willington Pizza, Dunkin' Donuts, and The Packing House, so far, helping in our endeavors. Thank you to those who have been there for our library. In March, we had a brand-new neighbor to Willington, Lisa Dobson of Wolf & Woods, who generously donated a box of scented soy candles for our drawing. If you have something to give, we would gladly accept it.

Thank you to all who have participated in one way or another. If you would like to participate and contribute an item(s), it is always greatly appreciated!

This is a great way to get free advertising for your businesses too! Keep a watch for what will be offered in our May and June monthly drawings.

Amazon Smile:

Here's an easy way you can help your library...join AmazonSmile! Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Support the library by starting your shopping at smile amazon com

Support the library by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com

First: Enter: Email (phone for mobile accounts)

Then: Start by picking your charity

Willington Wire



At Search: Choose: Willington Public Library

Once you have registered for the Willington Public Library as your charity, every time you place an order you are automatically contributing to your library. When you bring up your Amazon account, you will notice under the search bar, it will state...Supporting: Willington Public Library. Again, every little bit helps a lot!

Thank you for your patronage!

People have been enjoying the "Free" library we have outside. You can now "library" 24/7. Here you can take a book or leave a book, or both! These are books you can borrow or keep, or pass on to another for their enjoyment.

Our **Reading Room** is open to sit, relax, and read. The Chronicle and Journal Inquirer newspapers are back on the shelf for your reading pleasure.

Ongoing Programs



AL-ANON MEETING SPOKEN HERE is hosted at the library weekly, Friday mornings 10:00 - 11:00 am in our Conference room. These are in-person meetings.

• HAS YOUR LIFE BEEN AFFECTED BY A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND'S PROBLEM DRINKING? ARE YOU TROUBLED BY SOMEONE'S ALCOHOL USE?

• PLEASE TRY THE ALANON PROGRAM. IT CAN PROVIDE STRENGTH, HOPE AND SUPPORT AND SERENITY.

 AL-ANON IS BASED ON THE 12 STEPS OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS AND HAS BUT ONE PURPOSE:TO HELP PEOPLE WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY ALCOHOLISM.

Al-Anon is an anonymous fellowship for friends and families of alcoholics. We, who have lived with the problem of alcoholism, can understand and support one another to recovery. The loving interchange of help among members and from Al Anon literature has helped many to find solutions that lead to serenity.



Pokemon Club

Second Tuesdays of the month, from 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Trade and Play the Pokemon Card Game NO experience required. Limited decks. Ages 7+. No registration needed. Snacks provided.

3-D Needle Felting with Angelina Fleury of American Made Crafter's



6:00 - 8:00 pm in the Community room All materials included in cost. Class size is limited, so register early. Cost is \$12.00 and includes all materials. You will go home with a finished project to keep or gift. Payment is due upon registration. **Tuesday, April 5: Baby Chick**





Tuesday, May 3: Strawberry Fairy with Wings



Monique Bosch Tuesday, April 26th, 6:30 pm Composting In Willington

Trained in landscape design and horticulture, Monique has built over 40 edible school and community gardens, a twoacre urban farm and school farm, helping community members and youth grow nutrient dense food. She teaches and speaks on 'how to grow your own food' as well as worm

composting, microscopy, healthy soils and community building. She has founded and run for and non-profit entities, including Green Village Initiative (GVI) and Wiggle Room LLC.

Join us for a presentation on composting for various sites around Willington. Whether you are a home gardener, community organizer or farmer, we will explore ways to compost that fit the site and scale of your project. Utilizing food waste and other natural resources around town, we will learn how to make the healthiest compost to feed our soils.

Saturday is for Science!

Classes for grades 3 - 5 with Mrs. T. - 10:30 am - 12:00 pm. Due to limited space, registration is required.

- 1. **Sound off! April 9th.** We answer the questions: What is sound? What are the different kinds of waves? How do waves travel? How does sound get from your eardrum to your brain? Why do we hear jets over head at the same time we see them off at a distance? Is there sound in space? Take home: reading phones
- Let's make music! April 30th. Today's questions: Why are some notes higher than others? What is an octave? How can you get so many notes out of just four strings on a violin? How does a kazoo work? How does a recorder make so many different notes? Take home: a tongue depressor kazoo
- 3. **Balancing Act**: **May 28th.** We will answer the questions: Why do things topple over? How can a skyscraper NOT topple over? What is the center of gravity? Where is your center of



gravity? How can you keep yourself from falling when you are tackled on a football field? Can you really pick up that chair? Why do tightrope walkers carry a pole? Take home: balancing birds

This is a very different class then our existing Knitting Group (read more about the changes further down).

