

A photograph of a forest with trees in autumn foliage, overlaid with text. The trees have yellow and orange leaves, and the ground is covered in fallen leaves. The text is white with a blue outline and is positioned in the upper half of the image.

# Wilmington Wire

## Community E-Newsletter

### October-December 2023



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Cover Photo: Courtesy of Robert Shabot



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

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Columbus Day           | Monday, October 9th     |
| Veterans Day           | Friday, November 10th   |
| Thanksgiving Day       | Thursday, November 23rd |
| Day After Thanksgiving | Friday, November 24th   |
| Christmas Day          | Monday, December 25th   |
| Selectmen’s Day        | Tuesday, December 26th  |
| New Year’s Day         | Monday, January 1st     |





# New Town Office Building Hours

**Monday** 8:00am-6:00pm

**Tuesday** 8:00am-4:00pm

**Wednesday** 8:00am-4:00pm

**Thursday** 8:00am-4:00pm

**Friday** **Closed**



# Town of Willington Office Building Contacts

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

Business Hours—Monday 8:00am-6:00pm, Tuesday-Thursday 8:00am-4:00pm.

<b>First Selectwoman</b>	<b>Erika G. Wiecenski</b>	<b>860-487-3100</b>
Animal Control Officer	Jennifer Miller	860-428-4422
Assessor	Kara Fishman	860-487-3122
Building Inspector	Randy Heckman	860-487-3123
Business Manager	Donna Latincsics	860-487-3134
Registrar of Voters	Christine Psathas & Suzanne Chapman	860-487-3120
Fire Marshal	Trevor Gantick	959-929-4181
Human Services	<b>VACANT</b>	860-487-3118
Land Use	Michael D'Amato	860-487-3123
Parks & Recreation	James Callaghan	860-487-3108
Public Works	Troy Sposato	860-684-9313
Senior Center	Nan King	860-429-8321
Tax Collector	Janice Clauson	860-487-3111
Town Clerk	Robin Campbell	860-487-3121
Treasurer	Laurie Semprebon	860-487-3136

## 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—Oct, Nov & Dec

Board/Commission	Day	Date	Time
Board of Education	Tuesday	October 10, 2023	7pm
Board of Education	Tuesday	November 14, 2023	7pm
Board of Education	Tuesday	December 12, 2023	7pm
Board of Finance	Thursday	October 19, 2023	7pm
Board of Finance	Thursday	November 16, 2023	7pm
Board of Finance	Thursday	December 21, 2023	7pm
Board of Selectmen	Monday	October 2, 2023	6:30pm
Board of Selectmen	Monday	October 16, 2023	6:30pm
Board of Selectmen	Monday	November 6, 2023	6:30pm
Board of Selectmen	Monday	November 20, 2023	6:30pm
Board of Selectmen	Monday	December 4, 2023	6:30pm
Board of Selectmen	Monday	December 18, 2023	6:30pm
Conservation Commission	Wednesday	October 18, 2023	7pm
Conservation Commission	Wednesday	November 15, 2023	7pm
Conservation Commission	Wednesday	December 20, 2023	7pm
Economic Development	Wednesday	October 25, 2023	7pm
Economic Development	Wednesday	TBD	TBD
Economic Development	Wednesday	TBD	TBD
Historical Society	Tuesday	October 17, 2023	3pm
Historical Society	Tuesday	November 21, 2023	3pm
Historical Society	Tuesday	January 16, 2024	3pm
Housing Authority	Monday	October 16, 2023	4pm
Housing Authority	Monday	November 20, 2023	4pm
Housing Authority	Monday	December 18, 2023	4pm
Inland Wetlands/Watercourses	Monday	October 23, 2023	7:30pm
Inland Wetlands/Watercourses	Monday	September 27, 2023	7:30pm
Inland Wetlands/Watercourses	Monday	December 18, 2023	7:30pm



## Boards & Commissions—Meeting Calendar—Oct, Nov & Dec Cont.

Library Board of Directors	Wednesday	October 11, 2023	7pm
Library Board of Directors	Wednesday	November 8, 2023	7pm
Library Board of Directors	Wednesday	December 13, 2023	7pm
Parks & Recreation	Monday	October 30, 2023	7pm
Parks & Recreation	Monday	November 27, 2023	7pm
Parks & Recreation	Monday	December 18, 2023	7pm
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	October 3, 2023	7:30pm
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	October 17, 2023	7:30pm
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	November 21, 2023	7:30pm
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	December 5, 2023	7:30pm
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	December 19, 2023	7:30pm
School Building Committee	Wednesday	October 4, 2023	6:30pm
School Building Committee	Wednesday	October 18, 2023	6:30pm
School Building Committee	Wednesday	November 1, 2023	6:30pm
School Building Committee	Wednesday	November 15, 2023	6:30pm
School Building Committee	Wednesday	December 6, 2023	6:30pm
School Building Committee	Wednesday	December 20, 2023	6:30pm
Zoning Board of Appeals	Thursday	October 12, 2023	7:30pm
Zoning Board of Appeals	Thursday	November 9, 2023	7:30pm
Zoning Board of Appeals	Thursday	December 14, 2023	7:30pm

**Did you know The Town of Willington now has a YouTube Channel! Stay connected and join meetings right from your living room!**

**Scan the QR code to be taken to our YouTube channel!**

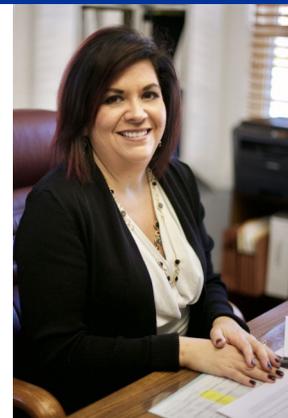
**[Town of Willington CT Official](#)**



## First Selectwoman's Corner

Dear Willington Residents,

As I near the end of my time as your First Selectwoman I cannot help but reflect on the past six years. It has been my honor and privilege to have been trusted to serve in this key role. Our community has been through a number of challenges over these years: hurricanes, historic rainfall, snowstorms, unspeakable tragedy, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Through it all the residents stepped up, came together, and showed how we are **WILLINGTON STRONG**. The pandemic forced us all to move with a new purpose and **Think Beyond Ourselves** became a mantra we all lived by. When the world shut down, our community rallied to show support for friends and neighbors. Whether it was hosting drive thru parades or distributing Covid test kits and PPE, Willington stepped up to make life in our new normal special. We changed how we were able to bring Town business directly to our residents when ZOOM burst onto the scene. The necessity to remain distant in the early days has now allowed every resident to have access to Town board and commission meetings like never before in Willington. The ability to hear directly from our residents has given us more insight into your needs and the direction Willington should be moving. Residents can now participate by being in the room, from their homes, on the drive home from work, or by watching recorded meetings on our YouTube channel. This change was not without its challenges as we found ourselves without the technology needed, but thanks to State and Federal funds we were able to move to this new medium with greater ease.



We saw historic Federal funds made available to Willington from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Over \$1.7 million was allocated to Willington to “*help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.*” This funding gave us the ability to provide energy assistance to residents and grants to businesses in need due to the pandemic. Additionally, we were able to infuse funds into our Fire Departments, Schools, Senior Center, Library, Parks, Public Works, and Town owned buildings. To date the thirty-seven projects funded will take a small burden off Willington taxpayers.

We are still challenged with maintaining town owned buildings, road maintenance needs and deficits that have plagued our town for years. Among those are the needs of our schools and fire departments. After a failed referendum for a new consolidated pre-K thru eighth grade school, the School Building Committee is completing their work. This will leave the Board of Education tasked with how to move forward with two aging schools, lower enrollments, and increased costs of operating. Our Fire Departments still have outdated buildings that do not meet the needs of our paid staff and volunteers. Long-term plans have been stagnant for years and only lead to greater costs. These issues have been before us for over a decade and important decisions will need to be made.

The incoming First Selectman, Selectmen, Board of Finance, Planning and Zoning, and Board of Education, with all other boards, will need to work together to address these challenges. Your voice and vote will help guide the direction our newly elected leaders take. Your voice is the one that matters the most, it is the voice that directs the path for Willington. Make the time to learn about those seeking office, hear from them and ask the questions you want answered. The direct involvement of our residents is what is effective in a small town like Willington.

I have been supported and challenged during the last six years and each instance reminded me of what enthusiastic, caring, giving, and authentic people make up our community. You have each taught me a lesson about myself and my amazing hometown. I look forward to supporting our newly elected First Selectman as their success is Willington's Success. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to serve Willington as your First Selectwoman.

Warmest regards,

Erika G. Wiecewski  
First Selectwoman, Nov. 2017-Nov. 2023



## Legal Notice

### ASSESSOR'S NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

**DECLARING PERSONAL PROPERTY:** All persons liable to pay taxes are hereby notified to declare all tangible personal property owned by them on October 1, 2023. Non-residents are required to declare property located in any town for any three months preceding October 1, 2023. Assessors mail declaration forms to all property owners previously on record. Failure to receive a form does not negate the requirement to declare. Forms are available online and in the Assessor's Office. Failure to declare by November 1, 2023, will result in a 25% PENALTY assessment.

Taxable personal property includes: unregistered motor vehicles, motor vehicles located in Connecticut but registered in another state, horses and ponies, mobile manufactured homes not assessed as real estate, manufacturing machinery and equipment, business furniture and fixtures, farm machinery, farming tools, mechanics tools, electronic data processing equipment, telecommunication equipment, cables, conduits, pipes, poles, business expensed supplies and other property such as billboards, video games, vending machines, leasehold improvements, etc. Real property and Connecticut registered motor vehicles do not need to be declared.

VETERANS who served for ninety days or more during a time of war or have been disabled must record their honorable discharge with the Town Clerk no later than September 30, 2023, to receive a minimum of 1,000 assessment exemption. Disabled Veterans need to file proof of their VA rating with the Assessor to receive an increased exemption.

