

Willington Wire

Community E-Newsletter

April, May, June 2023



Willington's Pin Oak. For description and history, see page 2.

The large tree featured on the cover of this edition of the Willington Wire is one of two notable trees in Willington. The other being the “Labbee Oak” dedicated to Esther Labbee found on the Chenes Roches Preserve in the Northwest portion of Willington. The featured tree is a 1902 Pin Oak and it's an increasingly rare sight throughout the State. This Pin Oak is located on the front lawn of High Chase Residential Care Home, 140 River Road in South Willington. In 1902, this was William Henry Hall’s residence, General Manager of the Gardiner Hall Jr. Company and an active participant in state politics. During that year, Connecticut held a Constitutional Convention in Hartford to update the State Constitution. One of the primary points of discussion during the convention was the topic of proportional representation for each town based on population. Each of the 168 towns sent one delegate and William H. Hall was chosen to represent Willington. Connecticut Senator Joseph R. Hawley had the US Department of Agriculture provide him with Pin Oak seedlings to give out to each of the delegates in order to commemorate the 1902 Hartford Constitutional Convention. These seedlings were taken back to each town and planted in notable areas such as town greens, school yards, on church properties, near monuments, or on the delegate’s own property, as in Willington’s case.

These trees may be a contender for some of the most dutifully recorded in Connecticut. The *Connecticut’s Notable Trees* website has survey data dating back to original plantings and an extensive statewide survey conducted in 2002. On that 100 year anniversary, only 74 of the original 168 remained. From what I can gather now in 2023, I believe that number is around 57. Back in 2005, the Hartford Courant reported that Willington’s 1902 Pin Oak was the largest of the survivors. The updates proposed at the 1902 Convention failed to pass, practically relegating the convention to forgotten history if it weren’t for these Pin Oaks still providing us with shade in towns across Connecticut.

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.

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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Town Offices Closed

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

Good Friday

Friday, April 7, 2023

Memorial Day

Monday, May 29, 2023

Juneteenth Day

Monday, June 19, 2023

Town of Willington Office Building Contacts

First Selectwoman	Erika G. Wiecenski	860-487-3100
Animal Control Officer	Jennifer Miller	860-428-4422
Assessor	Kara Fishman	860-487-3122
Building Inspector	Jim Rupert	860-487-3123
Business Manager	Donna Latincsics	860-487-3134
Fire Marshal	Trevor Gantick	959-929-4181
Human Services	Jennie Arpin	860-487-3118
Land Use	Michael D'Amato	860-487-4123
Parks & Recreation		860-487-3108
Public Works	Troy Sposato	860-684-9313
Registrar of Voters	Christine Psathas & Suzanne Chapman	860-487-3120
Senior Center	Nan King	860-429-8321
Tax Collector	Janice Clauson	860-487-3111
Town Clerk	Robin Campbell	860-487-3121
Treasurer	Laurie Semprebon	860-487-3133

Join us in welcoming the latest additions to the staff at Willington's Town Hall:

Karen Cote - Administrative Asst Selectman's office

Grace Tharp – Asst Revenue Collector

Boards & Commissions – Meeting Calendar

April, May, June 2023

Board/Commission	Day	Date	Time
Board of Education	Tuesday	April 11, 2023	7pm
Board of Education	Tuesday	May 9, 2023	7pm
Board of Education	Tuesday	June 13, 2023	7pm
Board of Finance	Thursday	April 20, 2023	7pm
Board of Finance	Thursday	May 18, 2023	7pm
Board of Finance	Thursday	June 15, 2023	7pm
Board of Selectmen	Monday	April 3, 2023	6:30pm
Board of Selectmen	Monday	April 17, 2023	6:30pm
Board of Selectmen	Monday	May 1, 2023	6:30pm
Board of Selectmen	Monday	May 15, 2023	6:30pm
Board of Selectmen	Monday	June 5, 2023	6:30pm
Board of Selectmen	Tuesday	June 20, 2023	6:30pm
Conservation Commission	Wednesday	April 19, 2023	7pm
Conservation Commission	Wednesday	May 17, 2023	7pm
Conservation Commission	Wednesday	June 21, 2023	7pm
Economic Development	Wednesday	April 12, 2023	6:30pm
Economic Development	Wednesday	May 10, 2023	6:30pm
Economic Development	Wednesday	June 14, 2023	6:30pm
Historical Society	Tuesday	April 18, 2023	7pm
Historical Society	Tuesday	May 16, 2023	7pm
Historical Society	Tuesday	June 20, 2023	7pm
Housing Authority	Monday	April 17, 2023	4pm
Housing Authority	Monday	May 15, 2023	4pm
Housing Authority	Monday	June 26, 2023	4pm
Inland Wetlands/Watercourses	Monday	April 22, 2023	7:30pm
Inland Wetlands/Watercourses	Monday	May 22, 2023	7:30pm
Inland Wetlands/Watercourses	Monday	June 26, 2023	7:30pm

Library Board of Directors	Monday	April 12, 2023	7pm
Library Board of Directors	Monday	May 10, 2023	7pm
Library Board of Directors	Monday	June 14, 2023	7pm
Parks & Recreation	Monday	April 24, 2023	7pm
Parks & Recreation	Monday	May 22, 2023	7pm
Parks & Recreation	Monday	June 26, 2023	7pm
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	April 4, 2023	7:30pm
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	April 18, 2023	7:30pm
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	May 2, 2023	7:30pm
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	May 16, 2023	7:30pm
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	June 6, 2023	7:30pm
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	June 20, 2023	7:30pm
School Building Committee	Thursday	April 5, 2023	7:30pm
School Building Committee	Thursday	April 19, 2023	7:30pm
School Building Committee	Thursday	May 3, 2023	7:30pm
School Building Committee	Thursday	May 17, 2023	7:30pm
School Building Committee	Thursday	June 7, 2023	7:30pm
School Building Committee	Thursday	June 21, 2023	7:30pm
Zoning Board of Appeals	Thursday	April 13, 2023	7:30pm
Zoning Board of Appeals	Thursday	May 11, 2023	7:30pm
Zoning Board of Appeals	Thursday	June 8, 2023	7:30pm

Dear Willington Residents,



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

Spring in Willington is a time to get outdoors and connect with friends and neighbors and support local businesses and non-profit organizations. This busy time of year is an opportunity to explore the many outdoor activities available such as The Willington PTA's Fun Run on May 27th or hiking on one of our trails. Willington Day will be held on May 27th and the Wednesdays in the Park concert series will begin June 14th both held at River Road Athletic Complex. Check this brochure and the town website for all events and activities.

2023 has been a productive year so far for many of our Town Boards, Commissions, and departments. The budget process for the 2023-2024 fiscal year is in full swing and The Board of Finance, Capital Improvement Committee, Board of Education, and many others have dedicated many long evening meetings to bring a sound budget to the voters of Willington. Thank you to all who have participated in the budget process from submitting requests to giving us your feedback to making the final decisions. Mark your calendar for these important dates in the budget process: Tuesday April 4th Budget Hearing, Tuesday April 18th Annual Town Meeting, and Tuesday May 2nd to vote in the budget referendum.

Please check the town website (www.willingtonct.gov) to see a complete list of Meeting dates, agendas, and minutes.

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

Warmest regards,

Erika G. Wicinski
First Selectwoman, Willington

From the Assessor's Office

Elderly/Totally Disabled Tax Relief Program

Application packets will be available at the end of January. Persons already receiving the credit and required to renew will automatically be mailed an application. Renewal applications are due every other year, that is, biennially.

Applications are accepted by mail and in person starting February 1st. Applications are due by May 15, 2023. Anyone applying after April 15, 2023 must apply in person. We will be happy to assist you in filing your application. Be sure to contact us in advance for an appointment. Call 860-487-3122 or email nsnyder@willingtonct.gov.

To be eligible for such a tax credit:

You or your spouse must be at least 65 years of age as of Dec 31, 2022 or over 18 and permanently and totally disabled per Social Security.

You must be a permanent resident of the State of Connecticut and have lived at your property for more than 180 days of 2022. You must own the property or hold a tenancy for life or for a term of years, which makes the applicable liable for payment of taxes (CGS Sec. 12-48) as of October 1, 2022. The property must be the applicant's primary residence (domicile).