NEW - Learn to Knit! with Christine McCloskey

In Learning to Knit, you will start off being taught the basics by Christine McCloskey. Christine is a Willington resident and you may know her from her business "For the Love of Pets". You may not know this, but Christine is a very talented knitter and has been knitting all of her life. She has a wonderful rich history in this art and she would like to share this gift now with others.

This beginner knitting class will teach you the basic knitting techniques to get you started to be able to make your own one of kind pieces starting with a scarf, hat, summer top, a cozy sweater or cardigan.

You should be at least 11 years of age. Other than that, no other experience is necessary, as this is a very beginner/intro to knitting. Her classes are hands on, giving undivided attention to each person. There is a limit of 6 people per class, so registration is required. This is so everyone gets the help and guidance they need. These two-hour classes will be held on the first and third Saturdays of the month from 12:00 - 2:00 pm. The first class will be \$30.00, which will include all supplies. Each additional class will be \$25.00.

"Once you know the basics, you will be on your way to create your own beautiful one-of-a-kind pieces for yourself or as gifts for loved ones. Throughout my life I have experienced the joy of knitting. From my very first knitted scarf to my beautiful cozy sweaters, I've enjoyed every stitch along the way".

NEW - "Yarn & Thread" Group: Every Tuesday 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Do you love to chat and getting together with friends? We are combining the two in our new class called "Yarn & Thread". Our old is now new. Our Knitting Group of 16 years is expanding. They would like to extend a welcome and invite different types of crafts surrounded around yarn and thread works of art. This will be a gathering of creative minds working on their own projects, yet together as a group. This is very much a social time for those who attend. If you knit, crochet, cross-stitch, embroider, crewel, or any other type of hands-on portable craft involving yarn and thread, please, join us. Come and enjoy the company of others as you enjoy working on whatever project your art heart desires!

Join us for a book talk and signing by author, adventurer, and historian Marty Podskoch.

Thursday evening at 6:30 pm, on May 19, 2022

This modern-day Mr. Rogers navigates readers from out behind the blue screen, off the interstate and onto Connecticut backroads to meet and merge with fascinating neighbors and uncover cool curiosities tucked into the 169 towns and cities in the Nutmeg State. His new book, *The Connecticut 169*

Club: Your Passport and Guide to Exploring Connecticut, encourages travelers to visit all of the towns and villages of our beautiful and unique state.

About the book: Podskoch created this book to be a guide and a passport. He found someone from each town to write a short description highlighting their town's location, history, and interesting places to visit. The book has a space for travelers to journal about their experiences and a place to get the book stamped or signed by a resident or business. Travelers will get to know the locals and perhaps learn about a good place to eat or an interesting local attraction and learn a lot about Connecticut and its residents in the process. People who visit all 169 towns will receive the "Leatherman Award" patch at a luncheon or dinner held at a different town each year. The award is named after the vagabond who lived in caves and traveled a route regularly (approx. 34 days) from the Connecticut River to the Hudson River during the late 1800s. Books will be available for purchase at the event.

Willington Public Library Programs cont.

Introducing our list of 2022 Museum and Attraction Passes

• American Clock & Watch Museum (Bristol, CT)

3 in 1 passes:

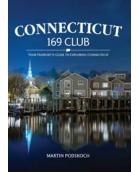
- CT Trolley Museum (East Windsor)
- Connecticut Fire Truck Museum (East Windsor)
- Connecticut Motor Coach Museum (East Windsor)

2 in 1 passes:

- The Children's Museum (West Hartford, CT)
- Roaring Brook Nature Center (Canton, CT)
- Connecticut Historical Society Museum and Library (Hartford, CT)







• Connecticut's Old State House (Hartford, CT)

CT State Parks & Forests & Museum Pass: "No Child Left Inside"

- The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art (Amherst, MA)
- Florence Griswold Museum (Old Lyme, CT)
- Harriet Beecher Stowe House/Center (Hartford, CT)
- Lutz Children's Museum (Manchester, CT)
- New Britain Museum of American Art (New Britain, CT)
- New England Air Museum (Windsor Locks, CT)
- Old Sturbridge Village (MA)

2 in 1 passes:

- New England Carousel Museum (Bristol, CT)
- Museum of Fire History (Bristol, CT)

6 in 1 passes:

- Springfield Museums (MA) (6 museums in one pass): George Walter Vincent Smith Art Museum, Springfield Science Museum, Michele and Donald D'Amour Museum of Fine Arts, Lyman and Merrie Wood Museum of Springfield History, Dr. Suess National Memorial Sculpture Gardens, and The Amazing World of Dr. Seuss Museum
- Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art (Hartford, CT)
- The Zoo in Forest Park & Nature Center (Springfield, MA)

As museums, zoos and attractions begin to reopen, there were many new restrictions and limitations being implemented due to the Covid-19 situation. Please take advantage of them while you can and as they are made available for you to enjoy. Before you consider going or requesting a pass, it is strongly advised that you go online to each of the individual institution's websites and/or call them to find out exactly what their current protocol is for how they are operating. Things could be very different from what it once was in regard to hours and usage. This way you will be informed of their most current practices for keeping safe.

