



# Willington Wire

## Community E-Newsletter

### October-December 2020





## Table of Contents

Town Office Building Holiday Closings .....	2
Town Office Building Contacts .....	3
Willington's Vision Statement.....	3
Boards & Commissions Meeting Calendar.....	4
First Selectwoman's Corner .....	5
Office Hours with State Representative Pat Wilson Pheanious..	5
NOTICE: Polling Place Change.....	6
Maureen Gantick, Assistant Town Clerk Retires.....	6
Assessor.....	7
Conservation Commission .....	9
Economic Development Commission.....	10
Elections Department.....	10
Fire Marshal.....	11
Historical Society.....	11-12
Human Services .....	12-13
PTA.....	14
Parks & Recreation .....	15-18
Public Works .....	19
Science Corner with Emily .....	20
Tax Collector .....	21
Town Clerk .....	21
Town Parks & Amenities .....	22
Willington Public Library.....	23-25
Willington Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars.....	26

**Cover Photo: Courtesy of Robert Shabot**



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

<b>Columbus Day</b>	<b>Monday, October 12th</b>
<b>Veterans Day</b>	<b>Wednesday, November 11th</b>
<b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	<b>Thursday, November 26th</b>
<b>Day After Thanksgiving</b>	<b>Friday, November 27th</b>
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>Thursday, December 24th</b>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>Friday, December 25th</b>



# 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	Maureen Parsell	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—Oct, Nov & Dec

Board/Commission	Day	Date	Time
Board of Education	Tuesday	October 13th	7:00 p.m.
Board of Education	Tuesday	November 10th	7:00 p.m.
Board of Education	Tuesday	December 8th	7:00 p.m.
Board of Finance	Thursday	October 15th	7:00 p.m.
Board of Finance	Thursday	November 19th	7:00 p.m.
Board of Finance	Thursday	December 17th	7:00 p.m.
Board of Selectmen	Monday	October 5th	6:30 p.m.
Board of Selectmen	Monday	October 19th	6:30 p.m.
Board of Selectmen	Monday	November 2nd	6:30 p.m.
Board of Selectmen	Monday	November 16th	6:30 p.m.
Board of Selectmen	Monday	December 7th	6:30 p.m.
Board of Selectmen	Monday	December 21st	6:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission	Wednesday	October 21st	7:00 p.m.
Conservation Commission	Wednesday	November 18th	7:00 p.m.
Conservation Commission	Wednesday	December 16th	7:00 p.m.
Economic Development	Wednesday	October 14th	6:30 p.m.
Economic Development	Wednesday	November 11th	6:30 p.m.
Economic Development	Wednesday	December 9th	6:30 p.m.
Historical Society	Tuesday	October 20th	2:00 p.m.
Historical Society	Tuesday	November 17th	2:00 p.m.
Housing Authority	Monday	October 19th	4:00 p.m.
Housing Authority	Monday	November 16th	4:00 p.m.
Housing Authority	Monday	December 21st	4:00 p.m.
Inland Wetlands/Watercourses	Monday	October 26th	7:30 p.m.
Inland Wetlands/Watercourses	Monday	November 23rd	7:30 p.m.
Inland Wetlands/Watercourses	Monday	December 21st	7:30 p.m.
Library Board of Directors	Friday	October 9th	6:00 p.m.
Library Board of Directors	Friday	November 13th	6:00 p.m.
Library Board of Directors	Friday	December 11th	6:00 p.m.
Parks & Recreation	Monday	October 26th	7:00 p.m.
Parks & Recreation	Monday	November 30th	7:00 p.m.
Parks & Recreation	Monday	December 28th	7:00 p.m.
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	October 6th	7:30 p.m.
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	October 20th	7:30 p.m.
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	November 17th	7:30 p.m.
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	December 1st	7:30 p.m.
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	December 15th	7:30 p.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals	Thursday	October 8th	7:30 p.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals	Thursday	November 12th	7:30 p.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals	Thursday	December 10th	7:30 p.m.



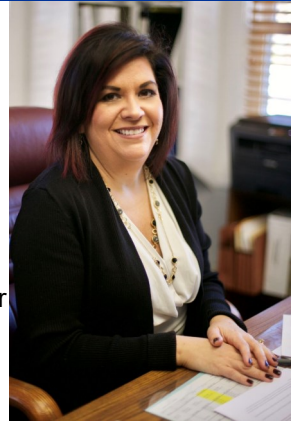
## First Selectwoman's Corner

Dear Willington Residents,

Fall is upon us and after 6 months our schools are open in person! The safety and well-being of each citizen in Willington remains the number one priority for mitigating this virus. While we continue to navigate our current normal due to COVID-19, you can still enjoy the cool crisp days in one of our parks, hiking or one of the many other enjoyable activities. I am asking all of our residents to continue to observe social distance and wear a mask when you visit our parks, Town Office Building, the Transfer Station and when required by Governor Lamont's Executive Orders. There is also a lot happening at the Town Office Building in preparation for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> Elections and as we begin our preparations for the winter and budget season. As winter approaches, the various boards and commissions will also begin their budget preparations. For those interested in following the budget process, be sure to visit our town's website, [www.willingtonct.org](http://www.willingtonct.org), and sign up for agendas and minutes. We will continue to hold meetings virtually while we work towards a safe return to in person meetings. You can find a listing of regular town meetings on the pages of this publication. The Town Office Building is currently closed to the public but remains fully staffed. If your business absolutely requires your presence at the Town Hall, please call the office you need in order 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. The Selectmen's Office is open during regular business hours: Monday from 12:30 pm – 7:30 pm and Tuesday – Friday from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm.

I hope to see you out and about in Willington again soon, until then Stay Safe!