ADDITIONAL VETERAN'S EXEMPTION: Increased exemptions are available for those who meet necessary income requirements and the above Veterans criteria. An application along with proof of income must be filed with the Assessor biennially. Filings for this year must be received in the Assessor's Office no later than October 1, 2023.

ARMED SERVICE MEMBERS may obtain an exemption on one passenger motor vehicle by filing an application with the Assessor.

TOTALLY DISABLED: Any person under the age of 65, eligible to receive permanent total disability payments, must apply by January 31, 2024, to receive a 1,000 assessment exemption. Applicants must furnish proof of award.

FARM MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT: Eligible farmers must file the notarized exemption application no later than November 1, 2023.

MANUFACTURING MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT installed in a manufacturing facility and used in the manufacturing process may be allowed exemption. Eligible manufacturers must complete and file the MME Exemption Application by November 1, 2023.

NEW COMMERCIAL TRUCKS with a gross vehicle rating in excess of 26,000 lbs. should check with the Assessor's office for tax exemption eligibility. Applications must be completed and filed with the Assessor by November 1, 2023.

All declaration forms are available on the Assessor's page of the town website, [www.willingtonct.gov](http://www.willingtonct.gov).



**LAND CLASSIFICATION:** Persons seeking to classify land under Farm, Forest or Open Space for the first time, or to amend an original filing (ownership, use or acreage) must file between September 1, 2023, and October 31, 2023 with the Assessor. Persons applying for Forest Land classification must also have a PA490 Certified State Forester's Report dated by October 1, 2023.

All declaration forms are available on the Assessor's page of the town website, [www.willingtonct.gov](http://www.willingtonct.gov).

## DEFECTIVE CONCRETE

### Pyrrhotite-Impaired Concrete

Applications and Engineer Evaluation forms to request reassessment of a property due to the use of defective concrete are available in the Assessor's Office and on the Town of Willington website. Please note, these forms must be accompanied by an engineer's report. For additional information, contact the Assessor's office @ 860-487-3122 or [Nsnyder@willingtonct.gov](mailto:Nsnyder@willingtonct.gov).

## MOTOR VEHICLES

**Credits for vehicles no longer owned:** If you disposed of your vehicle and did not transfer the plate to a replacement vehicle, you may be entitled to a prorated tax credit. Provide the Assessor's Office with documentation showing proof of plate cancellation and disposal (e.g., bill of sale, insurance claim, junk receipt, etc.) to obtain the credit. Credits are available for the following vehicle years:

Grand List of 10/1/2021: The last date to file for a credit on the regular or supplemental motor vehicle list is Thursday, December 28, 2023.

Grand List of 10/1/2022: The last date to file for a credit on the regular or supplemental motor vehicle list is December 31, 2024.

Grand List of 10/1/2023: The last date to file for a credit is December 31, 2025. If you dispose of a vehicle anytime after 10/1/2023 and want to receive a tax bill in July that reflects that, please provide disposal documentation and a plate receipt before June 15, 2024

**Active-duty members** of the United States armed forces (including reserves and National Guard) are eligible for the exemption from taxes of one motor vehicle upon application to the Assessor. If the claimant is currently serving in and is unable to appear in person to establish such right, he or she may establish such right, until such time as he or she appears personally to exhibit his discharge or copy, by forwarding to the town clerk annually a written statement, signed by the commanding officer of his unit, ship or station or by some other appropriate officer. If you are a Connecticut resident, the exemption application must be filed by:

Grand List of 10/1/2021: 12/28/2023

Grand List of 10/1/2022: 12/31/2024

Grand List of 10/1/2023: 12/31/2025.

Call or email the Assessor's Office with any questions: 860-487-3122, [nsnyder@willingtonct.gov](mailto:nsnyder@willingtonct.gov).



## Willington Senior Center News

Hello everyone! October is here, which means that autumn has really arrived. The trees have already started dropping their leaves—I hope winter decides to take its sweet time. The Farmer's Almanac says that we'll start getting snow in November, so there's plenty of time to do your winter prep.

October will be a busy month here at the Center. Our 2nd Annual **Afternoon Tea** is on Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>—you can sign up by calling the Senior Center or dropping by. The **Senior Center Breakfast** is on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, and is only \$5 for a breakfast buffet. **FoodShare** continues at 11 AM every other Wednesday at the Town Office Building, on October 11th and 25th. Remember to bring your bags!

We also have a couple of wonderful **new programs** this month!

Our **October Tech Fest** begins on Thursday, October 12th, from **10-11:30 AM**. Bring your smartphone, tablet, or laptop, and learn basic and more advanced functions and tasks! Dates are October 12th, 19th, and 26th.

**Take a Drum Ride** with percussionist Bob Bloom, certified Master Teaching Artist, on Thursday, October 19th, at 7 pm! This program offers a hands-on introduction to drumming, with familiar rhythms and songs to guide you. No experience necessary! Come grab a drum and join! Registration is free. Register at the Senior Center, or call Nan at 860-429-8321.

And don't forget — our usual great range of programming is available to all Willington Seniors!

**Mondays 1-2 PM: Line Dancing with Lorraine** is back at the Center! Come listen to music and learn the steps for a fun time. The first few sessions will focus on review and will be the perfect time to try out the steps or come to visit and watch. No prior experience needed!

**Mondays 2:15 PM: Cornhole returns!** Pick a team and play for points and fun. Cornhole may be indoors or outdoors depending on the weather.

**Tuesdays at 10 AM**, come join Tai Chi and work on balance, core strength, and stretching.

**Tuesdays at 12:30 PM** is our Craft Workshop. October crafts include microwave heat packs, indoor moss gardens, tin can scarecrows, fabric pumpkins, and scrapbooking! Materials are provided, and the class is free.

**Wednesdays at 9:30 AM** Bread & Pastry Distribution is moving BACK to the Town Office Building beginning October 4th! It will return to the walk-up model, so bring your bags.

**The 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month is Bingo!** On October 4th, Bingo will begin at 2:00, after the Birthdays and Anniversaries celebration. On October 25th, Bingo will begin at 12:30 PM.

**Thursdays** are our Craft Social, **1-3 PM**. It's always nice to chat and craft along with friends!

**Fridays at 10 AM** is Tai Chi, followed by the ever-popular Chair Volleyball at **11:15 AM**. Wii Bowling begins at **1 PM** – come test your skill against our veteran players!

The Senior Center will be **CLOSED on all official Town holidays**.

You can stop by the Center with questions, for a beverage and a snack, or just to chat.

Have a wonderful autumn and holiday season!

Nan King

Senior Center Coordinator



## 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**

Senior Center Continued...

**NO COOKING BREAKFAST  
TODAY!!!**

**SENIOR CENTER BREAKFAST  
20 OLD FARMS RD., WILLINGTON**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2023 - 8:30 am-10:30 am**

**MENU CHOICE FOR THE LOW PRICE OF \$5!!!**

OMELET WITH EITHER BACON OR HAM AND CHEDDAR CHEESE, PEPPERS, ONIONS;  
SCRAMBLED EGGS; BLUEBERRY OR PLAIN PANCAKES; TEXAS TOAST OR RAISIN BREAD  
FRENCH TOAST; HASH BROWN POTATO PATTIES; SAUSAGE LINKS; REGULAR COFFEE,  
DECAF COFFEE, HOT TEA, ORANGE JUICE, BOTTLED WATER.



# Conservation Commission



Cooler weather is upon us and the members of the Conservation Commission hope that you will take the opportunity to put your feet on the ground along some of the trails through the forests and along the waterways in the preserved natural areas we are fortunate to have in Willington.

When you arrive at the Fenton –Ruby Park and Wildlife Preserve and Drobney Sanctuary, head on over to the kiosk where maps are located at the parking area on Burma Road. There is another map box with Nature trail guides located a short distance down the Taylor Trail Pond Trail. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the picnic tables and benches in the picnic area adjacent to the parking lot and a wildlife observation deck which overlooks the Beaver Pond. If you are lucky you might get to see some beaver activity around their lodge. Dogs are welcome to accompany owners but must be kept on a leash for their safety and to protect the Park’s wildlife.

Getting around on any of the 4 main trails is easy. Most trails can be walked in 30-45 minutes. Trail maps are located at all trail intersections to help orient you. If there are no maps at the Kiosk or if you choose not to carry a paper map. For more adventure, consider using the Park’s trail system to hike to the Town of Ashford’s Langhammer Preserve. Start by taking the Park’s Ruby Trail to the Ashford Link Trail. From there, it’s only another 0.1 miles to Lustig Road in Ashford, where you can connect to the Ashford Trail immediately across the road.

Consider visiting the Talmadge Tract on Mason Road. There are 28 acres to roam on the west side of Mason Road. On the east side of Mason Road is the 138-acre Royal Knowlton Preserve that connects with the Nipmuck Trail (part of the Connecticut Blue Trail system). These spur trails can be combined with the Nipmuck Trail to form a loop trail that begins and ends at the trail head parking lot off of Mason Road. Paper maps can be found on the signpost at the Talmadge trailhead on Mason Road across from the gravel parking area, and also at the signpost where the Nipmuck Trail crosses Mason Rd onto the Knowlton Preserve.

Make sure you add Chenes Roches (translation: “oaks rocks”) to your hiking list. This is a 56-acre wooded preserve in northeast Willington owned by Joshua Tract Conservation and Historic Trust. Trails wind through a varied terrain of hardwood forests, stands of pines and along a hemlock-shaded stream in a steep-sided valley. A round trip of 1.8 miles will take you across several small spring-fed streams via new bridges added by volunteers this June and an altitude change of about 250 feet from the parking lot to the valley stream. A trail map and additional information about the preserve, including directions, can be found on the Joshuas Trust website, [www.joshuastrust.org](http://www.joshuastrust.org). There is a kiosk with trail maps at the small parking area 500 feet past the south end of Laurel Drive. Please stay on the trail and respect boundaries where the trail passes near private property.