Eastern CT Writers Group w/ Author Felix Giordano

This group 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, or 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...<u>felix@jbnovels.com</u>

Willington Wire



Family Movie Time

Join us for a family favorite movie on the last Saturday of the month at 12:30 pm. Bring a friend, snack, or a lunch and sit back and enjoy a movie matinee at the library, on the BIG screen. Titles TBA. Look for our flyers promoting the different showings to come.

Whooo-Whooo?

Introducing the newest member of our library family. We welcome this beautiful 100 year old owl that was donated by the Walter family. We aren't sure if it is a boy or girl or even what kind of an owl it is. Maybe you can help us identify. We are thinking about giving it a name as well. Any suggestions? Let us know. It will certainly be enjoyed by all, for many years to come. Thank you for letting us give it a new home.

Friends of WPL Meetings...The Friends meet on the second Tuesday, of all the even numbered months of the year.

Library Board Meetings...The Board meets on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 pm.

COMING: 2022 Summer Reading Program Saturday, June 25 - August 13, 2022 (more to come!)

Our Summer Reading Kickoff:

Drumming About You - Everyone Plays with Bob Bloom

Saturday, June 25 at 1:00 pm

Bob Bloom is a master teaching artist, an interactive drumming leader, drum ride driver, and a percussionist who is right here, in our home town of Willington. He has visited with us here at the library several times over the years and it is our delight



and pleasure to welcome him back for another fun extravaganza. To see more of Bob, visit www.drumming-about-you.com

Legendary songs are going to sparkle in Willington. Kids to elders will get their heart and hands around BOB BLOOM'S lovable and colorful cargo of drums to enjoy with him as he launches great melodies and gratifying beats that shine beyond the beaten path.

Bob's participatory music has enlivened entire audiences at the New Haven International Festival of Arts and Ideas.

the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, and the "First Night" celebrations of Hartford, Bridgeport, Westport, Worcester, Providence, and Boston.

The Library is grateful for the support of this program from The Percussion Marketing Council: <u>www.playdrums.org</u>

Summer Reading Grand Finale:

Saturday, August 13 at 10:00 am

Horizon Wings - Raptor Rehabilitation & Education

Did you ever wish you could experience the thrill of being up close to a magnificent eagle, hawk, falcon, or owl? Well, this is your opportunity!

This is a non-profit wildlife center located in nearby Ashford, whose mission is to rehabilitate birds of prey for release into the wild in order to maintain their population, and to educate the community to enhance awareness of the environment. It is

our hope by doing this that we reach people of all ages and create the desire in them to help preserve our natural world.

All of the program birds are unable to survive in the wild, but have overcome their individual challenges and have learned to adapt to their new lives as feathered ambassadors. Be inspired by their individual stories of survival, explore fascinating facts about each species, and learn what you can do to help them. This is an interactive program





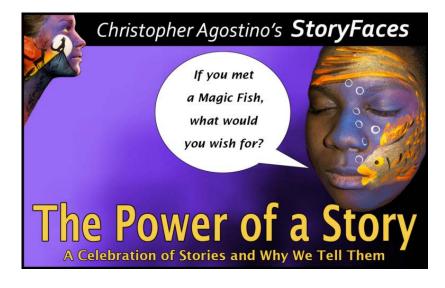




DTBA - Christopher Agostino's "Story Faces"

"I'm a painter and a storyteller, and this is how I tell my stories." The stories come to life on the faces of the audience in this innovative performance, an inspiring fusion of theatre and visual arts.

StoryFaces is an exciting and unusual storytelling show in which



volunteers are brought on stage and face painted to illustrate stories as Christopher tells them, captivating the audience with folktales and his uniquely animated original stories — ranging from the comic adventure of The Amazing Face Story to the heroic tale of Punia and the King of the Sharks. You will be amazed!

As always, there is more to come, so be on the lookout, stay informed, and then come and have fun learning at the LIBRARY!

Libraries = strong communities.

