

WILLINGBORO COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

FALL ISSUE 2021

VOL. 1 ISSUE 4

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FALL LOVE IN WITH WILLINGBORO



**SPECIAL THANKS TO THE
WILLINGBORO PUBLIC LIBRARY**





MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR AND TOWNSHIP MANAGER

Fall in Love With ONE WILLINGBORO!

While some fall in and out of love with Willingboro, I grew to love Willingboro from a distance for what it is and even more for what it will become. It is my love for the potential in our community that led me to seek elected office and pour the same passion and commitment I demonstrated in my professional career in my own community. The love I have for Willingboro compels me to keep moving forward and to move our community forward.



Dr. Tiffani A. Worthy
Mayor

As a community we are transforming individually and collectively to create the Willingboro we all desire. And, I appreciate the trust and confidence from my Council colleagues as I led us through the creation of our strategic plan, thoughtful capital planning processes, and intentional economic development commitments to establish a sound foundation to build upon. Our inaugural Juneteenth festival in Millcreek Park, Unity in the Community series, and collaborative approach amongst our residents, businesses, religious leaders, Willingboro School District, and Willingboro Municipal Utilities Authority, reopened lines of communication and established an expectation of inclusive planning and communication to support the premise that we are One Willingboro.

The residents of Willingboro are the heart and soul of our community. Hearing your concerns and proposed solutions at Township Council Meetings, reading your email correspondence and letters, and hearing your voices in passionate voicemails demonstrate your love for Willingboro and your commitment to continue moving Willingboro forward.

It is an act of love serving our community with purpose and intention for such a time as this.



Walter N. Howard
Township Manager

As we move toward a stronger and more cohesive community, the Willingboro Township staff is pleased to work alongside the Township Council to bring our newly adopted Strategic Plan to life and exhibit a community where families can grow, children can learn, and businesses can thrive. We appreciate the vision of the Council and look forward to an opportunity to execute the plan.

The five guiding principles are centered around the word "POWER" and underscores the power of our residents as individuals and the power of our community when we work together. POWER represents:

- P** - Public safety and wellness for all
- O** - Optimize financial strategies for stability and growth
- W** - Well-connected, educated community
- E** - Economic development and vitality
- R** - Reliable and forward-looking infrastructure and facilities.

Our vision is to be a vibrant community that honors its history, fosters community pride, celebrates diversity, and encourages healthy relationships with our neighbors. Our mission is to provide a desirable and resilient neighborhood for residents, businesses and visitors and ensure long-term growth and economic development

Our Values are centered on getting "Back to BASICS"!

**Betterment Accountability Service
Integrity Collaboration Success**

We value being members of a team that achieves its goals and exceeds expectations. During the execution of the 2016 - 2026 Strategic Plan, it our hope that residents will see the growth in our community, the commitment of our team, our drive to succeed, and our passion to position our Willingboro to be a source of purpose, prosperity, and pride.



THE HISTORY OF WILLINGBORO TOWNSHIP

The original inhabitants of Willingboro and the surrounding area were the Lenape, a major Algonquin Native American tribe that once occupied all present-day New Jersey, Delaware, and eastern Pennsylvania. However, during the early 17th century, Dutch and Swedish traders began to travel and settle in southern New Jersey. In 1677, a group of English Quakers founded the city of Burlington. This was the beginning of colonization of the Delaware Valley area. William Penn and other members of the Society of Friends, an organization founded by Quakers, purchased this territory called West Jersey. West Jersey included the lower half of New Jersey, including the entire Delaware River East bank to the New York state line.

During the 1600s, Thomas Olive, a Quaker and one of many English commissioners appointed to acquire land from the Lenape, purchased property along the Rancocas Creek. He named the acreage Wellingborough after his birthplace in England. In 1688, Wellingborough was incorporated making it one of the original Townships of Burlington County. The Township extended West to the Delaware River and included present-day Beverly, Edgewater Park, Delanco Township and Rancocas Village.

Until the 1950s, agriculture was the major industry of the fledgling Township. The 1830 census reported 782 people, 269 cattle and 176 horses and mules. The predominant crops were cantaloupes, corn, and peaches. Furthermore, because Wellingborough Township extended to the Delaware River, many Philadelphians had built homes in the Township by the 1850s. They comprised the majority of the Township's inhabitants and exercised considerable influence in Township matters. This proved to be a challenge for long-time inhabitants of Wellingborough; thus in 1859, the township was divided. Wellingborough was reduced to approximately its present size, and included the Rancocas Village, while all land west of the present-day Route 130 became Beverly City.

Over the next 60 years, Wellingborough's average population was less than 700 people. The Township erected a one-room brick schoolhouse in 1855 to educate the children of the Township, which remained in use through the early part of the 20th century. The Little Red School House is on the grounds of the Municipal Complex. In 1964, it was dedicated as a historical museum for the display of the Township's historical artifacts.

The Township remained a quiet agricultural community throughout World War I, the Great Depression, and World War II. However, post-World War II development would change Wellingborough forever.

In 1954, William Levitt of Levitt & Sons, a leading residential developmental firm, purchased land for new development. His objective was to build a town wherein people would have few distractions and be able to focus on their families. In effect, Levitt built a residential community with a few jobs and little commercial property; thereby building a town whose survival would largely depend on property taxes.

Before setting his sights on Wellingborough, Levitt developed similar projects in Long Island, New York, and Bucks County, Pennsylvania. The Wellingborough project, however, had distinct advantages that Levitt's previous developments did not. Wellingborough had little previous development, which meant there were fewer pre-existent zoning laws and regulations, and that Levitt could exercise creative freedom. Just as important was the fact that timing and funding were on Levitt's side. Through many low-interest loan programs and housing subsidies, the federal government was working to remedy the national housing shortage, which was being exacerbated by the return of World War II veterans.

By 1956, Levitt acquired 90 percent of the Township, and from this point onward was embroiled in a number of social and political upheavals. First, despite the dissent among many original (pre-Levitt) residents, the boundaries of the Township were redrawn in 1956, by an Act of New Jersey State Legislature. This act allowed the Township of Westampton to annex the village of Rancocas. This maneuver freed Levitt from political and legal rappings that he would have had to deal with because the original boundaries of his properties were in multiple Townships. With this obstacle behind him, Levitt was free to develop Wellingborough in whatever manner he chose. He proceeded by planning eleven parks with approximately 1,200 homes each. As a part of his plan, he built neighborhoods with mixed-value housing and donated an elementary school and public swimming pool to each park. Second, Levitt refused to sell property to African Americans, a common practice in Pennsylvania and New York developments. In 1958, W.R. James, an African American and an active army officer, was denied the opportunity to purchase one of Levitt's homes.

