

# Willington Wire

## Community E-Newsletter

### Summer 2020





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**Cover Photo: Artwork by Halee Bolduc**



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

**Independence Day  
Labor Day**

**Friday, July 3rd  
Monday, September 7th**



# 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
Parks & Recreation	Maureen Parsell	860-487-3108
Planning & Zoning	Michael D'Amato	860-487-3123
Public Works	Troy Sposato	860-684-9313
Senior Center	Jennie Arpin	860-429-8321
Tax Collector	Janice Clauson	860-487-3111
Town Clerk	Amy Lam	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—July, Aug & Sept

Board/Commission	Day	Date	Time
Board of Education	Tuesday	July 14th	7:00 p.m.
Board of Education	Tuesday	August 11th	7:00 p.m.
Board of Education	Tuesday	September 8th	7:00 p.m.
Board of Finance	Thursday	July 16th	7:00 p.m.
Board of Finance	Thursday	August 20th	7:00 p.m.
Board of Finance	Thursday	September 17th	7:00 p.m.
Board of Selectmen	Monday	July 6th	6:30 p.m.
Board of Selectmen	Monday	July 20th	6:30 p.m.
Board of Selectmen	Monday	August 3rd	6:30 p.m.
Board of Selectmen	Monday	August 17th	6:30 p.m.
Board of Selectmen	Tuesday	September 8th	6:30 p.m.
Board of Selectmen	Monday	September 21st	6:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission	Wednesday	July 15th	7:00 p.m.
Conservation Commission	Wednesday	August 19th	7:00 p.m.
Economic Development	Wednesday	July 8th	6:30 p.m.
Economic Development	Wednesday	August 12th	6:30 p.m.
Economic Development	Wednesday	September 9th	6:30 p.m.
Historical Society	Tuesday	July 21st	2:00 p.m.
Historical Society	Tuesday	August 18th	2:00 p.m.
Historical Society	Tuesday	September 15th	2:00 p.m.
Housing Authority	Monday	July 20th	4:00 p.m.
Housing Authority	Monday	August 17th	4:00 p.m.
Housing Authority	Monday	September 21st	4:00 p.m.
Inland Wetlands/Watercourses	Monday	July 27th	7:30 p.m.
Inland Wetlands/Watercourses	Monday	August 24th	7:30 p.m.
Inland Wetlands/Watercourses	Monday	September 28th	7:30 p.m.
Library Board of Directors	Friday	July 10th	6:00 p.m.
Library Board of Directors	Friday	August 14th	6:00 p.m.
Library Board of Directors	Friday	September 11th	6:00 p.m.
Parks & Recreation	Monday	July 27th	6:30 p.m.
Parks & Recreation	Monday	August 31st	6:30 p.m.
Parks & Recreation	Monday	September 28th	6:30 p.m.
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	July 7th	7:30 p.m.
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	July 21st	7:30 p.m.
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	August 25th	7:30 p.m.
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	September 8th	7:30 p.m.
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	September 22nd	7:30 p.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals	Thursday	July 9th	7:30 p.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals	Thursday	September 10th	7:30 p.m.



## First Selectwoman's Corner

Dear Willington Residents,

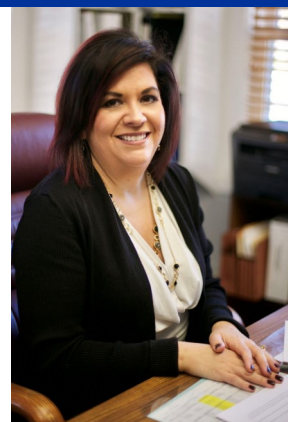
Summer is in full swing here in Willington, even during a Pandemic. Here at home and across the state we continue to work towards Reopening Connecticut in a safe, responsible manner. We hope you are enjoying the outdoors and warmer temperatures while maintaining social distancing.

While many of the town's boards and commissions take time off over the summer, other boards and our town departments remain very productive to support ongoing needs and services. The Public Works Department is particularly busy this time of year. Our crew will be chip sealing several roads in the coming months along with the regular maintenance that comes with summertime. Willington Parks and Recreation is keeping busy with a modified Wednesdays-in-the-Park Summer Concert Series beginning July 22<sup>nd</sup> following current State guidelines for outdoor events. In addition, WPRD is working to provide future programming as Reopen guidelines allow.

The Town Office Building is currently closed to the public but remains fully staffed 9am -4pm on Mondays and 9am-2pm Tuesday-Friday. If your business absolutely requires your presence at the Town Hall, please call the office you need 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!

