

# **Wilmington Wire**

**Community E-Newsletter**  
**January-March 2021**



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Cover Photo: Courtesy of Bob Shabot



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

New Year's Day  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
President's Day

Friday, January 1st  
Monday, January 18th  
Monday, February 15th



# Town of Willington Office Building Contacts

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

Business Hours—Monday 12:30 p.m.—7:30 p.m. / Tuesday—Friday 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

<b>First Selectwoman</b>	<b>Erika G. Wiecenski</b>	<b>860-487-3100</b>
Animal Control Officer	Tina Binheimer	860-428-4422
Assessor	Walter Topliff	860-487-3122
Building Inspector	Jim Rupert	860-487-3123
Business Manager	Donna Latincsics	860-487-3134
Elections Department	Christine Psathas & Suzanne Chapman	860-487-3120
Fire Marshal	Dick Palmer	860-429-7757
Human Services	Jennie Arpin	860-487-3118
Land Use	Michael D'Amato	860-487-3123
Parks & Recreation	<b>VACANT</b>	860-487-3108
Public Works	Troy Sposato	860-684-9313
Senior Center	Jennie Arpin	860-429-8321
Tax Collector	Janice Clauson	860-487-3111
Town Clerk	Robin Campbell	860-487-3121
Treasurer	Laurie Semprebon	860-487-3136

## Willington's Vision Statement

Willington is a community that seeks to preserve its rural character and protect its natural, historic and agricultural resources. At the same time, the community recognizes the need to balance the conservation of these resources with residential and business development to meet the needs of its citizens and promote long-term fiscal stability.

To achieve this vision and enhance the quality of life in the community, Willington will strive to:

- preserve and protect our environment,
- create social, educational, recreational, agricultural, economic and housing opportunities,
- balance conservation and development; and
- encourage civic involvement and interaction at the local and regional level.





# Boards & Commissions—Meeting Calendar—Jan, Feb & March

Board/Commission	Day	Date	Time
Board of Education	Tuesday	January 12th	7:00 p.m.
Board of Education	Tuesday	February 9th	7:00 p.m.
Board of Education	Tuesday	March 9th	7:00 p.m.
Board of Finance	Thursday	January 21st	7:00 p.m.
Board of Finance	Thursday	February 18th	7:00 p.m.
Board of Finance	Thursday	March 18th	7:00 p.m.
Board of Selectmen	Monday	January 4th	6:30 p.m.
Board of Selectmen	Tuesday	January 19th	6:30 p.m.
Board of Selectmen	Monday	February 1st	6:30 p.m.
Board of Selectmen	Tuesday	February 16th	6:30 p.m.
Board of Selectmen	Monday	March 1st	6:30 p.m.
Board of Selectmen	Monday	March 15th	6:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission	Wednesday	January 20th	7:00 p.m.
Historical Society	Tuesday	January 19th	7:00 p.m.
Historical Society	Tuesday	February 16th	7:00 p.m.
Historical Society	Tuesday	March 16th	7:00 p.m.
Inland Wetlands/Watercourses	Monday	January 25th	7:30 p.m.
Inland Wetlands/Watercourses	Monday	February 22nd	7:30 p.m.
Inland Wetlands/Watercourses	Monday	March 22nd	7:30 p.m.
Library Board of Directors	Monday	January 11th	7:00 p.m.
Library Board of Directors	Monday	February 8th	7:00 p.m.
Library Board of Directors	Monday	March 8th	7:00 p.m.
Parks & Recreation	Monday	January 25th	7:00 p.m.
Parks & Recreation	Monday	February 22nd	7:00 p.m.
Parks & Recreation	Monday	March 29th	7:00 p.m.
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	January 5th	7:30 p.m.
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	January 19th	7:30 p.m.
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	February 2nd	7:30 p.m.
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	February 16th	7:30 p.m.
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	March 2nd	7:30 p.m.
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	March 16th	7:30 p.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals	Thursday	January 14th	7:30 p.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals	Thursday	February 11th	7:30 p.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals	Thursday	March 11th	7:30 p.m.



## Boards & Commissions—Budget Calendar—Jan, Feb, March

Board/Commission	Day	Date	Time	Location
Board of Finance	Thursday	February 4th	7:00 p.m.	Virtual
Board of Finance	Thursday	February 11th	7:00 p.m.	Virtual
Board of Finance	Thursday	February 18th	7:00 p.m.	Virtual
Board of Finance	Thursday	February 25th	7:00 p.m.	Virtual
Board of Finance	Thursday	March 4th	7:00 p.m.	Virtual
Board of Finance	Thursday	March 11th	7:00 p.m.	Virtual
Board of Finance	Thursday	March 18th	7:00 p.m.	Virtual
Board of Finance	Tuesday	April 6th	7:00 p.m.	Virtual
Board of Finance	Tuesday	April 20th	7:00 p.m.	Virtual
Board of Selectmen	Monday	January 4th	5:30 p.m.	Virtual
Board of Selectmen	Monday	January 11th	6:30 p.m.	Virtual
Board of Selectmen	Tuesday	January 19th	5:30 p.m.	Virtual
Board of Selectmen	Monday	January 25th	6:30 p.m.	Virtual
Board of Selectmen	Monday	February 1st	5:30 p.m.	Virtual
Board of Selectmen	Monday	February 8th	6:30 p.m.	Virtual



**April 6th**

**Board of Finance Budget Hearing**

**April 20th**

**Annual Town Budget Meeting**

**May 4th**

**Referendum**



## First Selectwoman's Corner

Dear Willington Residents,

On behalf of the Board of Selectmen I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year!

Winter is probably the toughest season for Willington, and with the continuation of the pandemic it may be our toughest yet. Covid-19 vaccines began to be administered to across the state in December. We hope that soon access to a COVID-19 vaccine will be made to all and we can begin to transition back to a new normal.

Snow is always a winter challenge, but as always our Public Works crew stands ready to help us deal with whatever comes our way.

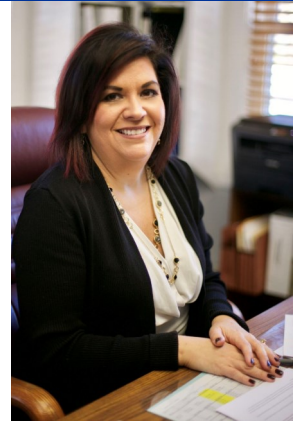
Another reason winter is tough for the Town Office staff is that it coincides with budget season and the many meetings that occur in January, February and March. What our many boards and department heads will be doing over the coming months is working together to find ways to maintain services and programs while minimizing any tax increase. We will be watching to see what the Governor's budget and effects of the COVID-19 pandemic mean for Willington. If you are interested in a particular town service, such as the library, public safety, human services, education, recreation, etc., please make contact with the boards that oversee these programs and let them know your concerns and suggestions as soon as possible. They may be able to incorporate your input as their budgets go before the Board of Finance for consideration. Please check the town website at [www.willingtonct.org](http://www.willingtonct.org) for meeting dates and times.

Selectwoman Liza Boritz, Selectman John Blessington and I are committed to continuing our work for all Willington residents. The Board of Selectmen meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30 pm. Our meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to join us in our virtual meetings until we can safely meet again in person.

The Town Office Building is currently closed to the public but remains fully staffed 12:30-7:30 pm on Mondays and 9-2:00 pm Tuesday-Friday. If your business absolutely requires your presence at the Town Hall, please call the office to schedule an appointment. I try to be available during office hours or by appointment. Although I am not currently holding in-person meetings, please call or email to share your concerns or ideas as we begin to plan farther into the future. I hope to see you out and about in Willington again soon, until then Stay Safe!