This resulted in a battle that ended only when the New Jersey State Supreme Court ruled against Levitt & Sons and the US Supreme Court refused to hear its appeal. In 2001, an elementary school was renamed in honor of W.R. James who died in 2016.

In 1959, the Township, by referendum, changed its name to Levittown. The change was desirable to Levitt & Sons because it bolstered the firm's image and the Levittown concept. Again, in 1962, the name was changed: Levittown became Willingboro. This name change sparked a series of event that eventually led to Levitt & Sons leaving Willingboro, New Jersey, before his plan was completed. Another developer completed the development of the Township.

In the years following Levitt & Son's exodus from Willingboro, the community has remained the same in many respects and changed in others. Willingboro has continued to attract middle-class citizens, sustain quality, affordable housing, and provide the safety and security necessary to raise a family.



On the other hand, like countless other American communities, Willingboro has watched its population mature and adjust ed the services it provides to meet the needs of its changing citizenry. Likewise, Willingboro has encountered many challenges, a result of being a planned community without a substantial economic engine. Nevertheless, Willingboro, through the vision of its Township Council and staff, is in the midst of a community and economic renaissance. Since the late 1990s, the Township has been successful in developing relationships with various businesses and community organizations and is well on its way to another chapter in its rich and complex history.

WILLINGBORO

- **1677** The Lenape sell land in what is now Burlington City, to Quaker Commissioners. The price is six match coats, guns, hatchets, hoses and kettles.
- **1682** Thomas Olive becomes the first colonist in what will become known as Willingboro. He names the town Wellingborough.
- **1684** Thomas Olive appointed Deputy Governor of West Jersey.
- **1688** The Constabulary of Wellingborrow is established by the Colonial Governor.
- **1692** The first toll bridge in New Jersey is built in Willingboro.
- **1770** Sir William Franklin, the last British Royal Governor, established a summer mansion and deer park in Willingboro. It was located at the present day intersection of John F. Kennedy Way and Beverly Rancocas Road.
- **1798** The township received a new charter of incorporation from the State of New Jersey.
- **1823** The first steamship in southern New Jersey, the Norristown, begins to ply the Rancocas Creek.
- **1830** Population 782
- **1832** Population 121
- **1834** The Camden and Amboy railroad lays tracks though the township.
- **1838** First Post Office established in the township.
- **1844** Population 900, There are four stores in the township.
- **1859** The township is divided. All land west of Route 130 is incorporated as Beverly Township.
- **1860** Population 643
- **1910** Population 562
- **1940** Population 642
- **1950** Population 852
- **1954** William Levitt and Sons acquire land in the township.
- **1958** The first Levitt-built house is occupied; it is located at 51 Sussex Drive; J. Cresswell Stuart School opens in Somerset Park. The Burlington County Times publishes its first issue from its offices in Willingboro. Herbert J.Gans moves to town and begins work on the Levitt owners.
- **1959** Residents vote to change the name of the township to Levittown; Bookbinder School in Buckingham Park opens. Willingboro Plaza opens for business. St. Paul's Methodist Church is consecrated. It is the first Church to be built-in modern-day Willingboro. The Water and Sewer plant is dedicated. The first super-market is dedicated at the Plaza it is a 35,000 square foot building.
- **1960** Population 11,861. Township votes to adopt the Council – Manager form of government; The Millbrook Park and Pennypacker Park Schools open. The Levittown Junior and Senior High School Opens. The Willingboro Free Public Library, Willingboro Fire Company No. 1 and the Willingboro Emergency squad are established. American Home Magazine names the colonial style house built by Levitt in Willingboro as the best home for the money. Westinghouse Corporation uses Willingboro, " the picture of everyday American Family Life, " as the backdrop for its advertising campaign.
- **1961** Rancocas Hospital formally dedicated; The Township's first traffic light is installed at the intersection. Levitt Parkway and Sunset Road.
- **1962** The first Town Council is seated, and a township manager is hired. Public School enrollment is 5,434 children. There are 7,100 registered voters. Members of the Township Council vote down a proposal to consolidate the Township with Burlington Township. The Hawthorne Park and Windsor Park Schools open.
- **1963** Residents vote to change the name of the township to Willingboro. Residents vote for fluoridation of the water supply.
- **1964** The Industrial Park gets its first tenant. The Little Red School House is dedicated as the township historical museum. Windsor Park School became Country Club Ridge. School. The Willingboro Art Alliance is established.
- **1965** John F. Kennedy School opens.
- **1965** Construction begins on the 18-hole, Rancocas Golf Course on 130 acres of land in Country Club Ridge Park.



QUICK FACTS



- **1966** Construction of Rittenhouse Park begins. John F. Kennedy High School is formally de-dicated by New Jersey Governor Richard J. Hughes during a snowstorm in January. Garfield Park North and Willingboro Memorial Junior High School open.
- **1967** The Municipal Complex, housing the Library, Administrative Offices and the Police is dedicated. Levitt and Sons begins construction of Broido Park in Twin Hills Park.
- **1968** Construction of the Emergency Service building on Charleston Road begins. Construction of the Kennedy Shopping Center begins.
- **1969** Broido Park, Garfield Park East and Martin Luther King, Jr. Schools open.
- **1970** Population 43,236. Baldwin Tot Lot opens. The Township acquires the land to build Mill Creek Park. Concert series in Broido Park begins.
- **1971** The first Willingboro International Festival is held. Fairmount Park construction is completed. Twin Hill Park School opens.
- **1972** Levitt and Sons donate Crystal Lake to the township. A one-acre tract of land in Garfield Park is also donated by Levitt. It contains a 300-year-old beech tree. The tree is the second largest beech in the United States. It has a circumference of 4 feet, 4 inches. Route 295 is extended and an interchange is built at Beverly-Rancocas Road.
- **1973** Construction starts on Willingboro High School. The Village Mall and the East Ridge shopping center opens. Peggy Shirk designs the Township Seal. States-man Park construction completed. It is the fourteenth park to be built. Fairmont Park and Sportsman's Field are opened. Mill Creek Park is formally dedicated.
- **1975** Willingboro High School opened.
- **1976** First Funday in the Park held.
- **1980** Population 39,912; the Patenaude Senior Center opens its doors.
- **1982** First Jazz Festival Held.
- **1983** The Willingboro Police Department in partnership with F.O.P Lodge 38 establishes a Law Enforcement Explorer Post. The Emergency Squad forms an auxiliary unit to assist with fund raising efforts.
- **1984** Willingboro begins its curbside recycling program. The Council establishes the Town Achievement Award Program.
- **1988** Willingboro celebrates its tercentennial; Three hundred trees are planted to commemorate the tercentennial.
- **1990** Population 36,291. A mural depicting Willingboro's history is installed at the Municipal Complex, by the Historical Society and the Tercentennial Commission.
- **1996** The township's Environmental Commission is awarded a Two million dollar green acres grant and loan for the acquisition of Olympia Lakes.