Erika G Wiecenski

Town of Willington, 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](#)**



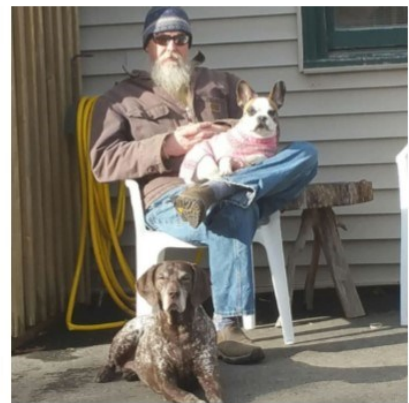
## Office Hours with State Representative Pat Wilson Pheanious





# WILLINGTON'S 2020 DOG OF THE YEAR

## Bella DeMers



When Cyndi was thinking of getting a French Bulldog six years ago, she assured Ted that he wouldn't have to take care of her, that she'd be totally responsible for the care of her new puppy. It wasn't long before Bella was romping through the woods of their property, using her short little legs as best she could, to keep up with Ted and Lacey, her German Short Haired sister. Eager to please, she tried her best to track and point, and was quite excited about life on DeMers Hill!

Being true to the nature of her breed, she was precocious, curious and playful, bringing much joy and laughter to everyone around her! Bella also enjoyed kayaking and hiking, and when Cyndi was working outside of their home, she always kept a lookout for her human to come home, always trying to wait patiently with Ted and Lacey.

Life has changed for Bella, after losing Lacey last November, and then Ted this past May, she is finding her way with her beloved Cyndi. They still walk the property together and Cyndi is even looking for a new boat so that they can go kayaking again.



The Board of Assessment Appeals will hold a session to hear appeals of 2019 Motor Vehicle Values on Monday, September 14, 2020 @ 40 Old Farms Rd, Willington, CT from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. Those aggrieved by the assessed value of their motor vehicle listed on the 2019 Grand List may attend. No application is necessary.

## **Office of the Assessor**

### **LEGAL NOTICE**

In accordance with Connecticut General Statute 12-40, all persons who are liable to pay taxes on tangible personal property belonging to them on October 1, 2020 are hereby notified that they must file a declaration of their personal property on or before November 1, 2020, with the Assessor, or be subject to an estimated assessment and the statutory 25% penalty. Various exemptions are explained on the declaration and available if filed on time.

**NO DECLARATION IS REQUIRED FOR MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED IN WILLINGTON CT**  
**NO DECLARATION IS REQUIRED FOR REAL ESTATE**

Personal property includes, but is not limited to, unregistered motor vehicles (including junk autos), campers, all business machinery, equipment, tools, commercial furniture and fixtures.

## **DEFECTIVE CONCRETE**

Applications and Engineer Evaluation forms to request reassessment of residential property due to defective concrete are available in the Assessor's Office and on the Town of Willington website. Please note, these forms must be accompanied by an Engineer's report. For additional information, contact the Assessor's office.

## **Filing deadlines for various exemptions and classifications for the 2020 Grand List are as follows:**

### **PUBLIC ACT 490**

All applications for classification of forestland must be received by October 1, 2020. All applications for classification of farmland and open space must be received by October 31, 2020.

### **VETERANS**

All property owners claiming exemption due to military service must file their DD214 form with the Town Clerk by September 30, 2020. Discharge paperwork is only filed once. This information is for NEW veterans. Veterans claiming disability exemption must submit proof from the Veterans Administration. PA 85-573 allows veterans an additional exemption if their income is within the approved limits. This application must be filed by October 1<sup>st</sup> bi-annually.

### **DISABILITY**

Persons totally disabled receiving SSD benefits may be eligible for a \$1,000 property exemption. Proof of award and application must be submitted by October 1, 2020.

**HOMEOWNERS & TOTALLY DISABLED** Residents 65 years of age or totally disabled may be eligible for a tax credit on real estate; income guidelines apply and are adjusted each year. You must request an application in February 2021 and file it on or before May 15, 2021.

### **RENTERS**

Residents 65 years of age or totally disabled may be eligible for the State Renters Rebate Program. Guidelines and applications will be available from the Human Services Department between April 1—October 1.

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

Rachel L. Pierce  
Assistant Assessor  
[rpierce@willingtonct.org](mailto:rpierce@willingtonct.org) or 860-487-3122





# 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:

**860-429-8777**



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



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





# Center Elementary School



Willington Center School is currently encouraging parents/guardians to begin registering their children for kindergarten for the 2020-2021 school year. Children must be 5 years old on or before Jan 1, 2021. Please call Center School at 860-429-9367. Orientation to be determined.

## Conservation Commission



Summer is upon us and much of nature has fully unfolded in all of its many forms. Put your walking shoes on, grab your binoculars and camera (take the usual tick-deterrent steps!) and go out and observe the wide variety of wildlife and plants in the forests, wetlands, fields, ponds and waterways in Willington's extensive nature preserves. And this year:

***PLEASE: Practice social distancing when encountering others in the Park. Step aside and maintain appropriate distances on the trails, picnic and parking area, and view sites. Thank you.***

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 also posted at all trail intersections. Several picnic tables and benches are available in the picnic area adjacent to the parking lot and overlooking the "beaver pond".

