

Wilmington Wire

Community E-Newsletter

Spring 2020



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Thank you to all who submitted photos for our cover!



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

Good Friday
Memorial Day

Friday, April 10th
Monday, May 25th



Town of Willington Office Building Contacts

40 Old Farms Road, Willington, CT 06279—www.willingtonct.org

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

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| First Selectwoman | Erika G. Wiecenski | 860-487-3100 |
| 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:

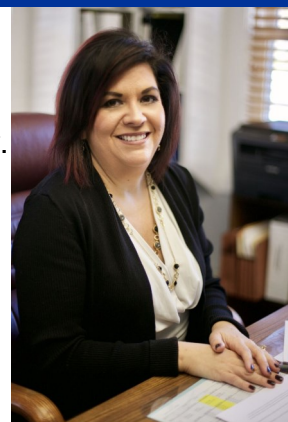
- preserve and protect our environment,
- create social, educational, recreational, agricultural, economic and housing opportunities,
- balance conservation and development; and
- encourage civic involvement and interaction at the local and regional level.



First Selectwoman's Corner

Dear Willington Residents,

Spring is in the air and this is usually the time we get outdoors after a long winter. These are not usual times for any of us and with the COVID-19 Pandemic we have had to alter our normal way of living. Our schools are using distance learning to keep students on track, most of you might be working from home and only going out for essential needs. We have had to cancel routine events and alter procedures for typical Town meetings. Buildings have been closed and services limited but all of these measures are in place to slow the spread of the virus and keep you all safe and healthy. We continue to work with our local Health Department, Emergency Management and Emergency Services to provide the best protection possible to our residents. I want to assure all of you that we can and will get through this together. Please check the town website (www.willingtonct.org) to see the latest information regarding COVID-19 as well as a complete list of upcoming meeting dates, agendas and minutes. I hope to see many of you out and about in Willington soon, but until then Stay Safe and Stay Home.



Erika G Wiececki
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 the recent BOS & PZC meetings.

[Town of Willington CT Official](#)

STAY
CONNECTED



Office Hours with State Representative Pat Wilson Pheanious



'It's okay, my dog is friendly...'

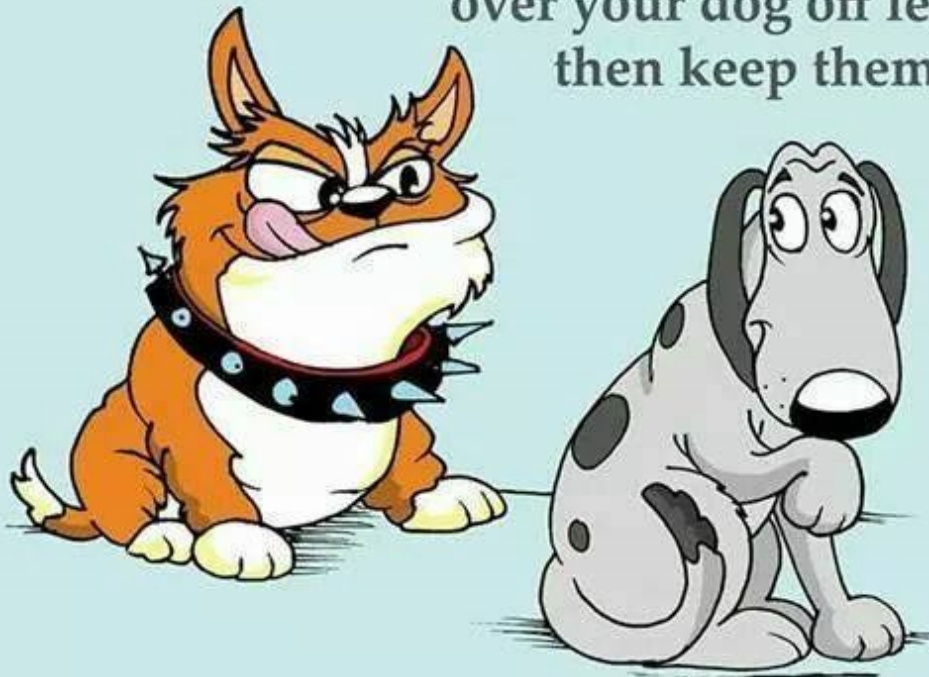
No it's NOT okay! Just because your dog is friendly doesn't mean all dogs are - please remember:

Never let your dog run up to a dog on leash- they could be scared or become reactive.

Try to respect other owners and their need for space.

Not all dogs want the added attention or intrusion.

If you have no voice control over your dog off leash then keep them on.



www.mightydoggraphics.com(c)2016

Assessor



The Assessor's office will be closed June 1st – 5th. The public computer will still be available for property record cards and mapping purposes.

The Assessor's Office administers exemption programs which benefit the elderly, disabled, blind, and veterans.

