

Energy Assistance Available

Energy Assistance is available at the New Opportunities Inc office in Winsted. The Salvation Army also offers a fuel assistance program. Please call Alta at 860-738-9138 for Energy Assistance through New Opportunities (in Winsted) or Pam at 860-379-8444 for the Fuel Assistance Program.

WE HAVE AN URGENT NEED FOR MONETARY DONATIONS TO THE RESIDENT ASSISTANCE FUND. If you would like to donate to this fund, please contact Katie Vaill at 860-853-6601. This fund helps community members who are struggling to meet their basic needs. Please considering donating today!

Town Starts Work on Federal IIJA Applications



In late 2021, the federal government adopted the Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA) that dedicated \$550 billion to new infrastructure improvement projects on top of regularly-recurring infrastructure investments. The programs that have been established under this Act are generally competitive, meaning that individual states, counties, and towns must apply for this funding from the federal government. The Town of Winchester has applied to and been accepted into a program, run by the National League of Cities, that will provide free logistical help to the team of town staff members in Winchester that will be applying for IIJA funding for new projects. Monies received from

the IIJA competitive applications will be used in tandem with bonded monies approved by the Town referendum this past May to improve essential infrastructure.

Did You Know? Quick Permitting Guidelines:

Are you aware that many (if not most) major home and property improvements require permits from various Town departments? Any demolitions, moving of earth, land clearing within 100 feet of a wetland or watercourse, and more requires Inland Wetlands permits. New structures, new uses of land, erection of signage, placement of outdoor lighting, expansion of parking areas, movement of earth, work on steep slopes, clearing more than 1/2 an acre of land, and more requires Zoning permits. New constructions, the installation of windows, plumbing work, electrical work, and more requires Building permits. The Town also issues other types of permits for other modifications that may be made to a given property. If you're not sure where to start or what kinds of permits you might need, please contact our new Building Official, Bill Pietrefase, at wpietrefase@townofwinchester.org, or our Inland Wetlands/Zoning Enforcement Officer, Michael Stankov, at mstankov@townofwinchester.org, for more information about what kinds of permitting your desired improvement work requires.

Fire Safety Month



October is Fire Safety month! Make a fire escape plan and practice it with your family members. Identify a meeting place as safe distance from the home where all family members should go. Remember to set and test your smoke alarms and replace the batteries regularly. Install smoke alarms on all levels of your home outside and inside each bedroom. Be safe, and contact the Fire Marshal's Office for more information on how to stay safe at 860-379-8771.



Connect With Us



Facebook: facebook.com/TownWinchesterCT

Instagram: @Winchester_CT

Twitter: @Winchester_CT

LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/winchesterct

YouTube: [Town of Winchester-CT](https://www.youtube.com/TownofWinchester-CT)

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

You can also visit our website at townofwinchester.org to find links to our social media pages. 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

**ELECTIONS TO BE HELD
NOVEMBER 8; BE SURE
TO REGISTER TO VOTE**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT
FIRE DEPARTMENT AND
AMBULANCE SERVICE;
LEARN MORE WITHIN**

**OCTOBER IS FIRE SAFETY
MONTH; CHECK YOUR
SMOKE DETECTORS**

**TOWN IS LAUNCHING
ONLINE PERMITTING IN
FALL; CHECK TOWN
WEBSITE FOR UPDATES**

**TOWN REVALUATION
UNDERWAY; LEARN
MORE @ TOWN WEBSITE**

Round 2: Business Start-Up and Façade Forgivable Loan Program Awards Announced

Earlier in 2022, the Town announced that it would (through grant funding) award \$250,000 in forgivable loans to existing businesses for façade improvements and \$100,000 to new businesses to help them get started in Town. Round 1 awards were announced back in the spring, and a list of Round 2 awards have now been released! The full list of awardees is available on the Town website and social media pages.

Senior Center Honored

The Winsted Senior Center was recognized by the members of Town of Winsted Fire Department for 56 years of dedicated service to the older adults of the Town of Winchester. Jennifer Kelley, the WSC Director, staff and members were invited to view the annual Firemen's Parade in August from the reviewing stand. Congratulations to the Senior Center and its members for achieving this length of service!



