



Watertown Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Agenda

Date: Thursday, April 02, 2026
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Town Hall - Parks & Recreation Conference Room
61 Echo Lake Road, Watertown, CT 06795

Meeting is In-Person and also available via Zoom. A link will be posted on meeting day.
Please refer to www.watertownct.org under *Calendar of Meetings*

- I. **Call Meeting to Order:**
- II. **Roll Call:**
- III. **Public Participation:**
- IV. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - A. March 05, 2026-Regular Meeting
- V. **Correspondence:**
- VI. **Reports:**
 - A. Chairman
 - B. Director
 - C. Sub-Committees
- VII. **Old Business:**
 - A. Policies and Procedures
- VIII. **New Business:**
 - A. Review and Consideration of Submitted Applications for 2026
 - B. Review Park and Recreation Revenue Accounts
 - C. Crestbrook Finance Statement-5 Year Review
 - D. Bryce Miller Eagle Scout Project 2026
 - E. 2026 Fall Festival at Veterans Park

IX. **Adjournment**

Commissioners: Unable to attend? Contact P&R Department at 860-945-5246 by 4:30 PM



AGENDA
Date: 4-2-26
Number: 1VA

MINUTES

WATERTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

DATE: March 5, 2026

TIME: 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Town Hall – Parks and Recreation Conference Room
61 Echo Lake Road, Watertown, CT 06795

I. Call Meeting to Order:

Chairman Bill Donston called the regular meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: Bill Donston, Tadd Johnson, Alan Mickel, Joseph McGrail

Absent: Pat Rinaldi
Margaret Germain
Karim Belica
Herm Desena, Town Council Liaison

Others Present: Michael Ganem, Director of Parks & Recreation, Michael T. Doherty, SLR, Landscape Architect

Motion by Bill Donston seconded by Al Mickel to move New Business #B up on the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business B:

Tennis and Pickleball Court- Michael Doherty, SLR Certified Project Manager, presented an overview of replacing the tennis courts and building new standalone pickleball courts at Crestbrook Park. A copy of the maps/sketches is attached to the record.

III. Public Participation:

Monica Nolan, 84 Crestview Dr, Watertown, was present to learn about and support the tennis and pickleball courts project.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

A. February 5, 2026, Regular Meeting

Motion: Joe McGrail seconded by Alan Mickel to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 5, 2026. Motion Passed unanimously.

V. Correspondence:

- Letter from Bryce Miller, Eagle Scout Project. Gaga Ball Pit at Unico Field. The commission was impressed by the young man's letter. However, we don't have jurisdiction over Unico Field
- Monthly report from Carrie Godfrey, Recreation Supervisor

VI. Reports:

- A. Chairman – Watertown does a great job with their programs. Last fiscal year, there were over 7000 registrations/sign-ups. The chair suggests that inland and wetlands be involved early in the process of replacing courts at Crestbrook Park. The chair listed individual accounts associated with the parks and recreation department that are not in the budget. For example: "park improvement fund." There was discussion about the John Staver Fund and appropriate uses. Is there a way to leverage this gift with a bond? The chair requested for an explanation from the Town Attorney regarding the enterprise account.
- B. Director – Provided a brief update about parks, facilities, events, and programs
- C. Sub-Committees – Golf. The Sub-Committee would like the player's surcharge to not be used for normal expenses. The floor in the pro-shop will be lifted to reduce the slope at the front doors. New carpeting will be installed on the first floor

VII. Old Business:

- A. Policies and Procedures – No update
- B. Cherry Hill Trash & Recycle/Jerico Road – Planning and Zoning files should be reviewed for compliance

VIII. New Business -

- A. Review and Consideration of Submitted Applications for 2026 - None

XI. Adjournment -

Motion: Alan Mickel seconded by Joe McGrail to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 pm

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

William Donston, Chairman
Watertown Parks and Recreation Commission

Approved:

Susan King, Clerk

From: Michael Ganem <ganem@watertownct.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2026 3:41 PM
To: Misiaszek, Brandi - MRP-APHIS <Brandi.Misiaszek@usda.gov>
Subject: RE: Insect trapping

AGENDA
Date: 4-2-24
Number: ✓

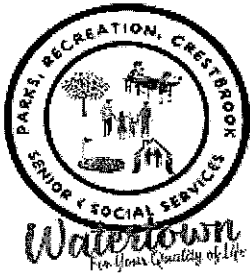
Thank you.

I will bring this to the attention of the Parks and Recreation Commission on April 2.

Michael Ganem, CPRP

Director

Office: 860-945-5246



From: Misiaszek, Brandi - MRP-APHIS <Brandi.Misiaszek@usda.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 2:40 PM
To: Michael Ganem <ganem@watertownct.org>
Subject: Insect trapping

Hi Michael,

It was nice meeting you on Monday. I am emailing to let you know that I am also interested in trapping at the Naugatuck River Walk by the Frost Bridge Transfer Station in addition to the Veterans Memorial Park. I had called the NVCOG Environmental Planning Director, and he directed me to you for that location.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Plant Protection
and Quarantine

97 Barnes Road,
Suite 200
Wallingford, CT 06492

Phone: (203) 741-5641
Fax: (203) 741-5660

Federal Relay Service
(Voice/TTY/ASCII/Spanish)
1-800-877-8339

Subject: USDA APHIS PPQ 2026 Exotic Pest Detection Surveys

Date: January 9, 2026

To: Landowners and Cooperating Businesses

The USDA annually conducts surveys in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island to detect exotic insects and diseases that could become established in our region. These highly destructive foreign insect pests can be introduced to this country through international shipping of goods and materials.

Any introduction into the U. S. could pose a major threat to the forest habitats in our country. The goal of APHIS-PPQ is to identify likely pathways for entry of these exotic pests and to maintain an *early detection program* for the protection of our trees.

Our *Forest Pest Survey* will utilize various types of insect traps to check for *Exotic Bark Beetles* and other *Longhorned Boring Beetles*. These traps will be hung in host trees and will have lure combinations to help attract and capture the beetles if they are already in the area. Our trap collections will be sent to identifiers who will determine if any exotic insect pests are present.

We will also be conducting a *Spotted Lanternfly Survey*. This destructive leaf hopping insect has recently been found in several states in the northeast and is attracted to an invasive tree known as "*Tree of Heaven*". This survey seeks to locate groups of these trees and visually check to see if this invasive insect is present.

Your cooperation with these important survey programs is greatly appreciated and *thank you for helping us to protect our natural resources.*

Charles Baker
Supervisor
USDA-APHIS-PPQ

97 Barnes Rd, Suite 200
Wallingford, CT 06492
Office: 203-741-5656
charles.e.baker@usda.gov

www.aphis.usda.gov



APHIS Protecting American Agriculture

Equal Opportunity Employer

Pest Alert

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*)