It's finally getting warmer outside, and Parks and Recreation has a lot to offer this summer. Willington will once again be offering several programs that will get you outside, in shape and connected with the community. We are excited to be offering the following:

- A great instructional Golf program run through Skungamaug River Golf Club. The program will provide PGA professional instruction to get your game to the next level.
- The long awaited return of Adult pickup basketball on Wednesday nights at Hall School.
- A nature walk with an expert in Fenton-Ruby Park.
- Several varieties of summer camps, there is something for everyone.
 - We have the same great regular camp we have every year featuring special guest, crafts, swimming, games, and a bounce house.
 - New this year will be slime and games camp. These camps are like regular camp but have a particular focus playing games or the creation and playing of slime.
 - Another new addition this year will be our Sports Camps. Instructors will work hard to teach the knowledge and skills of a specific sport. After skill work, children will play games to get in game experience. These camps are a fun way for kids to improve in the sport of their choice.
- Mark your calendars for "Wednesdays in the Park" taking place from July 13th through August 17th.

We hope that you will be eager to join us. More information may be found on the following pages.

See you in the park,

Alan Humphrey Director of Parks and Recreation



Join us for another AWESOME year at Willington Summer Camp! We are keeping a lot of the fun activities while starting some <u>new camp traditions!</u> Join our Camp Director Kellie and her wonderful staff for a summer to remember!

<u>Fee</u>: \$200 per child per week <u>Location</u>: Hall Memorial School, 9-3pm (3-4pm aftercare available at \$25 per child) <u>Ages</u>: 5-12

Session 1: July 11-15 Session 2: July 18-22 Session 3: July 25-29 Session 4: August 1-5 Session 5: August 8-12 Session 6: August 15-19 Sports week Pokémon Week Superhero Week Planes and Trains Tropical Island Week Camp Olympics

Space is limited! Apply by June 1st!

For more information please call 860-487-3108 or email ahumphrey@willingtonct.gov or jarpin@willingtonct.gov

Willington Wire

Willington Parks and Recreation Adult Basketball Program



Program Information

Adult basketball will be run on Wednesdays at Hall Memorial School in Willington.

Must be 18 years or older to participate. A form of I.D may be required.

Time 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

LIMITED TO 20 PLAYERS

Players will be accepted on a first come first served basis.

A Program Registration form must be completely filled out, accompanied by the appropriate fee before being allowed to play. See the program manager on site for forms and payment.

Fee

Willington Residents:\$3.00 per nightNon-Residents:\$5.00 per night

Cancelations

The program may be canceled due to inclement weather, or if the school is closed for any reason.

Questions

Please contact Alan Humphrey, Director of Parks & Recreation at (860) 487-3108 or email at ahumphrey@willingtonct.gov.

Nature Hike - Fenton-Ruby Park and Wildlife Preserve



Saturday, June 4th, 1:00–3:00 pm. Fenton-Ruby Park, Burma Rd, Willington

Sponsored by:

Willington's Conservation Commission & Park and Recreation Department

Environmental educator, Barbara Austin will lead us on a leisurely 1.5 - 2 hour hike to explore and discuss the wildflowers, edible native plants, and habitats used by the mammals, amphibians, birds and insect pollinators that live in the Park.

Pace will be relatively slow and educational. The terrain is mostly flat with some gently rolling hills and possible trip hazards, such as roots and rocks. Bring water, snacks, sturdy footgear, sunscreen, bug repellent and a sense of wonder!

Free. Pre-register required. Limited to 20 registrants. Children welcome. No pets.

Meet at Fenton-Ruby Park parking lot on Burma Road (off Moose Meadow Road). *Parking is limited – Please carpool if possible*.

Rain cancels the event. If weather is questionable, please check the Willington Parks and Recreation Facebook page for cancelation information.

(https://www.facebook.com/willingtonparksandrecreation)

To REGISTER: Fill out a registration form at the Willington Parks and Rec Website located below. Please mail or drop off registrations at the Town Office Building. Registration will be limited to the first 20 people who sign up. Once filled, registrants will be notified that they are on the wait list. <u>https://www.willingtonct.gov/parks-and-recreation/pages/universal-registration-forms</u>

We hope to see you there!





WPRD Adult Co-Ed Volleyball

This program runs year round on Monday and Friday evenings from 7:30-9:30 p.m. (time subject to change during basketball season) at the HMS Gymnasium.

Resident Registration Fee per Session:	\$20.00—1 night/week \$35.00—2 nights/week
Non-Resident Fee per Session:	\$30.00—1 night/week \$40.00—2 nights/week
Resident Drop-In Fee per Session:	\$3.00/night
Non-Resident Drop-In Fee per Session:	\$5.00/night

Speak to the on-site volleyball coordinator about how you would like to sign up!

This program is available to all individuals ages 18 and up. USA rules are followed and mastery of skills is encouraged. Space is limited to 21 players per night.