**If you are interested in taking an active part in helping the Town manage its environmental resources, the Conservation Commission has openings for alternate members. Alternate members participate in meetings and may be seated as voting members in the absence of regular members. The Conservation Commission meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 pm. Meetings may be virtual at this time. Contact Kathy Demers, Commission Chair, at 860-377-6416 or [kdemers48@gmail.com](mailto:kdemers48@gmail.com) for more information.**

Please visit the Conservation Commission webpage under “Boards and Commissions” on the Town of Willington’s website/home page: [www.willingtonct.org](http://www.willingtonct.org), for more information on agendas/minutes,

We are always happy to hear any comments you may have about your experiences with Willington’s open space and environmental resources.

Today’s Conservation Tip:

What is the best way to deal with fall leaves?

If leaves are small, rake them directly onto planting beds. For large leaves, chop them with a mulching mower first. A mulching mower shreds leaves into tiny flakes that settle into the grass and decompose into natural fertilizer. You might have to go over some areas two or three times to completely chop up the leaves.





# ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT NEWS

The vote is precious. It is the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democratic society, and we must use it. — John Lewis, Congressman + Civil Rights Activist

## Municipal Election November 7th 2023

Positions up for election in Willington this year:

- First Selectman
- Selectmen
- Board of Finance
- Board of Education
- Region 19 Board of Education
- Planning & Zoning
- Library Board
- Board of Assessment Appeals

Voting will take place on November 7, 2023, from 6 am to 8 pm in the polling room located on the main level of the Town Office Building, 40 Old Farms Road. Voters are reminded to bring identification. Plan ahead, make sure you are registered to vote. It's easy by either:

- Register online at [www.voterregistration.ct.gov](http://www.voterregistration.ct.gov) by October 31, 11:59 pm
- Call 860.484.3120 to request an application be mailed to you, clearly state your name and address if leaving a message – return deadline October 31
- Apply in person at the Elections Department Office Tuesdays from 10 am to Noon, or the Town Clerk's Office Mondays 8 am to 6 pm and Tuesday through Thursday 8 am to 4 pm – deadline October 31
- Applications are also available at the Willington Public Library

There will be a special Voter Registration Session held at the Elections Department on Tuesday, October 31 from 9 am to 8 pm.

Absentee Ballots are available at the Town Clerk's Office. Call the Town Clerk's Office, 860.487.3121 or go to the Secretary of the State's website [www.portal.ct.gov/sots](http://www.portal.ct.gov/sots).

Register to vote



Volunteer as a poll worker



Find your polling place



Elected officials impact your life every day.

Your **VOTE** is your **VOICE!**

Suzanne G. Chapman & Christine Psathas

Registrars of Voters

860.487.3120



# Willington Historical Society

The Willington Historical Society has enjoyed a busy, interesting summer.

We received an inquiry about the old Willington Game Farm, and we had a great visit to the site on Old Farms Road. The former game farm is now a private residence, but the walk triggered so many memories of the animals and the buildings. Thanks go to the Scheideman Family for hosting the event. In a great example of how we are all connected by common experiences, we received an incredible photo album of Game Farm pictures. A huge thank you to Tim Smith for lending us the photos to scan for our archives. We also received a treasure trove of Game Farm memorabilia from Dulsie Vannais and we are truly grateful for her donation of items.

The Historical Society has recently received other items of interest, notably a dining table from the Ruby Estate, thread produced at Hall's Mill, Willington school yearbooks from 1960's, and many other items. Anytime you find things in your home, garage, shed or barn that may be of historical interest, please let us know.

This August, we honored a long-time volunteer and supporter of the Historical Society, Betty Robertson, who has recently moved out of state. Betty received a well-deserved citation from State Senator Jeff Gordon, and enjoyed an afternoon at the Willington Library visiting with local friends. Betty has graciously given Willington Historical many, many items of significance from Willington Schools and from the local fire department. Which leads us to a new endeavor...

One of the great photos we received shows members of the Willington Fire Department that was located at Halls Pond prior to the construction of the building at the corner of Depot Road. We would like to identify the people in the photo, we only have a couple of names so far. Willington Historical Society would like to acknowledge the dedication and ongoing work of our first responders, honoring those "trail blazers" who were essential to establishing our local volunteer departments.

In early September, Willington Historical manned a busy booth at the annual Flea Market on the Town Green. How we missed Betty Robertson in her historical period dress! On display at the booth were copies of historical photos and our well-stocked supply of books and note cards all with a connection to the town.

Willington Historical rounds out the month with our annual meeting. Bob Shabot, a long-time dedicated supporter and past President, offers a history of Glazier Tavern on the Town Green. The Tavern is the home of Willington Historical Society, but we will learn more about the history of building and the story of how it came to be our home. A tour of the building complements the presentation.

Looking ahead to the future, any volunteer assistance that we receive is graciously accepted. What does it take to keep an organization active and busy? It involves skills that you already possess—planning events, organizing, computer data entry, light construction, communication. We could not survive without the incredible volunteers that we have, and we are always looking for new volunteers. Thank you!

Our meetings are generally scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month. We like to meet at Glazier Tavern until the weather sends us to the Library or Town Office Building. Meetings are generally posted on the town calendar and the website. Please plan to join us!

Website: <https://willingtonhistoricalsocietyct.org/>

Facebook: Willington Historical Society

Email: [willingtonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:willingtonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)



State Senator Jeff Gordon presenting a state citation to Betty Robertson at the Willington Public Library on August 20th. Betty was honored for her years of service to the Willington community.



# Willington Veterans

## Honoring Willington Veterans

On Monday September 25<sup>th</sup> the State Honored Willington Vietnam/Vietnam Era veterans at a ceremony at Hall Memorial School. Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz and the Department of Veterans Affairs presented certificates and medals to those veterans that attended the ceremony. Willington had 85 men and women enroll from Willington and serve during the Vietnam/Vietnam Era. Another 126 Vietnam/Vietnam Era veterans are connected to Willington. Some are living in town, lived in town or are buried in town. We Thank All who served during that time.

The Willington Veterans Memorial Foundation will be Honoring those Willington veterans of WWII who lost their lives during the war. The ceremony will take place on Veterans Day. Willington had the highest percentages of men and women enrolling from town in Tolland country – 218 - and the second highest casualty rate. Willington lost 14 men during the war. All 14 will be honored with memorial pavers at the Willington Veterans Memorial located at 10 Senior Way in Willington. The ceremony will take place on Veterans Day – November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 am at the Memorial.

We are planning on honoring the 6 living WWII veterans from the three towns served by the Willington VFW Post – Corporal Henry Toberman Post 938. We hope the few remaining WWII veterans from Ashford, Mansfield and Willington will be able to join us at the Memorial on Veterans Day.

Please make plans to attend the Veterans Day ceremony hosted by the Willington Veterans Memorial foundation and assisted by the VFW. Beginning at 10:30 am at the Willington Senior Center, there will be light refreshments and an opportunity to meet and greet our veterans followed by the Veteran's Day ceremony at 11:15 at the Memorial. All kids showing up for the ceremony will receive a small American flag and the parents will receive a flag pin.

The Foundation is trying to honor All Willington veterans. A list for veterans, starting in 1758 – French and Indian War – to present is being compiled. There are about 1250 names on the veterans list at present. About half of the names have the veteran's birthday, rank and branch of service. A number also have date of death and place of burial. The goal is to try and honor All Willington veterans. Please look for the Willington Veterans books in the town library, town clerks' office and the Senior center. If you can provide any additional information on any Willington Veterans it would be most appreciated.

The Willington Veterans Honor Roll on the town green was just refurbished but some of the list's need updating. The Honor Roll was put up in 2005 by the VFW. It lists veterans who enrolled from Willington in the different conflicts. We need help! A number of Willington veterans who enrolled and served during the Gulf War – 1990-1991, the Iraq War – 2003-2011 and the Afghanistan War – 2001-2021 are Not listed. If you know of any please contact Phil Monty – [pmonty@charter.net](mailto:pmonty@charter.net) with their information. Thank You.

### *Foundation Meeting*

The next meeting of the Willington Veterans Memorial Foundation will be October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at the Willington Senior Center – 10 Senior Way – **All are Welcome**. Light refreshments will be served at 6:30 pm



# Human Services

40 Old Farms Road  
Tel. (860) 487-3118

## THANK YOU!

The Department of Human Services wants to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who have donated to our Back to School program, as well as all of our Food Drives during this past year! We couldn't do it all without your support, and you make a HUGE difference in the community!

## WINTER PROGRAMS

Keep an eye out on our website and Facebook page for information on our Winter programs!

## FOOD PANTRY

The Willington Food Pantry offers canned and dry goods, seasonal vegetables, and sometimes eggs to Willington residents in need. Located at the Town Office Building, our pantry is open Mondays from 4:00pm to 6:00pm and Thursdays from 10:00am to 12:00pm. We always accept unexpired food donations.

## MOBILE FOODSHARE

Bringing produce, breads, and on occasion, meats to Willington residents. The Foodshare truck comes every other Wednesday from 11-11:30 sharp at the Town Office Building, 40 Old Farms Road. Walk-through only. All are welcome!

## ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Energy Assistance Appointments are now available! Please contact our office for more information or for an appointment.

## WE ARE SOCIAL!



Be sure to "Like" Town of 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!



Sign Up To  
**VOLUNTEER**  
860-430-4557  
[URCommunityCares.org](http://URCommunityCares.org)





# WHAT'S GOING ON THIS YEAR?

'23-'24

Use this as a quick glance to all the fun things planned this year by the PTA!



## AUGUST

30: Meet & Greets! Center 9am-10am; Hall 10:30am-11:30am  
 31: FIRST DAY of SCHOOL!  
 31: Local Fundraiser! 10% of purchases at Lotus Nutrition go to PTA!

*Back to SCHOOL*

## September

1: Local Fundraiser! 10% of purchases at Lotus Nutrition go to PTA!  
 8: Ice Cream Social  
 14: PTA Meeting (Hybrid)  
 15: Early Release

## OCTOBER

1-16: Holiday Dessert Fundraiser! Info to Come!  
 2-6: Penny Wars  
 6: Early Release  
 12: PTA Meeting  
 27: Trunk or Treat!