Warmest regards,

*Erika G. Wiczenski, First Selectwoman*



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

**Click the link below to view all recent meetings.**

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



On behalf of the Town of Willington, I would like to thank Walt and Linda West for their commitment and dedication for decorating and lighting the Evergreen Memorial Tree on our Town Green each and every holiday season for over 30 years.

While we were not able to have a community gathering to light the tree this year, please be sure to drive by to see Willington's beautiful Community Tree.

**Thank you, Walt, Linda & Family!**





## **Elderly/Totally Disabled Tax Relief Program**

Completed applications are due biannually by May 15, 2021. Anyone applying after April 15, 2021 must apply in person, be sure to call in advance for an appointment. We will be happy to assist you in filing your application. Please call in advance for an appointment so we may provide the time and attention necessary 860-487-3122.

To be eligible for such a tax credit:

- You or your spouse must be at least 65 years of age as of Dec 31, 2020 or over 18 and permanently and totally disabled per Social Security.
- You must be a permanent resident of the State of Connecticut. You must own the property or hold a tenancy for life or for a term of years, which makes the applicable liable for payment of taxes (CGS Sec. 12-48) as of October 1, 2020. The property must be the applicant's primary residence (domicile).
- Your 2020 income cannot exceed \$37,600 (single) or \$45,800 (married). Income definition: Qualifying income is defined as adjusted gross income for IRS purposes plus any other income not included in such adjusted gross income.
- You must provide the Assessor with a copy of your SSA 1099 for 2020, or its equivalent, from Social Security and your 2020 federal income tax return if you file one. The Assessor may require any other proof of income that may be necessary for the certification of the claim, such as interest/dividend statements and pension statements.

## **BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS NOTICE OF HEARINGS**

The Board of Assessment Appeals will meet during the month of March for the purpose of hearing appeals on the Grand List of October 1, 2020. Applications must be received by February 22, 2021. Dates and times of the hearings will be determined by the number of appeals received. Applicants will receive confirmation and notification of appointments by mail. Appeals will be heard only from those property owners filing written applications by the February 22<sup>nd</sup> deadline.

Walter E. Topliff Jr.  
Assessor  
[wtopliff@willingtonct.org](mailto:wtopliff@willingtonct.org) or 860-487-3122

Joan M. Oros  
Assistant Assessor  
[joros@willingtonct.org](mailto:joros@willingtonct.org) or 860-487-3122



# WELCOME!

**Please welcome the Town of Willington's Newest Employees!**

**Heather Sharpley, Selectmen's Office Administrative Assistant**  
**Joan Oros, Assistant Assessor**  
**Rachel Pierce, Assistant Town Clerk**

**Welcome Heather, Joan and Rachel!**

**We wish you all a long and happy career with the Town of Willington!**





# **Button Hill Senior Apartments**

***Affordable, One-Level Living***



- Your Private Front Door is at Ground Level
- Ample Parking Right at Your Front Door
- Heating, Cooling & Electricity Included
- Washer & Dryer in Every Apartment
- Recreation Area and Pet Friendly
- Easy Access to the Senior Center

**10-16 Senior Way, Willington, CT**

**Applicants must be 62 or older and  
meet certain income eligibility requirements**

For more information call our leasing office at:

**860-498-0268**



Visit us at **[www.buttonhill.com](http://www.buttonhill.com)**



***Call Us Now to Schedule Your Tour***





# Center Elementary School

## Kindergarten Registration



Center Elementary School asks parents and guardians to begin the Kindergarten registration process for children who will be 5 years old on or before Jan 1, 2022.

Please call the school at 860.429.9367 for more information. Orientation will occur in the spring of 2021.

## Conservation Commission



***Trail etiquette for the Covid 19 Pandemic: Please maintain appropriate social distancing at all times and in all areas of our parks and preserves. When on the trail, be prepared to step a safe distance off the trail to let other hikers pass. Have a mask available if you cannot maintain adequate distances. Thank you!***

Let the peaceful surroundings of water and woods and the exercise of a walk in our parks and preserves help alleviate the stresses and concerns of the difficult times we are living through.

Winter bestows a whole new look on the parks and preserves that Willington is fortunate to have. The lack of foliage reveals a multitude of landscape features - waterways, stone walls, hill sides and other views not visible during the rest of the year. Don't let snow stop you from getting some exercise on our great trails. Especially with a fresh snowfall, the forest landscape takes on a whole new perspective. If the snow is deep enough, the Recreation Department has snowshoes to loan if you don't have your own and you'd like to try that experience. Much of the time, though, it isn't long after a snowfall that other enthusiastic snowshoers and hikers have packed the trails enough to not need snowshoes. Most of the trails are also cross-country skiable with the Taylor Trail being the most skier-friendly. Depending on your fitness and skill level, you may have to walk a section or two on the others. As always, please be considerate of others and help us protect wildlife by keeping dogs on leashes.

The 300-acre Fenton-Ruby Park and Wildlife Preserve and Drobney Sanctuary on Moose Meadow Road has 4-plus miles of trails through woods, over ridges and along ponds and streams. A kiosk with maps is located at the parking area, and a box with nature trail guides is located a short distance down the Taylor Trail. Trail maps are now located at all trail intersections to help orient you if there are no maps at the kiosk or if you choose not to carry a paper map. The Ashford Link Trail now connects the Fenton-Ruby system to a 1-mile loop trail on the Langhammer Preserve in Ashford. This .1-mile link, shown on the trail maps, runs from the Ruby Trail to Lustig Road with the Ashford trail immediately across the road.

The 28-acre Talmadge Tract, which contains the Talmadge Spur Trail with 1 ½ and 2-mile loops, will take you through scenic woodlands and along gravel Mason Road. This tract abuts the 400-acre UConn Moss Forest Tract, and on the other side of Mason Road is the 138-acre Royal Knowlton Preserve. Several miles of the Connecticut Blue Trail (Nipmuck) run through this area, with a portion along the Fenton River as it flows through a deep ravine. The 3/4-mile Knowlton Spur Trail connects the Nipmuck Trail to the Talmadge Trail. Maps can usually be found at the sign at the Talmadge/Knowlton trailheads on Mason Road where there is now a parking area, and also at the sign where the Nipmuck crosses Mason Rd. Brochures and trail maps for both these areas can also be found at the Town Clerk's office and the library, and the same information is available for Fenton-Ruby on the Conservation Commission website (see below).

Joshua's Trust's Chenes Roches Preserve in north Willington also offers a great hike with many interesting landscape features. See a description under "Town Parks and Amenities".

If you are interested in taking an active part in helping the Town manage its environmental resources, the Commission has openings for two alternate members. Alternate members participate in meetings and may be seated as voting members in the absence of regular members. Anyone is welcome to attend our meetings in the lower level of the Town Office Building on the third Wednesday of every month. Contact Peter Andersen, Commission Chair, at 860-933-6380 or [andersen108@sbcglobal.net](mailto:andersen108@sbcglobal.net), or Kathy Demers, Commission Vice-Chair, at 860-377-6416 or [kdemers48@gmail.com](mailto:kdemers48@gmail.com) for more information. Please visit the Conservation Commission website under "Boards and Commissions" on the Town of Willington home page, [www.willingtonct.org](http://www.willingtonct.org), for information on conservation issues, programs and links to other websites.

Last, we would be happy to hear any comments you may have about your experiences regarding Willington's outdoor resources. Enjoy!





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

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

Performing Arts



THE PACKING HOUSE

1870

HISTORIC VENUE FOR PERFORMANCE & EVENTS

[thepackinghouse.us](http://thepackinghouse.us)

## "A New Beginning"

Our last live performance at The Packing House was March 7<sup>th</sup> with singer songwriter Libby Johnson and opener Curtis Brand. It has been more than six months since EC-CHAP has shared details with our *Willington Wire* community, and we are happy to have this opportunity to do so in this first quarter issue of 2021.