HISTORIC PEOPLE & PLACES

IN WILLINGBORO



Some 20,000 people came to the Levittown shopping plaza (later called the Willingboro Plaza) on October 16, 1960, to see Democratic presidential candidate Senator John F. Kennedy. The day was special for Connie O'Connor, a 12 year old from Mount Holly who was chairperson of the Burlington County Junior Citizens for Kennedy.



Long before the Europeans came to the New World, Native Americans inhabited the land. In New Jersey, they were the Lenapee Indians, part of the Algonquin nation. In 1677, a group of Quakers purchased from the Lenapee the land that came to include Willingboro, reportedly for six match coats, guns, hatchet, holes, and kettles. Although it is difficult to say just how the Quakers and Lenapee interacted, this depiction from Waterloo Village State Park gives us an idea.



One of Willingboro's most famous residents lives in the Garfield Park neighborhood but it is not a person. It is a 300 year old beech tree with a circumference of 14 feet and 4 inches. Township leaders contend that it is the second largest beech tree in the United States. A drawing of the tree is featured on the township's seal.



The FUTURO HOUSE conceived by Matti Suuronen in 1968 as a "portable" ski chalet. It is an iconic piece of architecture. The unit was relocated to Mill Creek Park, having been moved there from the Village Mall in November 1975. It was used as a bank "The City Federal Savings and Loan Bank."



Reverend Willie James was a soldier at the nearby Fort Dix, looking for a place to settle down. When he went to buy one of Levitt & Sons' new homes, he was flatly turned down. William Levitt's housing development were segregated, and the deeds stated that the homes would not be sold to blacks. With the encouragement of the US attorneys, Reverend James sued. The US Supreme Court ruled in his favor, forcing Levitt to open Willingboro and his other communities to minorities. Reverend James, who headed the local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People chapter, is seen here speaking to a crowd in 1969.



Willingboro's most famous resident was William Franklin, son of Benjamin Franklin and the last royal governor of New Jersey. William Franklin owned a Georgina-style country house and more than 500 acres of farm, gardens, and wood populated with deer from 1770 to 1785. Colonial revolutionaries arrested him in June 1776, and he died in England in 1813.



The one room school house on Salem Road. The building was constructed in 1866 at a cost of \$995 and is now a national historic landmark.



St. Luke's Lutheran Church, at the intersection of Levitt Parkway and Salem Road, was one of the original churches built in the new town.



WILLINGBORO'S PAST & PRESENT

MAYORS

Willingboro has a Council-Manager form of government under the Faulkner Act. The Council members decide among themselves who will serve as Mayor. In addition to serving as a the political leader for the Township, the Mayor also participates in and attends other numerous civil activities.

1972 - Paul Krane

1973 - William J. Kearns, Jr.

1974 - Barbara J. Kalik

1975 - Paul Krane

1976 - William T. McGrath

1977 - Barbara J. Kalik

1978 - William J. Kearns Jr.

1979 - Paul Krane

1980 - Marie White Bell

1981 - Frank B. Quinn

1982 - James E. Ayrer

1983 - Paul Krane

1984 - Priscilla B. Anderson

1985 - James E. Ayrer

1986 - Doreatha D. Campbell

1987 - Paul Krane

1988 - James E. Ayrer

1989 - Paul L. Stephenson

1990 - Doreatha D. Campbell

1991 - Priscilla B. Anderson

1992 - Paul Krane

1993 - Paul L. Stephenson

1994 - Doreatha D. Campbell

1995 - Paul Krane

1996 - Jeffrey E. Ramsey

1997 - Paul L. Stephenson

1998 - Doreatha D. Campbell

1999 - Lavonne B. Johnson

2000 - Jeffrey E. Ramsey

2001 - Eddie Campbell Jr.

2002 - Paul L. Stephenson

2003 - Paul L. Stephenson

2004 - Eddie Campbell, Jr.

2005 - Eddie Campbell, Jr.

2006 - Jeffrey E. Ramsey

2007 - Jeffrey E. Ramsey

2008 - Jacqueline Jennings

2009 - Jacqueline Jennings

2010 - Eddie Campbell, Jr.

2011 - Eddie Campbell, Jr.

2012 - Jacqueline Jennings

2013 - Jacqueline Jennings

2014 - Eddie Campbell, Jr.

2015 - Eddie Campbell, Jr.

2016 - Nathaniel Anderson

2017 - Christopher Walker

2018 - Darvis Holley

2019 - Martin Nock

2020 - Dr. Tiffani A. Worthy

2021 - Dr. Tiffani A. Worthy



WILLINGBORO HISTORY MAKERS



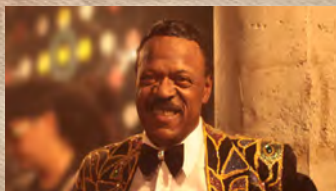
Reverend Willie R. James

His lawsuit resulted in overturning race restrictive covenants for Willingboro.



Adam Blackstone

A multi-faceted bass player, musician, Emmy nominated Music Director and Grammy Award winning writer.



Wilbert Hart

Singer, songwriter, and Producer original Cofounder of the Legendary Delfonics.



Carl Lewis

Olympic Medalist; Track and Field Athlete who won 20 world championship medals including 9 Olympic gold medals and one silver medal.



Gary Dourdan

Movie and Television Actor- portrayed Warrick Brown in television series, CSI



James A. Cotten
Tuskegee Airman



Roscoe J. Dubney
Tuskegee Airman



Ryan Toby

Soul Singer



Claudia Ortiz

R & B Singer



Robbie Pardlo

R & B Singer



Formerly Known as City High



Tye Tribbett

Gospel Music Singer, Songwriter, and Keyboardist



Stephen Hill

Actor, plays role of Theodore Calvin on Magnum P.I.



