

Wilmington Wire

Community E-Newsletter

July, August, September 2023



The Wilmington Gladiator: **ET-113** is the newest piece in our fleet!

This 2017 Spartan Gladiator carries 2,000 gallons of water and over 2,500 ft of hose. ET-113 is our primary response apparatus for almost any type of fire and has the capacity to seat six firefighters. Due to its capabilities, this apparatus is on multiple mutual aid responses as part of a tanker task force. For more information on the fleet, see page

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Town Offices Closed	3
Town of Willington Office Building Contacts	3
Boards & Commissions – Meeting Calendar April, August, September 2023	4
First Selectwoman’s Corner	6
Assessor	7
Willington Conservation Commission	8
EC-CHAP	9
Willington Fire Department	17
Department of Human Services	18
Willington Public Library	20
Registrar of Voters	28
Parks & Recreation	31
Tax Collector	35
Town Clerk	37
Button Hill Senior Apartments	38
VFW	39
Veterans Memorial Foundation	40
Willington Historical Society	42
Special to the Wire	43
Willington Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars	45

Town Offices Closed

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

Independence Day

Tuesday, July 4, 2023

Labor Day

Monday, September 4, 2023

Town of Willington Office Building Contacts

First Selectwoman	Erika G. Wieceński	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	Jimmy Callaghan	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:

Jimmy Callaghan- Director of Parks & Recreation

Boards & Commissions – Meeting Calendar

April, August, September 2023

Board/Commission	Day	Date	Time
Board of Education	Tuesday	July 11, 2023	7pm
Board of Education	Tuesday	August 8, 2023	7pm
Board of Education	Tuesday	September 12, 2023	7pm
Board of Finance	Thursday	July 20, 2023	7pm
Board of Finance	Thursday	August 17, 2023	7pm
Board of Finance	Thursday	September 21, 2023	7pm
Board of Selectmen	Monday	July 3, 2023	6:30pm
Board of Selectmen	Monday	July 17, 2023	6:30pm
Board of Selectmen	Monday	August 7, 2023	6:30pm
Board of Selectmen	Monday	August 21, 2023	6:30pm
Board of Selectmen	Tuesday	September 5, 2023	6:30pm
Board of Selectmen	Monday	September 18, 2023	6:30pm
Conservation Commission	Wednesday	July 19, 2023	7pm
Conservation Commission	Wednesday	August 16, 2023	7pm
Conservation Commission	Wednesday	September 20, 2023	7pm
Economic Development	Wednesday	July 12, 2023	6:30pm
Economic Development	Wednesday	August 17, 2023	6:30pm
Economic Development	Wednesday	September 21, 2023	6:30pm
Historical Society	Tuesday	July 18, 2023	7pm
Historical Society	Tuesday	August 15, 2023	7pm
Historical Society	Tuesday	September 19, 2023	7pm
Housing Authority	Monday	July 17, 2023	4pm
Housing Authority	Monday	August 21, 2023	4pm
Housing Authority	Monday	September 18, 2023	4pm
Inland Wetlands/Watercourses	Monday	July 24, 2023	7:30pm
Inland Wetlands/Watercourses	Monday	August 28, 2023	7:30pm
Inland Wetlands/Watercourses	Monday	September 25, 2023	7:30pm

Library Board of Directors	Monday	July 12, 2023	7pm
Library Board of Directors	Monday	August 9, 2023	7pm
Library Board of Directors	Monday	September 13, 2023	7pm
Parks & Recreation	Monday	July 31, 2023	7pm
Parks & Recreation	Monday	August 28, 2023	7pm
Parks & Recreation	Monday	September 25, 2023	7pm
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	July 18, 2023	7:30pm
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	August 15, 2023	7:30pm
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	September 5, 2023	7:30pm
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	September 19, 2023	7:30pm
School Building Committee	Thursday	July 5, 2023	6:30pm
School Building Committee	Thursday	July 19, 2023	6:30pm
School Building Committee	Thursday	August 2, 2023	6:30pm
School Building Committee	Thursday	August 16, 2023	6:30pm
School Building Committee	Thursday	September 6, 2023	6:30pm
School Building Committee	Thursday	September 20, 2023	6:30pm
Zoning Board of Appeals	Thursday	July 13, 2023	7:30pm
Zoning Board of Appeals		No August Meeting	7:30pm
Zoning Board of Appeals	Thursday	September 14, 2023	7:30pm

First Selectwoman's Corner

Dear Willington Residents,



Summer is in full swing here in Willington, I hope you are enjoying the outdoors and warmer temperatures.

While many of the town's boards and commissions take time off over the summer, other boards and our town departments remain very productive to support ongoing needs and services. The Public Works Department is particularly busy this time of year. Our crew will be chip sealing several roads in the coming months along with road improvements on Polster Rd and the regular maintenance that comes with summertime. Willington Parks and Recreation is keeping busy with the popular Wednesdays-in-the Park Summer Concert Series and Summer Camp. Hall's Pond is open and ready for swimmers to cool off

this summer.

The Town Office Building is open 12:30-7:30 p.m. on Mondays and 9-2:00 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. I try to be available during office hours or by appointment. Please stop in to share your ideas and concerns as we begin to plan farther into the future. Otherwise, I hope to see you out and about in Willington!

Warmest regards,

Erika G. Wicinski
First Selectwoman, Willington

Assessor

From the Assessor's Office

Board of Assessment Appeals

The Board of Assessment Appeals will hold a session to hear appeals of 2022 Motor Vehicle Values on Monday, September 11, 2023 @ 40 Old Farms Rd, Willington, CT starting at 6:00pm. Those aggrieved by the assessed value of their motor vehicle listed on the 2022 Grand List may attend. Applications are available on-line at <http://www.willingtonct.gov/files/> and in the Assessor's Office.

