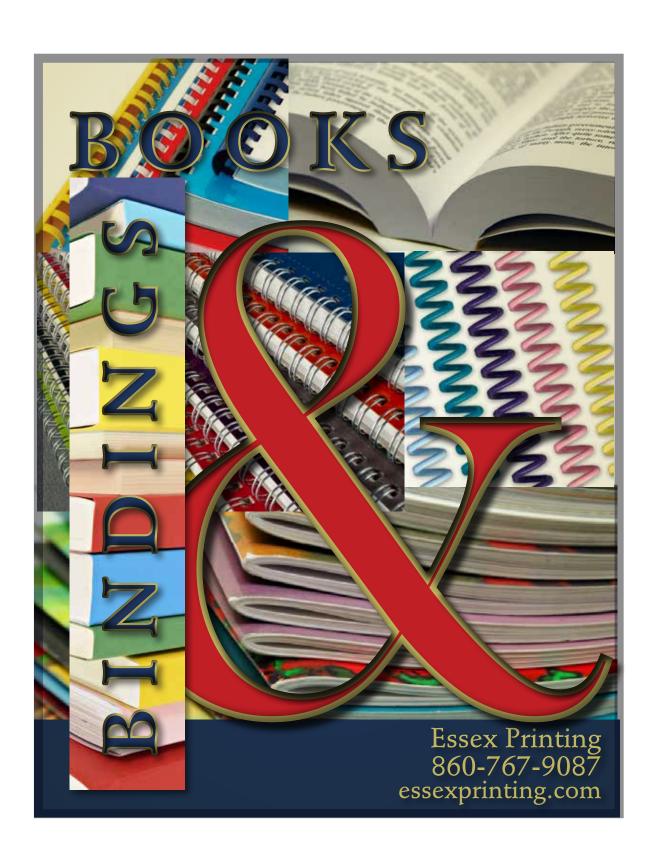
Willington events **DELIVERING TOWN NEWS** TO EVERYONE IN TOWN



First Selectwoman's Corner

Dear Willington Residents:

The fall of 2016 was a very busy time at the Willington Town Offices. The Board of Selectmen would like to thank our Town Clerk, Registrars and many poll workers for their hard work on election day (and the weeks leading up to it!)

We also want to thank the many individuals and groups who helped to make the 2016 Tree Lighting on the Green such a successful community event! This event served as a great reminder that Willington is a wonderful place to live.

Now that the holiday dust has settled, the tough months of winter are upon us. With hard work and a positive attitude, we will be ready for spring when it arrives.

The main reason that winter is the toughest season for Willington staff is the weather. As always, our Public Works crew stands ready to help us deal with whatever comes our way. We are all hoping the predictions that this will be an unpleasant winter are wrong, however, this doesn't seem likely considering that we had more snow events in December of 2016 than we did all of last year. One bright spot for our crew is that Turnpike Road was completed right before the first snow squall. Ever since then, the crew has either been plowing, treating the roads or preparing the trucks for the next weather event.

Another reason winter is tough for the Town Office staff is that it coincides with budget season and the many meetings that occur in

January, February and March. This budget season is shaping up to be one of the most challenging in recent years due to projected loss of revenue. State aid cuts to municipalities, including Willington, will surely impact revenue as will decreased property values as a result of homes with crumbling foundations. What our many boards and department heads will be doing over the coming months is working together to find ways to maintain services and programs while minimizing any tax



Christina Beebe Mailhos

increase. If you are interested in a particular town service, such as the library, public safety, human services, education, recreation, etc., please make contact with the boards that oversee these programs and let them know your concerns and suggestions as soon as possible. They will be able to incorporate your input before their budgets go to the Board of Finance for consideration. Please check the town website at www.willingtonct.org for meeting dates and times.

The Town Office Building is open 12:30-7:30 pm on Mondays and 9-2:00 on Tuesday-Friday. I try to be available during office hours or by appointment. Please stop in to share your ideas and concerns.

Best regards, Christina Beebe Mailhos First Selectwoman





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Willington Events - Vernon Events -Ellington Events - Tolland Events

Notice from the Assessor

Town of Willington 40 Old Farms Road, Willington, CT 06279 860-487-3122

Filing deadlines for various exemptions and classifications for the 2017 Grand List are as follows:

PUBLIC ACT 490

All applications for classification of forestland must be received by October 1, 2017. All applications for classification of farmland and open space must be received by October 31, 2017.

VETERANS

All property owners claiming exemption due to military service must file their DD214 form with the Town Clerk by September 30, 2017. Veterans claiming disability exemption must submit proof from the Veterans Administration. PA 85-573 allows veterans an additional exemption if their income is within the approved limits. This application must be filed by October 1 bi-annually.

