

Washington, CT

2025: A Year of Anniversaries for Washington

As our nation gears up to celebrate its 250th anniversary next year, the town of Washington also has several significant milestones to recognize.

Few institutions in town are older than The Frederick Gunn School which marks its 175th anniversary in 2025. Founded in 1850 by Washington native and recent Yale graduate Frederick Gunn, the school was ahead of the times, welcoming girls, African Americans, Native Americans and international students. It has long been a cornerstone of the community, with graduates continuing to contribute meaningfully to the town, most notably Ehrick Rossiter.

Rossiter, a member of the Class of 1871, went on to become a prominent architect. He returned to Washington to design many of Washington's iconic buildings, including



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the Gunn Memorial Library, the Devereux Glenholme School, and St. John's Episcopal Church. Rossiter also purchased and donated the land to create the Steep Rock Land Trust, which celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. What began as a 165-acre preserve has grown into over 6,000 acres of protected land for public enjoyment. Steep Rock not only enhances the town's recreational and natural resources but also offers a range of



educational opportunities that enrich community life.

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Several other long-standing institutions are also celebrating milestones in 2025. The Institute for American Indian Studies marks its 50th anniversary, The Washington Liquor store celebrates 75 years in business, and Wright Electric turns 50. The longevity of these organizations — and many others — reflects the deep-rooted support and enduring resilience of the Washington Community.

Message from the Selectmen's Office

While it may not have been a severe winter, it certainly took its time in exiting to Spring and Summer. With the onset of better weather, we can all look forward to more of the established events that continue to make our community such a special place. The farmers market at Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens, outdoor concerts, local non-profit events and many Parks and Recreation programs are just a few of the exciting things happening this summer.

As is well known, Washington is a community driven by volunteerism. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming more involved, there are many opportunities in a wide variety of Boards, Commissions and civic organizations. If interested, please contact the Selectmen's

office at 860-868-2259 or selectmen@washingtonct.org.

Road and bridge work will continue this summer. A portion of this season's work to be completed is the New Preston Falls dam repair, Canoe Brook wall repair and the Christian Street bridge replacement. Our Public Works crews will also be doing paving and drainage as well as chip sealing throughout the summer in order to keep our roadways in top condition. Please check the Town website often for updates.

With each newsletter we try to recognize those who have shown above and beyond dedication to our community. With this writing we must sadly recognize three individuals who have recently passed away.

Dan Scherr, David Miles and our beloved Sheila Anson. All three were devoted to the Town of Washington and all of its residents. Dan spent countless years volunteering on a wide range of committees and boards. David served many years as our town attorney as well as an active member of the Lions Club of Washington and the Washington Ambulance Assoc. Sheila Anson was our long serving Town Clerk, Parks & Rec commissioner and supporter of all things Shepaug Valley Schools. All will be missed!

Board of Selectmen
Jim Brinton
Jay Hubelbank
Dean Sarjeant

Spotlight on Business: Aspetuck Animal Hospital



Aspetuck Animal Hospital has been a part of the Marbledale/New Preston community since it opened its doors 55 years ago in 1970. Dr. Ferris Gorra chose the location to hang a shingle because there were no other clinics nearby and the property was right on the 202 New Milford to Torrington corridor. Back then Dr. Ferris, and up to five other veterinarians at times treated large and small animals serving the many farms in the area. As the years passed, most of the farms left and around 1996 the practice shifted to seeing only small companion animals, mostly cats and dogs. Over the years Dr. Ferris had other veterinarians work with him until his son Dr. Mike finished vet school in 1997 and came back to join the practice and then officially take over in 2005. A few years later his vet school classmate, Dr. Trish Grinnell, joined the practice.

The practice has continued to grow, adding three more doctors in recent years: Dr. Tabi Stillo, Dr. Anne Hermans, and Dr. Dani Szajer. Dr. Mike attributes some of the recent growth to the popularity of COVID puppies, enhanced relationships between humans and animals as well as many previous part-time residents becoming full-time residents of Washington. Each of the doctors at Aspetuck bring different skills to the practice with Dr. Trish and Dr. Tabi both certified in traditional Chinese medicine, including acupuncture and Dr. Anne having a special interest in homeopathy.

Looking ahead, Dr. Mike and Dr. Trish say they want the practice to continue to be a “hometown” one that supports the community and continues the tradition that was started by Dr. Ferris 55 years ago.

Aspetuck Animal Hospital, 278 New Milford Tpke, New Preston, CT
aspetuckvet.com, 860-868-2973

Stay in the Loop on Washington News and Events!

Visit ExploreWashingtonCT.com, the official community website for events, things to do, shopping, dining and happenings around town. Sign up for “This Month in Washington” e-news to stay in the loop on all things Washington! Just click on the envelope icon at the top of the website to sign-up.



