



Winchester Housing Community News

Chestnut Grove • Greenwoods Garden • Laurel Commons

Happy Saint Patrick's Day
May the Luck-Of-The-Irish be with you!

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From the Desk of the Executive Director

At the recent Quarterly Meetings held with residents of Chestnut Grove, Greenwoods Garden and Laurel Commons a lively exchange of information took place. There were lots of questions, lots of answers.

I'll try to touch on just a few here. My only wish would be that more residents took the time to drop by and hear information first hand.



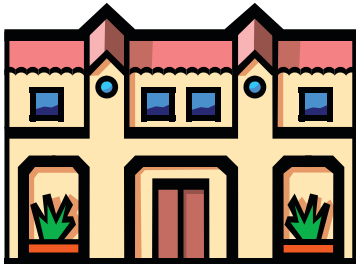
Small Cities Grant: An update on all the Small Cities Grant (ADA apartments, and an enlarged Community Room at Greenwoods, and four bathrooms at Chestnut Grove) it was explained that until we learn the final, total costs of all improvements involved with the Small Cities Grant, that the upgrade of the security system at Chestnut Grove would be postponed. However, the new light poles on Chestnut Street will be placed in position in the coming weeks.

Smoking Ban: Another topic discussed was the potential for an upcoming ban on smoking at Chestnut Grove. Also discussed was the great number of apartment turnovers at Greenwoods and Chestnut Grove and Laurel Commons. It would appear that the Housing Authority is on a course to break all records on the number of apartments changing hands.

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From the Desk of the Executive Director (Continued from Page 1)



The addition onto Chestnut Grove, which will involve 20 to 40 new apartments, was detailed for those in attendance. They were also updated on the planned, new senior community, Carriage Maker Place, and informed about the “interest list” now having names assembled. In addition, the attendees were told that this project has been listed as “shovel ready.” We even discussed why the intake and exhaust fans were turned off for extended periods due to the severe cold weather at Chestnut Grove.

Discussion with the residents of Greenwoods Garden and Chestnut Grove on the correct procedure for asking for maintenance was again reviewed with the attendees. Everyone was reminded that during off hours there is no one on duty to respond immediately, and that placing the call would register your request, and that the following day a work request will be passed onto the proper worker.



Suggestions for newsletter

Another item discussed at the meetings was the call to the attendees for suggestions for newsletter articles such as columns for crosswords, puzzles, quizzes, etc. I'm glad to report that **Marguerite Zaccara** of Laurel Commons brought to our attention a recent article appearing in the *REMINISCE* magazine. The article is in the form of a letter from Sue Adams of Grants Pass, Oregon to that magazine. (See the accompanying article on right). In response to Ms. Adams' questions concerning Winsted's Gilbert Home I've decided to include some of my own collection of pictures and other information about that facility. In the end, we can send her a copy of our newsletter. When, and if she answers our newsletter, I'll be sure to include her response in an upcoming newsletter.

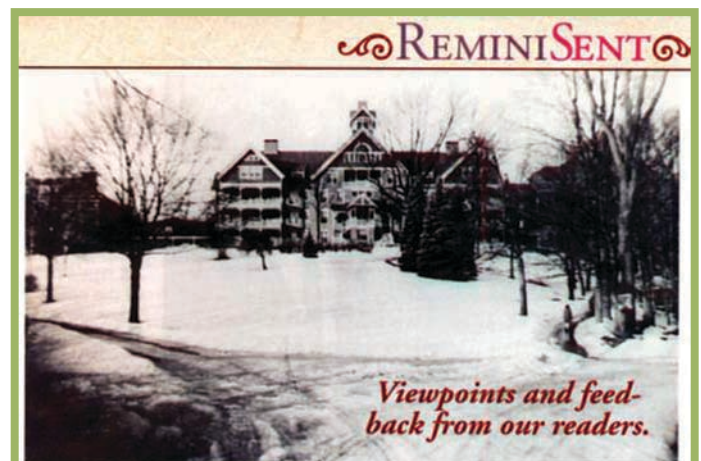
What follows, on pages 5 and 6, is a treatise that provides a short history of William L. Gilbert and the many things he did for Winsted, CT. This is followed by the background of the Gilbert Home that he established. I hope this provides “Breezy” Adams of Grants Pass, Oregon with a bit of interesting information.