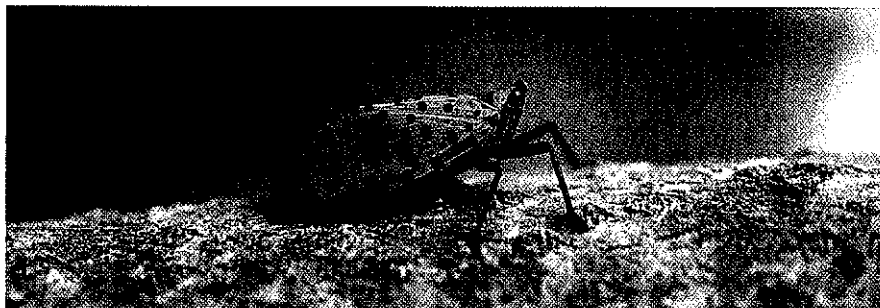
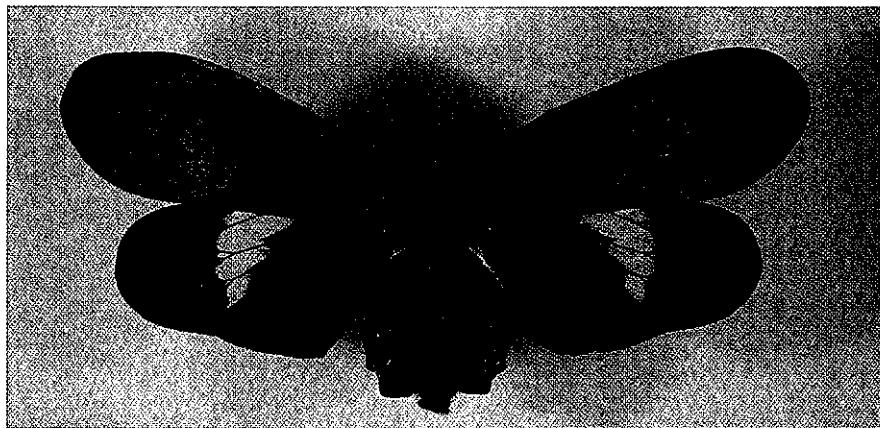
The spotted lanternfly is an invasive pest, primarily known to feed on tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) but has many other host plants, including grape, hop, apple, stone fruit, maple, poplar, walnut, and willow. The insect changes hosts as it goes through its developmental stages. Nymphs feed on a wide range of plant species, while adults prefer to feed and lay eggs on tree of heaven (*A. altissima*). Spotted lanternflies are invasive and can spread rapidly when introduced to new areas. While the insect can walk, jump, or fly short distances, its long-distance spread is facilitated by people who move infested material or items containing egg masses. If allowed to spread in the United States, this pest could damage the country's grape, orchard, and logging industries.

Distribution

The spotted lanternfly is present in China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and Vietnam. In 2014, the insect was first detected in the United States in Pennsylvania. Since then, spotted lanternfly infestations have been detected in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Virginia.

Damage

Both nymphs and adults of spotted lanternfly cause damage when they feed, sucking sap from stems and branches. This can reduce photosynthesis, weaken the plant, and eventually contribute to the plant's death. In addition, feeding can cause the plant to ooze or weep, resulting in a fermented odor, and the insects themselves excrete large amounts of fluid (honeydew). These fluids promote mold growth and attract other insects.



Adult spotted lanternfly

Description

Adult spotted lanternflies are about 1 inch long and one-half inch wide, and they have large and visually striking wings. Their forewings are light brown with black spots at the front and a speckled band at the rear. Their hind wings are scarlet with black spots at the front and white and black bars at the rear. Their abdomen is yellow with black bars. Nymphs in their early stages of development appear black with white spots and turn to a red phase before becoming adults. Egg masses are yellowish-brown in color, and most are covered with a gray, waxy coating prior to hatching.

Life Cycle

The spotted lanternfly lays its eggs on smooth host plant surfaces and on non-host material, such as bricks, stones, and dead plants. Eggs hatch in the spring and early summer, and nymphs begin feeding on a wide range of host plants by sucking sap from young stems and branches. Adults appear in late July and tend to focus their feeding on tree of heaven (*A. altissima*) and grapevine (*Vitis vinifera*). As the adults feed, they excrete sticky, sugar-rich fluid (honeydew). The fluid can build up on plants and on the ground underneath infested plants, causing sooty mold to form.

Pest Alert



United States
Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Animal and Plant
Health Inspection Service

NA-PR-01-99
Revised March 2010

Asian Longhorned Beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*): A New Introduction

The Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) has been discovered attacking trees in the United States. Tunneling by beetle larvae girdles tree stems and branches. Repeated attacks lead to dieback of the tree crown and, eventually, death of the tree. ALB probably travelled to the United States inside solid wood packing material from China. The beetle has been intercepted at ports and found in warehouses throughout the United States.

This beetle is a serious pest in China, where it kills hardwood trees in roadside plantings, shelterbelts, and plantations. In the United States the beetle prefers maple species (*Acer* spp.), including **boxelder, Norway, red, silver,** and **sugar maples**. Other preferred hosts are **birches, Ohio buckeye, elms, horsechestnut,** and **willows**. Occasional to rare hosts include **ashes, European mountain ash, London planetree, mimosa,** and **poplars**. A complete list of host trees in the United States has not been determined.

Currently, the only effective means to eliminate ALB is to remove infested trees and destroy them by chipping or burning. To prevent further spread of the insect, quarantines are established to avoid transporting infested

trees and branches from the area. Early detection of infestations and rapid treatment response are crucial to successful eradication of the beetle.

The ALB has one generation per year. Adult beetles are usually present from July to October, but can be found later in the fall if temperatures are warm. Adults usually stay on the trees from which they emerged or they may disperse short distances to a new host to feed and reproduce. Each female usually lays 35-90 eggs during her lifetime. Some are capable of laying more than that. The eggs hatch in 10-15 days. The larvae feed under the bark in the living tissue of the tree for a period of time and then bore deep into the wood where they pupate. The adults emerge from pupation sites by boring a tunnel in the wood and creating a round exit hole in the tree.

For more information about Asian longhorned beetle in the United States, visit these U.S. Department of Agriculture Web sites:

www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/alb/

www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/asian_lhb/index.shtml

If you suspect an Asian longhorned beetle infestation, please collect an adult beetle in a jar, place the jar in the freezer, and immediately notify any of these officials or offices in your State:

State Department of Agriculture:

- State Plant Regulatory Official
- State Entomologist

U.S. Department of Agriculture:

- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine
- Forest Service

County Cooperative Extension Office

State Forester or Department of Natural Resources

Call 866-702-9938 toll free.



Pest Alert

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Box Tree Moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*)

The box tree moth is an invasive pest that primarily feeds and completes its life cycle on boxwood species (*Buxus* spp). In its native range, it also feeds on burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*), Japanese spindletree (*E. japonicus*), purple holly (*Ilex chinensis*), and orange jessamine (*Murraya paniculata*) once all nearby boxwoods are completely defoliated.

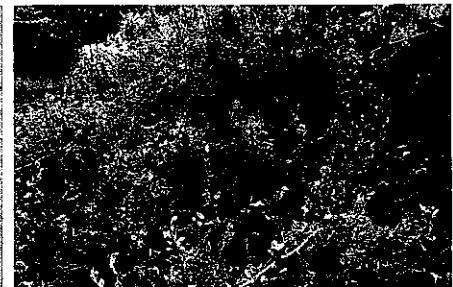
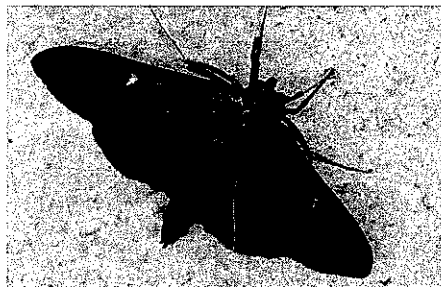
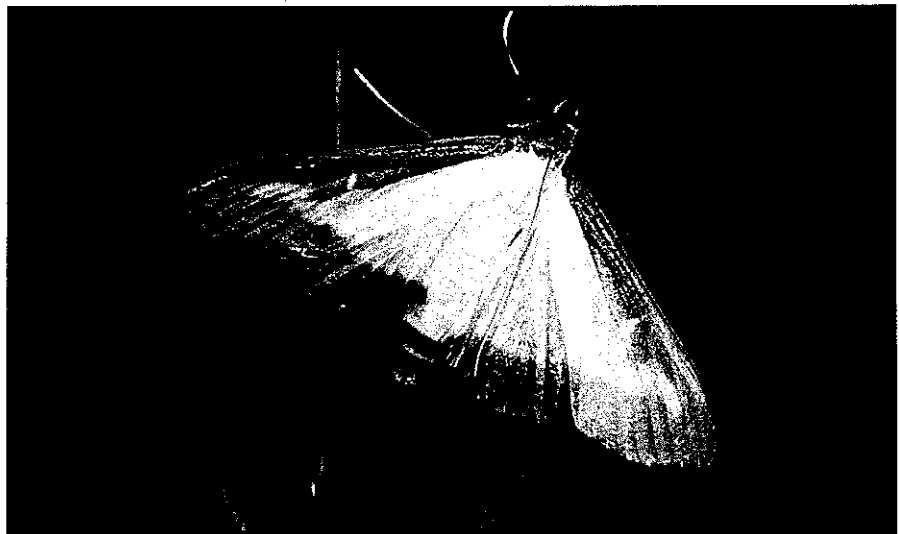
Distribution and Spread

The box tree moth is native to temperate and subtropical regions in Asia. It was first reported in Europe in 2007, after which it spread rapidly across European countries and into Western Asia and Northern Africa. In 2018, it was documented in Canada, and in 2021, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) confirmed the presence of the moth in Niagara County, NY, near the Canadian border. The rate of spread for the box tree moth has varied since its introduction in Europe, with some cases peaking at 96 miles per year. Long distance movement of the box tree moth across Europe occurred primarily through the movement of infested boxwood plantings.