Visit washingtonct.org, the town's website for municipal and departmental information. To sign up for weekly e-news from the First Selectman, look for the envelope icon on the website.

Institute for American Indian Studies Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The Institute for American Indian Studies is celebrating 50 years since its founding in 1975 as the American Indian Archaeological Institute (AIAI).



During this year of celebration, we are complementing our exhibits — tracing more than 12,000 years of Indigenous accomplishments — with a special visiting exhibit of contemporary Indigenous artwork originally displayed at the Florence Griswold Museum. Curated by Connecticut's five Tribal Nations, *naqutiwowok / continuance: Connecticut's Tribal Communities Create* includes artists from Schaghticoke, Golden Hill Paugussett, Eastern Pequot, Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes. The introduction and tribal information for the exhibit are written by Wunneanatsu Lamb-Cason (Schaghticoke/HoChunk), the granddaughter of Trudie Lamb Richmond (Schaghticoke), the first Director of Education and Public Programs for IAIS.



We will also celebrate our 50th anniversary with a gala on August 14 at Hopkins Vineyard. Enjoy hearty hors d'oeuvres, wine, and a performance by the Pilobolus dance troupe.

For more information, please visit our website at iaismuseum.org.

Assessor's Office

In July 2025, you will be receiving tax bills for your real estate, motor vehicle, and business personal property. You may notice a difference in your motor vehicle value. Effective with the October 1, 2024 Grand List, State of Connecticut statute requires us to value your vehicle(s) in accordance with the Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. If you have questions regarding your assessed value, we encourage you to contact our office for further information.

Did you sell your car? If so, please refer to the Assessor department page at washingtonct.gov. Click on the Motor Vehicle tab to see what documentation is required to make any adjustments to your car's assessment.

Questions for the Assessor? Please contact us at 860-868-0398, or by email at assessor@washingtonct.org.

Greetings from Region 12!

As Superintendent, I continue to be impressed with the quality of student projects, field experiences, and community partnerships that take place here in the District. Although we are nearing the end of the school year, there is so much to celebrate.

Recently, we honored our elementary student writers from across the region, including Washington Primary School. Writers were selected as “models” of outstanding writing from our youngest students and represent a connection to our new ARC Reading Program implemented this year. Students presented works of fiction, journals, and nonfiction that incorporated science research.

At Shepaug, Math Honor Society students are busy preparing to inspire young learners at Washington Primary School with a \$1 million dollar challenge. High school members of the Shepaug Math Honor



Society will be partnering with fifth grade students at WPS for an engaging math project titled, *How Would You Spend One Million Dollars?*, a program recently implemented at the other elementary schools in the region. In this project, fifth graders are challenged to create a spending plan for one million dollars, choosing from categories such as housing, transportation, education, charitable donations, and investments.

Students will use their problem solving and research skills to allocate funds and present their plans to classmates.

Our agriscience is planning its annual FFA Banquet on May 22 to recognize the work of our students. The FFA (Future Farmers of America) is a youth organization that prepares students for leadership, personal growth, and career success in the field of agricultural education. Typically, members of the organization are future farmers, chemists, veterinarians, entrepreneurs, bankers, international business leaders, teachers, and professionals in many career fields. Parents, Board members, staff, and members of the community will be in attendance to honor students from The Agriscience Academy.

Respectfully,
Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue
Interim Superintendent

Pilobolus Upcoming Events

Community Rehearsal
May 28, 2025, Doors at
5:30 p.m.

**Washington Club,
Washington, CT**

Catch a sneak peek at work to be performed during our upcoming tour.



Pilobolus Ball 2025: Beauty in Your Backyard

June 7, 2025, 6–10 p.m.
Washington, CT

Our most important fundraiser of the year features performance, dancing, dining, and delights.

Kids Camp

July 21–25, 2025 & July 28–Aug 1, 2025,
9 a.m.–3 p.m. daily
Shepaug Valley High School,
Washington, CT

Kids 6–12 will find joy through creative play, improvisation, and performance.

Adult Summer Intensive Workshops
Various sessions from June 23 to July 11
Woodhall School, Bethlehem, CT

Find creativity, connection, collaboration, and personal development through movement.

See Pilobolus in NYC

June 24 to July 13, 2025

The Joyce Theater, NY, NY

See us on stage at our summer residency as we debut the *Other Worlds Collection*,

which includes classics and two new works developed in Washington, CT. For more info, including tickets, tour dates, and classes — including our Connecting with Balance sessions for older adults — visit pilobolus.org.