Your 2022 income cannot exceed \$ 40,300 (single) or \$ 49,100 (married). Income definition: Qualifying income is defined as adjusted gross income for IRS purposes plus any other income not included in such adjusted gross income.

You must provide the Assessor with a copy of your SSA 1099 for 2022, or its equivalent, from Social Security and your 2022 federal income tax return if you file one. The Assessor may require any other proof of income that may be necessary for the certification of the claim, such as interest/dividend statements and pension statements.

The **Board of Assessment Appeals** will meet during the month of March for the purpose of hearing appeals on the Grand List of October 1, 2022. Applications must be received in the Assessor's Office on or before February 20, 2023. Dates and times of the hearings will be determined by the number of appeals received. Applicants will receive confirmation and notification of appointments by mail. Appeals will be heard only from those property owners filing complete, written applications by the February 22nd deadline.

Please visit our website: www.Willingtonct.gov/departments/Assessor ~ for more information.



KINDERGARTEN

Center Elementary School 2023-2024

Kindergarten registration for the 2023-2024 school year has begun! All children residing in Willington who turn 5 years old on or before January 1, 2024 are accepted into kindergarten. Please fill out our form at the link below to begin the registration process.

If you are unable to complete the form, call our main office at 860-429-9367 or email

CESRegistration@willingtonct.org.



Scan the QR Code or use URL below
<https://forms.gle/DZW4sZfxWfGvQEcn7>

CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTES

Looking for New Members!



The Willington Conservation Commission has openings for new members, including one regular member and two alternates. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 pm via Zoom.

Established by Town ordinance in 1967, the commission's responsibilities and mission are to:

- Participate in determining the utilization of the Town's land areas through research, inventorying natural resources and making recommendations to Town officials and regulatory agencies (e.g., Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission; Planning and Zoning Commission) for the wise use of these resources.
- Manage the Fenton-Ruby Park, Knowlton Preserve and Talmadge Conservation Tract and monitor other protected open spaces.
- Provide opportunities for citizens to appreciate, enjoy and learn from our natural environment.
- Cooperate with regional groups in conservation planning and grant acquisition.
- Actively seek opportunities for the preservation of additional open space.

If you have an interest in helping the Town preserve its natural resources and open space or want more information about the commission or its meeting schedule, please see the Conservation Commission's webpage <https://www.willingtonct.gov/conservation-commission> or contact Kathy Demers, Chairman <https://www.willingtonct.gov/user/2866/contact>

Spring Events:

- Earth Day, Saturday, April 22nd 10 am -Volunteer workday on the new Talmadge Conservation Tract parcel. Meet in the dirt parking lot by the Talmadge Tract trailhead on Mason Road. We will be brushing out and blazing a new trail. Rain cancels.
- Fenton-Ruby Park – Friends of the Park volunteer workday. Date/time on a weekend day in May will be announced on the Town's Facebook and CC's webpages.
- Dedication and Hike on the new 16 acre Talmadge Conservation Tract addition Anticipate in May or June. Date/time to be announced on the Town's Facebook and CC's webpages.



ec-chap.org thepackinghouse.us

The Packing House – Your Willington Performance Venue

By EC-CHAP

The Eastern Connecticut Center for History, Art, and Performance, Inc. (EC-CHAP) represents an important cultural resource serving communities and visitors to Eastern Connecticut and beyond. EC-CHAP operates The Packing House performance venue, the Gardiner Hall Jr. History Museum, the Dye & Bleach House Community Gallery, and an Artist In Residence (AIR) Program.

The Center's purpose is to bring a heightened awareness to the significance of local history and preservation; provide an appreciation for the visual arts through education, creation and display; and offer performance events and opportunities for creative expression in music, film, dance, literature, and theater.

Please visit the EC-CHAP Calendar at www.ec-chap.org or www.thepackinghouse.us/upcoming at The Packing House for additional details, tickets, and a full schedule of events. Our Performance and Event Season in The Packing House runs from September to May.

If you have not subscribed to our newsletter please do so at: www.thepackinghouse.us.

SAVE THE DATES:

EC-CHAP Performance Series



SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023: EC-CHAP Acoustic Artist Series: “An Intimate Evening of Music and Conversation with Singer/Songwriter Kate Taylor” (Folk/Americana). Doors: 7:00pm / Performance: 7:30pm



SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023: EC-CHAP Acoustic Artist Series: “*Singer/Songwriter, Multi-Instrumentalist, and CT State Troubadour Kala Farnham with Jenna Nicholls*” (Indie / Folk). Doors: 7:00pm / Performance: 7:30pm



SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023: EC-CHAP Acoustic Artist Series: “*Amy Rigby in Concert*” (Indie). Doors: 7:00pm / Performance: 7:30pm



SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023: EC-CHAP Jazz Series: “*Leala Cyr Quartet*”. Doors: 7:00pm / Performance: 7:30pm

EC-CHAP Special Programs



NOW THRU FRIDAY JUNE 30, 2023: “*Songs for Ukraine*” (EXTENDED): A Benefit Concert for the People of Ukraine - A VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE - FREE WILL DONATION. Tickets available on line at <http://thepackinghouse.us/upcoming>



**“EC-CHAP Lecture Series:
“The Button Industry and a
Willington Button Producer,
An Historic Prospective”**

- Free Admission - Registration Required -



In Collaboration with the
**Willington
Historical Society**
April 19, 2023 7:00pm
The Packing House
Register at the link below

WWW.THEPACKINGHOUSE.US/UPCOMING
156 River Road, Willington, CT 06279 | 518.791.9474 | info@ec-chap.org

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2023: EC-CHAP Lecture Series: “*The Button Industry and a Willington Button Producer, An Historic Prospective*”. Doors: 6:30pm / Lecture: 7:00pm. FREE ADMISSION - REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Register online at: <http://thepackinghouse.us/upcoming>



FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2023: “An Evening with Spiritual Medium Maura Geist”. Doors: 7:00pm / Program: 7:30pm

EC-CHAP Talent Showcase (2nd Wednesday)

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



We continue to offer our Talent Showcase at The Packing House at **7:00pm on every 2nd Wednesday of the month** (Doors open at 6:30pm). For information about how you can participate in the Talent Showcase, please visit www.thepackinghouse.us/upcoming or call 518-791-9474 to get placed on the schedule. Walk-ins are welcome time permitting.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023: EC-CHAP Monthly Talent Showcase (2nd Wednesday). Doors: 6:30pm / Performance: 7:00pm

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023: EC-CHAP Monthly Talent Showcase (2nd Wednesday). Doors: 6:30pm / Performance: 7:00pm

EC-CHAP Film Series (2nd Thursday)

EC-CHAP offers a monthly film screening of documentaries, shorts, animations, feature films, and original works by regional film makers.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023: EC-CHAP Monthly Film Series (2nd Thursday): “Trane Tracks: The Legacy of John Coltrane” (Unrated) 2005. Doors: 6:30pm / Screening: 7:00pm

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023: EC-CHAP Monthly Film Series (2nd Thursday): “Round Midnight” (R) 1986. Doors: 6:30pm / Screening: 7:00pm

Please visit the Calendar at www.ec-chap.org or www.thepackinghouse.us for program information, content, and trailers.

EC-CHAP Monthly Information Exchange Meetings (3rd Thursday)

EC-CHAP is reinstating our monthly "Information Exchange Meetings" in 2023! These informative meetings are intended to share information about our organization, review our mission, discuss membership benefits, volunteer opportunities, and review program offerings. We are very interested in obtaining your input and feedback with respect to how we can best meet your interests and needs as a cultural organization. These meetings are free to attend.

Meetings are held in The Packing House at **5:00pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month**. For more information, please visit www.ec-chap.org; call 518-791-9474; or email us at info@ec-chap.org.

IN CLOSING...

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

For more information, please visit: <http://www.thepackinghouse/upcoming>.

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

EC-CHAP: Arts



"A Divided Connecticut: Politics in the Civil War"
BY: Ryan Elgin



For this entry into the *Connecticut Industry During Times of War* series, we will be taking a further detour than usual by discussing the complexities of Connecticut's political landscape during the Civil War. This topic piqued my curiosity recently when

rewatching Scorsese's famous *Gangs of New York*, set in the backdrop of the Civil War and heavily involving themes of patriotism, race, and politics. Now that over 160 years have passed since the start of the conflict, it seems rather easy to boil down the beliefs of the time period to Connecticut being a Northern state and therefore decidedly and wholly behind the Union cause. As we all know, individual beliefs and politics are a bit more complicated.

