

Help Name (and Protect) the Winchester Moose!

Winchester has a new resident! The female moose has been seen by many Winchester residents, and we want to welcome the moose to Winchester and celebrate her being here. Thus, the Town of Winchester is seeking a name for the Roaming Moose. To obtain and submit a ballot, please visit the Town Clerk's Office in Town Hall. We suggest that all voters in this contest donate 1 non-perishable food item. Donations may be made directly to the Salvation Army or at the Town Clerk's Office itself. Recommend items are canned fruit, canned soups/pasta meals and dried pasta. We appreciate your charity and your creative ideas!



PLEASE NOTE: Moose are wild animals and can pose an active and present danger to you if you are too close to the animal. Additionally, we all love having a moose in Winchester and do not wish to see it driven away by too many curious people. Please DO NOT seek out the moose. If you happen to see the moose from your property or from the side of the road, please keep your distance, do not approach the moose, and do not encourage others to bother the moose in any way.

Go Geer & Winchester's Resident Assistance Fund



Go Geer provides on-demand transit for elderly and disabled individuals for access to non-emergency medical and basic needs that can't be scheduled ahead of time. Drivers typically arrive within 30 min of a request. Call 860-435-4800 for more info.

Looking to make a difference in the community? Consider donating to the Winchester Resident Assistance Fund today! Contact kvaill@townofwinchester.org to learn more.

Town Seeks to Market Itself & Its Businesses

The public, town officials and business community are cordially invited to attend the Town of Winchester Economic Development Commission's marketing subcommittee "kick off" meetings! All such meetings start at 7:00 PM and will be held on Wednesdays April 13th and April 20th at Town Hall (338 Main Street) in the Blue Room on the 2nd Floor. This will be an introduction to the process that will be utilized to create and execute a marketing plan for the Town of Winchester. All are invited and encouraged to attend to learn more and get involved in this process.



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 a card, 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

JUNE IS DOG LICENSING MONTH, REGISTRATION AT TOWN HALL.

LIKELY ANNUAL BUDGET REFERENDUM DATE OF MAY 28; MORE INFO ON TOWN WEBSITE.

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

TOWN REVALUATION IS UNDERWAY; LEARN MORE ABOUT PROCESS ON TOWN'S WEBSITE

TOWN HALL UPDATES POLICIES; MASKS NOT CURRENTLY REQUIRED.

Town Celebrates 250 Years

The Town of Winchester is celebrating its 250th birthday! While the Town officially became 250 years old in 2021, COVID conditions pushed many of the events set up to celebrate the anniversary of the Town's founding off until 2022.

In May and early June, the Town has numerous events planned to commemorate the passing of this momentous occasion. This includes some staple events, such as a dance at the Winchester Grange and the Laurel Festival Ball. It includes some new events, such as a community picnic and town trivia games, and for the first time the Rotary Pet Parade will combine with the Laurel Festival Parade to create one magnificent display of passion and pride for our town. More information about the events can be found within this newsletter (under "Events & Activities") and can be found on the Town's website. We hope to have you join us for this spring's 250th festivities!

Winchester Photo Contest

The Winchester Conservation Commission and Economic Development Commission (EDC) are partnering up to run a free town-wide photo contest! The contest is looking for high-resolution, high-quality digital photos that depict our town's natural beauty and vibrant community. The top winners will be awarded a small prize and will be given the opportunity to have their photos appear in a 2023 calendar that the EDC and Conservation Commission plan to compile. Learn more about the contest by visiting townofwinchester.org/photocontest, and remember that photos are due by noon on June 15th!