Elderly/Totally Disabled Tax Relief Program: Completed applications are due biannually by May 15. We will be happy to assist you in filing your application. Documents may be mailed in. If you cannot make copies at home, we will make copies and return the documents to you. We will not be taking any appointments at this time. Any questions you may have should be emailed to us (preferred and for quickest response) at rpierce@willingtonct.org or call 860-487-3122 and leave a detailed message with callback number if you do not have email access (we will return phone calls as soon as possible).

To be eligible for such a tax credit:

- You or your spouse must be at least 65 years of age as of Dec 31, 2019 or over 18 and permanently and totally disabled per Social Security.
- You must be a permanent resident of the State of Connecticut. You must own the property or hold a tenancy for life or for a term of years, which makes the applicable liable for payment of taxes (CGS Sec. 12-48) as of October 1, 2019. The property must be the applicant's primary residence (domicile).
- Your 2019 income cannot exceed \$37000(single) or \$45100(married) Income definition: Qualifying income is defined as adjusted gross income for IRS purposes plus any other income not included in such adjusted gross income. You must provide the Assessor with a copy of your SSA 1099 for 2019, or its equivalent, from Social Security and your 2019 federal income tax return if you file one. The Assessor may require any other proof of income that may be necessary for the certification of the claim, such as interest/dividend statements and pension statements.

Disabled: Any individual who receives a disability pension from the Social Security Administration and has been designated by the SSA is eligible for a \$1000 exemption off your assessment. To qualify you must file proof of 100% disability from Social Security (form TPQY) or a copy of your "Award Letter" that states disability. This application only needs to be filed once. **Filing Deadline: October 1**

Blind: Any individual that presents a Certification of Legal Blindness from the Board of Education and Services for the Blind, BESB, that states he/she is considered to be legally blind may be eligible for a \$3,000 exemption off your assessment. **Filing Deadline: October 1**

Veterans: If you are a veteran of any war period so declared in the Connecticut General Statutes, you may be entitled to an exemption. An original or certified copy of his/her honorable discharge (DD-214) must be filed in the Willington Land Records prior to October 1. **Filing Deadline: September 30**

Additional Veteran's Exemption: Veterans who maintain a disability rating from the VA of at least 10% are entitled to an increased exemption. Depending on the disability rating and income level. **Filing deadline: October 1**

Walter E. Topliff Jr.
Assessor
wtopliff@willingtonct.org or 860-487-3122

Rachel L. Pierce
Assistant Assessor
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



Call Us Now to Schedule Your Tour



Center Elementary School



Wilmington Center School's PreSchool will be accepting applications for the 2020-2021 school year. Children eligible for PreK must be three years of age by August 31, 2020 and cannot turn 5 before January 1, 2021. Applications will be available March 1, 2020 by calling Center School at 860-429-9367. The application and the Ages & Stages questionnaire will need to be completed and submitted by May 1, 2020. Decision regarding acceptance will be made by the end of the school year.



Wilmington 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 will be held in the spring.

Conservation Commission



Spring! is here and with it comes the opportunity to watch nature unfold from its winter hibernation. Put your walking shoes on, grab your binoculars and camera (and take the usual tick-deterrent precautions!) and go out and observe the wide variety of wildlife and plants as they bring new life to the forests, wetlands, fields, ponds and waterways in Wilmington's extensive nature preserves.

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. 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 leisurely and partake of the benefits of shinrin-yoku and forest bathing; (4) 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 base 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.

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

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** under Parks and Recreation.

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 can actively 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, or Kathy Demers, Commission Vice-Chair, at 860-377-6416 or kdemers48@gmail.com for more information. Please visit the Conservation Commission website under "Boards and Commissions" on the Town of Wilmington home page, www.wilmingtonct.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 Wilmington's outdoor resources.

Enjoy! the spring and summer! We hope to see you on the trail.





“Performance Update” By EC-CHAP

In these uncertain times, we can only be certain of our will to move forward. And we will move forward...

EC-CHAP has cancelled all on-site performances and events until further notice. Our mission, “*To engage the senses, ignite the creative spirit, and preserve local history*” must be preserved. So... we will explore our ability to provide remote offerings of interest to those we serve.

Speaking of the *Blues*... we have Bluesman Eric Sommer, joining EC-CHAP and providing a free live online performance on **Earth Day 2020, Wednesday, April 22nd, 7:00pm**. You can get your free concert pass at www.thepackinghouse.us/upcoming. You can also expect to see a unique set of creative workshops hosted by EC-CHAP in the near future.

As these are extraordinary times, EC-CHAP would like to honor and promote those extraordinary folks who continue to support and believe in our mission.

EC-CHAP Sponsors:

CT Department of Economic & Community Development; Willington Pizza House; Stafford Savings Bank; and Records the Good Kind.

