

Washington, CT

Washington Ambulance Association

"911, what's the address of your emergency?" These are the first words one hears after calling for help. Now! Dialing these three simple numbers set in motion our town's First Responders. For 81 years, Washington Ambulance has responded to situations that range from a simple lift assist to people's worst nightmares. Today, 32 active members from Washington and the surrounding towns are committed to serving this community, any and all hours of the day or night and regardless of the weather.



In the last 12 months, these dedicated volunteers have logged over 10,000 hours – yes you read this right – an astounding 10,000 hours, offering immediate care and assistance to those in need. These WAA members have not only participated in a rigorous 200 hours EMT course for certification, but they are committed to adhering to the state's highest standards. They are continually developing

new skills and professional development to better serve their patients and others who might be on-scene.

However, WAA does more than only respond to medical emergencies. They also offer free CPR and first-aid classes throughout the year and they sponsor a coat drive. They are at-the-ready at road races, regattas and other large, public gatherings.

What many may not realize is Washington's Ambulance service is only one of a handful in the entire state of Connecticut that doesn't charge for its service! This is remarkable given that the standard cost of a trip to the hospital in CT can exceed \$1,600. WAA is able to remain a non-billing service year after year through the generous giving of local residents and businesses.

If one were to ask any of our town's EMTs why do you do this? How are you able to remain calm in the face of some horrific situations? To a person, each will answer, "Because I care

about the people who live here." "I want to provide the highest level of care during someone's time of greatest need." "I want to make a difference."

WAA is always looking for people who want to be a part of something bigger than themselves. Consider joining the WAA family as an EMT or support staff!

Message from the Selectmen's Office

Winter is often referred to as a "slower" or "quieter" time of year in our community. This is partially true. In January and February things do tend to quiet down. Many of our residents head for warmer climates to avoid the typical New England winter. On the other hand, there's no shortage of things to see and do in the lead up to the holidays. Most, if not all, of our Washington businesses and organizations host events to celebrate the holidays. The best source of information on these events is to frequently check the Town website at Washingtonct.org or Explore Washington at Explorewashingtonct.com.

The past several years we have been fortunate in that our snow falls were

relatively infrequent and light in volume. That may or may not be the case this year. In the event of winter weather events, we are asking all residents to use common sense when on the roads and check on your neighbors who may need assistance. As always, please be aware of our Public Works crews out clearing the roads and making them safe.

With each newsletter we highlight individuals who serve our community with distinction. This season we are honoring our police officers. Resident Trooper Joe Hamel and Washington Police Officers Rich Innaimo, Mike Epps and Pat Kessler. All are long-time Town employees and dedicated to community policing and the safety of our

residents. If you see them in town, be sure to say hello.

In closing, The Board of Selectmen on behalf of all Town employees and volunteers, wish our residents a happy and healthy holiday season.

"You can tell a lot about a person by the way they handle three things: a rainy day, lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights."

—Maya Angelou

Washington Board of Selectmen
Jim Brinton
Jay Hubelbank
Dean Sarjeant

New Building for Washington Ambulance Association

After 30 years in the Depot Firehouse, demands on EMS and the Fire Department have increased greatly. Our call volumes have risen. Our apparatus needs have grown. Our training schedules often overlap. This complicates use of the single building for two very different emergency services.

The new Ambulance Building supports our volunteers in many ways. Our training center will be modern and spacious. There are necessities such as administrative offices, sleeping quarters, bathrooms with showers, and a full kitchen for members to comfortably be on-call in the building day and night. The town benefits, too. With members in the building, we can guarantee faster response times. Our training center also allows expansion of our community classes. This is a great thing for Washington!