**Suggestions:** (1) Take the Ruby Trail and the Ashford Link Trail over to Ashford's Langhammer Preserve; (2) Observe wildlife from the viewing/fishing deck at the "beaver pond"; (3) Walk up Burma Road past the boulders near the Ruby Trail junction and take a right onto Amidon Road and look for the fairy houses at the bases of trees.

***Please abide by Park regulations to help make visiting an enjoyable experience for everyone. The opportunity to observe wildlife in this sanctuary will be greatly increased for all if pets are kept on leashes. Wildlife will adapt to the presence of people, not so much to pets running free.***

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 ¾-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 a parking area, and also at the sign where the Nipmuck crosses Mason Rd. Information is available for Fenton-Ruby on the Conservation Commission website (see below).

**Other hikes:** (1) An interesting and scenic place for a short hike is along Roaring Brook. A trail and fishing area along this rock-strewn river bed with its rapids and pools bordered by large oaks and pines can be accessed from a parking area on the right a quarter-mile up Village Hill Road from Rte 32. **NB:** There is no maintained trail here and there is one steep climb. Stairs lead down from the lot to a path under the bridge. Care is needed on wet rocks and especially in high water. Although this is private property and should be respected as such, access is allowed by conservation easement. The easement property connects to a CT DEEP trout management area along the brook to Rte 32. (2) See also the information about Joshua's Trust's **Chenes Roches Preserve**, with its many attractive features, under *Parks and Recreation* See also, [joshuastrust.org](http://joshuastrust.org) for information about all of their trails in 14 towns.

**Therapy:** These highly unusual and stressful times have curtailed many of our normal and expected activities and life styles. Fortunately, Willington's foresight in preserving open spaces and providing access to them makes them an even more valuable resource in these stressful days. Plan to take advantage of Willington's protected forest resources this summer for appreciation of their beauty, for observation of the varied ecosystems and habitats, for exercise, and for their restorative powers. The Japanese practice of shinrin-yoku, or forest bathing, is beneficial for both physical and mental wellbeing. Immersing your senses in the surrounding forest has been proven to reduce stress, boost the immune system and lower heart rate and blood pressure. There is plenty of information about this on the interweb.

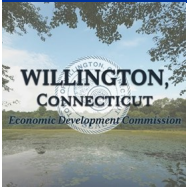
So, **go!** Take a walk in the woods and let nature lessen the anxieties and tensions of these difficult times.

**Wanted:** We are looking for old aluminum extension ladder sections to which decking can be attached for use as trail bridges. Contact info below.

**Opportunity:** If you are interested in taking an active part in helping the Town manage its environmental resources, the Commission has openings for 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.



# Economic Development Commission



Over the last few months, Willington's Economic Development Commission has been working on several new initiatives to help support Willington's businesses.

The EDC has recently launched a [new website](#) and [Facebook page](#) that provides residents and business owners with access to various resources including a business directory, meeting, and COVID-19 information, brochures, Town amenities, and more. In addition, in response to business closures related to COVID-19, the EDC developed a survey to better understand how businesses have been affected and

how the EDC and Town at large can help. The EDC has also summarized various programs that are available to local businesses and made them available on their website

In the coming months, the EDC plans to host networking events with guest speakers who will present on relevant business topics. More information about these networking events may be found on the [EDC website](#). Furthermore, the EDC will work alongside the Planning and Zoning Commission to address the Town's Zoning Regulations in hopes of making them more business friendly.

We encourage our residents and business owners to get involved by submitting their business information for the [EDC's Business Directory page](#) or by submitting suggestions and questions through the form on our [contact page](#). The Willington EDC stands ready to help!



# Elections Department



Please check the Elections Department's website for up-to-date voting event and voter registration information.

Upcoming voting events and deadlines:

Tuesday, July 21—absentee ballots become available for primary

Tuesday, July 28—enrollment session for primary; session to be held in Registrars' office from 12pm to 2pm

Tuesday, August 6—deadline for mail-in voter registrations for primary

Tuesday, August 11—primary; to be held from 6am to 8pm

Secretary of the State Denise Merrill has announced that every registered voter eligible to vote in the primary will receive an application they will need to fill out and return in order to obtain an absentee ballot. That application, which will be sent via US Postal Service, will include a postage paid return envelope. The Willington Town Clerk will process the applications, and all voters who requested an absentee ballot will receive the ballots in the mail, which will also include a postage paid return envelope. There will also be a secure drop box in a prominent location to allow voters to deliver their absentee ballots in-person without close personal contact.