By the time of the American Revolution, there were more enslaved people in Connecticut than any other New England state. It would be one of the slowest New England states to emancipate its slaves as well, passing the Gradual Abolition Act in 1784, leading to an official abolishment of slavery in 1848 (Menschel 184). US Census data shows Connecticut's recorded slave population in the year 1800 was 1,000 and by 1830 it numbered only 25, showing the process was successful albeit slow. Even still, Connecticut could never fully absolve itself from the use of slavery. It was an industrialized State with diverse industries reliant on many raw goods from the South, primarily cotton (Cowden 540).

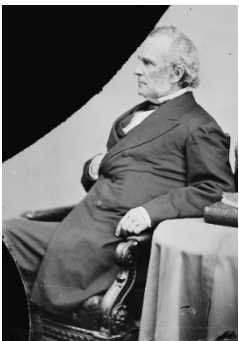
CT industry's use of raw goods from the South is just one of the many reasons our State had a sizable minority of what were called "Peace Democrats". In the year before the Civil War, the Democratic party was split into two main factions: The Northern Democrats and the Southern Democrats. To oversimplify, Northern Democrats often believed in popular sovereignty, having the position that if a State's population favors the idea of slavery then it can be allowed there, while the Southern Democrats were more in favor of slavery and wished to see it expand westward. Once the war began in 1861, the Northern and Southern Democrats in the Union States would colloquially be called "War" and "Peace" Democrats respectively. The moderate Northern Democrats joined in support of the war along with the Republicans. The Southern "Peace" Democrats disagreed with the necessity of the war, arguing that coercion from the national government through war was unacceptable.



The reasoning behind the affinity for the South held by the soon-to-be Peace Democrats of CT was varied. Perhaps they had family in the South, were against the industrializing and rapidly changing life in CT, marketed their goods to Southern States, were against emancipation or pro-slavery, or somehow benefited from slave labor as discussed above (Cowden 540). The split in the Democratic party was evident in the Connecticut 1860 presidential election results where Democratic candidate Stephen A. Douglas received 17,364 votes and the more

South-aligned Democrat John C. Breckinridge received 16,558 votes. The sole Republican candidate, Abraham Lincoln, won CT easily by a margin of 32.36% with 43,486 votes. The 1860 Connecticut election for governor was far closer. Both parties ran one candidate, with the CT Democrats choosing Thomas Seymour, who sympathized with the South and would become a Peace Democrat leader. He lost to incumbent Republican, William Buckingham, by a mere 0.3%, only 538 votes. Evidence that even on the eve of war, nearly half of Connecticut did not fully support fighting the South.

The disagreements between war supporters and opposers turned ugly in Connecticut. Protest gatherings by Peace Democrats sprung up around the state as war supporters tried to break them up. Newspapers such as the Litchfield Enquirer, New Haven Journal, Hartford Courant, Bridgeport Farmer, and others, wrote inflammatory comments and half-truths about competing papers based on political beliefs (Cowden 546). The Bridgeport Farmer, a markedly pro-South newspaper, was struck by mob violence in August of 1861, destroying one of its printing presses and causing the discontinuation of the newspaper entirely (Litchfield Enquirer Aug 29, 1861). The first year of the war also saw violence between neighboring Connecticut towns. Anti-war townspeople of New Fairfield raised a white peace flag near Charcoal Brook in that same month of August. A few Union Soldiers home from the war in Danbury decided to gather supporters and march to the neighboring town to tear down the flag. New Fairfield caught word of this and prepared with farming implements. The forces, roughly 50 from Danbury and 200 from New Fairfield, met in this battle of “Charcoal Run”. The Danbury residents were beaten back and retreated that night. Thankfully, only some injuries occurred (Miller). A similar altercation happened in Ridgefield, in which two men were shot trying to take down a peace flag. Over the course of the war, these violent clashes became less common, although the debate was still tense on the political stage (Warshauer, connecticuthistory.org).



In 1863, the Union's fortunes were bleak. Democrats in Connecticut saw this as an opportunity to run staunch Peace-advocate Thomas Seymour again in the election for governor against the incumbent Buckingham. Once again, the margins of Buckingham's victory were narrow: 2,636 votes. There is evidence that the soldier vote was the deciding factor in Republican victory, as in other states, soldiers voted Republican by huge margins (Cowden 548). Democrats accused the

Republican party of fraud, stating that the number of votes that separated Buckingham and Seymour was quite close to the number of soldiers furloughed home and that Democrat soldiers were not allowed to return (Warshauer; Cowden 547). Regardless of these close and contentious 1860-1863 elections in Connecticut, Buckingham remained Connecticut's governor throughout the war and a massive aid to President Lincoln, who wrote fondly of him and his State's efforts. As the war began to move in favor of the Union, the Peace Democrats of Connecticut's Democrat party either joined the moderates or were relegated to the sidelines (Cowden 553).

It is clear that most people of Connecticut supported the war effort, which has been shown multiple times throughout this article series. The purpose of this article was to shed a small bit of light on the fractured and complicated politics of Connecticut during the Civil War. Anti-war, pacifist, or pro-Southern Peace Democrats did not appeal to just a small vocal minority, but a sizable chunk of the population. After the war, returning Connecticut veterans had a great deal of respect for Buckingham. He was instrumental in recruitment for the Union and in raising money to equip CT's regiments. He was known to take out personal loans in order to pay soldiers on time (Lucian). A statue of William Buckingham sits in the West atrium of Connecticut's State Capitol, placed there in 1884.

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.



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.

EC-CHAP Press Release
03.26.2023

“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. 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.



“Spirits of Place” Show March 4 – May 6 at the Dye and Bleach House Gallery

By: Sarah Moon

On March 4, the Dye and Bleach House Gallery in Willington opened its second show of the year. The show, “Spirits of Place,” draws attention to the energy and presence that places and objects hold in and of themselves, without humans or after humans have abandoned them. The show, featuring both photography and mixed media art, comprises the work of the three different artists: Mark Bilokur, Kelley Martinez and the “shopping carts of Willimantic.”

Each collection of works asks the audience to think about places or objects stripped of their day-to-day human use context and thrust forward as their own entities, holding within and around them a spiritual energy. The show can be viewed through the lens of psychogeography, a term defined in 1955 by artist Guy Debord, as “the study of the precise laws and specific effects of the geographical environment, consciously organized or not, on the emotions and behavior of individuals.” By absenting or recontextualizing places and objects, they are freed from mundane, functional associations and can be seen differently, seen *into*. The works in “Spirits of Place” help us perceive how things and places hold the emotional life of the people who use, inhabit and move about them, even long after those people are gone.



“House Portrait P” by Mark Bilokur shows a white Willimantic Victorian with a wraparound porch covered in greenery appearing to float in space with gold star stickers in the background. The house is situated on top of the torso of an astronaut, replacing the head, who appears to walk on the moon. Above the house flies a cow and a spaceship. The house, unmoored and planted in a fantasy landscape, is read differently than it

would be viewed in its everyday neighborhood context. Instead, we see the house as magical, a site for enormous dreams that can't be contained by earth.



Kelley Martinez's photographs focus on abandoned places: a hair salon, a bathroom, the corner of a bedroom. Her images are heavy with shadow contrasted with sharp-lit definition that shows every crack on the wall and piece of detritus on the floor. In her work, the interiors of places are made strange by their extreme disuse. We view them through layers of neglect. But there is nothing haunted-house about her images. Instead, the photos project an incredible stillness and calm that allows us to view the objects shown coolly. All the heat of life has gone out of these places. But spirits still remain. In the photo of a row of 60s-era salon hair dryers, we see each hood set at a different angle, suggesting that life left these chairs abruptly. They weren't put in order and packed up. Someone walked away from them on a busy day and never looked back.



"River Cart" from the shopping carts of Willimantic shows a cart half submerged in a shallow waterway. The water appears caramel-colored with rotting vegetation visible at its sandy bottom. The cart, so obviously out of context, and lit up by the bright sun, takes on a very different air than when viewed in the grocery store parking lot. Its spirit life is both sad and noble as it resists decay even though discarded and out of place.