Box tree moths are highly mobile and are good fliers. Natural spread of this moth in Europe is about 3 to 6 miles per year. One analysis from Europe concluded that natural dispersal from continental Europe to the United Kingdom was possible, suggesting sustained adult flights of over 20 miles.

Damage

In 2014, boxwood made up 15 percent of broadleaf evergreen sales in the United States, and the estimated value was \$126 million (USDA-NASS, 2015). Boxwoods are



Adult moths (top and bottom left), damage (bottom)

typically planted as ornamentals and used for edging, as hedges, and/or clipped into different shapes to make topiaries. The box tree moth can cause heavy defoliation of boxwood plants if populations are left unchecked. Defoliation of existing and new growth can kill the plant. If no foliage is available, larvae have been observed feeding on the bark, which can cause branches or the entire plant to die.

Description

Adult box tree moths generally have white bodies with a brown head and abdomen. Their wings are white and slightly iridescent, with an irregular thick brown border spanning 1.6

to 1.8 inches. Some adults have completely brown wings with a small white streak on each forewing. Males and females show both colorations.

The eggs are pale yellow and average 0.04 inches in size. They are laid in flat clusters of about 5 to 20 on the underside of boxwood leaves. As they mature, a black spot appears marking the larval head.

Newly hatched larvae have black heads and are green to yellow in color. As they age, dark brown stripes develop on the body. The most mature larvae are about 1.6 inches long and have thin white and thick black stripes and black dots outlined in white along the length of the body.

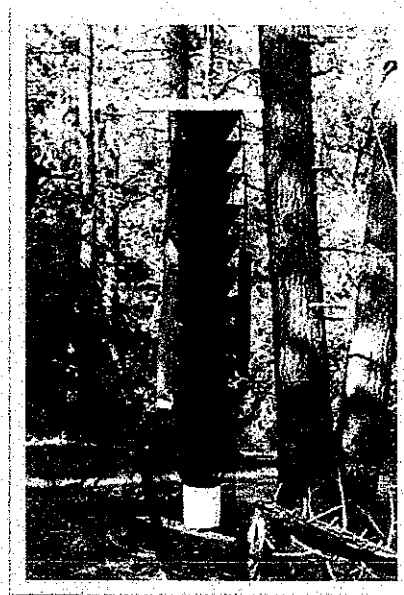
USDA APHIS

Exotic Insect Traps

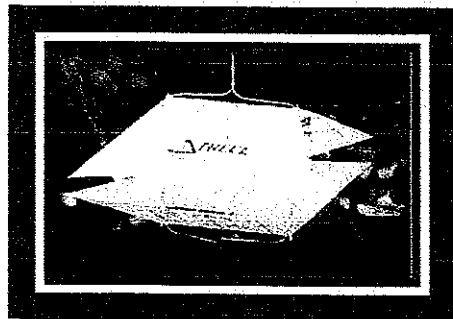
Cross Vane Panel Trap



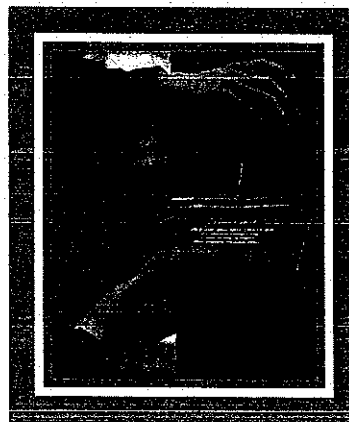
Lindgren Funnel Trap



Wing Trap



Red Delta Trap



Kaitlyn Sanzone

From: Michael Ganem
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 11:04 AM
To: Kaitlyn Sanzone
Subject: FW: Support for Crestbrook Park Tennis and Pickleball Court Improvements

K!
For correspondence

Michael Ganem, CPRP
Director

Office: 860-945-5246



From: Monica Nolan <mlnolan84@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2026 9:14 PM
To: Mark Raimo <raimo@watertownct.org>
Cc: Michael Ganem <ganem@watertownct.org>; JonRamsay@Hotmail.com
Subject: Support for Crestbrook Park Tennis and Pickleball Court Improvements

Dear Mr. Raimo,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the proposed addition of pickleball courts and the necessary reconstruction of the tennis courts at Crestbrook Park. After attending the recent Parks & Recreation meeting and seeing the preliminary plans, I am incredibly encouraged to see these long-overdue upgrades moving forward.

As an active member of the local athletic community and the Water-Oak Circle of Sports, I have seen firsthand how vital these facilities are:

- **Pickleball Growth:** Two years ago, I began playing at Crestbrook through the Friday night P&R pick-up matches. This program introduced me to a dedicated group that now plays every Friday and Sunday from March through November. Even today, Sunday, March 15, a group of eight utilized the courts for pickleball alongside other residents playing tennis, demonstrating the consistent demand for this space.

- **Economic Impact:** Our playing group has a direct positive impact on the park's restaurant. We have hosted our holiday parties at Sunset Grille for the last two years and have patronized the restaurant after our Friday evening matches.
- **WHS Tennis Needs:** Having co-founded the WHS Tennis Boosters Club in 2011, I am deeply concerned about the current state of the courts. For several years, the significant cracks and "dead spots" have made them unsuitable for hosting home matches and frustrating for casual play.

Investing in these courts is an investment in the entire Crestbrook Park facility. Once completed, they require minimal maintenance while providing a high-quality venue for both the high school teams and the general public.

I respectfully urge you and the town council to push through the funding for this project. It is a much-needed improvement that will benefit Watertown residents for years to come.

Sincerely,

Monica Nolan

84 Crestview Dr, Watertown

Kaitlyn Sanzone

From: Michael Ganem
Sent: Friday, March 20, 2026 2:53 PM
To: Kaitlyn Sanzone
Subject: FW: Pickleball Courts

Correspondence.

Thank you.

Michael Ganem, CPRP
Director

Office: 860-945-5246

-----Original Message-----

From: Paul Bette <pmbette@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 2:03 PM
To: Michael Ganem <ganem@watertownct.org>
Cc: Mark Raimo <raimo@watertownct.org>
Subject: Pickleball Courts

Mr. Michael Ganem
Director Parks & Rec, Watertown, Ct.
61 Echo Lake Rd
Watertown, Ct. 06795

Dear Mr. Ganem,

For the past three years we have enjoyed playing Pickleball at Crestbrook on open court Friday pick-up matches. We have grown from seven regular players to over twenty five. Frequently we occupy all four courts. Our group has welcomed and taught many new players on Friday nights. Many have told us that they have felt very welcomed. During this time we have met a wonderful group of friends. We have socialized with summer Pickleball picnics at the pavilion and winter parties at the Sunset Grille.