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.

Renters Rebate

Residents 65 years of age and older and persons that are totally disabled of any age may be eligible for the State Renters Rebate Program. Guidelines and applications are available from the Human Services Department between April 1st -October 1st.

Motor Vehicle Tax Bills

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 vehicles on the 10/1/2021 and 10/1/2022 Grand Lists.

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

Kara Fishman CCMA II, MAI -Assessor
Assessor

Nicole Snyder-Assistant

Take a Hike ... this Summer

The Conservation Commission opens the new “**Split Rock Trail**” on the Talmadge Conservation Tract!

The Town recently finalized the purchase of a 16-acre parcel from the Daniel Talmadge Estate on Mason Road. The Conservation Commission, on behalf of the Town, applied for and was awarded an Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant of \$81,250 from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to help conserve this property for natural resource protection and passive public recreation.

For those who enjoy Fenton Ruby Park, you might consider a change of pace and scenery by visiting Willington’s ‘other’ open space and trail systems located on the Knowlton and Talmadge properties on Mason Road.

To access the properties and the trails, park in the gravel parking lot on the east side of Mason Road, located about 0.3 miles north of the intersection with Route 44 and 0.8 miles south of the intersection with Tinkerville School Road. The “**Split Rock Trail**” (blazed yellow) and the Talmadge Spur Trail (blazed yellow/blue) begin directly across Mason Road from the parking lot. The Knowlton Spur Trail (blazed blue/white) begins at the kiosk near the corner of the parking lot. Both ‘spur’ trails can be combined with the Nipmuck Trail to form a loop trail that begins and ends at the trailhead parking lot on Mason Road. Paper maps can be found at the trailhead kiosk or by scanning the QR code on the accompanying trail map.

The new “**Split Rock Trail**” heads south through a mixed forest then passes through a stone wall where it forks left and right to form a one-mile loop. Heading right, it traverses an area with several large stone outcrops, some with split rocks! From there the trail descends to a wide ravine and then ascends the side of a hill, where hikers can opt to turn left onto a short trail to the top of an outcrop that includes an overlook of the forest below. Return by the short trail to rejoin the main trail as it continues around the hill to an old woods road which takes a few turns before returning to the original fork by the stone wall.

We encourage everyone to spend some time on these trails and enjoy the benefits of the great outdoors!!



Colt and His Legacy in Hartford

Rather than focusing on Connecticut industry at large for this article in the *Connecticut Industry During Times of War Series*, I wanted to focus on a specific Connecticut industrialist. That being the highly influential Samuel Colt and his legacy. Samuel Colt was born in 1814 in Hartford, Connecticut and maintained an interest in pyrotechnics through his youth. Experiments involving pyrotechnics would see him kicked out of boarding school in 1830 after causing a fire damaging school property. His father then sent him off to learn to be a seaman that same year. It was here that Colt saw the clutch mechanism of a ship's wheel that inspired him to improve upon the revolver design (connecticuthistory.org).

Colt being the inventor of the revolver is not technically correct. Indeed, guns firing from a revolving cylinder had been around centuries before Colt. However, the cylinder or "wheel" of these wheelguns had to be turned and indexed by hand. Colt's revolutionary contribution was his idea of a manually operated hammer that would automatically revolve the cylinder and lock into the correct position for firing. He would receive a patent for his revolving pistol design and create his first company, the Patent Arms Manufacturing Company, in 1836 in the town of Paterson, New Jersey. This first venture was a failure with the company closing 7 years later. It wasn't until Captain Walker of the Texas Rangers asked Colt to make him 1,000 pistols of a new design that Colt would have the capital to establish his new business back in Connecticut: Colt's Patent Fire-Arms Manufacturing

Company (Museum of Connecticut History). Colt's design would now continue to see successful iterations and rising sales numbers.

One of Colt's greatest strengths was his marketing prowess. He would present engraved and gold decorated guns to notable individuals and heads of state to attract new orders via an early version of celebrity endorsement (Museum of CT History). If a news source mentioned Colt or talked negatively about his competitors, he would buy hundreds of copies of that edition and send the editor a free revolver with his inscription on it (Hosley 1999). He saw the value of mythmaking and catchy marketable slogans. Samuel Colt and later the Colt company would often market the product as an equalizer for the vulnerable against the powerful, a protector, or an essential part of rugged frontier life.



In 1855, Colt built the Hartford factory complex complete with its Blue Onion dome atop the East Armory that we've all driven by on I-91. The complex, named Coltsville, spanned 260 acres complete with multiple factory buildings, recreation areas, worker housing, and Colt's personal mansion. In just a year, Colt's factory was producing 150 firearms a day. Although the assembly line concept is largely attributed to Henry Ford, Colt's Hartford location was one of the birthplaces of precision manufacturing and mass production (Eric Hintz, Smithsonian). Working with Elisha Root, the Colt factory had specialized machinery to assist in making identical parts, hastening the old process of hand fitting. Different steps of the process would then be done by employees in an assembly line fashion.

I mentioned the Blue Onion, but the one we are familiar with is not the original. Samuel Colt would die in 1862 and a fire would burn down most of the armory in 1864. The heir to his company would be his wife, Elizabeth Colt, who would lead the company until 1901. It was her decision to rebuild the structure, including the iconic blue dome, rather than close it down. The rampant colt that sat in Colt's private garden was used as the replacement to adorn the top of the dome. A century later, the dome was in disrepair and efforts to do



maintenance caused the head of the colt to fall off. It was sold to Peter Tillou, an art dealer of Litchfield, who then sold it to the Museum of Connecticut History. The picture seen in this article is of the 1867 rampant colt statue that can be seen at the museum today. The colt that sits on the current Blue Onion was commissioned in the early 2000s and is made of fiberglass (National Park Service).