Please contact WPRD for more information: 860-487-3108—Ahumphrey@willingtonct.gov



<u>Games Galore</u> <u>Camp</u>

Leave the video controller behind and get ready for an action-packed week of fun and games with

friends! With a diverse range of options, everyone can find the right game for them. Want to use your brainpower? Maybe the newest board game or a classic card game is calling your name. Or do you think you are in the mood for some physical activity? Then kickball and relay races might be what you are looking for. Whatever a student is in the mood for, our instructors will keep everyone engaged and having fun with new daily activities that fit every personality. Bring your A game and get ready to make new friends in a week full of excitement!

August 22-26 Monday-Friday 9am-3pm \$250 Location to be determined Willington, CT Grades 1-6



Registration form: https://www.willingtonct.gov/parks-and-recreation/pages/special-camps

Questions? Email Ahumphrey@willingtonct.gov or call 860-487-3108

winington wire





Kick off this summer with Slime Camp!

It's time for slime as we spend a week learning how to make slime and put our creativity to the test to see who can make the ultimate slime! During Slime Week, students can expect to learn the basics of how to make slime and have fun creating slimes of different colors, smells, and textures. Students will learn to make slimes that are crunchy, magnetic, and glow in the dark! Our instructors will show students the latest slime tips and tricks and encourage creative thinking and collaboration. Once the slime is made, students will show off their creations and have lots of time to play. Slime Week lets kids get their hands dirty while leaving the mess in the classroom and out of your home!

July 5-8 Tuesday-Friday 9am-3pm \$210 Dollars Location to be determined Willington, CT Grades 1-6



Registration form: https://www.willingtonct.gov/parks-and-recreation/pages/special-camps

Questions? Email Ahumphrey@willingtonct.gov or call 860-487-3108

winington wire



2022 5-Day Basketball Shooting Clinic

- Train and improve your shooting game under Coach Stacey Britner and Coach Terry Britner.
- Coaches have experience with Rec, AAU, Middle School, and High School basketball teams.
- Focus on skills and strategies they've used over the last several years to help youth basketball players achieve their next level of shooting development.



- ⇒ How to create separation from defenders
- ⇒ Learn drills to drive up shooting percentage
- \Rightarrow Develop an explosive first step
- ⇒ Increase basketball IQ to become a great offensive player
- ⇒ Develop advanced hand-eye coordination

When:

June 27 – July 1, 2022

8:30-10:30 am



HMS Grades 5-8, Boys and Girls



Hall Memorial School Gym

111 River Road, Willington, CT 06279



To register, submit a registration form and payment to Willington Parks and Rec Department. Registration form can be found at the Willington Parks and Rec website or the link below. https://www.willingtonct.gov/parks-and-recreation/pages/universal-registration-forms

winngton wire



WEDNESDAYS INTHE PARK

Willington's Summer Concert Series

6:30-8:30 Р.М.

RIVER ROAD ATHLETIC COMPLEX

LIGHT RAIN OR SHINE (SEVERE WEATHER CANCELS)

		THE	LINEUP
	July 13	6:30 PM	Bruce John
	July 20	6:30 PM	Rock Solid Alibi
	July 27	6:30 PM	Val Rogers
	August 3	6:30 PM	JLamm & Finn
	August 10	6:30 PM	Shed Rats
	August 17	6:30 PM	Whisky, Wine & Coke
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winngton wire

2022 SPORTS CAMPS

Boy's Basketball Camp

Instructor: Jorge Limeres

A fun, skill intensive program designed for beginning and intermediate players. In addition to learning the technical skills of basketball, children will learn respect, teamwork and responsibility.

Grades 5-8

To bring: gym shoes, water bottle, light snack

<u>Days</u>	<u>Time</u>	Place	Fee
7/11—7/15	3pm-6pm	Hall School Gym	\$ 125

Ultimate Frisbee

Instructor: Evan Card

Ready to learn a new, exiting and fun sport? This could be for you! Ultimate Frisbee combines the athletic endurance of soccer with the aerial passing of football. Children will learn multiple throwing and catching styles while playing a fun unique game.

Grades 6-12

To bring: water bottle, sun screen, light snack

<u>Days</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Fee</u>
7/25—7/29	9am-12pm	Hall School Field	\$ 125

Girl's Basketball Camp

Instructor: Stacey Britner

A fun, skill intensive program designed for beginning and intermediate players. In addition to learning the technical skills of basketball, children will learn respect, teamwork and responsibility.