For those voters eligible to vote in the primary wishing to vote in-person, the polls will be open from 6am to 8pm on August 11th at the Town Office Building, Common Room, 40 Old Farms Road.

Registering to vote is available 24/7 online at [voterregistration.ct.gov](http://voterregistration.ct.gov). If you have questions, call 860 487.3120 and leave a message.

Suzanne G. Chapman

Christine Psathas

Registrars of Voters/Election Department — [www.willingtonct.org](http://www.willingtonct.org)





## TOWN OF WILLINGTON OFFICE OF FIRE MARSHAL



### Town of Willington Open Burning Permits & Requirements

The following establish requirements will become effective on March 19, 2010.

The Fire Marshal will issue all “**Open Burning Permits**”. Permits can be obtained by calling 860-429-7757. If I’m not available, please leave a message with your name, address, and phone number. **Burning Permits requests will be taken Monday through Thursday “ONLY”, and Permits will be delivered to the Fire Department on Friday at noon.**

BURNING IS DONE BY PERMIT ONLY; failure to obtain a permit may result in police action. **There are NO COSTS for these permits**

The following are rules that apply to burning brush: **Fires Must Be Attended at ALL times.**

1. Brush MUST BE 4” or less in diameter.
2. Burning must be on the property for which the permit is issued. Houses under construction or businesses MAY NOT BURN.
3. Burning must be conducted between 10am and 5pm, sunny or partly sunny day, with wind speeds less than 15 miles per hour. **The fire must be completely out at 5pm.**
4. Burning isn’t allowed on High or Extreme Hazards condition.
5. **NO** demolition waste, garbage, paper, plastic, painted materials, rubber, or metal can be burned.
6. **NO leaves or stumps can be burned.**
7. Any complaints received as to after hours burning, smoke going into adjoining residence, may place your permit in jeopardy.
8. **All fires must be extinguished by 5 pm.**

**Go to the DEEP web site [www.ct.gov/deep/forsestfiredanger](http://www.ct.gov/deep/forsestfiredanger) or [www.tollandcounty911.org](http://www.tollandcounty911.org)**

As an alternative, brush may be dropped off at the transfer station on Hancock Road.

**Permits are not required for the following:**

Barbecues or other outdoor cooking, campfires, bonfires under 4’ diameter circle for ceremonial or other activities including recreational purposes. No brush can be burned, only rough cut wood under 4” diameter. **All fires must be completely out when finished.**

Complaints received about unattended fires, or fires left burning, can lead to DEEP issuing a cease of recreation burning for the occupant/property owner.

rev: 3/19/10

10/1/13





# Historical Society



Along with you, the Historical Society has been keeping a low social profile for the past few months. While social distancing, there have been several projects that have been able to move forward a little at a time. There was some taproom wall restoration in the tavern building and continued building of the period rail fence on Common Road. You can keep an eye on these ongoing projects by visiting the Society on [FaceBook](#). You can help introduce our activities to others by liking and sharing our FB posts.

As we all start the transition to returning to a 'new' normal in our lives, consider connecting with Willington history. The Willington Historical Society is dependent on local volunteers and members. That means we depend on you, our fellow townspeople, neighbors and friends to keep the Society active and moving forward. That new help has been in short supply during the last few years.

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

We need your help to succeed with these projects.

- Tavern Preservation
- Archive Maintenance
- Yard and Grounds
- Programing and Publicity

**If you're house or attic cleaning and throwing out ... we're looking for ...** items that help recount Willington History. You can help!

Consider donating certain items to the Society instead of donating to the bins at the transfer station! The transfer station ships our history, bits and pieces, out of town. Help tell and support Willington's History, please!

## **Contacting the Willington Historical Society:**

- email at: [willingtonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:willingtonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com)
- website at: [www.willingtonhistoricalsocietyct.org](http://www.willingtonhistoricalsocietyct.org)
- like us on [Facebook](#)

Donations may be made through the PayPal link on our website homepage or regular mail at the Society's P.O. 214, Willington CT, 06279.

The Society is organized as a designated IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



**Rail Fence on Common Road**



# Human Services

***The Willington Senior Center is still closed and will remain so until it is deemed safe to reopen.***

A huge thank you to the many many wonderful, generous residents who have helped us by donating to our food pantry and our fuel bank. Your gifts and donations have assisted so many residents during these difficult times. We are very fortunate to have such a caring community!

**Food Pantry**- The food pantry will operate on a "by appointment" basis and change to providing prepackaged bags. Appointments will be made in advance by leaving a telephone number and pickup time within the regularly scheduled food pantry days/times on the department voicemail. The food items will be set outside of the customary food pantry entrance in 15 minute increments and people with appointments will come to pick them up.

**Cloth Masks**- We still have many cloth masks for residents who need some. They are FREE! Kids and adult sizes. Contact our office for more information.