Spotlight on Business: A Pet's Best Friend

Since 2021, tongues have been wagging about Depot Dog, one of the hottest pet boutiques this side of Green Hill Road (Rt. 47). Nestled in the Depot's Titus Park shopping area, the country-modern specialty shop caters to parents of fur babies — puppies, kittens and their adult counterparts — by offering a unique (albeit adorable) array of pet food, clothing, shelter and creature comforts. Trunksful of treats, toys, trinkets and treasures await shoppers thanks to the eclectic merchandising eye of owner/pet-lover, and Washington resident, Electa Varnish.

"You won't see our things anywhere," she says. Featured items in Depot Dog's menagerie include artisanal bowls, cozy beds, crates, washable toy baskets, embroidered collars, pet-cave teepees, horse blanket coats, and even cashmere sweaters.

Yummy dog and cat food is another offering beautifully displayed in the store's recent addition. "We make sure that the pet food and treats on our shelves are of the highest nutritional value," confides Varnish who relies heavily on locally sourced items to round-out the inventory. "This is such a wonderful community, so I think it's



important to utilize area artisans. Still, we're not about selling stuff. We're about helping people raise healthy and happy animals."

Service is top dog here. So aside from taking telephone orders and providing pet parents with reliable healthcare, adoption, walking and sitting resources, puppies of all ages, shapes and sizes can now revel in a full menu of grooming essentials at Depot Dog's new Dry Bar Salon.

Situated in an impeccably clean and serene grooming room (complete with comfy waiting area for parents), the Dry Bar Salon boasts a doggone impressive menu that includes manis/pedis, teeth brushing, de-shedding, brush outs, dry shampooing/conditioning, ear cleaning, and facial trims.

Each pampering service is gently performed in a calm, spa-like atmosphere that every

Fido is bound to dig. "The Dry Bar Salon is open by appointment only," says Varnish. "And since we take just one dog at a time, there's no distracting barking from others, which allows the dog to simply relax and enjoy all the attention." — Trisha McMahon

Depot Dog Boutique, 11 Titus Rd., Washington Depot, CT, depotdogboutique.com, 1.860.619.0430. Closed Tuesdays.

Steep Rock Upcoming Programs, Events and Volunteer Opportunities

To register, please visit steeprockassoc.org/events-programs

Holiday in the Depot

Friday, Dec. 8, 6:00pm – 8:30pm
Bryan Memorial Town Hall

The evening will begin with the lighting of our tree followed by Santa arriving by horse and wagon. Christmas carols will be performed on the steps of the Bryan Memorial Town Hall by our local school choirs. Visit the shops in the Depot for holiday shopping and enjoy a glass of cider and holiday treats. Steep Rock Association will be back again this year with our bird seed craft kits!

Christmas Bird Count

A Community Science Opportunity
Sunday, Dec. 17, 10:00am – 12:00pm
Macricostas Preserve (124 Christian Street,
New Preston, CT)



Join Steep Rock Association on a 1 ½-mile winter birding excursion through the diverse habitats of Macricostas Preserve. Your eyes, ears and enthusiasm are needed to collect data for the nation's longest-running community science bird project, Audubon's 123rd Christmas Bird Count. Everyone from seasoned ornithologists to first-time birders, individuals to families

with children are welcome to participate in this special holiday activity.

Winter Solstice Celebration @ the Steep Rock House Firepit

Thursday, Dec 21,
5:00pm
Steep Rock House,
116 Christian St.,
New Preston

Join us to bid farewell to shorter days and



welcome increasing daylight. We'll gather and celebrate with refreshments and friends around the fire!

Midwinter Eagle Survey

A Community Science Opportunity
Virtual Training: Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2024
from 5:00pm – 6:00pm
Survey: Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024 from
7:00am – 11:00am

Bundle up and become a community scientist by scanning sections of the Shepaug River for bald eagles. The data collected will be reported to the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) as our contribution to the nationwide survey whose goal is to document trends in eagle populations over time.

Assessor's Office

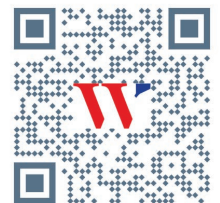
The Assessor is currently finalizing the revaluation property values to be adopted by the Town for the 2023 Grand List (GL). The 2023 GL lists the owners and assessed values that are used to create the Tax Collector's tax bills for July 1, 2024.

