

Willington Wire

Community E-Newsletter

Jan, Feb & March 2020





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Cover Photo: Hall’s Pond captured by Olivia Balloveras



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

New Years Day
 MLK Day
 President’s Day

January 1st
 January 20th
 February 17th



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
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	Diane Bulick	860-487-3136

Willington's Vision Statement

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

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

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



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

Board/Commission	Day	Date	Time
Board of Education	Tuesday	January 14th	7:00 p.m.
Board of Finance	Thursday	January 16th	7:00 p.m.
Board of Finance	Thursday	February 20th	7:00 p.m.
Board of Finance	Thursday	March 19th	7:00 p.m.
Board of Selectmen	Monday	January 6th	6:30 p.m.
Board of Selectmen	Tuesday	January 21st	6:30 p.m.
Board of Selectmen	Monday	February 3rd	6:30 p.m.
Board of Selectmen	Tuesday	February 18th	6:30 p.m.
Board of Selectmen	Monday	March 2nd	6:30 p.m.
Board of Selectmen	Monday	March 16th	6:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission	Wednesday	January 15th	7:00 p.m.
Conservation Commission	Wednesday	February 19th	7:00 p.m.
Conservation Commission	Wednesday	March 18th	7:00 p.m.
Historical Society	Tuesday	January 21st	2:00 p.m.
Historical Society	Tuesday	February 18th	2:00 p.m.
Historical Society	Tuesday	March 17th	2:00 p.m.
Housing Authority	Monday	January 27th	4:00 p.m.
Housing Authority	Monday	February 24th	4:00 p.m.
Housing Authority	Monday	March 16th	4:00 p.m.
Inland Wetlands/Watercourses	Monday	January 27th	7:30 p.m.
Inland Wetlands/Watercourses	Monday	February 24th	7:30 p.m.
Inland Wetlands/Watercourses	Monday	March 23rd	7:30 p.m.
Library Board of Directors	Friday	January 10th	6:00 p.m.
Library Board of Directors	Saturday	January 18th	2:00 p.m.
Parks & Recreation	Monday	January 27th	7:00 p.m.
Parks & Recreation	Monday	February 24th	7:00 p.m.
Parks & Recreation	Monday	March 30th	7:00 p.m.
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	January 14th	7:30 p.m.
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	February 4th	7:30 p.m.
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	February 18th	7:30 p.m.
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	March 10th	7:30 p.m.
Planning & Zoning	Tuesday	March 24th	7:30 p.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals	Thursday	January 9th	7:30 p.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals	Thursday	February 13th	7:30 p.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals	Thursday	March 12th	7:30 p.m.



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

Board/Commission	Day	Date	Time	Location
Board of Finance	Thursday	February 6th	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
Board of Finance	Thursday	February 13th	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
Board of Finance	Thursday	February 20th	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
Board of Finance	Thursday	February 27th	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
Board of Finance	Thursday	March 5th	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
Board of Finance	Thursday	March 12th	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
Board of Finance	Thursday	March 19th	7:00 p.m.	Town Office Building
Board of Finance	Tuesday	April 7th	7:00 p.m.	Old Town Hall
Board of Selectmen	Monday	January 6th	5:30 p.m.	TOB Selectmen's Conference Room
Board of Selectmen	Monday	January 13th	5:30 p.m.	TOB Selectmen's Conference Room
Board of Selectmen	Tuesday	January 21st	5:30 p.m.	TOB Selectmen's Conference Room
Board of Selectmen	Monday	January 27th	5:30 p.m.	TOB Selectmen's Conference Room
Board of Selectmen	Monday	February 3rd	5:30 p.m.	TOB Selectmen's Conference Room



April 7th
Board of Finance Budget Hearing

April 21st
Annual Town Budget Meeting

Both meetings to be held at the Old Town Hall at 7:00 p.m.




Please welcome the Town of Willington's Newest Employee!

Olivia Balloveras
Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation

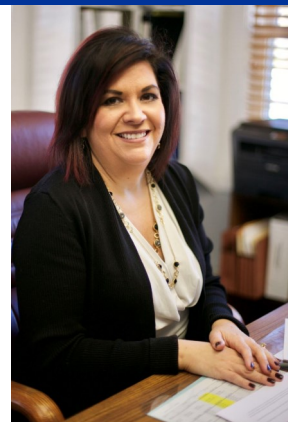
Welcome Olivia!
We wish you a long and happy career with the Town of Willington!



First Selectwoman's Corner

Dear Willington Residents,

Happy New Year! On behalf of the Board of Selectmen, I would like to thank all of our residents who voted in the recent municipal election on November 5th. I am honored to have been reelected your First Selectwoman, along with Liza Makuch and John Blessington as Selectmen. The three of us are committed to working hard for all Willington residents. The Board meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Office Building. Our meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to join us. By now, the many new and reelected members of the various boards & commissions including; Board of Finance, Board of Education, and Planning & Zoning Commission, are sworn in and getting to work. This time of year is particularly busy for our boards/commissions as we are preparing budgets for the next fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2020. Over the next several months, there will be many meetings and discussions regarding programs and services in Willington. These boards will have the difficult task of deciding how to provide for such services given the current economic status and a decline in State funding. This will all lead to a proposed budget to send to a budget referendum to be voted upon in May. If you are interested in any of the town services, such as parks & recreation, education, the library, etc. now is the time to reach out to the boards that oversee these programs and ask any questions or concerns you have. To have your voice heard and your input considered, making your views known early and often in the process is the best way to be involved.