Agnes Seymour and Johnny Potpolak of Apt's. 4-U and 3-Q respectively, would also like to say hello to Sue and “Breezy”. They too attended the Gilbert Home. Agnes is now 84 and went to the Home when she was 5 years old, Johnny is 87 and went there when he was 8 years old. They both worked for Mr. Van Why, who oversaw the Gilbert Home and who lived on Williams Avenue. Johnny has tons of pleasant memories of “Happy Valley Camp” in Colebrook River, where children from the Home spent a good deal of their summers.

Fred Newman, Executive Director, Winchester Housing Authority

Greenwood Gardens Residents

were reminded that they have the services available to them from a **Resident Service Coordinator on each Friday**. The Coordinator is available through a Grant that the Housing Authority was successful in getting. Please make use of her services. If you think you may have a situation that you might need help with, stop by the Community Building on Fridays.



Viewpoints and feedback from our readers.

Mr. Gilbert's Legacy

William L. Gilbert, mentioned in “I'm Curious About This Antique...” (Aug/Sept), was known for more than just his clock company in Winsted, Connecticut.

He also built a high school there, got water coming to Winsted and established the William L. Gilbert Home for children in 1889. The children ran the home, much like at Boys Town. Like his father before him,

my husband, Edward “Breezy” Adams Sr., lived there as a boy, from 1936 until 1945, when the home was torn down. Breezy took this photo (above) of the home in 1940.

The children were told very little about Mr. Gilbert. If anyone can give me information about him and his wife, I would very much appreciate it being mailed to us at P.O. Box 5216, Grants Pass OR 97527.

—Sue Adams, Grants Pass, Oregon

Handicapped Parking At Chestnut Grove

Recently there has been a great deal of interest in obtaining parking spaces in our small “upper” parking area. The rules established approximately eight years ago are as follows:



If you have a “Handicapped Permit” in your name and wish to park in the upper parking area, a resident of Chestnut Grove must apply at the office. The office maintains a waiting list of those wishing a space there. Once on the list, you may check from time to time where you are on the list. We will be sure to let you know when you’ve reached the top of the list.

New Office Hours

Many of you may have noticed the signs on our doors. For a number of reasons, not the least of which has been the many new requirements placed on us by HUD to manage our Housing Authority, we are required to make these changes.



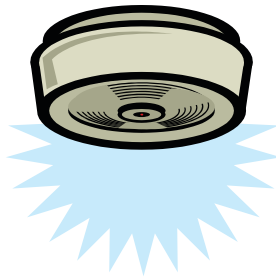
**Business Hours are
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day
EXCEPT Wednesday,
when we will NOT be open**

Ms. June Mickley Appointed to Board of Commissioners

Ms. June Mickley of Chestnut Grove Apartments, following a recommendation of the Winchester Housing Authority Board, has been confirmed as Resident Commissioner by the Town’s Board of Selectmen. In this non-paying position Ms. Mickley will represent all residents of all communities under management of the Housing Authority. It will be her responsibility to accept any suggestions by any resident, and to communicate those suggestions to the Board. Please join us in welcoming June to the honor of being a Board member.

Annual Alarm Tests

Greenwoods Garden and Laurel Commons residents had their smoke detectors cleaned and tested January 23rd thru January 27th. Batteries were changed and systems were tested.



Chestnut Grove residents also had their smoke detectors cleaned and tested. Because Chestnut Grove is a multi-floored building a Fire Drill (evacuation), was also part of the required Annual Test. **We did not gain an A+ for this drill.** It took slightly more than twelve (12) minutes for all evacuees to assemble at the Community Room or exit the building. The four personnel stationed on each floor, who were there to observe the evacuation, noted that in some cases it was minutes before some residents left their apartment. It is even suspected some residents even ignored the alarm! Please be aware, the instant you hear the horns and fire signals you are to exit your apartment and leave the building or assemble in the Community Room.

“The Life You Save May Be Your Own!”

Winchester Housing Authority Has Done It Again!