Thank you for having the foresight to develop these programs for the publics enjoyment. We support the plans to have the tennis courts improved and new Pickleball courts built. The present condition is getting dangerous despite all the patching that was done. The location of the courts is one of the nicest in the area and worth investing in. Watertown residents are very lucky to have such a beautiful recreation area. We are very happy to hear about the proposed renovations and addition of new Pickleball courts. All of us hope this project will come to fruition for the enjoyment of generations to come. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Paul and Maureen Bette

Kaitlyn Sanzone

From: Michael Ganem
Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2026 7:49 AM
To: Kaitlyn Sanzone
Subject: Fw: Letter to Watertown, CT Town Manager for Dedicated Pickleball Courts

Correspondence

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S22 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone
[Get Outlook for Android](#)

From: Grappone <zarg@optimum.net>
Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2026 3:43:03 PM
To: Mark Raimo <raimo@watertownct.org>
Cc: Michael Ganem <ganem@watertownct.org>; Jonathan Ramsay <Ramsay@watertownct.org>; 'Grappone' <zarg@optimum.net>
Subject: Letter to Watertown, CT Town Manager for Dedicated Pickleball Courts

Dear Mr. Mark A. Raimo,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing as a resident of our beautiful town, Watertown, to express my strong support for the installation of public pickleball courts and the reconstruction of the tennis courts at Crestbrook Park. My husband and I are part of a growing group of residents who have discovered the social and health benefits of playing pickleball. Presently, the pickleball group plays on the decaying tennis courts at Crestbrook Park. Over the past two years the pickleball group has grown in numbers and welcomes all skill levels and ages. The group typically plays March through October. However, if the courts are free of snow and ice the season does not matter and pickleball enthusiasts will play. Many times pickleball players patron The Sunset Grille after playing. Additionally, the pickleball group has held their holiday gathering there. The group has also rented the Crestbrook Park Pavilion for their summer picnics.

Pickleball has become an increasingly popular sport, drawing people of all ages and fitness levels. The demographic has shifted and it's no longer a game for retirees. The sport is really an exciting, easy to learn multi-generational activity. Many nearby towns such as Bethlehem, Terryville and Bristol have recognized the high demand for this sport and responded with the installation of public pickleball courts. The benefits are evident with the overwhelming use of these courts.

Our community lacks dedicated pickleball facilities, which limits playing opportunities for residents and our students or requires them to play in other towns.

Installing courts would:

- Provide a fun and healthy activity option for our community and its schools which is accessible to all ages and fitness levels.
- Provide opportunity for increased local business support and branding.

- Provide opportunities for community events, tournaments and social gatherings.
- Improve and expand upon the use of our existing parks and recreation spaces.

I respectfully request our town's government continue to invest in the betterment of our thriving town and prioritize the pursuit and securing of public funding for the construction of new public dedicated pickleball courts and the reconstruction of the worn and cracked tennis courts at Crestbrook Park.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and dedication to improving our beautiful town's recreational opportunities, increasing community engagement and fitness and improving economic opportunity to local businesses.

I look forward to seeing dedicated pickleball courts become a part of our vibrant community's recreational landscape.

Sincerely,

Anna Grappone
207 Hidden Pond Dr

CC: Michael Ganem, Director Parks & Recreation for Watertown, CT – ganem@watertownct.org
Jonathan Ramsay, Chairperson, Town Council - ramsay@watertownct.org

Mr. Michael Ganem
Director of Park & Rec, Watertown, CT.
61 Echo Lake Rd
Watertown, CT. 06795

*Crestbrook,
Copy was
mailed.*

Dear Mr. Ganem,

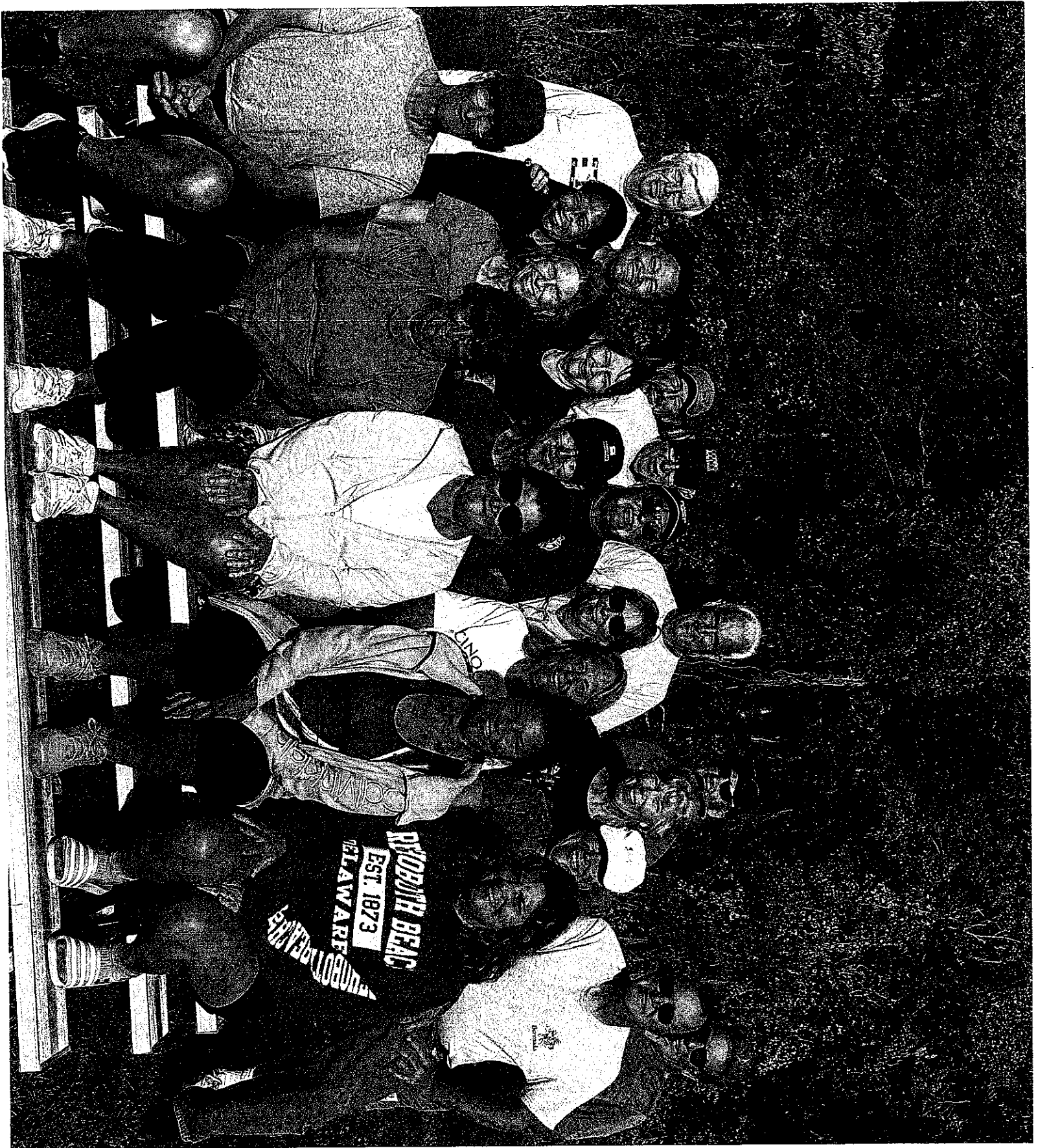
I am writing to express how happy I was to hear that the town has proposed upgrades to the tennis and pickleball courts in town. These upgrades and changes are long overdue, and very much needed!

I am part of a group of residents that play at Crestbrook Park at least twice a week. We all met through the Friday night Park & Rec pickup game on Friday night. We currently play on Friday and Sundays every week. We play all year if the courts are clear of snow. We host a summer end picnic utilizing the gazebo at Crestbrook and pay the rental fee out of our own pockets. We also host a Holiday party and have held it at Sunset Grill for the past 2 years.