**Mobile Foodshare**- Foodshare will continue every other Wednesday from 11 to 11:30 am in the parking lot of the Senior Center. All attendees must bring their own bags and remain 6 feet away from others at all time. Volunteers will be wearing gloves and masks. All are welcome!

**Medical Transportation**- Essential medical transportation will continue to be provided either by emergency means (ambulance) or through our municipal grant program. New and renewed medical transportation requests will be accepted weekly. This will be done by providing a name and phone number on the department voicemail.

**Renters Rebate**- This Connecticut Tax abatement program is for residents 65 or older or disabled who rented in Connecticut for the year 2019. Applications are being accepted until October 1<sup>st</sup>. Please contact this office for information or for an appointment.

**WE Are SOCIAL!** Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to see our new programs and initiatives and learn more about the work we do!

## WILLINGTON FLEA MARKET



**It is with heavy hearts that The Federated Church of Willington has decided to cancel the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Willington Flea Market due to our current situation.**

**See you next year!**

## Please welcome the Town of Willington's Newest Employee!



### Laurie Mazich Semprebon, Treasurer

Laurie was appointed to fill a vacancy by the Selectmen at their March 26, 2020, meeting.

Laurie has been a town resident for thirty-six years and is a retired school teacher (in Vernon). She has served on the Board of Education, the Board of Finance, and the Conservation Commission and currently serves on the Planning and Zoning Commission (as an alternate) and on the Board of Assessment Appeals.

She and her husband Brian have raised their two daughters in town. She loves to hike and travel, often with Brian and their two giant dogs in their RV, and hails from Colorado. Laurie is a veteran of the United States Army, a former Girl Scout leader, and a musician in many local groups, including Flamingo, who performed at Willington's summer concert series last year.



# Parks & Recreation



River Road Athletic Complex Playground, Swings and Outdoor Fitness Equipment have been reopened 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.
- Prepare for limited access to public restrooms or water fountains.
- 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

### Free Kayak Loaner Program



All loans include one life jacket and one paddle per kayak. Loaner equipment is available Monday-Friday by appointment.

May - October (Weather dependent)

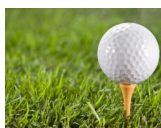
**Pickup: Fridays, by appointment only**

**Drop off: Mondays, by appointment only**

### EQUIPMENT MUST COME BACK CLEAN

WPRD will clean and sanitize each kayak when it is returned. Kayaks will then sit for 72 hours before they are sent out on loan again. Please click [HERE](#) for more information.

### Golf Clinics



Do yourself a favor and make an important step to improving your golf game with some instruction. Your game will improve as well as your enjoyment of this great game!

Ladies Clinic—Aug 4, 11, 25 5-6:00 p.m.  
(Double session on the 25th)

Co-Ed Clinic—Sept 3, 10, & 17 6-7:00 p.m.  
(Double session on the 17th)

**\*\*Register 2 weeks prior to the start of class\*\***

**Location:** Skungamaug River Golf Course  
104 Folly Lane, Coventry

**Fee:** \$80.00/student

### Discounted Tickets



Thanks to the Connecticut Recreation & Parks Association (CRPA), WPRD has received discounted tickets to The Adventure Park (Storrs & Bridgeport), CT Science Center and Lake Compounce!

Come pick up your Good For Any Day Tickets while supplies last!

Adventure Park:	\$32.00 (compare to \$46.00)
CT Science Center:	\$15.50 (compare to \$24.95)
Lake Compounce:	\$29.50 (compare to \$53.89)

*Please call our office for ticket availability.*

### Projects-in-the-Park



**Save the date for our 1st Project-in-the-Park with Mica and Angel Pond Creations!**

During this class we will be making one, 18-inch round sign. Let's make your creativity come to life! All materials will be provided. Your round sign, and the stencil of your choice will be ready for you when you arrive at the park.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Thursday, July 16th  
River Road Athletic Complex  
Under the Pavilion  
6:30-8:30 p.m.

**We hope you will join us for a fun-filled paint night!**

**Note: COVID-19 Guidelines will be followed.**





## Parks & Recreation Continued...

### Wednesdays-in-the-Park Summer Concert Series



Summer is here and the Willington Parks & Recreation Department is excited for our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Wednesdays-in-the-Park Summer Concert Series at River Road Athletic Complex! We are planning five concerts this year on Wednesday evenings in July and August from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Every concert is **FREE** to the public, accessible to all and serves the entire community; families, seniors and literally anyone wishing to attend. Recreation is an important part of a healthy and positive lifestyle and our goal is to provide safe places to play, increase family and community relationships and offer outlets for personal growth. As a resource to the community, our department is honored to coordinate special events like this with the support of local businesses, residents and volunteers.

Don't miss this opportunity to become a valuable sponsor and supporter of this popular community event.

Reserve your sponsorship package today! Click [HERE](#).