## November

1-23: Scrips Fundraiser! Get your Holiday Gift Cards!  
 7: Election Day Bake Sale  
 9: PTA Meeting

## DECEMBER

4-8: Holiday Shop  
 14: PTA Meeting

Town Tree Lighting! Date pending! Stay Tuned

## JANUARY

11: PTA Meeting (Hybrid)

## February

8: PTA meeting  
 23: Family Formal Gala

Munson's Fundraiser to Start! More info to come!

## MARCH

2-6 Read Across America Week! More info to come on a Read-a-Thon for your students!  
 14: PTA meeting

## APRIL

11: PTA Meeting & Family BINGO Night!  
 15-19: Spring Break!

## May

6-10: Teacher Appreciation Week  
 9: PTA Meeting (Hybrid)  
 25: Fun Run & Silent Auction

## JUNE

6: Final '23-'24 PTA Meeting  
 11: Tentative LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Last Day of School Celebration! Info to Come!

## OTHER INFO

Meetings are scheduled for 6pm at the Willington Public Library  
 Additional events may be added! Follow us on Facebook to stay up to date!

\*most dates are final but some dates may change



## Willington PTA – CES & HMS

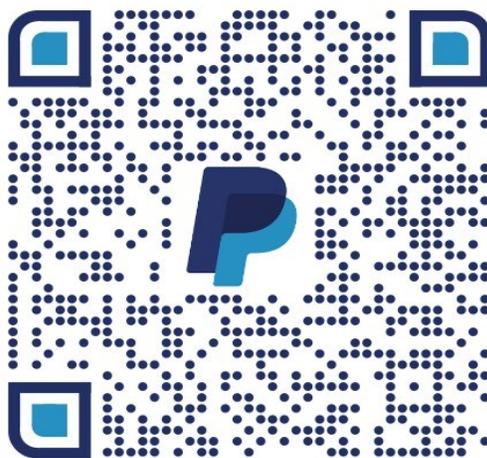
Carrie Rainville- PTA President –  
[membership.willingtonpta@gmail.com](mailto:membership.willingtonpta@gmail.com)

Melissa McKinnon- Vice President

Michelle Christensen- Treasurer

Melissa Abercrombie- Secretary

Below you will find our PTA PayPal QR Code if you would like to donate



# Parks & Recreation



Our local parks, trails and open spaces have always served as places where people can find respite and seek peace and restoration.

**PLEASE USE OUR PARKS AND TRAILS RESPONSIBLY**

## WPRD Jack-O-Lantern Contest

With Halloween right around the corner, WPRD is hosting a Jack-O-Lantern carving contest!!

For \$10.00, you will receive a pumpkin, and entered into the contest—the top 3 vote getters will receive a prize!

Create your spookiest, funniest, or most creative (and family friendly!) pumpkin!

Get your entries in by October 30th, and the winners will be announced shortly after.

**Register Today!!**



## Snowshoe Loaner Program



Winter is right around the corner!! Just a reminder that WPRD has four pairs of adult snow shoes and four pairs of kids snow shoes for residents use. Be sure to reserve a pair or two today and head outside and enjoy!!

Why go snowshoeing? What started thousands of years ago as a mode of transportation has evolved into a popular winter activity for recreation and fitness. Here's why... it's fun, it's easy, it's inexpensive, it's a good workout and it's versatile!

## Bus Trips—A Day on your Own in New York City

Enjoy a day in the “Big Apple” with friends and family! Get a jump start on your holiday shopping, visit the museums, see a Broadway show, or just enjoy the sights of the city. Bus will drop off & pick up at Rockefeller Center.

This wonderful trip is put on by the Ashford, Bolton, Coventry, Mansfield, Tolland, and Willington Recreation Departments.

The trip is on **December 2nd, 2023**, and the deadline to register is **November 15th, 2023**.

The fee is **\$90.00**, which includes bus transportation only.



### Bocce Ball Court Unveiled at the River Road Athletic Complex

Willington Parks and Recreation wants to give a **HUGE** thank you to Michael Pippin and Troop 82 for installing a Bocce Ball court at the River Road Athletic Complex!



Michael briefing in Troop 82 on the project.

The process began on July 10th, when Michael pitched his idea to Willington's Parks and Recreation Commission. After receiving the go ahead, Michael began planning out the project timeline, while also gaining valuable real-world experience with budgeting, zoning, and project planning.



Installing the border of the court.

On September 23rd, Michael and Troop 82 arrived at the RRAC and got to work with digging, shoveling, and raking the area where the court has been installed.

The scouts were assisted on a cold, rainy day by a number of volunteers, including Michael's family and Scoutmaster Ken Fluet.

WPRD would also like to give John Patton a huge thank you for donating the materials used for filling the court.

Check out some pictures of the process to the right!



Leveling out the top layer.

# **Wilmington Youth Basketball Registration is now Open!**

Registration closes October 27th! Register today!

**WILLINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION**



**W I L L I N G T O N**

# **BASKETBALL**

***SCAN TO GET TAKEN TO OUR REGISTRATION  
WEBPAGE!***

**SCAN**



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US AT:  
(860) 487-3108 OR  
JCALLAGHAN@WILLINGTONCT.GOV



**WEDNESDAYS *IN THE* PARK**  
*Willington's Summer Concert Series*

**Thank you 2023 Sponsors!**

**Platinum Concert Sponsors**

Jeffrey Gordon

**Gold Concert Sponsors**

Baywood Kennels

Willington Pizza House

**Silver Concert Sponsors**

APR Roofing & Home  
Improvement

Cenaxo LLC

William & Suzanne Chapman

CTE Crane

Flat Pennies

Franc Motors

Innovative Hoisting

Landon's Tires

Tony's Garage

**Bronze Concert Sponsors**

C&T Electric

Dot & Mark Drobney

Creative Mark Engraving

Hilltop Restaurant

Tish & David Ignatowicz

Mark & Sheri Masinda

Willington Republicans

Willington Veterinary Clinic

Derrick & Erika Wiecenski



# Revenue Department

## Happy Holidays from the Revenue Department!



**Wishing you  
a Healthy  
& Prosperous  
Season!**

**Janice Clauson  
Revenue Collector  
&  
Grace Tharp  
Assistant  
Revenue Collector**

## Town Clerk

Warm greetings, Willington Residents,

It is hard to believe we are approaching the end of 2023!

We would like to welcome **Ivan Ruhnke**, who is our new Assistant Town Clerk. Welcome Ivan!

This year's municipal election will be held on November 7, 2023. Those wishing to vote by absentee ballot may visit our website to see the requirements for Absentee voting and to obtain an AB (absentee ballot) application.

The Absentee Ballot Kiosk (located outside of the front door of the Town Office Building) is now open and accepting filled applications and the return absentee ballots.

As we approach Veteran's Day, we would like to thank our Veterans for their service!

The Town Office Building offers notary services for a fee of \$5 for each notary seal being placed on a document.

Please note our new office hours, which are:

Monday: 8AM – 6 PM  
Tuesday – Thursday: 8AM – 4PM

We look forward to serving you!

Robin H. Campbell, CCTC  
Ivan Ruhnke

Willington Town Clerk  
Assistant Town Clerk



We would like to thank Rachel Pierce for her years of service to the Town of Willington! Best of luck in your next chapter!!



# Town Parks & Amenities



## Fenton-Ruby Park and Wildlife Preserve:

Moose Meadow Road and Burma Road; hiking/walking trails, bird watching, fishing, non-motorized boating, cross country skiing, snowshoeing and picnic area.

## Knowlton Property:

Mason Road – Hiking Trails

Willington's Public Works Department constructed a parking lot for hiking trail access on Mason Road. This lot will allow safe parking for access to the Talmadge Spur Trail and the Knowlton Spur Trail. Both trails connect to the Nipmuck Trail, part of the Connecticut Blue Trail System.

## Talmadge Tract:

Mason Road – Hiking Trails (adjacent to the Knowlton Property)

## Kevin Legare Memorial Fields - 40 Old Farms Road:

Baseball and Softball fields.

## The Park on Village Hill Road:

Overlooking the Roaring Brook, a popular fishing spot during fishing season.

## River Road Athletic Complex - 511 River Road:

Randy Larner Memorial Baseball Field, basketball court, pavilion, playscape, swings, multi-sport field, volleyball sand court, walking path (one lap = .33 miles), outdoor fitness equipment, and a new Bocce Ball court. No golfing allowed.

**Dogs are welcome but must be leashed and cleaned up after.** Doggie poo bags are available.

Complex is **CARRY IN-CARRY OUT**. Dogs are not allowed on the baseball field. \*\*State Statute 22-364 states that dogs must be under the direct control of their owners at all times when using town parks. It is the dog owner's responsibility to clean up all dog waste.

***NOTE: All activities at River Road Athletic Complex are monitored under 24-hour video surveillance.***

## Facility Rentals:

River Road Athletic Complex has a pavilion, fields and courts available for rent for your next birthday party or family gathering!

## Pavilion Rental Fee:

Residents: \$75.00 for 5 hours or \$20/hour  
Non-Residents: \$100.00 for 5 hours or \$30/hour  
Town Non-Profits: \$55.00 for 5 hours

## Fields/Courts Rental:

Fee: \$30.00/2 hours



## Community Sports Equipment Shed

The River Road Athletic Complex has a Community Sports Equipment Shed! All of the equipment inside has been donated; basketballs, soccer balls, bats, balls, etc. and may be **borrowed and returned** by anyone at the park. Feel free to donate unused equipment to the shed!





Wilmington Public Library  
7 Ruby Road, Wilmington  
860-429-3854, [www.wilmingtonpubliclibrary.org](http://www.wilmingtonpubliclibrary.org)  
Find us on the WPL E-Blast, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, & Burbio.com



2023 has been **A Year of Celebration** for the Wilmington Public Library, as we look forward to celebrating our **100-year anniversary (1923-2023)**.