## THE PACKING HOUSE

The Packing House will reopen on some future date in 2021. We have tentatively scheduled live performances with several outstanding artists, and are planning a series of live virtual performances as well. If you have not subscribed to our newsletter please do so at: [www.thepackinghouse.us](http://www.thepackinghouse.us) and visit our [website](#) for upcoming programming.

EC-CHAP's **Talent Showcase** was normally scheduled at The Packing House on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, October through June. Our Talent Showcase is designed as a platform for performers to share their talent in front of a live audience.

Since we haven't been able to be together, we have been offering a monthly *Virtual Talent Showcase by live streaming pre-recorded video segments by local and regional artists on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month beginning in July. We plan to continue this online offering until we can meet again. For information about our Talent Showcase, please visit our [website](#), or call 518-791-9474 for instructions to submit your video (we must receive your video submissions a week before the live stream).*

As always, acoustic musicians, film makers, poets, comedians, jugglers, puppeteers, and creative artists of all ages are invited to perform at The Packing House. Here is an opportunity to showcase your work together with other creatives STREAMING LIVE in our VIRTUAL SETTING. Test ideas and concepts; receive comments.

We are pleased to offer our exclusive "BYOB&F" model - Bring Your Own Beverage & Food available in the comfort of your own home! You can also pick-up a pizza pie (or have delivered within 10-miles) from [Willington Pizza House](#) (or WP Too). We recommend "The Packing House" pizza! Click [HERE](#) for secret recipe.

## DYE & BLEACH HOUSE COMMUNITY GALLERY

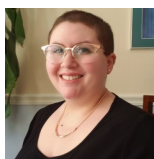
As part of Connecticut's Phase-2 Reopening Plan, the Dye & Bleach House Community Gallery reopened on August 22<sup>nd</sup> with the continuation of "*E.O. Smith Meets EC-CHAP*", a group show displaying works of students, faculty and staff from E.O. Smith High School. This was followed by a solo show entitled "*Healing*" by former Artist-In-Residence, Rebecca Zablocki (September 5<sup>th</sup> – October 24<sup>th</sup>).

The current exhibit, "*Transition*", features two regional artists: [PR Blackman](#) and [Rachel Clark](#). Please consider visiting us to view this unique display of wood and mixed media. The Dye & Bleach House Community Gallery is open Saturdays from 10:00am to 2:00pm. EC-CHAP requires strict compliance of COVID-19 Guidelines (masks, social distancing, and mandatory sign-in).

## GARDINER HALL JR HISTORY MUSEUM

The Gardiner Hall Jr History Museum reopened on September 19<sup>th</sup> with new artifacts on display. The museum continues its mission to raise awareness of local and regional history and preservation of assets. Our focus is the period from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century to present. The Gardiner Hall Jr History Museum is also open Saturdays from 10:00am to 2:00pm. COVID-19 Guidelines apply.

## INTRODUCING EC-CHAP'S NEW ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE



Please join us in welcoming EC-CHAP's new Artist-In-Residence, Tyana Lopez. Tyana was introduced to EC-CHAP through a 10-week Artist Workforce Initiative internship administered by the CT Office of the Arts. Her graphic designs and creative projects will be visible to the public as we resume our performance schedule in The Packing House. Artist Posters, T-Shirt, and Banner designs will soon be transferred to promotional products and fixtures.

Tyana Lopez is a 27 year old artist born and raised in eastern CT. Her art rarely focuses on one subject or genre, in fact she takes great pleasure learning as many art forms as she can. Currently, her work is directed towards her small business Jurassic Gems, where she uses her artistic talents to create crystal and fossil jewelry. Alongside this, she also has plans to create an abstract series of self portraits that depict the human emotional experience.

Tyana is a passionate creator who believes there is always something new to learn, and a new way to use that knowledge to create something beautiful. In her past she has experimented with pottery, sculpture, costume design and fabrication, oil painting, and textile art, just to name a few. Her goal is to use bits and pieces of each to inform her own pieces and take them in new and interesting directions.

## IN CLOSING...

Crossing over into a new year seems to have a different meaning in the present environment. By the time you read this article, the December holidays and celebrations would likely be in our "rear view" - and our vision for a new beginning and a sense of normalcy will be front and center.

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



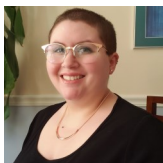
## EC-CHAP Continued...



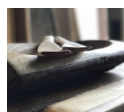
### COLD WEATHER AND WARM GREETINGS

By: Tyana Lopez

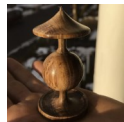
#### Visual Arts



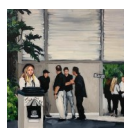
As the weather grows cold and we begin a new year, the Dye & Bleach House Community Gallery would like to wish everyone good health and happiness. Even in these trying times, when we cannot always be together in the sense we would like, it's important to connect to those you love. For instance, Secret Santa and family zoom calls can be fantastic ways to bridge the gap. We here at the Gallery always focus heavily on the Community portion of our name. Community is a driving force for our artists and shows. We would love it if you would consider supporting the local artists around you by giving your loved ones a fantastic piece of art from one of our shows! A gift of art is a gift made with love and time. This month we are celebrating the work of regional artists [PR Blackman](#) and [Rachel Clark](#). These two artists have come together in a show that exemplifies their individual talents and compliment each other's work.



PR Blackman is a licensed Arborist and accomplished Artist from the hills of Litchfield County, Connecticut. His organic, hand carved forms emphasize the beauty of nature blended with function. PR uses refurbished traditional and contemporary hand and power tools to craft large hardscape installations, furniture, utensils, home décor and jewelry. In this show, PR exhibits his magnificent woodworking skills with an assortment of handcrafted pieces. Bowls, walking staves, and utensils line the walls of our gallery, showing off a variety of textures and shapes.



Rachel Clark received her BFA in 2008 from the School of Fine Arts at the University of Connecticut where she studied painting and printmaking. Her chosen media and method vary depending on what ideas have her current interest, from small gouache studies to large oil paintings that evoke a sense of narrative and place. Clay, cardboard and glue have also been useful tools for her artistic investigation! She often finds within her daily artistic practice that new questions arise as she works, and this motivates her to keep exploring.



When creating a painting, she is fascinated by the strange ways our world arranges itself—how shapes compose themselves, fit into, and push against one another. In her imagery, she looks for the implied connections between objects, people, and their environments. She thinks a lot about the way people create space for themselves and others in this world. She is fascinated by spaces where people have been or will be, and by the way our personalities and character imprint on the structures we occupy. Although the buildings and rooms she paints are inanimate, she thinks of her paintings as portraits—they are personal and feel familiar in the way of close friends, even if you have never been there before.

These two artists come together for a spectacular show, embodying humanity through structured and organic likeness. This contrast is heightened by the physical nature of PR's wooden pieces, next to the emotion filled paintings that Rachel has created. As they co-exist, it illustrates a spectrum of human emotion and experience that is sure to wow any viewer.

The Dye and Bleach House Community Gallery welcomes all to visit our facility, which is open under CDC and CT state guidelines on Saturdays from 10am to 2pm or by appointment. We request that all visitors wear a mask and stay 6ft distant while they visit and enjoy a variety of art, including sculpture, painting, and crafts. We are located at 156 River Road in Willington, CT. Check out our website or social media for announcements and information regarding opening hours or closures: [www.ec-chap.org](http://www.ec-chap.org).