It is our hope that we will continue to bring our community together with these family friendly "Wednesdays in the Park".

*Please Note: WPRD will be following all COVID-19 related guidelines for outdoor events and concerts.*

### 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.

We have all been cooped up WAY too long and we are trying to get you out and about! So, WPRD is working on some pop-up...

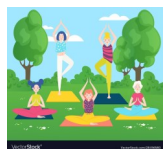
### "Programs-in-the-Park!"

Whiffle Ball-in-the-Park

Kickball-in-the-Park

Arts-in-the-Park

Yoga-in-the-Park



**Stay Tuned! All programs will be advertised through Public Notice and Facebook.**

*Please Note: WPRD will be following all COVID-19 related guidelines.*





## WEDNESDAYS *IN THE* PARK

*Willington's Summer Concert Series*

### Thank You 2020 Sponsors!!

#### Platinum Concert Sponsors—\$800.00

#### Gold Concert Sponsors—\$400.00

Baywood Kennels

#### Silver Concert Sponsors— \$200.00

Bill & Suzanne Chapman

Connecticut Valley Orthodontics

Landon's Tire, Inc.

McCaughtry & Associates, Inc.

Tony's Garage

Willington Pizza

Willington Termite & Pest

#### Bronze Concert Sponsors—\$100.00

Steven & Laurie Arnold

Maureen Gantick

Ghost Fawn Homestead

Hipsky Construction

Carol Noyes & Paul Plunkett

Derrick & Erika Wiecenski

#### Copper Concert Sponsors—Up to \$100.00

Artisans at Middle River

Creative Mark Engraving

DDrobney Photography

David & Tish Ignatowicz





## WEDNESDAYS *IN THE* PARK

Willington's Summer Concert Series

6:30-8:30 P.M.

RIVER ROAD ATHLETIC COMPLEX

**JULY 22<sup>ND</sup>**

### **BRUCE JOHN**

An eclectic mix of Hit Songs, mostly from the 50's, 60's and 70's. Classics like; King of the Road, Mr. Bojangles, Country Roads, Ring of Fire, Dock of the Bay and Hallelujah to name just a few. [www.brucejohnmusic.com](http://www.brucejohnmusic.com)

**JULY 29<sup>TH</sup>**

### **NIGHT SHIFT**

Is a dynamic '60s, '70s and '80s cover band made up of five of Connecticut's most well known and experienced musicians. They only play the most popular songs, the most FUN songs and the most danceable songs that audiences of all ages LOVE to dance to and sing along with! Nightshift's songs will always take you right back to your happy place!

[www.nightshiftband.com](http://www.nightshiftband.com)

**AUGUST 5<sup>TH</sup>**

### **THE BILLY PILGRIM BAND**

The Billy Pilgrim Band plays a wide variety of stylized classic rock and modern country songs. Billy's song list covers over 60 years of great music written by the best artists across the musical spectrum. [www.bilypilgrimband.com](http://www.bilypilgrimband.com)

**AUGUST 12<sup>TH</sup>**

### **MASS-CONN-FUSION**

This seven-piece Show Band features exciting vocalists, polished horn section and tight rhythm section. The extensive repertoire includes Motown, R&B, Funk and hits of the 60's right up to today. [www.massconfusion.com](http://www.massconfusion.com)

**AUGUST 19<sup>TH</sup>**

### **VAL ROGERS & HER JAZZ GROUP**

Known throughout the region as one of New England's top Big Band entertainers, Val is joined in an intimate setting in her hometown to play with Friends. Don't miss this unique opportunity of a "one-of-a-kind" show! [www.valrogers.net](http://www.valrogers.net)





# 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.***

## **MidNEROC Waste:**

***Hazardous materials must be taken to the MidNEROC Household Chemical Waste Drop-Off Facility located on Hancock Road in Willington. There is no charge for the use of this facility by Willington residents, with proof of residency. Businesses will be charged based on the material type and quantity. Call 860-684-3163 to make arrangements.***

The MidNEROC HHW facility is planning on opening July 18th from 9am-2pm. Due to COVID-19, please follow our new, temporary procedures:

1. Only one person is to be in the car.
2. You **MUST** wear a mask.
3. You **MUST** stay in the car with your windows up. When an attendant approaches your car, please hold your license up to the window to verify that you are from a member town.
4. All waste **MUST** be in the trunk or rear compartment of the vehicle **NOT** in the passenger area or back seat. Your truck, hatch or tailgate should be unlocked or open.
5. No containers will be returned to you.
6. No aerosol paint or empty aerosol containers will be accepted. (Pesticide aerosols will be accepted).
7. No oil or antifreeze will be accepted (take these to your transfer station). Tolland residents should take these to Bill's Automotive.
8. Fluorescent light bulbs and household rechargeable batteries should go to your transfer station.
9. All materials should be in their original containers or clearly marked.