Samuel Colt was not only a revolutionary inventor, but a remarkable salesman, innovator, and industrialist. The Colt name is one that nears the top of the list in terms of Connecticut ingenuity throughout the years. Today, a collection of rare or early Colt firearms can be seen at the Museum of Connecticut History, where much of the information found in this article was sourced. Since 2014,

Coltsville has been in the process of becoming an official National Historic Park with the National Park Service. Colt Gateway, a management company currently owning most of the Colt complex, hosts apartments, commercial offices, an event venue, and the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts Full Day high school. All of this helps maintain the spirit of innovation in this area and sees that the legacy of the Colt family continues to be preserved.

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.



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

Magic Leaf Workshop

with Nicole Isabelle

1:00pm, Saturday, July 29, 2023



Join artist and art educator Nicole Isabelle in the studio for a **Free 2-hour workshop** on creating your own small Magic Leaf Painting.

Working with watercolor paint, the first step is to create the colorful underpainting.

Then we'll move on to printing gathered leaves onto our paintings like a collagraph print. An experiment in trial-and-error artmaking, the process of creating a Magic Leaf Painting is a fun way to bring nature into your creative exploration.

All materials provided. The workshop is open to 12 registered participants, ages 10-110.

Sign up by emailing: CommunityGallery@ec-chap.org

Location: Dye & Bleach House Community Gallery

156 River Road, Willington, CT | www.ec-chap.org | 518.791.9474



Return to Film Photography: A Personal Reflection

A friend recently spoke to me about the current popularity and resurgence of film photography in a world dominated by 1's and 0's. The idea percolated around in my head - and absent an Art related article this month from our regular AIR contributor, I thought I might put something together on the topic.

As I thought deeply on this subject, it grew into a personal reflection of my own journey with film photography. I became excited with the notion of looking back in time, and the elements that formed my love of photography. Time had numbed or suppressed this part of my life, and peeling back the years felt... well... good (this unplanned article may in fact result in future writing on this and other topics that led to EC-CHAP's existence).

With the reader's permission and patience, I am sharing a bit of my background and how I became involved with this medium. I am writing with the context of "film photography" representing the complete analog process from shutter press to final print.

I am not a digital photographer. I own a Cannon consumer DSLR camera received from my wife as a Christmas gift about seven years ago; but when it comes to every-day photos, I reach for my trusty iPhone.

My photographic background is with film. The combination of interests in the arts and pursuit of high quality images; along with technical inquisitiveness led to a passion for photography beginning in the early 1970's. This interest resulted in defining my undergraduate engineering program and culminating Mechanical Engineering degree from WPI, Worcester, MA.

When I entered college at WPI in 1972, a new and innovative project-based program was just being introduced and offered to students on an optional basis. It was called the "WPI Plan". This non-traditional approach to education included the following components and requirements for graduation:

- Grading for classes was non-traditional. There were no "A's", "B's", "C's", etc. There were only three grades: "Acceptable"; "Acceptable with Distinction"; or "No Record". No Record meant you failed or did not complete the course, and there was no record of the failure or incompleteness on your transcript. You could continue to take the course until you passed (or ran out of money); and ultimately were required to achieve a certain number of credits as one of the graduating requirements.



The Packing House – Planning for Fall!

Summer is here!

We're planning for our 2023-2024 Performance Season at The Packing House – Your regional listening room for Live Music, Film Screenings, Talent Showcase, and Lectures!



Our Performance Season runs from September through May. Beginning this September, EC-CHAP will be introducing our new spoken word series hosted by regional author Steve Veilleux. Our Monthly Talent Showcase and Film Screenings will begin in October; and our Lecture Series will continue this fall with *"The History of Radio, Part-2"*.

SEPTEMBER PERFORMANCES

The Packing House Poetry Series: Thursday, September 21st. Doors 6:00pm / Program 6:30pm. Free Admission.

Steve Veilleux is pleased to announce a new event at The Packing House in Willington, CT. Veilleux currently co hosts a monthly open mic event at the Sawdust Cafe in Putnam, and looks forward to the opportunity to feature well-known writers from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and as far away as North Carolina in a monthly event to be held at The Packing House on the third Thursday of each month starting at 6:30 PM.

The inaugural show of "*The Packing House Poetry Series*" will be held on September 21, and will feature Massachusetts Beat Poet for Life, Paul Richmond, and relative newcomer Alana Parrott, who brings her dynamic voice and personality to the stage. The show's format will consist of two open mic segments as well as a pair of 15-minute slots for each of the featured artists. Intermission will give audience and poet the chance to meet one another and the opportunity to purchase signed publications.

Writers who are interested in featuring should reach out to either Steve Veilleux (Veilleux50@gmail.com) or Tom Buccino (info@ec-chap.org). The fall series still has one opening, and there are still a number of openings through May 2024.

EC-CHAP Acoustic Artist Series: Jocelyn Pettit & Ellen Gira. Friday, September 22nd. Doors 7:00pm / Performance 730pm.

From Canada and the USA, Jocelyn Pettit & Ellen Gira are a dynamic fiddle & cello duo. Fusing traditional and contemporary music styles, they create a powerfully uplifting and soulful performance, weaving a rhythmically driving and textured sound. Complemented by lively stepdancing, they bring life and fire into original tunes, songs, and high-energy repertoire from Scotland, Ireland, North America, and Scandinavia.



Each an accomplished musician in their own right, with extensive performance history and accolades, Jocelyn & Ellen first joined forces in Glasgow in 2018. Since then, the duo has been gracing stages and captivating audiences in both North America and the UK. They have been featured in live broadcasts on BBC Radio 3, and performed at festivals including Celtic Connections (UK), Harrison Festival of the Arts (CAN), Sutton Traditional Fiddle Festival (CAN), New World Festival (USA), and Northwest Folklife (USA).