I have added a picture of our group from our last end of season picnic at Crestbrook. I urge you to push for funding for this project. The upgrades are much needed for the safety and enjoyment of the Watertown residents.

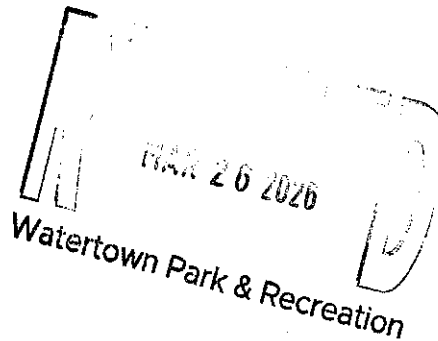
Thank you,

Cynthia Dayton
46 Pullen Ave, Oakville



CC: Michael Ganem

Mr. Mark A. Raimo
Watertown Town Hall
61 Echo Lake Rd
Watertown, CT 06795
March 14, 2026



Dear Mr. Raimo,

I have been a resident of Watertown for the past 28 years. I am writing to encourage the building of pickle ball courts at Crestbrook Park.

My husband and I have been playing there along with a group of 12 to 20 people for the past couple of years. A couple of years ago, the Park and Recreation Department listed a drop-in session at 4:00pm on Fridays for interested players. My husband and I attended, and we have been playing with this ever-growing group ever since. In addition, we play with the same players on Sunday afternoon. We stay in contact with each other through a Watertown team reach app. This is a highly dedicated group of players we have been known to play, even in the winter weather permitting.

This group has formed community friendships, and we also provide commerce for the town in that we socialize through dinners and parties at Watertown establishments. In addition, we often have people from other surrounding towns come to play. The one common question I get asked by them is, "is Crestbrook Park a private club?" To which I answer, "no you just have to pay your taxes." It really is very nice, but it desperately needs updating.

The tennis courts at Crestbrook are dangerous and terrible. There are so many cracks and divots, it's like playing on earthquake fissures. There are also dead spots which make for unfair play. That play could cost the tennis team a championship. I'm surprised the high school tennis teams play on them. It seems that they are one step away from causing an injury and town liability lawsuit.

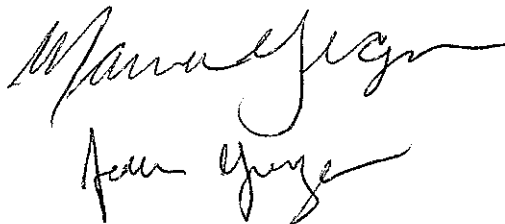
Pickle ball is the fastest growing sport in the U.S. although it has been around 1965 and was invented by a couple of U.S. Dad's looking for family fun. We enjoy playing it so much we often play four to six times a week. The only problem is I often must go to surrounding towns to play. The other towns I play in are Bethlehem, Litchfield, Woodbury, and Torrington. All these towns have great dedicated pickle ball courts. Why not Watertown?

Seriously you let Bethlehem and Torrington get the jump on Watertown with recreation. Remember dollars are being spent in other towns, not Watertown, when we are playing pickle ball in other towns.

Thank you for your time and I encourage you to build new courts with the interest you have earned.

One more thing please fix the sink hole like pothole that is at the top level of the road leading up to the tennis court parking. Several of us pickle ball players drive Audi's, Tesla's, BMW's and someone even has a Jaguar.

Sincerely,
Maura and John Yerger
31 Mount Fair Dr.
maurayerger@gmail.com

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature is for Maura Yerger, written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end. The bottom signature is for John Yerger, also in cursive, with a similar flourish.

Kaitlyn Sanzone

From: Michael Ganem
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2026 12:51 PM
To: Kaitlyn Sanzone
Subject: FW: community garden
Attachments: IMG_9495.png; IMG_9491.png; IMG_9497.jpeg; IMG_9498.jpeg

Revised correspondence.

Michael Ganem, CPRP
Director

Office: 860-945-5246



From: Lena Colon <lenamcolon@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2026 12:32 PM
To: Michael Ganem <ganem@watertownct.org>
Subject: Re: community garden

Good afternoon,

Thank you so much for your consideration. I wanted to provide a bit more information that you may be able to share at the meeting.

I am a Watertown resident and also work at John Trumbull Primary School. I will have a flexible schedule during the spring and summer months and would be happy to take the lead on a project like this, including ongoing maintenance and care.

In terms of setup, I am proposing a small, above-ground community garden using raised garden beds and food-grade buckets. This approach would be minimally invasive, easily removable if needed, and relatively low maintenance.

In terms of estimated costs:

- Raised garden beds (I will send pictures of specific ones) \$40-60 for two
- Food-grade buckets are approximately \$4-\$6 each
- Garden soil averages about \$5-\$7 per bag (depending on size and brand)

For a small starter garden, we would likely need:

- 4 raised beds (\$80-120)
- 10 buckets (\$40-\$60 total)
- 20-25 bags of soil (\$100-\$175 total)

This brings the estimated total to approximately \$220-\$355.

I would be more than happy to personally cover or donate additional materials such as seeds, watering supplies, and to take full responsibility for maintaining the garden throughout the season.

Maintenance would consist of regular watering trimming back plants and cleaning up area, which is all things that I'm confident I can handle.

Thank you again for your time and consideration. I would love the opportunity to help bring a small, positive community space like this to life.

Sincerely,
Lena Colon

Pictured below are ideas for locations and materials.

On Thu, Mar 19, 2026 at 9:12 AM Michael Ganem <ganem@watertownct.org> wrote:

Thank you.

Whenever we consider ideas, the Town needs to establish a cost analysis and long-term maintenance plan, among other things.

I will share this with the Parks and Recreation Commission at its next meeting.

Michael Ganem, CPRP

Director

Office: 860-945-5246



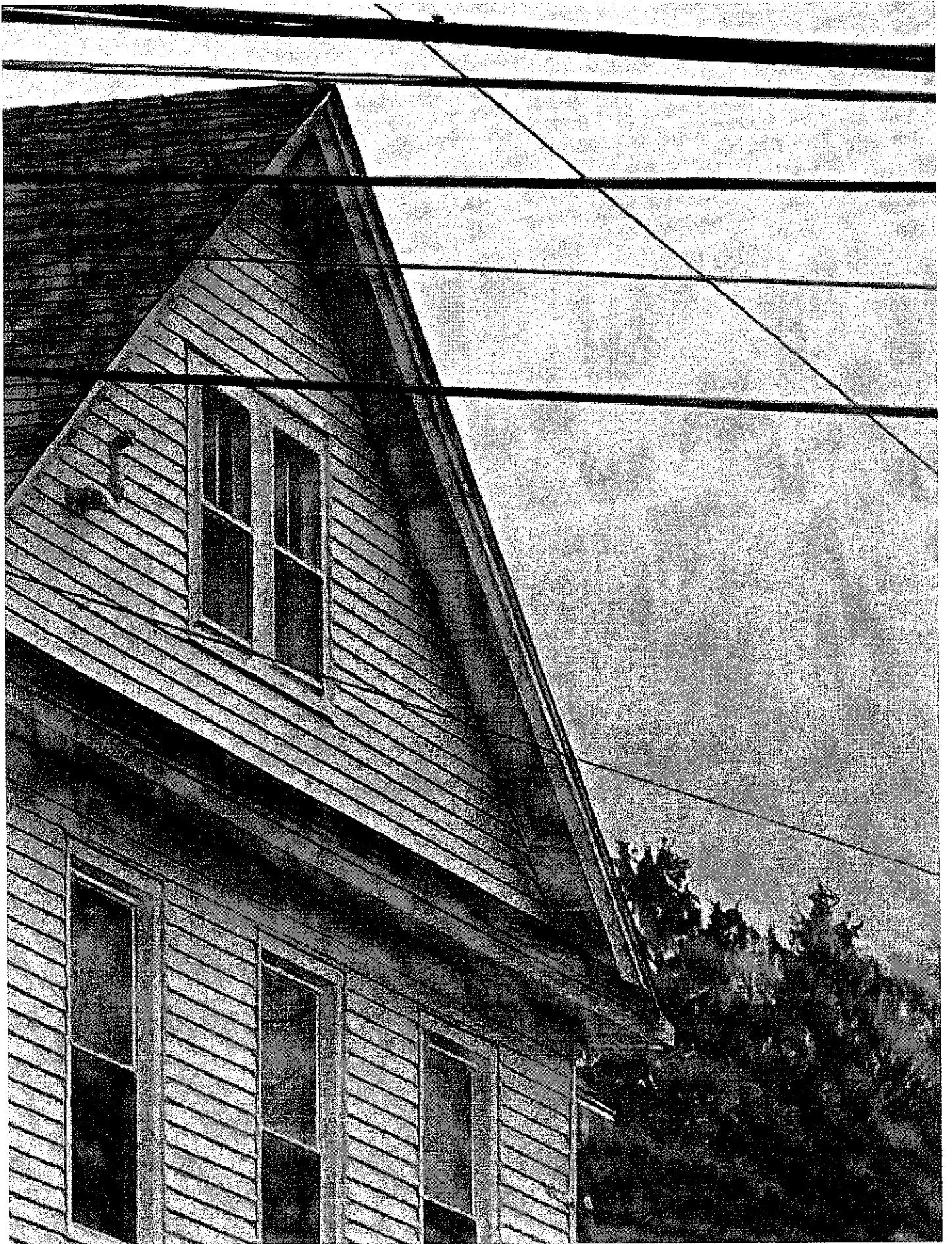
From: Lena Colon <lenamcolon@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 3:39 PM
To: Michael Ganem <ganem@watertownct.org>
Subject: Re: community garden