Grades 5-8

To bring: gym shoes, water bottle, light snack

<u>Days</u>	Time	<u>Place</u>	<u>Fee</u>
/18—7/22	3pm-6pm	Hall School Gym	\$ 125
/18—//22	3pm-6pm	Hall School Gym	\$ 125

Flag Football

Instructor: Jorge Limeres

This camp will focus on learning and enhancing skills for all players at all levels. Players will have fun playing the game of football without the contact and hard hitting. Whether you're a running back, wide receiver, cornerback or quarterback, you won't want to miss this chance to learn and improve. Youth will be taught positioning, ball advancement and offensive and defensive strategies.

Grades 5-7

To bring: outdoor shoes/ cleats, gym shoes, water, sun screen, light snack

<u>Days</u>	<u>Time</u>	Place	<u>Fee</u>
7/25—7/29	3pm-6pm	Hall School Field	\$ 125

*In the event of rain, this program will take place in Hall Memorial School Gym

2022 SPORTS CAMPS

Co-ed Soccer Camp

Instructor: Kyle Bilyak

Experience the excitement of the world's most popular sport. Participants will engage in a variety of fun challenges and exciting games designed to enhance basic soccer skills including dribbling, passing ,

shooting and game awareness. All ability levels are welcome to this camp.

To bring: outdoor shoes/cleats, gym shoes, water bottle, light snack

Age / Days	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Age 8 & 9 8/1—8/5	3pm-6pm	Hall School Filed	\$ 1 25
Ages 10-12 8/8—8/12	3pm-6pm	Hall School Field	\$ 125
Ages 13 + 8/15—8/19	9am-12pm	Hall School Field	\$ 125

*In the event of rain, this program will take place in the Hall School Gym

Girl's Volleyball Camp

Instructor: Willington Recreation

Volleyball takes the energy and excitement of this great team sport and puts it together into one funfilled camp. All aspects of the game are taught through drills that focus on passing, setting, hitting and serving. This camp is designed for the beginning and intermediate player but all players are welcome. It's a great way to get some extra reps in to try and help make your school team!

Grades 8-12

To bring: gym shoes, water bottle, light snack

<u>Days</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Fee</u>
8/15—8/19	3pm-6pm	Hall School Gym	\$ 125

To register your child, please fill out and submit a registration form with payment to...

Willington Parks and Recreation Department

40 Old Farms Road, Willington CT, 06279.

Registration form can be found at the Willington town website (link below)

https://www.willingtonct.gov/parks-and-recreation/pages/universal-registration-forms

Need more information, Questions? Please contact Alan Humphrey at 860-487-3108 or

Ahumphrey@willingtonct.gov

winngton wire



Registrar of Voters



Please check the Elections Department's website for up-to-date voting event and voter registration information at willingtonct.gov/elections-department.

Upcoming events and deadlines:

• Tuesday, May 3—annual Town and Region #19 School District budget referendum. The referendum will be held at the Town Office Building,

40 Old Farms Road.

- Monday, May 9—last day that an enrolled elector can transfer from one party to another and be eligible to vote in the state and district primary of new party.
- *Tuesday, August 9—primary for state and district offices.

*date applies only if needed

Absentee ballots applications are available through the Town Clerk's office at 860 487.3121.

Registering to vote is available 24/7 online at 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 filling out forms.

If you have questions, our office hours are Tuesdays from 10 am to 12 pm. You may also call 860 487.3120 and leave a message.

Suzanne G. Chapman Christine Psathas Registrars of Voters/Election Department

School Building Committee

The Willington School Building Committee (SBC) has been meeting to discuss the future of our school buildings. Knowing that the SBC would need to hire an Owner Project manager to assist in the process, a regional search was conducted, and requests for proposals were solicited and ultimately, the SBC hired Colliers Project Leaders as their Owner's Project Manager (OPM) to facilitate the work of the committee. Scott Pellman, Senior Project Manager at Collier's, has extensive experience in the programming, design, and management of educational facilities and was identified as the OPM. Mr. Pellman has prepared a draft timeline that would result in construction, whether new or renovation, starting as early as July 2024.

The SBC is currently evaluating two scenarios: a renovation project at Hall Memorial School and the evaluation of land for a new consolidated preschool through grade 8 school. Both evaluations are being performed simultaneously in preparation for the Town Meeting Vote anticipated to take place as early as this Fall 2022. The Land Assessment subcommittee is evaluating land throughout Willington, both Town-owned and privately owned, to identify potential sites for a new school. Anyone with a minimum of 20 usable acres willing to discuss donating land should contact SBC Chairperson, Katherine Viveiros at <u>sbc@willingtonct.org</u>.



Dancing Fridays- Tai Chi

Wednesdays- Women's and Men's Pool, Bingo

Mondays- Chair Yoga

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

Willington Wire

Spring 2022

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

Willington Seniors, Inc.