**Pilobolus's Renée Jaworski Named
2024 Arts Hero by Connecticut
Office of the Arts**

Pilobolus Executive/Co-Artistic Director Renée Jaworski has been named a 2024 Arts Hero by the Connecticut Office of the Arts, honoring her leadership and commitment to making dance accessible across the state.



Renée began with Pilobolus as a dancer in 2000, became artistic director in 2016, and, in 2022, was appointed the company's first executive director with a dance background. With Artistic Director Matt Kent, she has co-created internationally acclaimed works like *Shadowland* and won the 2023 Helen Hayes Award for Choreography for *The Tempest*. In addition to expanding Pilobolus's performance repertoire, under her guidance, the company has strengthened its commitment to education, bringing

dance to people of all ages and backgrounds, especially in Connecticut.

“Our dancers not only perform on stage but also act as teaching artists, gaining valuable perspectives that inform their artistry,” explained Jaworski. “Through intensives, kid camps, in-school programs, and our *Connecting With Balance*® initiative, we introduce movement to those who might not otherwise have access, using dance to foster collaboration, confidence, and wellness. Thanks to donor support and grants, many of these programs are free, reinforcing our mission to make dance accessible to all. Connecticut — its landscape and its people — are an essential collaborator in our creative process.”

State Representative Maria Horn praised Renée's leadership: “Renée's work as a dancer and leader of Pilobolus has expanded communities' access to dance and performance and brought the joy of movement to audiences and participants across the world. We're proud to call Pilobolus one of our own in the Northwest Corner, and grateful for Renée's inspiring leadership.”

Founded in 1971, Pilobolus has performed on Broadway, at The Oscars, and the Olympics. The company continues to inspire through movement, connection, and creativity and is proud to call Washington, CT home.

The Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens

As the sun stretches higher and the evenings linger longer, The Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens invites the community to enjoy its full calendar of summer offerings.

Farmers Market

Summer just got a whole lot fresher now that the weekly farmers market is back in full swing. Enjoy the colors, flavors and textures of locally grown veggies, freshly baked breads and pastries, pasture-raised meats, artisanal cheeses, delectable dairy, scrumptious seafood and more every Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The market also features fresh-cut flowers and handmade pet food. Ready your totes and head over to the park to support local businesses by shopping from the best of Litchfield County's growers and makers.

Blockbusters in the Park

Outdoor family movie nights are back at the park on the third Friday of each month June through September, this time with an exciting new twist. Each screening will be part of a themed evening experience,



featuring pre-movie fun which might include trivia, games, live music, sing-alongs and interactive audience activities. The park is also seeking to partner with local restaurants, wineries, breweries and artisans to serve up dinner-and-a-movie specials, tastings and exclusive promotions. Businesses interested in sponsoring or being a part of these reimagined movie nights can email Executive Director Laura Neminski at laura@judyblackpark.org.

Live Music

The Sherman Chamber Ensemble will delight listeners during two live music

performances: a classical concert on Sunday June 22 (advance registration required) and a free bluegrass concert on Sunday, August 31. Rotating musicians will also be performing during many of our farmers markets. Jim McDonough will once again lead an informal acoustic jam session, called a hootenanny, on the fourth Saturday farmers market of July, August and September. Bring your instruments and play along!

Art Shows

Rotating art exhibits continue to transform the park's interior into a space that celebrates creativity and the power of visual expression. This summer, Brooke Hirsheimer will be on view June 6 through 29, Leonard Kady and Heather Nielsen will be on view in a joint show July 4 through 27, and Chris Barnard and Jeff Joyce will be on view in a joint show August 1 through 24.

For more information about the park and its events, visit judyblackpark.org.

The Gunn Museum

As our country approaches its 250th anniversary, we join the celebration with a new exhibit ***American Perspectives: Peril and Possibilities***. The exhibit highlights our story during the American Revolution. Join us for the exhibition opening on Saturday, June 28 from 12:00–2:00 p.m.

Programs:

History Book Club is a monthly program meeting the second Monday of the month at 1:00 p.m. Books are available at the Library's circulation desk. Registration is required.

Upcoming dates:

Monday, June 9: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Monday, July 14: *Imperfect Union: How Jessie and John Frémont Mapped the West, Invented Celebrity, and Helped Cause the Civil War* by Steve Inskeep.

Monday, August 11: *Wide Awake: The Forgotten Force That Elected Lincoln and Spurred the Civil War* by Jon Grinspan.

Crafting History is a collaborative program of the Gunn Museum and Library's

Makerspace. The program highlights objects in the museum's collection; participants learn about Washington history and create a craft based on the featured object. Next Crafting History classes are Vintage Games on Tuesday, July 29 and Wax Seals on August 26. Please see our website for more information. Registration is required.