**The celebration of the Wilmington Public Library 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary continues!**

We have already held two events, the Potluck Dinner Dance and the Family Picnic – both with great success. There are two more events planned:

**A Birthday Reception on Sunday, October 22 from 2 pm to 4 pm.** Refreshments will be served, and there will be music, speakers, exhibits, and displays of WPL history in the Community room.

**Family Pajama Party on Friday, December 15 from 6:30 pm to 8 pm.** Have some hot chocolate and popcorn, and enjoy holiday stories, music, and songs, and maybe even Santa!

**Please put these important dates on your calendar and celebrate with us!**

**This time belongs to all of us. Let us CELEBRATE all that we have and share together.**

**“Thank you”** to all the businesses in our hometown that allow us to put up flyers of our programs and events in their shop windows. We rely on them to help get the word out for us and appreciate their support!

We had another great **Summer Reading Program** this year. Thank you to all who participated and congratulations to all the prizes winners.

Everyone is enjoying our two new **picnic tables** out front.

We hope you have been enjoying our new **Story Walk** with author Pete Oswald’s book, “Hike” outside.

The library has a variety of **Museum and Attraction Passes** which are funded by the Friends of WPL. Please take advantage of these passes and the many programs they offer through their establishments. They are as follows...

**Children’s Museum, West Hartford, CT & Roaring Brook Nature Center, Canton, CT**

**Connecticut Historical Society Museum and Library, Hartford, CT**

**Connecticut Old State House, Hartford, CT**

**CT State Parks & Forests (No Child Left Inside) - 3 in 1 pass**

**Dinosaur State Park, Rocky Hill**

**Gillette Castle, East Haddam**

**Fort Trumbull, New London**

**Florence Griswold Museum, Old Lyme, CT**

**Lutz Children’s Museum, Manchester, CT**

**New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain, CT**

**Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, MA**

**Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT**



# Willington Public Library Continued...

## Library Fundraiser

For the first time ever, the library is now selling its very own **T-Shirts!** The shirts are a deep purple with dark yellow lettering. It reads on the front "Great Libraries Create Community." These are for both adults (\$22) and children (\$18) and come in all sizes. If we do not have your size available, we can special order it for you. These pending purchase orders will need to be paid for before the order is placed. We will contact you when your order arrives. Thank you in advance for your support!

WPL would like to thank artist-culture, neighbor, patron, and friend, Randall Nelson for creating and contributing a beautiful **Memorial Stone for our Guinea pig, Ollie.** It has been placed in our circle garden in front of the library. "Thank you" for your thoughtfulness, kindness, and generosity.

**Our butterfly has returned home!** Thanks to Mr. Nelson, who created a beautiful, sculpted butterfly which once was on display in our library at Hall School, has graciously returned it back home to us. There is a wonderful history to this, and we hope you will come in and read of its adventure.

## NEW Unplug Zone at WPL

In a world where information and technology are everywhere and ever-present, opportunities to **unplug** are becoming more essential. The availability of technology and the constant connectedness that it provides coupled with an immense amount of information (news, e-mail, social networks, etc.) places many individuals in danger of cognitive overload. People want control of their technology instead of their technology controlling them.

**The library is now offering its Becker & Patton Family Reading Room as a DEVICE FREE- NO TECH ZONE** to help meet this growing need to take a break and unplug, turn off and connect. This area will be designated for the WPL community to disconnect, relax, and destress.

## NEW to our library...Little Local's.

A special section now for our newest and youngest authors!



We have long had established here at the Willington Public Library, highlighting a special section for our library's local authors. These are authors from all around CT and other nearby States, many of whom had presented their books to the world for the first time here at our library. We have always felt it to be a special honor for everyone.

Now, we have had children who have also shown a special interest in creating their own stories and putting them into book form. We have been publishing these books for our own library circulation in support of this wonderful endeavor. These "little local author's" will now have a special section all their own as well.

So, come and see what some children have written so far and check them out to read at home or enjoy reading them here while you are visiting the library.

We encourage other children to create and write their own stories and submit their finished work to us for our own in-house publishing process and see their names as author's.

**Needle-Felting Classes:** Angelina Fleury of American Made Crafter's is back with new projects for us. Join her on Thursdays at 6:00pm on the listed evenings below. Class size is limited to 8 participants, so register early. The cost for the two-hour class - including materials, is \$15.00 per class and due upon registration which is no later than the week before each session. Leave with a beautiful, finished item for keeping and enjoying or for gift giving. A class could be canceled if not enough interest is shown. Sign up for one or all classes and invite a friend!

**October 5: Harvest Pumpkin**

**November 2: Pinecone Ornament**

**December 7: Reindeer**



## Willington Public Library Continued...

### October Happenings:

**Tuesday, 10/10 - Free Flu Vaccine Clinic - 4:30 - 7:30pm** for children 4 to 18 years of age. Hosted by Eastern Highlands Health District. Limited supply. First come, first served. For questions, call EHHD at 860-429-3325

**Saturday, 10/14 - Friends with Reptiles: Meet the Geckos - 1:00pm. All ages welcome!**

**Thursday, 10/26 - Storyteller, Rona Leventhal's "Goblins & Giggles" - 6:30p**

This show will have you tapping your feet, huggin' your seat, singin' a tune and even laughing as Rona shares stories from the silly to the serious, from the mysterious to the monstrous! Recommended ages 5 and up. Come and hear a tale or two that will put shivers up your spine and send you home with a smile!



**Tuesday, 10/31 - Come "Trick or Treat" at the Library!  
- 5:30 - 7:30pm**

**Sound Healing Meditation:** Classes meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 - 7:30 pm These classes are for adults. Join Reiki Master Teacher and Sound Healer, Edie Jemiola. Edie uses crystal alchemy bowls and voice to bring patrons on an stress-reducing and rejuvenating meditation journey. Come enjoy a guided meditation for a life enhancing sonic journey into childlike joy, relaxation, and letting go of all that no longer serves us, while gently purifying our physical and emotional bodies and amplifying radiant vitality. The Community Room provides ample space for patrons to lie down. Please be sure to bring a yoga mat, pillows, blanket or lounging chair. Regular chairs are available for those who prefer. Feel free to bring a journal.

Please call to register for the dates you would like to attend. Walk-ins also welcome. There is a \$10.00 suggested donation but all are welcome and encouraged to attend.

### Upcoming scheduled dates...

**Thursday, October 12, Tuesday, October 24, Thursday, November 9, Tuesday, November 14, Tuesday, December 5, and Thursday, December 14**

**Tuesday, November 7 at 6:00pm - U. S. A. Financial "Social Security Strategies and Your Retirement Future" Educational Workshop - 6:00pm.**

Retirement is one of the most important life events many of us will ever experience. Social Security changes can affect YOUR retirement. Learn about when to collect Social Security. Laws and regulations have changed and you need to be informed of these issues.

### Topics discussed in the Workshop...

- Social Security regulation changes impacting the filing timing options available to you.
- How S. S. benefits are calculated and the advanced planning required to increase them.
- Why married couples, divorced and widowed individuals can miss out on significant lifetime sums.
- How S. S. sums may be integrated into a retirement analysis projecting future monthly income.
- The "three legged stool" approach to retirement planning and how to support your needs in the future.
- Learn how your S. S. benefit may be taxed and how that can change your outlook.
- If I elect S. S. and continue to work, will my benefits be reduced or eliminated?

### Ongoing Programs:

Every Tuesday, 1:00 - 3:00 pm, the **Yarn & Thread** Group meets in the Reading Room. Come and sit a spell while you enjoy some time working on your own project in the company of fellow crafters. A great opportunity to set aside time to work on or complete a project, while sharing with others your ideas and talents.



## Willington Public Library Continued...

**Adult Book Club:** Every first Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to participate. Books are available in advance at the library. There are plenty of books to go around and available a month or more in advance.

**Upcoming books for discussion are for...**

**October 5:** “West with Giraffes” by Linda Rutledge

**November 2:** “Lessons in Chemistry” by Bonnie Gamus

**December 7:** “The Killers of Flower Moon” by David Grann

The Willington Public Library hosts a **Lunch and A Good Book Club at the Willington Senior Center**. This group meets at 11 a.m. and members are asked to bring their lunch and something to share. Drinks are provided.

**Family Movie Time:** On the last Saturday of every month at 12:30 pm in the Community Room, on the BIG SCREEN! Complimentary popcorn served. You may bring your own snacks or enjoy your lunch as you watch. The following showings are planned for the coming months...

**October 28:** “Trick or Treat Scooby-Doo” - Celebrate Halloween at the library. Come dressed up in your favorite costume. Complimentary popcorn and candy for trick-or-treaters.

**November 18:** “Free Bird” - Thanksgiving movie

**December 23:** The 20th Anniversary movie showing of “elf” - Enjoy some hot cocoa with marshmallows along with popcorn.

People may “borrow” the BIG SCREEN for their own personal viewing - just let us know and arrangements can be made.

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

**October 7:** Special visit with guest Nora Jones as she reads “Time to Sleep” by Denise Fleming. Nora is a local teacher, alternate member on the Willington Conservation Commission, and DEEP Master Wildlife volunteer. Nora will be showcasing a conservation kit of animal pelts, feathers, and other materials, which will be located in our display case in the children’s craft room during the month of October.

**November 4:** Thanksgiving theme with the reading of Sheri Wall’s “I Am Thankful: A Thanksgiving Book for Kids” followed by creating gratitude leaves, pumpkins, acorns and other decorations to make and bring home.

**December 2:** A special holiday themed story “Christmas Swim” from Bluey, followed by playing a game of “Pass the Parcel” and crafts.

**Pokémon Club:** On the second Tuesday of the month from 6:00 - 7:00 pm. Come and play the Pokémon Card Game! Trade cards! No experience required. Limited library decks will be available to borrow if you don’t have your own or want to bring your own. Ages 7+. No registration needed. Snacks are provided.