Click [HERE](#) for a full list of acceptable items.

SCHEDULE FOR 2020 MIDNEROC HHW SEASON, 9am-2pm on the following dates:

July 18th

August 1st & 15th

September 19 (CLOSED LABOR DAY WEEKEND)

October 3rd & 17th

November 7th

***MidNEROC management will be available on open Saturdays from 8am-2pm at 860-965-1910 to answer any questions.***



### Soil Degradation

***“A nation that destroys its soil destroys itself,” Franklin D. Roosevelt.***



Over 80 years ago President Roosevelt issued a letter to State Governors outlining the need for a Uniform Soil Conservation Law after catastrophic flooding and dust storms decimated the mid-west. There have been many successes and failures since this letter was issued but now more than ever is that quote meaningful. Soil is something we interact with every day and for the most part don't think twice about what is happening beneath our feet. I've often found it interesting how the majority of us move through this world completely unaware of the systems that surround us. When you pick up a handful of soil there are hundreds of microorganisms unable to be seen with the naked eye that provide valuable functions to maintain healthy soil.

As land is more developed and the population continues to grow the need for healthy soil becomes even greater. This is a difficult balance as development and population increase often lead to less available land. Not only is land important but quality soil is as well. A healthy layer of topsoil is needed to support plant growth with pore spaces that allow air and water to move through and supply organisms with required nutrients. Organic matter helps support critical soil functions and without microorganisms, soil is not able to work as a system and becomes degraded over time. The fruits and vegetables we eat depend on healthy, nutrient rich soil to grow. One of the major issues with keeping soil healthy is learning to minimize impact caused by humans. Globally, approximately 24 billion tons of top soil is lost every year due to erosion.

Once common agricultural practices such as tilling and lack of crop rotation lead to a breakdown and loss of organic matter causing instability in the soil. When soil lacks organic matter it is not able to hold on to water and essential nutrients that not only keep the soil together but promote healthy plant growth. Once this organic matter is lost and nutrients begin to leach, erosion becomes inevitable. Loss of topsoil is detrimental to agricultural practices because a healthy topsoil is necessary for plant growth. Also, top soil is not easily replicable. It takes 2,000 years for natural processes to create 10 cm. of fertile soil from bedrock. If we continue to degrade our top soil, we will not have any left and as you can see, it is not something that can be easily replaced. Many scientists have estimated there are only about 60 years of farmable soil left.

The use of pesticides and herbicides increase crop yield but prolonged use leads to the disruption of microorganisms in the soil. Resulting in more harmful bacteria in the soil instead of beneficial bacteria. Agriculture practices are not the only culprit to soil degradation. Land development for industrial and urban purposes are also major problems. When development occurs, the landscape is often clear cut leaving exposed soil that if not properly stabilized can be lost through wind and/or water erosion.

Soil health is becoming increasingly important as our population grows increasing the demand for food and sound agricultural practices. As development continues the need for protecting topsoil and farmable land grows more important. As technology and research advance there is hope for sustainable farming initiatives. Regulations on erosion control measures are becoming more common to preserve healthy topsoil and reduce the risk of erosion. Education is still the most important factor that will aid in keeping our soil healthy for future generations.

-Emily Perko

# Tax Collector

## PROPERTY TAX BILLS HAVE BEEN MAILED

Greetings Willington Residents!

I hope you are all staying safe and well during this time of uncertainty. With tax season upon us I wanted to provide information on how things will be handled for the foreseeable future. Due to COVID-19, the Town Office Building will remain closed to the public until further notice. I strongly encourage all of you to make your payment 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 7S/7W, the Town of Willington has chosen to extend the grace period in which bills can be paid without penalty to October 1, 2020, excluding real estate accounts that are escrowed and Landlords. This means that, while taxes are due on July 1, 2020, no 2019 Grand List bill will be charged interest until October 2, 2020. Interest will still be charged after October 1 at the state mandated rate of 1.5% per month or 18% per year. Any 2019 Grand List bill not paid by October 1 will be charged 6% interest (4 months due). Please note that interest cannot be waived per CT State Statute 12-146.

***I ask that Landlords contact the Revenue Department, at their earliest convenience, to determine if they qualify for the offered program.***

### ***1<sup>st</sup> Installment Due by October 1, 2020***

#### **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 online at [www.willingtonct.org](http://www.willingtonct.org) and click on **"Online Tax Payments"**. There is a convenience fee of 2.95% for credit cards and \$1.95 for EFT.