Cooking Through Time Cookbook Club is a bimonthly program. The program combines history and food as we cook our way through historic cookbooks. The program is based on cookbooks and domestic objects in our collection. Next class is Thursday, July 10 at 12:00 p.m. Registration is required.

Washington's Community Block Party – Look for our table at the Block Party! June 20th from 5:30–8:00 p.m.



Featured Photograph from our Collection:

Washington High School Track Team taken by Joseph West, circa 1910. Object ID: 2013.11.39

Joseph West (1876-1952) photographed Washington's landscapes and homes during his long career. His studio was located in Washington Depot.

Gunn Memorial Library www.gunnlibrary.org

News & Highlights

* **Registration is required for all programs.** Visit www.gunnlibrary.org for more information about programs and registration.

Level Up! @ Your Library: Summer Reading 2025

Level up your reading experience this summer by participating in our **Six-Week Adult Summer Reading Challenge**.

This summer, the Gunn Memorial Library invites you to take part in a community-wide reading experience celebrating personal favorites, staff picks, and the joy of discovering new books. **From June 5 to August 7, join our Adult Summer Reading Challenge** — a flexible, self-paced program that encourages you to read what you love, track your progress, and engage with fellow readers.

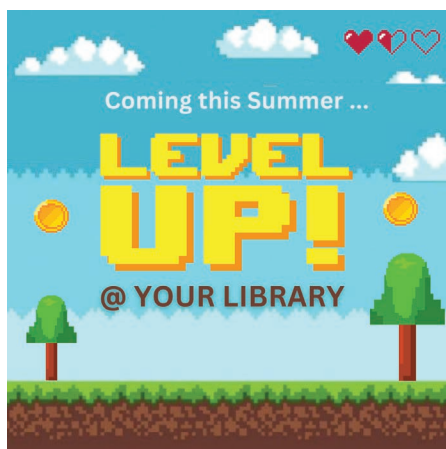
Pick up a **Rate Your Reads!** card at the library and begin your literary journey. Select titles from your list or discover new reads through our curated 2024 book collection, featuring top recommendations from *The New York Times*, *NPR*, *Library Journal*, *The Guardian*, and more. Complete and submit your reading goal by the program's end for a chance to win a prize.

Summer Picks Kick Off—Thursday, June 5th @ 6 p.m.

As part of the program, we invite you to participate in a two-part book discussion series. Join staff and Gunn volunteers Marty, Patti, Audra, and Karen as they share their top three favorite books, offering a mix of fiction, nonfiction, and hidden gems. You are encouraged to bring your recommendations as we build a summer-long display of staff and community favorites.

Between sessions, read from the curated lists or explore your own choices. We'll discuss our discoveries, share highlights, and vote on a community favorite among the staff picks when we reconvene. All readers are welcome to participate, whether you read along or wish to explore new recommendations.

We'll discuss our discoveries, share highlights, and vote on a community favorite among the staff picks when we reconvene on **August 7 at 6:00 p.m.** All readers are welcome to participate, whether



you read along or wish to explore new recommendations. Readers who meet their reading goal during the program will also be entered into a **prize drawing** for a fun reward!

Block Party, June 20th, 5:30–8:00 p.m.

Visit our table and see what's in store for you this summer at the library.

Sign up for our Summer Reading Challenge, pick up a **"Rate Your Reads!"** card, grab a calendar of **Makerspace programs**, and **make your own button** to take home!

Gunn Memorial Library Book Clubs

Friday Book Club (1:00–2:00 p.m.):

Orbital, by Samantha Harvey – June 13
Time of the Child, by Niall Williams – August 8

Thursday Book Club (6:00–7:00 p.m.):

Trust, by Herman Diaz – June 26
The Friend, by Nunez – August 28

** No book clubs in July

Makerspace Programs:

For program registration and open hours, visit our website @ www.gunnlibrary.org/calendar/category/makerspace-programs/

We're excited to host a range of creative programs for all ages in the library's Makerspace this summer. Pick up a Maker Quest game card and level up your crafting skills by completing challenges and attending programs in June, July, and August! You'll find new ways to express your creativity with beginner and intermediate workshops on sewing, 3D printing, and Cricut crafting — learn how to sew a playing card holder, create intricate quilt blocks with the foundation paper piecing technique, customize t-shirts with Cricut

iron on, cut beautiful paper cards with the Cricut machine, and design your models for the 3D printer. Do you prefer to learn at your own pace or work on your projects? Stop in during the Makerspace's expanded summer open hours and learn the basics of our maker machines with a variety of self-guided starter projects.