The 2023 GL is expected to be completed at the end of January 2024. If there is an assessed value increase for any real or personal property, written notices of increase will be mailed to property owners. Owners who believe their assessments are incorrect are encouraged to contact this office for an explanation. For further information, please go to www.washingtonct.org or call 860-868-0398.

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.



Common Ground with Jane Whitney

While Common Ground with Jane Whitney, the nationally syndicated PBS talk show produced by the nonprofit Conversations On the Green, has wrapped the first half of its season, it is preparing to continue to host discussions with provocative thinkers on our country's most intractable problems.

Upcoming episodes will discuss:

- How the country, which once elevated science into our unofficial national religion, came to accept the parasitic oxymoron of “alternate facts” and how so many of us have come to live in an impenetrable bubble that elevates ill-considered opinion into intractable certitude.
- The continuing power of the re-energized racial forces that propelled Trump to The White House and how identity issues continue to shape our daily lives.
- The fate of the electoral system, the future of the two-party system and the elevation of performative politics that threatens to sweep aside our constitutional guarantees.

Guided by the dictum that there's more that unites us than divides us, Common Ground, as always, will continue to explore the most polarizing and acrimonious issues in civil discussions, unearthing unexpected connections and providing pathways to build consensus.

PBS stations across the country in January will start broadcasting this season's episodes, which feature forums on the schismatic nature of the Supreme Court, the future of reproductive rights after the Dobbs decision, and the American culture war's ongoing bloodletting.

Upcoming episodes:

There will be no in-person audience for the rest of the year. The virtual release dates will be announced in advance and in-person attendance will resume in January.

***December VIRTUAL RELEASE: – Democracy in Color**



America's racial politics and the identities that drive our discourse.

***December VIRTUAL RELEASE: – Adversity: Anxiety's Rx**

In the face of national despair, testimonies about grit and hope from people who have persevered.

January 7 – Youth Activism: Tomorrow's Protest Today

Young activists discuss the problems they are inheriting and how they are building movements to overcome them.

January 21 – Reality Bites Back – America's Trip Down Fantasy Lane

The coining of “alternate facts” epitomizes the breakdown of a shared reality that once bound the United States together. A

diverse panel discusses how so many of us live in bubbles where ill-considered opinion becomes certitude.

February 4 – Presidential Politics: Surviving The Cycle

As the country approaches the first presidential election post January 6, a panel discusses the fate of the electoral system.

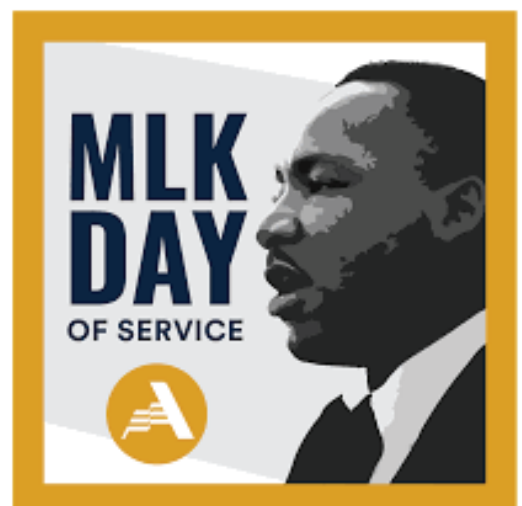
Conversations On the Green looks forward to continuing to strengthen our partnership with the community and

encourages taking advantage of the various opportunities to participate in the national series. With programs that provide common-sense solutions to the country's most intractable problems, the show will continue to be a voice for democracy and the principle that out of many, we are one.

To learn more about Common Ground, explore www.cgjw.org or sign up for our newsletter, The Guide, by adding your name at the bottom of our home page. Please contact sophia.carter@cgjw.org with any questions.