EC-CHAP Artist / Performer Members:

Greg Abate (International Jazz Musician); **Twice Around** (Acoustic Duo); **June Bisantz** (Performing Musician & Graphic Artist); **Bluesgrass** (Acoustic Duo); **Curtis Brand** (Singer / Songwriter); **Peter & Monique Hill** (Horizon Blue, Acoustic Americana Band); **Kelly Madenjian** (Award Winning Dancer, & Social Ballroom Dance, Fitness and Yoga Instructor); **Angie Rockett** (Textile Artist & Founder Angie Rocket Textiles); **Sally Rogers** (Singer/Songwriter & Textile Artist); **Nina Romanenko** (Singer/Songwriter & Founder Ninasings Productions); **Seat Of Our Pants** (Acoustic Folk Bluegrass Band); **Frank Vasi** (Founder, Thimble Island Saxophone Quartet); **Richard White** (Artist-Illustrator-Photographer); **Rebecca Zablocki** (Visual Artist & EC-CHAP Artist-In-Residence)

You can view our Artist/Performer member profiles at <https://www.ec-chap.org/artist-performer-members>

EC-CHAP Members & Donors:

Mark Annuli, Bruce Burkhart, Donna Caplette, Bruce Clouette, Margaret Colvin, Laurie Deane, Robert Deane, Pamela Dole, Bernard Dubb, Julie Engelke, JoAnn Francisconi, Larry Grasso, Linda Howe, Andrea Kaye, Claire Laster, Ken Laster, David Lebel, Robert Marche, Judith McChesney, Cindy Moeckel, Clifford Moon, Claudia Nunn, Glenda Parker, Peter Polomski, Catherine Shires, Ann Starinovich, John Starinovich, Sumner & Sumner Insurance Company, Joan Taraskiewicz, Mary Kate Waltenius, and Joseph Zablocki.

EC-CHAP Volunteers:

Arlene Avery, Bill Briggs, Donna Caplette, Margaret Colvin, Russell Darling, Julie Engelke, Larry Grasso, Penny Guerin, Jackie Kulig, David Lebel, Cindy Moeckel, Clifford Moon, Arthur Rovozzo, Joan Taraskiewicz, and Mary Kate Waltenius.

Dye & Bleach House Community Gallery – Displaying Artists:

“*Community Gallery Grand Opening Exhibition*” - Scotty Opermann, Jon Starinovich & Lisa Zelonka

“*Three*” - Lynn Lacoss, Lily O'Brien & Randall Nelson

“*View*” - Vilnis Atrens, Diane Diederich, Penny Guerin, Arpita Kurdekar & Steve Schumacher

“*Works of the Mill*” - Jack Broderick, Tyler Hall & Carol Mackiewicz

“*2020 Vision*” - Tammy Glaeser, Chris Gunderson & Anthony Miles Napoletano

“*E.O. Smith meets EC-CHAP*” (Current Show) - Louise Best, Tammy Glaeser, Beth Andrews, Heather Bunnell, Trin George, Sara LaFlamme, Daniella Johnson, Caroline Thorn, Grace Carver, Hayden Richardson

Stay safe and remain positive,
EC-CHAP Board

April 2020

“*An Evening with Eric Sommer*” (Blues/Americana): **A Live Virtual Earth Day Concert, Wednesday, April 22nd, 7:00pm. FREE.**



Singer/songwriter **ERIC SOMMER** returns to The Packing House in virtual mode. An unbelievable intersection of improbable influences and experiences channeled into an amazingly diverse catalog and a résumé that reads more like a musical adventure novel than a series of career bullet points.

Sommer emerged from the Boston music scene in the '80s with a vengeance, a Folk guitarist with a percussive, open-tuning style adapted from the likes of David Bromberg, Steve Howe, Townes Van Zandt and Brit Folk legend Davy Graham. But Boston was also a hotbed of New Wave, Power Pop and Punk at that point, and Sommer absorbed those influences as well, creating a Byrdsian jangle sound that earned him opening slots for national touring acts and regular bookings at the renowned Paradise Theatre.

Whether in band or one-man form (which nakedly showcases his amazing acoustic Blues guitar styling), Sommer is a living history of contemporary music and a musical force of nature. Free Virtual Concert Pass at: www.thepackinghouse.us/upcoming.



EC-CHAP Continued...



"The Dye & Bleach House Community Gallery – Spring 2020 Group & Solo Shows" By EC-CHAP



DUE TO THE IMPACT OF THE CORONA VIRUS, THE DYE & BLEACH HOUSE COMMUNITY GALLERY WILL BE CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. THE SHOW

"E.O. SMITH MEETS EC-CHAP" WILL BE EXTENDED SIX (6) WEEKS FOLLOWING THE RELAXING OF THE PRESIDENT'S GUIDELINES.

