

WILLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

40 Old Farms Road, Suite A, Willington, CT 06279

Phone: 860.487.3130

Fax: 860.487.3132

David C. Harding, Superintendent

dharding@willingtonct.org

<http://www.willingtonpublicschools.org/>

May 20, 2016

Dear Willington Parents/Guardians, Staff and Community Members,

I am writing you to address the recent Chronicle articles regarding tuitioning our Willington students to Mansfield and the closing of the schools in Willington.

The first thing I would like to clarify is this is just one of several ideas that the Board of Education has been exploring over the past two years. It stems from the Board goal of trying to deal with the sustainability of our schools in the face of declining enrollments and increasing costs.

Some of the other options that had been explored include consolidation of the two schools into a single school. This option was eliminated since Hall Memorial School would be the only school potentially large enough to hold all of the students but the age of the building along with the renovation costs to make this happen did not make sense. I was also opposed to the idea of having our k-3 students in that building because of the layout of the building and the location on route 32.

We had also discussed the possibility of working with Ashford to share students and perhaps have one town take all of the elementary students and the other take the middle school students. This option was abandoned because there was no advantage for Ashford and there were some logistical problems because of transportation issues.

Another option was to build a new K-8 school in Willington and close both Hall Memorial and Center School. This option would save money through reduced staff, energy efficiencies and reduced costs associated with the maintenance of two old buildings. This option is something the Board of Education is still very interested in pursuing. The problem with this option is that although there would be savings it does not seem likely that the savings would cover the cost of the bond payment and in fact would probably result in several hundred thousand dollars in additional costs until the bond was paid. There would also be the dilemma of what to do with the current school buildings. If they could be repurposed and perhaps become a viable source of revenue via taxes it could help to offset the shortfall with regards to the bond payment. If not they would be a potential liability because they would still require some maintenance costs by the town.

The option that I am currently addressing is the option to tuition out all of our students to Mansfield and to close both of our schools. This option was originally dropped because the Superintendent in Mansfield had expressed no interest in pursuing the idea when I had first approached him about it over a year ago. Earlier this year when I had been meeting with the new Superintendent of Mansfield the topic of facility projects came up and she had

Willington Parents/Guardians, Staff and Community Members
May 20, 2016
Page two

explained that they were struggling with the issue of whether to close one of their elementary schools due to declining enrollment and that Mansfield was going to post a Request For Proposals for a facilities study in the Fall. I informed her of our Board goal and that I had approached Mansfield the prior year about the option of tuitioning our Willington students to Mansfield and that it had been rejected by the Superintendent. She expressed an interest in revisiting this option and we had several meetings to discuss if it was viable. The decision was made in April by the Willington Board of Education to formally request that we have a conversation about the option with Mansfield. In May we received a response from Mansfield that they were interested in pursuing this conversation.

I want to stress that this is simply the beginning of a conversation. We are currently in the process of getting representatives from each town's Board of Education, Board of Finance and the Selectman of Willington and the mayor of Mansfield to meet and see if there is any merit to the idea. We have a tentative date of June 6th for the first meeting. I do not have a time or location yet. The meeting will be a public meeting and there will be opportunity for the public to speak. I encourage you to follow the discussion, to attend a meeting if possible, and to contact my office with any opinions you might want the committee to hear. I want to reiterate it is only the start of a conversation. This type of cooperative arrangement will require support from both towns and would take years to come to fruition. I think we are a long way from that happening and wanted to make sure that the facts are coming from me rather than the newspaper.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

David C. Harding

David C. Harding
Superintendent
Willington Public Schools



CENTER SCHOOL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION TEA YOU ARE INVITED!

Dear Friends of Center School,

We are very grateful to all of you who have shared your time and talents with our school community. Please allow us to express our appreciation to you at our *Volunteer Appreciation Tea* to be held in the Center School library from 3:45 to 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 8th.

Childcare will be provided by the girl scouts. If you wish, we will keep your children at school rather than have them go home on the bus. Let us know your preference on the reply form.

