

What's the Difference? Mayor & Town Manager in Local Government

In the early 1960s, the Town of Winchester adopted a Town Manager form of government - but what does that mean? Prior to the change, Winchester had an elected Chief Executive Officer known as the Mayor. To this day, Winchester continues to have a "Mayor," yet the responsibilities of the position have changed greatly. Now, our Mayor serves as the Chair of the Board of Selectmen and serves as a ceremonial dignitary at many town events. The Mayor does not, however, have a role in the day-to-day operation of the Town. The Town Manager, an elected Chief Executive Officer, is hired by the Board of Selectmen to handle those day-to-day operations and issues as they arise. A new Town Manager, Josh Kelly, was recently hired by the Board this past April, while the Mayor, currently Candy Perez, is elected every two years by the members of the Board of Selectmen to serve as the Board Chair. The next election for the Board of Selectmen is this November, and the Selectmen elected at that time will vote to appoint a Chair who will hold the title of Mayor.

When an issue arises that requires government attention, it can be confusing to know who to contact. For issues, questions, and concerns that are related to the day-to-day operations of the Town, please contact either the corresponding Department Director or the Town Manager at 860-738-6962 or townmanager@townofwinchester.org. The Town Manager works very closely with not only the Mayor, but also with the other six Selectmen and with the Town's Department Directors to ensure that your concerns are thoroughly addressed.



Mayor
Candy Perez



Town Manager
Josh Kelly

Civic Corner: Rotary Club

The Torrington/Winsted Area Rotary Club is a charitable group that meets regularly and holds events to raise money and support for specific projects. Learn more at twrotary.org. The group has 61 members and meets every Tuesday for lunch at the Greenwoods Country Golf Club. Their one and only fundraiser is an annual golf tournament. The funds raised, this year over \$45,000, go to fund local and international needs and to support scholarships & tool awards. They support other community needs as they arise such as Salvation Army bell ringing during the Christmas season, financial support for the victims of the recent New Hartford fire. Learn more at twrotary.org!



Discover Litchfield Hills & CTvisit

The State of Connecticut and the regional Council of Government are working hard to make sure that businesses, recreational opportunities, and job openings around the state are widely advertised. Please visit discoverlitchfieldhills.com and ctvisit.com to see what those sites have to offer.

If you own a business, be sure that it's listed on both websites! You can contact the Town Manager at townmanager@townofwinchester.org for help with signing up.

If you are looking for a job nearby, please visit discoverlitchfieldhills.com/jobs-hub.



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; REQUIRING
ALL TO WEAR MASKS**

**WINCHESTER PLAY TO
LAUNCH ANNIVERSARY
EVENTS THIS FALL -
NOVEMBER 13**

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

**LOCAL ELECTIONS TO
BE HELD ON TUESDAY,
NOV 2, AT PEARSON
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**3-FOOT DRAWDOWN
AT HIGHLAND LAKE TO
START NOVEMBER 1ST**

Winsted Business Growth

Since June, more business developments in Winsted have made local headlines: Laurel Lanes has officially reopened under new ownership, Paws & Reflect (candles , soap, and more) opened at 538 Main Street, Dillon's Pellet Stoves opened at 920 Main Street, and the old Capital Products building located at 35 Willow Street sold to a new developer.

Additionally, the Town has a new mural (pictured above), located adjacent to the Laurel City Skate Park off of Rowley Street! This beautiful piece of art was sponsored by the Western Connecticut Tourism District and the Winchester Recreation Department, with painting by Ash Royer.

If you are someone who is interested in or planning to open a business in town, please contact the Town's Planning & Development office at pcolombie@townofwinchester.org.

Local Elections Soon - Vote!

On Tuesday, November 2nd, all people registered to vote in Winchester can cast their ballot for candidates running for Board of Selectmen, Town Clerk, Constable, and Board of Education. The polls are open from 6:00 AM - 8:00 PM that day. The Registrars will hold their final in-person registration drive before the election on Tuesday, October 26, from 9:00 AM until 8:00 PM in Town Hall. Mail-in voter registration applications must be post marked by Oct 26. You can also register online at voterregistration.ct.gov. For any inquires please call 860-2714 x. 354 or 355. Absentee ballot applications are now available in Town Hall and on the Town's website.