April 2020 marks the one year anniversary of EC-CHAP's "Dye & Bleach House Community Gallery". Our purpose for creating the Community Gallery is to provide a platform for local and regional visual artists to display their original works for public viewing. We have established fixed weekly gallery hours, and offer participation at no cost to the displaying artist or the public. The duration of each showing is eight weeks. Gallery hours are Saturdays from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

April also represents the final month of our group show, "E.O. Smith Meets EC-CHAP", a collaboration of original works created by students, faculty, and staff at E.O. Smith High School. Displaying the works of young artists among the art produced by their teachers and mentors is a great way to highlight the talent of these students and their ability to stand out next to the experienced artists that they learn from. It also provides an opportunity to demonstrate the varied talents of their teachers and staff members that they see every school day; expressing that the staff and faculty at E.O. Smith are not only role models within the classroom but within the community as well. You may view this show during open hours or by appointment through Saturday April 25th.

To conclude our spring season, EC-CHAP Artist-In-Residence and Community Gallery Director Rebecca Zablocki will exhibit her new works in a Solo Show entitled "Bed Rest". The show will open Saturday, May 2nd and will run through June 20, 2020.

Ms. Zablocki's Artist Statement:

"My current body of work has emerged out of my personal experience with physical and mental health issues. Autoimmune disease, chronic pain, anxiety, depression and more are issues that touch the lives of many, including myself and some of my loved ones.

I hope to use my work as a tool to cope, as well as to provide some validation for viewers that may be dealing with sickness, pain or are care-taking for someone that is. For those that are unaware, or have not experienced what it is like to deal with chronic health issues, I hope to bring awareness. From the obvious to some of the more discreet issues, health problems often cause a domino effect within other aspects of life. These issues can affect you socially, financially, and can lead to other health problems, creating more pain and struggle. Using symbols such as pillows, mattresses, pills and the human body in a repetitive way, I often find myself creating patterns.

To me, pattern can represent objects of beauty such as wallpaper and bed sheets, which can be used to create what should be a comforting environment. However, this also illustrates the monotony of being confined within the walls of your bedroom and staring at the same patterns over and over. The repetitive nature of taking medication or going through therapy can be seen as negative but this may be necessary to achieve the perseverance and commitment it requires to create a healthy environment and body".

If you or someone you know is an artist at any level or stage in their practice and would be interested in displaying work in our Community Gallery, please contact EC-CHAP Artist in Residence and Gallery Director, Rebecca Zablocki at: communitygallery@ec-chap.org.

Don't forget to check us out and follow along with us on Instagram (@ec_chap_inc) & Facebook (Eastern Connecticut Center for History, Art, and Performance)!

EC-CHAP "Miracle Cures of the Early Years" By Tyler Hall

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



Patent medicines, tonics, elixirs, and miracle cures swept through America during the 18th and 19th centuries. Manufacturers of these over the counter remedies could make limitless claims regarding the use and effectiveness of their products. Chemists were often secretive or deceptive regarding their mixtures, though many were later revealed to be a blend of alcohol and any number of highly addictive narcotics. Free from liability, they often claimed that product ineffectiveness or negative reactions were the result of too low a dosage. Advertisements in the form of testimonials, endorsements, and manufacturer guarantees were prevalent through the mid 1800's, into the early 1900's.



These cures made their way into every corner of Connecticut, including the Gardiner Hall Jr. Company Store. As travel was often difficult, time consuming, and expensive, early mill towns were largely self-sufficient. Employees relied solely on the mill store and traveling salesmen to procure goods, at great benefit to the company. Though the mill in South Willington did produce some of its own remedies, an advertisement in the Stafford Springs Press, dated November 1st, 1900, directed consumers to visit South Willington for Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.

"Mr. H. H. Black, the well-known village blacksmith at Grahamsville, Sullivan Co., N. Y., says: 'Our little son, five years old, has always been subject to croup, and so bad have the attacks been that we have feared many times that he would die. We have had the doctor and used many medicines, but Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is now our sole reliance.



EC-CHAP Continued...

It seems to dissolve the tough mucus, and by giving frequent doses when the symptoms appear, we have found that the dreaded croup is cured before it gets settled.' There is no danger in giving this remedy for it contains no opium or other injurious drug and may be given as confidently to a babe as to an adult. For sale by E. K. Taft, Stafford Springs; H. F. Cady, Stafford; Gardiner Hall, Jr., & Co., South Willington."

As the dangerous effects of these unregulated tonics became known, a growing number of journalists, doctors, and consumers called for government intervention. This outcry led to many meaningful, hard-fought regulations targeting unsafe medicine and deceptive advertising. In 1906, President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Pure Food and Drug Act, preventing the "manufacture, sale, or transportation of adulterated or misbranded or poisonous or deleterious foods, drugs or medicines, and liquors." Though patent medicines began to lose popularity in the early 1900's, it would take decades to begin to combat the dangerous remedies and practices that had become staples of early American medicine.

Tyler Hall is the Curator of Gardiner Hall Jr. History Museum, Board member at the Windham Textile Museum, and History student at ECSU.

"The future is just history waiting to happen" - EC-CHAP

Elections Department



The Elections Department can be reached at 860.487.3120 or registrar@willingtonct.org. Email is the best way to contact us as we currently check that more frequently than voicemail.