Together, the three sets of artwork powerfully strange-make ordinary things and places. What is exciting about them is the way they leave space for the viewer to enter. What does each observer see when the subject is made strange? What spirits animate these places?

Mark Bilokur started drawing as a child and has continued making art ever since. He is inspired by the paradoxical relationships of signs and symbols, perception and description, of word and image and fascinated by dreams and dreaming, and their relationships with creativity. He works in a variety of mediums including painting, photography, pen and ink and digital. He has a BFA from the University of Connecticut, and an MFA from the Center for Cartoon Studies in Vermont, and is currently practicing in Mansfield, Connecticut.

Kelley Martinez grew up in Georgia and North Carolina, and is now a naturalized New Yorker. Self-taught with an ancient 35mm Praktica, Kelley's photography spans more than three decades of lightbending. She has always had a fascination for the lost, the forgotten, and the abandoned, and she began photographing abandoned buildings,

Urbex-style, in earnest in the early 2000s. Kelley's work explores the narratives surrounding the decay of structures and institutions, the passing of time, and the inevitable incursion of the natural environment into human places. In documenting the beauty in devastated surroundings, she invites a dialogue on the ephemerality of all things, even - especially - those that are assumed to be permanent. She currently resides on Long Island.

The anthropomorphic shopping carts of Willimantic are a symbol of both prosperity and poverty. They have their own Instagram account: [@shoppingcartsofwillimantic](#). The Dye and Bleach House Community Gallery encourages all local and regional artists alike to participate in our gallery shows! Whether you are a beginner or an experienced professional, we would love to show your work. Consider adding a gallery show to your resume! We love finding new and exciting art to fill our space, and our next feature could be yours. If you are interested in joining us in showing art, please contact us at info@ec-chap.org.

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



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.

Department of Human Services

40 Old Farms Road, Willington, Connecticut 06279

Tel. (860)487-3118 Email: jarpin@willingtonct.gov



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



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



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

RENTERS REBATE TIME –Elderly or disabled people who rented in 2022 are invited to contact our office to apply for Renters Rebate, a state tax abatement program which can provide a payment of up to \$700 for those who qualify. Contact our office for more information.

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

Thanks for your interest and support!



Seniors Health Fair



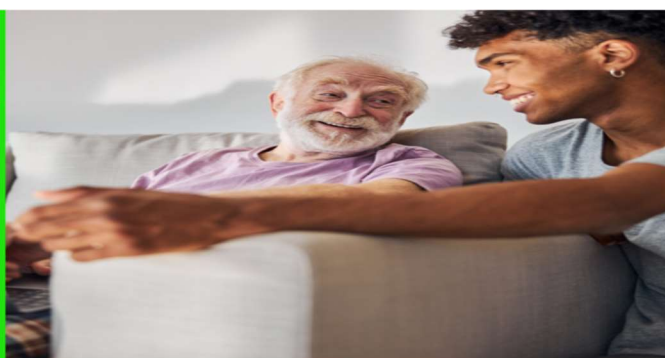
Friday June 2nd from 11-2

At the Willington Senior Center

- Learn about different programs and organizations!
- Learn ways to manage your health!
- Explore new activities to keep your mind and body healthy!

Hope to see you there!

**LIFE IS
BETTER
WITH A
FRIENDLY
NEIGHBOR**



ADOPT A GRANDPARENT



**Sign Up To
VOLUNTEER**

860-430-4557

URCommunityCares.org

**Willington Public Library
7 Ruby Road, Willington**

860-429-3854, www.willingtonpubliclibrary.org

Find us on the WPL E-Blast, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Youtube, & Burbio.com

2023 will be **A Year of Celebration** for the Willington Public Library, as we look forward to celebrating our **100-year anniversary (1923-2023)**. We hope to plan several events over the upcoming year. We will be looking to our community and individuals for their input, help, involvement, and support. We hope you will consider being a part of this special time. These will all be Community celebrations! Everyone is invited and everyone can be involved in the preparation and participation. We are in need of and are asking for your help. Please talk to us, if you have any questions as to how you could be of help. There is a sign-up sheet at the library's Circulation Desk for anyone who would be willing to help in any way. There's always plenty to be done and the more, the merrier it will be. This time belongs to all of us. Let's CELEBRATE all that we have and share together. Thank you!

Our first scheduled anniversary event: a Potluck Dinner & Dance!

To be held on Saturday, April 22 from 6:00 - 10:00pm, at the Willington Hill Fire Dept., at 24 Old Farms Road. This event will be for adult Willington residents only. This is a FREE EVENT. Due to limited seating and therefore a limited number of tickets available, an individual will be allowed a maximum of two tickets. Tickets will be available Monday, April 10 at the Library's Circulation Desk. Tickets will be given out on a first come, first to receive basis. This event is a casual and fun affair. BYOB/WINE...You may bring in your own beer or wine, or you may choose to bring other non-alcoholic beverages. We ask that everyone attending to **PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE!**

There will be **LIVE MUSIC and DANCING**, compliments of the **band, "Comfort Zone"**.

Our second anniversary event will be held on Saturday, June 17 from 10:00am - 2:00pm. This will be a Family Picnic and Summer Reading Program Kick-Off.

Celebrate with us at the River Road Athletic Complex and Park at 511 River Road (Route 32). Bring a picnic lunch, beverage, and maybe something to sit on (perhaps a blanket or chair) and enjoy a day at the park with your family, friends and neighbors. Join us and meet and make new friends with us.

We will have a table set up where you can register for this year's Summer Reading Program. We will have a bounce house/slide combo on the premise as well, for your fun and enjoyment. There will be lots of games, activities, and FUN for ALL AGES!

Again, as with all of our special anniversary events we will be having, we would like the entire Community to take part in some way or another. With this event, we are looking for help and

involvement with setting up and organizing the different games and activities that will be taking place.

The Library building will be closed on this day, so that we can all enjoy the day's festivities. Please keep watch for more information to come.

Monthly Fundraising Drawings: Come in and enter for your chance to win. Tickets are \$1.00 and can be purchased at the circulation desk. Many "prizes" come from our community business neighbors. Anyone willing to donate for a month, would be greatly appreciated and a wonderful way for our local businesses to get recognition and support. You don't have to be a business in town either. We will accept gifts of any kind offered even by individuals or families that would like to give a special gift basket that can be given away. We have had many crafters donate their goods for these drawings.

Thank you to all who participate in supporting the Library and this fundraising effort.

Congratulations to all of our WINNERS!

Upcoming Monthly Fundraising Drawings TBA

Library BOOK DONATIONS are TEMPORARILY on HOLD. We will let you know as soon as we are able to start accepting them again. Thank you for your continued support, generosity, and patience.

We are in want of donations of another kind. Can you help?

We would like to furnish our Children's Library with some new larger play items. Perhaps you have children or grandchildren who are no longer playing with these things and would consider donating them to the library.

Do you have...a puppet theatre, puppets, and a puppet tree to hold puppets, kitchen set, shopping carts, doll house items, rocking chair, sand table, water table, baby doll clothes, stroller, toy chest, grocery store, vacuum, mop, broom, dust pan & brush (cleaning trolley) and a tool set, to name a few.

Friends of WPL: The Friends of the Willington Public Library invite you to join our volunteer group whose purpose is to support the programs offered by the library.

Our meetings are on the second Tuesday of the even numbered months. They are held in the library's conference room at 6 p.m. We are always looking for new members with new ideas and enthusiasm!

Some of the fundraising events we organize are the annual book sale, bake sales and a Holiday Craft Sale. These events are in jeopardy due to dwindling membership and participation. Specifically, the book sale may not be held this year.

People are needed who would be willing to hold office so the Friends can exist. Please consider joining and help keep us going. The more support we have the more we can accomplish!

You may find more information on the library's website under Friends of WPL or come in and fill out a membership form to join. An individual membership is only \$5.00.

Don't forget, we have a large 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. Check out our Passes Bulletin Board for updates of what programs and events are being offered at these many different places of interest. Due to limited use and cost factor, we have eliminated some of the less popular passes. All passes are highlighted on our library website, where you will find all information you need...www.willingtonpubliclibrary.org. Literally, CHECK THEM OUT. All are both fun and educational.