WORDS ABOUT THE BORO

Staff Members Share Why They Fell in Love With Willingboro



Dionne Bolden
Department of Recreation and Parks

One thing I have always loved about Willingboro is the sense of community and the family environment. I have been a resident since the eighties, and I love our town. While things have evolved over the years, Willingboro continues to be a great place to live. It has always been a place rich with resources. Resources such as the library, homeowner resources and community activities have proven helpful to me and my family. I appreciated always being kept in the loop about what was going on in the town. I remember when we would receive a newsletter that came directly to our home. It always included a listing of adult and youth-based activities that was helpful in identifying activities for me and my family.

One of my favorite moments was enjoying the fireworks on the 4th of July at Millcreek Park. I remember parking on the side streets of Penny packer and making my way to the park with my kids to make sure we had a chance to see the fireworks. I also enjoyed the Township parades! We used to have a 4th of July parade. We not only enjoyed seeing them- but we also enjoyed participating along with the other great organizations, youth groups and auxiliaries who were part of the parade. It gave us all a profound sense of pride in the community.



Loretta Anderson
Human Resources

As a Willingboro resident for over 25 years, I enjoyed the opportunity to move to a place that was progressive and raise our children during their early and teenage years. We relocated here because it was known, and we were confident that Willingboro was a wonderful place to live for our children in their development as young adults.

Raising our children here in the early nineties was an enjoyable experience. The community atmosphere and the availability of a plethora of activities for young people to do, helped build their social skills and develop their talents.

I loved that Willingboro kept all children engaged and provided a safe place for them to learn and play.

My family moved here in 1966. My parents had my siblings here. I grew up here in the school system and I too had my child here. I eventually moved away but came back every year to visit because I loved the environment here.

I loved the people and especially the places to shop. There was always something to do here and somebody always had a great get together at the park with grills barbecuing. I knew all the shopping places and the good places to eat.

A memorable moment was Friday paydays when my parents would take us out somewhere or would order "to go" for dinner. "Jerry and Joe's Delicatessen" was a consistent place because of their delicious hoagies.



Cheryl Fodor,
Police Department



STAY IN THE KNOW

TOWNSHIP PROGRAMS

YOUTH BALLET SATURDAYS

10 am - 11 am

COST
 \$50 / 6 WEEKS RESIDENTS
 \$75 / 6 WEEKS NON-RESIDENTS

AGES:
 5-10 BEGINNER

SEE WEBSITE FOR PROGRAM START DATES

REGISTER:
www.Willingbororec.com
 Willingboro Recreation Department
 609.877.2200 ext. 1112 / 1115

KENNEDY CENTER
 429 JOHN F. KENNEDY WAY
 WILLINGBORO, NJ 08046

COOKING, CRAFTING & YOU

WINTER EDITION

COST
 \$15 PER DAY
 \$30 ALL THREE DAYS

SATURDAY DEC. 4, 2021
SATURDAY DEC. 11, 2021
SATURDAY DEC. 18, 2021

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM

AGES: 6-10 YRS. OLD

LIMITED SPACE NO WALK-INS

YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE & TAKE WINTER CRAFTS HOME AS WELL AS SOME COOKING & TASTING ACTIVITIES.

SORRY, NO REFUNDS UNLESS PROGRAM IS CANCELLED BY WILLINGBORO RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Kennedy Center
 429 John F. Kennedy Way
 Willingboro, NJ 08046
 609.877.2200 ext. 1112, 1115

MUST PRE-REGISTER TO ATTEND THIS PROGRAM
 REGISTRATION INFO: GO TO WWW.WILLINGBOROREC.COM

WILLINGBORO TOWNSHIP
 WILLINGBORO RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT

Mocha Fitness

IN PERSON STARTS: NOVEMBER 12

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

POWER MOVES: 6:30 PM

30-MINUTE FOCUSED TOTAL BODY FUNCTIONAL STRENGTH AND RESISTANCE TRAINING FOR EVERYONE & ALL FITNESS LEVELS

DANCE - HIIT WORKOUTS: 7:00 PM
 High Intensity Interval Training

AGES: 18 & UP

COST (PER CLASS):
 \$10 RESIDENT
 \$15 NON-RESIDENT

COST (8 CLASSES):
 \$50 RESIDENT
 \$75 NON-RESIDENT

WALK-IN OPTION AVAILABLE

KENNEDY CENTER
 429 JOHN F. KENNEDY WAY
 WILLINGBORO, NJ 08046

FOR DETAILED CLASS DESCRIPTIONS AND REGISTRATION FOR CLASS: WWW.WILLINGBOROREC.COM

WILLINGBORO TOWNSHIP

TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION AND START/DATES OF THESE PROGRAMS VISIT WWW.WILLINGBOROREC.COM

INSTRUCTIONAL LINE DANCING

COST:
 \$60 / 6 WEEKS - RESIDENTS
 \$90 / 6 WEEKS - NON-RESIDENTS

WALK INS:
 \$10 - RESIDENTS
 \$15 - NON-RESIDENTS

AGES 18 & UP

KENNEDY CENTER
 429 John F. Kennedy Way
 Willingboro, NJ 08046

Willingboro Recreation Department | 609.877.2200 ext. 1112 / 1115

WILLINGBORO RECREATION DEPARTMENT

INSTRUCTOR MARK WESTON

LOCATION: Kennedy Center
 429 John F. Kennedy Way
 Willingboro, NJ 08046

AGES: 8-12 YRS OLD

CARTOONING & BASIC DRAWING

SATURDAYS

SEE WEBSITE FOR PROGRAM START DATES
REGISTER @ www.WillingboroRec.com

Cost: \$40/4 weeks Residents - \$50 Non-Residents

LEARN THE BASICS OF DRAWING AND CARTOONING. THE STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTION IN THIS CLASS WILL TEACH THE STUDENTS VALUABLE LESSONS IN HOW TO DRAW AND GIVE THEM THE TOOLS TO BEGIN TO DRAW THEIR OWN CHARACTERS!

609.877.2200 ext. 1112, 1115

SIGN UP TO RESERVE YOUR SPIN BIKE

SPIN CLASS

IRJ Fitness Enterprise, LLC
 Don't Supersize Slenderize - "Get Fit Now"

Starting Dates / Ending Dates

October 4 - November 13
 November 22 - January 1, 2022
 January 10, 2022 - February 19, 2022

Ilene R. Jones
 CERTIFIED CYCLING INSTRUCTOR

LEARN ALL THE FEATURES AND GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR WORKOUT

- Residents: \$55.00 / 6 weeks
- Non-Residents: \$83.00 / 6 weeks
- Walk-In Residents: \$10.00
- Walk-In Non-Residents: \$15.00

REGISTER @ www.WillingboroRec.com
WILLINGBORO RECREATION DEPARTMENT
 MORE INFO: 609.877.2200 ext. 1112 or 1115

Kennedy Center
 429 John F. Kennedy Way
 Willingboro, NJ 08046



IT'S HAPPENING IN THE BORO

WILLINGBORO RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS



READY TO SHOOT HOOPS?