Martin Luther King Day of Service

Mark your calendar for January 15 MLK Day of service. There will be an opportunity to learn about Washington's organizations looking for volunteers as well as a food collection for the Washington/Warren foodbank. Events will be held at Judy Black Park. Check explorewashington.com for details.



Gunn Memorial Library & Museum

www.gunnlibrary.org

Visit us in our beautiful, newly renovated space!

News & Highlights

The annual Festival of Trees fundraiser is on Saturday, December 2 from 5-7pm. Join us at the library for this holiday event! Tickets \$25 at the door.

Holiday Hours:

- Christmas Day: CLOSED
- New Year's Day: CLOSED

Visit www.gunnlibrary.org or use the QR code for more program information and registration.



Adult Programs

- Pop-up Library at Washington Senior Center- First Monday of every month, 10:30am. Check out books, audiobooks and DVDs! Need help with personal devices? Bring them in!
- Monday Movie Matinees- resume December 18 @ 1pm in the Wykeham Room.
- Tuesday Afternoon Puzzle Club- Join us Tuesdays @ 2pm to work on a puzzle with your neighbors.
- GML's Fiction Book Club meets on the fourth Thursday of each month @ 6pm in the Wykeham Room. No meeting in December. Resumes on January 25, 2024.
- Choice Clarity Workshop Series with Kim DeYoung: A four-week series in collaboration with Minor Memorial Library and Burnham Library every Tuesday @ 6pm in January, starting January 9 at Gunn Memorial Library. This workshop empowers participants to navigate life's decisions with heightened confidence and clarity.
- Author Talk with Joe Gosler: Saturday, January 13 @ 1pm at Gunn Memorial Library. Joe Gosler shares his memoir, "Searching for Home: The Impact of WWII on a Hidden Child," in which he describes how he was separated from his Jewish family at a young age during the height of WWII to remain protected from harm.
- How to Steal a Masterpiece with Mallory Mortillaro: Thursday, February 1 @

6:30pm via Zoom. Enter the underworld of stolen art as we examine the little-known stories of some of history's greatest art heists.

- Healing America's Narratives with Reggie Marra: Thursday, February 8 @ 6pm at Gunn Memorial Library. Reggie Marra's book tackles some big issues and lays bare the myths and denials that bring the United States to its current time and place.



Junior Programs

- Annual Holiday Sale for Children Only- Thursday, Dec. 7, 3:30-5:30pm; Friday, Dec. 8, 3:00-4:30pm; Saturday, Dec. 9, 10:00am-1:00pm. Registration required.
- Toddler Playscape Fun Time- Mondays, Dec. 11 & 18 @10:00-10:30am, Mondays, 10:00-10:30am, Feb-April

Children's Story Times

- Morning Toddler- Fridays, Dec. 15 & 22 @ 11:00-11:30am; 10:30-11:15am, Feb-April. A simple program of stories, finger plays, flannel board activities, music and crafts designed for two-year-olds
- Afternoon Preschool- Fridays, 2:15-3:00pm, Feb-April. This program includes music, finger play, crafts and books!

Afterschool Story Times

- Kindergarten & 1st grade Storycraft- Tuesdays, 3:30-4:15pm, Feb-April
- 2nd & 3rd grade-Storycraft- Thursdays, 3:30-4:15pm, Feb-April. Both series feature seasonal themes, books, games, crafts, activities and snacks
- 4th & 5th grade- Mondays, 3:30-4:15pm, Feb-April



- 6th & 8th grade- Mondays, 2:30-3:15pm, Feb-April.
- Winter Saturday Family Programs- Saturday programs continue in January, February & March @ 1pm for multiple ages—registration required.
- Winter Reading Challenge- January 1-March 31. Complete a challenge for a chance to win one of two winter-themed gift baskets or a free book throughout January, February and March!