(Each pass may be used once per day. Any patron wishing to borrow the passes may do so for a period of three (3) days. Only one pass of each type may be reserved and/or checked out at one time. Library patrons will have to sign an agreement at the time of borrowing the pass. Passes cannot be renewed.)

During 2023, we are offering the following nine (9) passes:

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

The Willington Public Library is hosting a "**Lunch and A Good Book Club**" at the **Willington Senior Center** on the second Tuesday of each month.

This group meets at 11 a.m. and members are asked to bring their lunch and something to share. Drinks will be provided.

- **April 11: The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson**
- **May 9: The Next Ship Home by Heather Webb**
- **June 13: The Woman in the Library by Sulari Gentill**

WPL Home Schoolers Art Class at WPL Children's Art Place! This program is the second in a series being presented by Artist and award-winning pastel painter, Nancy Cooke Bunnell,

who has exhibited throughout the state, including the CT Pastel Society, the Monson Arts Council, Lyme Gallery, and others. She is a certified art teacher through three CT Universities and has been teaching children and adults for over 20 years, including the Community School of Arts at UCONN, Vernon Art Center, and West Hartford Art League, and the Glastonbury Arts Guild, and NOW WPL!

As an experienced, creative art teacher, Nancy brings her own unique, wild, and wonderful skills to the children's program. Learn some art history and make history yourself. Students are encouraged to observe carefully, to experiment with materials, shape, color, line, and texture while creating unique pieces of art using their imagination. This is an exciting class that encourages creativity along with each child's capabilities.

ABOUT THIS SESSION:

Title: Drawing and Painting the Master Artists

Theme: I Am A Famous Artist: Picasso and African Masks, Rousseau and Jungles, Sunflowers and Van Gogh

Ages: 5 - 10 years

Classes are held on Thursday mornings, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, beginning on April 6, 13, 20, 27 and continuing on to May 4, and 11, with a make-up day of Thursday May 18th, if needed.

Cost: 6 classes for \$60.00. Plus, a \$15.00 materials fee. A portion of the fee will be donated to Willington Public Library.

Children are encouraged to read about master artists. Siblings are encouraged to enjoy independent playtime at the library.

Check out the display Show Case, in our Reading Room and see the fun and unique things that were made by the children during this first session. They are spectacular!

Great resources for children: There is a new program, that was made available by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau of the U.S. Government called **Money Monsters**. The Money Monsters are a group of creatures who are new to our universe. That means they need to learn about many important things like school, friendship, and financial literacy. Financial literacy is when you have the knowledge and skills to make money choices that are right for you. These Money Monster stories introduce you to ideas, habits, and activities that you'll need as you grow up and start to manage your own money.

There are many informational story books, pamphlets and brochures available in the Children's Library area. For example we have Money Monsters Learn to Save, Money Monsters Learn to Protect Their Things, Money Monsters Learn What Things Really Cost, Money Monsters Learn About Giving, and many more.

We still have the **"Stick Together" Poster Project** going on. Help us create a picture with stickers. We have two poster projects, one for children and one for adults. All you have to do is ask at the circulation desk for some stickers for your age-appropriate poster. All individuals get

20 stickers daily. There is a color-key to follow before applying your stickers. Place each sticker in a box with a letter that corresponds to the color of the sticker. As the stickers are applied, the pictures will slowly be revealed. If you want to guess what the picture will be, you can submit your guess at the circulation desk, but you only get one chance to guess and submit your answer. So, think before you decide. A prize will be awarded at the end for a person who guessed correctly.

Ongoing library programs...

Every Tuesday, 1:00 - 3:00 pm, the **“Yarn & Thread”** Group meet 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.

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 in advance.

Upcoming books for discussion are:

- **April: The Kitchen House by Kathleen Grissom**
- **May: The Girl with Seven Names by Hyeonseo Lee**
- **June: The Little French Bistro by Nina George**
- **July: Surviving Savannah by Patti Callahan**

Family Movie Time: On the last Saturday of every month at 12:30 pm on the BIG SCREEN! Showing Dates: April 29, May 27, and June 24. Movie Titles TBA

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

Bright Beginnings: A new story and playtime group for children 0-2 years of age. This group meets every other Friday morning from 9:00 - 10:00 am.

Upcoming dates: April 14 & 28, May 12 & 26, and June 9 & 23

Story Time & Craft: Join us on the first Saturday of every month at 10:00 am for a themed story and craft. **Upcoming dates: April 1, May 6, and June 3**

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 or 860-487-0493

Pokemon Club: On the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 - 7:00 pm. **Upcoming dates: April 11, May 9, and June 13** Come and play the Pokemon 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.

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.

In Defense Of Democracy, Anti-Fascism Retreat program is back by popular demand. To be held on Saturday, May 13, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, in the Community Room. This is an event that the general public is welcome to attend.

“In Defense Of Democracy” will present a brief history of fascism, how fascism developed and how it has progressed throughout the past 200 plus years. Attendees will come away with an understanding of the history of fascism as well as how it is currently affecting and threatening to deteriorate Democracy in the US and Democracy across the entire world. “In Defense Of Democracy” presents a sobering insight into the threats facing modern Democracies.

Those who are concerned about the threats Democracy faces in the modern political world should consider attending this retreat/workshop on May 13, 2023. They will present an interactive examination of fascism in the modern world with discussion on defending, protecting, and strengthening our democracy.

Bring a bagged lunch. Snacks and drinks provided. RSVP to democracy.retreat@gmail.com

Sound Healing Meditation 2023 classes will meet at a new time, now beginning at 6:30 - 7:30 pm instead of our original 7:00 pm in the Community room. 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 mediation 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.

Scheduled dates:

April - Tu. 4/4 and Th. 4/20

May - Th. 5/11 and Tu. 5/23

June - Tu. 6/6 and Th. 6/22

Looking to the future...

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

We are working on presenting several different types of **Civic programs in the new year**. So, please keep a watch for upcoming information. We are ordering many books for all ages, regarding this topic and it's many facets.

HOT SPOTS ARE A HOT ITEM! The library continues to carry mobile **HOT SPOTS**. Patrons may borrow one for two weeks at a time with their active library card. These have been a great hit and help for many of our patrons who do not have easy access to internet services.

Looking for Volunteers. We will have a couple of Spring outdoor projects to do and will be looking for volunteers to help beautify the grounds. Please consider helping when the time comes. Just let us know you are interested and we will let you know the what and when, as the time draws close. Thank you in advance.

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. You can also find us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, & burbio.com

In appreciation: We are so enjoying working together with Alan Humphrey and Chris Kelly, at the Parks & Recreation Department, Jennie Arpin, at Human Services, and Nan King, at the Senior Center. Teamwork is a wonderful thing and so much more can be accomplished and the support is greatly appreciated. Thank you one and all! Please support these Town organizations. We all bring wonderful programs and services to each and every community member. We are here for each other and you!

Just an FYI... Willington Parks & Recreation hold their Yoga classes here on Wednesday evenings at 6pm.

Willington Human Services hold their Caterpillar Club on Thursday mornings at 9:30am.

Both the Parks & Rec. Dept. and Human Services will be having their April Camp at the library as well. If you are interested in these programs, please contact them.

Registrar of Voters



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

Upcoming events and deadlines:

- Tuesday, May 2—annual Town and Region #19 School District budget referendum
- Monday, June 12—last day that an enrolled elector can transfer from one party to another and be eligible to vote in the municipal primary of new party
- *Tuesday, September 12—primary for municipal offices
- Tuesday, November 7—municipal election

(*date applies only if needed)

All voting events will be held at the Town Office Building, 40 Old Farms Road.

Absentee ballot information is available through the Town Clerk's office at (860) 487-3121.

Registering to vote is available 24/7 online at voterregistration.ct.gov. Since this site coordinates with the Department of Motor Vehicles, have your current Connecticut driver's license or state-issued ID available when filling out forms.

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

Suzanne G. Chapman

Christine Psathas

Registrars of Voters/Election Department

As winter turns to spring, Parks and Recreation is preparing for a big summer. While registration for April Camp is open through the week of camp and the registration for the Daffodil Festival is now closed, we've set a lineup for Wednesdays in the Park, are planning the opening seasonal party for Hall's Pond, and will be announcing the sale of tickets for a bus trip to Yankee Stadium for a game against the Red Sox. Phew. And if you need some meditation after considering all of that, Yoga on Wednesdays will be continuing at the Library.