As we usher in the New Year, the Dye and Bleach House Community Gallery encourages all local and regional artists alike to participate in our gallery shows! Whether you are a beginner, or an experienced professional, we would love to show your work. Consider a New Year's resolution to add a gallery show to your resume! We love finding new and exciting art to fill our space, and our next feature could be you. If you are interested in joining us in showing art for the new year, please contact us at [CommunityGallery@ecchap.org](mailto:CommunityGallery@ecchap.org).

***Tyana Lopez is a freelance artist, the EC-CHAP Artist-In-Residence, and Director, Dye & Bleach House Community Gallery***



### FALL 2020 ENHANCEMENT A CANVAS OF HISTORY & SOCIAL CHANGE

By: EC-CHAP

It has been a year since the completion of the 200-foot mural located along Route 32 (River Road) in South Willington. This mural entitled, *A Canvas of History & Social Change depicts an historical timeline of the creativity and innovation that took place at The Mill Works facility, home of EC-CHAP, over the past 160-years.*

This mural was funded in part by CT DECD, Office of the Arts, with the remaining funding from a benefit concert featuring Tom Rush and Matt Nakoa. The year-long project required hours of planning; historic research; design recommendations by a regional Community Engagement Team; support from our colleagues at Sherwin-Williams; and the artistic talent of muralist Christopher Gunderson. You can view our short video, *"The Story Behind the Canvas"*, which describes the historical content and making of the mural by visiting our website, <https://www.ec-chap.org/acanvas>.

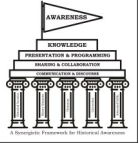


This fall, Chris Gunderson completed enhancements to the mural, adding detail and color to the content of the image. A team of volunteers came together and applied a clear protective coating to the entire area in an effort to better preserve this work from deterioration by the elements.



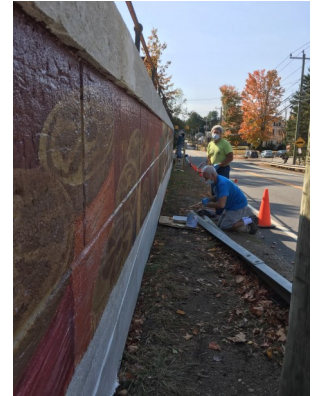


## EC-CHAP Continued...

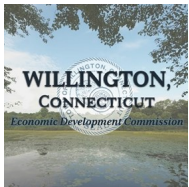


You can't miss this project on the east side of the road as you drive slowly along your route. We invite you to view this mural more closely and safely by parking in the lot on the west side of the road, using the cross walk, and walking up the sidewalk to the mural. While on site, consider visiting the Dye & Bleach House Community Gallery and Gardiner Hall Jr History Museum!

We would like to share that we plan to develop and offer a virtual programming component to the Museum. Over time, we envision this to include an historical lecture series, tours, and documentaries. We will also be revisiting our "Framework for Historic Awareness" to foster collaboration and resource sharing among historians and historical institutions. If you're interested in learning more, please email [info@ec-chap.org](mailto:info@ec-chap.org), or call 518-791-9474.



## Economic Development Commission



The Willington Economic Development Commission has recently launched a new website and [Facebook](#) page. Business resources, EDC contact information and a Town-wide business directory can be found at [www.willingtonbusiness.com](http://www.willingtonbusiness.com). The EDC stands ready to assist current and future business owners in Town and encourages anyone to reach out and get in touch with the Commission if they need assistance, have ideas or would like to become involved.



# Elections Department



Please check the Elections Department's website for up-to-date voting event and voter registration information – click on the "Elections Department" link from the Town's main webpage.

Beginning in January, we will be conducting the annual state-mandated canvass of voters. If you receive a canvass letter, please follow the instructions, fill out the necessary information and return the letter to our office as soon as possible. A stamped, self-addressed envelope will be enclosed for your convenience.

If you receive a canvass letter and you still reside in Willington, please read through the letter to confirm that the information is correct, check the box "I still live at the address shown on this form" and return the letter. A stamped, self-addressed envelope will be enclosed for your convenience.

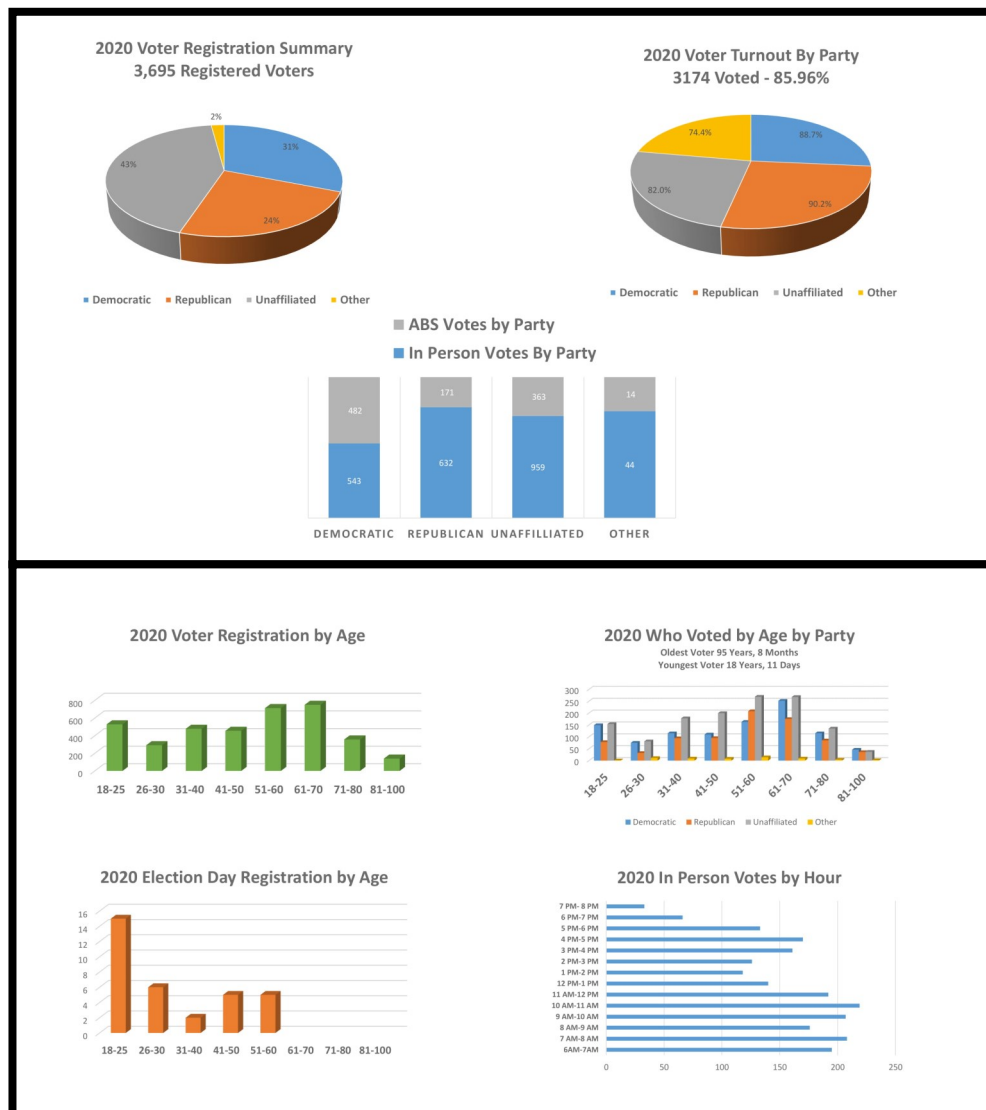
If you receive a letter addressed to someone who no longer lives at that address, please make that notation on the unopened envelope and place back into the mail. The letter will be returned to us and we will take action as is necessary.