DISABILITY

Persons totally disabled receiving SSD benefits may be

eligible for a \$1000 property exemption. Proof of award and application must be submitted by October 1, 2017.

HOMEOWNERS & TOTALLY DISABLED

Residents 65 years of age or totally disabled may be eligible for a tax credit on real estate; income guidelines apply and are adjusted each year. You must request an application in February 2017 and file it on or before May 15, 2017.

RENTERS

Residents 65 years of age or totally disabled may be eligible for the State Renters Rebate Program. Guidelines and applications will be available from the Human Services Department between April 1, 2017-October 1, 2017.

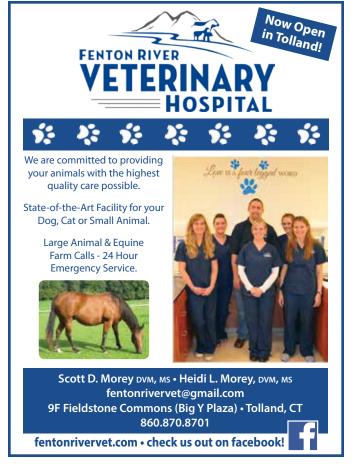
CONCRETE FOUNDATIONS

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

Jody L. Heon, CCMAI, Assessor







Reminder – Property Taxes are Due

2nd Installment Due by February 1, 2017



HOW CAN I PAY MY BILL?

The Revenue Office accepts cash, money orders or personal checks for payment at the office. If our office is closed, you can leave a check in our Drop Box outside the front

door of the building. Our mailing address is 40 Old Farms Rd, Willington CT 06279 if you want to mail in a payment. Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you would like a receipt mailed back to you. You may also pay online at www.willingtonct.org and click on the red button that says "View/Pay Tax Bill." 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 online credit/debit card payments. The same fees apply.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Revenue Office at 860-487-3111 or collector@willingtonct.org.

Registrars of Voters



Starting in January, we will be conducting the annual canvass of voters. If you receive a canvass letter, please follow the instructions, fill out the necessary

information and return the letter to our office, by the deadline indicated in the letter.

If there are questions regarding a canvass letter you received or any questions concerning voter registration, please contact the office at 860 487-3120. Office hours are Tuesdays from 10 am to 12 noon.

Applying for voter registration is quick and easy through the online site voterregistration.ct.gov. Please check our webpage for up-to-date voting event information and frequently asked questions—click on "Elections Department" link from the Town's main webpage.

As a reminder, the Town's annual budget process has begun. Keep informed of the process by subscribing to the Town's public notices and attending and participating at committee meetings and Town meetings. The annual Town and Region 19 Budget Referendum will be held on May 2, 2017.

Suzanne G. Chapman and Christine Psathas, Registrars of Voters

Public Works Department

ROAD IMPROVEMENT PLAN

This year's road improvement plan is paving 8.23 miles of road dependent upon budget approval. The plan includes: Moose Meadow Road, Jared Sparks Road, Tinkerville Road and Fermier Road.

ROAD CLOSURE

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.

Continued on page 6

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& LUBE

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Public Works... continued from page 5

CATCH BASINS & STORM INLETS

Help minimize street flooding by 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!

DOWNED POWER LINES - KEEP CLEAR OF FALLEN UTILITY WIRES

the wire.

If you come across a downed utility wire of any kind, always do the following:

- Assume it's energized and stay as far away as you can.

 Energized lines can charge the ground near the point of contact and may electrocute you. If a person or pet comes into contact with a downed power line, remain clear. Do not touch them or
- Call 911 or the utility serving the location.
 Leave everything to utility professionals and emergency personnel.
- Do not drive over downed power lines.

 Even if they're not energized, downed wires can get entangled with your vehicle and cause further damage.
- Stay in your car.

 If a power line falls on your vehicle while you're driving, do not
- exit until you know for sure that the line is de-energized.
 If you must evacuate, jump away and land with both feet together.

Do not touch the vehicle while stepping on the ground, as this can create a path for electricity to run through you.

• Shuffle away to safety.

Keep your feet together and take small, shuffling steps until you're at least 35 feet away. Taking larger steps can also create a path for electricity to run through you.

PUBLIC WORKS SAFETY POEM - AUTHOR UNKNOWN

We keep it safe to travel from home to work each day. Although some storms are difficult, our ethics never sway.

We really do get weary, as we work all through the night. But safety is our goal, and we strive to do it right.

We strive to do the very best, our budget will allow. We try to keep the public safe. As we drive around and plow.

We are the men and women that you think get in your way. As we do our tasks we're given, too bad you think of us that way.