The Presidential Preference Primary has been postponed to June 2nd. The Budget Referendum has also been postponed, the date has not yet been confirmed.

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

During the month of May, the state-required annual canvass of active voters will be conducted. If you receive a canvass letter, please follow the instructions printed at the top of the letter. Fill out the necessary information, sign, date and return the canvass letter to our office. Failure to return the canvass letter may result in a change in your voting status.

Upcoming events and deadlines:

- Tuesday, April 14—registration session from 12 to 2 pm for the Presidential Preference Primary
- Monday, April 27—registration session from 9 am to 12 pm for the Presidential Preference Primary
- Tuesday, April 28—Presidential Preference Primary to be held from 6 am to 8 pm
- Tuesday, May 5—annual Town and Regional School District 19 budget referendum to be held from 6 am to 8 pm
- Monday, May 11—deadline for an enrolled voter to transfer from one party to another and be eligible to vote in the state/district primary to be held Tuesday, August 11 from 6 am to 8 pm

To apply for an absentee ballot for any voting event, contact the Town Clerk at 860 487.3121.

All voting events are held at the Town Office Building, Common Room, 40 Old Farms Road.

Registering to vote is available 24/7 online at voterregistration.ct.gov. If you have questions, our office hours are Tuesdays from 10 am to 12 pm. You may also call 860 487.3120 and leave a message.

Suzanne G. Chapman
Christine Psathas
Registrars of Voters/Elections Department
www.willingtonct.org





WHAT CONNECTICUT REGISTRARS DO: THE WORK BEHIND MANAGING CONNECTICUT'S ELECTIONS

TYPES OF ELECTIONS:



Presidential



State



Municipal



Referenda



Primaries

REGISTER ALL VOTERS



- Schedule and conduct in-person voter registration sessions, including annual high school voter registration sessions.
- Receive and process mail-in, online and agency voter registration applications.

REGISTRY LISTS & BALLOTS



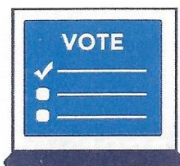
- Prepare and maintain a list of active and inactive voters.
- Maintain voter lists for local party caucuses.
- Prepare a voter list for each polling place.
- Organize and conduct the annual canvass of voters to ascertain residency.
- Enroll party members and prepare and maintain party enrollment lists.
- Remove electors who have moved from the district, died or are disenfranchised from registry lists.
- Complete certification of ballot orders that are sent and put on file with the Secretary of the State (SOTS).

ABSENTEE VOTING



- Direct Town Clerks to mail absentee ballots to eligible overseas voters.
- Verify absentee ballot voters on the official voter registry list prior to an election, primary or referendum.
- Supervise absentee balloting at institutions or dwelling places with 20 or more voters.
- Appoint and train people to count absentee ballots.

VOTING TECHNOLOGY



- Ensure the proper maintenance, transportation, storage and preparation of voting machines.
- Conduct complete pre-election testing of memory cards, tabulators and all ADA voting systems prior to Election Day.

ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION



- Conduct Election Day Registration for all General Elections.

CONDUCT ELECTIONS



- Appoint Deputy Registrars and file the appointments with the Town Clerk.
- Appoint, train and supervise all poll workers.
- Declare polling place locations by voting district, including a place where absentee ballots are counted.
- Ensure polling places meet the requirements of the American Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Report results of municipal, state and federal elections to SOTS.
- Participate in recanvassing in the event of a voting discrepancy.

POST-ELECTION AUDITS



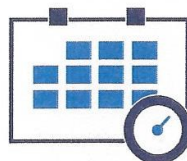
- When chosen by lottery, conduct post-election audits of voting tabulators.

CONDUCT CANVASSING



- Conduct an annual canvass of voters using the National Change of Address through the USPS.
- Use reports from the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) to conduct additional canvassing of voters to ensure accuracy of voter registries.

TRAINING & RECORDS MANDATES



- Complete 10 hours of mandated annual training each year.
- Follow all state and federal records retention schedules.





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 or 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



Consider becoming an active member or a volunteer.

We need your help with these projects:

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

Changes for 2020

- If you're interested in donating items to the Society, they can be dropped off at the Glazier Tavern on most Tuesday afternoons from 2-4 pm, if there are cars in the driveway. Tuesdays are our unofficial get things done day.
- The time that the Society holds it's monthly meeting has changed. The meetings will be held at 2 pm, on the third Tuesday of the month. The change from early evening (7 pm) was made to make the meetings more convenient for our retired and older residents. Winter meetings are held at the Town Office Building, 40 Old Farms Rd.
- We have a new website! The site came on-line in January with a new, fresh look for the Society. It was brought to life by our new webmaster Melanie Kucko, who would be happy to have additional help managing and developing our electronic footprint.