*Erika Wiecenski*  
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](#)**

STAY  
CONNECTED

## Office Hours with State Representative Pat Wilson Pheanious



**LET'S TALK**

Representative  
Pat Wilson Pheanious'  
**ZOOM OFFICE HOURS**

Join me for Zoom Office Hours every  
**Wednesday from 6 pm - 7 pm.**  
Visit  
<https://bit.ly/zoom-meeting-with-pat>  
or call 1-646-876-9923  
Hope to see you there!





# NOTICE!

## Polling Place Change November 3, 2020

### VOTE AT



## HALL MEMORIAL SCHOOL GYMNASIUM 111 RIVER ROAD

**In-Person Voting for Registered Voters  
6:00 AM - 8:00 PM**

# Happy Retirement!

### **Retirement of Maureen Gantick – Assistant Town Clerk October 2, 2020**

Maureen Gantick has been a Town of Willington employee for 8,047 days. Maureen celebrated 24 years on September 21, 2020. She began her career with the Town on September 21, 1998 as a Town Custodian and in November of that same year she began helping in the Town Clerk's office. In June of 1999, she took on the additional role as Public Works Clerk/Secretary. In January of 2000 Maureen was appointed the Assistant Town Clerk and continued to hold 2 roles until August, 1999 when she left the Public Works Department to concentrate her efforts on her Town Clerk's office position. Maureen's dedication to the Town Clerk's Office and the Town of Willington is unparalleled. There will be a void, for sure, without her at the Town Office Building every day.

It has been a pleasure to have worked alongside you all these years. Thank you Maureen for 24 dedicated years of service to the Town of Willington. You will be missed!







## 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, vehicles registered out of state but domiciled in Willington, 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. Deadline to file for a reassessment on your July 2021 taxes must be received in our office by December 31, 2020. For additional information, contact the Assessor's office.

### **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. Applications are available in the Assessor's office or may be printed from the CT Farm Bureau Association website at <https://www.cfba.org/pa-490>.

### **MOTOR VEHICLES**

The Assessor's office is actively pursuing motor vehicles that should be paying taxes in Willington but are not currently. This includes all CT registered vehicles that are domiciled here and all vehicles registered out of state but domiciled in Willington as of October 1st. In an attempt to identify these vehicles we have contacted the owners of all apartment units, four units and greater. We have created a form to collect this information for those vehicles affected. We kindly ask if this applies to you to complete the form or if you don't have a form contact the Assessor's office at either 860-487-3122 or [rpierce@willingtonct.org](mailto:rpierce@willingtonct.org). We would also be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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:

**860-498-0268**



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



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





# Conservation Commission



Cooler weather is upon us and the members of the Conservation Commission hope that you will take the opportunity to put your feet on the ground along some of the trails through the forests and along the waterways in the preserved natural areas we are fortunate to have in Willington. Please practice social distancing while using the Town's trails.

The Town's 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 on Burma Road, and a box with nature trail guides is located a short distance down the Taylor Trail. Several picnic tables and benches are available in the picnic area adjacent to the parking lot and a wildlife observation deck overlooks the Beaver Pond. Dogs are welcome to accompany owners, but must be kept on a leash for their safety and to protect the Park's wildlife.

Getting around on any of the 4 main trails is easy. Most trails can be walked in 30-45 minutes. Trail maps are 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. For more adventure, consider using the Park's trail system to hike to the Town of Ashford's **Langhammer Preserve**. Start by taking the Park's Ruby Trail to the Ashford Link Trail. From there, it's only another 0.1 miles to Lustig Road in Ashford, where you can connect to the Ashford Trail immediately across the road.

Located off Mason Road, the Town's 28-acre **Talmadge Tract** on the west side of Mason Road and the 138-acre **Royal Knowlton Preserve** on the east side of Mason Road each contain ½ mile "spur" trails that connect with the **Nipmuck Trail** (part of the Connecticut Blue Trail system). These spur trails can be combined with the Nipmuck Trail to form a loop trail that begins and ends at the trail head parking lot off of Mason Road. Paper maps can be found on the sign post at the Talmadge trailhead on Mason Road across from the gravel parking area, and also at the sign post where the Nipmuck Trail crosses Mason Rd onto the Knowlton Preserve. Brochures and trail maps for these areas, as well as for Fenton-Ruby Park can also be found on the Conservation Commission webpage under "Boards and Commissions" on the Town of Willington's website/ home page: [www.willingtonct.org](http://www.willingtonct.org).

**Chenes Roches** (translation: "oaks rocks") is a 56-acre wooded preserve in northeast Willington 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 via new bridges added by volunteers this June 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, [www.joshuastrust.org](http://www.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.***

If you are interested in taking an active part in helping the Town manage its environmental resources, the Conservation Commission has openings for alternate members. Alternate members participate in meetings and may be seated as voting members in the absence of regular members. The Conservation Commission meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 pm. Meetings may be virtual at this time. 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 webpage under "Boards and Commissions" on the Town of Willington's website/home page: [www.willingtonct.org](http://www.willingtonct.org), for more information on agendas/minutes, conservation issues and upcoming events.

We are always happy to hear any comments you may have about your experiences with Willington's open space and environmental resources.

**We hope to see you on the trails !**



# 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



**The Presidential/State election will be held on November 3, 2020. In-person voting will take place at Hall Memorial School's gymnasium, 111 River Road, from 6 am to 8 pm. Please note that this is a change in poll room location for this election. Voters are reminded to bring identification.**

Election Day Registration will take place at the Elections Department, 40 Old Farms Road, from 6 am to 8 pm.

**Voters are reminded to bring identification.**

Plan ahead and make sure that you are registered to vote. To check your voter registration, go to the Secretary of State's site at [portaldir.ct.gov/sots/LookUp.aspx](http://portaldir.ct.gov/sots/LookUp.aspx).