**A reminder:** The Willington Library Board meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm.

**Library CLOSINGS** within this fourth quarter (October, November, and December)

**Monday, October 9** - in observance of Columbus Day and Indigenous People’s Day

**Saturday, November 11** - in observance of Veteran’s Day

**Thursday, November 23 and Friday, 11/24** - in observance of Thanksgiving

**Monday, December 25** - in observance Christmas

**The Eastern CT Writers Group:** Join them 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 you are interested in attending or have any questions, you may contact John Blessington at [jblessington@icloud.com](mailto:jblessington@icloud.com) or 860-487-0493

**The library hosts many outside organizations and their programs.** The views and opinions expressed in these programs are those of the speakers and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of any entities they represent, nor do they reflect the views, opinions, official policy or position of the Willington Public Library.

If it concerns the public and the public is welcome to attend, you will see their flyer posted. Any information needed or asked for regarding such events is done by these groups or its individuals, and not by or through the library. What information we are given will be shared.



# Willington Public Library Continued...

**Sign up for our library e-blast.** It's the best way to keep informed. Get connected to what's happening here at your library. For all Library related things, join our library E-Blast, where we come to you! Join by calling us at 860-429-3854, by coming in person to the library and signing up, or on our website link at [www.willingtonpubliclibrary.org](http://www.willingtonpubliclibrary.org). You can also find us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, & [burbio.com](http://burbio.com)

## Friends of the Willington Public Library, Inc Updates

### **Meet the new officers!**

Friends of the Willington Public Library recently held elections for new officers. We welcome Jeannette Ferris and Hanna Prytko as Co-Presidents, Connie Bedan as Treasurer, and Fabiana Cardetti as Secretary. With the generous support of the previous officers, the group is off to a great start.

### **Annual Book Sale**

Friends of the WPL recently held its annual Book Sale on September 9<sup>th</sup> and it was once again a great success. Thank you to everyone who helped sorting and moving books, and to all of you who came out to support the sale. A special thanks to Kathy Lisiewski for her unwavering dedication to this event, and her extensive knowledge that she brings to the day.

### **Save the Date! Annual Craft Fair and Bake Sale to be held on December 9<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 2pm**

We look forward to celebrating the holidays by bringing you the annual Craft Fair and Bake Sale! This is a great opportunity to get some holiday shopping done by choosing from a wide selection of local, handmade crafts. We will also be hosting various drawings during, and directly after, the event.

Friends of the WPL is accepting registrations from crafters to purchase a sales table at the event. Please come share your talents with the community. To register as a vendor, please fill out the following form: [Vendor Registration Form](#) Payment for the table can be made via cash or check in person, via mail, or online within the registration form.

We are also looking for volunteer bakers to share their culinary skills with the town, and for donations to create gift baskets for our drawings. If you are interested in helping to supply baked goods for the bake sale, items for the baskets, or in creating a basket to donate, please sign up here: [Baked goods and gift basked volunteer sign up](#)

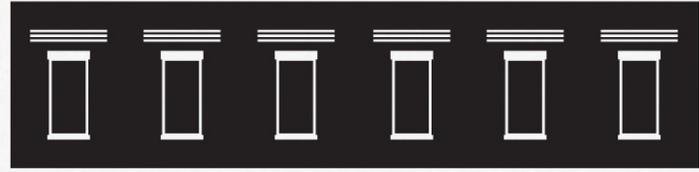
### **Membership**

Friends of the WPL are always looking for new members to join our group to help support the library. To join, email us at [willingtonfriendsofthelibrary@gmail.com](mailto:willingtonfriendsofthelibrary@gmail.com), fill out a paper membership form in the library, or register online here: [Online Membership Form](#)

### **Meetings**

Next scheduled meeting of the Friends of WPL - Tuesday, November 14 - 7:00pm





# THE PACKING HOUSE

1870

HISTORIC VENUE FOR PERFORMANCE & EVENTS

## THE PACKING HOUSE "An Intimate Listening Room"

October 2023



November 2023



December 2023



SAVE THE DATES!

All EC-CHAP Articles are now available on our website:  
[www.ec-chap.org/articles](http://www.ec-chap.org/articles)

### MONTHLY EVENTS "TALENT SHOWCASE"



2nd  
Wednesday

\* OCTOBER 4TH - 7:00pm  
Call to Schedule: 518.791.9474  
\* First Wednesday in October ONLY

### "THE PACKING HOUSE POETRY SERIES"



3rd  
Thursday  
Featuring Published  
Authors &  
Walk-In Open Mic

OCTOBER 19TH - 6:30pm

### "EC-CHAP FILM SERIES" The Rare Films of Jimi Hendrix

2-Part Mini Series - 7:00pm

OCTOBER 27th & NOVEMBER 3rd



Eastern Connecticut Center for  
History, Art, and Performance, Inc.

[www.ec-chap.org](http://www.ec-chap.org)

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## EC-CHAP Awarded Museum Makeover Grant: A Call for Artifacts

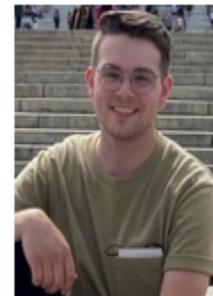
The Eastern Connecticut Center for History, Art, and Performance (EC-CHAP) has been awarded the Museum Makeover Grant for 2023. EC-CHAP, a non-profit cultural organization located at 156 River Road in Willington CT, operates the Gardiner Hall Jr. History Museum, the Dye & Bleach House Community Gallery, and The Packing House performance venue, and offers an Artist-In-Residence Program.

Museum Makeover is a program of Conservation ConneCTion and is supported through a partnership with the Connecticut League of History Organizations with a grant from the CT Cultural Fund administered by CT Humanities, with funding provided by the Connecticut Office of the Arts from the Connecticut State Legislature. EC-CHAP was one of 12 organizations across the state to be awarded this competitive grant. The award consists of \$4,000 and visits from a team of traveling curators, allowing EC-CHAP the opportunity to upgrade the Gardiner Hall Jr. History Museum with self-guided exhibits, upgraded informative signage and text panels, and provide new and interesting programming.

Additionally, this grant will further EC-CHAP's goal of increased awareness of local history. This program will take place through the year, completing in Fall of 2023. The Gardiner Hall Jr. Museum was founded in 2014 with a primary theme focused on preserving the long history of the historic mill building it is located in, its inhabitants over the years such as the Gardiner Hall Jr. Company, the Hall family, and their contributions to the town of Willington and beyond.

The Museum is seeking donations of historical artifacts - including physical items, photographs, diaries, oral histories, etc. that help to tell the story of the Gardiner Hall Jr. Thread Company and development of the Town of Willington and surrounding area from the mid-19th to mid-20th century. If you have information or items that you would like to donate or place on loan as part of this Exhibit, please contact Ryan Elgin, Museum Curator at [ryan@ec-chap.org](mailto:ryan@ec-chap.org). All artifacts will be properly acknowledged by the donor/loaner. The Gardiner Hall Jr. History Museum is open to the public on Saturdays from 10:00am to 12:00pm.





## Typewriters for the Trenches: Connecticut's Typewriters and Their Role in the Great War

The typewriter can be said to be one of the most useful inventions of the modern age. Just as the printing press had revolutionized communication in the 15th century, so too did the humble typewriter. The typewriter was vastly more efficient than handwriting. Documents could now be clearly written, relatively uniform, and easily copied on a much greater scale. Connecticut played a significant role in the machine's development and distribution with firms like Blickensderfer, Underwood, Royal, and Noiseless. As this article is part of the ongoing *Connecticut Industry During Times of War* series, I will be focusing on these firms and sharing a glimpse of the typewriter's contribution to the First World War (1914-1918).



*The first successful typewriter.  
Source: Library of Congress.*

The first commercially successful typewriter was the Scholes and Glidden typewriter, patented in 1868. Remington, A New York producer of firearms and sewing machines, acquired the rights and began manufacturing the machine in 1874. There were some holdouts in adopting these new, large, finicky machines but their value had been proven by the mid-1880s (Library of Congress). In the business world, they were indispensable. Office work began ballooning around this time. As a result, typing schools sprung up around the country along with competing manufacturers.

Connecticut would be the location for many of them.

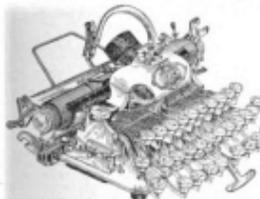
One of the earliest successful Connecticut firms would be the Blickensderfer Manufacturing Company located in Stamford. In 1893, George Blickensderfer stole the show from other manufacturers at the Chicago World's Fair with his newest invention: The Blickensderfer Model 5, the first truly portable typewriter. The small, lightweight machine used a typewheel to imprint text to paper. This allowed the user to actually see what they were writing, something not ubiquitous on typewriters in the late 19th century, but also allowed the user to easily swap out the typewheel mechanism to use another language or typeface without buying an entirely new machine (Fudacz). Orders poured in for the Blickensderfer typewriter, particularly in foreign markets. Distribution networks were set up across North America, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Russia, and Poland (Fudacz). The machine found its niche with journalists, travelers, and personal users, not as a permanent fixture on corporate desks. By the time the U.S. entered the Great War



in 1917, Blickensderfer had produced tens of thousands of machines, now being made from aluminum and known as the “five pound secretary” (Milton).