Lest we forget, there are some many beautiful trails and opportunities for capturing nature in town... well, it's full boat.

The following pages have information about some of the programs that are coming up over the summer, along with registration forms. If you have any questions, we'd love to hear from you. You can also stay tuned to our webpage and Facebook page for the most up-to-date information. Consider joining your neighbors in sponsoring Wednesdays in the Park; it's a great night of community filled with beautiful sound.

We look forward to seeing you out there!

April Camp 2023



Monday– Mad Science

Awesome experiments!



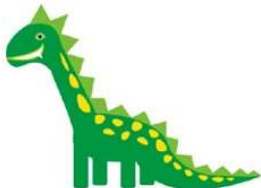
Tuesday– Anime Day

Explore anime, try Japanese candies!



Wacky Wednesday–

Crazy hair/clothes, and prepare for a wild and wacky day!



Thursday– Dinosaur Day

Excavate real fossils and learn about our favorite dinos!



Fiesta Friday–

Lots of fun at our fiesta, including a pinata!

Monday April 10th through Friday April 14th at the Willington Public Library. 9am-2:45pm.
3:45 with Aftercare. Cost \$200 for the week, \$50 for aftercare.

Registration open NOW! Contact jarpin@willingtonct.gov, ahumphrey@willingtonct.gov, or
call 860-487-3108.



WEDNESDAYS *IN THE* PARK

Willington's Summer Concert Series

6:30-8:30 P.M.

RIVER ROAD ATHLETIC COMPLEX
LIGHT RAIN OR SHINE (SEVERE WEATHER CANCELS)

THE LINEUP

June 14	6:30 PM	Rock Solid Alibi
June 21	6:30 PM	Dionne & Finn
June 28	6:30 PM	Bruce John
July 5	6:30 PM	Shed Rats
July 12	6:30 PM	Val Rogers
July 19	6:30 PM	Broken Road

Contact Name: _____

Business: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Date of concert you are interested in sponsoring: _____

Please check below which level you are interested in sponsoring:

	\$800.00	Platinum Concert Sponsor
	\$400.00	Gold Concert Sponsor
	\$200.00	Silver Concert Sponsor
	\$100.00	Bronze Concert Sponsor
	Up to \$100.00	Copper Concert Sponsor

Please make check payable to WPRD and mail with this form to:

Town of Willington, Parks and Recreation Dept
 40 Old Farms Road, Willington, CT 06279

Deadline for Sponsorship is Friday May 12, 2023

Please contact Alan Humphrey, Director of Parks and Rec at 860-487-3108 or ahumphrey@willingtonct.gov



Summer Camp 2023



Video Game Week-	July 10-14
Mysterious Creatures-	July 17-21
Safari Week	July 24-28
Superhero week	July 31-Aug 4
Holiday week	Aug 7-11

Willington residents pay only \$100 per week per child thanks to ARPA funding! Aftercare is an additional \$25 per child each week.

Max 50 kids per week, Ages—5-12
Hall Memorial School 9am-2:45pm,
or 3:45pm with aftercare
Slots fill up fast so register now!



Willington Parks & Recreation Presents
Wednesday Evening Yoga
Gentle Vinyasa Flow

*This class is for **All Levels**, everyone is welcome.
Appropriate and modifiable for a brand-new practitioner to someone who practices weekly.
We will work on balance, strength, and gentle stretching. Great for parents and kids alike!*

When: *Wednesdays; March 1st - April 5th*

Time: *6 p.m.- 7 p.m.*

Where: *Downstairs Community Room at the
Willington Library*

Fee: *\$60.00 for all 6 classes or \$12 drop-in
Kids: \$30.00 all 6 classes or \$5 drop-in*

Instructor: *Caitlin Draghe*

Please contact Willington Parks & Recreation for more information.

860-487-3108 or ahumphrey@willingtonct.gov

Payment can be made at the door before class.

2023 Skungamaug River Golf Clinics

Several Clinics will be offered through September at Skungamaug River Golf Course!

May 1, 8, 15, 22

5-6:00 p.m.

Co-Ed Clinic

June 7, 14, 21, 28

6-7:00 p.m.

Ladies Clinic

July 5, 12, 19, 26

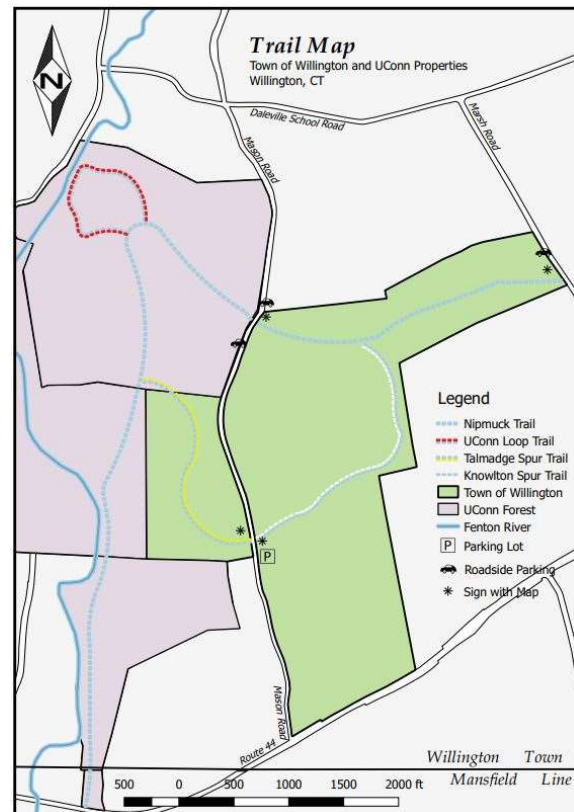
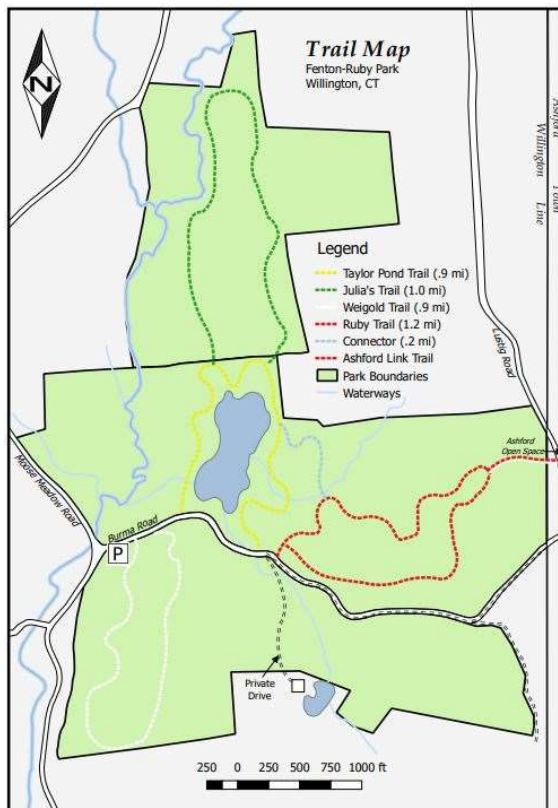
5-6:00 p.m.

Youth Clinic (ages 8-17)

Take that next step to improving your golf game by receiving instruction from PGA Professional Rick Nelson. Your game will improve as well as your enjoyment of this great game!