In addition to these workshops and open hours, the Makerspace will also host several special events for kids, teens, and families over the summer. Join friends from Roxbury and Bridgewater to transform basic cardboard boxes into castles, cars, arcade games, and more at the Tri-Town Cardboard Extravaganza on June 19. If your family is looking for something a bit more high tech, be sure to save the date for Kids Coding Club, a new workshop series for children in grades 3–5. And for tweens and teens who love Dungeons & Dragons, there's DnDIY, a monthly workshop where players can craft their own miniatures and dice trays. Check the library's website at www.gunnlibrary.org/makerspace to see the full summer schedule and sign up!

Junior Library Program:

Three towns, one summer! Bridgewater, Roxbury, and Washington join forces again to offer something for everyone. Get your game on this summer! Power up your reading skills and make the library your ultimate destination! Earn rewards, complete challenges, and discover books that take your imagination to the next level.



Registration begins at your home library the week of June 16th during library hours. With a special Kick-off event on Saturday, June 21, at Gunn Memorial Library. More details to come!

Tri-Town Library Special Events:

Registration begins June 16 with the hosting library

(Gunn Library — continued on next page)

What's New at the Senior Center?

Healthy Brain Series ~ June 5th, 10 – 11 a.m. Presented by Julianne Ramia, Dementia Specialist. Lessons for living longer from people who lived the longest. Call the center to sign up.



Coffee & Conversation with RVNA ~ June 2nd, 10:30 a.m. Hosted by RVNA. Join us for meaningful conversation about

getting older and personalized insights tailored specifically for you.

Silver Sands Beach Day! June 10th. Pack a cooler, beach chair sunscreen and towel and head to the beach for a day of fun in the sun. The bus leaves the center at 9:30 a.m. Call the center to reserve your spot! (Rain Date June 13th)

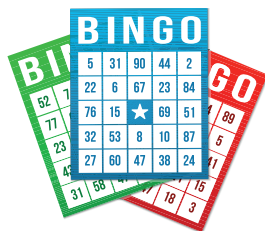


Lunch & Learn:

Affordable Housing ~ June 11th, 11:30 a.m. Presented by the Washington Community Housing Trust. Call the center to sign up.

Crafternoon! ~ June 12th, 2:30 p.m. at Gunn Memorial Library Makerspace. Join us to create your own wooden coaster

with the CNC machine. Call the center to sign up.



BINGO ~ 13th at 1 p.m. Make your reservation in advance. Prizes will be offered! Sponsored by Candlewood Valley Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Lunch Date! Join us for lunch on June 17th at DaCapo's. The bus leaves the center at 11:30 a.m. Call the center to reserve your spot!

Potluck Lunch ~ June 25th, 12 p.m. Call to sign up and let us know what you will bring.

Exercise with Pam ~ Every Monday at 9 a.m.

Coffee & Muffins ~ Every Monday at 10:30 a.m. Join us for coffee and conversation!



Tai Chi ~ Tuesdays at 10 a.m. All are welcome!



Bridge ~ Tuesdays at 1 p.m. All are welcome!

Walking Club ~ Let's meet at the River Walk Pavilion and get out steps in! The benefits of walking are a simple and effective way to improve our health and well-being. Bundle

up and join Carolyn to get moving! **Every Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.**

GYROKINESIS ~ Wednesdays at 2 p.m. This exercise class is designed to promote strength, balance, flexibility, and efficiency of movement.



Play Bocce! We meet every Thursday at 10:30 at the River Walk Pavilion. Call to sign up!

Fun & Games ~ Every Thursday at 2 p.m. Tables will be set up for Mah Jong, Mexican Train, Scrabble, Rummy Cup, and Yahtzee.

Gentle Yoga ~ Fridays at 10 a.m. All levels welcome!

Zumba ~ Join the fun on Friday's at 11:30 a.m. All are welcome!

(Gunn Library — continued from previous page)

Summer Reading Kick Off with The Giant Room • Saturday, June 21 from 10–12 p.m. at the Gunn Memorial Library, Washington

Pokemon Palooza • Saturday, July 11 from 10:00–11:00 a.m. at Burnham Library, Bridgewater

Cardboard Extravaganza • Saturday, July 19 from 10:00–11:00 a.m. at Gunn Memorial Library, Washington

Bring your family, friends, creativity, and engineering skills to the Gunn Memorial Library Makerspace for a hands-on cardboard construction event! Transform simple cardboard and recyclable materials into imaginative creations such as castles, vehicles, costumes, arcade games, and more.

MadScience Presents: Up, Up, and Away •

Saturday, July 26 from 10:00–11:00 a.m. at Minor Memorial Library, Roxbury.