Registering to vote is an easy process and there are several methods for obtaining a voter application form:

- **Apply** online at [voterregistration.ct.gov](http://voterregistration.ct.gov). **Online applications must be completed by October 27.**
- **Call** the Elections Department (860 487.3120\*\*) and leave a clearly stated message, including your name and address, asking that an application be sent. **Mail-in applications must be postmarked by October 27.**
- **Apply** at the Elections Department **office** (860 487.3120\*\*) on the main level of the Town Office Building, 40 Old Farms Road, on Tuesdays from 10 am to 12 pm. **In-person applications must be completed by October 27.**
- **Register** at the Town Clerk's office (860 487.3121\*\*) at the main level of the Town Office Building during business hours on Monday from 12:30 to 7:30 pm and Tuesday through Friday from 9 am to 2 pm. **In-person applications must be completed by October 27.**

\*\*The Town Office Building is currently closed to the public. Please call the department from the parking lot to be admitted into the building.

**There will be a special Voter Registration Session held at the Elections Department on Tuesday, October 27 from 9 am to 8 pm.**

Absentee ballot applications are available through the Town Clerk's office at 860 487.3121 or go to the Secretary of the State's website at [portal.ct.gov/sots](http://portal.ct.gov/sots). Absentee ballots become available on October 2.

For other election questions, please contact the Elections Department at 860 487.3120, Tuesdays 10 am to 12 pm or leave a message.

**Suzanne G. Chapman and Christine Psathas—Registrars of Voters/Election Department — [www.willingtonct.org](http://www.willingtonct.org)**



## Fire Marshal



TOWN OF WILLINGTON  
OFFICE OF FIRE MARSHAL



### Smoke Detectors

First, and very important, when a fire or smoke is discovered, call 911, don't hesitate, and then get your family out of the building. Fire grows so rapid, and produces very toxic gases, that will render you unconscious in seconds. Your belongings can be replaced, your family can't.

One of the most effective tools to protect you and your family is a smoke detector. They should be located just inside of every bedroom, in the hallway, and entrances to the basement or garage. You should test your smoke detectors monthly to ensure that the detector works properly.

Every fall when we change our clocks back to Eastern Standard Time, you should replace the batteries in your smoke detectors. A lot of smoke detectors that are purchased today has a battery life of ten (10) years. There is no battery to replace, you have to replace the detector with another. The older and newer single station units, the 9 VDC battery should be replaced annually. Then, there are detectors that are interconnected, meaning if one were to activate, the others throughout the home will too. Most of these detectors use a 9VDC battery as back up if the power were to go out. This battery will ultimately beep if the battery is weak as does the older single station units. You may have to take down the detector or there is a slide that opens to replace the battery.

One newer detector is the CO unit. These detectors are either battery or VAC powered. These detectors should be placed near the area that houses your furnace, gas fired water heater, wood stove, the garage entrance, and in the hallway to the sleeping rooms. CO is a colorless and odorless gas that will cause death. On this thought, one thing is extremely important, never run any type of gasoline, diesel power equipment like generators, heaters just to name a few, in the house, basement, or garage. The exhaust has CO. Any type of internal combustion engines must be outside away from the home openings while in use.

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

## Historical Society



### ELECTION CAKE

Let it rise again!

During the Colonial era, English immigrants and their descendants put naturally leavened, spirited, spiced, fruit cakes at the center of their political rituals.

After the American Revolution, the cake became known as Election Cake. It was a special food for a special occasion when Americans treated Election Day as a revered holiday.

The first published recipe for Election Cake is credited to Amelia Simmons in 1796 as contained in her *American Cookery*.

As a political tradition, Election Cake had largely vanished by the early 20th century. This being the result of changing tastes and a changing political landscape.

In our present run up to the 2020 Presidential election, with nerves frayed and fingers pointing in each direction, perhaps the most 'fruitful' way to create a political 'stir' is in the kitchen!

Consider making an Election Cake. There are numerous recipes to be found on the internet. Here's one you might like to try.

Two 1/4-ounce packets active dry yeast  
1 cup warm water (about 105 degrees F)  
3 cups all-purpose flour  
¾ cup (1 ½ sticks) unsalted butter  
1 cup dried fruit, such as raisins, currants  
½ cup chopped nuts cranberries and/or chopped dates  
1/3 cup whiskey, brandy or rum  
½ cup plus 2 Tbsps. dark brown sugar  
½ cup granulated sugar  
1 ½ tsp. ground cinnamon  
¾ tsp. ground allspice  
½ tsp. freshly grated nutmeg  
½ tsp. fine salt  
3 large eggs, at room temperature  
1 tsp. vanilla

Sprinkle the yeast over the warm water in a medium bowl. Stir a few times and let stand to allow the yeast to dissolve and begin bubbling, 1 to 2 minutes. Sift 1 ½ cups of the flour into the bowl and stir until mostly smooth. Cover with plastic wrap and set aside in a warm place for about 30 minutes. The mixture will expand, loosen in texture, and will have large bubbles on the surface.

While that sits, generously grease a 12-cup Bundt pan and set aside. Place the dried fruit, nuts, 2 Tbsp. of the brown sugar and the 1/3 cup liquor in a microwave-safe bowl. Stir until the sugar is dissolved. Heat in the microwave until hot and bubbling, 1 to 2 minutes. Stir and set aside to cool.

In a medium bowl, whisk the remaining 1 ½ cups flour with the cinnamon, allspice, nutmeg and salt. Beat the butter with the remaining ½ cup brown and the granulated sugar with an electric mixer on medium-high speed until light and fluffy.





## Historical Society Continued...

Beat in the eggs, one at a time, until combined (the mixture may look slightly curdled at this stage), and then add the vanilla. Beat in the yeast mixture and then reduce the speed to medium-low and gradually beat in the flour mixture. Add the plumped dried fruit with any remaining liquid and beat on medium speed until the fruit is well blended. The dough should be soft and elastic at this point.

Transfer the dough to the prepared Bundt pan and cover with plastic wrap. Let rise in a warm place until the dough fills the pan about three-quarters of the way, about 2 hours. When the cake is almost done rising, preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Bake the cake until golden brown and a skewer inserted comes out clean, 40 to 45 minutes. Cool for 30 minutes in the pan on a wire rack. Loosen the sides with a small metal spatula and turn onto the wire rack to cool completely.