20 Senior Way, Willington, CT 06279

860-429-8321 senior.center@willingtonct.org

Tuesdays- Tai Chi and

Thursdays- Line

grade 8 building, for a new or renovated school. Ed specs serve as the connection between the educational program and the facilities. They provide clear descriptions of the various learning activities and spatial requirements needed within a building/site. The educational specifications will be used as the driving force behind developing a preschool through grade 8 building concept.

The School Building Committee also hired Dr. Peter Prowda to complete an enrollment study which was presented at the January 2022 SBC meeting. Dr. Prowda projected the district would have between 400 and 419 students over the next ten years. The enrollment study is an important step in determining the appropriate size for a school building, and also for preparing the information for the State grant reimbursement application for a school project, (renovation or new school).

The Board of Education is writing educational specifications (ed specs) for a consolidated preschool through

The School Building Committee recently reviewed a variety of Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects identified by the Board of Education. Superintendent of Schools, Phil Stevens, highlighted the need for improving facilities should the town decide not to renovate or build a new school. CIP projects are needed for Center and Hall Schools including new roofs, ventilation, and security upgrades, among other projects.

A reminder that the SBC holds regular meetings via Zoom on the first and third Wednesday of each month and agendas and minutes can be found on the town website willingtonct.org. Meetings are being recorded and can be accessed via the town's YouTube page. Official committee information and documents are available on

the SBC webpage. The School Building Committee welcomes public feedback. Community members may email their comments to sbc@willingtonct.org or participate during the present to speak portion of the SBC Willington Senior Center

meetings.

Coloring



Tax Collector



Greetings Willington Residents:

We are still strongly encouraging everyone to make payments by mail, by use of our drop box located outside the front entrance or online at <u>www.willingtonct.gov</u>. 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, tax bills will be mailed out in June. These bills will be due July 1st, and may be paid without penalty until August 1, 2022. If you do not receive a bill, please contact our office at 860-487-3111 or email me at jclauson@willingtonct.gov.

Please note, that per §12-130 "Failure to send out or receive any such bill or statement shall not invalidate the tax." Or in simpler terms, failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve the tax payer of his/her responsibility for the payment of taxes or delinquent charges. So please make sure to reach out to our office if you do not receive an expected bill.

What am I being Taxed on?

You are being taxed on Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicles as of October 1, 2021.

Real Estate – All real property listed on the Grand List.

Personal Property – In the most general terms, personal property is everything subject to ownership, excluding land, any interest in land or any permanent improvement thereon. It is property that is not permanently affixed to or part of real estate. By its very nature then, personal property is moveable. This broad definition includes tangible items such as airplanes, campers, unregistered vehicles, items for business as furniture, fixtures, equipment, and animals.

Registered Motor Vehicles – Vehicles listed with the Department of Motor Vehicles are coded by tax town, and the Assessor is provided a list of registered vehicles annually. Willington's Town Code is 160.

All tax bills are mailed directly to property owners unless the Tax Collector receives specific instructions to send the bill to your bank or financial institution.

Real Estate and Personal Property tax totaling \$100 or more are due in two installments; July and January. Motor vehicle tax is due in one installment in July. Please note, we do not send out bills for the second installment in January. There is a stub on the July bills for the January payment.

How can I pay my bill?

The Revenue Office accepts cash, money orders or personal checks for payment at the office. If our office is closed, you can leave a check in our Drop Box outside the front door of the building. You may also pay online at www.willingtonct.org and click on the button that says "Online Tax Payments". There is a convenience fee of 2.95% for credit cards or \$1.95 for EFT. You can also call 844-859-7566 to pay by phone, but an additional fee of 75 cents will be added. We do have a public access computer at Town Hall which will allow you to make a credit card payment online.

Wishing everyone a healthy, happy and prosperous summer. See you in July!

Michele Cyr

Janice C. Clauson Revenue Collector 860-487-3111 jclauson@willingtonct.gov

Assistant Revenue Collector 860-487-3111 <u>mcyr@willingtonct.gov</u>

Willington Wire



From the desk of the Willington Town Clerk

Marriage Licenses & Justices of the Peace

We are entering a popular time for weddings. Marriage licenses must be obtained from the Town Clerk in which the ceremony will be held. Marriage license worksheets can be found on our website (willingtonct.gov-town-clerk) under "marriage licenses". The fee for the license is \$70, which includes the cost of the certified vital that will be returned to the couple after the event. If you are in need of a Justice of the Peace, we have a list of certified JP's in town on our webpage as well.