The Gunn Junior Library welcomes Literacy Volunteers on the Green (LVG) interactive bilingual storytimes, available in both English and Spanish. Join us at 11:00 a.m. on Thursdays in July for stories from literacy-focused books and a fun craft activity. LVG promotes family literacy by using bilingual children's books and storytelling to help families celebrate their native language and culture while learning English. Gunn Library is proud to collaborate with LVG and support their mission.

Join us this summer for the Junior Library's Outreach Programs around town! You can find us at the Washington Block Party, Washington Beach Club, Judea Gardens/ Steep Rock, Washington Park & Rec, and Lake Waramaug Country Club. Don't miss

our Friday Preschool Story Times throughout the summer at 10:30 a.m. These sessions feature seasonal themes and provide a relaxed, friendly space for preschoolers and caregivers to socialize and enjoy stories together.

This July, we're offering exciting weekly programs for young readers and builders:

• **Mondays at 11:00 a.m.:** *Level Up Book Club* for Kindergarten/1st Grade with Natalie Klemm and Miss Linda.

• **Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m.:** *LEGO Club* for 2nd/3rd Graders with Miss Emma and Miss Linda.

• **Mondays at 3:30 p.m.:** *4th/5th Grade Book Club* with Miss Ashley.

Connect, create, and level up your summer adventures with us all summer long!

For more details and to register, visit our website at www.gunnmemoriallibrary.org

Hollister House Garden 2025 Summer Events



Join us as we welcome summer at Hollister House Garden, the garden is open to visitors Wed/Fri 1–4 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

through October 11. Advance registration is required for all workshops and strongly suggested for lectures. A listing of events can be found at www.hollisterhousegarden.org/events/.

JUNE

Artists and Photographers

**Wednesday, June 4, 11, 18, 25,
9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.**

We welcome artists and photographers to come and be inspired by the beauty of the garden in the morning light on Wednesday mornings during the months of June, July, and August.

Botanical Cyanotypes Workshop presented by Madge Evers

Saturday, June 7, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Create beautiful botanical cyanotypes using treated paper and sunlight with pressed plants.

Watercolor Workshop: Peonies led by Betsy Rogers-Knox

Friday, June 13, 10:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Learn how to use layered washes of color to capture the beautiful pastel shades of peonies.

Evening in the Garden

Friday, June 13, 6–8 p.m.

As the light fades and day turns to evening, enjoy the company of friends and neighbors and see the beauty of the garden in a different light while enjoying a glass of wine.



JULY

Artists and Photographers

**Wednesday, July 9, 16, 23, 30, 9:00
a.m.–1:00 p.m.**

Continuing in July and August, we welcome artists and photographers to come and be inspired by the beauty of the garden in the morning light on Wednesday mornings.

Evening in the Garden

Friday, July 11, 6–8 p.m.

As the light fades and day turns to evening, enjoy the company of friends and neighbors and see the beauty of the garden in a different light while enjoying a glass of wine.

Hollister House Garden Explorers: From Buds to Flowers to Seeds

Saturday, July 19, 10–11:15 a.m.

A kid-friendly guided garden tour followed by *A Plant's Life!* and visit from an animal ambassador with White Memorial Conservation Center

AUGUST

Artists and Photographers

**Wednesday, August 6, 13, 20, 27,
9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.**

We welcome artists and photographers to

come and be inspired by the beauty of the garden in the morning light on Wednesday mornings during the month of August.

Evening in the Garden

Friday, August 8, 6–8 p.m.

As the light fades and day turns to evening, enjoy the company of friends and neighbors and see the beauty of the garden in a different light while enjoying a glass of wine.

Hollister House Garden Explorers: Discovering the Colors and Shapes of Flowers

Saturday, August 16, 10–11:15 a.m.

Hollister House Garden and Kent Curiosity Lab will lead a guided garden walk to explore the shapes and colors in the garden followed by a hands-on art project to create beautiful paper blooms.



Garden Party

Saturday, September 6, 4–7 p.m.

A festive evening with music by John Mastroianni and Friends, cocktails, hors-d'oeuvres, and a very special Silent Auction.

Garden Tour

Sunday, September 7, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

A special opportunity to visit four extraordinary private gardens in Washington and Roxbury.