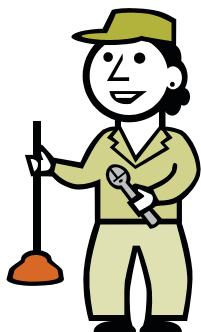
We have been rated as a “High Performer” by HUD. The rating comes from being judged on Financial Position, Management Methods, Facility Upkeep and General Performance to HUD’s standards. While there are 105 Housing Authorities in CT, only thirteen (13) have received the honor of “High Performer”. With this rating comes the potential of receiving additional capital funds.

And From Our Sister Housing Authority...

over in Watervleit, NY comes this ad from their newsletter:

Avoid A Costly Maintenance Call

Purchase your own plunger. They are cheap and they work. We often get called for a plugged toilet and they are chargeable items. To make matters worse if it is on off hours it will cost much more. Avoid putting in any personal toilet articles, you know what I mean. They will not only plug the toilet but also plug the line making a mess for someone else. Thanks for your help.



Playing SuDoku Puzzles

The SuDoku grid has three main elements. There are 9 columns, 9 rows and 9 blocks. Using the numbers 1 through 9, the 81 squares in the SuDoku grid must be filled so that every column, row and block contains the numbers 1 through 9. No number can repeat within any column, row or block.

Certain numbers are given and the puzzler must then fill in the remainder in order to solve the puzzle. The amount of numbers given, which ones, and their placement within the grid determine the difficulty of the puzzle.

		8	3	4	2	9		
		9				7		
4								3
		6	4	7	3	2		
	3						1	
		2	8	5	1	6		
7								8
		4				1		
		3	6	9	7	5		

St. Patrick's Day Word Search

U Q Y X T Q T W T H U R L I N G R W
V P K R E T S L U K C E I R I S H S
Y W N L I L F G F R V I R M D I E L
V N E N O T S Y E N R A L B S Q V I
A I Q N U A H C E R P E L K E F N M
F J R C M U N S T E R Z E C A D S E
S S B E E T P C G A Y Y N E T N Y R
W E T A L C I L E A G A R L R K B I
O C J P N A Z N T J D I K S N C W C
B O I R A S N M A L E F C I T O H K
N T G J D T H D L S V S U D N R Z K
I X H N K A R E Q M T J L L I M R I
A C C C N F I I E Q L H C A L A C L
R B N X A N D J C S H D A R B H U K
C N V E S N C M N K I W C E U S K E
K S U T E Z N C X A A J O M D A B N
L M E V L R U O G O L D R E H U T N
M R K W W M G L C E K W K X J A F Y
C B N F U N O N N A H S R E V I R S

Find and Circle
the following words:

Banshees	Jig
Blarneystone	Kilkenny
Connacht	Leinster
Cork	Leprechaun
Dance	Limerick
Dublin	Luck
Emeraldisle	Munster
Faeries	Rainbow
Gaelic	Rivershannon
Gold	StPatrick
Green	Shamrock
Hurling	Ulster
Ireland	Whiskey
Irish	

William Lewis Gilbert

WILLIAM Lewis Gilbert founded and endowed the William L. Gilbert Home. He was born in Northfield in the town of Litchfield, Connecticut, December 30, 1806. He lived upon a small farm with his parents and three sisters until he was twenty-two years of age. He attended the district school and, when a young man, taught in a nearby school district. He received nine dollars a month for his teaching. The next year he applied for the school but failed of re-election as he asked for an increase in his salary. During the time he taught, he lived at home and walked to and from his school each day.

At the age of twenty-two, he left the farm and went to Bristol where he and his brother-in-law made parts of clocks. His pay for this work varied from seventy-five cents to a dollar and a quarter a day. The next twelve or thirteen years of his life were spent in Bristol and Farmington. In 1841, he came to Winsted and with two other men manufactured clocks. In a few years, he bought his partners' interest in the business and in a short time made the William L. Gilbert Clock Company the largest manufacturing plant in Winsted.

He was the leading spirit in promoting the Connecticut Western Railroad, which is now known as the Central New England. For many years he was its treasurer and at one time its president. He was also a partner in the banking firm of Gilbert and Gay and was, for many years, president of the Hurlbut National Bank. Although he never became intensely interested in politics, yet he was twice sent to the General Assembly. He was always interested in local affairs. He was born, grew up and spent his life in Connecticut.