Your RSVP will help in our planning. Kindly return the form below or complete the Google Form at <http://goo.gl/forms/rtAUEOQK57>. We look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

Phil Stevens
Principal

PLEASE RETURN BY JUNE 6th

I **will** be able to attend the Volunteer Appreciation on Wednesday, June 8th.

Please have my child/children remain at school. Yes_____ No_____

Please indicate child/children and teacher (s).

Print Name

Signature

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Center School will be celebrating **Math Field Day** on Friday, **June 3, 2016**. There is no rain date for this event. Math Field Day is a day for the entire school to be doing fun and engaging activities that involve math, and this year we have a pirate theme.



We would appreciate parent participation and assistance with the planned activities.

If you are able to help, please fill out the form below and return to Center School by May 31st **or** fill out the google form (<https://goo.gl/A398MI>). If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at ebushior@willingtonct.org or call 429-9367.

Thank you!
Erica Bushior

Please check all that are applicable and return to Center School by May 31st. Thank you!

____ I will help at Math Field Day on June 3rd, in the morning from 8:50 – 12:00

Name _____ Child's teacher _____

Phone/ Email _____

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May 20, 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is with great pleasure that I announce the completion of our search for a new Principal for Hall Memorial School. On Wednesday night the Board of Education voted to approve the hire of Mr. Kenneth Craig.

Mr. Craig received his Educational Leadership Certification from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, and holds a Master's degree from Boston University and a Bachelor of Arts from the Hartt School of Music. Mr. Craig has spent the past five years in Glastonbury as a music educator at Naubuc Elementary School. Last year he was honored by the Connecticut Association of Schools as the *Elementary Teacher of the Year*. Prior to teaching in Glastonbury he taught at Louis Toffolon Elementary School in Plainville. Mr. Craig is also the Artistic Director of *The Main Street Singers*, a children's choir in New Britain.

I am very excited to welcome Mr. Craig to our community and am certain that he will bring a great deal of energy and school spirit to Hall Memorial.

His official start date is July 1 but he has indicated a desire to spend some time in the school as early as next week. I am certain that he will provide many opportunities for parents to engage with him over the next few months.

Please join me in welcoming Mr. Craig to our school community.

Sincerely,

David C. Harding

Superintendent,
Willington Public Schools

Willington PTA



2016



5k & Fun Runs

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Parent Teacher Association will be holding its 15th annual road race and fun runs on Saturday, May 28th, at Center Elementary School. The 5K event will be professionally timed and results will be posted after the race at the awards ceremony. The ½ mile and 1 mile fun runs are on Old Farms Road with local police and fire departments blocking traffic for safety. The fun runs are a great way to start the Memorial Day weekend and to start Willington Day. We are hoping that many of our Willington students will participate. No road race experience is needed and all children will receive a medal when they finish the fun run! Also, every registered runner will receive a t-shirt.

We are recommending the following race lengths for families and students:

½ mile fun run	Kindergarten – 2 nd grade
1 mile fun run	3 rd grade – 6 th grade (families welcome)
5K (3.1 miles)	7 th grade – adults (walkers welcome)

As part of the road race, we have planned a tremendous silent auction. We have a wide variety of items including gift certificates to local businesses. If you would like to donate an item to the silent auction or you work for a company that would like to help sponsor the race, please contact us!

The PTA road race will occur rain or shine! **The ½ mile fun run will start at 10:30am, 1 mile fun run at 11:00am and the 5K will start at 8:30am.** All races will start on time so **please arrive early** and allow plenty of time to check in at the gymnasium. In the event we have thunder or lightning we will postpone the event for a short amount of time.

If you need more information about the race contact Sean Conlin, Center Elementary School P.E. teacher at sconlin@willingtonct.org. Walk-in registration is also available the day of the race!

Sincerely,

Sean Conlin & Phil Stevens
Race Directors

\$15.00 for the 15th Anniversary of the 5k!