If there are any changes to your name, residential address or mailing address, please note changes on the canvass letter. This information helps us to maintain an accurate voter registration list. **Do not risk a change in your voting status, return the canvass letter as soon as possible.**

Registering to vote is quick, easy and available online – go to [voterregistration.ct.gov](https://voterregistration.ct.gov). This site coordinates with the Department of Motor Vehicles, so have your current Connecticut driver's license or state-issued ID with you when applying.

If you have any questions, call 860 487.3120 and leave a message.

**Suzanne G. Chapman and Christine Psathas**  
Registrars of Voters  
Elections Department



## Fire Marshal

The winter is upon us and many of us are already using alternate heating appliances that are using different types of fuels like wood, wood pellets, propane gas, and electrical. In reviewing these appliances, safety is the utmost concern, and their pretty basic.

Keep them clean and combustibles away. All wood stoves require minimum clearances of 3-feet around and above, chimneys depending on the wood you are burning. They need to be inspected frequently, and cleaned as needed. The pellet stoves follow the same requirements as the wood stoves, clear distances, chimney inspection for cleanliness.

When they are installed, the manufacture has the installation instructions. They must be followed to the T. Many insurance companies upon learning you are using an alternate heating appliance will require a certificate of inspection to ensure that the appliance is installed properly.

Not only do we see chimney fires during this period from the build up of creosote, but more importantly, when ashes are removed from the fire box after a few days of not burning, residents tend to place them inside cardboard boxes or paper bags, they placed on the porch, garage, and outside on the ground. There are still embers glowing inside of the ash, and shortly there after disturbing them, the container, unless it is metal, will ignite.

**Please use a metal container with a metal cover, placed outside away from combustibles.**

As you are using combustible fuels they do produce Carbon Monoxide gases. Always use a Carbon Monoxide detector near those appliances and near the sleeping areas.

Any questions or concerns please contact my office at 860-429-7757.

**Dick Palmer, Fire Marshal**  
[dpalmer@willingtonct.org](mailto:dpalmer@willingtonct.org)

## Historical Society



Here at the Society we're looking toward 2021 for a lot of reasons. With 2020 having pushed everyone and everything to the breaking point, the hope is that the new year will offer a little more breathing space to move on with a more normal pace.

For starters, the Society is hoping to start fundraising to help implement the necessary code compliance changes at the Glazier Tavern. The necessary work includes: a handicap accessible entrance at the rear of the building; two ramps; widening five doorways; an accessible parking space; accessible signage; egress lighting and an accessible family use toilet room. The estimate of these change-of-use code compliance items is approximately \$15,000. At present, the Society has not been able to identify any matching grant opportunities to help offset the cost of this necessary project, although we continue to look for those opportunities. Any donations to assist with this project are welcomed and are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law, as the Willington Historical Society is a designated IRS 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The identified compliance changes will allow for greater use of the building by the Society and would allow us to offer the space for use by both public and private groups.

During the interim of our Covid-19 restrictions, until the public can be invited back into the tavern building, the Society has begun planning for an exhibit, highlighting the life of Willington native Jared Sparks (1789-1866). We hope to touch on his various life achievements as an editor, historian, minister, teacher and President of Harvard College. While starting with his impoverished beginnings in Willington and ending with his death in Cambridge MA. We hope to clarify the questions surrounding his early years in Willington, his journey to Massachusetts and on to a predominant position in American History.

With cold winter weather, comes time to work inside at the Tavern, although individually. The hope is to continue finishing the walls and woodwork in the taproom area. This work was started in 2019 and managed to get the walls enclosed and some preliminary woodworking done. Moving forward, if anyone has a knowledge of painting faux wood gaining, we could use your help bringing several period doors back to life.

Our 1850's three hole privy is in need of a caring carpenter(s) to extend its well being. If you would like a small historical project, this could be the one! This is a Willington original from Polster Road. We would like to restore it to near working condition.

The Society is looking to add older US flags to our archive.

The Willington Historical Society continues to be dependent on volunteers, members' dues, and donations. That means we depend on you, our fellow townspeople, neighbors, and friends to keep the Society active and moving forward. During this period of quarantine our expenses have continued, but our cash flow has trickled to a halt.





## Historical Society Continued...

Please consider renewing your membership or sending a donation today! You may accomplish this through the PayPal link on our website at: [www.willingtonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.willingtonhistoricalsociety.org) , or by mailing a check made out to Willington Historical Society, P.O. Box 214, Willington, CT 06279. The Society is a designated 501(c)3 non-profit organization and donations are deductible as provided by law.

Cash and time are not the only gifts that help keep our organization viable. Please consider donating items, such as photographs, programs, memorabilia relating to our Town; 19<sup>th</sup> century tools, kitchen items or furniture, to the Society... instead of to the bins at the Transfer Station. The Transfer Station ships our history, by bits and pieces, out of town. Instead, these items may better help tell and support Willington's historical story.

Questions and comments may be sent to our email at: [willingtonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:willingtonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

Like us on Facebook! And follow late breaking news of events, projects, and ideas!

Final Thought:

**Consider becoming an active member or a volunteer.**

We need your help with these projects.

- Tavern preservation
- Yard and Grounds
- Archive maintenance
- Programing and Publicity

Join us as we move forward but keep our eyes on the past!

## Human Services



**THANK YOU!** The Department of Human Services wants to extend a heartfelt thank you to all have donated to holiday programs, as well as all to the Scouting for Food drive and Gobble Gobble Give during this past year! Our scouts collected 6,683 items and you donated 45 turkeys! We appreciate all you do- we couldn't do it without your support!



**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 currently operating by appointment only.



**MOBILE FOODSHARE** - Please note NEW LOCATION!~ Bringing produce, breads, and on occasion, meats and more to Willington residents. The Foodshare truck comes every other Wednesday from 11-11:30 in back of the Town Office building, 40 Old Farms Road. Bring plenty of bags or boxes.



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



**DRIVE THROUGH FOOD DISTRIBUTION** - Offering food, household items, and masks for adults and children, FREE for all residents! Swing by the Town Offices the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month between 10am and noon- please bring your ID.



**DONATIONS MADE EASY** - We now have a big blue Donation box out back of the Town Offices! Drop your canned and dry goods in the box for the Willington Food Pantry. Food Only, please!



**MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES** - We have many canes, walkers, shower seats, and other supplies for our residents who might need them. Contact our office if you would like to use any of our medical equipment or supplies. Due to storage limitations, no donations are being accepted at this time.



**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!



# Parks & Recreation



River Road Athletic Complex Playground, Swings and Outdoor Fitness Equipment are open for your use. *When in public and a six-foot distance is unavoidable, face coverings are required to be worn. This does not apply to anyone for whom doing so would be contrary to their health because of a medical condition.*

Our local parks, trails and open spaces have always served as places where people can find respite and seek peace and restoration. During this time of uncertainty, these places are needed now more than ever. PLEASE...

- Refrain from using parks and trails if you are exhibiting any flu like symptoms.
- Follow the CDC's guidance on personal hygiene prior to and during use of parks or trails.
- While on trails, warn other users of your presence and step aside to let others pass.
- Follow CDC guidance on the recommended size of social gatherings including outdoor picnicking, pick-up sports and other group hangouts, and maintain proper physical distance at all times.
- Observe CDC's minimum recommended social distancing of 6-feet from other individuals at all times. If this is not possible, users should find an alternate location or depart that space.