We always do our best. We just wish you would admire. The long hours that go into it and the wrath we acquire.

We are safety-minded. Always on alert. We try hard to be careful, so no one will get hurt.

We always wear our hard hats, our gloves and ear gear too. We even have the latest, in fashionable steel toed shoes. So please let it be known, that no matter where you'll be, Come snow or high water, it's Public Works you'll see.

Town of Willington Office Building Contacts

40 Old Farms Road, Willington, CT 06279

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

First Selectman	Christina Beebe Mailhos	860-487-3100
Assessor	Jody Heon	860-487-3122
Building Inspector	Jim Rupert	860-487-3123
Business Manager	Donna Latincsics	860-487-3134
Dog Warden	Tina Binheimer	860-428-4422
Elections Department	Christine Psathas & Suzanne Chapman	860-487-3120
Parks & Recreation	Maureen Parsell	860-487-3108
Planning & Zoning	Susan Yorgensen	860-487-3123
Public Works	Derek Dimmock	860-684-9313
Senior Center	Ed D'Agata	860-429-8321
Human Services	Jennie Arpin	860-487-3118
Tax Collector	Lisa Madden	860-487-3111
Treasurer	Tish Ignatowicz	860-487-3133
Town Clerk	Donna Hardie	860-487-3121

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Department of Human Services

40 Old Farms Road, Willington, Connecticut 06279 860-487-3118 / humanservices@willingtonct.org

THANK YOU! – The Department of Human Services wants to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who donated toys, money, food, time, adopted families, or otherwise helped in making the 2016 Holiday Program successful for our resident families in need! We could not have done it without you!

FOOD PANTRY – The Willington Food Pantry offers canned and dry goods, seasonal vegetables, and eggs to Willington residents in need. Located at the Town Office Building, our hours are Mondays from 4 pm to 6 pm, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 am to 12 pm. Also open at the same time and place is our Community Closet, where residents can pick up some gently used clothing, coats, and accessories.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS – Starting in March, please join us for our Preschool Programs and Caterpillar Club! Children will do crafts, play games, sing songs, and make friendships that will last a lifetime. We offer Music and Movement on Tuesdays, Caterpillar Club on Thursdays, and Create! Move! Play! on Fridays at the Willington Public Library. Please call for registration information.

MOBILE FOODSHARE - Bringing produce, breads, and on

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

SPRING CLOTHING SWAP – Just in time for the warmer weather, the Department of Human Services will be running a Spring Clothing Swap! Please contact us for more information!

APRIL CAMP – Human Services is pleased to be running our popular April Camp program again in 2017! April Camp is a week full of fun, crafts, games, and activities for kids during spring recess, April 10th through April 13th. Visit our Facebook page or webpage for more information as we get closer to April!

FRIENDLY VISITORS – For elderly residents in need of companionship, we are proud to offer Friendly Visitors! For a few hours, our lovely volunteers will come to the home of an elderly person and play a board game, have a cup of coffee, or just chat! For more information or to register your loved one, please contact this office.

WE ARE SOCIAL! – Be sure to "Like" Willington Human Services on Facebook! Keep up with our events, programs, and happenings. Thanks for your interest and support!

Willington Public Library

7 Ruby Road, Willington, CT 06279 860-429-3854 www.willingtonpubliclibrary.org

MANY REASONS TO GIVE "THANKS"...

Thank you, to our wonderful and generous, Friends of the Willington Public Library, for all their hard work and dedication; for helping us bring, to the community, the many wonderful events and programs that enrich our lives. We

are always looking to grow in numbers so, please consider joining.

Thank you, to those who participated in our "Pavers of Remembrance" Fundraiser this holiday season and for those who gave to our Gift-A-Book Drive.

Thank you, to all who joined us, for our "10 Year Anniversary" Celebration Party! Thank you, to all for a fun and successful Friends Holiday "Craft & Bake Sale." We are always looking for crafters to join in and it's not too early to register for next

year's event. We enjoyed a very special visit from Santa Claus too! Thank you Santa!

During these winter months, notice of cancellations due to inclement weather, can be found on our website (www.willingtonpubliclibrary.org) or watch WFSB-TV Channel 3 (or WFSB. com) and NBC 30 WVIT (NBC30.com). Updates can also be found on Facebook. Like us at www.Facebook.com/willingtonpubliclibrary

STORY TIME & CRAFTS

First and Second Saturday of the month from 10 am - 11 am (new time)

FAMILY MOVIE SHOWINGS

Last Saturday of the month at 12:30 pm in the Community Room. Movies subject to change and TBD.