Tween Programs

- New! Tween Gaming Center at the Gunn Memorial Library is open daily for grades 5 and up, per staff availability. Our new games include FIFA 23', Super Mario Kart, Pokémon and more. Make new friends while playing games!

Stairwell Gallery Exhibits

"Fine Art Photographs" by Judith Secco from November 4, 2023-January 13, 2024 "Local Scenes and Still Life" by Hilarie Johnson from January 20, 2024-March 16, 2024

Museum Programs

Homespun Virtue tells the story of Washington residents' use of natural fibers to make clothing and needlework and explores the relationship between needlework and women's emerging independence.

The exhibit runs through spring 2024.

- History Book Club meets on the second Monday of each month @ 1pm in the Wykeham Room.
- December: A Covert Affair: Julia Child and Paul Child in the OSS by Jennet Conant.

What's New at the Senior Center?

Gingerbread Houses! December 1 @ 1pm. Celebrate the season with holiday bonding and gingerbread fun! Gingerbread house kits will be provided, as well as extra candy for you to decorate with (or to enjoy while decorating!!). Call the center to sign up!

The Senior Center Holiday Party

December 12 @ 12pm at Spring Hill Vineyards. Join us for a catered lunch sponsored by National Iron Bank, live music and holiday fun.

Please bring a wrapped grab bag gift valued at no more than \$5.

Thank you to Stephanie and Tim Ingrassia from Spring Hill Vineyards for offering to share their barn for Senior Center events and programs. We'll kick off this gracious gift to our community by hosting the Senior Center Holiday Party at the Vineyard on December 12. AND thank you to National Iron Bank for sponsoring this event with a lovely meal.

Lunch Date!

Join us for lunch on December 13 at the

Cheesecake Factory and shopping at the mall. The bus will leave the center at 11am. Call the center to reserve your spot!

Holiday BINGO

December 15 @ 1pm. Make your reservation in advance. Prizes will be offered! Sponsored by Candlewood Valley Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Bereavement Support Group

December 6 & 20 @ 9:30am. Have you experienced the loss of a loved one? Are you looking for a safe space to share your experience? Would you like to connect with others who are navigating a similar path? Join Emily Herget, LCSW of Regional Hospice for a Grief Support Group every other Wednesday morning at the Senior Center. Please call the center for more information.

Walking Club

Let's meet at the River Walk Pavilion and



get our steps in! The benefits of walking are a simple and effective way to improve our health and well-being. Join George and let's get moving! Wednesdays @ 9:30am.

Fun & Games

Every Thursday @ 2pm. Tables will be set up for Mexican Train, Scrabble, Rummy Cup and Yahtzee. Call the center to sign up!

Yoga for ALL

Friday's @ 10am- All are welcome!

Tai Chi


Tuesday's @ 10am. All are welcome!

Balance Class

Thursday's @ 2pm.

Coffee & Muffins

Every Monday @ 10:30am. Join us for coffee and conversation!




Come start the holidays with the Shepaug Valley School Holiday Bazaar

Wednesday, December 6th

6:00pm-8:30pm

Get your holiday decorating and gift shopping started at our fun filled
Holiday Market with booths selling:

Senior Dinner	Kids Games and Crafts	FFA Trees and Plants
Holiday Wreaths	Holiday Cards	Shepaug Apparel
Baked Goods	Raffle Basketsand so much more!
Make your own Cookie Kits	Holiday Ornaments	



Winter Around the World

Town of Washington Tax Collector's Office

January 1, 2024 Tax Payments

The second installment of real estate taxes and motor vehicle supplemental taxes will become due and payable to the Town of Washington on January 1, 2024. Motor vehicle supplemental bills will be mailed late December. Payment coupons for the second installment of real estate taxes were mailed in June and will not be re-mailed.

The last day to pay without an interest penalty or a DMV registration hold is February 1, 2024. State law requires DMV to deny vehicle registrations in the name of a person reported as tax delinquent. Real estate tax liens will be filed April 1, 2024, on any property with unpaid real estate taxes.