Before serving, stir 1 cup confectioners' sugar, ½ tsp. vanilla and 1 Tbsp. milk. Gradually add additional milk as needed to make a thick glaze that will just gently run. Spoon over the top of the cake, allowing the glaze to slowly run down the outside and inside of the cake.

Note: This cake is great made a day or two in advance. Just hold off on the glaze until you are ready to serve.

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.

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.

Volunteers are also needed to help with our ongoing projects:

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

Cash and time are not the only gifts that help keep our organization viable. Please consider donating items, such as photographs, programs and 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!

## Human Services

40 Old Farms Road  
Tel. (860) 487-3118  
Email: [humanservices@willingtonct.org](mailto:humanservices@willingtonct.org)

### THANK YOU!



The Department of Human Services wants to extend a heartfelt thank you to all have donated to our Back to School program, as well as all of our Food Drives during this past year! We couldn't do it all without your support, and you make a HUGE difference in the community!

### 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



Bringing produce, breads, and on occasion, meats to Willington residents. The Foodshare truck comes every other Wednesday from 11-11:30 sharp in front of the Senior Center. Please bring plenty of bags or boxes.

### ENERGY ASSISTANCE



Energy Assistance Appointments are now available! Please contact our office for more information or for an appointment.

### 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!

### WILLINGTON WARM LINE CALLERS



Calling residents to check in! If you want to be a part of this group which reaches out to our residents just to "check in" and have a friendly conversation to ease social isolation, contact this department!

Likewise, if you know a resident who could use a call, let us know!

### 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!



# Online auction

**For the benefit of the Willington Fuel Bank**

October 23rd through October 25th

Please check Willington Human Services [Facebook](#) page for more information!



## MANAGING CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19) ANXIETY

**For You**

- Avoid excessive exposure to media coverage
- Connect through calls/text/internet
- Add extra time for daily stress relief
- Practice self-care
- Focus on your mental health

BlessingManifesting

**For Kids**

- Reassure them that they're safe
- Let them talk about their worries
- Share your own coping skills
- Limit their news exposure
- Create a routine & structure

**For Quarantine/Isolation**

- Keep in contact with your loved ones via social media, texts, and phone calls
- Create a daily self-care routine
- Keep yourself busy: games, books, movies
- Focus on new relaxation techniques



# PTA

We hope everyone had a great summer! Our 2020-2021 PTA board is looking forward to all the fun, and educational activities we have planned for this year. To be successful in planning and continuing to run these events for the children of Willington, we need volunteers. If you do not currently receive emails from the PTA, please email us at [membership.willingtonpta@gmail.com](mailto:membership.willingtonpta@gmail.com) and ask to be added to the list to ensure that you don't miss out on any upcoming events or volunteer opportunities. We want to remind everyone of some easy ways to earn money for the schools:

## Collecting Box Tops



## Sign up for Amazon Smile



The Willington PTA is an association of parents, teachers and administrators who raise funds to enhance and enrich our children's school experience. Money raised in the past has been used to pay for field trips, assembly programs and scholarships. We also organize family fun events to bring our children and parents together. While this year may look a little different, we are still hopeful to get in some events and can hopefully support the schools in other ways than we may be used to such as virtual field trips or extra indoor activities/supplies. We encourage all parents and teachers to join the PTA. Normally we have two options for active and inactive members, however, since we don't need nearly as many volunteers this year, there will be one option to join for \$25.00. Our events are not possible without our members and volunteers. Our monthly meetings will be held the 3rd Tuesday of every month via Zoom @ 6:00 p.m. Our first meeting will be held in person at River Road Athletic Complex. Please remember to follow social distancing guidelines. We hope you can join us. You can also join our Facebook page at [The Willington PTA](#) to keep up to date on anything we have going on.

## 2020-2021 Executive Board

Tanya Smith, President

[tanyasmith.willingtonpta@gmail.com](mailto:tanyasmith.willingtonpta@gmail.com)

Lindsay Bennett, Vice President

[Lindsay.willingtonpta@gmail.com](mailto:Lindsay.willingtonpta@gmail.com)

Shane Reilly, Secretary

[shane.allison0819@gmail.com](mailto:shane.allison0819@gmail.com)

Katie Given, Treasurer

[Katie.willingtonpta@gmail.com](mailto:Katie.willingtonpta@gmail.com)

Sara Geary, Membership

[membership.willingtonpta@gmail.com](mailto:membership.willingtonpta@gmail.com)





# 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

### Adult OUTDOOR, Co-Ed Pickleball

Come play Pickleball, a fun sport that combines many elements of Tennis, Badminton, and Ping-Pong. All levels, from beginners to advanced, are welcome!

**Dates:** Sept. 30th — Nov 6th

**Days:** Wednesdays & Fridays

**Time:** 10-12:00 p.m.

**Location:** River Road Athletic Complex Basketball Court

**Fee:** \$40.00 / 6-week session OR \$5.00 Drop In



**Equipment is available for use**

**Minimum 18 years old to play**

**COVID-19 Guidelines will be followed—when on the sidelines, masks must be worn if a 6-foot distance cannot be maintained.**

### Snowshoe Loaner Program



Winter is right around the corner!! Just a reminder that WPRD has four pairs of adult snow shoes and four pairs of kids snow shoes for residents 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!!**

### Yoga-in-the-Park



**Join us on Thursday mornings at Fenton -Ruby Park and Wildlife Preserve for an All Levels Yoga Class!**

This class will be an All Levels class, appropriate and modifiable for a brand new practitioner to someone who practices weekly. We will work on balance, strength and gentle stretching.

