



The **Wilmington** **WORD**

Inside this issue:

A letter from the First Selectman
Parks & Recreation
Wilmington Youth, Family & Social Services
Wilmington Public Library
Community Activities

Winter/Spring
2012

40 Old Farms Rd, Wilmington CT 06279 • www.wilmingtonct.org

General Information



TOWN OF WILLINGTON OFFICE BUILDING

CONTACTS

First Selectman	Christina Beebe Mailhos	860-487-3100
Assessor	Mary Huda	860-487-3122
Building Inspector	Jim Rupert	860-487-3123
Business Manager	Donna Latincsics	860-487-3134
Dog Warden	Dick Claus	860-684-7936
Parks & Recreation	Teri Gareau	860-487-3108
Planning & Zoning	Susan Yorgensen	860-487-3123
Public Works	Lynn Nicholls	860-684-9313
Tax Collector	Carol Larson	860-487-3111
Treasurer	Tish Ignatowicz	860-487-3133
Town Clerk	Donna Hardie	860-487-3121
Registrar of Voters	Nancy Vogel & Gail Kapinos	860-487-3120

BUSINESS HOURS

Mon. 12:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Tues.-Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

ADDRESS

40 Old Farms Road
Willington, CT 06279

WEB SITE

www.willingtonct.org

From the Desk of the First Selectman:

Dear Willington Residents,

On behalf of the Board of Selectmen, I'd like to thank all of our residents who voted in our municipal election on November 8th. I am honored to say that I have been re-elected as your First Selectman, along with Butch Littell and John Blessington as Selectmen and all three of us are committed to working together for the betterment of the town. Our Board of Finance Chairman, Ken Schoppmann was also re-elected and we are confident that he will continue to be an incredible source of knowledge as we move forward in developing the next fiscal year's budget.

At the time of this printing, the new Board members have not even taken their oaths of office yet, however, we are already making preparations to budget for the next fiscal year that starts on July 1, 2012. Over the next few months, there will be many discussions about which programs and services are essential and which ones are not, as well as which service taxpayers are willing to pay for. The people who sit on the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Finance and the other Boards in Town will ultimately make the important decisions that will lead to a proposed budget for 2012-2013.

If you are interested in a particular town service, such as the library, the Fire Departments, Public Works, education, Youth & Family Services, Land Use, etc., please make contact with the boards that oversee these programs and let them know your questions and concerns as soon as possible so they can incorporate your input before their budgets go to the Board of Finance for consideration. It's important to make your views known early and often in this process.

Thank you for your participation and for helping our elected officials as we make these very important decisions that will affect all of our residents in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Christina Beebe Mailhos
First Selectman

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Produced by
the Chronicle
www.thechronicle.com

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General Information

TOWN OF WILLINGTON - REVENUE COLLECTION DEPARTMENT SUPPLEMENTAL BILLS

FRIENDLY REMINDER

This is a reminder to Willington taxpayers that the second installment of your real estate & personal property taxes billed July 1, 2011 and your motor vehicle supplemental taxes billed January 1, 2012, on the grand list of October 1, 2010, are due in full by February 1, 2012. After this date, the tax becomes delinquent and interest will be charged at a rate of 1 ½% per month (\$2.00 minimum), starting at 3% on February 2, 2012.

You can pay your tax bills in person at the Tax Collector's office in the Town Office Building, 40 Old Farms Rd. Public hours are Mon. 12:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., Tues. through Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. If these hours are inconvenient, please use the payment drop box installed outside the Town Office Building.

If paying in person or using drop box, to avoid interest, you must do so before the close of business on February 1st. We will check the drop box at closing time on February 1st. We are closed for New Year's Day on January 2, 2012 and Martin Luther King Day on January 16, 2012.

You must have your envelope post marked by February 1, 2012 to avoid paying interest. If you are requesting a receipt, please be sure to enclose a self addressed stamped envelope along with your payment.

You may also pay by credit card by calling 1-800-272-9829 or on line at www.officialpayments.com. Willington's jurisdiction code is 1707.