If you have questions regarding assessments or motor vehicle bills, contact the Assessor's office at 860-868-0398 prior to paying your tax bill.

Convenient payment options are available:

Drop box – beside the town hall central doors. Place check, including phone number and payment coupon, in a sealed envelope. NO CASH.

U.S.P.S. – postmark is accepted as date of payment. Mail to: Town of Washington, Tax Collector, P.O. Box 383, Washington Depot, CT 06794.

Online at www.washingtonct.org. "Tax Lookup and Pay Online"

Pay Online, Scan Here

Please visit the Tax Collector's Department on the town's website, washingtonct.org, to: print payment receipts and tax bills, obtain tax balances, research tax records and pay online.



Region 12 News

The start of the 2023-2024 school year in Region 12 was fantastic. Washington Primary School (WPS) buzzed excitedly as students reconnected with old friends and began a new year of learning, playing and growing together. Region 12's elementary schools received accolades from the state of Connecticut and beyond, a testament to the exceptional faculty and outstanding students.

This year, educators and leaders throughout the district are focused on balancing rigorous academics with our children's holistic growth and development. WPS focuses on helping students understand the importance of kindness, creativity and wellness, and learning subjects like Math and Reading.



We kicked off the school year with a traditional ice cream social, which was well-attended by families, community members and staff. Open House was also well-attended, offering parents an early opportunity to meet with their child's teachers and work together to support students for a successful year ahead. The Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) had its first meeting, and the group is excited to plan a year of fun events to bring the WPS community together and enrich the lives of our young ones.

WPS is thrilled about the launch of an elementary Spanish language program. The school will welcome back recently retired Shepaug teacher Leslie Holst-Grubbe to build and implement this program. Teachers at WPS are also piloting a new literacy program rooted in the "science of reading."

Shepaug Valley School continues to prepare students for vibrant and exciting futures. The team at Shepaug focuses on expanding our dual-enrollment offerings that allow high school students to complete college credits simultaneously. The school also ensures that all students feel a sense of belonging and connectedness.

Lastly, WPS's students, staff and families thank the Washington community members and town leaders for their unwavering support. We are grateful for everything the community does to help meet the needs of the children and make their educational journey a success.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marc J. Gosselin Jr.

Superintendent of Schools

Home Heating Efficiency Matters

Did you know that heating and cooling your home typically makes up about 51% of your utility bills annually? Below are a few facts, fixes and tips to make your home more energy efficient this winter.

Facts:

- Drafts are a huge source of heat loss
- Old insulation = poor insulation
- Drafty doors/windows - failing gaskets, gaps in framing with poor sealing when installed
- Foundation walls w/gaps or cracks
- Unused fireplaces

Fixes - Temporary:

- Air sealers can save up to 15% on monthly heating bills
- Use draft stoppers
- Install magnetic vent covers
- Add plastic window sealers
- Apply weather stripping to doors/windows

Fixes – Permanent:

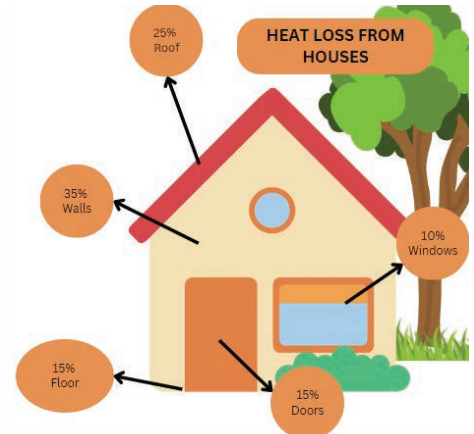
- Seal off unused or infrequently used

fireplaces (to avoid the “Stack Effect” which pulls in cold air through all other gaps in your home up the chimney).

