



## **WILTON LIBRARY**

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## **NEWS**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Wilton Library Wins CT State Library Excellence in Public Libraries Award for Community Engagement**

Wilton, Conn. – June 10, 2025 – Wilton Library is pleased to announce that it has been awarded the inaugural CT State Library Excellence in Public Libraries Award for Community Engagement. The awards are designed to honor and celebrate outstanding public libraries in Connecticut that demonstrate excellence in service and innovative programming and have a profound impact on their communities. This is the first year that the CT State Library has presented the awards.

“We are honored to receive the first-ever Community Engagement award from the CT State Library. At Wilton Library, we strive to fulfill the diverse needs of our changing community and create an environment where everyone is made to feel safe and welcome,” said Caroline Mandler, Executive Director of Wilton Library. “We would like to share this honor with our incredible community partners and extend our sincere thanks to all of them. We are very grateful to be able to collaborate with so many outstanding local organizations that embrace this same vision for our community.”

Wilton Library was recognized for their collaboration with more than 70 community partners annually, as well as a variety of strategic initiatives designed to strengthen community engagement and build a sense of belonging for residents of all ages. These initiatives include co-hosting new town-wide events such as the annual Wilton Pride “Be You” Festival and Come Out and Run 5K, the Volunteer Fair in collaboration with Wilton Youth Council and the “Wilton Is Where You Belong” campaign, co-sponsoring the

Community Cultural Celebration at the Riverbrook Regional YMCA, and launching a “Work in Wilton” library card campaign to engage and support local businesses. Additionally, children’s librarians visit an average of 10 preschools monthly, and children’s & teen librarians collaborate with and visit the Wilton schools throughout the school year. Collectively, thousands of community members have attended and benefited from these programs.

The CT State Library will present the 2025 Excellence in Public Libraries Awards at a ceremony to be held on Thursday, August 14 at the Connecticut State Library and Supreme Court Building in Hartford, Conn.

#### About the Connecticut State Library

The Connecticut State Library is an independent Executive Branch agency of the State of Connecticut. It is home to the State Archives, Office of the Public Records Administrator, Museum of Connecticut History, the Division of Library Development and the Connecticut Library for Accessible Books, and three reference departments (history and genealogy; law and legislation; and government information). Through these units, the agency provides a variety of archival, public records, museum, library, information, and administrative services. For more information, visit [portal.ct.gov/csl](https://portal.ct.gov/csl).

#### About Wilton Library

For more than 130 years, Wilton Library has served as the cultural and intellectual center of Wilton with the mission to inform, enrich, connect, and inspire our community. The library is located at 137 Old Ridgefield Road in the heart of Wilton Center. For more information, visit [www.wiltonlibrary.org](http://www.wiltonlibrary.org) or call 203-762-3950.