If you have any questions, please call the Tax Office at 860-487-3111.

Carol A. Larson, CCMC, Willington Tax Collector

TOWN OFFICE BUILDING GETS A FACELIFT

If you have stopped in the Town Office Building recently, you may have noticed some improvements.

One major improvement is the installation of several energy efficient windows. These windows were paid for by an Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant (\$42,000) that was granted to the town in 2009. This money was part of the American Recovery Reinvestment Act. After careful analysis and consideration, the Willington Energy Advisory Committee recommended that energy efficient windows would be the best investment in terms of energy conservation and the windows were installed this summer. In addition, the doors have been painted as well as the trim and this work is being done by Community Service volunteers. Not only has this changed the look of our building for the better, it is saving the town money in energy costs every day.

Another improvement to the building is the floor replacement and wall painting in the main entrance. The old floor was becoming dangerous as it was beginning to crack and create an uneven walking surface. With minimal funds, we were able to replace the VCT floor and covebase. In addition, town employees volunteered time after work and painted the hallway and doors giving it a more welcoming look.

The improvement our Board Members are most excited about is the new floor and paint in the downstairs meeting room. This room would routinely flood due to gutter issues (that have since been resolved) and the floor was damaged beyond repair. The replacement was covered by insurance and is not only functional, it makes the room more comfortable.

There also has been a lot of painting of offices and outside trim done by employees and residents who have volunteered their time and talent. We are very fortunate to have these people in town who care not just about our Town Office Building, but all of our municipal properties.



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Park & Rec. Programs

Get up! Get Out! Get Moving!

Questions: Call Teri Gareau, Parks and Rec Director at 860- 487-3108 or visit www.willingtonct.org for more information.
ALL REGISTRATION FORMS ARE ONLINE

TRIPS

NEW! These trips are being offered in Mansfield, Ashford, Coventry, Ellington, Tolland, Willington and Windham. If you live in any of those towns, please register in their Parks and Recreation department. Everyone else is welcome to register with the town nearest to them. The pick up location for people registering in Mansfield and Windham will be the commuter lot behind the Eastbrook Mall on Frontage Road. The pick up location for people registering in all other towns will be at the Exit 68 Commuter Parking Lot, Tolland next to Dunkin Dounuts.

DAY ON YOUR OWN IN BOSTON (registration deadline is Feb. 25)

Plan a fun day in Boston. We'll take you to Boston; drop you off at several locations and round you up again at the end of the day. The bus will drop off at the following locations: Public transportation is available for many others.

Boston Flower Show: This year's theme is: First Impressions and will showcase ways to express one's personality and style as well as add enjoyment and value to one's property. More information can be found at <http://www.masshort.org/Blooms-and-the-Boston-Flower-&-Garden-Show>

Boston Science Museum: participants can easily spend an entire day exploring this museum. More information about exhibits and special events can be found at www.mos.org.

Quincy Market and Faneuil Hall: participants can walk around, shop and get great food at this historic area in Boston. More information can be found at www.faneuilhallmarketplace.com.

Public Transportation information can be found at: www.mbt.com

Location: Boston Massachusetts

Date: Sat., March 17 (**registration deadline is Feb. 23**)

Time: (380001-A) Bus will leave the Exit 68 Commuter Parking Lot, Tolland next to Dunkin Dounuts at 7:30 a.m. and return at approximately 6 p.m.

Fee: \$30 for everyone
(*fee includes bus transportation only*)



A DAY IN NEW YORK CITY

(registration deadline March 23)

Enjoy a day in the "Big Apple" with friends and family. Bus drop offs/pick ups in New York City will be determined by the driver on the day of the trip.

Location: New York City, New York

Date: Sat., April 14

Time: (380004-A) Bus picks up at the Exit 68 Commuter Parking Lot, Tolland next to Dunkin Dounuts at 7 a.m. and returns approx. 10:30 p.m.