Parks & Recreation

Babysitting Course

June 3 & 5
2:30–4:30 p.m. at Shepaug Valley School
11 years +
Filled – wait list available

Sports & Games Camp

June 16–20 (no camp June 19)
9 a.m.–1 p.m. at Washington Primary School

Grades 2–6
Please register on our website – space is limited

Summer Camp

June 30–July 25 (no camp July 4)
9 a.m.–3 p.m. at Washington Primary School
Grades 1–6
All weeks filled; wait list available

Dimensions Basketball Camp

July 7–11
9 a.m.–12 p.m. at Washington

Primary School
Grades 5–9
Please register on our website – space is limited

Pickle Ball Camp

July 28 – August 1
9 a.m.–12 p.m. at Washington Primary School
Grades 2–6
Please register on our website – space is limited

Pickle Ball

Mondays and Thursdays

(Intermediate)
Wednesdays (Beginner)
6:00–7:30 p.m.
Washington Primary School
Please register on our website – space is limited
No Pickle Ball on May 15, June 9, 11

Adult Morning Swim

Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays
5:30–7:15 a.m.
Shepaug Valley School
*All swimmers must fill out a waiver

Great News from the Housing Commission and the Washington Community Housing Trust

This home at 77 Baldwin Hill Road will be move-in ready for a first-time home buyer by the fall or winter of this year!

This is a 1500 sq. ft. home with 3 bedrooms and 2 baths and will be offered at between \$250,000 and \$280,000 to some lucky person who meets the following financial criteria:



1. Gross Annual income at or below the area median income, e.g. \$104,000 for a 3 person household or \$116,400 for a 4 person household. (Priority given to households needing 3 bedrooms)

2. Pre-approval for a mortgage

Pre-applications are available by email from LindsayL@thehousingcollective.org.

The house was made possible by a generous land donation to the Washington Community Housing Trust, pre-development money from the Washington Affordable Housing Fund, and a grant from the CT Department of Housing. The effort of countless volunteers and organizations is what makes this housing possible.

Town Taxes Due July 1 to August 1

Town of Washington personal property taxes are based on ownership as of the Grand List date of **October 1, 2024** and become payable at the beginning of the fiscal year on **July 1, 2025**. The last day to pay without interest is **August 1**.

New Tax bills will be mailed on June 26 and posted on the town website on July 1. You cannot pay nor look up your new tax bills online prior to July 1. The tax office will be closed for fiscal year-end on June 27 and 30.

Questions regarding assessments or motor vehicle tax bill issues should be addressed to **the Assessor's Office at 860-868-0398** prior to paying your tax bills.

Payments received or postmarked after August 1 are considered delinquent and will be charged interest from the due date of July 1 at the rate of 1.5% per month or fraction thereof. Interest is charged on all late payments; no exceptions to this policy. (*CGS §§12-130, 145 & 146*).

Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve a taxpayer of the responsibility to pay taxes or delinquent charges (*CGS § 12-130*). Past due taxes must be paid in full before payment on current bills can be accepted. If real estate taxes remain unpaid as of March 31, 2026, tax liens will be applied. If motor vehicle taxes remain unpaid as of August 2, 2025, they will be reported to the DMV.

ASAP!'s Annual Fundraising Event

Please join us for an extraordinary evening of art, live performances, food, drinks, and celebration! This important fundraiser helps us continue to bring crucial arts-infused educational opportunities to CT youth. Join us as we honor Founder JoAnne Torti's remarkable 26-year legacy and welcome our new Executive Director, Ali Psomas. Celebrate ASAP!'s rich history and exciting future with host Ellen McCourt. Get tickets at asapct.org or call Ali at (475) 237-1552.

asap!
CELEBRATES
POSSIBILITIES

Sat May 31 5:30-8:00 PM
Spring Hill Vineyards
New Preston, CT

GET TICKETS
ASAPCT.ORG

Steep Rock Association

Upcoming Programs, Events, and Volunteer Opportunities

For more information and to register: www.steeprockassoc.org/events/

Location Addresses:

- Hidden Valley Preserve: 120 Bee Brook Road, Washington Depot
- Hidden Valley Seasonal Lot: 287 Sabbaday Lane, Washington Depot
- Judea Garden & Macricostas Preserve: 124 Christian Street, New Preston
- Spring Hill Vineyards: 292 Bee Brook Road, New Preston
- Steep Rock House: 116 Christian Street, New Preston
- Steep Rock Preserve: 2 Tunnel Road, Washington Depot

CT Trails Day

Sat., June 7, 2025, 10:00 a.m.
Hidden Valley Preserve

Guided hike on our new Stonewall Loop.
Easy trail, ages 8+.



Rossiter's Riverside Retreat Walk
with Carol Santoleri
Sun., June 8, 2025
Steep Rock Preserve

Learn how Ehrick Rossiter shaped the Clam Shell into a peaceful woodland retreat.

Weed & Wine Thursdays
Thurs., June 12, 2025 – August 21, 2025,
5:30–7:00 p.m.
Judea Garden

Weed the beds, wine's on us!

Summer Saunters: Hidden Valley Preserve
Tues., June 17, 2024, 5:30 p.m.
Hidden Valley Preserve

Join us on a casual walk in Hidden Valley Preserve.
Ages 12+.