Hi definitely, it should be attached here.

I also see a large field around the cvs on Davis Street that might be a good location too. I would love it to be here on Main Street because it is so close and on a highly visited street but I know this location isn't ideal.

Please let me know your thoughts and if you have any better ideas for locations.

Thank you, Lena
Colon



On Wed, Mar 18, 2026 at 2:35 PM Michael Ganem <ganem@watertownct.org> wrote:

Hi,

Thank you for your interest in a community garden.

Can you please send me the picture? It was not attached.

Michael Ganem, CPRP

Director

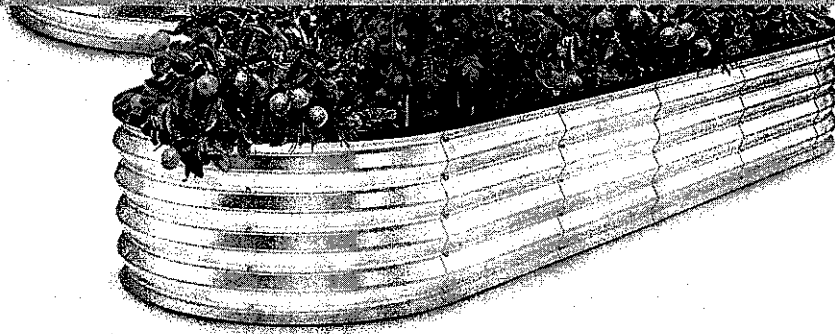
Office: 860-945-5246



11:52



Search or ask a question



▶ Hear the highlights 1:41

VIEW IN 3D

Color: **Silver**

Size: **6 Ft (Pack of 2)**



6 Ft

\$31⁹⁹

✓prime
In Stock
FREE Delivery
Tomorrow

6 Ft (Pack of 2)

\$61⁹⁹

(\$31.00 / count)

In Stock

ery

\$ **61**⁹⁹ (\$31.00 / count)
Price history

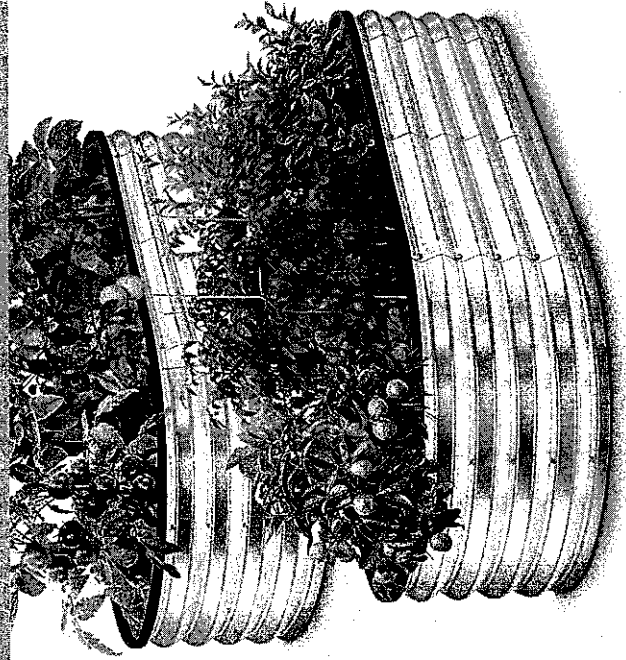
or \$15.50 (2 weeks (x4)) Select from 2 plans



11:45



Search or ask a question



Hear the highlights 1:29

VIEW IN 3D

Color: Silver

Size: 4 Ft (Pack of 2)