Fee: \$40 for everyone

(*fee includes bus transportation only*)



PROGRAMS

FENCING

Beginner and Open Foil

General Info – The Willington Parks and Recreation Department will be offering a basic course in modern foil fencing (not theatrical fencing) this fall/winter. This session will have 12 classes and is available to male and females from age 9 to adult. This course is intended for students with no prior experience in fencing.

Modern fencing is an amateur sport consisting of three weapons; foil, saber and epee. Fencing can be enjoyed by men and women of all ages at many levels; from a recreational pastime to National and International Competition.

Instructor: Matt Green

Day: Saturdays

Dates: Session Begins January 21st-subject to change due to snow cancellations

Times: **Beginner Fencing:** 9:00 to 10:00 am

Open Fencing: 10:00 to 11:00 am

Location: Old Town Hall (Jared Sparks Rd, Willington)

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Fee: \$60.00/ Session (Session is 12 weeks)

Minimum of 5 needed to run - PREREGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

Equipment: The Parks & Recreation Department will have equipment available for use during class time. If you intend to purchase your own equipment please email piratedojo@gmail.com first to discuss requirements. NOTE: Old equipment may not be suitable for class use, please have any old equipment inspected before the class begins.

Students may wear sweat pants or knickers with full length socks (no shorts). A flat soled sneaker (indoor soccer shoes are good) or fencing shoe is best for footwear.

Registration: Space is limited; we will accept a maximum of 12 students.

Safety: Fencing equipment and safety rules will be strictly enforced. The Recreation Department will retain the right to remove students from the program if safety rules cannot be followed.



KARATE

Traditional Shaolin Kempo Karate and Jujitsu for all ages starting at 3 years old presented by Hidden Dragon II Karate. Hidden Dragon was awarded the 2008 National Marital Arts School of the Year. Sensei Dan, who is a member of the U.S.A. Martial Arts Hall of Fame and was awarded the Martial Arts Man of the Year by the same Hall of Fame, will teach the program with highly qualified assistant instructors.



Instructor: Sensei Dan Arnini

Day: Wednesday nights

Dates: Session 1: December 7th - January 11th (6 weeks)
Session 2: January 18th - February 22nd (6 weeks)
Session 3: February 29th - April 4th (6 weeks)

Time: 5:00 pm

Location: Mill Works, 156 River Road, Willington

Fee: \$40 per student payable to the Willington Parks and Recreation Department-WPRD

Once students have obtained the rank of Yellow Belt, students have the option to join the school full or part time, or leave the program. All new students are required to purchase Hidden Dragon Tee Shirts for \$15.00. Make checks payable to Hidden Dragon II.

KICKBOXING

Cardio-kickboxing is sweeping the nation because it takes the excitement, music, and energy of an aerobics class but you're learning self-defense techniques like punching, blocking, and kicking in an action packed workout. No belts, no uniforms, and no physical contact. It's one of the most fun ways to get into shape ever!



Instructor: Natasha Wilczewski

Day: Monday Nights

Dates: Session 1: Jan. 2nd - Feb. 6th
(no class 1/9/12 & 1/16/12)
Session 2: March 5th - April 9th

Time: 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Location: Center School, 12 Old Farms Road, Willington

Fee: Session 1: \$28.00 for 4 classes
Session 2: \$42.00 for 6 classes
Drop ins are welcome \$8.00 per class

Equipment: All students must bring their own mat and big towel-Parks and Rec has 3 mats for use.

Registration: Preregistration is required at the Park and Recreation Dept. Participation based on space availability. Must have 8 people to run program.

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Park & Rec. Programs

Get up! Get Out! Get Moving!

UConn FAMILY SKATE

Day: Sunday
Date: January 29th
Time: 5:45 - 6:45 pm

Ice skating rentals are available for a fee. No food or beverages are allowed to be brought inside.



VOLLEYBALL

Come play Adult Co-ed Volleyball at Hall Memorial School gymnasium. The program is available to all individuals ages 18 and out of high school. USVBA rules are followed and mastery of skills is encouraged. Space is limited to 21 players per night.