At The Tavern

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

This years pending project, in order for the Society to more actively use the Glazier Tavern as a public space, centers around focusing on compliancy with present day building codes and ADA accessibility. To bring this to a positive conclusion we are presently working alongside the town's building and fire officials.

This year will be a time for developing a strategy to raise funds for this substantial undertaking for our 2019-2020 fiscal year. I would ask interested members of our Willington community to consider helping to develop this fundraising effort. Contact us!

If you're Spring cleaning and throwing out ... we're looking for ...

The Society continues to be interested in items that help recount Willington History. You can help!

- Oral history
- Genealogical information
- Historical items (old stuff)
- Historical documents including letters, diaries or photos relating to:
 - * Willington residents
 - * Schools, churches, mills, farms and houses
 - * Town government
 - * Willington glass, buttons or Hall thread
 - * Bicentennial Celebration
 - * Willington's 275th celebration parade

Contacting the Willington Historical Society:

- email at: willingtonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com
- website at: 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.



Human Services

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

Human Services Department recognizes that the services we provide are essential to the health and wellbeing of our residents. We will take steps to ensure that the delivery of these services continues even if a closure of the town offices occurs. Due to the nature of the department's work and the large population of immune-compromised or otherwise susceptible individuals that we serve, whenever possible, services will be delivered offsite or without in-person interaction.

Food Pantry- The food pantry will operate on a "by appointment" basis and change to providing pre-packaged 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.

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. The next Foodshare will be April 1st.

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.

Energy Assistance- Energy Assistance forms will be provided to clients and returned via postal mail or drop box to the department with signatures.

Other needs- Any other programs, applications, and issues that can wait until reopening will carry the advisement to do so, and will be triaged through our food pantry, fuel bank, or Eversource advocacy efforts.

The department will also keep in frequent contact with Eastern Highlands Health District, the Access Senior Housing staff, and Willington Seniors Executive Committee to monitor the situation at Senior Housing and the Senior Center and to discuss closures and other related matters to ensure the residents are safe and that their needs are met.

For any information or concerns, please contact 860-487-3118 or follow us on Facebook.

Parks & Recreation



All WPRD programs and events have been suspended until further notice.

River Road Athletic Complex Playground, Basketball Court, Volleyball Court, Baseball and Soccer Fields are **CLOSED** for group play until further notice.

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



Parks & Recreation Continued...

Recreation Basketball

A **VERY** special thank you to the following 2019/2020 coaches for volunteering their time and knowledge to help our young athletes grow as players and teammates...

Coaches:

Rich Mailhos, Instructional Basketball
Sarah Jean, Patrick Ryan and Bob Fahey—3rd & 4th Grade Girls
Matt Dombrowski—3rd & 4th Grade Boys
Michael Bennett—3rd & 4th Grade Boys
Chris Toomey & Jay McCaughey—5th & 6th Grade Girls
Connie Bedan—5th & 6th Grade Girls
Jen Bowes—5th & 6th Grade Boys
Caitlin Halle—7th & 8th Grade Girls
Zeke Kallio & Jacob Hall—7th & 8th Grade Boys
Ed Carroll—7th & 8th Grade Boys
Brady Tolley & Marc Jeffreys—7th & 8th Grade Boys
John Bowes—9th & 10th Grade Boys
Amy Page & Jacob Hall—9th-12th Grade Girls
George Paquin—11th & 12th Grade Boys
Rich Mailhos, Patrick Ryan & Don Bassett—11th & 12th Grade Boys
Jon Gareau—11th & 12th Grade Boys

*A great coach motivates,
Builds confidence
Reinforces good sportsmanship
Encourages teamwork
Instills a love of learning for the sport
& inspires us to reach our goals*

Thanks Coach!

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to our program, your teams and the youth of Willington!

Youth Sportsmanship Awards:

Good sportsmanship builds teamwork and character, teaches respect, honor, discipline, inclusion and perseverance. We work closely with our coaches and volunteers to teach the importance of good sportsmanship to our young athletes. In order to promote good sportsmanship, we wanted to highlight and honor those players that consistently went above and beyond on and off the court. We asked each coach/team to choose a player that they felt fit this description. Each player that was chosen was given a certificate and two tickets to the Men's UConn Basketball game vs. Memphis at the XL Center in February.

Congratulations to the following recipients...

Maren Farrar-3rd & 4th Grade Girls
Brendan Ayers & Henry Brand—3rd & 4th Grade Boys
Maria MacAvoy & Nevaeha Smith—5th & 6th Grade Girls
Luke Langevin—5th & 6th Grade Boys
Hannah Adams—7th & 8th Grade Girls
Dimitri Gounaris, Adam Kelley and Ryan Sepe—7th & 8th Grade Boys



Parks & Recreation Continued...