- Evaluate current insulation in attic and add better insulation where needed.
- Evaluate any crawl spaces and basements for air leaks.
- Insulate all heating ducts.
- Fill in cracks and gaps in foundation walls and footings.
- Inspect and add window gaskets where needed.
- Check trim around doors and windows. Often times, they were not properly insulated when installed.
- Caulk all vent pipes from the outdoors that enter into the home and to/from the basement/attic.

Other tips: Have an efficiency test performed on your furnace. It may need to be replaced and could pay for itself in fuel savings.

- Purchase an on-demand high efficiency water heater
- Look into purchasing solar panels



Submitted by the Washington Sustainability Committee

SOURCES:

Sealed.com

<https://sealed.com/resources/how-to-heat-a-large-old-house-efficiently/#heating-efficiently>

CT.gov: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DECD/Historic-Preservation/03_Technical_Assistance_Research/Research/Julies-Resources/Energy_Costs_in_an_Old_House_Balancing_Preservation_and_Energy_Efficiency.pdf

Shop Washington: Blueprint for a Sustainable Community

Local businesses serve as the lifeblood of our town. When you buy from them, you're making a direct contribution to our local economy. Supporting these businesses not only bolsters economic vitality but also plays a crucial role in fostering sustainability.

Money spent in Washington has a way of coming back into our local economy. Owners and their employees who live and work here are more inclined to reinvest in our town, creating a positive cycle of economic growth. Our local business owners are also deeply ingrained in the community, actively supporting local causes and initiatives. They participate in community events, sponsor youth sports teams and invest in the well-being of the town.

Shopping locally also makes a significant contribution to sustainability. It reduces the carbon footprint associated with transportation and packaging. When you opt to shop locally instead of online, there are fewer delivery trucks on the roads and



less packaging material is used. By choosing to shop in Washington instead of venturing out of town, you not only contribute to a greener environment but also save time and gas, making your life more convenient.

This holiday season, we invite you to explore the wonderful stores right here in

Washington. Your choices today are laying the groundwork for a more sustainable and prosperous future for our town. Your support of local businesses is a powerful way to make a positive impact on our community.

By the Economic Development Committee

Judy Black Memorial Park & Gardens News

The days are shorter, the nights are longer and a chill has set in—winter is almost here. At the Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens, we are reflecting back over a fun-filled fall season and looking forward to what lays ahead.

Holiday in the Depot

We invite you to join us for a Holiday in the Depot celebration on Friday, December 8 from 5:45 to 8pm. We'll have fire pits with make-your-own s'mores with National Iron Bank, hot apple cider from Averill Farm, fresh donuts thanks to Ericson Insurance Advisors, and other treats from the Mayflower Inn & Spa. Gunn Memorial Library will provide a fun activity for kids, too.

Jack-o-Lantern Contest

This October we hosted our third annual Jack-o-Lantern contest where community members were invited to carve or paint a pumpkin with their most creative designs and enter it into our contest. What fantastic creations you all came up with! Over 175 people voted, and we awarded a winner in the following three categories: Spookiest—Hunter Molitz (for the second year in a row!), Silliest—Brita Lombardi and Most Beautiful—Logan Kaplowitz. Congratulations to our winners and a big shout out to all who participated and voted!

Farmers Market

We wrapped up another successful season of our farmers market on November 18. Thank you to all of our vendors, shoppers, community members, musicians and

volunteers who helped make each weekly market a lively place to buy locally grown food, hang out with family and friends and enjoy live music. A big, heartfelt shout-out goes to our market master, Jennifer Vaughan-Cox, who helped to curate and coordinate such an amazing array of area growers, producers, makers and artisans. We look forward to welcoming everyone back again next spring!

Art

We hosted a fabulous array of talented artists this year including Nadine Kalachnikoff, the Region 12 student art show, Liz Dexheimer, the late Margaret Grimes, Michael Chelminski, the New York Collage Ensemble, Beth Rundquist and Karen LeSage. Our current exhibit features works by Henry Morales, on view through December 3. Ed Muszala will be our last artist to show for the year from December 8 through 31.