Thank you in advance for helping our elected officials make the important decisions that will ultimately affect all of Willington's residents.

Sincerely,

Erika G. Wiczenski, First Selectwoman

Office Hours with State Representative Pat Wilson Pheanious



Office Hours
with State Representative Pat Wilson Pheanious

Willington Library
Conference Room
7 Ruby Road, Willington

Thursday, January 30, 6:30-8pm
Thursday, February 27, 6:30-8pm
Thursday, March 26, 6:30-8pm



Assessor



Elderly/Totally Disabled Tax Relief Program:

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

To be eligible for such a tax credit:

- You or your spouse must be at least 65 years of age as of Dec 31, 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 \$ 37,000 (single) or \$45,100 (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.

Board of Assessment Appeals Notice of Hearings:

The Board of Assessment Appeals will meet during the month of March for the purpose of hearing appeals on the Grand List of October 1, 2019. Applications must be received by February 20, 2020. Dates and times of the hearings will be determined by the number of appeals received. Applicants will receive confirmation and notification of appointments by mail. Appeals will be heard only from those property owners filing written applications by the February 20th deadline.

PA 490—Open Space:

At the Town Meeting held on December 2, 2019 the following PA-490 Open Space Ordinance was passed:

Each parcel of record, as recorded in the assessment records, shall be treated as separate parcel. No tacking or combination of separately assessed parcels shall be permitted to determine the eligibility of parcels for Open Space. Any residentially zoned parcel that exceeds 5 acres is eligible for treatment as Open Space for assessment purposes. No property for which the assessment is determined pursuant to Section 12-76 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as it may be amended from time to time, shall be eligible. The property owner must make application for Open Space assessment as provided in the Connecticut General Statute 12-107e, as it may be amended from time to time. Effective October 1, 2019.

This ordinance was necessary as it was determined after thorough research that no PA 490 Open Space ordinance was ever officially adopted as required by state statutes. If you are a property owner effected by this ordinance you will receive a letter from the Assessor's Office detailing the change to your property assessment.

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



It was a beautiful day on November 26, with above-average temperatures and not a cloud in the sky, so many residents were taking advantage of the outdoor amenities at Button Hill Senior Housing. A couple sat outside on their private patio, enjoying the sunshine and an early-afternoon drink. Others walked along the sidewalks that traverse the wooded property.

Button Hill is a mixed-funding, 62-and-over community located off of Old Farms Road in Willington. The first residents moved into the development in August of 2017, so there has been time for neighbors to develop relationships and settle into the community.

Linda Sene is one of the newer residents at Button Hill but has already made friends there. She was drawn to the development for its quiet location. “It makes me happy because it reminds me of my grandparents’ place when they lived in North Franklin on a farm,” she said. Sene said that she enjoys her neighbors at Button Hill. “I enjoy talking to some of the people that live here,” she said. Sene said that she is constantly learning interesting facts about the histories and the families of her neighbors and is impressed with the knowledge they possess about a variety of subjects. With one neighbor she shares a passion for gardening. “She just knows so much about plants and flowers,” said Sene.

Another neighbor, she was delighted to learn, was married to a man who used to lead a swing band. “There are so many talented, interesting and gifted people who live here,” said Sene. “Just saying hello can lead to an incredible conversation.”

Sene said that many of her neighbors have been very generous, as well, sharing two-for-one items or produce from their gardens. One such neighbor is Francis Pippin, whom Sene spots walking past her apartment. “Let’s go outside and talk to Francis,” she says.

Pippin is temporarily using a walker while he regains his strength after a health setback. This has made him realize the importance of some of the accommodations available at Button Hill. Sidewalks are even and designed with easy mobility in mind. Bathrooms are large, so those using walkers or wheelchairs have an easier time navigating in them. Showers are all walk-in. And Pippin said he has recently discovered the convenience of the fold-down seat in his shower. “And the shower head height is adjustable, too, which really helps,” he said.

Pippin is an active, social guy, and especially enjoys bluegrass music. He appreciates the proximity of the Willington Senior Center, which is right across the parking lot from Button Hill. Last year they hosted a good bluegrass band, according to Pippin. And it’s not hard to get to other events of interest.

“It’s a good location,” said Pippin. “You’re accessible to everything. The highway is close by.”

Pippin said he appreciates the quiet, wooded location, and the open space available to residents. This year he was involved with community gardens located adjacent to the development, and produced a bumper crop of green beans outside of his own apartment, as well.

“He shared a lot of green beans with me,” said Sene.

Button Hill Senior Housing is located not far from the Willington Town Hall, on a wooded lot. The development has four different rent levels, based on income. Currently the lowest rent is \$843, which includes all utilities except for internet, telephone and television. All units have a private entrance, large kitchen and living room area, large bathroom, private patio space, and one bedroom. Some units also have an additional den space. There are currently no vacancies, but applications are being accepted for all rent levels. For more information contact the property manager, Richard Gold, at 860-429-8777.



Friends and neighbors Francis Pippin and Linda Sene enjoy a sunny afternoon outdoors at Button Hill Senior Housing.



Athlyn and Richard Fontaine enjoy the sunshine from their private patio.



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



Willington 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.