Day: Monday & Thursday nights - year round
Dates: The program runs year round
The next session begins August 29, 2011
Times: 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm (times subject to change during basketball Session - 1st week in November to 1st week in March)
Location: Hall Memorial School gymnasium on Route 32 in Willington

Registration Fees:

Resident-\$15.00 - 1 night; \$25.00 - 2 nights
Non-Resident-\$20.00 - 1 night; \$30.00 - 2 nights

Drop In Fees: (payable at Gym)

Resident - \$2.00 per night
Non Resident - \$3.00 per night



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Instructor: Sheri Henderson

Day: Tuesday Nights
Dates: Session 1: Dec. 13, 20, Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24
Session 2: March 6th - April 10th

Time: 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Location: Center School All Purpose Room - 12 Old Farms Road

Fees: Punch card for 6 classes: \$45.00
Drop ins \$10.00

Minimum of 10 LIMITED TO 40

OOPS! Sometimes despite our best efforts, a misprint may make its way into the Word. In this case, changes may be made to some of the programs listed. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Forms & Info

Go to www.willingtonct.org to download registration forms; get updated information on upcoming programs, events, and facility rental information!

Questions: Call Teri Gareau, Parks and Recreation Director at (860)487-3108 or email me at tgareau@willingtonct.org

Inclement weather Policy:

In the event of inclement weather, programs maybe cancelled, and a makeup date scheduled. If schools are closed, all programs will be cancelled. Notification will be placed on WFSB 3 TV.

Payment:

Payments may be made by check or cash. All checks should be made out to the Willington Parks and Recreation Department. Returned checks are subject to a \$20 service charge.

The Parks and Recreation Commission meet the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7PM in the Town Office-Selectman Conference Table.

Willington Youth, Family & Social Services
40 Old Farms Rd. Willington, CT 06279
Tel: 860-487-3118 • Fax: 860-487-3125

Office Hours:

Monday 12:30-7:30 p.m.

Tuesday - Friday 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

(Please call for an appointment to ensure prompt service)

wyfss@willingtonct.org
www.willingtonct.org

You've Got Mail!

Are you "hooked up" with Town of Willington Email alerts? The Town of Willington, in an effort to communicate more effectively with its' residents, offers email alerts on Board and Commission meeting agendas, meeting announcements, meeting minutes and other local events of interest. You can choose the Town department(s) or Boards and Commissions for which you would like to receive news and happenings. Visit the Town of Willington website at <http://willingtonct.virtualtownhall.net> and click "subscribe to news" to choose which items of interest for which you would like to start receiving emails. Town emails are a great way to get involved, get informed, and get active in the Town decision-making processes!



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TOWN OF WILLINGTON YOUTH & FAMILY PROGRAMMING

SURVIVING THE CHILL

Energy Assistance (CEAP & CHAP) - WYFSS is currently taking energy assistance applications through March of 2012. Whether you heat with oil, gas, wood or electric, you may qualify to get help paying for your heat this winter. If you would like information on income guidelines, how to qualify, or how to apply for energy assistance, please visit the Department of Social Services website at <http://www.ct.gov> or call WYFSS for quick answers to most commonly asked questions.



HUNGRY MOUTHS TO FEED

Food Share - Did you know that Willington has its very own Food Share mobile site? If your household is struggling to keep hungry mouths satisfied, join us at the Food Share Mobile Site located in the parking lot of the Willington Senior Center, 60 Old Farms Rd., Willington. Fresh produce and other perishable food goods are available to residents of any town every other Thursday of each month promptly at 9:00 a.m. There is no income verification required to receive food; only a very brief, one page registration form which can be filled out on site. For more information on food resources, please visit <http://www.endhungerct.org>



2011 BOY SCOUT/CUB SCOUT FOOD DRIVE: WHICH WAY DID THEY GO?

Did your food donation get accidentally overlooked by very busy Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts during the November 2011 food drive? The Willington Food Pantry needs and appreciates your generous donations! Please, if your food donation was inadvertently left behind on your porch or in your driveway, bring your donation to the Willington Town Office Building any time during our regular office hours. Thank you for your support! Also, many, many thanks to the hard-working scouts, parents, and leaders of both Troop 82 and Pack 82 for your continued support of the Willington Food Pantry!