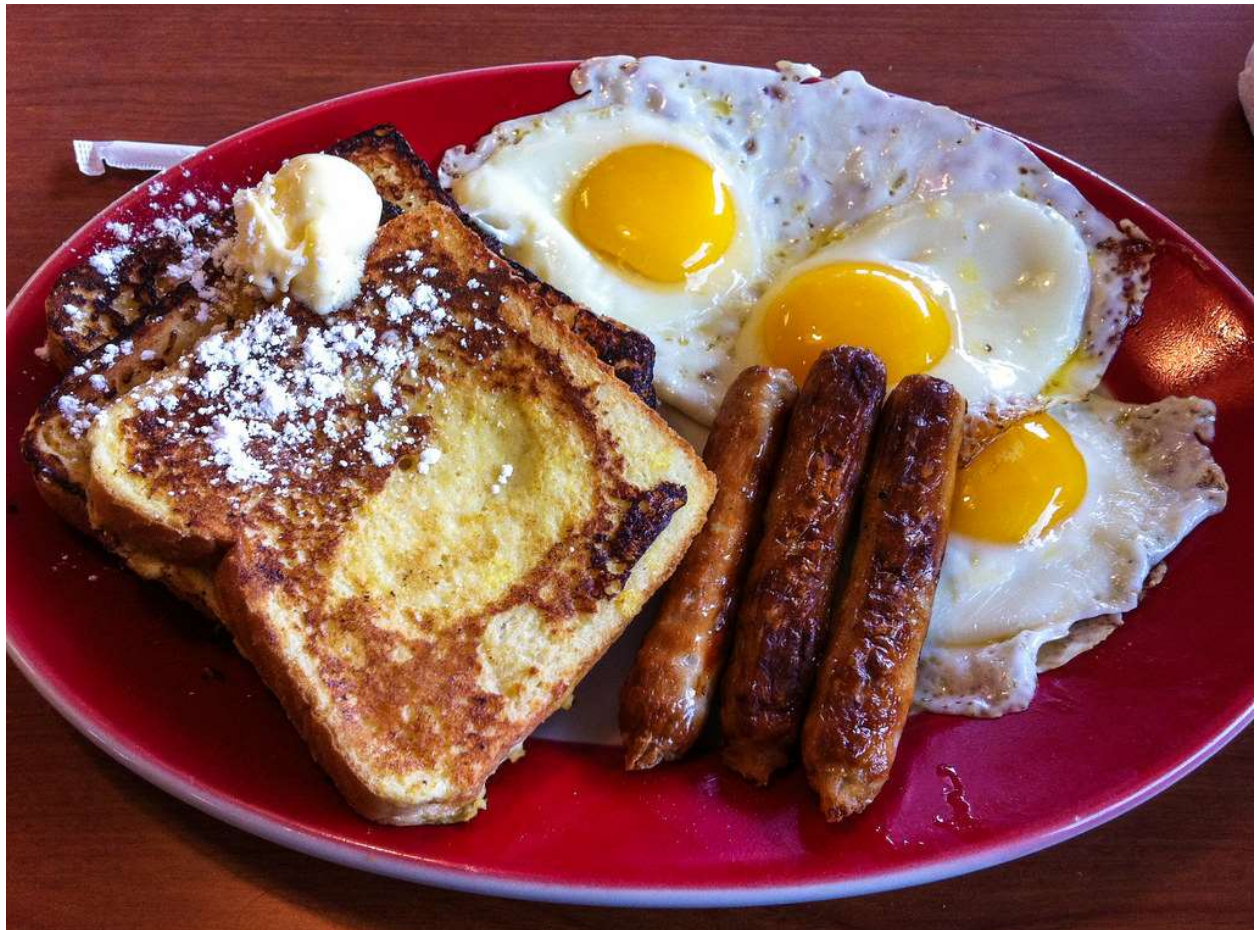
Sign up through Willington Parks & Recreation today!

TAKE A HIKE



NO COOKING BREAKFAST TODAY!!!
SENIOR CENTER BREAKFAST
20 OLD FARMS RD., WILLINGTON
SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2023 - 8:30 am-10:30 am
MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND WITH A SURPRISE!
MENU CHOICE FOR THE LOW PRICE OF \$5!!!

BACON, CHEDDAR CHEESE, PEPPERS, ONIONS OMELET; HAM, CHEDDAR CHEESE, PEPPERS, ONIONS OMELET; 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.



Renters Rebate

Walk ins

Renters Rebate is a tax abatement program for elderly or disabled renters. If you are 65 or older and/or disabled, you might qualify for this program which can give you up to \$700!

Drop by the Willington Senior Center to apply or to learn more!

We will need

- 1) Lease or rent receipt
- 2) Proof of income for the year 2022
- 3) Proof of electric payments for year 2022
(or account number)

May 1st and 4th
9-1pm, Senior Center

Contact Jennie Arpin, Director of Human Services, with any questions at
860-487-3118 or jarpin@willingtonct.gov

Willington Senior Center



Nan's News!

Hello everyone! It seems that it's finally spring here in our neck of the woods. Spring is my favorite season – I love gardening, and it's time to put away the seed catalogs and do some planting. Let's hope my tomatoes do well this year!

April is a big month for the Willington Senior Center! We are holding an Open House on Saturday, April 15th, from 10 am-2 pm. I hope the greater Willington community will come out and join us to learn about the programs and services offered here at the Senior Center! There will be flyers, pamphlets, and Senior Center monthly calendars available, and we will be offering FREE snacks and drinks for attendees. If you haven't visited the Senior Center in a while, come see what's new! If you've never been, now is the perfect time. All ages are welcome!

May kicks off with our second annual Spring Afternoon Tea! Fancy hats, pretty dresses, and delicious treats aside, it's a wonderful way to connect with other seniors. We'll learn some facts about tea and tea etiquette, and there will be a display of teacups and teapots to admire. As always, members and non-members are welcome, and admission is free. The Spring Afternoon Tea will be held on Friday, May 5th, from 3-5 PM. Sign up at the Senior Center or call us at (860) 429-8321.

Also in May, Mother's Day weekend sees the return of our popular Senior Center Breakfast! Held Saturday, May 13, from 8:30 AM-10:30 AM, breakfast is only \$5 and includes all your breakfast favorites. Everyone is welcome! Bring the family and take a break from cooking.

We are also offering programs such as the Craft Workshop, Game Day, and the Coffee Talk Social. The upcoming Craft Workshops, from 12:30-2 PM on Tuesdays, will include Diamond Painting, fabric teacups, decoupage flowerpots, and a monthly Zentangle session. All materials are provided.

Game Day is also on Tuesdays, from 2-4. We have many board and card games as well as puzzles and word games. You're also invited to bring your own games! Snacks & drinks provided. The Coffee Talk Social is scheduled for Thursdays from 10 AM – 12 PM. This is a time for folks to sit, chat, and have a beverage and a snack.

All programs are FREE, and senior (55+) members and non-members are welcome. No registration is needed.

As always, if you have questions about the programs, events, and services at the Senior Center, don't hesitate to drop by or give us a call! Our hours are 9 AM-2 PM Monday through Friday, and the phone number is (860) 429-8321. Hope to see you soon!

Nan King

Senior Center Coordinator | 20 Senior Way



Greetings Willington Residents:

We are still strongly encouraging everyone to make payments by mail, by use of our drop box located outside the front entrance or online at www.willingtonct.gov. Please note that there is a convenience fee of 2.95% for credit cards and \$1.95 for EFT for online payments.

As a reminder, tax bills will be mailed out in June. These bills will be due July 1st, and may be paid without penalty until August 1, 2023. If you do not receive a bill, please contact our office at 860-487-3111 or email me at jclauson@willingtonct.gov.

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

What am I being Taxed on?

You are being taxed on Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicles as of October 1, 2022.

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

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

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

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

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

How can I pay my bill?

The Revenue Office accepts cash, money orders or personal checks for payment at the office. If our office is closed, you can leave a check in our Drop Box outside the front door of the building. You may also pay on line at www.willingtonct.gov and click on the button that says “**OnLine Tax**”

Payments". There is a convenience fee of 2.95% for credit cards or \$1.95 for EFT. You can also call 844-859-7566 to pay by phone, but an additional fee of 75 cents will be added. We do have a public access computer at Town Hall which will allow you to make a credit card payment on line.

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

Janice C. Clauson, CCMC

Revenue Collector

860-487-3111

jclauson@willingtonct.gov

Grace Tharp

Assistant Revenue Collector

860-487-3111

gtharp@willingtonct.gov

Town Clerk

From the desk of the Willington Town Clerk

Marriage Licenses & Justices of the Peace

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

Hunting & Fishing licenses

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

<https://ct.aspirafocus.com/internetsales>

While the inland and marine fishing guide magazines were very popular, the State DEEP is no longer offering them in print. They are only available digitally at:

<https://portal.ct.gov/deepfishing>. We do, however, have the updated Hunting and Trapping guides in booklet style. These guides also have the DEEP portal QR scanning codes on them for easy access.

Dog Licenses

June is dog-registration month. Per Connecticut General Statutes §§22-237 – 22-359b, every dog must be licensed when it becomes six months old, annually.