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

Conservation Commission



Winter bestows a whole new look on the parks and preserves that Willington is fortunate to have. The lack of foliage reveals a multitude of landscape features - waterways, stone walls, hill sides and other views not visible during the rest of the year. And don't let snow stop you from getting some healthy exercise on our great trails. Especially with a fresh snowfall, the forest landscape takes on a whole new perspective. You will be well rewarded. If the snow is deep enough, the Recreation Department has snowshoes to loan if you don't have your own and you'd like to try that experience. Much of the time, though, it isn't long after a snowfall that other enthusiastic snowshoers and hikers have packed the trails enough to not need snowshoes. Most of the trails are also cross-country skiable with the Taylor Trail being the most skier-friendly. Depending on your fitness and skill level, you may have to walk a section or two on the others. Make an effort to get out and take advantage of winter's beauty on any snowfall because although February and March can be quite wintery, they are also when spring begins to make its presence known and the landscape will be showing signs of coming to life again. As always, please be considerate of others and help us protect wildlife by keeping dogs on leashes.

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

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

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

If you are interested in taking an active part in helping the Town manage its environmental resources, the Commission has openings for two alternate members. Alternate members participate in meetings and may be seated as voting members in the absence of regular members. Anyone is welcome to attend our meetings in the lower level of the Town Office Building on the third Wednesday of every month. Contact Peter Andersen, Commission Chair, at 860-933-6380 or andersen108@sbcglobal.net, 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 Willington home page, www.willingtonct.org, for information on conservation issues, programs and links to other websites.

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

Enjoy!





“Performance Update” By EC-CHAP

Happy New Year!

We are grateful for our members, volunteers, partners and patrons for all the support you have provided through the year. You continue to give EC-CHAP life, and the opportunity to continue to fulfill our purpose as your cultural center. Thank you.

We have a great line-up of performers joining us during the first quarter of the New Year, including returning talent and new performers at The Packing House. January brings back Blues artist **Ramblin’ Dan Stevens**. New to The Packing House will be **Mark Mandeville & Rianne Richards** who join returning artist **Claudia Schmidt** for an evening of original folk music. **Belle of the Fall** will return for their 7th performance on the first of February, and the month will conclude with a debut jazz performance by the **Leala Cyr Quartet**. March will include the return of NYC folk/indie artist **Libby Johnson** with more of her sweet heart-felt originals. We’ll wrap up the month with the traditional Blues and Americana sounds of **Eric Sommer**.

If you haven’t participated in our recurring monthly programs, please visit us each month for:
“EC-CHAP Talent Showcase” (2nd Wednesday);
“EC-CHAP Social Dance with Kelly Madenjian” (2nd Thursday);
Monthly Information Exchange Meeting; and our Film Series (check website for details: www.thepackinghouse.us/upcoming).

The Packing House is located at The Mill Works, 156 River Road, Willington, CT 06279. Parking is free and located onsite and across the street. For questions, program or rental information and table reservations, please call 518-791-9474. Email EC-CHAP (info@ec-chap.org) or The Packing House (info@thepackinghouse.us).

Peace.
EC-CHAP Board

January 2020

Wednesday, 01/08: “Talent Showcase” (2nd Wednesday)
Doors 6:30pm / Show 7:00pm.
Free Admission – All ages

Thursday, 01/09: Social Dance Series with Kelly Madenjian (2nd Thursday).
Doors 6:30pm / Dance 7:00pm

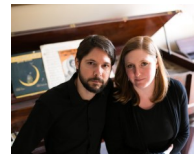
Friday, 01/17: EC-CHAP Film Series: Check Website for Title. Doors 6:30pm / Show 7:00pm



Saturday, 01/18: Acoustic Artist Series: Ramblin’ Dan Stevens (Blues).
Doors 7:00pm / Show 7:30pm

Wednesday, 01/22: EC-CHAP Information Exchange Meeting. 7:00pm

Saturday, 01/25: Acoustic Artist Series: Claudia Schmidt with Mark Mandeville & Rianne Richards (Folk). Doors 7:00pm / Show 7:30pm



February 2020



Saturday, 02/01: Acoustic Artist Series: Belle of the Fall. (Indie).
Doors 7:00pm / Concert 7:30pm

Tuesday, 02/11: EC-CHAP Information Exchange Meeting. 7:00pm

Wednesday, 02/12: “Talent Showcase” (2nd Wednesday). Doors 6:30pm / Show 7:00pm.
Free admission – All ages.

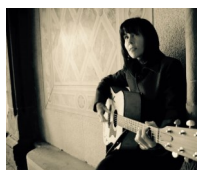
Thursday, 02/13: Social Dance Series with Kelly Madenjian (2nd Thursday).
Doors 6:30pm / Dance 7:00pm



Friday, 02/14: EC-CHAP Film Series: Check Website for Title.
Doors 6:30pm / Show 7:00pm

Saturday, 02/22: EC-CHAP Jazz Series: Leala Cyr Quartet. Doors 7:00pm / Show 7:30pm

March 2020



Saturday, 03/07: EC-CHAP Acoustic Artist Series: Libby Johnson (Folk / Indie). Doors 7:00pm / Show 7:30pm

Tuesday, 03/10: EC-CHAP Information Exchange Meeting. 7:00pm

Wednesday, 03/11: “Talent Showcase” (2nd Wednesday). Doors 6:30pm / Show 7:00pm.
Free admission – All ages.

Thursday, 03/12: EC-CHAP Social Dance Series with Kelly Madenjian (2nd Thursday). Doors 6:30pm / Dance 7:00pm

Friday, 03/13: EC-CHAP Film Series: Check Website for Title. Doors 6:30pm / Show 7:00pm

Friday, 03/27: Acoustic Artist Series: Eric Sommer (Blues). Doors 7:00pm / Show 7:30pm



EC-CHAP Continued...