WHO: BOYS & GIRLS AGES 5 / 6 / 7
WHAT: 8 WEEK INSTRUCTIONAL BBALL CLINIC
3 VS 3 PLAY INCLUDED

WHEN: REGISTRATION OPENS OCT. 1ST
SEASON RUNS FROM NOV - FEB
WHERE: KENNEDY CENTER - MAIN GYM
429 JOHN F. KENNEDY WAY, WILLINGBORO, NJ, 08046
COST: \$50 PP

REGISTER AT : WWW.WILLINGBOROREC.COM
For more information: 609.877.2200 EXT 1112, 1113 or 1115



WILLINGBORO RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

GAME ON!

JOIN THE LEAGUE

WHO: BOYS & GIRLS 8-16

WHAT: 8 GAMES/8 PRACTICES & PLAYOFFS

SEASON NOV - FEB 2022

WHEN: REGISTRATION OPENS OCT 1ST

WHERE: KENNEDY CENTER - MAIN GYM
429 JOHN F. KENNEDY WAY, WILLINGBORO, NJ, 08046

\$90/PP

FOR MORE INFO:
609.877.2200
EXT: 1112, 1113 OR 1115

REGISTER AT:
WWW.WILLINGBOROREC.COM




PROGRAMS AND SCHEDULES

LIBRARY EVENTS

- CHILDREN**
 - Tiny Tots Story Time**
Weds. - Oct. to Dec. - 11 am.
Every Wednesday.
 - Family Bedtime Stories**
(Pajamas Encouraged)
Thurs. - Nov. 18 - 5 pm.
- ADULT**
 - Human Voices Poetry Club**
Mon. - Nov. 22, Mon. - Dec. 20,
6 pm - 8 pm. Please call or email the library reference desk or access our events calendar to gain access to the Zoom link.
 - Food Bank of South Jersey POP-UP Mobile Pantry Program**
Tues. - Nov. 2, 16, Dec. 7, 21 - 11 am.
Pantry held outside the Library.
- TEEN**
 - Adulting 101**
Thurs. - Nov. 18 & Dec. 16 - 6 pm.
Stream the video at <https://www.facebook.com/WPLteenreads>
 - Teens Only Night @ the Library**
Fri. - Nov. 12 and Dec. 10 - 6-10 pm.
Presented by the Willingboro Township Teen Advisory Committee.
- COMPUTER CLASSES**
 - Zoom Practice**
On demand. Call or email the library reference desk to set up a practice session.

Willingboro Department On Aging
Reva Foster Senior Citizen Center
429 JFK Way, Willingboro, N.J. 08046
Reva Foster, Exec. Director
Tel: (609) 877-8444- Fax: (609) 877-1791

2021 CLASS SCHEDULES

CLASSES	DATE	TIME	PLACE
Veterans Session (NEW)	Every Friday	10:00a-11:00a	Resource Room
Seniors 9am Arthritis Exercise	Every Tuesday	9:00a-10:00a	Creative Art Room
Senior Healthy Bones Exercise	Every Thursday	9:30a - 10:30a	Exercise Room
Seniors Sit-Down Exercise	Every Tuesday & Thursday	10:30a-11:00a	Exercise Room
Seniors Low-Impact Exercise	Every Tuesday & Thursday	11:00a-11:30p	Exercise Room
Senior Martial Fitness	Every Tuesday & Thursday	11:30a-12:00p	Exercise Room
Senior Eating Smart, Live Strong (NEW)	Every Thursday (4 weeks)	12:00p-1:00p	Exercise Room
Senior Pain Management Class (NEW)	Every Friday (6 weeks)	10:30a-1:00p	Computer Room
Seniors Intro Tai Chi Class (Virtual)	Every Tuesday	10:00a-11:30a	Creative Arts Room
Evening Tai Chi Class (Veterans)	Every Monday	7:00p-8:00p	Exercise Room
	Every Wednesday	7:00p - 8:00p	Exercise Room
Senior Defense Class (NEW)	Every Thursday	5:00p-8:00p	Exercise Room
Seniors Chair Yoga	Every Monday	10:00a-11:45a	Exercise Room
Seniors Gentle Yoga	Every Wednesday	10:00a-11:45a	Exercise Room
Seniors Gentle Yoga	Every Friday	10:30a-12:00p	Exercise Room
Seniors Arthritis	Every Wednesday	2:00p-3:00p	Exercise Room
Senior Gentle Mat Yoga	Every Wednesday	3:00p-4:30p	Exercise Room
Senior Gentle Mat Yoga	Every Tuesday	3:00p-4:30p	Exercise Room
Senior Chair Yoga	Every Friday	1:00p-2:30p	Exercise Room
Senior Hatha Yoga & Meditation (NEW)	Every Monday	4:30p-6:00p	Exercise Room
Senior Hatha Yoga	Every Thursday	1:00p-2:30p	Exercise Room
Seniors Line Dancing	Every Monday /Wednesday	TBD	Exercise Room/CAR
Seniors Crochet	Every Tuesday & Thursday	10:30a-12:00p	Resource Center
Crochet Meeting	Every 2nd Tuesday	1:00p-3:00p	Resource Center
Evening Crochet Guild	Every 4th Wednesday	6:00p-8:00p	Resource Center
Senior Machine Quilting	Every Wednesday & Friday	10:00a-2:00p	Creative Arts Room
Senior BINGO	Every Friday	12:30p-2:30p	Resource Room
Senior Driver's Safety (Must Sign-up)	Twice a year	9:00a-12:00p	Computer Room
Senior Ceramics	Every Mon., Tues., Wed. & Thurs.	11:00a-3:00p	Ceramic Room
Senior Computer	Every Monday (Beginner)	10:30a-12:00p	Computer Room
	Every Wednesday (Intermediate)	10:30a-12:00p	Computer Room
	Every Thursday (Beginner)	10:30a-12:00p	Computer Room
Afternoon Computer Class	Every Thursday	1:00p-2:30p	Computer Room



OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK AS HOME VALUES INCREASE IN WILLINGBORO



During the housing boom of the late 1960s and early 1970s, Willingboro attracted many buyers because of its location, layout, and affordable prices. In 1968, a four-bedroom colonial in Willingboro sold between \$20k-\$25k. These home prices caught the attention of families stationed at the military bases and families moving from many inner cities. One of those many families during this period was my husband. His family moved from South Philadelphia in 1968 to Garfield Park. When I listen to him and his friends reminisce about their growing years, Willingboro sounded like Utopia! Willingboro offered an ideal suburban life, single-family homes with backyards, developments with sidewalks, well-manicured thoroughfares, premiere community pools, top-notch education, convenient shopping, and places of worship on every corner. Today, Willingboro still possesses many of these great qualities.