Released in 2022, Jocelyn & Ellen's album, "All It Brings", is a 10-track celebration of hope and resilience, with nuanced fiddle-cello interplay, vocal harmonies, and guest guitar accompaniment.

EC-CHAP Jazz Series: Greg Abate Quartet. Saturday, September 23rd. Doors 7:00pm / Performance 730pm.

Greg Abate jazz saxophonist, flutist, composer continues as an International Jazz/Recording Artist with 225 days a year touring the globe. In the mid 70's after finishing a four year program at Berklee College Of Music, Greg played lead alto for the Ray Charles Orchestra for 2 years.



In 1978 Greg formed his group Channel One which was a favorite in the New England area and from there had the opportunity to play tenor sax with the revived Artie Shaw Orchestra under leadership of Dick Johnson from 1986 to '87. Following this experience Greg ventured out as post hard bop soloist playing Jazz Festivals, Jazz Societies and Jazz Clubs throughout the U.S. Canada and abroad, including most of Europe, UK, and Moscow and Georgia Russia.

Greg's newest release Gratitude, with the Tim Ray Trio has received glowing reviews and a lot of international airplay. Also, check out Greg's other recordings including special guests Phil Woods and other notable artists. Greg is currently a Whaling City Sound recording artist. Greg recorded his first CD Live At Birdland NYC in 1991 on the Candid Jazz Label with

the trio of James Williams, Rufus Reid and Kenny Washington. To this date Greg has recorded over 17 other recordings as leader.

Greg is also an adjunct professor of Jazz Studies at Rhode Island College and is also a very active jazz clinician with co. sponsorship from the Conn-Selmer Instrument Co., conducting workshops and master classes through the U.S and abroad. Greg has been inducted into the RI MUSIC HALL OF FAME 2016.

Greg will be joined at The Packing House by Matt deChamplain on piano, Lou Bocciarelli on bass, and Ben Bilello on drums.

SAVE THE DATES:

- Thursday, September 21st: The Packing House Poetry Series - Doors 6:30pm / Program 7:00pm. Admission: Free
- Friday, September 22nd: EC-CHAP Acoustic Artist Series - Jocelyn Pettit & Ellen Gira. Doors 7:00pm / Performance 7:30pm.
- Saturday, September 23rd, EC-CHAP Jazz Series – Greg Abate Quartet. Doors 7:00pm / Performance 7:30pm.

Soft drinks and snacks available at all events. Unless otherwise noted, we are pleased to offer our exclusive "BYOB&F" TM model - Bring Your Own Beverage & Food TM (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.

The Packing House is located at The Mill Works, 156 River Road, Willington, CT 06279. Parking is free and located across the street with limited onsite parking. For questions, program or rental information, please call 518-791-9474. For Tickets and additional information about our programs and featured artists, please visit www.thepackinghouse.us.



Willington Fire Department Inc.

426 River Road P.O. Box 161
Willington, Connecticut 06279
860.429.0288

Alexander J. Moore
Fire Chief

Ronald A. Gantick
President

Who is Willington Fire Department #1? Meet our Suppression Apparatus

In this Willington Wire Special, we'll introduce you to our current engine-tankers (ETs) and our squad (SQ).

Engine tankers have both a fire pump to supply water to put out a fire as well as the ability to carry large amounts of water. This type of apparatus can supply water to the hoses needed to put out a fire, help move water from one place to another, or pump water out of a fire hydrant or pond.

Squads are typically a "do it all" apparatus. These pieces usually have smaller amount of water than an ET, but carry extrication tools (the jaws of life) and other rescue equipment to assist in car accidents and specialty incidents.

Engine tankers and squads are two types of apparatus which are commonly referred to as suppression apparatus. The role of a suppression apparatus is to put the fire out by supplying the water, hose, and tools necessary to do so.

ET-113 is the newest piece in our fleet!

This 2017 Spartan Gladiator carries 2,000 gallons of water and over 2,500 ft of hose. ET-113 is our primary response apparatus for almost any type of fire and has the capacity to seat six firefighters. Due to its capabilities, this apparatus is on multiple mutual aid responses as part of a tanker task force.





ET-213 is old but gold!

Made in 1990, this International/Darley was our primary fire response apparatus until ET-113 arrived. Just like ET-113, this piece has 2,000 gallons of water and 2,500 ft of hose total. When the season comes, ET-213 gets dressed up in holiday lights for all of the regional parades!

SQ-113 can do it all!

A 2003 Freightliner/Darley, SQ-113 is equipped for a little bit of everything. From wildland firefighting tools, to extrication equipment and hazardous materials suits, SQ-113 is a front runner for many call types. This piece typically responds to fires, car accidents, and special rescue type incidents where unique tools may be needed.



Department of Human Services

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!



**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 is **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 was a Potluck Dinner & Dance that was held on Saturday, April 22, at the Willington Hill Fire Dept. It was a huge success and what fun we had! We shared in a fantastic dinner, live music to dance to, and some of the women from the Senior Center had an array of the most beautiful and bountiful Drawing Baskets. Their generosity overflowed when all the proceeds from these were given over to the library. This event was such a success due to their participation. All the decorations were done by them as well and it looked so beautiful. We can't thank those individuals enough for their time and talent that went into this event. We had a great group of young men who spent their afternoon with us blowing up 100 balloons! Thank you all so very much.

One thing for sure, when many get together to share in and accomplish a task, the load is lighter and the joy greater!