Trolls - Saturday, February 25, 2017 Moana - Saturday, March 25, 2017

LEGO CLUB

Third Saturday of the month from 1 - 2 pm in the Community Room. Some exceptions, check date listing.

CHESS CLUB

Children in Grades K-8 can attend. Parents can help out if they choose by setting up or help in teaching kids how to play. Bring your own chess set if you have one. If your child doesn't know how to play, that is fine. We can teach them or they can watch,

if they choose. The older more experienced players can help out by teaching the ones who don't know how to play. It is a fun activity that helps to build patience, strategy, and high order thinking. Anyone interested in joining, please call or come in to register.

Look for dates and times TBD

CHAIR YOGA

Classes will resume in April, dates and times TBD

SOUND HEALING MEDITATION WITH REIKI MASTER TEACHER, MARY TARDIF

7:00 pm in the Community Room. Join us for a social cup of tea before or after.

Upcoming Dates: Tuesday, February 21, 2017

Tuesday, March 21, 2017 Tuesday, April 18, 2017

\$10 suggested donation, but all are welcome to attend!

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP WANTED!

Looking for participants! Please let us know if you would be interested in joining. Stop in or call to register and let us know what day and time would be best for you.

READ ACROSS AMERICA - "FUN WITH DR. SEUSS!"

Thursday, February 2, 2017 at 6:30 pm

TAKE YOUR CHILD TO THE LIBRARY DAY

Saturday, February 4, 2017 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm Two hour special Story-time...Come dressed-up in your favorite storybook character, for a fun filled, show-and-tell time, and we will read some of "their" stories together.

BEAD JEWELRY MAKING NIGHT WITH MIDGE MAKUCH

6:30 pm in the Community Room Tuesday, March 7, 2017 \$5.00 per item made fee

MAJESTY AND MYSTERY OF "CROP CIRCLES" WITH NATURALIST AND EDUCATOR JOHN ROOT

Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 6:30 pm in the Community Room This a 90 minute long power point presentation featuring designs that have been appearing with increasing sophistication during the past three decades in farmers' fields and other locations all over the world. Layered weaving of plants in the fields as well as anatomical changes observed in these plants are presented as evidence of powerful and mysterious energies at work. Effects on electronic equipment, soils, animals, and human visitors are also described. Interpretations of these intricate and exquisite Continued on page 10



Willington Library... continued from page 9

formations, many of which occur near sacred sites and refer to mystical traditions, are discussed as well.

AUTHOR PAMELA REYNOLDS' "THE PRINCESS AND THE QUEEN" BOOK NIGHT

Experience the mother-in-law/daughter-in-law relationship, and the Man-in-the-Middle. Learn more about the elephant in the room. Come join us and discover some hidden secrets. Relax and enjoy the content, discussions, stories and activities. This assembly will entertain and enlighten, whether contemplating marriage or married. Just in time for Mother's Day!

Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 6:30 pm in the Community Room

We have something special planned in recognition of Arbor Day, in April. More info to follow, date and time TBD.

Come in and check out our new "Recommend A Book," WPL Scrabble, Coloring Table, and Puzzles...all for your enjoyment and entertainment!

LOOKING AHEAD:

Touch-A-Truck

Saturday, May 20, 2017

Ye Olde Colonial Day Faire

Saturday, June 10, 2017

During the year, we will have an ongoing theme of "Build a Better World." Many of our upcoming programs will echo that sentiment. Please be on the lookout for further programming to come.

Willington Parks & Recreation

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/Public_Documents/WillingtonCT_Recreation/recreation

WILLINGTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

The Willington Parks and Recreation Commission is looking for two new members. Our commission requires seven members per the Board of Selectmen, and we presently have five members. It is a non-compensation position and has a term of three years. The Commission meets on the last Monday of the month. Our commission 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. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact the Parks & Recreation Department. The commission will meet with all respondents.

2017 WPRC MEETING SCHEDULE

The Willington Parks & Recreation Commission will meet the last Monday of every month at 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted.

January 30th May 22nd

February 27th (TOB is closed on May 29th August 28th December 18th

March 27th for Memorial Day) September 25th (TOB is closed on December

July 31st

April 24th June 26th October 30th 25th for Christmas)

2017 Bus Trips

These trips are offered in Ashford, Coventry, Ellington, Mansfield, Tolland and Willington. Please register through your town of residence.