CONGRATULATIONS



**Coach Connie Bedan
5th-6th Grade Girls
Bracket Champions**



**Coach Jon Gareau
11th-12th Grade Boys
League Champions**

Wednesdays in the Park Summer Concert Series



Summer is right around the corner and the Willington Parks & Recreation Department is excited for our 5th Annual “Wednesdays in the Park Summer Concert Series” at River Road Athletic Complex! We are planning seven 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”.



Public Works



49 Hancock Road, Willington CT 06279
860-684-9313
Public.works@willingtonct.org

Public Works: 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 be maintaining 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. The Swap Shed will remain closed until further notice. For the safety of our staff and residents, please practice social distancing at all times. **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. To minimize contact with staff, they are NOT currently accepting items where a fee is charged such as tires, refrigerators, mattresses, etc. A full list of items can be found by clicking [here](#).

Tax Collector

Although the Town Office Building is closed, please know that we are here in the office to assist you with any tax questions you may have by phone and email.

If you have payments due, please pay online by going to the Willington website, www.willingtonct.org and clicking on "Online Tax Payments". Enter your last name, first initial and your bills will populate. Click on the green cart next to the bill and complete payment.

Alternatively, you may mail a check to the office or use our drop box located outside the front entrance. This box is checked every morning and payments are processed once received. If cash is your form of payment, please call the office at 860-487-3111 prior to coming in. For your safety, as well as ours, these transactions will be done on a case by case basis.

Thanks so much for your understanding.

Janice Clauson
Revenue Collector
860-487-3111
jclauson@willingtonct.org



Town Clerk

The Town Office Building will remain closed to the public.

Please contact us via email if and when possible as we will be checking our messages frequently at:

alam@willingtonct.org or mgantick@willingtonct.org

Phone calls will be returned as soon as possible.

Appointments will be made on an as-needed basis.

Vital Requests for births/deaths/marriages: We are encouraging the process through mail. Please email us for the form and further instructions. If it is urgent please call the office and leave a message.

Our Land Records provider COTT has suspended the subscription fee at this time and is charging \$2.00 per copy online. Please go to <https://www.willingtonct.org/town-clerk> and click on the Town Clerk On-Line Portal to access the land records.

Fishing & Hunting

Springtime is in the air and that means fishing. Governor Lamont opened the inland fishing season including trout fishing effective March 24, 2020. Please be advised to still use social distancing when you are out. At this time we are not open to the public for licenses. You can get them online at www.ct.gov/deep. The Guide Books are available on line at www.ct.gov/deep/fishing or www.ct.gov/deep/hunting. The Trout and Salmon Stamp is now required for fishing in any waters where they stock trout and salmon. The cost is \$5.00. You can contact DEEP by phone (860) 424-3105 with any additional questions. Any Connecticut Residents 65 years of age or older are entitled to a free license. Anyone with a "Lifetime" has to renew each year if you are a hunter or if you salt water fish. Make sure you bring in your old license with the conservation number on it.

Important Budget Dates

Per the Governors Executive Order 71, the Board of Selectmen will authorize the Board of Finance to adopt a budget and set a mill rate. There will be no referendum this year. Any questions contact the clerk's office at 860 487-3121.

Dog Licenses

June is the time to register your dog. You will receive renewal reminders at the end of May 2020. There is a fee of \$8.00 for a spayed/neutered dog and a \$19.00 fee for male/female dog. At this point we are encouraging residents to license by mail. All dog license requests must be received in this office in person or in the office via the mail by June 30th. An updated rabies certificate, if not current is required, a check payable to the Willington Town Clerk and a self-addressed, stamped envelope should be included, if by mail. New dogs being registered would need the rabies certificate, spayed/neutered papers, check payable to Willington Town Clerk and a self-addressed, stamped envelope, if mailed, for us to process your license. Please register your dog in June to avoid additional late fees as of July 1st. There is a \$1.00 per month and \$1.00 each additional month per state statute.

#1 Dog Tag Announcement

- If you register your dog in June
- You bring in 2 non-perishable food items for each dog, for the town food pantry
- Your name will go into a drawing
- At the end of the day on the 30th of June we will do the drawing
- You will receive the #1 Dog Tag if your name is picked
- You will also be refunded your license fee.

Passports

We no longer process Passports. Forms are available online at pptctcsm@state.gov. The Storrs Post Office processes passports. The Storrs Post Office phone number is 860 429-9681.

If you have any questions, please call our office 860-487-3121.

Amy R. Lam
Town Clerk

Maureen A. Gantick
Assistant Town Clerk



Science Corner with Emily



Where's the buzz?

Climate change is a topic that we have been hearing about for over a decade.

Regardless if you believe in the science or not, things have been a little different the past couple of years. Just looking at our winter here in Connecticut, periods of brutal cold followed by a 50-degree day. A couple of years ago I remember eating Christmas dinner with my family outside on the deck in a t-shirt. For someone like me this was great, I have never been a fan of the face numbing, eye watering cold that is often present that time of year. However, for a more vulnerable species like an insect, a trend of temperature increases or decreases can be extremely detrimental.