The Dye & Bleach House Community Gallery—2019 Retrospective



As we begin a new calendar year, we thought we would take this opportunity to look back to 2019 and the launch of EC-CHAP's "Dye & Bleach House Community Gallery". The Dye & Bleach House

Community Gallery first became a reality at the First Sunday at The Mill Works open house on April 7, 2019.

Our purpose for creating this 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. In exchange for participation, each artist volunteers to supervise the gallery during open hours based on a mutually acceptable schedule. This collaborative approach will allow us to create a cost-free model for art presentation where artists may assist with installation design and display their works, in addition to sharing in the monitoring of the Gallery.

EC-CHAP does not publicize pricing of any artwork, nor accepts compensation for any sales in the Dye & Bleach House Community Gallery. Each piece of art is identified by its maker and any public interest for purchase, commission work, follow-up showings, etc. is handled directly with the artist.

We wish to acknowledge the following artists that have participated and displayed their original works in the four shows during 2019:

"Gallery Debut" (Spring 2019): **Scotty Opperman, John Starinovich, and Martha Ennis**

"Three" (Summer 2019): **Marilyn (Lynn) Lacoss, Lily O'Brien, and Randall Nelson**

"View" (Fall 2019): **Vilnis Atrens, Diane Diederich, Penny Guerin, Arpita Kurdekar & Steve Schumacher**

"Works of the Mill" (Winter 2019): **Jack Broderick, Carol Mackiewicz and Tyler Hall**

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)!



"A Canvas of History and Social Change" By EC-CHAP

"A Canvas of Social Change" represents a public art project developed and executed by the Eastern Connecticut Center for History, Art, and Performance (EC-CHAP). EC-CHAP is a 501.c.3 cultural organization serving eastern Connecticut and beyond.

The purpose of this project is to raise awareness of local history, culture, and sustained innovation that has endured time and social change. The resulting mural has been created on a 200-foot retaining wall located at The Mill Works facility, historic landmark and home of EC-CHAP, 156 River Road (RT32), Willington, CT.

A public Dedication Celebration took place on Saturday, November 30, 2019, where the artist, Community Engagement Team (CET), and volunteers were recognized. The mural artist responsible for presenting and finalizing concept designs and completing the final mural is Christopher Gunderson. Mr. Gunderson is a visual artist and full-time graphic designer at Avid Marketing Group, Rocky Hill, CT.

This project was partially funded by a REGI grant administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development, Connecticut Office of the Arts. The remaining funds required to complete this project were acquired through a major fundraising activity.

You may find photographs, video, and details regarding the evolution, process, content, and "story behind the canvas" on the EC-CHAP website at: www.ec-chap.org/acanvas.

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



All performances and film showings are located in The Packing House at The Mill Works, 156 River Road, Willington, CT.

For information about EC-CHAP membership, performances, programs, or reservations, please call: 518-791-9474; Email: info@ec-chap.org, or visit us at www.ec-chap.org.

Visit The Packing House directly at: www.thepackinghouse.us.



Historical Society



**With a New Year's resolution you can start a relationship with Willington History!
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

The time that the Society holds its monthly meetings 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 last month 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 next 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 cleaning up 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.

Spaghetti Dinner



The Federated Church of Willington is hosting a Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, February 22, 2020 from 5-7:00 p.m. at the Willington Hill Fire Department, 24 Old Farms Road to raise money to send representatives from the church on a mission trip to Uganda with ChildVoice in late October of 2020. In addition to dinner and dessert, there will be a silent auction and a short presentation.

Tickets are \$10.00 per person.

For more information or tickets, please call Danielle at 860-429-4223.



Parks & Recreation



All Bus Trips are coordinated with the towns of Ashford, Coventry, Ellington, Mansfield, Tolland and Willington. Please register with the recreation department in the town in which you reside. If you do not live in any of the listed towns, you may register with any department. The pick-up and drop-off location for all is the Commuter Parking Lot at I-84, Exit 68 in Tolland.

We're working on some great bus trips for 2020. Be sure to check our [website](#) for more information.

- March/April: Boston—Day On Your Own
- July: James Taylor at Tanglewood
- October: TBD
- December: New York City—Day On Your Own

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!!

WEDNESDAYS IN THE PARK
Willington's Summer Concert Series

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

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

Hiking Club



Love to hike? Love the outdoors? Let's get outside together and explore what nature has to offer!

WPRD will lead you on some great hikes on local trails. Starting on January 17th, we'll meet on Fridays at 2:30 p.m. at a different location, every week. Please check the [calendar](#) located on our website for the weekly location, cancellations, etc.

Family Rock Climbing



COMING SOON! Family Rock Climbing at Hall Memorial School with a new auto-belay system. Spend quality time together, enjoy fun challenges and learn a new skill!

Stay tuned on our climbing page [HERE](#).

International Folk Dancing



This program features dances from around the world, starting with easy walking-based dances and progressing to more advanced dances as the class is ready. Adults of all ages have found this program to be fun and great exercise. It is a good way to learn about cultural backgrounds and make new friends! No experience is necessary and no partners are necessary. Wear comfortable clothes, close-toed shoes and bring water. Drop-ins are welcome!