## PLEASE USE OUR PARKS AND TRAILS RESPONSIBLY

### Snowshoe Loaner Program



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

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

**Reserve a pair today!!**

### WEDNESDAYS *IN THE* PARK

*Willington's Summer Concert Series*

**It's only January BUT we are already preparing a great concert line-up for you!! In order to make this happen, we need your help. Please consider sponsoring a concert... every dollar counts!**

**\*\*Click [HERE](#) to sponsor\*\***

### 3rd Annual Holiday Wreath Giveaway



Although we were not able to hold our holiday tree program, we were able to hold our Holiday Wreath Giveaway!! We had twelve wreaths that were sponsored by a local group/family, beautifully decorated and then delivered to a Willington family in need.

Thank you to the following groups/families for your kindness and generosity and for sharing the true meaning of **Community**...

The Ensign Family / ANGEL POND creations

The Greenwood Family

Bob Shabot and Christine Psathas

Willington Crochet Ladies

Zira Brahimi, Elizabeth Ladd, Jacob Dionne, and Avery Scelfo—"The Little Yogis of Clint Eldredge"

Willington Garden Club

Willington Local Prevention Council

Willington Parks & Recreation

Willington Republican Town Committee





## Parks & Recreation Continued...

### 3rd Annual Holiday Wreath Giveaway



The Ensign Family  
ANGEL POND creations



Wilmington Garden Club



Wilmington Crochet Ladies



Christine Psathas  
& Bob Shabot



Wilmington Local  
Prevention Council



Wilmington Republican  
Town Committee



The Greenwood Family



Zira Brahimi, Elizabeth Ladd,  
Jacob Dionne, and Avery Scelfo  
"The Little Yogis of Clint Eldredge"



Wilmington Parks & Recreation





## Parks & Recreation Continued...



Willington Parks & Recreation



Willington Parks & Recreation



Willington Parks & Recreation

### 911 Reflective Address Signs

#### *The First Step to Providing Emergency Services is Finding Your House*

Makes checks payable to: WPRD (Willington Parks & Recreation Department) and mail to 40 Old Farms Road, Willington CT 06279.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address Number Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Horizontal: \_\_\_\_\_ Vertical: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$12.00  
\$10.00 Seniors

**Signs are highly visible both day and night!!**

Completed signs must be picked up at the  
Parks & Recreation Department.



**Help keep our parks clean and PLEASE pick up after your pets.**

## Parks & Recreation Continued...

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the winners of our 1st *Fall-O-Ween House Decorating Contest!!!*



**Turkey Scavenger Hunt at River Road Athletic Complex and Fenton-Ruby Park**  
**Thanks to all who helped us round up all of those turkeys!!**



## Parks & Recreation Continued...



### Virtual Gingerbread House Competition

Congratulations to the following for receiving the most votes in our **1st Virtual Gingerbread House Competition**. **CONGRATULATIONS!!!** Please see all of the submissions on our [Facebook Page](#). Each and every one was so creative, unique and AMAZING!!!

Youth: "The Christmas Cabin" by Ellarie Stevens



Adult: "Pirates of the North Pole: Santa Sets Sail" by Jocelyn Bolduc



Family: "The Gnome Home" by Judy Marco and granddaughter, Zira Brahimi



### A Holiday Light Tour



A special thank you to each and every family that participated in our 1st **Tour of Holiday Lights!!** You made our holiday season extra special and so much brighter!!

If you took the tour, you know how difficult it was to choose a winner BUT we had to choose one home for each category. We announced the winners on Monday, December 21st. Congratulations to the following...

**Best Traditional: 28 Laurel Drive**

**Best Animated: 27 Fermier Road**

**Best Overall: 222 Willington Hill Road**

**CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

Please see photos of the homes on our [Facebook Page](#). The photos do not do these homes justice so I hope you were able to make it out to see them all.





# Public Works



49 Hancock Road, Willington CT 06279

860-684-9313

Public.works@willingtonct.org

**Public Works:** the office will remain closed to the public but can be contacted at 860-684-9313 with any questions and/or emergencies. The staff will continue to work their normal hours but will maintain a safe distance from all residents for everyone's health and safety.

**Transfer Station:** will maintain normal business hours on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 8:15-3:45 p.m. Beginning on July 1st, the transfer station will accept all items including items where a fee is charged such as tires, refrigerators, mattresses, etc. **For your safety, the Swap Shed will remain closed until further notice.**

**For the safety of our staff and residents, please practice social distancing at all times, remaining 6-feet away from others and wear a mask. Staff will not be able to assist residents with their trash removal. For the time being, all bottles and cans should be placed in the recycling bin.**

**During the winter months, Daleville Road through the State Forest, will not be receiving winter service.**

**Snow Removal Ordinance** Volume 6, Page 81: Pursuant to Section 7-148(15), Connecticut General Statutes, use of Town roads is restricted as follows:

- No person shall deposit any snow or ice onto the traveled portion of any Town road. Any person found guilty of a violation of this section shall be fined fifty (\$50) dollars by the Board of Selectman or the Public Works Director.

This includes the draining of water from sump pumps and/or other property drainage. Besides the Town fine, residents are also liable for damage to the road and any accidents that may occur as a result of water, ice or snow deposited on the roads.

**Winter Parking Ban:** A parking ban is in effect during snow storms. Cars parked on Town roads overnight may be towed at the owner's expense. Tune to WFSB (CBS) or WVIT (NBC) for parking ban information.

**Mailboxes:** Your mailbox should be in good repair, firmly attached to a solid post and properly placed so no part of it is over the pavement. It will have to withstand countless tons of flying snow this winter and may require periodic maintenance. If a mailbox or post is pushed over or damaged as a result of snow or slush coming off a snowplow, it is considered a winter hazard and the Town will not repair or replace the mailbox or post. The height of the bottom of the mailbox to the street should be between 42" – 48" and the mailbox door should be 6 to 8 inches back from the front face of the curb or road edge. In the event a Town plow hits a mailbox, it will be repaired by the Public Works Department.

**Portable Basketball Hoops:** Portable basketball hoops and similar items should NOT be in the Town right-of-way. The Town is not responsible for damage done by plows to such items left in the Town right-of-way.

**Catch Basins and Storm Inlets:** Do not blow leaves into catch basins or storm inlets. Help minimize street flooding by blowing leaves or shoveling snow and ice from in front of the storm inlet nearest your house. This includes keeping catch basin grates free of leaves and other debris all year long!

## ***Please remember:***

- A parking ban is in effect during all snow storms. Cars parked on Town roads overnight may be towed at the owner's expense.
- Depositing snow or ice on Town roads during or after private driveway plowing is prohibited by Town Ordinance.
- Sand and salt are available to residents at the Transfer Station on Hancock Road and is limited to two 5-gallon buckets per storm.
- Do not allow children to play or tunnel in roadside snow banks as they are subject to plowing and snow removal by heavy equipment.
- During winter storms, stay off the roads whenever possible and use caution if you must travel.
- Keep windows clear of snow, ice and fog. Check tires, wipers, headlights and hazard lights and your vehicle's battery.
- Keep an ice scraper, flashlight and gloves in the car, along with a small container of sand a shovel and a few warning flares.
- Keeping your fuel tank above half full reduces condensation in the fuel tank and dry gas can reduce the amount of water in the fuel.

**For snow related problems or more information, please call the Willington Public Works Department at 860-684-9313. Expect delays during inclement weather.**



# Science Corner with Emily

## Sustainability



I decided to do something a little different with this article and share with you some steps I have been taking to live a more sustainable life. As we head into the winter months it is a little more challenging to acquire fresh and local produce. There are farmers markets in Coventry (Sunday 11-2 through February), Storrs (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday 3-5 through April) and Ashford (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday 11-2 through April) but if you have a busy schedule like me, sometimes it is difficult to venture out of town on the weekend.