However, as a broker and realtor, I question why Willingboro's home values have not always reflected their worth. Until the last four years, Willingboro's homes have historically been lower than its neighboring towns and I believe the primary reason was appraisals. Willingboro's home values have not consistently increased at the same rate as its surrounding communities. Before the market crash in 2008, home values in Willingboro increased at a rate of 2% annually in comparison to the 7-8% annual increase in neighboring towns.

From 2004 to 2007, there was a substantial artificial increase in values as Willingboro's homeowners and new homebuyers' were victims of predatory lending and unscrupulous subprime lending. When double digit interest rates doubled homeowners' payments, payments became unaffordable, led to delinquency and foreclosure, and kick-started the housing crash in Willingboro. It has taken over ten years for the community to recover and rebuild; the sluggish rebuild resulted from low appraisal valuations where banks, appraisers, and lenders failed to recognize the steady demand for Willingboro homes and listed our homes for sale at prices dramatically less than their value.

Colonials that previously sold for \$268k were selling for \$80k and banks listed hundreds of homes at a time, which directly affected the comparable sales in the area. Appraisers began determining Willingboro's home value based on foreclosure sales and our homeowners watched in devastation as their equity disappeared overnight. In stark contrast, investors were ecstatic they could buy a home for pennies on the dollar to rent, flip, or hold; Willingboro became their cash cow. Investors purchased homes for \$80k, spent \$50k on repairs and upgrades, and sold for \$170k. As a result, investors would easily profit \$50k on a single investment property. The sale of renovated properties created a new standard for home values in Willingboro giving appraisers a new basis for determining the value of homes in Willingboro. These renovated homes attracted a new wave of homebuyers who could purchase a fully renovated home at an affordable price and Willingboro's homes quickly garnered a solid demand.

In 2017, as foreclosed homes became scarcer, appraisers were forced to recognize homebuyers' aggressive demand for Willingboro homes from waves of buyers willing and able to pay more for these homes; appraisers could no longer justify lower appraised values. Here's an example of how home values have increased over the last few years. In July 2017, the average sold price for a 4-bedroom Colonial in Willingboro was \$165k and the same home at the end of July 2021 sold for \$268k, an increase of 62.4%.

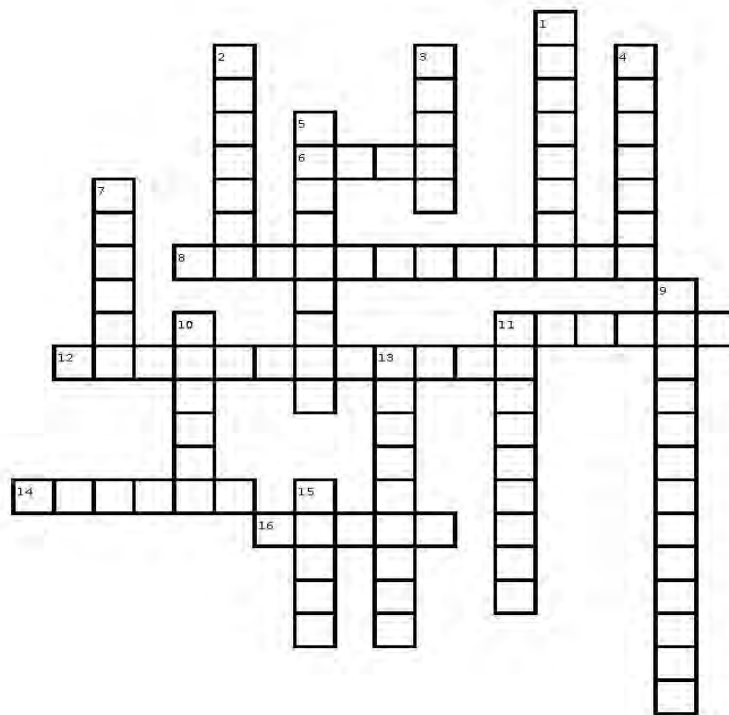
I am optimistic about Willingboro. I have been a resident for over 30 years and a business owner for 21 years. The heartbeat of Willingboro is as powerful now as it was for those families in 1968. Willingboro is a community of strength and resilience, and the town has weathered many storms whether economically and socially. And still we stand. Encouraging home ownership is vital to the continued success of Willingboro and we all should be cheerleaders and promote homeownership. Homeownership provides stability and reflects a significant accomplishment in life. Most importantly, homeownership opens the door for generational wealth for our children and grandchildren. Let's fall back in love with our town. Support it and brag about it! Willingboro is home.

Martha Lee Boyer
Broker/Owner
Imani Realty & Associates



COMMUNITY FUN

Falling in Love with Willingboro



Down:

1. Two time NFL Superbowl champion and graduate of Willingboro High School
2. Mascot for Willingboro School District and Willingboro High School
3. 1996 Olympic Games gold medalist in the men's 4x400 meter relay
4. 2021 Grammy Award winner for Happy to Be Here, Willingboro native
5. Served on Willingboro's Township Council in 1977 and 1980, including first Black female mayor, and was appointed a municipal judge
7. Willingboro native; retired Army two-star general; 1975 graduate of Kennedy High School; West Point graduate; Harvard graduate
9. Willingboro was initially formed as the Constabulary of ____
10. American record producer and rapper from Willingboro who started from the bottom
11. Township Council has consisted entirely of ____ since 1973

Across:

6. Willingboro resident, founding member of the Grammy Award winning Delfonics with the hit La-La (Means I Love You)
8. Willingboro native sworn-in as Burlington County's newest Superior Court judge
11. First person to serve in the position of Township Manager
12. Willingboro native and first Black woman to lead the nation's Medicare and Medicaid services
14. Former Tuskegee Airmen, 20 years Air Force, 45 years Civil Service, Willingboro school named in his honor
16. Sued Levitt to allow African Americans to purchase homes in Willingboro, served as head of the local chapter of the NAACP, elementary school named in his honor



DEPARTMENTAL

SNAPSHOTS



FINANCE



The Finance department enjoys the opportunity to assist employees and residents on a day-to-day basis. This opportunity to interact with employees and residents is not only pleasurable but is also fulfilling. After all, happy employees and residents make a productive workplace.