You won't want to miss out on yours and ours next upcoming anniversary celebration event which will be held on **Saturday, August 19, with a rain date of Saturday, August 26**...yours and ours **Community Picnic!** Unfortunately, due to inclement weather, we had to postpone this event from our original scheduled date of June 17th. Celebrate with us at the River Road Athletic Complex and Park at 511 River Road (Route 32).

Bring your own 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. Come and meet and make new friends with us. We will provide popcorn and ice pops for a treat throughout the day. We will have a bounce house/slide combo on the premise and there will be lots of games and activities, for ALL AGES! Enjoy all the amenities the park has to offer (Basketball, Baseball, Soccer, Playground), join in on a Corn Hole or Bocci Tournament, Baseball

Speed Challenge, Tug of War, Water Balloon Toss. There will be all kinds of Relay Races, Tag games, Horse Shoes, Frisbee, Hula Hoops, Fun with Bubbles, just to name a few fun things to look forward to.

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. We could use your help, so if interested, please let us know and we'd be happy to assign you a "job".

The Library building will be closed on this day, so that we can all enjoy the day's festivities.

The Library is getting a new and improved **"face-lift"**.

So many wonderful things are going on at the library both inside and out. We couldn't be more excited about them. For one, the grounds are getting "beautified" and just in time to enjoy being outdoors.

- We are looking forward to creating a walkway around different areas outside so that these areas will have greater access to all.
- We have just acquired two 8 ft. picnic tables that were made and donated by Chris Brown and being repaired and restored to newness by Karen Gregoire.
- Edie Jemiola donated her Ping Pong table and accessories. We can't wait to have some serious fun with that. We see tournaments in our future.
- Our United States flag is now illuminated.
- Jen Krueger and her children have done an amazing job on our gardens.
- Randall Nelson, a Willington artist and sculptor, friend and patron, restored a bust of author and illustrator, Kate Greenaway, that had been damaged. We had discovered her as we were going through our history items. It was broken in half. We don't know how we acquired it but we knew it had to be special. Mr. Nelson not only repaired it for us (at no charge) but told us who she was and some of her history. We will have this on display shortly with her story for you to read all about. He is also going to make us a Memorial stone for our Guinea pig, Ollie, for our garden out front.
- Our volunteer, friend and patron, Nancy Ferlow and her family donated more money to finish their/our Pavilion area, so we can have a floor made with decorative pavers.

Our patrons are so good to us...Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

We are introducing a NEW **STORYWALK!** outside...Our book this time is called "Hike" by Pete Oswald. As a father and child go on a hike, they witness the magic of the wilderness, overcome challenges, and play a small role in the survival of the forest. By the time they return home, they feel alive - and closer than ever - as they document their hike and take their place in family history. Enjoy marveling at the views!

You may have noticed that there are **new faces in the Library**. Come and meet our new staff members...**Steve is our new Programmer, Bill is our new Custodian, and Debbie is our new Library Page**. Introduce yourselves and welcome them into our library family and community.

2023 Summer Reading Program
Beginning Saturday, June 17 - August 12, 2023
Theme: "Find Your Voice"

We've got a great line up of programs ahead this summer!

- 8 weeks of fun and learning
- Everything is FREE
- Ongoing Registration
- Receive a "goodie" bag upon registering with fun and pertinent information
- Everyone is welcome to participate, both Willington and non-Willington residents
- Read to win prizes

Prizes will be awarded in three categories...Birth - 5th grade, 6th - 12th grade, and Adult 18 & over). Each group will have a chance to win what will be a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize along with additional "Book Bundles" prizes for each grade or age group.

Tickets are awarded by completing and returning each summer reading/activity sheet(s) and by submitting your one and only Bingo sheet included in your bag.

Our voices have power! We use our voices to share stories, express ourselves, and inspire change. Our voices include not only the sounds we make, but the words we write, the art we create, the movements we perform, and the actions we take each day to impact our world. Throughout the summer we will be showcasing new books around this theme and have library programs of all ages to make your voice heard.

Here are just a few of the programs we have lined up for your enjoyment. Keep in mind that **MORE** are coming. Keep watch!

Scheduled Programs:

- “How to Write a Poem” by Kwame Alexander and Deanna Nikaido. We will be making our own poems about ourselves or our favorite things on Saturday, July 1st from 10 -11 am.
- Author and former FBI agent Greg Dillon will discuss his book, “The Thin Blue Lie: An Honest Cop vs. the FBI”. A true story of an FBI Whistleblower on Thursday, July 6 @ 6:30 pm. Former FBI agent will discuss his book.
- Storyteller, Rona Leventhal - “Woven as One - Stories of Community!” on Thursday, July 27th, from 6:30-7:30 pm
- Grand Finale - Mr. Magic, Saturday, August 12 @ 10:30 am

Pending Programs:

- Raptor Event with Wingmasters
- Writing Event
- Open Mic Night with Authors and/or musicians sharing their voices through their art.
- Office Hours/Legislative Recap event with our State Representative Nuccio and State Senator Gordan as our voices in Hartford
- August Summer Storytime and Activity: reading a book about kindness and making kindness rocks to share positivity with others.

We would like to thank the many businesses in town and in our surrounding communities for their generous gifts towards our Summer Reading prizes: Flat Pennies, Willington Pizza, and the Jorgensen Center for Performing Arts (Storrs). Please help us thank them by your patronage of these businesses. Thank you!

We are now accepting **BOOK DONATIONS** once again. Thank you for your patience while we got caught up.

The Library will be holding its annual **BOOK SALE** on Saturday, September 9th from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. This year we are looking for and will be in need of volunteers outside the Friends group to help with this fundraiser. We will still hold our **Bags of Books Sale** as well, for the entire month of September until Saturday, September 30th, during our regular hours of operation.

Will you be a Friend? If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the Friends of the Willington Public Library, please let us know and we can help you make that connection. Thank you to all of the Friends members for all their help and support. Many of our programs are made possible with their funding. It has always been greatly appreciated. Thank you all again!