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

Payments due July 1, 2020 must be received, or postmarked, no later than Thursday October 1, 2020. Payments due January 1, 2021 must be received, or postmarked, no later than Monday, February 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.***

#### **What am I being Taxed on?**

You are being taxed on Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicles as of October 1, 2019.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Regards-

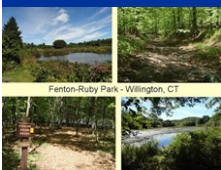
Janice Clauson  
Revenue Collector

Michele Cyr  
Assistant Revenue Collector





# Town Parks & Amenities



## 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



Hello Everyone!

It's been too long since we've had the opportunity to be together. We miss you all very much! We can't wait to see and serve you all once again. We are busy working on the many changes that have had to take place since the Covid-19 pandemic began. Thank you for your patience and understanding during these trying times of uncertainty and change.

We are disappointed to announce that in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic circumstances and limitations, many things have had to change here at the Willington Public Library. It is due to these changes and considerations, that we have decided to cancel this year's annual Summer Reading Program. Please don't let this discourage you from reading this summer and having fun doing so. We encourage you to keep reading during the summer months as always. It is so important, in so many ways.

We had a lot of wonderful and exciting fun and educational programs planned for this summer but unfortunately, they had to be canceled or postponed. We are looking forward to rescheduling many of them for next year's Summer Reading Program.

We are working hard and doing our best to keep you up-to-date of any changes, as they arise. Please continue to look into the many different social medias we are on, for any upcoming changes. Tune into any one of our many social media's for up-to-date information and programming available. We offer our website at [www.willingtonpubliclibrary.org](http://www.willingtonpubliclibrary.org), you can like us on [Facebook](#), we are now on Twitter, you may also sign up for our Library E-Blast and we are also available at Burbio.com. So please keep in touch, with whichever one of these ways, you like most.

As we become informed of updates as to what we are or are not allowed to do for your protection, we will pass this information onto you. There is much going on with preparation to reopen. It will not be the same but a new different. Things are different everywhere but if we work together, we will get through this.

We are planning the first stages of Phase 1 of the Covid-19 opening for our library. The first phase will apply to **returns only** (no donations at this time). Returns will be accepted via "curbside service" beginning Friday, June 5, and continue until further notice. Updates will be posted on the library website. Please use this schedule for returning your items:

**Monday: CLOSED**

Tuesday: 12:00pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday: 12:00pm - 4:30pm

Thursday: 12:00pm - 4:30pm

Friday: 12:00pm - 4:30pm

Saturday: 12:00pm - 4:30pm

**Sunday: CLOSED**

Please place your returns in a closed bag and place them in your trunk. We cannot accept loose items.

Pull up to the side entrance (on the left). If there is a line, please park in one of the open spaces (some will be "blocked"). You will be notified when you can come to the drop-off area. Remain in your car and open the trunk remotely if possible. We will remove the bag(s) and close your trunk. Your items will not be checked in immediately, so please allow up to 20 days for this process. All fines will be removed from your record.

**Please do not return your items if it is raining.**

We will NOT be accepting donations at this time. When that time becomes safe, we will let you know.

If you would like us to order an item for you, that we do not have in circulation already, we will do our best to try and fill your request. Please do this through the link on our website... [book-requests@willingtonpubliclibrary.org](mailto:book-requests@willingtonpubliclibrary.org)

We will begin curbside checkouts on Saturday, June 13, 2020. Customers will be asked to email their requests to: [checkout-requests@willingtonpubliclibrary.org](mailto:checkout-requests@willingtonpubliclibrary.org) or call-in their requests. We will provide detailed information on our website in the next few days regarding the process.

As Museums and Zoos begin to reopen, there are many new restrictions and limitations being applied under specific guidelines due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation. You will find all of our Passes listed on our Website. Before considering and requesting a pass, it is strongly suggested and recommended, that you go on-line, to that individual institutions website, to see just what those limitations are and how they apply to your usage. Everyone has different restrictions and limitations that apply to them only. Please check often to keep updated since things can change last minute, again due to the circumstances of the COVID-19 situation.

Whether we will be able to have our Friends of WPL's annual Book Sale in September is still to be determined at this time. Please look for further information as it becomes available to us. We are hoping that this event will still be able to be held.

We are also working on programs which we will be able to bring to you virtually. Enjoy your summer and we will be seeing you soon.

Take care and stay safe!

The Staff at WPL





# Willington Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars



## Congratulations 2020 Recipients!

Willington Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars (WSFDFS)

From the left:

Top row: Brianna Knight, Elana Bray, and Dante Wu

Next row: Philip Stebbins, Caitlin Halle, Brenna Leech, and Dylan Pallanck

Center row: Abby DeFeo and Stefania Moldovanu



From the left:

Top row: Lukus Perry, Matthew Bassett, and Brian Velez

Next row: Joelle Patruno, Michelle Lavoie, Richard Mailhos, and Katelyn Jacoboski

Bottom row: Rachel Cook, Elizabeth Anderson and Richard Gaita



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