- Dates:** This class is held on Thursday evenings
- Time:** 7-8:00 p.m.
- Location:** Old Town Hall, 11 Common Road, Willington (Located on the Town Green)
- Fee:** This program is being offered at no cost
- Instructor:** Veronica Craig



International Folk Dancing Class performing at the Annual Willington Community Tree Lighting



Parks & Recreation

Gentle Flow (All Level) Yoga Classes



Calm Your Mind and Promote Wellness

Gentle Flow classes are designed for people of all levels and bodies, great for beginners or those seasoned yogi's looking for a more relaxing class to balance out your practice. Kimberly will guide you through a gentle flow yoga class designed to promote grounding and strengthening to help you reach a deepened state of relaxation. This class will focus on centering the mind with breath work to help bring the mind to rest and prepare the body for yoga postures. Primary focus is on gentle stretches and then moving into a light flow practice to warm and stretch the body.

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

- Dates:** Wednesday Evenings
November 27th-January 22nd (6 classes)
January 29th-March 4th (6 classes)
- Time:** 6:30-7:45 p.m.
- Location:** Willington Public Library
Lower Level Community Room
- Fee:** \$45.00 / 6 classes
Drop In Fee—\$10.00/class
- Instructor:** Kimberly Ratti, RYT 500

Gentle Flow Yoga and Sound Healing



Join Kimberly Ratti for these **THREE** special classes as she leads you through a gentle flow yoga class followed by an enlightening sound healing with beautiful quartz crystal bowls facilitated by Edie Jemiola. Everything in and about our bodies resonates to sound. Sound used with intention can shift the energy in and around the body to help reestablish physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being. Join Kimberly and Edie for an evening of deep relaxation and stress reduction for the body, mind and spirit!

- Date:** Friday, February 28th, March 27th **AND**
April 24th
- Time:** 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Fee:** \$25.00
- Location:** Willington Public Library
(Lower Level Community Room)
- Instructors:** Kimberly Ratti (RYT 500)
Edie Jemiola
Usui & Karuna Holy Fire III Reiki Master/
Teacher, certified Holographic Sound Healing
Teacher/Practitioner, Melchizedek Method
and Magnified Healing Instructor

Please wear comfortable clothing and bring your own mat, props, pillow and blanket.



Adult Co-Ed Pickleball

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

Tuesdays:
Recreational League—January 7th—February 11th

- Time:** 7-8:30 p.m.
- Location:** Center Elementary School Gym
- Fee:** \$25.00 / 6-week session
- Drop In Fee:** \$5.00/night



Equipment is available for use. Minimum 18 years old to play.

Adult Co-Ed Volleyball



Come play Adult Co-Ed Volleyball at Hall Memorial School Gymnasium. This program is available to all individuals ages 18 and out of high school. The program runs year round on Monday and Thursday nights from 7:30-9:30 p.m. (time subject to change during basketball season) at Hall Memorial School Gymnasium, 111 River Road, Willington, CT.

USVBA Rules are followed and mastery of skills is encouraged. Space is limited to 21 players per night.

Registration Fees Per Session:

Resident - \$20.00/1 night or \$35.00/2 nights
Non-Resident - \$30.00/1 night or \$40.00/2 nights

Session 1: September-December

Session 2: January-April

Session 3: May-August

Drop-in Fees: Resident - \$3.00/night
Non-Resident - \$5.00/night

****Yearly Fee available to residents only: \$65.00****

Adult Fitness Classes (click [HERE](#) for more info)

Fitness Class Description: 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. **Class Size: Maximum 12 people and minimum of 5 to run.**

Boot Camp Class Description: This is a total body workout emphasizing on core and muscle endurance. Be prepared to work out, modifications will be available for beginners. This class will start promptly as this is a quick, intense workout with stretching at the end. **Class Size: Unlimited and minimum of 5 to run.**

Abs/Core Class Description: Approximately 30-minutes long to help create a strong core from shoulders to hips. Strengthening the abdominal and back muscles to help posture and can help with back pain and can also give you that six pack ; **Class Size: Unlimited and minimum of 5 to run.**



Parks & Recreation Continued...

WPRDs Fitness Calendar - January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  New Year's Day	2 4:00 p.m. Fitness Class 5:00 p.m. Abs/Core Class 6:00 p.m. Boot Camp	3	4 
5	6 9:00 a.m. Fitness Class	7 8:45 a.m. Boot Camp 6:00 p.m. Abs/Core Class 6:30 p.m. Fitness Class	8 9:00 a.m. Fitness Class 10:00 a.m. Abs/Core Class	9 4:00 p.m. Fitness Class 5:00 p.m. Abs/Core Class 6:00 p.m. Boot Camp	10	11
12	13 9:00 a.m. Fitness Class	14 8:45 a.m. Boot Camp 6:00 p.m. Abs/Core Class 6:30 p.m. Fitness Class	15 9:00 a.m. Fitness Class 10:00 a.m. Abs/Core Class	16 4:00 p.m. Fitness Class 5:00 p.m. Abs/Core Class 6:00 p.m. Boot Camp	17	18
19	20 9:00 a.m. Fitness Class	21 8:45 a.m. Boot Camp 6:00 p.m. Abs/Core Class 6:30 p.m. Fitness Class	22 9:00 a.m. Fitness Class 10:00 a.m. Abs/Core Class	23 4:00 p.m. Fitness Class 5:00 p.m. Abs/Core Class 6:00 p.m. Boot Camp	24	25
26  BOOT CAMP	27 9:00 a.m. Fitness Class	28 8:45 a.m. Boot Camp 6:00 p.m. Abs/Core Class 6:30 p.m. Fitness Class	29 9:00 a.m. Fitness Class 10:00 a.m. Abs/Core Class	30 4:00 p.m. Fitness Class 5:00 p.m. Abs/Core Class 6:00 p.m. Boot Camp	31	

****All classes are held at the Old Town Hall, Common Road, Willington****

\$40.00/8 classes OR \$7.00 Drop In Fee

Instructor: Monica Daniels, WITS Certified

Please wear comfortable workout attire and sneakers. Bring a water bottle and a mat if you have one

Contact WPRD for more information 860-487-3108 or mparsell@willingtonct.org



Parks & Recreation Continued...