We will be joining the **Federated Church of Willington Flea Market**. Stop by and visit us on Saturday, September 9th, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. up at the Town Green.

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 their toys and would consider donating them to the library. We'd love to hear what you have to offer.

We are presently looking for a stand-up kitchen set. Do you have...a puppet theatre, puppets, puppet tree to hold puppets, kitchen set, shopping carts, doll house items/furniture, sand table/water table, baby doll clothes, stroller, toy chest, grocery store, vacuum, mop, broom, dust pan & brush (cleaning trolley) to name a few?

Perhaps you could help us look on one of the Social Media pages to see what they have available.

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. All passes are highlighted on our library website, where you will find all the 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. Reserve yours now!

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

WPL Home Schoolers Art Class at WPL Children's Art Place! This program is the third 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: Things That Crawl and Fly

Ages: 5 - 11 years

Classes are held on Wednesday mornings, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, beginning on September 20 through October 25

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 the Children's Library to see the fun and unique things that were made by the children during this first session. They are spectacular!

To register and for any questions, please contact Nancy Bunnell at ncbunnell@gmail.com

We have two winners for our "**Stick Together**" **Poster Projects. Congratulation's** to Amanda (adult poster) and Felix (child poster) for guessing correctly what each one of the pictures were depicting. We will still work on completing them just for the fun of it and to see the beautiful results.

Ongoing library programs...

Bright Beginnings: A new story and playtime group that was for children 0-2 years of age is being CANCELED due to lack of attendance at this time.

The library knitting group is now "**Yarn & Thread**". 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: TBA

Family Movie Time: On the last Saturday of every month at 12:30 pm in the Community Room, on the BIG SCREEN! Showings: TBA

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

On July 22nd (4th Saturday) we'll be showing “The Big Trip 2” at 12:30 pm

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

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. 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.

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.

In Defense of Democracy is back by popular demand. To be held on Saturday, July 22, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, in the Community Room. This is an event that the general public is welcome to attend. Democracy is in peril.

Those who are concerned about the threats Democracy faces in the modern political world should consider attending this retreat/workshop on July 22, 2023.

The “In Defense of Democracy” retreat will present a brief history of Fascism, how it has 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 Democratic values and Governments in the US and across the entire world. “In Defense of Democracy” presents a sobering insight into Fascist threats facing modern Democracies.

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

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 a 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. Call or come in for the list of scheduled dates.

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

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

Enjoy the Summer! See you at the Library!



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

Upcoming voting events and deadlines:

- Wednesday, August 9--deadline to submit petitions for municipal primary; Registrars will accept petitions in the office from 1 to 4 pm
- *Tuesday, August 22--absentee ballots become available for municipal primary; these are available from the Town Clerk (860 487.3121)
- *Tuesday, August 29--registration session for municipal primary; session to be held in Registrars' office from 12 to 2 pm
- *Thursday, September 7--deadline for mail-in voter registrations for municipal primary
- *Monday, September 11--deadline for in-person registrations for municipal primary
- *Tuesday, September 12--municipal primary; to be held from 6 am to 8 pm at the Town Office Building, Common Room

*dates apply only if municipal primary is needed

Registering to vote is available 24/7 online at voterregistration.ct.gov. 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



Poll Worker Appreciation Event June 9, 2023

On Friday, June 9th, The Registrars of Voters along with the Secretary of the State, Stephanie Thomas, hosted an event to honor and appreciate Willington's Election Officials.

Three of our poll workers received citations from the Secretary for their length of service. Kathryn Mikel (l) 10 years, Chopeta Lyons (m) 10 years and Jeanne Monty (r) 20 years.



2023 ROVAC Judy Beaudreau Scholarship Recipient



**Emma Pierce pictured with Registrars
Christine Psathas (l) and Suzanne Chapman (r)**

The Judy Beaudreau Scholarship Fund was created by the Registrars of Voters Association of Connecticut (ROVAC) Executive Board in the Spring of 2015 to honor the memory of Judy Beaudreau. Prior to her death in October of 2015, Judy was a Registrar in Vernon for over 30 years and was passionate about Education.

Annually at the ROVAC Spring Conference scholarships are awarded to students who plan to attend college in the fall or are already enrolled in college and have served their community as Election Workers in the preceding year. Scholarships are awarded to students from each of the 8 counties in Connecticut. The 2022 Tolland County recipient, Carissa Adams, was also from Willington!

Dear residents of Willington,

My name is James Callaghan, and I would like to introduce myself as the new Director of Parks and Recreation for Willington. It is an honor to have this opportunity to serve this great town, and I am looking forward to working with members of the community! If you ever see me at one of our wonderful parks or an event, please do not hesitate to come over to say hello. I am always on the lookout for new and exciting events, activities, and programs, so please reach out if you have an idea! My email address is jcallaghan@willingtonct.gov, and my phone number is (860) 487-3108. You can keep up to date with us on our Facebook page (Willington Parks & Recreation) and website (<https://www.willingtonct.gov/parks-and-recreation>). I look forward to meeting you, and remember, “Get Up! Get Out! Get Moving!”

James Callaghan

Director of Parks and Recreation



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:

<input type="checkbox"/>	\$800.00	Platinum Concert Sponsor
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$400.00	Gold Concert Sponsor
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$200.00	Silver Concert Sponsor
<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100.00	Bronze Concert Sponsor
<input type="checkbox"/>	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.