Events & Activities - Fall 2022

- **September 24 - Fall River Cleanup:** from 9:30am - Noon, Friends of Main Street is partnering with the Winchester Conservation Commission to introduce a fall river community clean-up along the Still River and Mad River! The group will meet up to start at East End Park at 9:30am. Please bring and wear gloves; trash bags are provided. Wear comfortable clothes (bright colors!) and shoes.
- **October 3 - Youth Recreation Basketball Registration Opens:** for Pre K - 6. In-person sign-ups will occur on November 2nd from 6:30-8pm at Town Hall.
- **October 5 - Job Fair:** the Town of Winchester is working alongside the Winchester Economic Development Commission, the CT Department of Labor, the Northwestern CT Chamber of Commerce, and other agencies to put on a Job Fair from 11am - 2pm this day in East End Park. Businesses can register to table at the event by emailing WinstedJobFair@gmail.com; there is a cost of \$25 per company. It's free for anyone to attend as a prospective employee!
- **October 8 - Hazardous Waste Collection Day:** from 9am-2pm at the Torrington Water Pollution Control Facility at 252 Lower Bogue Rd, Harwinton, CT 06791. You must have a ticket to participate; call RRDD1 at 860-379-1972 to learn more and get a ticket.
- **October 25-27 - Senior Center Atlantic City Getaway to Caesars:** members of the Senior Center who wish to attend may pay and register to attend this trip that includes motor coach transportation, two nights accommodation at the hotel/casino, tickets to two shows, and more. Costs vary, please visit the Senior Center for more information.
- **October 29 - Recreation Department Annual Trunk or Treat Event:** this will be held between 5:30pm - 7pm at the Rowley Street Playground, with a rain date of Sunday, Oct 30th, from 4:30-6pm. The Rec Dept is seeking trunks to decorate, you can sign up online at winstedrec.com. Candy donations are also accepted at Town Hall any time between now and the day of the event.
- **November 3 - Winsted Travel Basketball Tryouts:** these will be held at Pearson School. Grades 5-6 tryouts will be held between 6-7:30pm, and grades 7/8 tryouts will be held between 7:30-9pm.
- **November 8 - ELECTION DAY:** polls are open from 6am - 8pm at the Pearson School at 2 Wetmore Ave for the elections to be held that day. Positions up for election include Governor & Lt Governor, US Senator, US Rep, State Senator, State Rep, Sec. of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller, Atty General, Judge of Probate, and Registrars of Voters. Be sure you are registered to vote!
- **November 16 - Senior Center Trip to Mohegan Sun:** members of the Senior Center who wish to attend may pay and register to attend this trip that includes motor coach transportation for \$35. Please visit the Senior Center for more information.
- **December 6 - Jimmy Sturr Polka Band Christmas Show at the Log Cabin:** members of the Senior Center who wish to attend may pay and register may do so to enjoy a family-style luncheon while listening to the 18-time Grammy winner, along with his famous band, play their classic hits and some Christmas songs, too. The cost is \$124 per person. Please visit the S. Center for more info.



Other Recreation Department Info: programs running this fall include Mad Science, Art Ventures, Karate, Gymnastics, and Tennis Lessons. Contact Director of Recreation Tanya Risucci at trisucci@townofwinchester.org for more information!

Other Senior Center Info: In 2023, the Senior Center is coordinating trips to Washington DC (March 24-28), Niagara Falls (June 26-30), and Cape Cod/Martha's Vineyard (Sept 11-15). Costs vary per trip. Please visit the Senior Center to find more information and register to participate!

For more information about programming in town, please visit the Recreation and Senior Center pages on the Town website (townofwinchester.org) and beardsleylibrary.org.

Please submit any events that you would like to see listed in the Winter edition (spanning December 15 - March 15) of the Winchester Wire to townmanager@townofwinchester.org.

Ambulance and Fire Services in Need of Volunteers

The Ambulance Service is looking for people 18 and older with a driver's license who are certified as EMT or EMR. If they aren't certified, we'll help them with the finances if they commit to at least a year of active duty. Our members volunteer 24 hours a month on the ambulance. Schedules are very flexible. We provide a lot of benefits including full uniform, radio, incentives, etc. For more info, interested parties can go to winstedambulance.org/join, email join@winstedems.org call 860-379-6596. The Winsted and Winchester Center Fire Departments are looking for people 18 and older with a driver's license. Incentives are available; an application needs to be filled out and submitted to Station 1 at 27 Elm Street. For more info, interested parties can go to winstedfire.org or email Fire Chief Jamie Lagassie at jlagassie@townofwinchester.org.



New Faces in Town Hall

As with many places of work across the United States and Connecticut, Winchester Town Hall has seen some turnover in recent months. We'd like to take this opportunity to familiarize the community with the new faces they will see when they come into Town Hall.

In our Department of Land Use, we are excited to welcome our new Building Official, William Pietrefase, who has joined the Town's service after a lengthy career in the home improvement business. Joining that same office in early October is Lance Hansen, who will serve as the Director of Land Use/Town Planner. Lance has worked for the State Department of Energy & Environmental Protection for almost two decades, with past experience as a Town Planner in Wellesley, MA and in the planning office in Hebron, CT. We hope that you will give both a warm welcome; you may reach out to them with any questions that you have about buildings and land use.



Lance D. Hansen
New Town Planner

On the financial side, Ashley Kelsey, formerly the Assistant Tax Collector, has been promoted and is now serving as the full Tax Collector. A search for a new Assistant Tax Collector is underway. A new Budget Analyst/Grants Manager has been found: Tom Heuschkel has joined the Town's service in that capacity, bringing with him great knowledge of grant application processes and management. We are currently seeking BOTH an Assessor and an Assistant Assessor; please visit townofwinchester.org/our-town/pages/job-postings to find the application for that position.

Our offices are open. Please come on in and say hello!

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 Com.:** 2nd Tues of the month, 6PM (note: new time!), 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.