Last year I was on the hunt for a solution and discovered [Misfit Market](#). Located in Philadelphia and New Jersey their mission is to reduce food waste by providing people with fresh and affordable “misfit” produce. Each box contains organic fruits and vegetables that may not necessarily look aesthetically pleasing but taste just as good. I personally order the smaller box every other week which contains 12 different types of produce and is generally enough to last me those two weeks. Another plus is the packaging is 100% biodegradable and recyclable!

Now that I have my vegetables covered, I’m excited to share this next service I have found. [The Modern Milkman](#)! Finally servicing Willington, the Modern Milkman delivers fresh eggs, milk, yogurt, cheese, sour cream, bread, dip, cottage cheese, cookies and granola straight to your door from local farms and businesses in the Ellington area. The service offers 4, 6, or 8 products delivered weekly with the option to skip a week if you happen to be out of town.

The missing piece was finding somewhere local and affordable to purchase meat. I had originally looked into [Butcher Box](#) but the price per pound was more than I wanted to spend, and although the quality is top shelf, it still isn’t local. I turned to Facebook to see how others were finding local meat and was pleasantly surprised to find two locations close to home. [Valley View Farms](#) located in Stafford sells USDA certified beef that is raised on the farm along with other local meats, eggs, maple syrup, honey, homemade pasta and pierogis. The second location also in Stafford, [New England Meat Packing](#), offers online ordering, free delivery within 20 miles for orders over \$100 and a variety of USDA inspected beef, chicken, lamb and goat.

Lastly, if you’re wondering how I have been surviving without bread products, the answer is I haven’t! I turned to YouTube and started making my own bread. I started off small with simple but delicious recipes and have now stepped into the world of sourdough. I made the started myself over the course of a couple weeks and so far used it to make buns, pizza dough, pancakes and waffles. I’ve really enjoyed the process and of course the end results. Living in a condo makes living totally sustainably quite difficult given the limited space and resources. However, making small changes in day to day life such as how you acquire your food can make a huge difference in the end. Not to mention I’ve found I appreciate the food I am eating more now I know mostly where it has come from. I hope you find this article helpful and if you have any questions or would like the direct links to these companies feel free to email me: [emperko@outlook.com](mailto:emperko@outlook.com)

I hope you all have a great winter, I am already looking forward to the spring article!

-Emily Perko



# Tax Collector



**Property Tax Bill Reminders and Motor Vehicle Supplemental Bills have been mailed  
2<sup>nd</sup> Installment & MVS Due by April 1, 2021**

Greetings Willington Residents:

Due to COVID-19, the Town Office Building is still closed to the public until further notice.

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

If you need to make your payment in person, this will be done by appointment only. Please call the Revenue Department at (860)487-3111 to set up a time to come in.

In compliance with State of CT Executive Orders 9R, the Town of Willington has chosen to extend the grace period in which bills can be paid without penalty to April 1, 2021, excluding real estate accounts that are escrowed and Landlords. This means that, while taxes are due on January 1, 2021, no 2019 Grand List bill will be charged interest until April 2, 2021. Interest will still be charged after April 1 at the state mandated rate of 1.5% per month or 18% per year. Any 2019 Grand List bill not paid by April 1 will be charged 6% interest (4 months due). **Please note that interest cannot be waived per CT State Statute 12-146.**

I thank you all in advance for bearing with us while we navigate these murky waters. We're doing our best to make sure the staff, and residents alike, stay as safe as possible during this time.

## How can I pay My Bill?

The Revenue Office accepts cash, money orders or personal checks for payment at the office. If our office is closed, you can leave a check in our Drop Box outside the front door of the building. Our mailing address is 40 Old Farms Rd, Willington CT 06279 if you want to mail in a payment. Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope, if you would like a receipt mailed back to you. You may also pay on line at [www.willingtonct.org](http://www.willingtonct.org) and click on "OnLine Payments" under the "Citizen Action Center". There is a convenience fee of 2.95% for credit cards and \$1.95 for EFT.

## Why did I get a motor vehicle tax bill in December?

This is your motor vehicle supplemental bill. This bill was generated because you were issued a new motor vehicle registration, or have transferred an existing registration, at some time after Oct. 1, 2019, but before Sept. 30, 2020. You are being billed only for the number of months from your registration date until the end of the assessment year.

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

Payments due January 1, 2021 must be received, or postmarked, no later than Thursday, April 1, 2021. 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.**

## WISHING EVERYONE A HEALTHY, HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

Janice C. Clauson  
Revenue Collector  
860-487-3111

Michele Cyr  
Assistant Revenue Collector  
860-487-3111

# Town Clerk

Happy New Year!

The Town Office Building is still closed to the public until further notice. Rachel Pierce and I are available to assist with any day to day operations such as land recordings, title searches (by appointment) or obtaining vital records. Simply call the office to make an appointment to come in to conduct business.

Our office hours are Monday, 12:30 PM – 7:30 PM and Tuesday – Friday, 9:00 AM—2:00 PM.

## Good News & Bad News:

The 2021 CT Hunting Guides have arrived. Stop by the office to pick one up at your convenience. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Town Clerk's Office will not be processing Fishing or Hunting licenses at this time. If you are in need of a sporting license, feel free to call us and we can direct you where to get one.

We look forward to serving our community in 2021!

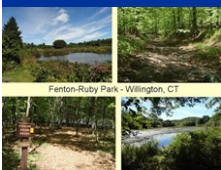
Robin Campbell  
Town Clerk  
[Rcampbell@willingtonct.org](mailto:Rcampbell@willingtonct.org)

Rachel Pierce  
Assistant Town Clerk  
[Rpierce@willingtonct.org](mailto:Rpierce@willingtonct.org)





# Town Parks & Amenities



## Fenton-Ruby Park and Wildlife Preserve:

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

## Knowlton Property:

Mason Road – Hiking Trails

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

## Talmadge Tract:

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

## Chenes Roches Preserve:

Chenes Roches (transl. oaks rocks) is a 56-acre wooded preserve in northeast Willington and owned by Joshua's Tract Conservation and Historic Trust. Trails wind through a varied terrain of hardwood forests, stands of pines and along a hemlock-shaded stream in a steep-sided valley. A round trip of 1.8 miles will take you across several small spring-fed streams and an altitude change of about 250 feet from the parking lot to the valley stream. A trail map and additional information about the preserve, including directions, can be found on the Joshua's Trust website, [joshuastrust.org](http://joshuastrust.org). There is a kiosk with trail maps at the small parking area 500 feet past the south end of Laurel Drive.

**Please stay on the trail and respect boundaries where the trail passes near private property.**

Note: The parking area is not plowed in the winter and parking on the road is not advisable.

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

Baseball and Softball fields

## The Park on Village Hill Road:

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

## River Road Athletic Complex - 511 River Road:

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

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

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

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

## Facility Rentals:

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

## Pavilion Rental Fee:

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

## Fields/Courts Rental:

**Fee:** \$30.00/2 hours

## Community Sports Equipment Shed



Willington Resident, Atticus Makuch, built a **NEW** Community Sports Equipment Shed for his Eagle Scout project. All of the equipment inside has been donated; basketballs, soccer balls, bats, balls, etc. and may be **borrowed and returned** by anyone at the park. If you have any equipment to donate, feel free to add it to the shed!



# Willington Public Library



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

And so a new year begins, and with that, great hopes. One of those is getting back to where we used to be as far as meeting our patrons wants and needs. We have all had to be patient as we continue to weather the storm of this Covid pandemic but together, we continue to forge forward as best we can.

We are here for you as long as we are able. Let's see what 2021 has in store for all of us, together!