4 Ft (Pack of 2)

\$37⁹⁸

\$57⁹⁹

4 Ft

\$24⁹⁹

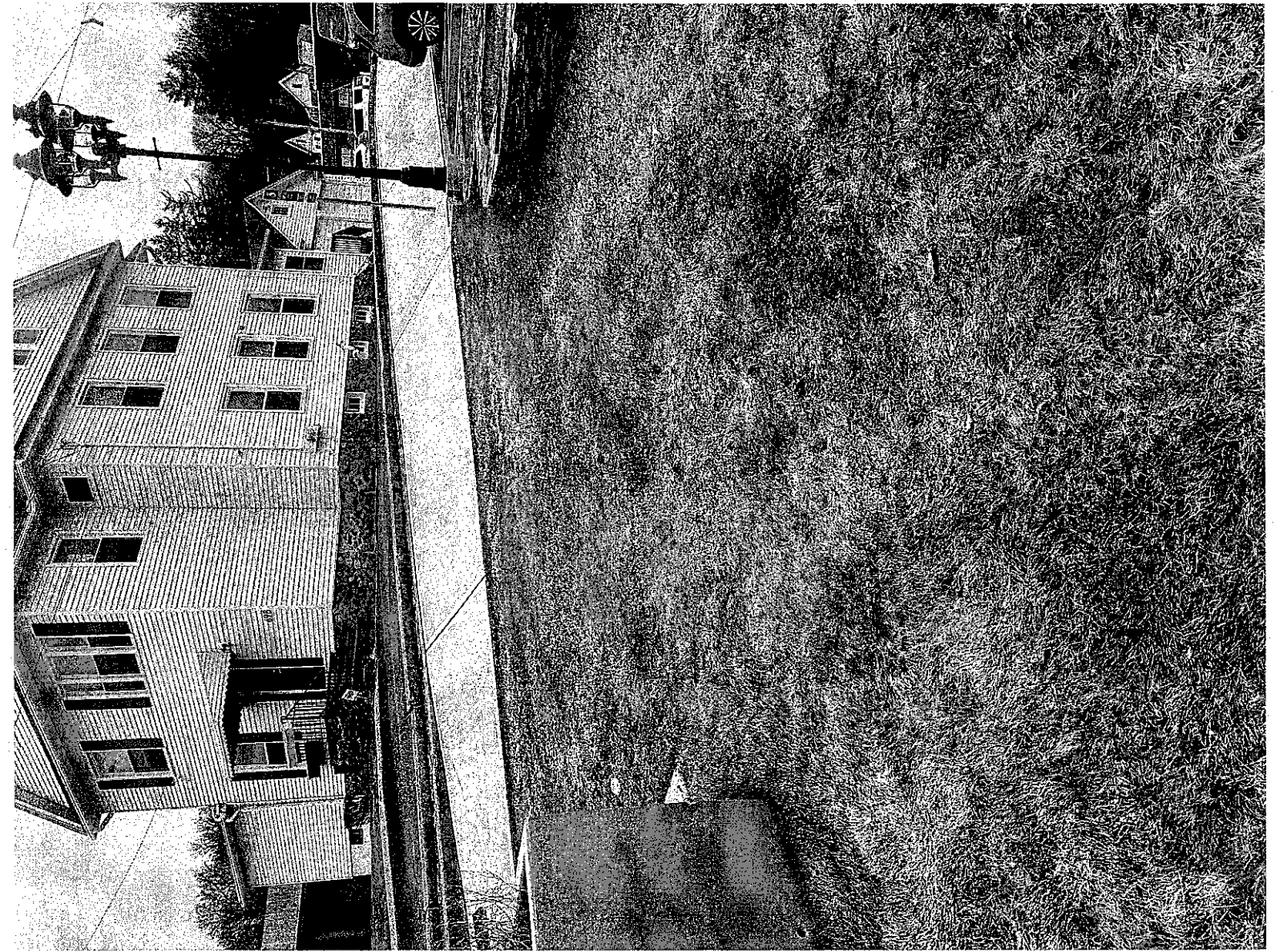
\$49⁹⁹

6 Ft

\$31⁹⁹

prime





Watertown, Town of
Date 3/1/2026
Fund Name The Staver Fund

March 1, 2026
Description 037082 - for maintenance and improvement of
Check No. 2328
Amount 104,779.59

Total: 104,779.59

CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

48 FIELD ST
WATERBURY, CT 06702

PAY TO THE ORDER OF ONE HUNDRED FOUR THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY-ONE AND 59/100 US DOLLARS
March 1, 2026

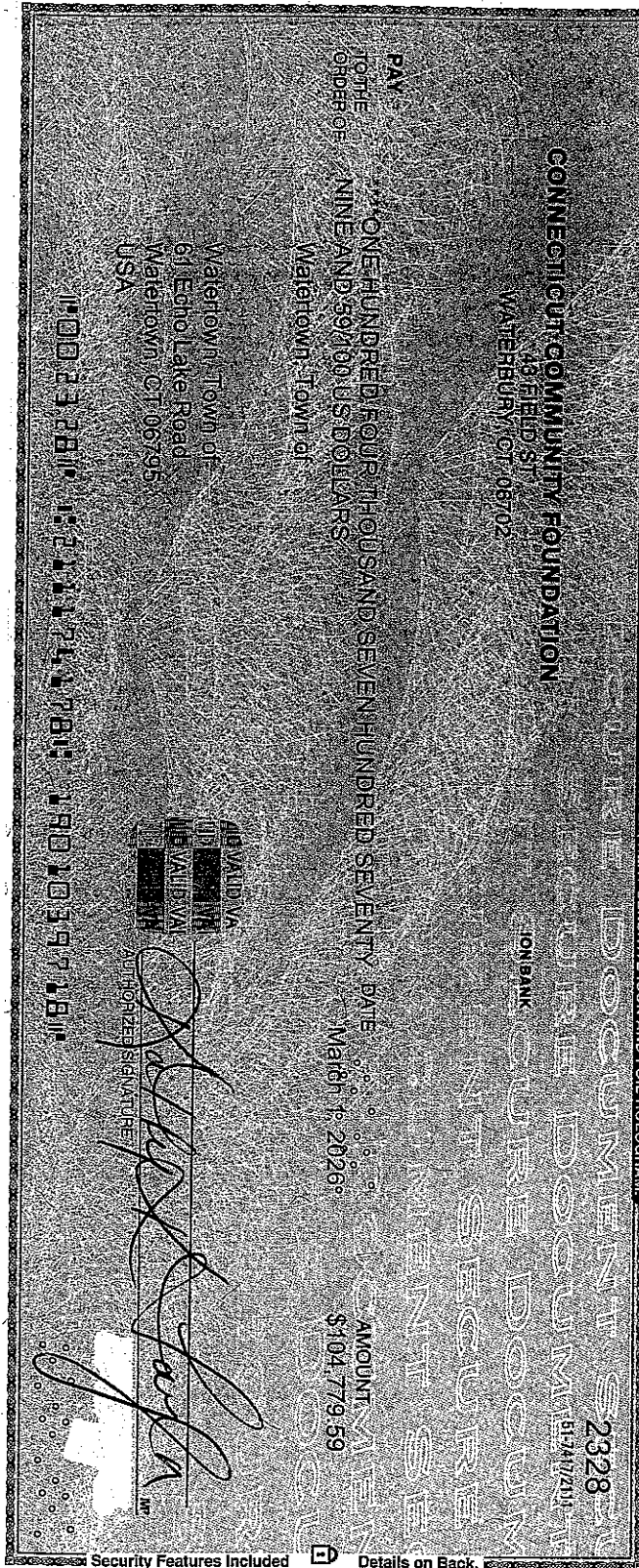
AMOUNT \$104,779.59

Watertown, Town of
60 Echo Lake Road
Watertown, CT 06795
USA

ALL VALID IN
CT
VT
NH
MA
RI
ME
NH
VT
MA
RI
ME

[Signature]
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

⑆00000 232800⑆ ⑆02111⑆ ⑆0397⑆ ⑆00⑆



TO: Robert M. Scannell, Town Manager

FROM: Lisa L. Carew, Parks and Recreation Director

DATE: January 28, 2019

RE: Connecticut Communities Foundation Endowment – Mr. John Staver

On Thursday, January 24th I was telephone interviewed by Carol Buckheit, Director of Communications with the Connecticut Community Foundation, regarding the endowment left by the late John (Jack) Staver, 103 Middlebury Road, Watertown to the Parks and Recreation Department. Chairman Bill Donston of the Parks and Recreation Commission was also present.

The Connecticut Communities Foundation is the custodian of the trust account. They will be making the official announcement of Jack's endowment during the second or third week of February. Mr. Staver also left endowments to the Waterbury YMCA and other organizations. Our portion is the largest. According to Ms. Buckheit it was Jack's wish to announce his endowment in a very public manner and requested that the official announcement be made by the foundation.

Jack's endowment to the Watertown Parks and Recreation Department is \$2,000,000.00 (two million dollars). The Department will receive, in perpetuity, the interest from the \$2,000,000.00. It has been estimated the first annual installment in 2020 will be approximately \$30,000. After the first year the amount will be between \$65,000 to 70,000 annually.

Jack had been an instructor of "55 Alive" adult driving classes. He was the Town's first Recycling Coordinator. He used the Parks and Recreation services but he was most especially fond of the tennis courts at Crestbrook Park. Jack used to play tennis there almost every day and this all started because of a park bench.

Obviously this is a great time for the Town. Jack's legacy presents an incredible opportunity for the Parks and Recreation Department and ultimately all the citizens of our wonderful community. I feel as though we hit the lottery.

I will keep you informed as I receive additional information. Thank you for your time and concern.