Hunting & Fishing licenses

Fishing season is here! Stop by our office to process your sportsman license today in person, or you may also obtain these licenses in the comfort of your own home by accessing the following website: https://ct.aspirafocus.com/internetsales

While the inland and marine fishing guide magazines were very popular, the State DEEP is no longer offering them in print. They are only available digitally at: <u>https://portal.ct.gov/deepfishing</u> We <u>do</u>, however, have the updated Hunting and Trapping guides in booklet style. These guides also have the DEEP portal QR scanning codes on them for easy access.

Dog Licenses

June is dog-registration month. Per Connecticut General Statutes §§22-237 – 22-359b, every dog must be licensed when it becomes six months old, annually. The annual fee for all spayed/neutered dogs is \$8.00 each and the fee for all male/female dogs is \$19.00 each. We are open to the public and you are welcome to register in-person, or if you prefer, mailing in your registration is always an option as well. Please send a self-addressed stamped envelope for us to return your dog's license to you. All dogs registered after June 30th will incur a \$1.00 late fee each, per month thereafter.

Be on the lookout for the annual reminders, which will be sent out at the end of May. The reminders will also notify you of the rabies expiration date that we have on file and whether you will need to send in an updated certificate.

We love our 4-legged residents! We are looking for photos of your dog to add to our official "dog wall of honor" located in our office. It is quite a popular attraction for those who are here conducting business!

Lastly, please note that the Town Clerk's office can accept payment by cash, check or money order. We do not have the capability to process credit or debit card payments. If you have questions regarding anything, do not hesitate to contact us – we are here to help.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Robin Campbell Town Clerk Assistant Rachel Pierce Town Clerk



PO Box 2181 Columbia, CT 06237

WEB SITE: <u>www.thamesvalleytu.org</u>

Thames Valley Chapter of

Trout Unlimited

The Thames Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, with the support of local sportsmen's clubs, are launching a campaign to encourage more catch and release fishing.

Gary Lussier, President of the Thames Valley Chapter of TU, states: "The intent is not to discourage people who like to enjoy a fresh trout now and then (who doesn't?) but to raise awareness of the benefits of catch and release with minimal harm to the fish."

Figures from Andrew Bade of the DEEP show about 120,000 freshwater licenses and permits being issued. This includes about 80,000 trout stamps. Plus, who knows how many younger kids who don't' need licenses. At the same time the state stocks about 500,000 catchable size trout annually. According to Steve Gerling, coordinator of the project: "Fishing provides a truly great opportunity to enjoy the best of the outdoors. With those numbers, it's not hard to see why the lakes and streams can be quickly depleted of trout when many people keep their entire catch at every outing."

In addition to the Thames Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the following clubs added their endorsement and support to the effort: Putnam Fish and Game Club, Pomfret Rod and Gun Club, Eastern Ct. Sportsman's Club (Ashford), Fin, Fur, and Feather Club (Chaplin) and Stafford Fish and Game Club.

All these groups ask you to please consider Catch and Release. It makes for better fishing for everyone.

Building Bridges Not Borders



Celebrating World Refugee Day Through Music & Storytelling-SAVE THE DATE!! Sunday, June 12, 2022 2 p.m.

- Hear Refugee/Immigrant Experiences
- Multi-Cultural Music
- Building Bridges Portraits of Immigrants and Refugees Exhibit

Storrs Congregational Church 2 North Eagleville Rd, Storrs; Parish House Auditorium

Outdoors - weather permitting - bring a chair! Free/ donations will be contributed to The Neighbor Fund

Sponsored by: Windham Region Interfaith Working Group/ Quiet Corner Refugee Resettlement/ The Neighbor Fund/ The Dodd Center for Human Rights/ Integrated Refuge and Immigrant Services

Willington Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars

Renewable Scholarship Opportunity

Willington Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars (WSFDFS)



Dollars for SCHOLARS

• **Reminder** to first year post-secondary students:

Make sure to <u>Apply Today</u> for our Renewable Scholarship.

The deadline is June 15th.

• Calling All New Donors: Help Willington students succeed by donating whatever you can to the 2022 Willington Scholarship

Foundation Dollars for Scholars annual appeal drive.

Renewable scholarship recipient Kyle Timmer and WSF Director Paula King

• **Thank You!** To all who have donated to WSFDFS this year and over the years we appreciate your support.

To contribute:

Mail a check to: The Willington Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars; P.O. Box 194; Willington, CT, 06279 or

Text: WILLINGTONFORSCHOLARS to 44321. or

Donate online: at <u>www.Willington.DollarsforScholars.org</u> Click the "Donate Now" button on our homepage.

 And please consider joining our Team! We meet every third Monday at 7:00 pm upstairs in the Town Office Building Community Room. Due to COVID we are currently Zooming our meetings so just email us at <u>Willington@DollarsforScholars.org</u> if you'd like to join us!