Youth, Family & Social Services

FIRST NIAGARA BANK AND THE HOLIDAY TREE

Here is a holiday riddle for you: What does not break your family's budget, but brings a priceless smile to a child in your hometown? Answer: Taking one tag from the First Niagara Holiday tree and fulfilling a single child's holiday wish! Willington Youth, Family & Social Services, in grateful partnership with First Niagara Bank (Phelps Way Plaza in Willington) will once again place tags on the holiday tree located in the lobby of that bank. Each tag lists only one gift item, wanted by a child right here in Willington. Please help WYFSS fill the requests of needy children this holiday season: Take just one tag from our holiday tree and brighten the holiday season for one special child. Thank you



WYFSS "CHECK ON YOUR NEIGHBOR" CAMPAIGN 2011

Now here is a 2011 campaign that promises not to slander any one, yell in your face, or waste lots and lots of tax payer dollars on expensive TV spots! WYFSS is asking you to check on your very aged or otherwise vulnerable neighbors this cold season. A quick check-in can circumvent many distressing problems, as well as warm two hearts at the very same time. Now that is a Campaign promise you can count on!

KEEPING THE WHOLE FAMILY WELL

When Your Children Need Health Insurance - Today's health insurance market is complicated, to say the least. There are numerous options available to Connecticut parents to help ensure that their children get the health coverage they need. Husky A, Husky B, Medicaid, Medicare (for seniors and for children with serious disabilities), and the newest arrival, Medicaid for Low Income Adults (MLIA); each of these health insurance programs has its' own income and asset guidelines, and applications processes.

WYFSS can help your family reach an informed decision on which health coverage is right for you. Call Willington Youth & Family Services' CHOICES certified counselor for assistance at 860-487-3118.

Join the Fun!

Town of Willington Youth & Family Programming

Early Childhood Programming

Toddler Time - Our Toddler Time classes are designed especially for children ages 18 months to 4 years of age. This twice weekly classes are both local and affordable! Sign-ups for both the Music & Movement Class, as well as the Pre-School Activity Class has already begun, however, enrollment remains open throughout the entire school year. Come play and learn at the Willington Public Library (downstairs) on Tuesdays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. It's not too late, you can join any time! Call WYFSS at 860-487-3118 (or visit our homepage at www.willingtonct.org > Town Departments > Willington Youth, Family & Social Services) for more information. All towns are welcome to participate!

Caterpillar Club - This is a free program for children 18 months to 4 years of age and their caregivers / loved-ones. Both children and adults have the opportunity to socialize, play, and learn new things in our safe, local play group. Caterpillar Club is enrolling now, but enrollment remains open throughout the school year. Grab your Mom, Dad, Grandma or other loved one and meet us at the Willington Public Library (downstairs) at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday mornings. Join us any time and come when it fits your schedule! All towns are welcome to participate!





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Willington Public Library

INFORMATION

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 Phone: (860) 429-3854
 Fax: (860) 429-2136

HOURS:

Monday 11 am to 5 pm
 Tuesday 11 am to 8 pm
 Wednesday 11 am to 5 pm
 Thursday 11 am to 8 pm
 Friday 11 am to 5 pm
 Saturday 9 am to 3 pm
 Sunday CLOSED

www.willingtonpubliclibrary.org

STAFF



Library Director Roberta S. Passardi
 Library Assistant Margaret Gankofskie
 Library Programmer/Page Deb Linares
 Library Aide Brittany McDougal
 Library Page Kathy Lisiewski
 Library Page Andy Hart
 Maintenance Raymond Stewart

If there is anyone who would like to be notified through
 their e-mail address about upcoming programs and events,
 there is a form at the library you can fill out. You can also visit
 us on our website at www.willingtonpubliclibrary.org and
 don't forget to check out our video blog on Facebook!

