

## Pierce, Steve

---

**From:** Bilella, AnnaMarie  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 01, 2020 3:15 PM  
**To:** Pierce, Steve  
**Subject:** Fwd: [Wilton CT] Golf in Wilton (Sent by john llewellyn, llewellyn.johnr@gmail.com)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** John Llewellyn <llewellyn.johnr@gmail.com>  
**Date:** June 27, 2020 at 7:14:55 PM EDT  
**To:** "Vanderslice, Lynne" <Lynne.Vanderslice@WILTONCT.ORG>  
**Cc:** "Bilella, AnnaMarie" <AnnaMarie.Bilella@WILTONCT.ORG>  
**Subject:** Re: [Wilton CT] Golf in Wilton (Sent by john llewellyn, llewellyn.johnr@gmail.com)

Lynne

Thank you very much for the insightful reply. Unfortunately country club culture send a message to myself and others "you are not welcome here" I hope something changes soon but i don't how to initiate that

On Sat, Jun 27, 2020 at 18:32 Vanderslice, Lynne <[Lynne.Vanderslice@wiltonct.org](mailto:Lynne.Vanderslice@wiltonct.org)> wrote:  
John,

Thank you for your email.

Regarding Wilton's economic and racial diversity, the following may be of interest:  
According to the US Census, on July 1, 2019 84.5% of Wilton's population was white.  
According to the 2000 Census, 95.6% of Wilton's population was white. The 19-year increase in racial diversity was achieved through several means including, construction of multi-family housing, workforce expansion at ASML, a new Hindu Temple and perhaps the reduction in home values since the 2007 recession.

During the same time period, according to the US Census, median household income decreased from \$197,428 in 2000 to \$187,903 in 2019. This was primarily driven by the 2007 recession and the resulting permanent loss of high paying financial sector jobs. According to the 2017 IRS statistical data for Wilton tax filers, the average adjusted gross income (AGI) for those tax returns with an AGI greater than \$200,000 is down 23% versus 2007 tax filers.

Regarding private and public golf courses:

Rolling Hills is the one private country club in Wilton. It is located on privately owned land. Even if Wilton voters were interested in doing so, the Town of Wilton cannot force the taking of that land.

Rolling Hills is located on just over 150 acres of land. Wilton has very little remaining land for development, none of which that I know of is large enough for a golf course. One of the last remaining large parcels in Wilton recently sold at auction. It had approximately 150 acres, but over 30 acres were non developable wetlands. If there were an available parcel up for sale, you and other interested taxpayers could certainly bring forth a proposal to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Board of Selectmen. As an FYI, Ridgefield's FY2021 operating expense and maintenance capital budget for the golf course is \$1.26 million. That number does not include debt amortization for land acquisition and construction.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Thanks,

Lynne

Lynne A Vanderslice  
First Selectwoman  
Town of Wilton

---

From: Bilella, AnnaMarie  
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 10:02 PM  
To: [llewellyn.johnr@gmail.com](mailto:llewellyn.johnr@gmail.com)  
Cc: Vanderslice, Lynne  
Subject: Re: [Wilton CT] Golf in Wilton (Sent by john llewellyn, [llewellyn.johnr@gmail.com](mailto:llewellyn.johnr@gmail.com))

John,

I have read your email and am sharing it with Lynne Vanderslice via cc:, as she is best suited to address your concern and suggestion.

Regards,  
Anna Marie Bilella

> On Jun 24, 2020, at 12:22 PM, Contact form at Wilton CT <[cmsmailer@civicplus.com](mailto:cmsmailer@civicplus.com)>  
> wrote:

>

> Hello abilella,

>

> john llewellyn ([llewellyn.johnr@gmail.com](mailto:llewellyn.johnr@gmail.com)) has sent you a message via your  
> contact form (<https://www.wiltonct.org/user/1073/contact>) at Wilton CT.

>

> If you don't want to receive such e-mails, you can change your settings at  
> <https://www.wiltonct.org/user/1073/edit>.

>

> Message:

>

> Anna Marie,

>

- > It is no secret that our town lacks diversity in a time where people of color
- > and non-color both need it.
- >
- > I am an avid golfer, I am the father of a young family who is probably at the
- > bottom of the social ladder of Wilton. One of them problems with our town and
- > neighboring towns are the ideas of private "country clubs" or golf clubs.
- > This is creating an environment of exclusion and homogeneity that our town
- > has the opportunity to get away from.
- >
- > For one, our town does not even host a public or municipal golf course for
- > which residents and non-residents alike can enjoy. I am a tax-paying member
- > of this town and have to pay double the price to go to Ridgefield or Norwalk
- > to play.
- >
- > I am proposing we can start somewhere to make our town better, that starts
- > with golf. Reappropriate the "exclusive and private" clubs to allow every one
- > to play there or starting development of a public course we can share with
- > our neighbors. We need to be inviting those from more diverse neighboring
- > towns here and not shooining them away.
- >
- > I know this is a tall ask, and most people in Wilton want it to stay rich and
- > white, all I am saying is we have an opportunity to be better and I know it
- > starts there.
- >