WPRDs Fitness Calendar - February 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 
2	3 9:00 a.m. Fitness Class	4 8:45 a.m. Boot Camp 6:00 p.m. Abs/Core Class 6:30 p.m. Fitness Class	5 9:00 a.m. Fitness Class 10:00 a.m. Abs/Core Class	6 4:00 p.m. Fitness Class 5:00 p.m. Abs/Core Class 6:00 p.m. Boot Camp	7	8
9	10 9:00 a.m. Fitness Class	11 8:45 a.m. Boot Camp 6:00 p.m. Abs/Core Class 6:30 p.m. Fitness Class	12 9:00 a.m. Fitness Class 10:00 a.m. Abs/Core Class	13 4:00 p.m. Fitness Class 5:00 p.m. Abs/Core Class 6:00 p.m. Boot Camp	14 	15
16	17	18 8:45 a.m. Boot Camp 6:00 p.m. Abs/Core Class 6:30 p.m. Fitness Class	19 9:00 a.m. Fitness Class 10:00 a.m. Abs/Core Class	20 4:00 p.m. Fitness Class 5:00 p.m. Abs/Core Class 6:00 p.m. Boot Camp	21	22
23 	24	25 8:45 a.m. Boot Camp 6:00 p.m. Abs/Core Class 6:30 p.m. Fitness Class	26 10:00 a.m. Abs/Core Class	27	28	29 

****All classes are held at the Old Town Hall, Common Road, Willington****

\$40.00/8 classes OR \$7.00 Drop In Fee

Instructor: Monica Daniels, WITS Certified

Please wear comfortable workout attire and sneakers. Bring a water bottle and a mat if you have one

Contact WPRD for more information 860-487-3108 or mparsell@willingtonct.org



Parks & Recreation Continued...

Holiday Tree Giveaway

A **HUGE** thank you to **Donald and Maureen Parizek** and **Scot and Valerie Rogers** for donating four, beautiful, holiday trees for WPRDs 3rd Annual Holiday Tree Giveaway. Each one of these trees was sponsored by a local group/family, beautifully decorated and then delivered to Willington families in need. Thank you to the following groups/families for your kindness and generosity and for sharing the true meaning of **Community**...

Willington Democratic Town Committee, Willington PTA, Cub Scout Pack 82 and Boy Scout Pack 82.



Willington Democratic
Town Committee



Willington PTA



Cub Scout Pack 82

Holiday Wreath Giveaway

In conjunction with our Holiday Tree Giveaway, we held our 2nd Annual Holiday Wreath Giveaway. As with the holiday tree program, we had twelve wreaths that were sponsored by a local group/family, beautifully decorated and then delivered to a Willington family in need. Thank you to the following groups/families for your kindness and generosity and for sharing the true meaning of **Community**...

Cub Scout Pack 82, Boy Scout Pack 82, Willington Human Services and Willington Parks & Recreation.



Parks & Recreation Continued...



A **VERY** special thank you to the following for making our Annual Community Tree Lighting an unforgettable evening for our community.

Bob Shabot

Willington Fire Department #1

Walt and Linda West

Jason Phillips

Kathleen Narowski

Boy Scouts Troop 82

Pat Morris

Willington Historical Society

Willington 4-H Club

Willington Human Services

Valerie Rogers

Ken Craig

HMS Select Chorus

Girls Scouts Troop 60376

Department of Public Works

AND we cannot forget Santa Glenn, his elves and the Tolland Fire Department!!



Jason Phillips, Kathleen Narowski, Val Rogers and Ken Craig



Pat Morris



Jennie Arpin
Willington Human Services



4-H



Parks & Recreation Continued...



Please call 860-487-3108 or email mparsell@willingtonct.org for program information and registration. More information can be found on our website: <http://www.willingtonct.org>.

Willington Parks & Recreation Commission

Our commission requires seven members per the Board of Selectmen. It is a non-compensation position and has a term of three years. The Commission meets on the last Monday of the month and is responsible for the oversight of our town's recreation facilities, recreation programs within and beyond those facilities, and managing the development of new facilities and programs.

The Recreation Commission meet the last Monday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Office Building—Selectman Conference Table.

Policies & General Information

Fees: There will be a \$20.00 fee for all checks returned as unpaid due to insufficient funds, stop payment, or any other form of cancellation. Payments shall be made by check or cash. Credit cards are not accepted. All checks should be made out to the Willington Parks and Recreation Department or WPRD.

Financial Assistance: Funding is set aside to assist Willington families that require financial help in registering for programs. For further information and an application, please contact our office at 860-487-3108.

Inclement Weather Policy: In the event of inclement weather, programs may be cancelled, and a makeup date may or may not be scheduled. If schools are closed, all programs will be cancelled. Notifications will be placed on WFSB 3 TV.

Non-Resident Policy: Non-residents will be charged an additional \$5.00/\$10.00 depending on the program/bus trip.