**Please wear comfortable clothing and bring your own mat and props.**

**Dates:** Thursday Mornings; October 1st and 8th

**Time:** 10:00-11:00 a.m.

**Location:** Fenton Ruby Park & Wildlife Preserve

Drop In Fee—\$10.00/class

**Instructor:** Caitlin Draghe, RYT 200

**COVID-19 Guidelines will be followed**

### Projects-in-the-Park



**Save the date for our next Project-in-the-Park with Mica and Angel Pond Creations... Thursday, October 22nd.**

During this class we will be making a porch planter. Let's make your creativity come to life! All materials will be provided. Your planter, and the stencil of your choice will be ready for you when you arrive. Check back for more details!

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

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



# Parks & Recreation Continued...

## OUTDOOR Adult Fitness Classes



In this class we will be focusing on weight loss with a combination of body weight exercises and cardio. You will be strengthening and challenging your muscles and increasing your stamina. This class is approximately 45-minutes with stretching at the end.

**\$20.00/4 classes Mondays at 9:00 a.m. (10/5-10/26)**

**\$20.00/4 classes Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. (10/7-10/28)**

**\$20.00/4 classes Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. (10/6-10/27)**

**Class Size: Maximum 10 people and minimum of 5 to run.**

**Location: River Road Athletic Complex**

**\*\*Registering in advance is required\*\***

**Please wear comfortable workout attire and sneakers. Bring a water bottle and a mat/blanket to sit on the ground. We will not have mats/equipment to borrow. COVID-19 Guidelines will be followed. Masks must be worn upon entering and exiting class and when a 6-foot distance cannot be maintained.**

### Pick Up Sand Volleyball



Monday nights in October

5-7:00 p.m. (or until it's dark)

River Road Athletic Complex, Volleyball Court

Let's keep playing and getting outside as much as we can while we have the light and warmth of the sun!

Heavy Rain & Thunder Cancels (Or snow. This is 2020 and New England after all!)

Adults 18+. All Levels Welcome. Rules will be followed but this is a fun, recreational program.

COVID-19 Guidelines will be followed. All participants on the sidelines must wear a mask if they cannot maintain a 6-foot distance.

## 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.

**Due to COVID-19 and the health and safety of Willington's staff and students, WPRD will not utilize Hall Memorial School or Center School for any of our indoor programs. This includes basketball, volleyball and pickleball. We are, however, continuing to hold some "Pop-Up Programs" at some of our town parks. If you have any ideas or programs that you'd like to see, we'd love to hear about them! In the meantime, we will try to squeak out every last minute of warmth and daylight we have this fall to continue our outdoor programs!**

**Be sure to follow all information as it becomes available.**

**Sign up for [E-Alerts](#) on our website and Follow us on [Facebook](#)**

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





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

---

## Looking for some outdoor activities this Fall? Check out Walktober 2020!



September 17 - November 1

The Last Green Valley is celebrating 30 years of Walktober! While it's not what they envisioned when they began planning, Walktober still provides plenty of opportunities to experience what makes this region worthy of being a National Heritage Corridor. With more than 130 walks, hikes, historic tales, paddles, bike rides, farm visits, and more offered by dedicated & passionate Walktober leaders and the generous sponsors that make it happen.

In these challenging times, walk leaders are adjusting their plans daily. They have had a number of additions, changes and cancellations since the print brochure was published.

**PLEASE** check the online [Walktober Calendar](#) for updates before you go. Wear your mask, maintain physical distancing, and follow all other recommendations from local, state and federal health officials. Do your part to keep Walktober safe for all of us!





## 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

**\*\*Thank you to our Anonymous Donor. You know who you are.\*\***



# 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!

**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 opened on 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, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. on the following dates:  
October 3rd & 17th and November 7th

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

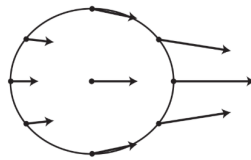


### Tides

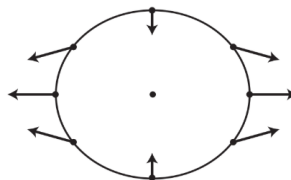
Summer has always been my favorite season. I have fond memories of spending summers in Rhode Island, camping along the beach with my family. Spending hours in the ocean playing in the waves, occasionally missing a break, getting tossed up on to shore and popping up with a head full of sand. That never stopped me though, I would always shake it off and run back in for more. High tide was undoubtedly my favorite, the waves were so much bigger leaving the room for error even smaller. I never thought much about what caused tides, mostly because I could never get a clear explanation from anyone when I asked.

The simple answer is the gravitational pull from the Moon generates what is called tidal force. This force causes Earth, specifically its water, to bulge out on the sides closest and farthest from the Moon. As Earth rotates, each region passes through these bulges, experiencing two high tides (and two low tides) each day. Since water is not spread uniformly around Earth due to the seven continents, some regions experience minimal difference between tides.

There are a few missing links in this simple explanation though. If the Moon's gravitational pull is what causes the tides then how is there a bulge on the side of Earth farthest from the Moon? If the Moon's gravitational pull was the sole contributor to tidal force water would constantly move toward the Moon creating a single bulge as shown below.



Tidal force, however, is a different type of force. Although the Moon's gravitational pull is an important factor, so are the gravitational forces on Earth. To calculate tidal force, Earth's gravitational pull has to be factored into the equation by subtracting the force at each location on Earth from the Moon's gravitational pull. The result is a stretching and squashing of Earth as illustrated below. As you will notice when Earth's gravitational pull is factored into the equation two bulges (representing water direction) are present.



Tides can also be effected by other forces. During a full or new Moon when the Earth, Moon and Sun lineup, lunar and solar forces work together leading to more extreme tides, called spring tides. When the opposite is the case, lunar and solar forces work against each other, small tides, known as neap tides occur. Wind and weather patterns also affect water level resulting in exaggerated tides. High-pressure systems push down sea levels leading to lower tides. On the contrary, low-pressure systems brought on by storms can cause tides to be much higher than predicted.