The friends of the Willington Public Library will hold their
2ND ANNUAL WINE TASTING FUND RAISER in 2012.
 Date to be announced in early 2012. Watch for the date.

***All of us here, at the Willington Public Library, would like
 to wish you a happy and healthy holiday season!***

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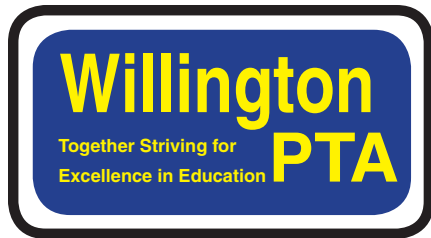
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Community Groups



We may not have welcomed Hurricane Irene to postpone the start of school this year, but we forged ahead, and the Willington PTA welcomed Students, Parents, Faculty, and Friends to the 2011-2012 school year at our Annual Ice Cream Social/Membership Drive (currently at 130 members)! We hope you enjoyed a delicious sundae served by the CES & HMS staff. If you are not a PTA Member yet, you still may join at anytime (\$10 for active members, \$20 for non-active members).



PTA Events, Fundraisers and Reminders

Meadowfarms & Butter Braid/Cookie Dough Fall Fundraiser

- At the time of this submission, funds raised are not yet totaled. Thank you for your support!



PTA Election Day Bake Sale - A heartfelt thank you to the bakers & volunteers who supported this event - despite Storm Alfred's power outages, YOU came through, and we met our goal to raise the \$800 that we have allocated to donate to the Willington Scholarship Foundation.

The PTA had been housing \$1100 encumbered specifically for **ACT Magnet School scholarships**. During the October PTA Membership Meeting, it was approved to transfer these funds to the Friends of Hall School Drama & Music Booster club, who will continue to use them for the purpose of ACT Magnet School Scholarships.

Center Elementary School Playground - Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! With your help, we have reached our goal of raising \$6000 to offset the cost of replacing the wooden playground. The new playground was installed in August and the children have been enjoying it immensely!

Thank you to the many individuals who made this possible and the following businesses and organizations:



Marquis Management
Landon's Tire
Super Stop and Shop
TA Travel Center
Bj's Wholesale Club
Alternate Spoke

Kid's Kingdom
Walmart Supercenter
HISCO Pumping
Mansfield Marketplace
Anything Printed
Willington Girl Scouts

Willington Boy Scouts - Pack 82
Circle of Friends Relay for Life Team

Upcoming Events:

Family Ice Skate @ UCONN Ice Rink

Sunday, December 4, 2011

1:45pm-2:45pm

Family Fun Candy Bar BINGO - TBD

Annual Father/Daughter Dance

Saturday, February 4, 2012



Upcoming PTA Meetings:

6:30pm Willington Public Library (On-site childcare provided)
December 15, 2011, January 19, 2012, February 16, 2012

We welcome your attendance at our meetings and new committees are forming. Remember only members may vote. You can join at anytime! Membership forms are available online.



Join our Facebook Group Page to stay current!

www.willingtonpta.com



2012 Fundraising Events Team "Circle of Friends"

March:

"Bus Trip to Mohegan Sun Casino"

More information to come!!!

Contact Carol at 860-487-5111

March 3rd:

"Chili Challenge" at the Willington Hill Fire Department. More details to come.

April 7th:

"Zumba for a Cure II": 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
at Hall Memorial Gym. \$30.00 per person.
Various instructors.

April:

"Town Office Plant Sale"

May 5th:

"Town Wide Tag Sale"

May:

"Cotton Candy Table at Willington Day"

June 8th and 9th:

"5th Annual Relay for Life" at Tolland High School

Community Groups/Public Works Department



WILLINGTON LITTLE LEAGUE

The winter clinic will be March 17-18, and March 24-25 at HMS. deadline for registration Feb. 15 Also we will have registration for Spring Ball as well as the Winter Clinic, on January 14, 21, and 28th from 9am-3pm at HMS.