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

Payment: Payments may be made by cash, check or credit card. All checks should be made out to the Willington Parks and Recreation Department (WPRD). Returned checks are subject to a \$20 service charge. Credit Cards are now accepted! Visit willingtonct.viewpointcloud.com for registration/payment for all programs, donations and sponsorships.

Photo Policy: WPRD reserves the right to photograph program participants for publicity purposes.

Program Cancellation: WPRD reserves the right to cancel any program that does not meet minimum enrollment requirements. **PROGRAM TIMES AND DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANYTIME.** When schools are closed due to inclement weather or school activities, all programming held at the schools will be cancelled for that day/evening. Every effort will be made to notify you. Notification will be placed on WFSB 3 TV. A make-up class will be scheduled if time permits.

Refunds: The Parks and Recreation Department has the right to cancel or consolidate programs if registration is insufficient. Any program cancelled by the Department will result in a full refund. There are no refunds once a program has begun unless accompanied by a doctor's note which will result in a prorated refund. All refunds must be in writing, received at least a week prior to the start of the program (three weeks if a bus trip) and will be assessed a \$5.00 processing fee.

Register Early: Please be sure to register **EARLY** for programs and trips you wish to participate in. WPRD reserves the right to cancel programs and/or trips due to low enrollment.

Scholarship Program: A scholarship program was created to help Willington families participate in all recreational activities offered no matter their financial circumstances. **Donations are always accepted.** Please make checks payable to WPRD and mail to 40 Old Farms Road, Willington.

We are Social! Be sure to **'LIKE'** Willington Parks & Recreation on Facebook! Check out the Willington Parks & Recreation website at www.willingtonct.org for all of our latest events and programs. Be sure to **Subscribe to E-Alerts** at www.willingtonct.org and stay informed of all that we have to offer!

We Want to Hear from You! Do YOU have a hidden talent? We want to see it! Please take a few moments to share your ideas with us. Do you have a talent or program that you would like to see offered? Your input, opinions, suggestions and comments are an invaluable part of our continued improvement to our offerings. We welcome and value your input as we work together to make our parks and programs the best they can possibly be.



Parks & Recreation Continued...

911 Reflective Address Signs

The First Step to Providing Emergency Services is Finding Your House

Name _____

Cost: \$12.00 / \$10.00 Seniors

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____

Address Number Requested: _____

Horizontal: _____ Vertical: _____

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

Signs are highly visible both day and night!!

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

Elections Department



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

In April, we will be conducting the annual, state-mandated, canvass of voters who have moved out-of-town. If you receive a canvass letter due to an address change, please follow the instructions, fill out the necessary information and return the letter to our office as soon as possible.

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

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

Upcoming voting events:

- April 28 – Presidential Preference Primary

Upcoming deadlines:

- January 28 – last day to change party affiliation in order to vote in a party's primary. There is a 3-month waiting period to attain voting privileges in the new party. In Connecticut, voters must be enrolled with the Democratic or Republican Party to vote in the Presidential Preference Primary.

Registering to vote is now available online – go to voterregistration.ct.gov.

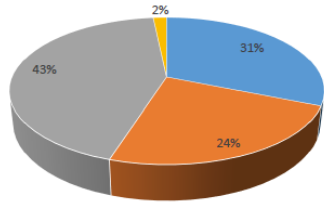
If you have any questions, office hours are Tuesdays from 10 am to 12 noon or call 860 487.3120 and leave a message.

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



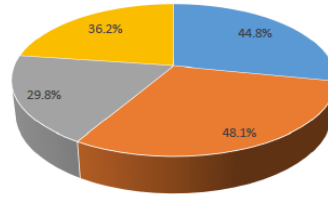
2019 Municipal Election Statistics

Voter Registration Summary
3,523 Registered Voters



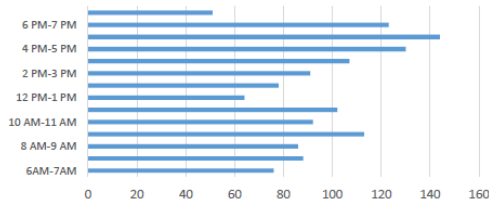
Democratic Republican Unaffiliated Other