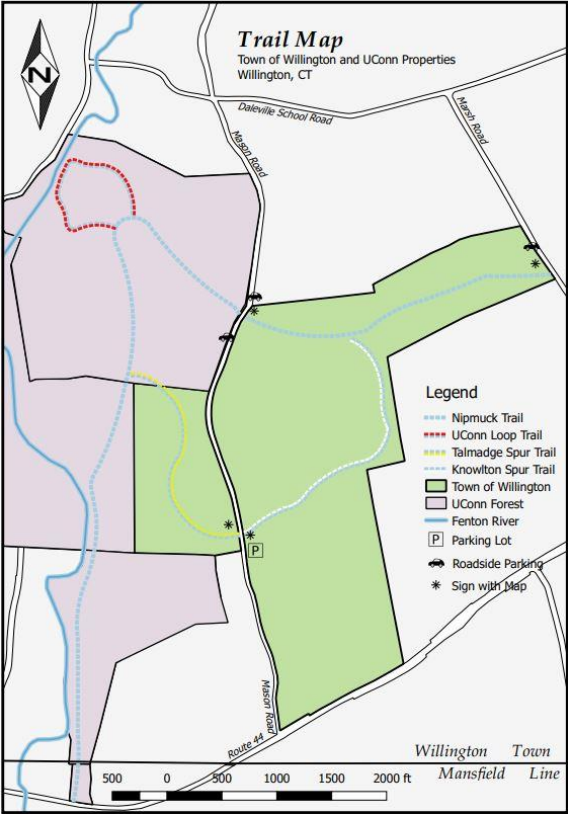
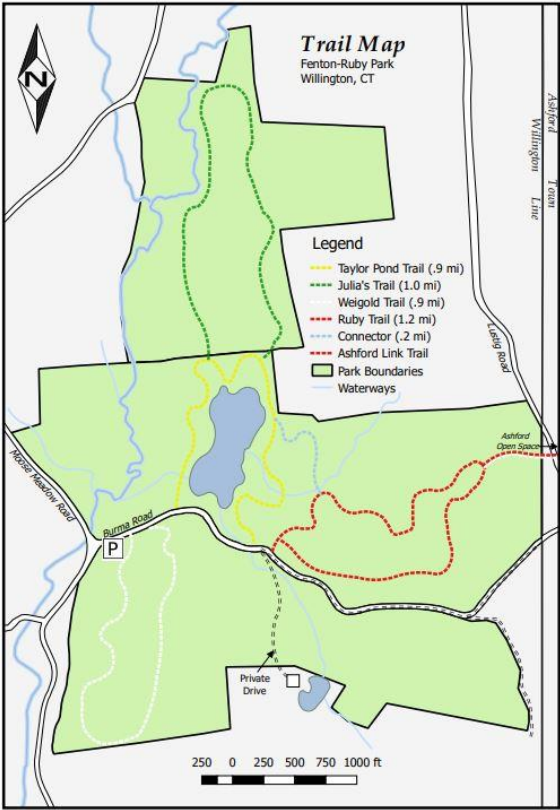
Max 50 kids per week, Ages—5-12

**Hall Memorial School 9am-2:45pm,
or 3:45pm with aftercare**

Slots fill up fast so register now!



TAKE A HIKE





PROPERTY TAX BILLS HAVE BEEN MAILED

1st Installment Due by August 2, 2023

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 one of our Drop Boxes located outside the front entrance of our building. Our mailing address is 40 Old Farms Rd, Willington CT 06279 if you want to mail in a payment, we would appreciate a contact phone number in the event we need to get in touch with you. Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you would like a receipt mailed back to you. You may also pay online at www.willingtonct.gov and click on the button that says “**OnLine Payments**”. There is a convenience fee of 2.50% for credit cards, flat fee of \$3.95 for debit cards and \$0.95 for EFT. We also have a public kiosk at Town Hall for online credit/debit card payments. The same fees apply.

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

Payments due July 1, 2023 must be received, or postmarked, no later than August 1, 2023. Payments due January 1, 2024 must be received, or postmarked, no later than February 1, 2024.

Interest is charged at a rate of 1 ½% per month from the due date, with a minimum interest charge of \$2.00. ***Per §12-146, Interest cannot be waived.***

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.

Wishing everyone a healthy, happy and prosperous summer! We look forward to seeing you soon.

Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the tax or interest per CT State Statute.

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

Grace Tharp
Assistant Revenue Collector
860-487-3111
gtharp@willingtonct.gov

Happy summer, everyone!

It is still not too late to license your dogs! Did you know all dogs aged 6 months or older must be licensed, per Connecticut General Statute §22-342? This also pertains to any dog being boarded in a kennel or even headed to the groomer!

It is simple to license: please bring in a valid rabies certificate along with a spay/neuter verification (if applicable). The fees are \$8 for each spayed/neutered dog and \$19 for



each male/female dog. Please note there is an additional \$1 penalty per dog for the month of July or each month thereafter. More information can be found at: willingtonct.gov/town-clerk. – dog licensing.

We enjoy seeing our 4 legged residents! Please send us a photo of your dog for our “dog wall” located near the service counter in the Town Clerk’s office. The bulletin board gets a lot of attention when people come to conduct business and we like to show them off!

This time of year, we also see an influx of marriage licenses. If you are planning to be married, please note that a marriage license is valid for 65 days after it has been received by the couple. The license must be obtained by the Town Clerk in the Town of occurrence. More information (as well as the required worksheet) can be found on the Town Clerk’s webpage noted above.

Veterans who served in the military during a time of war (or Active Military), and own property or motor vehicles in the Town of Willington may file their military discharge paperwork. In order to be eligible to receive tax exemptions, the original DD214 (or a certified copy) must be filed with the Town Clerk by September 30th. If you have questions regarding your exemption qualifications, please contact the Assessor’s office at 860-487-3122. We hope everyone enjoys their summer!