Underwood, undoubtedly Connecticut’s most famous typewriter company, actually started out as a manufacturer of typewriter ribbons and carbon paper for Remington. The company headquartered in New York City eventually decided to produce their own typewriter and located their factory in Hartford in 1901. The year prior, the Underwood Typewriter Company unveiled the Underwood Number 5. This would become the most successful typewriter design ever made. Often described as the first truly modern typewriter, it set the design stereotype of what a typewriter should look like for the next half century (Polt). It was front striking, meaning when a key was pressed it triggered the typebar to strike forward onto a piece of paper fully in view of the user, unlike the understroking machines of earlier years (Oden). It was also quite a quick machine. In 1906, *Office Applications* magazine organized the World Typewriting Championship held at Madison Square Garden in New York. These annual contests pitted quick typists and their preferred machines against one another on who could type an hour-long dictation, or reproduce an original text, the fastest and with the least amount of errors (Oden). Underwood dominated. Winners of the International Typewriter Trophy from the years 1906-1917 were Rose L. Fritz, H. Otis Blaisdell, Florence E. Wilson, Margaret B. Owen, and Emil A. Trefzger. All of them used Underwood machines (Oden; Messenger). During the first two decades of the 1900s, Underwood’s machines were massively popular and outsold all other brands combined (Engler p.44). Of course, the typewriting competitions acted as fantastic marketing. The massive success of their product led Underwood to continue expansion of their Hartford factory. Employment numbers rocketed from 300 when the factory began operation to over 5000 in 1917 (Oden). The Underwood factory in

**“Blick”**  
**Featherweight Typewriter**



The Latest Improved Model Blickensderfer Typewriters have been used by Travelers and for other Personal Correspondence longer than any other. That tells the story. The Strongest and most Durable portable typewriter made. Will give years of hardest service. 170 Different Styles of Type, embracing all the Principal Languages of the World.

**The Blickensderfer Manufacturing Co.**  
Executive Office and Factory, Stamford, Conn., U. S. A.

*Blickensderfer advertisement in Typewriter Topics magazine, January 1918. Source: HathiTrust Digital Library.*



*Woman seated with Underwood typewriter (1918). Source: Library of Congress.*



Hartford was the largest typewriter works in the world at this point and, together with Royal, made Connecticut the typewriter capital of the country (*The Times Dispatch*, September 1912; Fudacz).

The Royal Typewriter Company incorporated in Brooklyn, New York in 1904. In three years, they would be operating out of a new factory in Hartford, just a few blocks away from Underwood's facility. The company was a major producer right alongside the behemoths of



Royal Standard typewriter used by Swedish politicians and writers Maria and Fabian Mansson (1911-1914). Photo 2019, Blekinge museum. Source: Wikimedia Commons.

Remington and Underwood, however Royal would really have its heyday further into the 1920s and beyond which is outside the scope of this article. What differentiated Royal from the heavy competition of the early 1900s was the design of its Royal Standard models and their price. The Royal Standard had a “flatbed” design, appearing far less tall and boxy than competing models, although this was not always seen as a positive (Messenger). The benefits were that it weighed less than 30 pounds but still offered a full keyboard, put less components

in between the user and the paper, and had a fast, light touch producing a clearer typed impression (Gilchrist). Thus making the Flatbed a more portable design than the typical desktop typewriters but also more functional than current portable designs, like the Blickensderfer (Fudacz). In 1914, Royal would introduce the Number 10 which saw sweeping success for its famed durability. Contributing to Royal’s ascension to one of the largest typewriter manufacturers was the cost of their machines. When the Royal flatbed typing machine hit the market in 1907, it cost \$65 when many typewriters were priced around \$100 (Fudacz).

The last of these companies to set up manufacturing in Connecticut was the Noiseless Typewriter Company. The company started in Middletown in 1909 and occupied the former factory of the Eisenhuth Horseless Vehicle Company (Saunders & Schneiderman-Fox). The goal of the organization was included in its name: to create a noiseless typewriter when most offices were filled with the din of click-clacking typists. To make a quieter machine, the Noiseless Typewriter used ball-bearings on many friction points. Their design would use light, quick, uniform pressure from a typebar onto the type-ribbon to produce text on paper. This was in place of the hard smacking blows by typebars on other brands (*Cassier’s Magazine* p.185-187). This pressure imprinting was



## The Noiseless Typewriter

100% NOISELESS

Highly commended by well-known representative concerns after exhaustive tests, resulting in repeat orders and standardization of equipment.

The practical Noiseless mechanical construction not only insures a permanent noiseless result, but also increases durability by preventing the usual excessive wear and strain caused by the hammer method of typewriting.

Our catalogue will interest you. Send your address and we will mail you a copy at once.

MADE ONLY BY

**THE NOISELESS TYPEWRITER COMPANY**

General Sales Office: 203 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N. Y. Factory: MIDDLETOWN, CONN., U. S. A.

Sales Offices: NEW YORK CHICAGO PHILADELPHIA WASHINGTON BOSTON BUFFALO

Noiseless advertisement in *Typewriter Topics* magazine, February 1918. Source: HathiTrust Digital Library.



regulated internally. No matter how hard the typist struck a key, the pressure of the typebar to the paper was consistently light (Fudacz). This new machine was certainly considered quieter in its day but it is not exactly noiseless. The company was smaller than its competitors in Hartford, maintaining less than 300 employees in the 1910s. Additionally, it had a few obstacles hampering their progress. Their typewriter was one of the most expensive on the market. Moreover, production was slow-going and they would not enter full production until 1917. Incurring financial problems, the company reorganized, dissolved, and reincorporated on the eve of the First World War (Saunders & Schneiderman-Fox).



*Quartermaster Corps soldiers in typewriter repair shop at Tours, France, 1919. U.S. Army Signal Corps Photograph. Source: Library of Congress.*

Like almost all industries in the United States, typewriter manufacturers were affected when America joined the war in 1917. Although the office supplies industry is not at the forefront of our mind when we think of war matériel, the typewriter was vital to the national war effort. In fact, a 1918 ruling in Washington D.C. by the War Service Committee classified the typewriter business as an essential industry (*The Bridgeport Times*, September 1918). The military considered the typewriter to be as indispensable for routine paperwork as the civilian industry did (De Pue). Officer's reports, official correspondence, supply quantity details, along with meetings and hearings that required a stenographer, all had to be typed. Combat divisions of the American Expeditionary Force were allotted 77 typewriters to be dispersed amongst their regiments. Base or training divisions received 80. The Intelligence Services for both land and air units, the Topographical Corps, the Quartermaster Corps, and many more would all receive typewriters (Center of Military History). Some typewriter manufacturers shifted parts of their production lines in order to produce other war equipment such as aircraft parts (*Carson City Daily Appeal*, June 1917). Still, most firms continued to manufacture as many typing machines as possible, even if they assisted with other wartime needs. The government proceeded to buy



A donated advertisement by Underwood Typewriter Co. in *The Sun* newspaper, October 21, 1918. Source: Library of Congress.

every typewriter it could during the war years. Businesses bought the rest. Getting one for personal use was not an easy task as the machines became increasingly scarce and demanded a higher price on the secondhand market. Production supposedly increased by 100% between the years of 1909-1919, yet typewriter manufacturers could not meet the overwhelming demand. The United States Government requisitioned 75% of domestic production. Foreign governments took all typewriters that were sent overseas (*Wall Street Journal*, November 1919). With the war consuming industrial production and manpower, the position of women as typists was solidified forever. Women in factory and clerical work was becoming increasingly common. In 1890, only 17% of clerical workers were women; By 1930, this number was nearly 50% (Terrell). A wartime advertisement by the Underwood Typewriter

Company encouraged women to take on clerical jobs in order to help the government by turning their typewriter “into a machine gun” and to “fight at a desk while your brothers fight in the trenches” (*The Sun*, October 1918).

Our featured Connecticut firms each had their own roles to play. The year after the war ended, an editor for *Typewriter Topics* magazine estimated total typewriter production for the year of 1919. This offers us a glimpse at these company’s wartime capabilities. He placed Underwood at producing 190,000 machines that year. This was more than any other typewriter company in the world. The only close competitor was Remington at 150,000. Connecticut’s Royal factory made 100,000 machines and Noiseless made 15,000 (*Wall Street Journal*, November 1919). Royal, Noiseless, and Underwood typewriter companies most likely produced their machines at max capacity during wartime and into the postwar years, as long as they could obtain the necessary raw materials (Adams). Indeed, the Underwood Typewriter Company claimed that the war took every machine they could make (*The Washington Times*, October 1919). Underwood was proud to advertise that their wartime production of over 100,000 machines found their way to all forms of government agencies, ship yards, steel mills, the Red Cross, service members abroad, and more (*The Washington Times*, December 1918). On the other hand, the Blickensderfer Manufacturing Company suffered when trade was cut off with most European markets upon America’s entrance into the Great War in 1917 (Milton). These export markets made up the majority of sales for Blickensderfer’s portable machines and only France would continue purchasing in quantity.



Blickensderfer diversified by producing munitions for the war effort. He even invented a cartridge-belt loading device for machine guns, supplying them to France and the United States. Unfortunately, Blickensderfer would pass away that same year, causing his company to be sold to another typewriter company in 1919 (Stamford Historical Society).

I'd be remiss to not mention the men and women who left the typewriter industry to join the Army or Navy. In addition to the industry producing for the war effort, *Typewriter Topics* magazine listed that 3,423 members of the typewriter and office equipment industry took up the call to arms (Messenger; *Typewriter Topics*, 1918). In the postwar years, the United States grew on the world stage. By the end of the

first half of the 20th century, North America was the global center of modern information, in part due to the mass adoption of the typewriter and its innovative typewriter industry (Boyer & England, p.244). Typewriter manufacturing played its part in Connecticut's continuous reputation as one of the leaders in industrial development in America. Today, the typewriter is considered a fun and antiquated novelty outside of serious collector circles. Perhaps soon we will see a resurgence of



*Typewriter Division, Offices of American Red Cross, Rue Boisse d'Anglas, Paris (1914-1918). Source: Library of Congress.*

their use and public interest like we are currently seeing with film cameras and vinyl records. Regardless if you have never used a typewriter before, their influence can still be felt in your everyday life. Your QWERTY keyboard in front of your computer monitor or on your phone screen is the same keyboard that appeared on the earliest successful typewriter mentioned in this article, the Scholes and Glidden typewriter from 1874.