Voter Turnout
1,372 Voted - 38.85%

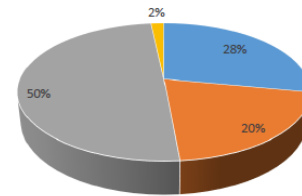


Democratic Republican Unaffiliated Other*

In Person Votes by Hour

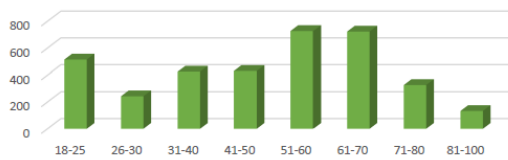


Not Voting
2,012 Did **Not** Vote

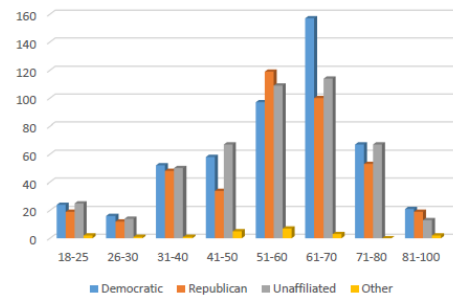


Democratic Republican Unaffiliated Other*

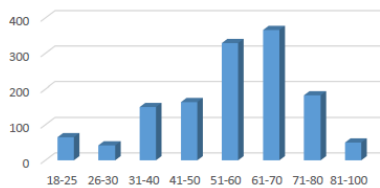
Voter Registration by Age



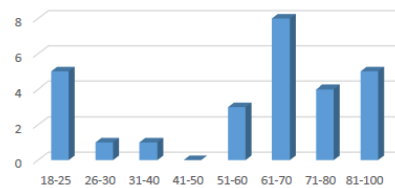
Who Voted by Age by Party



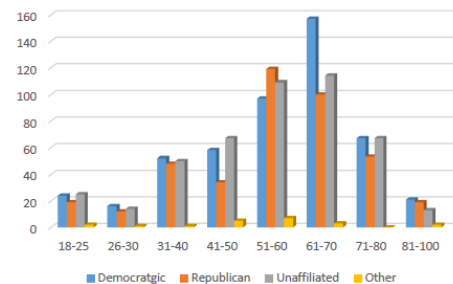
Who Voted in Person by Age



Who Voted by Absentee by Age



Who Did **NOT** Vote by Age by Party



Public Works



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

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!

Tax Collector

**Property Tax Bill Reminders and Motor Vehicle Supplemental Bills have been mailed.
2nd Installment & MVS Due by February 3, 2020**

How can I pay My Bill?

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

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

This is your motor vehicle supplemental bill. This bill was generated because you were issued a new motor vehicle registration, or have transferred an existing registration, at some time after Oct. 1, 2018, but before Sept. 30, 2019. You are being billed only for the number of months from your registration date until the end of the assessment year.

When is my Payment Due? When is it considered late?

Payments due January 1, 2020 must be received, or postmarked, no later than Monday February 3, 2020. Interest is charged at a rate of 1 ½% per month from the due date, with a minimum interest charge of \$2.00.

Per §12-146, Interest cannot be waived.

WISHING EVERYONE A HEALTHY, HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

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



Science Corner with Emily

Hello everyone! I hope your winter is off to a good start, I'm not sure if news has made its way through town yet but I have accepted a position with the North Central Conservation District working as a Natural Resource Scientist. Although I will miss working for the town I am very excited about the new position, but no need to worry; the Science Corner isn't going anywhere!

The Universe

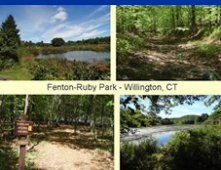
When I think about Earth's history it is difficult to grasp the sheer time length in relation to how long we Homo sapiens have been walking the planet. While doing some research for this article I stumbled across a video by Science Insider titled "Putting the History of Earth into Perspective". The video compares Earth's 4.54 billion year history to the distance from Los Angeles to New York, 2,450 miles. The miles traveled equate to major events in Earth's history such as the formation of our moon, five mass extinctions, advancement of species and fauna. The United States declared independence 243 years ago, in comparison to those 2,450 miles that is a mere 8.2 inches. I have yet to conclude if it's fascinating or frightening to think our existence on this planet has been so brief. Regardless, it is difficult to understand what a billion years is when our lives are so short.

To delve even further in time, the Milky Way Galaxy is estimated to be 13.6 billion years old and the universe itself, approximately 13.8 billion. Astronomers and physicists use light (and many other tools) to study space. Knowing light travels nearly 186,000 miles per second or about 6 trillion miles in one year. They are able to analyze images captured on telescopes and accurately predict the distance and age of an object based on the length of time it takes the light and imagery to reach us.

Light beams can be used to not only predict the age of another planet, star, or galaxy but the shape of an object as well. Years of data suggest our Universe is a flat endless void, when a beam of photons is cast outward it continues in a straight line. A recent study published by an international team of astronomers based in the UK challenges this theory. The team is arguing that the Universe is actually curved and closed because of an effect called gravitational lensing. In simplistic terms, mass bends light. Gravitational fields of a large object will extend far into space and cause light rays passing by to bend and refocus. The team looked at imagery from a 2018 satellite and examined leftover electromagnetic radiation from the formation of the Universe by blocking out all other light sources. A strong gravitational lens was observed, stronger than there would be for a flat Universe. They concluded, with a 99 percent confidence coefficient, the only explanation for their findings pointed to a curved Universe.

Many astronomers and physicists challenged this theory stating evidence elsewhere points to a flat Universe but none have been able to come up with an explanation for the UK team's findings. Debate still continues but at the very least this has given researchers another avenue to study and a new perspective to consider when trying to solve the many unknowns of what lies beyond our atmosphere.

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 recently finished constructing 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. 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.



Town Parks & Amenities Continued...

Town Office Building 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:
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 now 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

Willington Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars



High School Seniors: Would YOU like to be a Class of 2020 Scholarship Recipient?

Willington Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars (WSFDFS)

- Seniors be on the lookout for letters with information on how to apply!
- The application window on our website opens Jan 15, 2020 – closes March 15, 2020.
- Willington Seniors graduating high school in 2020 and who intend to further their post-secondary education or training can apply!
- Congratulations to our 2019 Renewable Scholarship Award recipient William Toomey! We wish him well in all his academic endeavors.



Look for our Annual Appeal!

It will be in mailboxes the beginning of March/end of February 2020

Every dollar you give will help fund scholarships for our Willington students. To send a contribution, mail a check to **The Willington Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars; P.O. Box 194; Willington, CT, 06279** or

Text: WILLINGTONFORSCHOLARS to 44321. You can donate online, using the "Donate Now" button on our website at www.Willington.DollarsforScholars.org.

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

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