Calendar of Events - Fall 2021

- **September 18 - FOOD DISTRIBUTION:** Starting at 9:00 AM on Saturday, Sept 18, boxes of food will be distributed for free at the old Bank of America building on Center Street. Food will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis until all are distributed.
- **September 22 - WINSTED SENIOR CENTER'S 55TH ANNIVERARY CELEBRATION:** Join us with your mask and dancing shoes for an afternoon of listening to Tom Callinan's show and ice cream! If you are a WSC member, please stop by the Center beginning September 1 to pick up a free ice cream coupon, on per person, while supplies last. An ice cream truck will be available for purchases that day, too. Rain date is September 24.
- **September 26 - ANNUAL HIGHLAND LAKE 5K:** The Highland Lake 5K runs along country roads with spectacular foliage around the picturesque Highland Lake in Winsted, CT. This event can also be completed as a two-mile walk. It truly provides a race experience that is fun for the whole family! The race begins at 10:00 AM, register at nwcty.org.
- **October 3 - ECAD OPEN HOUSE:** ECAD (Educated Canines Assisting with Disabilities) will hold an open house event on Sunday, October 3, from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM. The facility is located at 149 Newfield Road in Winchester. All are invited and encouraged to stop by.
- **October 5 - MEDICARE EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR:** the Bowen Agency will hold an educational seminar about Medicare at the Winsted Senior Center at 11:00 AM. To reserve a seat, for more information, or to learn about other seminars they offer, please call 860-379-4252.
- **October 7 - NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH CLINIC AT THE WINSTED SENIOR CENTER:** On the first and third Thursday of each month, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, this service will be offered at 80 Holabird Avenue. The clinic offers age-based medicinal screenings, referrals, lab tests, and vaccines. Financial assistance is available, and insurance is not required. Face masks required.
- **October 23 - HALLOWEEN ARTS & CRAFTS PARTY:** Kids age 5-12 are invited to the Mad River Lofts (10 Bridge St) for a Halloween arts and crafts party from 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM on Saturday, October 23. Cost is \$30 per child. Register your child at styleestudio.com!
- **October 30 - TRUNK OR TREAT:** the Recreation Dept & Winsted Area Child Care will host a Trunk or Treat event from 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM at the Rowley Street Playground in Winsted. Children, with adult supervision, will be able to trick-or-treat from car to car. People that wish to hand out candy at the event must pre-register. Please email trisucci@townofwinchester.org for more info.
- **November 2 - ELECTION DAY:** Please see the story on the front cover for detailed information.
- **November 7 through November 11 - FREE VETERAN & ACTIVE MILITARY CAR WASH:** Swell's Car Wash (345 North Main Street) will offer a free car wash for veterans and active military personnel in recognition of Veterans Day. Please call 860-738-9274 for more information.
- **November 13 - WINCHESTER 250 KICKOFF CEREMONY & PLAY:** At 6:30 PM, in the Gilbert School Auditorium, the town will commemorate its 250th anniversary with several officials, historians, and long-time residents speaking. The ceremony will be followed at 7:00 PM by a historical storytelling play entitled Winchester/Winsted: A Town of Resilience. All are invited to attend!
- **December 4 & 5 - WHITING MILLS ANNUAL HOLIDAY OPEN STUDIOS:** Whiting Mills will host their annual Holiday Open Studios from 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM each day that weekend. The event will feature resident artists, guest artists, and food in the historic mill.
- **December 10 - CHRISTMAS CAROLING AT THE LITTLE RED BARN:** Head to 32 Lake Street for good old-fashioned Christmas caroling! Free hot chocolate will be provided, and cash and gift cards will be collected for charities. Please see the Little Red Barn's Facebook page for more info.
- **Holiday Season - SALVARION ARMY CHARITY WORK:** Each holiday season, the Salvation Army in Winsted provides food baskets and toys to families in need. If you would like to donate or volunteer to help, please call 860-379-8444.

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 next edition (spanning December 15 - March 15)? Email townmanager@townofwinchester.org.



Lake Buoys: Navigating Proper Placement



With the hiring of a new Enforcement Officer in the Office of Planning and Community Development at Town Hall, the Town has undertaken an initiative to bring the various mooring buoys in Highland Lake into compliance with the dock and mooring ordinance (Ordinance #162), which was first adopted in 2002. If you have a mooring buoy on Highland Lake or may wish to acquire one, please read on. Mooring Buoys are defined as any buoy placed in the water for the purpose of securing a vessel, and must adhere to the following regulations:

- 1.A property is only permitted to have one mooring buoy, unless the property has no dock. In such a case, it may have two mooring buoys.
- 2.Mooring buoys must not be attached to any other structure.
- 3.Mooring buoys must be located such that any vessel that is moored to it is never more than 50 feet from shore.

Please note that the maximum distance of a mooring buoy from shore should be calculated based on the length of whatever vessel you would like to attach to it – a mooring buoy intended to anchor a 15-foot vessel should be no further than 35 feet from the shore so that nothing ever protrudes more than 50 feet into the water. Consider the size of your vessels before placing a mooring buoy. In addition to mooring buoys, the other type of buoy that should be found in the water are Navigational Markers.

These are defined as “buoys, other than mooring buoys, which have been duly authorized by the CT DEEP, placed in the watercourse for purposes including, but not limited to, marking a restricted area, a danger to navigation, a swim area, or a sudden change in water depth”. Such permits are granted after due consideration of DEEP, with criteria for consideration described under Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Sec.15-121-A5, Permission to Place Markers. It should also be noted that there are NO approved navigational markers at Highland Lake save for those located at Resha Beach. If you feel that a navigational marker is needed for safe boating, contact DEEP to begin the permitting process. Otherwise, no markers should be in the water anywhere on highland lake.

There are other ordinances that govern the use of the lakes around Winchester, too, all of which can be found on the Town's website at townofwinchester.org.



Personal Property Declarations

Personal property season is upon us. Do you conduct business in Winchester or perhaps own an unregistered or out of state motor vehicle? If so, you may be required to file a declaration. Please be on the lookout for your 2021 Personal Property Declaration in early October. If you have questions, concerns, or need help completing your declaration, feel free to contact us for help at 860-379-5461. Further documentation, information, and FAQ's are available on the Town's website at www.townofwinchester.org/assessors.

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.
- **Inland Wetlands Commission:** 3rd Wed. 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 at townofwinchester.org.