- A Day on Your Own in Boston, March 25th Boston
 - Flower & Garden Show
- A Day on Your Own in Lower Manhattan, April 22nd
 - 9/11 Memorial & Museum
 - Statue of Liberty
 - Walk over the Brooklyn Bridge
- Bronx Zoo, May 13th
- Red Sox vs. Detroit Tigers at Fenway, June 10th
- James Taylor at Tanglewood, July 4th
- A Day on Your Own in Newport, August 5th
 - Newport Jazz Fest

• Yankees vs. Red Sox at Yankee Stadium, September 2nd

• Hiking Mt. Monadnock in New Hampshire, October 14th

November 27th

- Hiking and Dinner in Northampton
- Radio City Music Hall, November 11th
- A Day on Your Own in NYC, December 2nd
- *Group Discounts Now Available for Select Trips. Buy 3 tickets, get the 4th 50% off!!

A DAY ON YOUR OWN IN BOSTON

Plan a fun day in Boston! We'll take you to Boston, drop you off at several locations and pick you up at a pre-determined location at the end of the day. The bus will drop you off at the following locations and public transportation is available for many others; more information can be found at www.mbta.com.

• Boston Flower Show: Held at the Seaport World Trade Center,

this year's theme is Superheroes of the Garden! For more info and to purchase tickets, check out http://www.bostonflowershow.com.

- Boston Science Museum: Trip-goers can easily spend an
 entire day exploring this museum. For more info about exhibits
 and special events and to purchase advance tickets, check
 out www.mos.org.
- Quincy Market and Faneuil Hall: Trip-goers can walk around, shop and get great food at this historic area in Boston. More information can be found at www.faneuilhallmarketplace.com.

Date: Saturday, March 25th

Departs From: Tolland Commuter Lot, I-84 Exit 68

(Near Dunkin Donuts)

Departure Time: 7:00 am
Return Time: 7:00 pm
Fee: \$40.00/person
Register by Friday, March 10th

A DAY ON YOUR OWN IN NEW YORK CITY'S LOWER MANHATTAN

No New York City neighborhood has greater historical resonance than Lower Manhattan. This is, after all, where the City began. Sights like Trinity Church, Federal Hall, Wall Street, One World Trade and the 9/11 Memorial & Museum are centuries apart in their creation, but all bring undeniable emotional impact. We'll drop you off in Lower Manhattan where you will be free to wander on your own. You can book a tour or take a self-guided tour, visit a museum or spend the day shopping. There are so many things to do and see in Lower Manhattan. Here are just a few suggestions...

- Things to do in Lower Manhattan: http://www.nycgo.com/boroughs-neighborhoods/manhattan/lower-manhattan
- 9/11 Memorial & Museum: http://www.freetoursbyfoot.com/ visit-911-memorial-nyc/
- **Statue of Liberty:** http://www.freetoursbyfoot.com/ visit-statue-liberty/
- Staten Island Ferry: http://www.freetoursbyfoot.com/ staten-island-ferry/
- Walk over the Brooklyn Bridge: http://www.freetoursbyfoot. com/walking-the-brooklyn-bridge/

Before getting back on the bus to come home, don't miss your chance to have dinner in the Stone Street Historic District. Located just a few blocks from the modern high rise buildings of Wall Street, Stone Street remains a cobblestone testament to New York's Dutch past.

Date: Saturday, April 22nd

Departure Time: 7:00 am

Departs From: The bus will depart from the Tolland

Commuter Lot at Exit 68 off of I-84

Return time: 10:00 pm

Fee: \$50.00/person (transportation only)

Register by Friday, April 8th

VOLLEYBALL ADULT CO-ED

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. USVBA rules are followed and mastery of skills is encouraged. Space is limited to 21 players per night. The program runs year round on Monday and Thursday nights from 7:30-9:30 pm (time subject to change during basketball season) at Hall Memorial Gym, 111 River Road, Willington, CT. 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 Fees available to residents only: \$65.00

EXPLORATION CLUBHOUSE SESSION 1

In November, Willington Parks and Recreation welcomed the brand new Exploration Clubhouse led by Kristen Stevens. Willington residents in kindergarten through fourth grade who enjoy science, technology, art, and engineering are perfect for this program. We are looking forward to Session 2 beginning at the end of January. Children can expect exciting new building projects, engineering challenges, creative art projects, and more (More information to follow).



Exploration Clubhouse is back for another session!

This exciting new program will allow children the opportunity to work on science, art, technology, and engineering projects that are designed to encourage exploration and problem solving. Projects will include investigation with Legos, blocks, creative puzzles,

Continued on page 12

Parks & Recreation... continued from page 11

strategy games, science lab equipment, crafts and MORE!

Session 2 will begin the week of January 30th and will be held on either Mondays or Thursdays. Classes will not be held on February 20th or 23rd.

Dates: Mondays, January 30th - March 13th

Thursdays, February 2nd - March 16th

Time: 3:30-4:45 pm

Location: Center Elementary School

Instructor: Kristen Stevens
Fee: \$30.00 /6 sessions
Available to children in grades K-4th
Sign up today. Space is limited!