***Family Rate of \$15.00 for 3 or more participants for the Fun Runs is available for pre-registered runners and does not apply to the 5K race.**

5K	8:30	\$15 (12 & under must be accompanied by an adult)
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For more fun stay for Willington Day which begins after the fun runs!

Email: sconlin@willingtonct.org

Race day check-in is located at: 12 Old Farms Rd. Willington, CT 06279

Race day check-in behind school by basketball court opens at 7:30am and closes at 11:00am.

(1 person per entry form - photocopies accepted)

Fill out all sections please!

First Name | | | | | | | | | | **Last Name** | | | | | | | | | |

Address

City _____ State ____ Zip Code_____

Email Address

Phone - -

Age on race day Race Length 5K ☐ 1 mile ☐ ½ mile ☐ (must check one)

T Shirt Size (adult sizes) S ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL ☐ Youth M ☐ L ☐

Amount due: _____ (don't forget to include signed check)

Checks Payable to: PTA of Willington

Mail application to: Attn: Sean Conlin

Center Elementary School

12 Old Farms Road

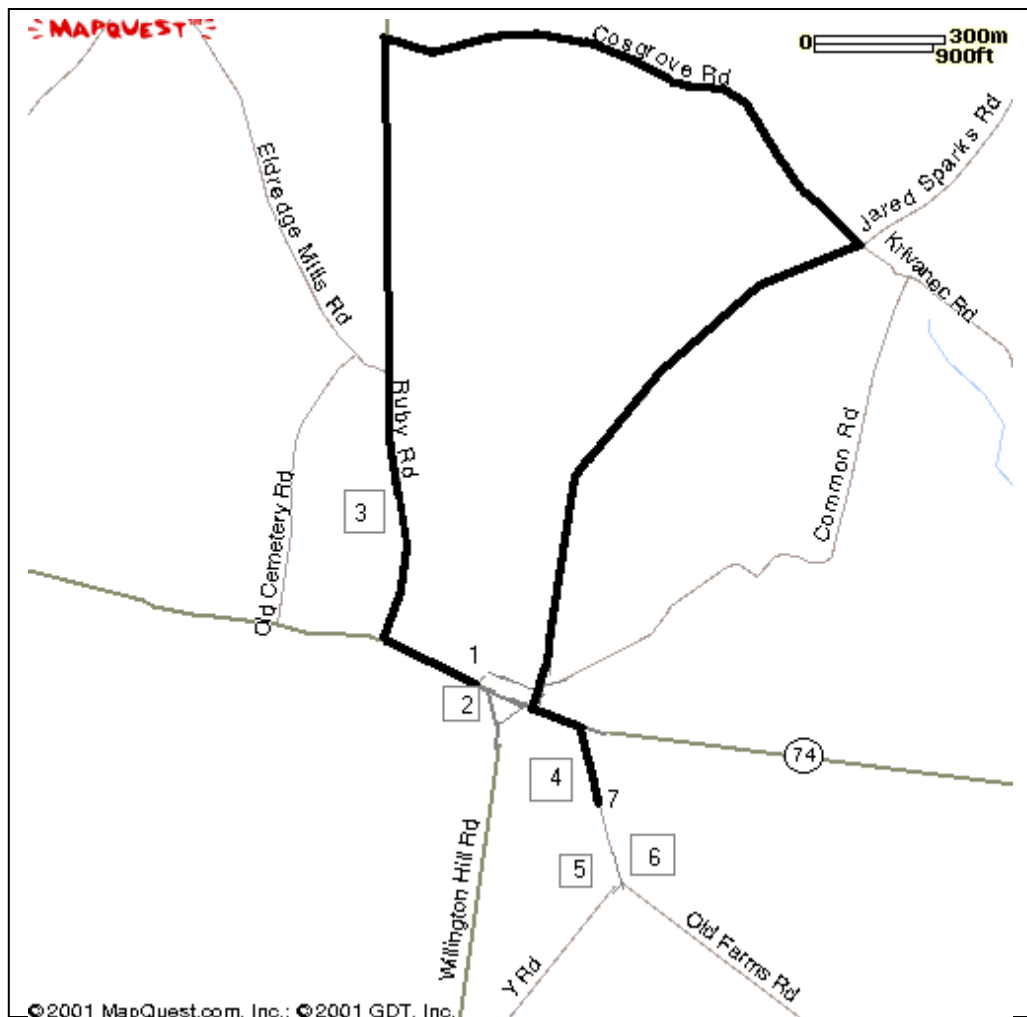
Willington, CT 06279

Waiver Must Be Read and Signed Before Mailing:

I know that running is a potentially hazardous activity. I should not enter or run this event unless I am medically able and properly trained. I agree to abide by any decision of a race official relative to my ability to safely complete the run. I assume all risks associated with running in this race including, but not limited to, falls, contact with other participants, the effects of weather, including high heat and/or humidity, the conditions of the road and traffic on the course, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Having read this waiver and knowing these facts, and in consideration of your acceptance of my application, I, for myself and anyone entitled to act on my behalf, waive and release the Willington Parent Teacher Association, and all sponsors, their representatives and successors from all claims or liabilities of any kind arising out of my participation in this event even though that liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons named in this waiver. All fees are nonrefundable.