It is safe to say that everyone who owns a home or business in Willingboro will encounter the Tax department at some point. Though not everyone wants to pay taxes, it's something that must be done if you own your home or business in Willingboro. We've made it our due diligence to make the owners very comfortable with making their payments. Taxpayers are now able to pay online with credit and debit cards or checks and view upcoming payments.

We hope that our residents find this as a resourceful tool, and we hope it makes it easier for residents to process tax payments and conduct business remotely.

As a reminder, if you are a 100% disabled veteran, applications for tax exemption are available on our website.

Assisting residents with their property taxes whether it's over the phone or in person, has afforded us the opportunity to develop meaningful relationships over the course of several years. It is always our pleasure to serve the residents of Willingboro. Feel free to visit our website for frequently asked questions.



DEPARTMENTAL SNAPSHOT

POLICE

Honor, Integrity and Commitment are the core values of the Willingboro Police Department and the cornerstones of the excellent service the men and women of this police agency provides to the community. In addition to reducing crime, our goal is to also improve and enhance the quality of life in our town for ourselves and our children.

Online reporting is a resource available for many non-emergency reports and eliminates the need for residents to come to the police station. There is also a camera registration program that is beneficial in the investigation and apprehension of criminals who choose to break into vehicles and houses or engage in other illegal activity. To register cameras, residents or business owners can simply complete and submit the camera registration form online.

Recognizing the importance of building relationships with area residents, the department's Community Engagement Unit continues to hold staple programs such as the Youth Police Academy, the Citizen's Police Academy and events like the Kid's Bicycle Rodeo and Walk a Mile in My Shoes. These events provide an opportunity for community members and the police department to get to know one another, often leading to the formation of new partnerships and fresh ideas.

For more information about these opportunities and more, contact Officer Landrum at 609-877-2200, ext. 1070 or slandrum@willingboropolice.com or visit our Facebook page or www.willingboropolice.com to learn more about available services and community events.



FIRE & EMS

Protecting the people and property of Willingboro, a township we all know and love—Willingboro Fire and EMS is among the highest responding Fire departments across Burlington County. In 2020 alone, we received over 1,400 Fire incidents and over 3,500 EMS incidents.

The FIRE & EMS operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Considered a combination department (full-time and volunteer staff) for both FIRE & EMS, the department consists of full-time Fire Department Staff, Fire/EMS Per-Diem Staff as well as volunteers.

Station 162 was the first firehouse built in Willingboro, established in 1960 and located at 201 Sunset Road. The fire company was comprised of all volunteers at the time. Station 161/169, established in 1969, was located at 398 Charleston Road and included FIRE & EMS. When Station 161 closed, Station 163 was established in 1980 at 603 Beverly Rancocas Road. Station 161/169 temporarily occupied McGinley Elementary School while the new firehouse was being built. Fire and EMS are now all under one roof at their new location, at the corner of Charleston Road and JFK Way. All the other stations have been sold. Regardless of the physical location, the commitment to ensuring both the safety of residents and the Fire and EMS team is unparalleled. We continue to seek individuals who are interested in being a part of the Fire and EMS team. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED**, no experience necessary.

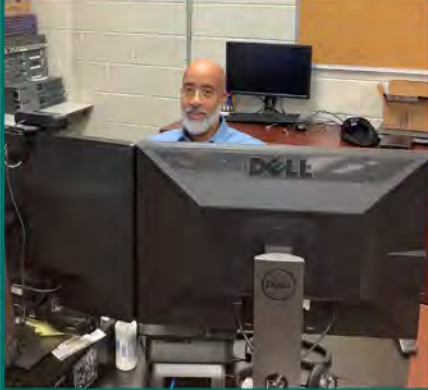
Whether you decide to make a career out of volunteering, becoming a volunteer at Willingboro Fire and EMS can prepare you to make a difference in the community. We're looking for dedicated and ambitious individuals to fill positions in the many areas in our department to include Volunteer Firefighter, Fire Police or Junior Firefighter. For more information, visit www.willingborofirefighter.org.





DEPARTMENTAL SNAPSHOT

IT/ COMMUNICATIONS



The Information Technology and Communication Departments are pleased to share that our website will relaunch into a modern digital platform for all to enjoy. The platform will offer personalized experiences with ADA compliance, advanced search functionality, service finder, and robust calendar events. The new site will provide a comprehensive platform whether users are visiting from their desktops or mobile devices. Our search centric design will allow residents to quickly find the information and the search bar will be displayed on every page so it's easy to take advantage of requesting information.

Our internal process will improve and be more efficient as we add more content providers. This will keep information up to date and accurate for our visitors. It is our hope that creating and publishing content will be a seamless procedure that will require less effort than before. We'll be migrating to a state-of-the-art hosting infrastructure that offers more than 99.9% uptime backed by around the clock support, and regular health checks. The hosting platform provides more security features which makes it more resilient to cyber-attacks.

We're also evaluating ways to enhance our communication with residents via email, text, and SMS. Modern communication platforms will allow us to keep residents informed with amber alerts, weather advisory, and township announcements. Speech to text, anonymous tipping, and 2-way communication are some of the features that will be available. We are looking forward to sharing our new website by the end of the year!

INSPECTIONS



The Inspections Department is one of the first contacts residents have with the Township. Our department is responsible for oversight of every aspect of residential and commercial property maintenance, construction, and general code compliance. Some key areas include – property maintenance, zoning and sign permits, electrical inspections, pool and building permits, code inspection for rental and resale properties, plumbing inspections, new construction inspections, site plan reviews, community master plans and health and sanitation inspection. Our staff is committed to providing a welcoming environment, streamlined services, and helping residents understand the importance of code enforcement. As we embrace a new season, here are a few important reminders:

- Clean Your Gutters
- Seal Up Air Leaks
- Inspect Your Roof
- Freshen Your Furnace Filters
- Give Your Furnace a Check-Up
- Protect Faucets from Freezing Temperatures
- Ready Your Fireplace
- Keep the Humidifier Humming
- Ward Off Gas Problems
- Keep Wood Fires Burning Brightly
- Repair Walkways

-Review Safety features in your Home – Carbon Monoxide Detectors, Fire Extinguishers and Fire Escape Plans

- Prep Your Lawn for the Winter
- Touch Up Exterior Paint
- Clean Your Carpets

Ultimately, the goal of the Inspections Department is to provide a healthy and safe place for residents to work, live and grow. Residents who have questions about any of these matters are welcome to call – 609-877-2200, ext. 1019 and we are happy to help.