FREE SNOWSHOE LOANER PROGRAM

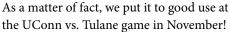
The Willington Parks and Recreation Department has obtained snowshoes through a grant from Eastern Highlands Health District initiative "Healthy Eating, Active Living" (HEAL). The Department has 4 sets of adult and 4 sets of youth snowshoes for use. Loaner equipment is available Monday-Friday. Reservations must be made at least 48 hours in advance. Only one open reservation will be allowed per household. After the completion of one reservation, another will be allowed. Maximum rental is three days. Questions? Call Maureen Parsell at 860-487-3108, email mparsell@willingtonct.org or visit www.willingtonct.org for more information.

ATTENTION YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHERS!

Want to have a photo you've taken at a Joshua's Trust property in a regional photo show? Visit any JT property this winter and submit your photos for display in the ArtSpace Windham gallery in March. Email your photos to maggiebferron@gmail.com by February 20, 2017 and we will frame and display them! Gallery exhibit dates are March 5th through March 13th. To find a nearby preserve: www.joshuastrust.org. For more information: maggiebferron@gmail.com

THANK YOU!

Willington Parks & Rec has a new cornhole game to use! Thank you Wayne and Chelsea Bellefleur for your generous donation! Wayne built it, Chelsea painted it and we'll definitely be using it!





Thanks again for your generosity and for supporting the Parks and Rec Department!

SWINGS AT RIVER ROAD ATHLETIC COMPLEX

Our kids can now swing at the park thanks to the Mansfield Lions Club! Willington Parks and Recreation was awarded the MRP Award in June 2016 and all funds received were used to purchase swings for the park. A three-bay swing set was installed which holds six swings:

- Three Belt Swing Seats
- Two Enclosed Tot Swing Seats
- One Zero G Swing Chair

With this swing, children with physical disabilities can experience movement apart from their mobility device.

High back, wing support, wide base and molded adjustable harness helps the user maintain a neutral body position and minimize fatigue.

Fully engages the senses and encourages interaction among caregivers and peers.

Thank you Mansfield Lions Club for your generous donation and for making this a reality!



UCONN VS. TULANE

Willington Parks & Rec was at Rentschler Field for UConn's final football game against Tulane over Thanksgiving weekend. While it was a little chilly, a fun time was had by all! UConn may not have had the best season but we're hoping for a big comeback next year!





At UConn's final football game, a fun time was had by all!



911 REFLECTIVE ADDRESS SIGNS

The First Step to Providing Emergency Services is Finding Your House Makes checks payable to: WPRD (Willington Parks & Recreation Department) and mail to 40 Old Farms Road, Willington CT 06279.

Name	
Address	
City	
State, Zip	
Phone:	
Address Number Requested:	
Horizontal:	
Cost: \$12.00	
\$10.00 Seniors	
Completed signs must be picked	up at the Parks & Recreation Department.

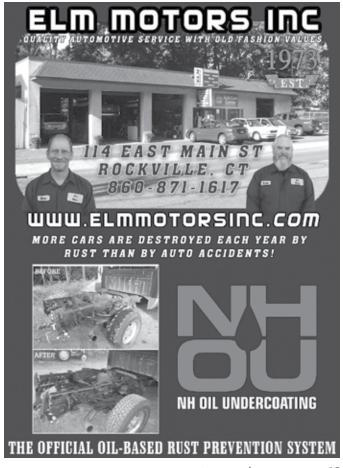
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Parks & Recreation... continued from page 13

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:

The heavily forested Chenes Roches Preserve has wide trails that give visitors access to the property's interior, which contains a large, old white oak tree. The property lies among wet and wooded areas, including several springs that flow into the Willimantic River through a small stream. Behind Chenes Roches is a dramatic ridge line created by a series of fault lines parallel to the river. Chenes Roches has several great examples of large glacial erratics. Chenes Roches Preserve is located at 65 Blair Road, Willington, CT and is approximately 55 acres.

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.

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.

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:

All: \$30.00/2 hours

Registration Info:

You can download registration forms, get updated information on upcoming programs, events and facility rental information! www.willingtonct.org/Public_Documents/Willington CT Recreation/recreation

Questions:

Please call Maureen Parsell, Director of Parks and Recreation at 860-487-3108 or email mparsell@willingtonct.org

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. Notification will be placed on WFSB 3 TV.

Payment:

Payments may be made by cash or check. 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 not accepted at this time. We are sorry for any inconvenience.

WILLINGTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION:

The Parks and Recreation Commission meets the last Monday of every month at 7:00 pm in the Town Office Building – Selectman Conference Table.