Signature _____

(Parent's signature if under 18 years of age)



DIRECTIONS

I84 East to Exit 69. Turn right off the ramp onto Rt. 74 East. Go ~ 4 miles to the town green. Parking on the green.

I84 West to Exit 71. Turn left off the ramp. Go left at the first stop sign to cross over the highway. At the next stop sign, turn right onto Rt. 320 (Ruby Rd.) Go ~ 2.5 mile to Rt. 74 East. Turn left onto Rt. 74 E and town green will be on your left. Parking on the green.

PARKING LOCATIONS

1. Start (town green)
2. St Jude's Church
3. Center School

COURSE LAYOUT

Mile 1 – small gradual hill

Mile 2 – medium rolling hill

Mile 3 – down hill; large uphill



Willington Day 2016

Free
Admission

Sat May 28th 11am-3pm

12 Old Farms Rd Willington

There's something for everyone at Willington Day!

- ◆ Petting Zoo ◆ Spin Art ◆ Games & Prizes ◆ Custom made balloons
by Twistin' Tim ◆ Dunk Booth ◆ Slot cars & Roaming Railroad ◆
◆ Bounce House ◆

Schedule

Until Noon PTA Silent Auction @ Center School Gym

11:00—3:00 Visit with Samantha Anderson, Miss CT

Outstanding Teen @ Willington Day Booth for autographs and pictures

11:30 Frog Jumping Contest

12:00 Horseshoes

12:30—2:30 Basketball Shoot-a-Thon

1:00 Hall School Select Chorus Performance

1:00 Pizza Eating Contest

1:00 – 2:30 Whiffle Ball Home Run Derby

2:00 Hula Hoop Contest

4:00-5:30 Fishing Derby, Thompson's Pond. Pre-Register @ Boy Scout's
Booth

**Minimal fees for some activities.*

Willington Fish & Game Club, Inc.
Seeking participants to enter into the
FROG JUMPING CONTEST
at
WILLINGTON DAY!

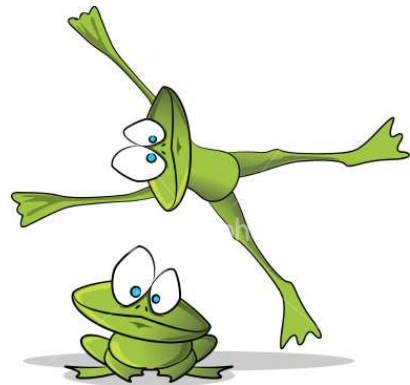
Frog Jumping is a tradition at Willington Day and the Fish & Game Club is looking to have another successful year, but they need YOU and your frog.