-Emily Perko



## Tax Collector

### Happy Holidays from the Tax Office!



**Wishing you  
a Healthy  
& Prosperous  
Season!**

**Janice Clauson  
Tax Collector  
&  
Michele Cyr  
Assistant  
Tax Collector**

## Town Clerk

As we approach what is being called an unprecedented election season, there are some things that should be pointed out that will look different due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Secretary of State has sent out applications for absentee ballots to every registered voter in the state (very similar to what was done this past July for registered Democrats and Republicans, however ALL registered voters will now get an application). To see if you are registered is easy, you can go to: [portaldir.ct.gov/sots/lookup.aspx](http://portaldir.ct.gov/sots/lookup.aspx) and enter the information to see if you are registered. \*See the [Registrar of Voters](#) page for more information on how to register to vote.

The Town Clerk's office will start to send absentee ballots to residents (whom have sent in their applications) via mail around October 2, 2020. The completed ballots will then be received by mail or drop off via the secure ballot box outside the Town Office Building at 40 Old Farms Road (in front of the building outside the main entrance).

For those wishing to vote in person, please note that this year's voting location will be at Hall Memorial School Gymnasium located at 111 River Road, which is a larger venue and can accommodate larger attendance and allow social distancing. Many thanks to the Registrar of Voters for their dedication making this election process as smooth as possible thus far.

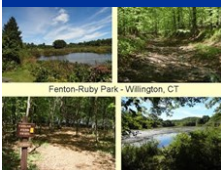
In other news, Maureen Gantick will retire from her position as Assistant Town Clerk on October 2, 2020, after 22 years of service. Maureen has worn many hats throughout her tenure at the Town Office Building. We will miss her knowledge and bubbly personality, but wish her a happy retirement! If you see Maureen in your travels, please thank her for her many dedicated years of service to the Town and wish her well.

While the Town Office Building remains closed to the public, the Town Clerk's office is still operational and will accommodate those needing services by curb-side appointment. Please call 860-487-3121 to make an appointment or if you have questions regarding the absentee ballot process. Lastly, I would like to welcome Rachel Pierce as my new Assistant Town Clerk. Many of you may already know Rachel from her previous position as Assistant Assessor. I look forward to working with her and serving the Town of Willington as your new Town Clerk!

**Robin Campbell  
Town Clerk**



# 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**

At this time, we are still offering and continuing with the same **curb side pick-up** practice that we have been following for all of our patrons. This has been working out nicely, and it has been a delight to see so many of your dear, friendly faces. We really do miss you all. Just a reminder, there are a number of ways you can make a request, whether it is for something we have already in circulation or for something you would like to see us own. You may go on-line to our website at [www.willingtonpubliclibrary.org](http://www.willingtonpubliclibrary.org) and click on our home page and simply click on the blue box to your left, "My Account" or "Library Catalog" to see what we have in the Library's collection for you to check out. You can request items through your account or with either of the two request emails offered. Feel free to give us a call if you prefer. Our phones are available even if we are closed; simply leave a voicemail and we will return your call the next opening day.

**Returns** are still being accepted through our drop boxes. If at all possible, we ask that you follow the practice of putting your items in a plastic bag upon returning.

Something really wonderful is back and we are over the moon excited about it, as I am sure you will be too. We will now be able to offer the **State's Inter-Library Loan System** again! We have been without it for many years now, but were able to get it back. YEAH!!!! So now, if we don't have an item, we won't have to turn you away or send you to another library. We will once again be able to order it, and you will be able to pick it up here and return it here, right in your own library. This is a great way for our Library to save money and offer more to our patrons. Isn't sharing great! This will also help bring in some much needed revenue.

**NOW, to open the Library** and make it safe for all those who enter and who work here, we will ALL be expected to follow these guidelines to the fullest extent...NO exceptions allowed!

**Masks** will be worn correctly and completely, which means it must fully cover your face and nose. It is to be worn properly at ALL TIMES and in ALL areas of the Library. Upon entering the building you will see **hand sanitizer**. It is there for you to use...this is MANDATORY upon entering. **Temperatures** will be taken and your **name and contact information** upon entering the building. If you have a current updated library card, we will already have the necessary contact information on file. If you do not have a library card on file and are visiting, this information will need to be given prior to entering the building for any usage.

You will need to **follow all** the **instructions** given to you by the Staff; there will be no deviation from them. If they are not followed, you will be asked to leave and will not be able to return until you are able or willing to comply. Please be advised, that the Library's **bathrooms will not be open to the public** while you are here in the building nor the drinking fountains.

It is our hope, that with everyone's cooperation, these new practices will work and keep ALL of us safe. Remember, if just one staff member becomes ill with Covid, the library would have to close down, and all staff members would be in self-quarantine for the minimum two weeks. In addition, every patron who visited the library previously would have to be notified, and then follow certain procedures for possible Covid contact.

We are hoping to open the library within these next few months, beginning in October with use of computers, limited family visits to choose Children's books for checkout, and making donations of books.

Here is our gradual opening schedule (subject to change) and ALL to be done **by scheduled appointments ONLY**:

**Family Day** - Saturdays ONLY beginning **Saturday, Oct. 3, from 1 pm to 3 pm.**

It has been difficult for our children to choose their books online – they enjoy actually seeing the books and thumbing through them before deciding. So we will be scheduling "Family Days" where the children can come in and choose their books in person! This will be limited to one family at a time, in half-hour increments, and by appointment only (appointments on the hour only: 1 pm, 2 pm or 3 pm). There can be no overlapping of time or families. Once your time is up, you will then be asked to proceed to the Circulation Desk for checking out. If you arrive late, please note that your time will then be a shorter stay. This is for consideration of the next family waiting to come in. We are limited with staff and time, so we will need the half hours between appointments for cleaning and sanitizing. This day is for selecting **children's books only**.

Please let your children know that ALL toys have been temporarily removed so they will not be able to play with anything at this time - they will only be able to pick out their books to go. When we are able to be completely open once again, there are some wonderful new children's items that the Friends of the Willington Public Library have let us purchase for their fun, enjoyment and learning experience! Stay tuned - we will be sending out a list of all these wonderful and exciting new additions in future notifications.