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.

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. Sign up for Public Notices at www.willingtonct.org and stay informed of all that we have to offer!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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. Please email me at mparsell@willingtonct.org to provide your input or suggestions. Better yet, stop in to the Town Office Building during regular business hours.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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

Parkinson's Exercise Program

East Shore Region Adult & Continuing Education is hosting classes. Beat Parkinson's Today is an exercise program designed specifically to improve Parkinson's symptoms.

There are presently 12 classes per week in 4 locations in CT with almost 50 Parkinson's clients participating. Results have been astounding. Clients have improved gait, balance, fine motor control, explosive movement, attitude, self-image, and fatigue.

Some have lowered their dosage of their medications.

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email at info@beatpdtoday.com, or visit website www.beatpdtoday.com

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The Willington Historical Society

ROOF FUNDRAISING CONTINUES

Just like everything else, roofs wear out too. HELP put a new roof on the Historical Society's 1815 Glazier Tavern (quoted replacement price is \$8,500). Because of this substantial investment, the Society is soliciting donations to help finance the roof replacement cost. The Society will be doing its part by pursuing a 50/50 matching grant to help offset the cost as well. All donations are fully tax deductible, as the Society is a designated IRS 501(c)(3), non-profit organization.

Consider contributing in any of the following ways:

- one square of shingles that will cover 100 sq. ft. of roof area, for \$450.
- one bundle of shingles that will cover 33 sq. ft. of roof area, for \$150
- donations of any amount are greatly appreciated.

Donate online at: www.willingtonhistoricalsociety.org or at WHS P.O. Box 214, Willington, CT 06279. To date six & one-third (6 1/3) squares of shingles have been funded. It will take 19 squares of shingles to replace the entire roof.

Thanks go out to the contributors of the Roof fund; Betty Robertson, Sue & Paul Schur, Willington VFW Post, Marge & Lynn Brown, Christine Psathas & Bob Shabot, Chopeta Lyons & Mark Palmer, Lisa Ferrieri, Pam & Sam Wheeler and several anonymous donors. To date \$2,800 has been raised.

Secretary needed

The Society is seeking a person to serve as Secretary for the Society. It is a two (2) year commitment. Monthly meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month, starting at 7 pm.

Data Input (still) needed

The Society is seeking help with transferring birth records to spreadsheet format. This involves town records from 1889 to 1922. These recently found documents contain information including the baby's name and DOB parents' birthplace, parents' occupation, mother's maiden name and more. This represents a treasure trove of facts for those doing genealogical research. Please contact us if you have an interest in helping with this project by writing to us at our email address at the bottom of this column.

BECOME A MEMBER

If you're a little short on time, consider supporting the Society by becoming a member and/or a donor. Don't



forget that memberships also make thoughtful gifts for holidays, birthdays and anniversaries. Please consider that memberships and donations allow for continued restoration work at Willington's historic Glazier Tavern.

Thank you to everyone who has responded to our requests for historic items and support.

We're Still Looking ...

The Historical Society continues to look for items that help recount Willington history. You can help!!

- Old hand tools, tin ware.
- Children's toys, 1950's and earlier.
- Willington Wild Animal Farm memorabilia and/or photos.
- Military uniforms, all engagements, full sets or bits and pieces.
- · Willington glass, whole items or pieces.
- 1800's furniture and chairs (with or without seats). We've found a few items at the transfer station. Oh no! Don't throw them out!!
- Also, photographs, stories, documents, diaries and historical items that relate to Willington, particularly industries such as button factories and other mills. (any chance of sharing old family photos from the WW I monument dedication or the 1927 Bicentennial plaque dedication?)

Not sure if an item may be of interest, feel free to contact us, please. (It may take a few days for us to get back to you, we only do this part-time).

Contact the Willington Historical Society with general email at: willingtonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com. Membership forms are available on our website at: www.willingtonhistoricalsocietyct.org. Donations may also be made through the PayPal link on our website homepage.

FINAL THOUGHT

In the 18th Century, the East branch of the Willimantic River became the Fenton River. Ever wonder what events occurred to cause that change?

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Eastern Connecticut Center for History, Art, and Performance, Inc., EC-CHAP

There's a new cultural destination in town! The Eastern Connecticut Center for History, Art, and Performance, Inc. (EC-CHAP).

EC-CHAP is an independent membership-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization representing an important cultural resource serving communities and visitors to Eastern Connecticut and beyond. The Center's focus is to bring a heightened awareness to the significance of local history and historic preservation; provide an appreciation for the visual arts through creation and display; and offer performance events in music, film, dance, literature, and theater.