William L. Gilbert was a man with good business sense and judgment; he possessed a strong mind and had great will power; he was honest and frugal. His habits were simple and temperate and his wants few.

In 1835 he married Miss Clarinda Hine of Washington, Connecticut, who died in 1874. A daughter, Harriet, was born in 1836. She was rather delicate and frail and died when she was twenty-four. In 1838, a son, James, was born, but he died in infancy. He married Miss Anna E. Westcott of New London in 1876. She died in 1889.

During a visit to Ashawa, Canada, he contracted pneumonia and died June 29, 1890. The Gilbert Home opened its doors April 1, 1889, so its founder had an opportunity to catch a glimpse of what the Home was going to do towards "the improvement of mankind by affording such assistance and means of educating the young as will help them to become good citizens."



WILLIAM LEWIS GILBERT

The William L. Gilbert Home

THE William L. Gilbert Home is located in Winsted, Connecticut, in the northwestern part of Litchfield County. Winsted is a town of nearly ten thousand population and is a prosperous manufacturing center possessing many comfortable homes. Litchfield County is noted for its beautiful scenery and historical background.

The Home was built and endowed by the late William L. Gilbert, for many years a resident of Winsted, who amassed a considerable fortune as a clock manufacturer. The object of the Home is stated in Mr. Gilbert's will as follows: "For the improvement of mankind by affording such assistance and means of educating the young as will help them to become good citizens." Surely this is a broad foundation on which to build a great work.

The Home is situated in the western part of Winsted at an elevation of over eight hundred feet above sea level. It is on a beautiful hill overlooking the town and surrounding hills. The view from the front piazzas is wonderful and the sunsets must be seen to be appreciated. A short walk of seven minutes and the business section of the town is reached. The buildings are of brick, well furnished, have steel spiral fire escapes, modern plumbing, good heating system and are lighted by electricity which make the Home pleasant, comfortable, safe and sanitary.

The grounds consist of about one hundred acres, much of it wooded, which make an ideal playground for the children. A number of acres is under cultivation on which garden truck of all kinds is grown. A young apple orchard occupies a sunny slope and pear, plum and cherry trees have been planted. The lawns about the buildings are well laid out and beautifully kept. Many shrubs and trees about the buildings add a rare charm to the Home.

Several hundred chickens are kept which assure fresh eggs in abundance, besides poultry for the table. The chickens are cared for by the older boys and this work affords them an opportunity to learn something concerning poultry husbandry.

A herd of fine Berkshire pigs is maintained. These are looked after by the boys under the supervision of the farmer. Horses are kept to do the farm work and other work about the place. They are cared for and driven by the older boys but the farmer supervises the work.

We do not run a dairy but buy milk from a farmer who has a herd of good cows, all tested for tuberculosis. These cows are given good care and furnish us excellent milk.

Our Home is a home for normal children, mentally and physically, who for some cause are deprived of the advantages of family life. A father or a mother dies, parents separate, one or both parents become ill and the home life of the family is disrupted; we care for these children. We do not believe any institution can equal a good private home where a child lives with parents, brothers and sisters as a member of a family. However, the fact remains that there are many children who are deprived of the privilege of being members of a family through no fault of their own and our Home cares for and educates such boys and girls. Children are accepted as young as four years of age and many remain with us until they complete high school. Parents, relatives or friends who send children to us are at liberty to remove the children at any time. We do not require that they stay with us for any stated length of time. In fact, we encourage parents to remove their children as soon as they are able to provide suitable homes for them. Our capacity is two hundred and twenty-five. The Gilbert Home boards the county children for Litchfield County as Litchfield County does not maintain a county home.



Gilbert Home, Winsted, Conn.



School and Recreation

The school work for the first seven grades is carried on in the Home school where the same course of study is followed as used by the public schools of Winsted. All our teachers are trained and are either graduates of normal schools or of other schools of similar rating. A supervising principal looks after the school work. The eighth grade pupils attend the Fourth School of Winsted. The high school pupils attend the Gilbert High School, which is conceded to be one of the best high schools in the country. Over ten per cent. of our children are in high school. The boys of the sixth and seventh grades are given instruction in manual training one period a week by the manual training teachers of the Gilbert High School. Special attention is given to the making of useful articles.