Jumping will commence at 11:30 A.M.

Please bring a frog of your choice to the event.

Rules:

- 1) Children can enter by completing an official registration form found at the Fish & Game Club booth on the blacktop (near the basketball hoops at Center School).
- 2) Participating children must not have reached 13 years of age by May 28, 2016.
- 3) B.Y.O.F. (Bring Your Own Frog) – Frog must be in a container with plenty of air and moisture to ensure comfort. A happy frog is a jumping frog!
- 4) Longest three combined jumps wins!
- 5) Children must promise to release frog after the contest.



Tell your friends & see you all there!

For more information contact Jim Humphrey at 860-487-9496

“LAST DAY OF SCHOOL POND PARTY” AT HALL’S POND

Friday, June 10th - 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Let’s celebrate the last day of school and the beginning of summer vacation together!

✿ **FREE ADMISSION** to the “Pond Party” when donating a non-perishable food item to benefit the Willington Food Pantry.

✿ Gramma’s On-the-Go will have their food truck on-site with Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Grinders, Ice-Cream, etc. for you to purchase.

Pond passes will be for sale at a discount at the pond on Friday, June 10th only!

For more information, please contact Maureen Parsell, Director of Willington Parks & Recreation at 860-487-3108 or mparsell@willingtonct.org.



Willington Public Library's 4th Annual

Touch-a-Truck Event

Saturday, May 21, 2016

10:00 AM- 1:00 PM

Light Rain or Shine

Shuttle Bus parking will be located at Center School, 12 Old Farms Road

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

JOYYOGA *Teaching from the heart*

Willington Public Library
Community Room
7 Ruby Road, Willington, CT 06279
860-429-3854 willingtonpubliclibrary.org

Chair Yoga

with Yoga Instructor, Joy, YTT

Chair yoga is a gentle form of yoga that is practiced sitting on a chair or standing using a chair for support. Chair yoga is one of the gentlest forms of yoga available. It is taught as a way to achieve physical and mental fitness as well as helping to deepen flexibility and strengthen personal body awareness. Complicated maneuvers and complex movements are not present in a chair yoga class.

Each class is 45 minutes and seats are limited to a maximum of 8 at a time per class, so registration is suggested. Be sure to wear comfortable clothing for freedom of movement. No experience is required.

As space is limited, please sign up in advance by calling the library at 860-429-3854, sending an email to dlinares@willingtonpubliclibrary.org, or visit the library!

Upcoming Dates:

Thurs., May 5, 2016 @ 1:30 PM
Tues., May 10, 2016 @ 6:30 PM
Thurs., May 12, 2016 @ 1:30 PM
Tues., May 24, 2016 @ 6:30 PM
Tues., May 31, 2016 @ 6:30 PM

**Free to try
during the
month of
May!**



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860-429-3854 willingtonpubliclibrary.org

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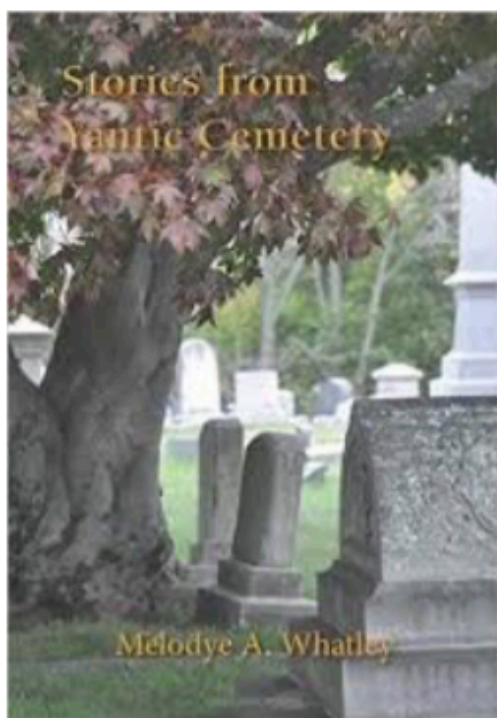
As space is limited, please sign up in advance by calling the library at 860-429-3854, sending an email to dlinares@willingtonpubliclibrary.org, or visit the library!