The annual fee for all spayed/neutered dogs is \$8.00 each and the fee for all male/female dogs is \$19.00 each. We are open to the public and you are welcome to register in-person, or if you prefer, mailing in your registration is always an option as well. Please send a self-addressed stamped envelope for us to return your dog's

license to you. All dogs registered after June 30th will incur a \$1.00 late fee each, per month thereafter.

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

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

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

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Robin Campbell
Town Clerk

Rachel Pierce
Assistant Town Clerk

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:

860-742-5518



Visit us at **www.buttonhill.com**



Call Us Now to Schedule Your Tour



Corporal Henry Toberman Post No. 938

There are two qualifiers for membership in the VFW, as set out in our National Bylaws. An individual must meet both in order to become a member. They are as follows:

1: **Honorable Service** – must have served in the Armed Forces of the United States and either received a discharge of Honorable or General (Under Honorable Conditions) or be currently serving.

2: **Service in a war, campaign, or expedition on foreign soil or in hostile waters***. This can be proven by any of the following:

- An authorized campaign medal
- Receipt of Hostile Fire Pay or Imminent Danger Pay (verified by a military pay statement)
- Service in Korea for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days

*This information is usually available through a veteran's DD-214. If other information is needed or if a veteran's DD-214 is not complete, they can contact the National Personnel Records Center online or at 314.801.0800 to request more information.

Want to Join: EMAIL THE POST: vfw938@gmail.com

Scan the QR Code to download the application, or go to

<https://www.willingtonct.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf1456/f/uploads/vfwapp.pdf>



Join today: first year's dues are on us



Willington Veterans Memorial Foundation

Updating the Willington Honor Roll

The Willington Veterans Memorial foundation is in the process of Updating and correcting the Willington Honor Roll located in front of the 'old' town hall. The Honor roll was put up by the Willington VFW in 2005. The list of Vietnam veterans needs some change and a number of Willington residents who enrolled in the service in the Gulf War – 1990-1991, the Iraq War – 2003-2011 and the Afghanistan War – 2001-2021 need to be added to the Honor Roll list. Please help us identify veterans who belong on the Honor Roll. Please send any name and information to Phil Monty – pmonty@charter.net or drop the information off at the town clerk's office or Senior Center.

The Foundation is in the process of identifying all veterans who have served/from Willington. We have identified the names approximately 978 veterans – starting in 1754 French and Indian War to present – those who *enrolled* from Willington, *live or lived* in Willington or those who are buried in Willington. We hope to have the name, rank, branch of service, date of birth, date of death (for some) and place of burial. A complete list of the information we have will be available at the Willington Senior Center and Willington Library in a notebook marked '**Willington Veterans**'. If you can leave additional information or correct the information we have, please use a note card found in the books.

Thanks for your help with this important project. We hope to be able to identify and thank all present veterans in Willington and honor those from the past.

Phil Monty – Secretary of the Willington Veterans Memorial Foundation

Willington Veterans Memorial Foundation

The purpose and goal of the foundation is to help maintain the Veteran's Memorial & Veterans Memorial Honor Roll; support the patriotic display of flags; to coordinate with the Town and VFW to get flags and markers on graves of Veterans buried in Willington; to maintain a list of Veterans Memorial pavers and to help coordinate the ceremonies for Veterans Day and other patriotic days.



The next meeting of the Foundation will be January 17, 2023, at the Willington Public library at 7 pm. There will be refreshment before the meeting starting at 6:30 pm. The meeting is open to All. Membership in the Foundation is a \$5 donation for lifetime membership.

The Willington Veterans Memorial Foundation and Veterans of Foreign Wars would like to thank everyone who came out Veterans Day to help Honor All veterans but especially those who gave their life in defense of our Country. The Ceremony was held at the Willington Veterans Memorial 20 Senior Way on Saturday November 12th. Twelve new memorial pavers were displayed at the memorial along with the other 148 pavers honoring veterans of all conflicts and branches of service. There were 39 Willington veterans who gave their lives in service of our country starting with four in 1754 – French and Indian War to 13 who gave their live in World War 2. We have memorial paver for 4 of the brave individuals at present. We are looking to get all 39 veterans honored. If you would like to sponsor a memorial paver for one of these veterans or a veteran from your family please pick up a paver form at the Senior Center, town Library or town clerks office. The cost of a paver is \$50.



Willington Veterans Memorial Foundation

Membership Application

Members Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Telephone: () - Cell Phone #: () -

Military Service: Active Duty Veteran Nat. Guard/Reserve General Public

I give the Willington Veterans Memorial Foundation permission to contact me by email or text to make me aware of information pertaining to this organization.

Signed: _____

Membership Type: Charter Veteran Public Other Membership Donation \$5

Drop the Application off at the Senior Center or turn it in to any

Foundation Officer: Joe Rondeau, Ed Dagata or Phil Monty

☆ WILLINGTON DAY 2023 ☆
30th year May 27 -11:00-3:00
River Road Athletic Complex
511 River Road Willington

Booth & Ad Registration form for Willington Day - May 27, 2023- 11-3 @ River Road Athletic Complex 511 River Road Willington, CT 06279

Booth -\$15.00 for 12x12 space (Free for non-profit)
Ad in program- 1/3 page ad (4.5 in x 2.5 in) -\$10.00, 1/2 page (4.5 in x 3.75 in) \$20.00,
Full page (4.5 in x 7.5 in) \$30.00

Money generated from booths and advertising is used to sponsor Willington Day.
Thank you for your support in making Willington Day possible!

** Please make checks payable to Willington Day and mail to Willington Day Committee c/o Melissa McKinnon 40 Old Farms Road Willington, CT 06279.

Should the event be cancelled due to inclement weather, the programs will still be printed and distributed locally. **The cost of the booth and or ads are non-refundable.**

Questions - please contact Melissa McKinnon
860-818-2221 or willimmw@aol.com
or willingtonday@aol.com

Due by May 5, 2023 ☆



We've been finding some great websites with historical information about people, cemeteries, buildings and industry in Willington. Here are just a few:

A database of Historical Markers, this is cool because we drive past them every single day, and they are all listed online.

<https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=1622>

The Church of the Latter Day Saints (Mormon) has made incredible efforts to document history, families, and cemeteries. Their work is so all-encompassing, you may be able to find your own family. <https://ldsgenealogy.com/CT/Willington.htm>

Living Places was a new website for us to find. So interesting to read about the history of the Willington Common, including Glazier Tavern.

https://www.livingplaces.com/CT/Tolland_County/Willington_Town/Willington_Common_Historic_District.html

The web pages in Historic Buildings are cool because they have brought the history of individual properties right up to the present. This was one website where we said "I didn't know that!"

<https://historicbuildingsct.com/former-nichols-store-1874/#more-27246>

<https://historicbuildingsct.com/daniel-glazier-tavern-1815/>

<https://historicbuildingsct.com/?s=willington>

A link from Historic Buildings (above) brought us to a locale close to home.

<https://lostmillsites.weebly.com/sharps-mill.html>

We are always interested in seeing what you've found about your ties to the past through your family, your home, your church. Please let us know!

Willington Historical Society is always looking for volunteers to join our dedicated group. A wide variety of skills are needed, including internet, computer graphics, gardening, event set up.

Please attend one of our upcoming meetings! Our community's history is your history too!

<https://willingtonhistoricalsocietyct.org/>



Renewable Scholarship Opportunity

Willington Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars (WSFDFS)

- **Reminder** to first year post-secondary students from Willington:
Make sure to Apply Today for our Renewable Scholarship.

The deadline is June 15th.

- **Calling All New Donors:** Help Willington students succeed by donating whatever you can to the 2023 Willington Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars annual appeal drive.
- **Thank You!** To all who have donated to WSFDFS this year and over the years we appreciate your support.



Renewable Scholarship recipient Ryan Toomey and WSF Directors Laura Rodriguez and Chopeta Lyons

To contribute:

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

Text: WILLINGTONFORSCHOLARS to 44321 or

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

- And please consider joining our Team! We meet every third Monday at 6:30 pm upstairs in the Town Office Building Community Room. Email us at Willington@DollarsforScholars.org if you'd like to join us!

Check us out on these platforms: www.Willington.DollarsforScholars.org

