

Funding for Winchester: the American Rescue Plan & Other Possible Grant Dollars

In early 2021, the federal government adopted the American Rescue Plan Act, which has provided the Town with just over \$3.1 million that can be used for one of four basic reasons: (1) to address community medical and emergency response needs, (2) to improve the Town's Social Services, (3) to invest in economic development activities, or (4) to make improvements to water and sewer infrastructure. Given that information, at their meeting on December 6, the Board of Selectmen appropriated about 45% of these funds to the following projects:

- Online Permitting Software
 - Remote Laptops
 - Town Marketing & Economic Development Activities
 - Part-Time Director of Economic Development
 - Business Start-Up Fund*
 - Water Quality Improvement Program*
- 800-band Radios
 - Ambulance Upgrades
 - Firehouse Air Conditioning System
 - Firehouse Washing Machine & Dryers
 - GIS Map Updating
- Mailed Communications
 - Recreation Safety Improvements
 - Sewer Plant Raw Water Pumps
 - Sewer Pump Rehabilitations
 - "No Senior Left Behind" Technology Program
 - Full-Time Social Services Director

More about these can be found under the Town Manager's page on the town website. In addition to these significant investments in the town, there are other funds that may be available to us in the near future, including money from the federal infrastructure bill and the state's Communities Challenge Grant. Rest assured, Town officials and staff are busy working to secure any and all funding possible for our community, and we will continue to issue updates on these efforts online and in future newsletters.

**Look on our website and social media page in January for more info about how you can apply for these funds!*

Revaluations: Coming Soon

According to Connecticut General State Statute 12-62, towns and cities in Connecticut are required to go through revaluation every five years. The coming year, 2022, is a revaluation year for the Town of Winchester. The purpose of a revaluation is to eliminate any assessment inequities, establish the fair market value of all real estate, and thus equalize tax burden among property owners. Municipal Valuation Services will be performing the revaluation and in the coming weeks, residents can expect to receive a data mailer to be completed and returned in a timely manner. If you have any questions about this process, please contact our Assessors at assessor@townofwinchester.org.

Winchester's Prescription Drug Discount Program

Did you know? Winchester belongs to the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM), which offers a free prescription discount card program. This card can be used by any resident in town and saves an average of 45 percent off the retail price of medications, as well as providing discounts on vision, LASIK and hearing care services. It's especially valuable for people without health insurance or a traditional pharmacy benefit plan, or for patients with prescriptions not covered by insurance. To learn more or request your card today, please go to ccm-ct.org/services/prescription-savings.



Connect With Us

Facebook: facebook.com/TownWinchesterCT

Instagram: @Winchester_CT

Twitter: @Winchester_CT

LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/winchesterct

YouTube: Town of Winchester-CT

Nextdoor: [Nextdoor.com](https://nextdoor.com)

You can also visit our website at townofwinchester.org to find links to our social media pages (Instagram, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Nextdoor). Town Hall can be reached at 860-379-2713 or at townmanager@townofwinchester.org.

WINCHESTER WIRE

The latest, direct community updates from the Town of Winchester, CT.



REMINDERS & UPDATES

**TOWN HALL UPDATES
POLICIES; MASKS STILL
REQUIRED IN FACILITIES**

**TOWN TO RELEASE
\$250,000 IN SMALL
GRANTS TO NEW AND
EXISTING BUSINESSES**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT
FIRE DEPT; LEARN HOW
AT WINSTEDFIRE.ORG**

**TOWN APPROPRIATES
FIRST PORTION OF
RESCUE PLAN FUNDS,
DETAILS WITHIN**

**NEW TOWN CLERK,
SELECTMAN; BOARD OF
ED MEMBERS ELECTED**

Town Runs Housing Survey

Please take our 5-minute housing needs survey today by visiting townofwinchester.org/housingsurvey! We want to hear what you think the town's housing needs are. Winchester's Housing Plan Steering Committee has begun its work on a plan to address the housing needs of current and future residents and workers in the Town of Winchester as required by State statute. This Housing Plan will lay out strategies that the town and its partners can take over the next five years to begin addressing our residents' housing needs.

There will be multiple opportunities for input from residents during the process of developing this Housing Plan - this survey is just the first one. [Please respond to this survey NO LATER than January 2, 2021.](#) Si necesita la encuesta en español, comuníquese con o visite la oficina del administrador municipal en el ayuntamiento.

Resident Assistance Fund

Tis the season for giving! The Town is now seeking donations for our newly-revitalized Resident Assistance Fund. This fund will allow residents in need to apply for assistance with items that cannot be addressed through other state and federal programs. The Resident Assistance Fund will be furnished by private donations only. If a resident or business wishes to donate to this fund, or if you need to apply for aid, please contact Katie Vaill at kvail@townofwinchester.org or by calling 860-853-6601. A copy of the policy that the Town has developed for this fund is available upon request.

Events & Activities - Winter 2021-2022

- **Holiday Season:** There are a number of events being held over the course of the 2021 - 2022 holiday season, including hay rides on Main Street, Sunday open studios at Whiting Mills, Rec Department-sponsored festivities, and more. Please visit the Town's website or the Friends of Main Street website at fomswinsted.org to learn more. Please note that Town facilities may be closed at times for the observance of holidays, and more information about those closures will be posted on the Town's website.
- **January 29 - James McCarthy Ice Fishing Derby:** The 4th annual James McCarthy Scholarship/Internship Ice Fishing Derby is scheduled for Saturday, January 29, 2022, with a snow date of February 5, at the Crystal Lake Reservoir. Please visit the Town's website in January for more information.