DEPARTMENTAL SNAPSHOT

RECREATION AND PARKS

The Willingboro Recreation and Parks Department recognizes the value of offering our residents the best services and resources we can. Whether you're attending a youth football game, taking a brisk walk through the park, participating in an art class, working out in our fitness center, relaxing in a yoga class, or attending a community event, we are here to serve you!



You may be asking yourself "how can I participate in a class, sign my child up for sports or reserve rental space for an event?" This year, we launched a new registration/reservation software which makes the process of registering and reserving resources a much easier and efficient process.

All are invited to visit www.willingbororec.com and create a profile. From there, residents can search for programs, register for classes, and reserve rental space. It's a one stop shop!

Additionally, we are always looking for volunteers to assist with community events. All those who are interested in volunteering, please contact us at 609-877-2200 ext. 1118. We would love your help.

We are here to serve our community and are working on best practices to engage and support you - the resident. We have conducted surveys for feedback on how we can improve our services, programming and facilities and it's our goal to continue to keep residents more aware as it relates to our department.

Our worth can't always be measured in dollars and cents however, the impact we have on our residents' lives is PRICELESS!! We look forward to continuing to serve you. We invite you to FALL in love with our department and the services and programs we offer.

DPW

Whether it is picking up trash, mowing grass, patching potholes, clearing storm drains of debris, maintaining sidewalks, clearing limbs after a storm, repairing signage, sweeping streets, collecting leaves, or making sure the grounds are clean, the Department of Public Works is committed to the tasks before us.



We recognize that the work we do affects the lives of each resident in the municipality. Despite the volume of work associated with DPW, the work performed can go largely unnoticed unless the work doesn't get done.

Our primary concern is determining how to best serve the residents of Willingboro in the most efficient and effective way possible. Limited resources require the staff to make decisions everyday about what we will do, how we will do it and how it will impact the daily lives of residents.

Please be assured that ensuring every resident's trash is picked up is the priority EVERY day. Everything else falls in line after that.

Every day is a different day at DPW - there is never a boring day, but every day is an opportunity to make a difference in our community. We are committed to doing the work that needs to be done.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

WILLINGBORO NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



We are proud to announce Willingboro Neighborhood Watch is back after a brief hiatus! A meeting was held in person on September 16th at the Reva Foster Senior Center and nearly 30 residents attended. We discussed current trends and concerns occurring within the community. Our goal is to increase attendance in future meetings, and we encourage you to join us at our next meeting.

When is the next meeting?

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 18th at 7:00 pm and will be held at the Reva Foster Senior Center, 429 JFK Way.

What is Willingboro Neighborhood Watch?

Neighborhood Watch is an organized group of volunteer citizens taking an active role in maintaining quality of life and safety in the community by working with the Willingboro Police Department and other departments within the Township.

What is the mission of Willingboro Neighborhood Watch?

WNW has been organized to promote the education of residents and businesses within the Township of Willingboro in areas of crime prevention and quality of life issues. Our mission is to assist in the safeguarding of the community, its residents, and their properties by sharing public information, addressing Township concerns and being a part of the solution process.

Why should I participate in Willingboro Neighborhood Watch?

Willingboro Neighborhood Watch is an opportunity to connect with members of the community, voice concerns and relay information with one another.

Who should I contact about Willingboro Neighborhood Watch?

For more information about the Neighborhood Watch Program or upcoming meetings, contact willingboroneighborhoodwatch@gmail.com.



WELCOME KENNEDY CENTER

THE HOURS OF OPERATION

MONDAY - FRIDAY: 8 AM - 8:30 PM
SATURDAY - SUNDAY: 8 AM - 3:30 PM

FITNESS CENTER

MONDAY - FRIDAY: 7:30 AM - 8:30 PM
SATURDAY - SUNDAY: 8 AM - 3:30 PM

SENIOR CENTER

MONDAY - FRIDAY: 8 AM - 8:30 PM
SATURDAY - SUNDAY: 8 AM - 3:30 PM

THANK YOU FOR VISITING

JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST:
CommunicationServices@Willingboroni.gov

STAY IN THE KNOW!

Sign up for our mailing list

- Receive informative Willingboro information, learn about events and activities going on in our community and other surrounding areas.
- Stay informed with daily news and updates.
- Get connected - its time to be in the know!
- Tell a friend to tell another.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP!

Use your phone's camera or download any free QR scanner.



Residents are invited to stay connected - whether its via our newspaper, social media, website or by joining us for monthly Council meetings - plan to be a part of the conversation. To share your comments or contribute to the newspaper contact the Communications team at willingboronews@willingboronj.gov

If you are not on our Robocall list, please call us at 609-877-2200, ext. 1031 or email communicationservices@willingboronj.gov.

If you are interested in having the community newspaper mailed to your home, please call 609 877-2200, ext. 1031 or email willingboronews@willinboronj.gov

Clean Communities Mini Grant Opportunities

The Township of Willingboro is happy to announce that we will be offering Clean Communities Mini Grant Opportunities to the following (nonprofit entities) with the Township:

- School Groups
- Civic Groups
- Churches
- Sports Teams
- Organizations

All nonprofit entities must participate and successfully complete an organized clean up.

To download an application please visit:
www.willingboronj.gov/online-forms/public-works-1/665-clean-communities-mini-grant-application

Submit completed application to:

Attn. Patti Conrad
 Department of Public Works
 25 Industrial Drive
 Willingboro, NJ 08046

For more information please

Call: (609) 877-2200 ex. 1165 or
 Email: pconrad@willingboronj.gov

NOTE: All other groups are welcome to apply. If your group is not a non-profit, you will receive supplies for the clean up and an assigned area to clean, you will not receive a grant for your organization.

TOWNSHIP RESOURCE LIST

www.willingboronj.gov	609-877-2200	Information Hotline - 609-589-7848	Comcast 28
Acting Township Clerk	Ext. 1028	Police, Non-Emergency	609-877-3000
Acting Township Manager	Ext. 1035	Recreation and Parks	Ext. 1112
Communications	Ext. 1174	Registrar	Ext. 1011
Department of Public Works (trash collection, recycles)	Ext. 1105	(marriage licenses, birth certificates)	
Fire Department	609-871-7476	Senior Services	609-877-8444
Inspections	Ext. 1019	Sewer Emergencies	609-877-3875
Library	609-877-6668	Superintendent of Schools	609-835-8600, Ext. 1013
Mayor	Ext. 1028	Tax Assessor	Ext. 1013
Police, Fire - Emergency	911	Tax Collector	Ext. 1007