Events & Activities - Spring 2022

- **April 1-3 - American Museum of Tort Law Open House:** The Museum will open from 1-5pm on April 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. Student visits and tours and encouraged on April 1st. After that weekend, the museum will return to its normal operating schedule of 1-5pm on Sundays.
- **April 9 - Second Saturday Farmers' Market:** Hosted at East End Park, this market will feature farmers, crafters, and other local vendors. Come out between 9am - 2pm to enjoy! Applications to become a vendor may be acquired by emailing pawsandreflectct@gmail.com.
- **April 16 - The Makers Shoppes at Whiting Mills:** Open the 3rd weekend of each month from 11am - 4pm. Learn more at whitingmills.com.
- **April 23 - Earth Day Clean-Up:** Join the Friends of Main Street at 9am for an Earth Day clean-up! More information found at fomswinsted.org.
- **April 23 & 24 - 13th Annual Quilt & Needle Art Show:** Open from 10am - 5pm on Saturday and Noon - 5pm on Sunday. Learn more at winchestercongregationalchurch.org/quilt-show.html.
- **April 27 - Spring Open House at NWCC:** Registration is recommended, learn more at nwcc.edu.
- **April 30 & May 1 - Spring Open Studios Weekend at Whiting Mills:** Over 60 artists, crafters, specialty shops, and guest artists available and on display. Open from 11am - 5pm each day!
- **May 14 - Second Saturday Farmers' Market:** Held from 9am - 2pm at East End Park.
- **May 19 - Winchester Town Trivia:** Come to the Winsted Senior Center at 1pm or the Little Red Barn Brewery at 7pm with a team or by yourself and test your knowledge of our town and its history. No fee to enter. Souvenirs for all entrants and prizes to the top winners.
- **May 20 - 250th Concert at the Senior Center:** Music will be provided. Bring your lawn chair and wear your dancing shoes!
- **May 21 - 250th Celebration Day!**
 - **9:00 AM - Senior Breakfast:** Winsted Senior Center will be serving breakfast sandwiches to members with a ticket at the Center. Call 860-379-4252 x1 by May 19, for a ticket
 - **10:30 AM - Founding to Flood Book Presentation:** Author Virginia Shultz-Charette will present her 250th Anniversary book, *Winchester, CT: A History from Founding to Flood*, at the Beardsley & Memorial Library. Refreshments and a tour of the genealogy room to follow.
 - **2:00 PM - 84th Rotary Pet Parade & 88th Laurel Festival Parade:** The historic parades are combining to produce our largest parade in many years! Join us on Main St. with the Pet Parade Poster Contest Winner Awards in East End Park after.
 - **4:30 PM - W1N World Wide Special Event Station on the Winchester Green:** Wireless Operators of Winsted amateur radio club joined the American Radio Relay League in 1978. They will hold a special event station operating live from the Winchester Green. To commemorate the event, they will create a special QSL card. Come and learn about the hobby and importance of radio operators in today's world.
 - **4:30 PM - Community Picnic:** Join us on the Historic Winchester Green where our town began in the 1700s. Please bring chairs and /or a blanket and a picnic for your family.
 - **6:15 PM - 250th Closing Ceremonies:** The Closing Ceremonies at 6:15 will honor the founding of the Town of Winchester where families began settling. Held at the Winchester Congregational Church, which was first established by the General Court of the Colony of Connecticut in 1768.
 - **7:00 PM - Winchester Grange Dance:** Join us at the Winchester Grange Hall for an enjoyable evening of dancing and fun with caller Rich Sbardella at the historic grange building.
- **June 4 - 88th Laurel Festival Ball:** The Laurel Festival Ball is returning to East End Park following the 2019 elegant evening. All are welcome to attend. Tickets obtained by calling 860-733-5696.
- **June 5 - Kid's FunFest 250:** Food Trucks, Climbing Wall, and many other Kid's Activities are being provided by the Winsted Recreation Department. All are welcome!
- **June 11 - Second Saturday Farmers' Market:** Held from 9am - 2pm at East End Park.

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 Summer edition (spanning June 15 - September 15)? Email townmanager@townofwinchester.org.

Introducing Winchester's New Economic Development Director

Theodore “Ted” Shafer, a resident of Burlington, CT, has been hired as Winchester's new Director of Economic Development. Ted joins the Town after having served as First Selectman for the Town of Burlington, CT, for ten years, where he helped to facilitate and support numerous economic development projects. Ted holds two Masters degrees in related fields and brings a plethora of experience to the position. Ted began in the position on February 1st and has been focused on attracting new businesses to town, retaining the businesses we already have, marketing the Town, and overall making our town an even better place to live, work, and spend time in than it already is. If you are a business owner or are looking to start a business in town, you can reach out to Ted by stopping into Town Hall or by emailing Ted at tshafer@townofwinchester.org.



Operating Your Business from Home - Legally!



During the pandemic, many people shifted their patterns of life and work in response to the challenges that faced the world. One of these changes was an uptick in the number of individuals operating small businesses directly from their homes. While work-from-home has been a positive change for many, operating a business from a property that is zoned residential is not permitted under town zoning regulations. In some circumstances, however, businesses can be run from a residence - if you receive a Special Permit for "Home Occupation" from the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Home Occupation special permits can be issued to businesses operating on residential properties, but there are several conditions on which this approval depends. The business must be located entirely in a residential dwelling, not be the primary use of the building (occupying no more than 25% of the building's area), and cannot alter the building in any visible way that would make it out of character with surrounding residential dwellings. These regulations and others, such as the types of agricultural operations and equipment permissible for a home occupation, are outlined in full in the Town of Winchester's Zoning Regulations, available online at townofwinchester.org.

If you are currently operating a business out of your home, the office of Planning and Community Development advises you to make an application for Home Occupation at your property as soon as possible. Doing so will allow you to bring your home into compliance with zoning regulations and avoid any possible enforcement actions in the future. If you have questions about whether your work qualifies as home occupation, please feel free to call the Planning Office at (860) 738-6593.

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.