## Willington Public Library Continued...

If there is something in particular that you would like to see the Library have, that would be enjoyed by the children, please let Miss Debbie know and we will see what can be done to fill that request through the Friends. If you think you have something of value and in good condition that you can share with us, please think about donating it to the Library. What have your children enjoyed playing with? Is this something you would like to donate? For example, we have a train set and doll house that can always be expanded upon. Call us to schedule an appointment!

### **Book Donations** - Mondays ONLY beginning **Monday, Oct. 5, from 1 pm to 3 pm.**

We would like to once again begin receiving book donations, which will be done by curbside drop offs. ONLY books will be received at this time, nothing else! Book donations will be made by scheduled appointment ONLY, and we would like an estimate of the quantity you will be bringing. This way we can allow enough time necessary for each person's delivery. ALL books MUST be in the smaller, grocery size plastic bags for easy handling. We will receive drop offs at the side of the building's parking lot at the lower level. We will have wagons that can be **loaded by those donating**, and the staff will bring them into the Library building.

**Adult Computer Use** - Wednesdays ONLY beginning **Wednesday, Oct 7, 1:30 to 2:30, and 3 to 4 pm.** Use of computers will be limited to one hour time limits and with only two patrons at any one time. There will be no browsing the shelves or checking items out during this time. You will be able to print from the computers if needed. Technical help will probably not be available, due to limited staff and issues with social distancing.

These three gradual openings of library services will be held once every week, if everything goes smoothly with these "trial runs", and if nothing unforeseen happens. **Stay tuned on the many Social Media we offer for updates!**

You can find us on our website ([www.willingtonpubliclibrary.org](http://www.willingtonpubliclibrary.org)), Library E-Blast (call to sign up), Facebook (like us), Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and Burbio.com

Our **Friends of the Willington Public Library** bring to you so many wonderful things. For example, all of our programs, all of the children's toys, every Museum and Attraction Pass; which now total twenty-five (25), thirteen (13) of which are new to us this year! The Friends group makes all of our library experiences more enjoyable and we are very grateful. Thank you Friends! Also, let's not forget the many members of the Friends group who go above and beyond by contributing from their own personal funds to provide us with many of our wishes. Thank you to Carol Chagnot and Donna Caplette, who are two of those very generous people. Kathy Osthus has made cloth face masks for the staff, so the Library can save some money on disposable ones (not to mention they are so much more comfortable and face contact friendly). Thank you again for providing for our needs!

We would like to congratulate our **new Executive Board of the Friends** for their dedication and tireless work. Marybeth Caron is repeating another year as Co-President along with Pat Scheuritzel; Julie Engelke, for another term as Secretary, and Kathy Osthus will now take on the Treasurer's job which Ruma Basu had for many years. Thank you Ruma and to each member for all you do for our Library. We are always in need of devoted people, who love and appreciate their library and want to be a part of making it all it can and should be. If you are someone like that, please join the Friends!

### **Who's Missing Ollie?**



Everyone has been asking how Ollie is doing. Thank you for your concern and interest. He is doing wonderfully well. He has been staying at Miss Jen's home and is being well loved and cared for. He has met many new friends while visiting but is also missing his old friends from the Library. Would you like to see him? Would you like to send him some letters, cards, or pictures for him to receive and enjoy? Well, let's do that! Anyone who is missing Ollie and would like to say hello, can now send him notes or cards, by dropping them off at the Library. Just place them in one of our two drop boxes and Miss Jen will make sure she brings them home for him to enjoy. She will take pictures of him reading all of your wonderful correspondences and then share them with us through the many different social media we are on. He would just love this! We are also going to have a special presentation of his favorite Guinea Pig books on display for your enjoyment, along with a special virtual Story Time and Craft-In-A-Bag-To-Go project you can make. Watch for this date TBA on upcoming events on our social media locations!



# Willington Public Library Continued...

## Introducing our list of Museum and Attraction Passes:

### \* Passes new to 2020

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| *Bushnell Park Carousel - 2 passes                             | *Children's Museum - 1 pass                                 |
| *Connecticut Fire Museum - 3 passes                            | *Connecticut Historical Society Museum and Library - 1 pass |
| *Connecticut Motor Coach Museum - 3 passes                     | Connecticut's Old State House - 1 pass                      |
| Connecticut Science Center - coupons                           | CT State Parks & Forests - 2 passes                         |
| *CT Trolley Museum - 3 passes (1 weekday, 1 Sat., 1 Sun.)      | *Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art (MA) - 1 pass        |
| Florence Griswold Museum - 1 pass                              | *Harriet Beecher Stowe Center - 1 pass                      |
| *Lutz Children's Museum - 1 pass                               | Mark Twain House & Museum - 1 pass                          |
| *Museum of Fire History - 2 passes                             | Mystic Aquarium - 7 any day passes                          |
| Mystic Seaport - 7 specific week day passes                    | New Britain Museum of American Art - 1 pass                 |
| *New England Air Museum - 3 passes                             | *New England Carousel Museum - 2 passes                     |
| Old Sturbridge Village (MA) - 5 passes                         | *Roaring Brook Nature Center - 1 pass                       |
| *Roger Williams Park & Zoo (R. I.) - 7 passes - Saturdays only | Springfield Museums (6 museums in one) - 1 pass             |
| Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art - 2 passes                    |   |

As museums, zoos and attractions begin to reopen, there are many new restrictions and limitations being implemented due to the Covid-19 situation. You will find all of our passes (old and new additions) now listed on our website. Please take advantage of them while you can and as they are made available for you to enjoy. Before you consider going or requesting a pass, it is strongly advised that you go on line to each of the individual institution's websites and/or call them to find out exactly what their current protocol is for how they are operating. Things could be very different from what it once was in regards to hours and usage. This way you will be informed of their most current practices for keeping safe.