Right now, as I write this newsletter, we look like this...

We are here for you! We are open in all ways, for everyone, even at this writing. But predicting what will happen three months in advance is difficult. All we know is what we would hope it to be.

We ask that you check often on our website ([www.willingtonpubliclibrary.org](http://www.willingtonpubliclibrary.org)) and our other social medias (Facebook, [burbio.com](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8v8), Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube) for up-to-date information.

When you walk into the library, you will notice that we look a little different these days but you will still feel the warm welcome from our staff. We have been able to maintain this public opening schedule since the beginning of November. If the new year has been good to us, this will have changed with more hours instituted. To help meet everyone's needs, it should still look like this...

**\*Curbside checkout** will continue as usual. Call or email your requests, pickup is Tuesday through Saturday from 1-4 pm.

**\*Mondays** have been the day for our SENIORS...from 12-4 pm for patrons age 60 and up, no appointment necessary, everything accessible except computer use.

**\*Mondays** are our book DONATION DAY from 1-3 pm. We are still asking that you please call ahead with approximate time of arrival and quantity of books, so we can plan accordingly.

**\*Wednesday** is COMPUTER DAY from 1:15-2:45 pm (by appointment only).

**\*Thursdays** provide EVENING HOURS for all from 5-8 pm. No appointment necessary, everything accessible except computer use.

**\*Fridays** are OPEN TO ALL from 12-4 pm. No appointment necessary, everything accessible except computer use.

**\*Saturdays:** FAMILY DAY from 1-3 pm (by appointment only, children's library only, no computer use).

This schedule will continue until things change. It may be adjusted if necessary for your safety and ours. Covid precautions will continue: masks and hand sanitizer are mandatory, and temperature will be taken. Also, please sign in. We know this is not ideal but it is what we need to do for everyone's safety. We appreciate your help and understanding during these unsettling times.

Overdue fines have resumed. Books and other medias may be dropped off in their proper return boxes. Many still have items out since the beginning of the pandemic. Please return any items you have at the present time. Remember, you can renew items through your account on the library website or by phone.

To make appointments, request items, renew books, or ask a question, just call us at 860- 429-3854, we are here to help in any way we can.

During these winter months, notice of delays and closings, as well as program cancellations due to inclement weather can be found on our website: [www.willingtonpubliclibrary.org](http://www.willingtonpubliclibrary.org) or WFSB-TV Channel 3 (or [WFSB.com](http://WFSB.com)) and NBC 30 WVIT (or [NBC30.com](http://NBC30.com)). Updates can also be found on our Facebook page - like us at [www.Facebook.com/willingtonpubliclibrary](http://www.Facebook.com/willingtonpubliclibrary).

We were given some State grant money to be used for the purpose of helping to make people feel safer while getting back into the library. We were able to purchase two air-purifiers and two wall mount touch-less hand sanitizers for use when you enter or leave the building, along with other safety features already in place. These same new safe guards can be used into the future as well.

People have been asking for a "Free" library and now we have one just outside our doors. This will be of great help to those who still might not feel safe coming into the building or can't come during the limited hours we are open at this time. The "Free" library will now be "open" for your pleasure and convenience 24/7. Here you can take a book or leave a book, or both! These will be books you can borrow or keep, or pass on to another for their enjoyment.



## Willington Public Library Continued...

We welcome you to visit our website, where we have virtual story times going on for the children to enjoy listening to. We will announce our new releases as they come in and will be highlighting local authors and their books.

We are over the moon excited to announce that the Interlibrary loan service is back at the library and thriving! So many of you have already taken advantage of this service. We are sharing with others both in the giving and receiving. The beauty of this program is that if we don't have what you want here at your library, we can borrow it from another library. You won't have to look elsewhere any longer. We will now be able to provide for all of your library needs and at no extra cost to anyone. So, the sky is the limit once again, as long as it is out there "somewhere". We hope you will take advantage of this wonderful service again and let us serve you better.

### **Something new! We are having a Grab-Bag Book Sale!**



We have filled bags with 5-10 books (or maybe more!) with a mix of hardcovers and paperbacks, almost new or gently-used, available in various categories, and will be sold for \$5 per bag (cash only please).

The categories available so far: Romance, Mysteries, Historical fiction, Action/adventure/thrillers, all Nora Roberts, all James Patterson, The Great Classics, Children (picture books, easy readers), Children (middle school level), Children (Newberry winners), Crafts, Cookbooks, Biographies, Animas/nature, Civil War (non-fiction), and WWII (non-fiction). If you have any suggestions or requests of your own you would like, let us know and we will try to fill them for you.

These bags can be purchased during any of our library openings, or via curbside pick-up. Take a chance! Maybe you'll discover a new author, or maybe an old one you would enjoy reading again. Give one to your child or grandchild to open up and enjoy the surprises they may find. Give one to a shut-in, or donate one to a homeless shelter. Use your imagination! Books are a wonderful gift to give for any occasion and for any or no reason at all.

The Spring brings with it the hope of a new pavilion and picnic table area outside, along with a beautiful butterfly garden we have been planning. These are both provided by way of generous donations from loving patrons and were set aside for these specific purposes. We are looking forward to this becoming a reality. As soon as it is finalized we will let everyone know who these wonderful benefactors are. Our many heartfelt thanks and appreciation!

### **Here's an easy way you can help your library...join AmazonSmile!**

Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Support the library by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).

*First: Enter: Email (phone for mobile accounts)*

*Then: Start by picking your charity*

*At Search: Choose: Willington Public Library*

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

***Thank you for your patronage!***

### **SHARE THE LIBRARY LOVE**

Libraries offer services and products that level the intellectual playing field. That means that they allow people of any income level or background to access high-quality information, to use computers, or to borrow what they want. Libraries are spaces where people of all ages can practice lifelong learning. Libraries connect people to information and to each other, empower students to learn and explore all year round; and so much more!

Libraries are places of information. When most people think "library" they think books. And while that is certainly true, these days books take different shapes, such as e-books and audio books. More than just books, libraries are places of information, offering people free access to a wealth of information that they often can't find elsewhere, whether online, in print or in person. Whether they're looking for DVDs or the latest best-seller; health or business information found on internet databases not accessible at home, or going for story times and community programming, the library is a center of community for people.

**Help libraries get the support they need to keep them strong and thriving, by becoming a library advocate.**

**Libraries = Strong Communities**

**May we all be blessed with a healthy, happy, and prosperous New Year!**





# Willington Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars



## High School Seniors:

## Would YOU like to be a Class of 2021 Scholarship Recipient?

Willington Scholarship Foundation  
Dollars for Scholars (WSFDFS)

- Seniors be on the lookout for letters with information on how to apply!
- The application window on our website opens Jan 15, 2021 – closes March 15, 2021.
- Willington Seniors graduating high school in 2021 and who intend to further their post-secondary education or training can apply!
- As 2020 comes to a close we would like to send a special thank you to our Donors for your generosity during this year. Thank You!



Caitlin Halle, 2020 Scholarship Recipient

## Look for our Annual Appeal! It will be in mailboxes this Spring

Every dollar you give will help fund scholarships for our Willington students.

To send a contribution, mail a check to **The Willington Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars; P.O. Box 194; Willington, CT, 06279** or

**Text: WILLINGTONFORSCHOLARS to 44321.**

You can donate online, using the “Donate Now” button on our website at [www.Willington.DollarsforScholars.org](http://www.Willington.DollarsforScholars.org)

Want to learn more about WSFDFS? We meet every third Monday at 7:00 pm upstairs in the Town Office Building Community Room.

**Check us out on our website at [www.Willington.DollarsforScholars.org](http://www.Willington.DollarsforScholars.org)**