Upcoming Dates:

Thurs., June 2, 2016 @ 6:30 PM
Tues., June 7, 2016 @ 6:30 PM
Thurs., June 9, 2016 @ 1:30 PM
Thurs., June 16, 2016 @ 1:30 PM
Thurs., June 23, 2016 @ 6:30 PM
Thurs., June 30, 2016 @ 1:30 PM

**\$10 fee
per class**





AUTHORS NIGHT
featuring
Melodye A. Whatley
"Stories from Yantic Cemetery"

Thursday, May 26
7:00 PM
Community Room

There are over 11,000 stories buried in Yantic Cemetery in Norwich, Connecticut. This book tells more than 100 of them. The names ring

bells in Norwich...Backus...Crocker...Otis...Osgood...Congdon...Huntington...Slater...Bushnell...Buckingham...Cutler. They were authors, entrepreneurs, leaders, doctors, scientists, mariners, admirals, soldiers, missionaries, reverends...From an abolitionist to a vice president to Confederate soldiers, Yantic Cemetery has a rich history for all to enjoy. They were victims of war, murder, disease, accidents, bad luck, and old age. They are the stories on which Norwich, America, and the world are built...stories in the ground that still live.

With painstaking research, **Melodye Whatley** has resurrected some of these stories, and in her words, they live. To read them is to read history — the stories of the past that tell us where we came from and, deep down, who we are.

Books are signed by the author and available to purchase for \$15.00

Willington Public Library

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



Hear, hear! **Ye Olde Early American** **Craftsmen Fair**

Saturday, June 18th
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

- *Traditional colonial trades and crafts*
- *Hands on demonstrations by artisans*
- *Eric and Janice Steinhagen- Steinhagen Redware Pottery*
- *Robert (Chili Bob) Whately- Colonial Candles*
- *Melodye Whately- Musician of the Bowed Psaltery*
- *James Easton- Master Wood Carver*
- *Farmers Market- Willow Valley Farm*



This is one event you won't want to miss with a focus on education and fun! Come hear the sounds and see the people and their crafts of our past. This is free to the public and will be held rain or shine. All of our artisans will have their items for purchasing so you can take a little bit of history home with you and bring home an assortment of fresh organic vegetables of the season.



Willington Public Library, 7 Ruby Rd, Willington, CT
860-429-3854, www.willingtonpubliclibrary.org, and Facebook



@ the Willington Public Library

7 Ruby Road, Willington

860-429-3854

www.willingtonpubliclibrary.org

DESIGN, BUILD, CREATE, FUN!

The possibilities are endless!

Come and build with our many different levels of Legos. Enjoy our monthly design challenge or free build time. Participants can work together or alone to create the challenge. Final projects will be placed on display in the Library. Lots of fun possibilities yet to come.

Join us **every third Saturday of the month**
at **1:00 - 2:30 pm**, in the Community Room

ALL ages welcome!

Upcoming Dates:

Saturday, June 18, 2016

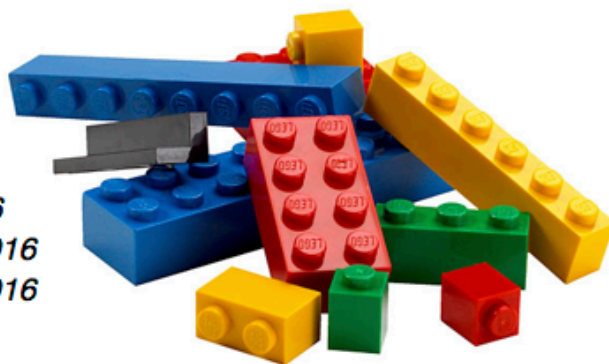
Saturday, July 16, 2016

Saturday, August 20, 2016

Saturday, October 15, 2016

Saturday, November 19, 2016

Saturday, December 17, 2016



Sound Healing Meditation

with Master Teacher, Mary Tardif

Join us when Mary Tardif of Sound & Reiki Arts visits the library!