The EC-CHAP currently operates the Gardiner Hall Jr. Museum and hosts an assortment of performances and

events at The Packing House, both located at The Mill Works in Willington, CT. Plans are under review to develop a formal gallery space where the works of local, regional, and nationally known artists can be displayed. A variety of creative programs, workshops, classes, and artist in residence opportunities are also being planned as part of a unique educational exchange.

Please join us for an informational meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at 7:00 pm in The Packing House to review our mission, discuss membership opportunities, and review plans for programming. Refreshments available. For more information or to schedule a tour, please call 518-791-9474, or email us at info@ec-chap.org. Become a "CHAP" Today!

EC-CHAP, 156 River Road, Suite 2106-A, Willington, CT 06279 518-791-9474 | info@ec-chap.org.

EC-CHAP Film & Performance Schedule

FILM & PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE February 2017 – April 2017

Location: All performances and film showings are located in The Packing

House at The Mill Works, 156 River Road, Willington, CT 06279. Phone: 518-791-9474; Web: www.thepacking-house.us; Email: info@ec-chap.org

For tickets, performance details, program additions and changes, please visit our website at: www.thepackinghouse.us/upcoming. For additional information



and table reservations, please call: 518-791-9474.

"TALENT SHOWCASE" - 2nd Thursday of the month.

Our Talent Showcase is designed as a platform for local and regional performers of all ages to share their talent. Showcases are scheduled on the 2nd Thursday of the month from September through June. Admission is free and open to the general public. We strongly recommend that those interested in performing call to register in advance (518-791-9474). Performers may also sign in at the door before the show (time permitting).

February

- 2/3 Kathy Kosins in Concert (Jazz). Doors 7:30 pm / Show 8:00 pm
- 2/4 Tim Ray Trio in Concert (Jazz). Doors 7:30 pm / Show 8:00 pm
- 2/9 Talent Showcase. Doors 6:30 pm / Show 7:00 pm
- An Evening with Maura Geist, Spiritual Medium. Doors 7:00 pm / Show 7:30 pm
- Dan Stevens in Concert (Blues). Doors 7:00 pm / 2/18 Show 7:30 pm
- 2/25 Gracie Day in Concert (Folk-Rock). Doors 7:00 pm / Show 7:30 pm

March

- 3/9 Talent Showcase. Doors 6:30 pm / Show 7:00 pm
- Film Showing (check website). Doors 7:00 pm / 3/10 Show 7:30 pm
- Kristen Baroni in Concert (Indie). Doors 7:00 pm / 3/11 Show 7:30 pm
- Greg Abate Quartet in Concert (Jazz). Doors 7:30 pm / 3/18 Show 8:00 pm
- 3/25 An Evening with Zoe Lewis (Multi-instrumentalist / Entertainer). Doors 7:30 pm / Show 8:00 pm

April

- Horizon Blue in Concert (Folk). Doors 7:00 pm / 4/7 Show 7:30 pm
- Talent Showcase. Doors 6:30 pm / Show 7:00 pm 4/13
- Film Showing (check website). Doors 7:00 pm / 4/21 Show 7:30 pm
- Patti Rothberg in Concert (Indie / Rock). 4/22 Doors 7:00 pm / Show 7:30 pm
- 4/28 Kala Farnham in Concert (Contemporary Folk). Doors 7:00 pm / Show 7:30 pm
- Jeff Przech in Concert (Americana). Doors 7:00 pm / 4/29 Show 7:30 pm



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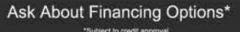


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A Special Thank You!



The Tolland Fire Department brought Santa in style.

The 2016 Tree Lighting on the Town Green on December 2nd was a huge success thanks to the efforts of many individuals and groups.

The Willington Board of Selectmen would like to thank the following:

• The Willington Historical Society, particularly Bob Shabot, for opening up the Historical Society Tavern to residents after the tree lighting ceremony

- and for their role in organizing the event.
- Parks and Recreation Director, Maureen Parsell, for her role in organizing the event.
- Walter West and helpers for once again putting the lights on the tree, which is no small task!
- Willington Willing Workers (4H), led by Jan Castle, for providing hot chocolate and baked goods.
- The Hall Memorial School Select Chorus, led by Jason Phillips, for their outstanding performance.
- Willington Boy Scout Troop 82, led by Ken Fluet, for providing a bonfire and wreath stand.
- The Tolland Fire Department, for bringing Santa in style.
- The Willington Fire Department, for providing public safety.
- The performers at the Old Town Hall: Jason Phillips, Carole Frassinelli, Val Rogers and Ken Craig.

Finally, a big thank-you to Willington residents, of all ages, who participated!







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