Upcoming Senior Center Classes & Activities

- **Fitness Classes:** There are a series of free Fitness Classes being offered by the Senior Center, covering everything from Chair Yoga, to Line Dancing, to Drumming, and beyond. Please contact the Senior Center at 860-379-4252 x1 for more information.
- **Art Club - 2nd Thursday at 1 PM:** Join us for a monthly seasonally themed project. No art experience is necessary. Please let us know if you are planning to attend so we have enough supplies ready for everyone by calling 860-379-4252 x1.
- **Bingo - Fridays at 12:45 PM:** Enter through the Sunroom, the door opens at 12:30pm. You must wear a mask at all times. Pay for your cards at the office window. Each card 50 cents. We suggest that you bring your own BINGO chips, but we will have some for you to borrow.
- **Cards - "Pay Me" every Tuesday at 12:45 PM:** You must wear a mask at all times. The group is looking for new players. If you don't know how to play the game, they are happy to teach you. Drop-ins are welcome.
- **Women's & Men's Haircuts - 1st Monday:** With appointments beginning at 12:30 PM, you can come get a haircut at the Senior Center! Come in with clean hair and you'll leave feeling great. Cost: \$12, by appointment only. Call 860-379-4252 x1 for an appointment.
- **Lunches:** Lunches are available during the week by reservation. The menu is posted in the Senior Center's monthly newsletter. Please call 860-379-4252 x2 for more info or to place a reservation.

For more information about programming, please visit the Recreation and Senior Center pages on the Town website (townofwinchester.org) and beardsleylibrary.org. Want to see your event listed in the Spring edition (spanning March 15 - June 15)? Email townmanager@townofwinchester.org.

Get Rewarded! Send this Ticket to Town Hall

- The Town wants to encourage everyone to read this seasonal newsletter, so we're offering a reward
- to those who do! Please cut out this corner of your newsletter, fill out the information below, and
- return it to Town Hall to be entered in a drawing for a \$50 gift card to a local business of your choice.
- Only individuals who reside or work in Winchester are eligible to win. Limit one entry per person.
- Tickets must be turned in to the Town Manager at 338 Main Street, Winsted, by February 1, 2022.

- Your Name: _____ Your Winsted Address: _____

• Do you live in Winchester? _____ Do you work in Winchester? _____

• Contact Info (Phone and/or Email: _____)

• Which news blurb did you find most interesting or informative? _____

Introducing Winchester's New Town Clerk

On January 3, 2022, the Town will welcome a newly-elected Town Clerk, Glenn Albanesius.

Albanesius has been a resident of the town for nearly 50 years having graduated from Wolcott Tech in 1972. He lives with his wife and three children and is active in the community having served four terms on the Board of Selectmen. He is also currently a member of the Regional Refuse Disposal District #1. Albanesius is taking over the position from outgoing Town Clerk Sheila Sedlack, who is retiring after serving the Town for twenty-one years.



Pictured here is incoming Town Clerk Glenn Albanesius (left), outgoing Town Clerk Sheila Sedlack (center), and the Town's new full-time Assistant Town Clerk Lauren Dombrowski (right).

Introducing Winchester's New Mayor



Todd Arcelaschi was named Mayor by a vote of the Board of Selectmen at the first meeting of the new Board of Selectmen held after this November's local elections. Todd is a life long resident of Winchester, and he began his political career in 2011 as he was elected for his first of two terms as Constable for the Town of Winchester. In 2015 he was elected to his first term on the Board of Selectmen, winning re-election in 2017, 2019 and 2021. He is Winchester's first 2nd generation Mayor. His father John F. Arcelaschi, after serving a long career with the Winchester police department and retiring as Police Chief in 1987, served as Mayor from 1995-2001. The 48 year old Mayor holds a Bachelor's Degree in Public Safety

Administration from Charter Oak State College. The Mayor serves as Chair of the Board of Selectmen and works in partnership with the Town's CEO, Town Manager Kelly.

Addressing Homelessness in Winchester

Are you homeless? Did you know that having no other option but to stay on a friend or family member's couch is considered homelessness? Do you know anyone else who is experiencing homelessness in this manner? Katie Vaill, Social Services Coordinator for the Town of Winchester, and Kelly Thurmond, School Guidance Counselor and Homelessness Liaison for K-6 with Winsted Public Schools, can help! We can help get you in touch with all of the resources that are available. Call Katie at 860-853-6601 or Kelly (for K-6 students) at 860-419-5853.

Town Board & Commission Meetings

The Town has many boards and commissions that meet regularly to consider, advise, and decide on issues facing the town and its residents. For a full listing of those agencies and the days and times on which they meet, please visit our website at townofwinchester.org. Below you will find a selection of meeting schedules (*please note that all meeting schedules are subject to change due to holidays and extenuating circumstances - please check the Town's website for the most up-to-date information*):

- **Board of Selectmen:** 1st & 3rd Monday of each month, 7:00 PM, in the Hicks Room at Town Hall.
- **Board of Education:** 2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 PM, in the Hicks Room.
- **Planning & Zoning Commission:** 2nd & 4th Mon. of each month, 7:00 PM, in the Hicks Room.
- **Water & Sewer Commission:** 2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:00 PM, in the Blue Room at Town Hall.

For more listings and specific information, please visit our website. To volunteer for a Board or Commission, please contact the Town Manager at townmanager@townofwinchester.org.