During the summer a domestic science instructor teaches the older girls cooking, baking, washing, ironing, sewing, etc. Meals are prepared, served and eaten by the girls, and articles of clothing are made. The aim of the teaching is to give the girls practical knowledge of housekeeping.

The Home furnishes a number of selected books for each grade in school and the children are encouraged to read them. The older boys and girls have the privilege of taking books from the public library which is located near the Home.

All of the older children have some duties to perform each day. The older boys help in the kitchen, laundry, dining room and on the farm. The older girls make beds, sweep, help mend clothes, etc.

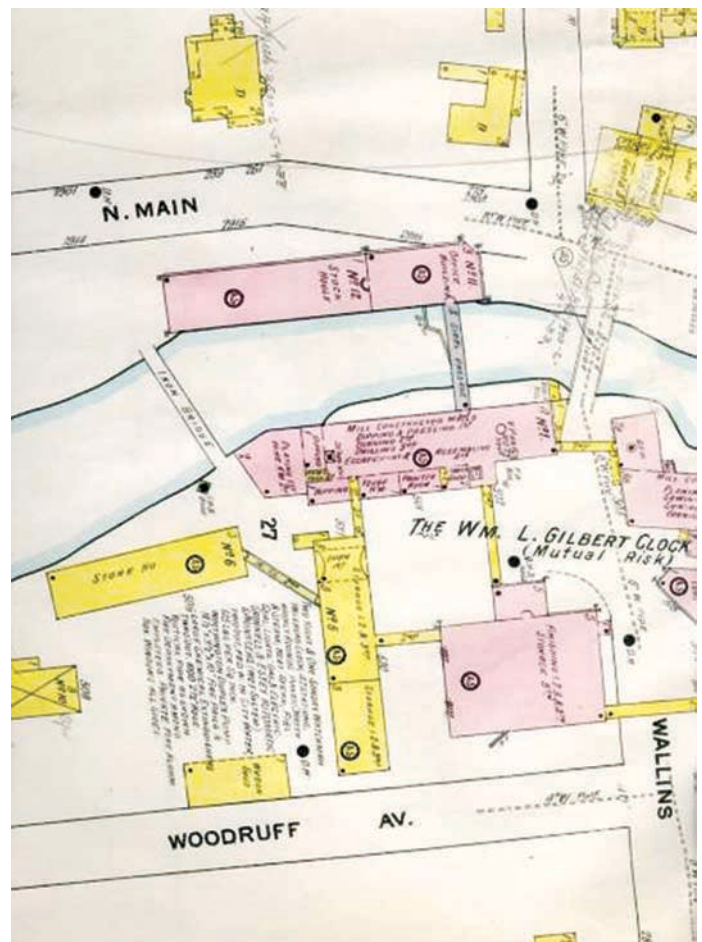
A boys' director has charge of the boys and teaches them basketball, baseball and other games and has general oversight of their play and work. The best athletes are picked for the first baseball and basketball teams which play other teams from Winsted and surrounding towns. The other players form an Inter-Home league and play games during the week. Swings, sand boxes and similar amusements are provided for the smaller children. The children have the advantage of large playgrounds where all out-of-door games can be enjoyed. Coasting, skating, skiing and snow-shoeing are popular winter sports, while tennis is a favorite during the summer.

Friday evenings the older boys and girls have a dance. The teachers play the piano and the grown people join in the dancing. Each month a birthday party is given to the children who have birthdays during the month.

The children who have spending money are allowed to go to the moving pictures Saturday afternoons. During the winter a number of stereopticon lectures are given. These consist of geographical and historical subjects, travels, industries, etc.

A summer camp is run on the banks of the Farmington River, a distance of eight miles from the Home. The river affords bathing and fishing. The camp is located in a beautiful pine grove and is an ideal site. The boys' director has charge of the camp which is under the supervision of the superintendent of the Home. During the time the girls are in camp, two matrons chaperon the party.

A number of entertainments are held each year. The Christmas entertainment is the most important and is attended by many parents and friends.



The Gilbert Co. on North Main Street that brought Mr. Gilbert the wealth that he so generously shared with Winsted.