The term “colony collapse disorder” was coined in 2006 after the large-scale disappearance of the western honeybee was recognized globally. Worker bees would fill the hive with food for the queen then never return. Through research, it was concluded a few factors caused the worker bees to leave the colony and perish. A rise in temperature and increased use of pesticides/herbicides are the two main factors attributed to the disappearance of the western honeybee. Since additional attention has been brought to the issue, scientists have observed these factors are resulting in a weakened immune system. Causing bees to be more susceptible to viruses and parasites.

Honeybees play a vital role in the ecosystem, especially for humans. They pollinate many crops such as melons, apples, blueberries and cherries. Some crops like the almond are entirely dependent on honeybee pollination. Honeybees are not the only bee species being impacted by the rise in temperature and pesticides, bumblebee populations are rapidly declining as well.

Bumblebees are the best pollinators in wild landscapes and for crops like tomatoes, squashes and berries. Scientists are predicting a 45 percent decrease in invertebrate populations over the next 35 years if climate trends continue. For an insect population already declining, this is an alarming statistic. Thankfully there is hope and research being done to find a solution to the issue's bees are facing to give them a fighting chance.

Paul Stamets is a mycologist (branch of biology focusing on the study of fungi) in the Pacific Northwest whom is one of the pioneers in bee research. Stamets and his team published a study in 2018 that showed virus reduction in honey bees that are given extracts of polypore mushroom mycelia. Mycelium is the vegetative body for fungi that produce mushrooms. Compared to a plant, mycelium is the root system and the mushroom is the flower. Mycelium extracts of multiple polypore fungal species were tested to determine the highest antiviral properties. Amadou and reishi fungi were chosen for the experiment and given to honeybees with deformed wing virus and Lake Sinai virus. Results of the experiment showed significant reduction in both viruses and it was concluded the mycelium extracts strengthened the honeybee's immune system, allowing them to fight the virus and survive. Since this study was published, Paul Stamets has worked to create “bee feeders” with these extracts and distribute them globally. The patent is still pending for mass production of the feeders but a mailing list has been created to alert anyone interested when they become available (<https://fungi.com/pages/bees>). It takes more than a small group of people to make a change, for a global issue such as this a global action needs to be taken.



Willington Public Library

We are asking that all patrons keep any and all library items that they may have at home with them until the library is able to reopen. At that time, all late fees will be waived. Please check in with us for any further information or updates of any kind, on our website: www.willingtonpubliclibrary.org, on our [Facebook](#) page or on the [Burbio.com community calendar](#). We hope all will remain safe and well.

Willington Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars

A Thank You and Some Reminders!



Willington Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars (WSFDFS)

- A big **Thank You** to Willington Girl Scout Troop 67079 for helping us with our 2020 Appeals mailing! You were a huge help and we appreciate you all!
- **Reminder** to first year post-secondary students: Make sure to apply for our Renewable Scholarship. **Deadline is June 15th.**
- **Remember:** If your employer asks you to participate in an annual giving campaign at work, please consider directing your contribution to The Willington Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars. Some of your neighbors have their employers match their donations. Travelers, Aetna, CIGNA, Voya, and Bank of America are just some of the companies that have. Consider seeing if your employer will match your donations!

During these uncertain times, the Board of WSFDFS is committed to giving Scholarships to the students of Willington this year. Thanks to the unwavering generosity and support of the local businesses and the folks of this small Town we have given Scholarships for 25 years to Willington's students, and we are not stopping! But now those businesses need our help. Please support them in any way you can- with a kind word, gesture, or by utilizing their services in any way possible during this unusual time.

WSFDFS thanks the many businesses that have constantly supported scholarships for the town's students.

Anything Printed, Baywood Kennels, Benson Income Tax Service, Cable Technology, Inc., Cigna Charitable Foundation, Citizens Charitable Foundation, Creative Mark Engraving, D. Drobney Photography, DeSiato Sand and Gravel Corp., Ferrigno Realtors, Franc Motors, G. Merritt Thompson and Sons, Greater Willington Golf Invitational, Headliners Salon and Spa, Hipsky Construction, LLC, Holiday Spirits, Inc., Introvigne Funeral Home, Inc., KeyBank Foundation, Mansfield Lions Club, McCaughtry and Associates, Inc., Mycoscience, Inc., Peczuh Printing, Stafford Lions Club, Stafford Savings Bank, The Mill Works, Tony's Garage, Ltd., Travelers Cybergrants Inc, VFW Post 938 & Auxiliary, Village Spring Corp., VOYA Foundation, Willington Pizza, Willington Seniors, Willington Termite and Pest Control, Willington Veterinary Center, Dr. David and Judith Mordasky, and many others throughout the years.



WSFDFS's first multi-year renewable scholarship recipient, Annalise Halle, with Director Ron Growney. Annalise graduated and is now on her way to Vet school.

Check us out on our website at www.Willington.DollarsforScholars.org