*Ryan Elgin serves as EC-CHAP Assistant Director, Curator of the Gardiner Hall Jr History Museum, and Volunteer Coordinator. He may be contacted directly at [ryan@ec-chap.org](mailto:ryan@ec-chap.org).*

*The Gardiner Hall Jr Museum is open to the public Saturdays from 10:00am to 12:00pm. For more information, please call 518-791-9474.*



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Interview with Photographer Greg Saulmon

Greg Saulmon is a writer and photographer from Holyoke, Massachusetts. A long career in the newspaper industry—managing breaking news and investigative reporting, producing data visualizations, and shooting photos as an editor at *The Republican* in Springfield and *The Daily Hampshire Gazette* in Northampton—shaped his approach to taking pictures. His photographs have been displayed at the Hosmer Gallery at Forbes Library, the Taber Gallery at Holyoke Community College, the Wistariahurst Museum, and the Vermont Center for Photography, and were featured as an installation at MASS MoCA during the 2013 Solid Sound Festival.

**Where did you get the concept of *Midnights* as a theme for the show?**

The short answer is Taylor Swift. I'd been listening *a lot* to her record of the same name when I was offered the opportunity to do a show at the Dye & Bleach House Community Gallery. *Midnights* is a great title for a collection of songs—and, since I've always been drawn to night photography, I thought it'd be interesting to organize a collection of photographs around the theme of this magical, mysterious hour.

But the germ of the idea goes back several years. During my time as an assistant managing editor at *The Republican* newspaper in Springfield I considered shooting a recurring photo feature called "Midnights in..." which would have featured nightlife and night scenes in communities around Western Massachusetts. I never got that idea off the ground; it would've meant putting in a lot of extra hours on top of my regular editing responsibilities. But the concept continued to intrigue me, and I'm glad I finally found a chance to bring it to life.



### **What were the challenges in shooting this project?**

Shooting *Midnights* proved challenging for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that I'm more of a morning person. It was often hard to motivate myself to go out and shoot, which usually meant I wasn't even leaving the house until 11:30 p.m. I spent three nights in a row shooting the Valley Flyer train crossing a canal in Holyoke, trying out different focal lengths and compositions. In the end it was very worth it—on the third night, I also ran into the guys fishing on a bridge over the Connecticut River, and on the way home through the city's downtown I spotted the guy flying a huge American flag from the back of his moped. I ended up getting three images for the show that night, but by the end of that week I was dragging. Thankfully the work was as invigorating as it was exhausting.

There were also technical challenges. I shot much of the show with a 45mm perspective control lens, which allows you to create dreamlike, ethereal images by changing the angle of the focal plane. This selective focus effect is similar to the “tilt-shift” setting on Instagram. It can be a difficult lens to work with even in ideal conditions. It's manual focus only, it renders the camera's light meter useless, and it takes a ton of practice to figure out exactly how tilting, shifting, and rotating the lens will affect what part of the frame is in focus. I still don't have the hang of it.

Finally, shooting at night can be hard simply because you can't always see what you're doing, or what you're shooting. It was so dark up on Arunah Hill in Cummington, Massachusetts—where I shot the photos of amateur astronomers with telescopes—that all I could see through the viewfinder were the stars. I couldn't see the subjects that were a few feet away from me, so I had to focus by feel and intuition. Behind almost every photograph I've chosen to show is a festival of failure.

### **When did you start doing photography?**

Early in my journalism career, in my late 20s, I was the editor of a monthly arts and culture newspaper. I had more photo slots to fill in each month's edition than I had budget for freelance photographers, so I started shooting odds and ends to fill the gaps. I'd always been a writer, and I enjoyed discovering a different way to tell stories. Eventually I moved into a job in the newsroom of the daily newspaper, and for the first few years I was an early morning editor on the online and breaking news teams. I started around 6 a.m., which was about two hours earlier than the first staff photographer's shift. That gave me a lot of chances for on-the-job training as a photojournalist, and allowed me to shoot a wide range of subjects in all kinds of weather and lighting.



### **What are your favorite subjects to shoot? Has this changed over the course of your career?**

I enjoyed the excitement of shooting breaking news, but what I came to appreciate most were the opportunities to win someone's trust, learn about their life, and share their story with sensitivity and care. For one story, I photographed families who'd left Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. Months later they were still stuck in "temporary" housing in a local hotel. It was an honor to help humanize the issue and bring their situation to light.

Another photo story I worked on focused on the director of the Ms. Massachusetts Senior America pageant. I spent time at her apartment in a senior living community, and photographed the contestants during rehearsals, at the pageant itself, and as the winner prepared to leave for the national pageant in Atlantic City. I enjoyed witnessing their camaraderie and community, and appreciated having a window into a world I didn't know anything about.

### **What photographers have inspired you? Have you found yourself emulating aspects of their work?**

I love the idea of exploring a subject deeply over time. So I'm always inspired by documentary photographers like Bruce Davidson and Mitch Epstein, or photojournalists like Ilana Panich-Linsman, Jessica Rinaldi, and Lynsey Addario, who've all produced fascinating long-term photo essays and projects. Rinaldi's Pulitzer Prize-winning "The Life and Times of Strider Wolf," about a boy being raised by his grandparents in rural Maine, is just breathtaking—and it must have required a high degree of empathy and emotional intelligence. Those are skills that are easy to take for granted, but that I think are critical to producing compelling work.

On the aesthetic end of things, I'm prone to emulating Gregory Crewdson. We're completely different in terms of process. He shoots cinematic set pieces that are elaborately staged and lit, where he's working with a crew and shutting down city streets. But the mood he captures—a sense of mystery, often with undertones of darkness, loneliness, or unease, set in places that seem like they're not quite in the past but not quite in the present—is something I find irresistible. In this show, I was attempting to conjure Crewdson when I photographed the man crossing the street on a snowy night outside the Ivory Billiard Lounge in Holyoke. I chose that location specifically because it made me think of Crewdson's work.

### **What do you hope for viewers of *Midnights* to experience?**

I hope people walk away with a sense of curiosity and an appreciation for the small moments you can witness when you're willing to slow down, look closely, or change your routine. The world is full of wonder at all hours of the day. I think most of us have some sense of that, but sometimes we need reminders. At least, I do.

*Sarah Moon is an Artist-In-Residence (Theater discipline) at EC-CHAP; Director of the Dye & Bleach House Community Gallery; and Assistant Professor of Humanities at Massachusetts Maritime Academy. Sarah can be reached at: [communitygallery@ec-chap.org](mailto:communitygallery@ec-chap.org).*



# Willington Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars

Willington Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars

**Consider Donating on Giving Tuesday-November 28<sup>th</sup>**. Mark your calendars! Please ask your friends and family to join you in giving to WSFDFS on Giving Tuesday!

## Participate in Annual Giving with Payroll Deduction

Many employers in the area partner with charitable organizations like United Way to enable employees to make charitable contributions through payroll deductions. Setting up contributions via payroll deduction makes it easy to achieve your giving goals by automating the process; and regular small contributions add up over time.

Did you know, in most cases, you can direct payroll deducted contributions to the charity of your choice? For example, United Way maintains a list of many charitable organizations for you to choose from. They also allow you to add organizations to their list. This is a great option if you prefer to see your contributions used locally.

The [Willington Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars](#) is set up with the United Way already. Thanks to the generosity of several Willington residents, we receive regular contributions from the United Way for their payroll deducted contributions.

If your employer encourages you to participate in an annual giving campaign through payroll deductions, consider directing your contribution to the [Willington Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars](#).

If you don't see [Willington Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars](#) on the list as an approved charity in your employer's giving program, ask if we can be added!

**Look for the PTA's Election Day Bake Sale Booth!** Proceeds from the bake sale go to fund a PTA Scholarship along with the Willington Scholarship Foundation. We thank you for your support whether you bake, work at the booth, or buy those yummy treats!

Want to Donate NOW? Mail a check to WSFDFS P.O. Box 194 Willington, CT 06279

Visit our website [www.Willington.DollarsforScholars.org](http://www.Willington.DollarsforScholars.org) and click on Donate Now or text: WILLINGTON-FORSCHOLARS to 44321

Check us out on Facebook and Instagram



Rosalinda Sifuentes receiving the WSFDFS Renewable Scholarship from Theresa Salisbury at our 2023 Awards Ceremony



# PLEASE



## SLOW DOWN ON OUR STREETS WILLINGTON!!

### Drivers:

- **Be alert! Look out for pedestrians at all times!**
- **When you are operating a vehicle, you have accepted a heightened responsibility for other people on the road. Safety is a two-way street. Often, pedestrians— especially younger ones— are not where they should be or where you would expect them to be. Remain vigilant at all times.**
- **Follow posted speed limits at all times, especially in areas of heavy pedestrian traffic. This is even more important in areas that have lower speed limits, such as school zones and neighborhood streets where pedestrians may appear suddenly.**
- **Overall visibility is limited in bad weather conditions and poorly lit areas. Not only is it more difficult for drivers to see oncoming pedestrians, it also is harder for pedestrians to see you. Make sure your lights are on and you use your signals properly. Use extra caution in these circumstances.**
- **Be mindful of pedestrians when pulling into and out of driveways – especially if you are backing up. Pedestrians can easily enter your path without your knowledge.**
- **Always yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk.**
- **When approaching a crosswalk, reduce your speed and be prepared to stop.**
- **When you are stopped at a crosswalk, allow enough room between your vehicle and the crosswalk so other drivers can see the pedestrians you have stopped for.**
- **Do not pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk. They have stopped to allow pedestrians to pass or make sure the way is clear.**
- **Do Not Drive Under the Influence**
- **Alcohol and drugs impair your reaction time, reflexes, decision-making skills and overall cognitive functions. Getting behind the wheel while impaired puts everyone in danger.**

### Pedestrians:

- **Be visible—Wear lightly colored or reflective clothing at night and brightly colored clothing during the day.**
- **Stay in well-lit areas, especially when crossing the street.**
- **If possible, make eye contact with drivers in stopped vehicles to ensure they see you before you cross in front of them.**
- **Stay Alert and Avoid Distractions—Put down your phone and don't wear headphones.**
- **Walk in safe places. Stay on sidewalks whenever possible. If a sidewalk is not available, be sure to walk on the far side of the road FACING traffic. This will help increase your visibility to drivers.**