### Book Galleries:

Enjoy the many wonderful book galleries we are showing now on our website!

Check out our galleries of new books at the Library - 2019 and 2020 new releases, special topic and themed books, along with a new section introducing our many local authors and their books now being highlighted.

On Thursday, October 29, 2020, through the use of virtual media, we will be conducting our annual **Read for the Record** story time. This is a tradition I am happy to say we can continue at this time. We will be handing out Crafts-To-Go- Bags which you can pick up during our regular curbside pick-up schedule that day (Thurs Oct 29). Please just let us know by Wednesday, October 21, if you would like to receive one, so we can have one made up for you.

Our story this year is called "Evelyn Del Ray Is Moving Away" by author Meg Medina and illustrator Sonia Sanchez. It is a story about two best friends Daniela and Evelyn, as they play together one last time before Evelyn's family moves to a new city. The friends find moments of imagination and joy together amidst the final stages of packing and though they are sad when the time comes to say goodbye, they separate knowing they will always be forever friends. This is a tender story of friendship and change. *(Picture book ages 4-7)*

### Coming this Fall:

We've got lemons. Do you want to make lemonade with us? During our Isaias storm, we had a tree come down. The beauty of this was that it was loaded with grapevines. After the grapes are harvested, we will be gathering vines to make **grapevine wreaths**. If you'd like to join us outside for this project, be on the lookout for this upcoming date. Social distancing will be practiced!

If you would like to receive **E-blasts** of upcoming programs and events or just keep up with current matters, call and let us know and we will be happy to add you to the list. If you think you have signed up before but do not receive notices, let us know and we can add your information once again. All you need is an email address where notices of activities can be sent. We can do this right over the phone.

We will be celebrating **Halloween at the Library** this year. Join us on Saturday, October 31st between the hours of 1:00 and 3:00 pm outside. We will have the front of our Library decorated for the holiday and will be offering Trick-or-Treat goodie bags to the children. Bring along your camera or phones to take a picture of your ghouls and goblins, princesses and pirates, among the fun filled decorations. Social distancing in line will be practiced.

**FYI...**It has been decided that there will be **NO Holiday Craft Fair and Bake Sale** this December.

Congratulations to all of our **Library Board of Directors** members. We once again have a full house! Thank you to Cari Donaldson - Chair, Elena Testa - Vice-Chair, Karenann Caldwell - Treasurer, Joy Wrona - Secretary, Kathy Ryan-Gidman and Sarah Jean. We all look forward to working together for one purpose and cause, to make our library a success and enrichment for everyone.

We, the Staff, look forward to serving our Patrons as best we can during these interesting and hopefully better months ahead. We miss our Patrons very much and want to be there for you in every way possible, to help meet your needs and wants. Stay tuned for possible Winter activities to come.

**Be safe and be well. Happy Holidays!**



# Willington Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars



## This Fall- Consider Annual Giving with Payroll Deduction

Many employers in the area partner with charitable organizations like the United Way to enable employees to make charitable contributions through payroll deductions. Setting up contributions via payroll deduction makes it easy to achieve your giving goals by automating the process; and regular small contributions add up overtime.

Did you know, in most cases, you can direct payroll deducted contributions to the charity of your choice? For example, the United Way maintains a list of many charitable organizations for you to choose from. They also allow you to add organizations to their list. This is a great option if you prefer to see your contributions used locally.

*The Willington Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars* is set up with the United Way already. Thanks to the generosity of several Willington residents, we receive regular contributions from the United Way for their payroll deducted contributions.

If your employer encourages you to participate in an annual giving campaign through payroll deductions, consider directing your contribution to the *Willington Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars*.

If you don't see *Willington Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars* on the list as an approved charity in your employers giving program, ask if we can be added!

Thank you for your continued support of the students of Willington! We will be relying heavily on online and mail-in donations this year as our Fall fundraiser at the Flea Market was cancelled.

**Want to Donate NOW? Text: WILLINGTONFORSCHOLARS to 44321**

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





# PLEASE



## SLOW DOWN ON OUR STREETS WILLINGTON!!

### Drivers:

- Be alert! Look out for pedestrians at all times!
- When you are operating a vehicle, you have accepted a heightened responsibility for other people on the road. Safety is a two-way street. Often, pedestrians— especially younger ones— are not where they should be or where you would expect them to be. Remain vigilant at all times.
- Follow posted speed limits at all times, especially in areas of heavy pedestrian traffic. This is even more important in areas that have lower speed limits, such as school zones and neighborhood streets where pedestrians may appear suddenly.
- Overall visibility is limited in bad weather conditions and poorly lit areas. Not only is it more difficult for drivers to see oncoming pedestrians, it also is harder for pedestrians to see you. Make sure your lights are on and you use your signals properly. Use extra caution in these circumstances.
- Be mindful of pedestrians when pulling into and out of driveways – especially if you are backing up. Pedestrians can easily enter your path without your knowledge.
- Always yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk.
- When approaching a crosswalk, reduce your speed and be prepared to stop.
- When you are stopped at a crosswalk, allow enough room between your vehicle and the crosswalk so other drivers can see the pedestrians you have stopped for.
- Do not pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk. They have stopped to allow pedestrians to pass or make sure the way is clear.
- **Do Not Drive Under the Influence**
- Alcohol and drugs impair your reaction time, reflexes, decision-making skills and overall cognitive functions. Getting behind the wheel while impaired puts everyone in danger.

### Pedestrians:

- Be visible—Wear lightly colored or reflective clothing at night and brightly colored clothing during the day.
- Stay in well-lit areas, especially when crossing the street.
- If possible, make eye contact with drivers in stopped vehicles to ensure they see you before you cross in front of them.
- Stay Alert and Avoid Distractions—Put down your phone and don't wear headphones.
- Walk in safe places. Stay on sidewalks whenever possible. If a sidewalk is not available, be sure to walk on the far side of the road FACING traffic. This will help increase your visibility to drivers.