Cc: Town Attorney Paul Jessell
Watertown Parks and Recreation Commission



WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT

PARKS, RECREATION, SENIOR, & SOCIAL SERVICES

61 ECHO LAKE ROAD WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT 06795-2629
MAIN OFFICE (860) 945- 5246 FAX (860) 945- 4734

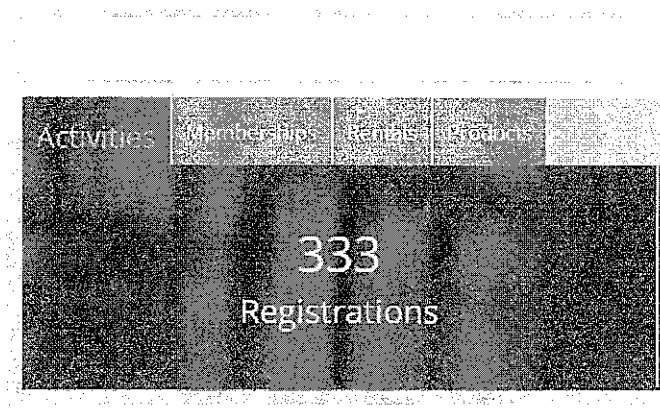


AGENDA

Date: 4-2-26

Number: VIB

March 2026 MONTHLY REPORT



Myrec 3/01/2026-3/31/2026

Recreation:

- Winter programs are coming to an end, and spring programs have officially begun. Current offerings include: Women's Self-Defense, Adult Art Class, Babysitting Course, Kids' Play; Parents Away, Red Cross Lifeguarding Course, Safe Boating Course, Volleyball Clinics, Sewing Class, Spring Saddle Up, Mad Science, and Zumba.
- All after-school programs continue to be very successful. Many of these classes are led by Watertown teachers, who consistently do a fantastic job.
- This marked the fifth year of hosting tournaments for our In-Town Basketball teams. The events were well received by players, coaches, and parents, and added a fun, competitive element to the season. Trophies were awarded to winning teams in each age group, and all participants received certificates.
- Two of our four travel basketball teams were crowned league champions, and another team finished as runner-up. Congratulations to all of our players in Grades 6-8 on a great season.
- Swim lessons began on Saturday, March 14, with most levels reaching full capacity. Colleen and the instructional staff continue to do an excellent job working with the participants.
- The 13th Annual Shamrock Shuffle was held on March 14 and was another great success. Over 600 participants registered for the mini and main races. Medals and prizes were awarded, and packet pickup on Friday, March 13 ran smoothly with the continued use of our check-in app.

- Our 5th Annual “Egg My House” event was a huge success. Families received a kit that included a visit from the Easter Bunny (with a photo opportunity using their own camera), 15 toy-filled eggs, a pencil, a stuffed animal, and an Easter craft. Deliveries took place on Sunday, March 28 for Watertown/Oakville residents. With a record 40 participants, this program continues to grow in popularity.
- Starfish Swim Lessons also began on Saturday, March 28, with both classes filled to capacity.
- On Sunday, March 29, we assisted with the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans event at Oakville Green at 12:00 PM.
- The Summer Activities Guide was made available online on Monday, March 30. Promotional flyers for upcoming programs will continue to be distributed throughout the season. We are excited to offer a wide variety of summer camps, including full-day, half-day, specialty, sports, exercise, and dance camps.
- With the arrival of spring, we are seeing an increase in residents visiting the office to purchase Crestbrook Golf Course season passes.
- Summer job applications are due April 1 for applicants who will be 16 years old by June 1.

Crestbrook Park- Concept 1
Watertown, Connecticut
Prepared For: Town of Watertown
SLR # 11452.00033

March 15, 2026

ORDER OF MAGNITUDE OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COSTS		
	DESIGN ELEMENT	COST
	SITE PREPARATION	\$ 198,000
1	Gen. Conditions, S&E, mobilization, staking, temp construction fencing, clearing & grubbing)	\$ 186,000
2	Remove Existing Fence & Gates	\$ 7,000
3	Remove Existing Gazebo	\$ 2,500
4	Remove Existing Playground	\$ 2,500
	ATHLETIC COURTS	\$ 1,355,000
5	Tennis Court- Full Size Post Tensioned Concrete	\$ 1,140,000
6	Pickleball Court- Full Size Post Tensioned Concrete	\$ 200,000
7	Nets and Posts	\$ 15,000
	SITE FENCING	\$ 209,000
8	10' HT. Chain Link Fence	\$ 160,000
9	7' HT. Double Swing Gate	\$ 6,000
10	7' HT. Single Swing Gate (4' wide)	\$ 8,000
11	Concrete Curbing	\$ 35,000
	PAVEMENTS	\$ 158,000
12	Concrete Walk	\$ 94,000
13	Bituminous Concrete-Full Depth	\$ 6,000
14	Bituminous Concrete Curb	\$ 3,000
16	Concrete Stairs with Handrails	\$ 30,000
17	Concrete Accessible Ramp with Handrails- 30' Run	\$ 25,000
	SITE IMPROVEMENTS	\$ 116,000
18	Bench	\$ 4,000
19	3 Row Aluminum Bleachers	\$ 11,000
20	Stainless Steel Bollards	\$ 8,000
21	20'x10' Shade Structure	\$ 30,000
22	Concrete Retaining Wall	\$ 15,000
23	Lawn Restoration	\$ 48,000
ST	Sub-Total	\$ 2,036,000
CONT	Contingency on Subtotal	\$ 409,000
T	Total Cost (Subtotal, CONT, To the nearest 1,000)	\$ 2,451,000

General Notes:

1. Costs above are based upon best available information from recent projects, and should be considered for planning purposes only.
2. Quantities and items are based on a conceptual plan.
3. Soft costs are not included.

AGENDA

Show Buffers

Date: 4-2-24 # Hours

Date(s)

Times

Location

Saturday June 20, 2026

4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Veterans Memorial Park

Number: VIII A 4.00

Total Hours 4.00

Contact Information

Name
Stephanie Varrone

Email
realtysteph@aol.com

Phone
(203) 232-8103

Street Address
101 JASON AVE

Address Line 2

City
WATERTOWN

State
CT

Zip Code
06795

Country
US

Additional Info

Food Truck (Frankies or Pizza)

Purpose of Reservation
High School Graduation Party

Head Count
60

Staff Notes

[Add/Edit Staff Notes](#)

Last Modified on 3/26/2026 12:38:28 PM ET by Stephanie Varrone | Created on 3/26/2026 12:38:28 PM ET by Stephanie Varrone

Questions

Are fees being charged? If yes, how much?

No

Are you a Resident or Non-Resident?

Resident

Is event open to the public?

No

Please bring (2) trash cans with bags in with you, trash can be disposed of in the nearby dumpster, I acknowledge I will bring out what I bring in

Yes

Type of function?

Private Party

Under which category do you fall?

Private/Individual

What is the expiration date listed on your Drivers License?

12/10/2031

What is your Drivers License Number?

126233849

What State is your Driver License Issued?

CT

Jessica Modeen

From: Stephanie Varrone <realtysteph@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2026 8:23 AM
To: Jessica Modeen
Subject: Re: Reservation request

Jessica,

You are going to be so sick of me (if not already) I spoke with Michelle at Frankies and she said to put:

Frankies Catering
464 Reidville Drive
Waterbury CT 06705
(203) 982-9156 - Michelle

Stephanie Varrone

On Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 03:18:37 PM EDT, Jessica Modeen <modeen@watertownct.org> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

Can you please provide their address and contact information?

Thank you,
Jessica Modeen
Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 26, 2026, at 3:16 PM, Stephanie Varrone <realtysteph@aol.com> wrote:

Hi Jessica,

I just spoke with and confirmed the pizza truck.

It is Little Italy Pizza Truck out of Ansonia, CT.

What more do you need from me?

Stephanie Varrone

On Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 01:17:42 PM EDT, Jessica Modeen <modeen@watertownct.org> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

I just want to confirm that you still would like this date, I received notice that you declined. If you would like a food truck, you would need to send an email with the vendor you intend to

use. For there, it will go to the Parks & Recreation Commission. They meet the first Thursday of every month, so the next meeting is Thursday April 2, 2026. If you are still interested in this date please submit the food truck request prior to Monday March 30, 2026, so it can go on the agenda for the Commission Thursday. Once the food truck is approved, the date you requested will be reviewed. Thank you, enjoy your day!

Jessica Modeen

Town of Watertown
Parks & Recreation
(860)945-5246
<image001.png>

<image001.png>