Robin H. Campbell, CCTC
Willington 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:

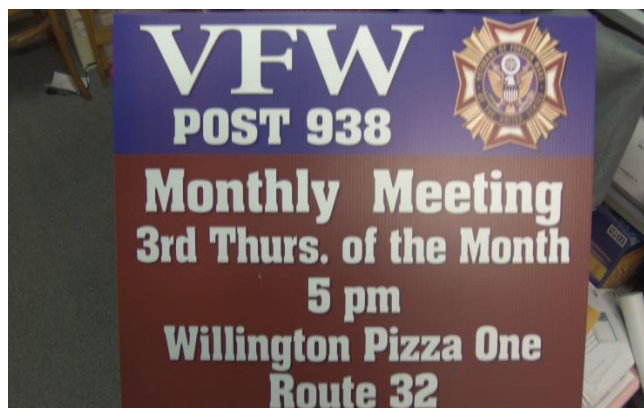
860-742-5518



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 Historical Society



The Willington Historical Society is planning a busy summer, please join in the activity!

Our summer meetings are generally held in the Glazier Tavern on the Willington Green, 3rd Tuesday of the month at 3 pm.

In July, we are going on a field trip! Instead of meeting at the Tavern, we will be meeting at the site of the Willington Game Farm, owned by the Stempien Family from about 1960 to 1979. The Game Farm had a lion, monkeys, cheetahs, and other animals. We will be going to the site of the old game farm, which is now a private residence, to revisit the unique spot from its heyday. To join us, please email us at willingtonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com for time and date.

In August, we are planning a very special day of live music and a tribute to a wonderful town resident. Please check our website for details.

During September, Willington Historical Society will have a booth at the Annual Flea Market on the Town Green on September 9th. The Flea Market is always a fun and special day.

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

<https://willingtonhistoricalsocietyct.org/>

Do you have items that you want to clear out of your basement, attic or barn? Instead of planning a trip to the transfer station Swap Shack, please consider donating the interesting items to the Historical Society, we may be able to add it to our collections.

Donations are tax deductible, and your items will have a home where others can enjoy the history too.

RESPECTING ADOLPH

Written & Submitted by John Blessington

It was January 7th, 1945, three years and one month to the day since the Empire of Japan sought to impose their hegemony on the Pacific by bombing Pearl Harbor and invading the Philippines.

That was a bold, if poorly calculated, move. Their attack on Pearl Harbor wrecked the American battleship fleet, but battleships were already obsolete and they missed the American aircraft carriers completely.

They successfully invaded and occupied the Philippines. The main effect of this was teaching the Filipinos that being occupied by the Americans was much better than being occupied by the Japanese.

Perhaps the Japanese should have listened to one of their own statesmen, Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto. His response to the Japanese victory at Pearl Harbor was, "I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve." Now, three years and one month later, the giant was fully awake. The surface of the Pacific Ocean was an American lake filled with American ships. Most of the Japanese Navy was at the bottom of the that Ocean.

There was still work to be done. There was still a price to be paid. On that January 7th, a flight of F6 Hellcats took off from the deck of the USS Hancock to bomb and strafe Japanese airfields on the Island of Luzon. One of the hellcats was either struck by ground fire or caught in the blast of a secondary explosion on the ground. The aircraft exploded in a ball of flame and was no more.

Adolph Wochomurka was born in Willington, Connecticut on August 13, 1920. He was the elder of two sons of Charles Wochomurka, the chief operating officer of the Parizek button mills. Adolph was very popular and well liked in town. In the normal course of events he likely would have grown up to be one of the leaders of Willington.

But then, Pearl Harbor happened. Adolph joined the Navy Air Corps and went off to fight for his country. He was lost over Luzon. The manner in which he was lost meant there were no remains to be returned to Willington.

How awful that must have been for his family and for the people of Willington. His family was wealthy and probably would have given it all up if they could get their son back, but that's not the way the world works. They erected a large and beautiful monument in the Willington Hill Cemetery. There is no one buried under that strikingly carved stone. Still, it is a fitting memorial for a young man who risked, and gave, his life for his country.

There was more. The family received the \$10,000 death gratuity from the government. In 1945, \$10,000 was a great deal of money. The family was wealthy, they didn't need the money; but they found a good use for it. They owned a piece of land at the base of Y Road. They used the money to build a large and beautiful pond there. This was to serve as a tribute to their lost son and was named Wochomurka Pond.

The years went by. Adolph's parents died. His brother moved far away. The family's holdings in town were all sold off. This included the land with the pond. The small shack that had been on the land expanded and expanded again until today it is a beautiful large house on a beautiful large tract of land with a beautiful pond in front of it.

The pond has lost its name and to me that is a damn shame. I get it. The people who own the land want to claim that pond for their own. Why shouldn't they name it after themselves? But I can't help but think that it was a memorial to a man who gave his life for his country. It still saddens me

One other incident makes me wonder why Adolph Wochomurka can't get the respect he deserves. Every year the town of Willington has a Memorial Day program. Each year a dignitary is asked to address the crowd with a keynote speech.

It came to pass that one year an officer from UConn ROTC gave the keynote speech. It was a good speech as such speeches go, and towards the end he read off the names of Willington boys who have given their lives in our various wars. The names were read in alphabetical order. As he neared the end of the list he read the name Albert Wochomurka.

I was disturbed. After the ceremony I tracked the speaker down. I asked him whence he got the name Albert. He pointed out that the name Adolph is toxic and no longer used in polite company. When he saw the name on the list he thought quickly and changed it to something less offensive.

When Adolph Wochomurka was born that other Adolph was a poor war veteran selling postcards on the streets of Vienna, his eventual infamy far in the future. I don't know who young Wochomurka was named after, but it was not that Adolph.

Can we give him some respect, and at least let him keep his name? Maybe we could do something to memorialize this man who was a true hero?



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