Summer Solstice Firepit Celebration
Wed., June 18, 2025,
5:00 p.m.
Steep Rock House

Welcome summer with refreshments and fun. All ages.

Monthly Trail Work Party
Monthly: June 21, July 19, August 16
Location to be determined, 10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

No experience necessary. Ages 16+.

Family Summer Kick-Off Event
Sat., June 28, 2025
Steep Rock Preserve

Family-friendly to welcome summer – games and pizza on us!

Odonata (Dragonfly & Damselfly) Survey Blitz
Sat., July 12, 2025, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Macricostas Preserve

Join our project to identify what dragonflies and damselflies inhabit Washington. Ages 16+.

Centennial Concert to Benefit Steep Rock Association
Sun., July 13, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

Presented by Washington Friends of Music and Spring Hill Vineyards

Summer Saunters: Bronson Field Pollinator Meadow
Hidden Valley Preserve Seasonal Parking
Mon., July 14, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

Explore the Bronson Field meadow. Ages 12+.

Trail Appreciation Celebration
Sat., July 26, 2025
Steep Rock Preserve



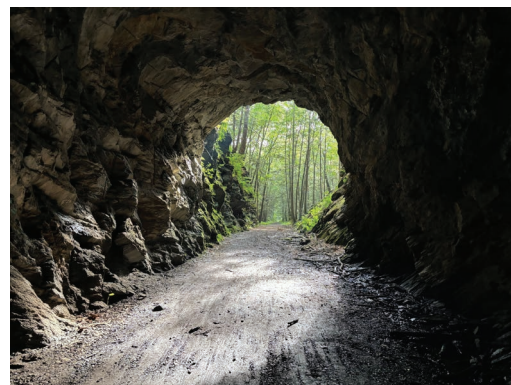
Join us to celebrate 100 years of trails and the volunteers who helped build them.

Judea Garden Open Garden
Sat., August 16, 2025 5:00–7:00 p.m.
Judea Garden

Experience the gardens, meet our interns, and toast the volunteers who made it all possible.

Holiday House Ruins Tour Walk and Talk
Sun. Aug. 17, 2025, 10:00 a.m.
Steep Rock Preserve

Learn the history of the Holiday House.



Summer Saunters with SRA: Macricostas Preserve
Wed., Aug. 20, 2025, 5:30 p.m.
Macricostas Preserve

Join us as we explore Macricostas Preserve. Ages 12+.

Centennial Picnic and Celebration
Sat., Sept. 6, 2025, 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
Steep Rock Preserve Riding Ring

Common Ground with Jane Whitney

Finding common ground has never felt harder — or more urgent. This summer, *Common Ground with Jane Whitney* returns to PBS with a new four-part season, “Impossible Conversations for Dangerous Times.” Each episode digs into a deep fault line in American life and asks what it would take to bridge it.

This season we’re doing things a little different. Because Jane is still recovering and awaiting a lung transplant, the programs will be shot in an intimate studio without a live audience — stripped of any fanfare, and focused instead on the human stakes of our polarized moment. We plan to be back, up close and in person, once Jane gets a transplant.

- In the meantime, here’s a list of the next few topics:
- Do Evangelicals Get a Bum Rap?
 - What’s the Matter with Men?
 - Breakthroughs: Discord to Dialogue
 - Can This Marriage Be Saved: Avoiding National Divorce

Premiere dates will be announced soon. For updates, past seasons, and ways to join the conversation, visit cgjw.org.

June Is Dog License Month!

Connecticut State Statute §22-338: Each owner or keeper of a dog of the age of six months or older shall cause such dog to be licensed in the town clerk’s office in the town where such dog is kept, on or before June 30th, annually, or at such time as such dog becomes six months old, and annually thereafter, on or before June 30.



The 2025/2026 licenses and tags will become available June 1 through June 30 at a fee of \$8.00 for an altered dog and \$19.00 for an unaltered dog. After July 1 there is a \$1.00 late fee per month. A rabies vaccination certificate and spay/neuter certificate (if applicable) are required. Licenses can be issued by mail or in person. For further information contact the town clerk’s office at 860-868-2786 or townclerk@washingtonct.org

Mildred Johnson, Town Clerk

Digby, Assistant Land Use Coordinator & Town Hall Ambassador

COMMUNITY
Block
PARTY



**Summer's big
kick off!**



Friday June 20
5:30-8:00



**fun &
creative
outdoor
activities**



The Depot

Live music
Outdoor games
Food samples
Wine tasting
Outdoor movie

What's Happening in Washington, CT is organized and printed through the Washington Economic Development Committee. mgorra@washingtonct.org
Look for our next issue, coming out in August.

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Postal Patron