MESSAGE FROM PUBLIC WORKS:

WFSB will announce all parking bans. Please remove all basketball hoops and obstructions in pathway of plows. Now is the time you should be repairing your mailboxes. The Town will not replace mailboxes unless actually hit by the snow plow, but not snow load.

As usual, sand and salt mix will be available at the Transfer Station to all residents during normal Transfer Station hours; maximum allotment is 1 - 5 gallon pail. Commercial use is prohibited.



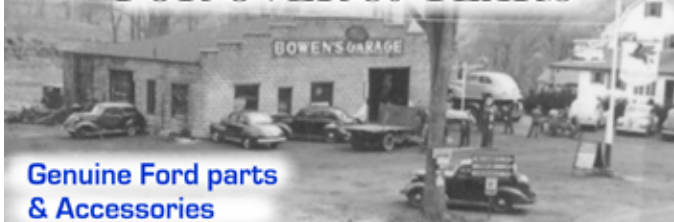
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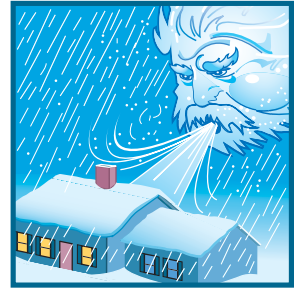
Storm Alfred Wrap Up

As everyone in town is well aware, we all endured a historic fall snowstorm on October 29th, 2011. Storm Alfred dumped at least 10-15 inches of heavy snow in Willington which brought down countless trees and utility poles and wires. Many roads were impassable for days and 100% of the town was without power following the storm. School was canceled for a week, trick-or-treating was postponed and some of our residents were out of power for a full 12 days.

Within hours of the storm, an emergency shelter was opened at Hall Memorial School. Cots were provided by the Red Cross, water and MRE's (Meals Ready to Eat) were provided by FEMA (and some delivered by the National Guard) and countless volunteers and town/school employees worked for days to serve our residents. While over 40 residents stayed overnight at the shelter at it's peak, hundreds of residents visited daily to get restoration information, water, hot meals, showers and to recharge their phones and check their email. We were very fortunate to have the school on a generator, which ended up running for 9 days and served the building and community very well.

Also within hours of the storm, the Emergency Operation Center was activated and after a brief analysis, it was decided to be located at the Fire Station on Rt. 32. However,

that location had some deficiencies as land line phones and power were lost and the station was running on generator power. The Fire Station on Old Farms Road had a land line phone, but no power and no radios that would allow an open line of communication with Public Works and state agencies. Neither of the schools nor the Town Office Building had power or phones and the internet server was down so it was near impossible to communicate with each other and residents in our usual ways.



It was clear that we needed to communicate with our residents and we quickly got signs up around town directing people to the shelter for information. We also managed to write, print and copy a public notice (using generator power) and had a copy delivered to every mailbox in town. This was thanks to many volunteers, particularly the Cub Scouts, who took this assignment and ran with it.

While we all struggled with the inconveniences and safety concerns that Alfred brought, it made me proud to see how many people came out to help their neighbors and community. From the homeowners clearing branches in the roads, to volunteers who worked the night shift at the shelter, to our dedicated Fire Fighters and our hard working Public Works crew, I saw example after example of why our town is such a great place to live.

In the coming weeks, we will be doing an analysis of what went right and what could have been better in our Town response efforts. We will also be sending suggestions to CL&P and the Governor. For now, please join me in thanking the many people who got us through this and please pass on your suggestions to the Board of Selectmen for our consideration.

Sincerely, Christina Mailhos



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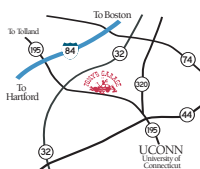


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