Mary will use crystal bowls and voice to bring patrons on a journey of stress-reducing relaxation.

The Community Room provides ample space for patrons to lie down. Please be sure to bring a yoga mat, blanket, or lounging chair! Regular chairs are available for those who prefer.

Mary has been a sound healing artist since 2007.

Come enjoy a guided mediation journey, where we cleanse, clear, and heal our chakras, leaving behind all that no longer serves us.

Donations are graciously accepted but all are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Upcoming Dates:

Tuesday, June 28, 2016

Tuesday, July 19, 2016

Tuesday, August 16, 2016

Tuesday, October 18, 2016

Tuesday, November 15, 2016

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

**7:00 PM in the
Community Room**

*Willington Public Library
Community Room*

*7 Ruby Road, Willington, CT 06279
860-429-3854*

www.willingtonpubliclibrary.org



WYFSS
where community grows...

Willington Youth, Family and Social Services

CRAFTS IN THE PARK SERIES

Celebrating our second year of outdoor fun!

Every Wednesday in July and August

at the River Road Athletic Complex

10:00-11:00 a.m.

- ◆ DECORATE A MASK—July 6th
- ◆ DREAMCATCHERS—July 13th
- ◆ LADYBUG MAGNETS—July 20th
- ◆ DECORATE A TOTE BAG— July 27th
- ◆ PRESSED FLOWER BOOKMARKS— August 3rd
- ◆ TACO PINATAS— August 10th
- ◆ CANVAS ART – August 17th
- ◆ KIDS' CHOICE— August 24th



ALL SUPPLIES WILL BE PROVIDED.

A small fee of \$3 will be charged for materials, payable at the start of each session. Please contact the WYFSS office at 860-487-3118 or wyfss@willingtonct.org with any questions.

Have a happy, safe, and creative summer!



CONNECTICUT STATE **BioBlitz**



***THE ULTIMATE BIODIVERSITY ENDEAVOR
RETURNS TO EAST HARTFORD***

Part Contest ♦ Part Festival ♦ Part Educational Event

♦ COMPLETELY AMAZING ♦

Saturday, June 4th, 10 am – 3 pm

CREC Two Rivers Magnet Middle School

♦ FREE ADMISSION ♦ OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ♦

Visit: <http://web.uconn.edu/mnh/bioblitz/BioBlitz2016.html>

Join Us And Experience

- ♦ The Caterpillar Lab/Insect Zoo
- ♦ Hands-on Activities for Kids
- ♦ iNaturalist Grassroots BioBlitz
- ♦ Interactions with BioBlitz Scientists
- ♦ Guided Nature Walks
- ♦ Pond Exploration
- ♦ Raptor (Bird) Rescue Program
- ♦ Presentations

And Much More!



The Connecticut State BioBlitz is brought to you in part by:

**The University of Connecticut's Center for Conservation and Biodiversity and
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Connecticut Geographic Alliance,
Connecticut State Museum of Natural History, Connecticut Science Center,
CREC Two Rivers Magnet Middle School, and the
Richard P. Garmany Fund at Hartford Foundation for Public Giving**

3RD ANNUAL RELAY ON ICE



*Hosted by South
Windsor Arena
585 John Fitch Blvd (Rt. 5)*



*Organized by Tyler Power
May 20, 2016
Ice Skating from 6:40-8:10
Raffle Promptly following Ice Time
Donation to Skate & \$3 for Skate Rentals*

*Proceeds donated to
American Cancer Society
Relay for Life*

South Windsor Youth Hockey
In Support of Brian Azinheira
Donating 1 Learn to Skate Session for Raffle