Board of Trustees

We welcomed new board member Susan Lerner this year. Lerner is a long-time resident of Washington and an artist. She's the co-founder of the New York Collage Ensemble, which promotes a supportive community of like-minded analog collage artists. Having been a long-time volunteer at the park, Lerner has jumped right in, already making a positive impact on the committees in which she serves.



We also said good-bye to founding board member Barbara Bouyea when her last term ended earlier this spring. The park would not be the beautiful, thriving gathering place that it is today without the visionary role she played in both its early, formative stages all the way through to the present. We're grateful for Barbara's leadership, foresight and initiative that have paved the way not only for the park's existence, but also for its status as the very heart and soul of Washington.

Look Ahead

We're looking forward to another fabulous year of community events in 2024, starting with our first one on MLK Day, January 15. Stay tuned on our social media and website for more details to come soon!

Upcoming Events at The Frederick Gunn School

The Frederick Gunn School Arts Program hosts events throughout the year in the Thomas S. Perakos Arts and Community Center that are open to the community. Please visit www.frederickgunn.org/calendar-news for the latest information.

"Urinetown": The Musical — Save the Dates

Presented by The Frederick Gunn School Theatre Program
February 22, 23 and 24 at 7p.m. in the Tisch Family Auditorium
Admission is free. Please check frederickgunn.org for details!

About "Urinetown"

"Winner of three Tony Awards, three Outer Critics Circle Awards,

two Lucille Lortel Awards and two Obie Awards, "Urinetown" is a hilarious musical satire of the legal system, capitalism, social irresponsibility, populism, environmental collapse, privatization of natural resources, bureaucracy, municipal politics, and musical theatre itself," according to Music Theatre International. "In a Gotham-like city, a terrible water shortage, caused by a 20-year drought, has led to a government-enforced ban on private toilets. The citizens must use public amenities, regulated by a single malevolent company that profits by charging admission for one of humanity's most basic needs. Amid the people, a hero decides that he's had enough and plans a revolution to lead them all to freedom!"



Washington Environmental Council

Winter Harwood Lecture

"Takeaways from COP 28: What Happened and Where Do We Go from Here?"

Thursday, December 14 at Judy Black Park from 7:00-8:30pm

Jay Collins is Vice Chairman of Citi and an Adjunct Professor of Sustainability at Georgetown University. He was also the Climate Finance Advisor to COP 27 and has been a resident of New Preston for 27 years. In our winter Harwood lecture, Jay will share his views and insights after two weeks of on-the-ground meetings in Dubai with world leaders at COP 28. Refreshments will be served.

The Harwood Lecture Series was started in 1992 in honor of the late Michael Harwood who was a founding member of the Washington Environmental Council. The lecture is free and open to the public. We're thrilled and delighted to present Jay Collins to our community!



Community Partner Event

Sip & Shop with J. McLaughlin

Saturday, December 2 at J. McLaughlin from 2:00-5:00pm

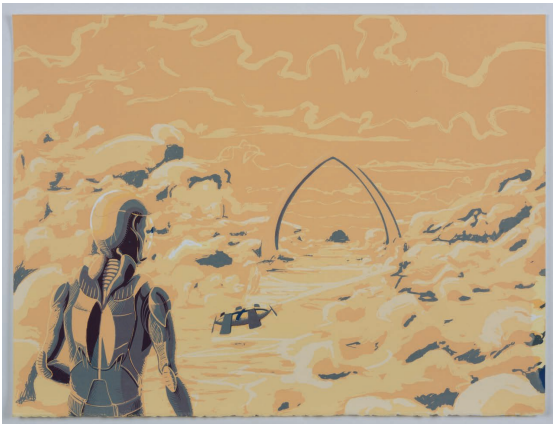
Join us for a fundraising event to benefit WEC's scholarship fund and other environmentally focused initiatives. 15% of all purchases will be donated to WEC, so don't miss this chance to get some holiday shopping done and support the environment.

Think Green - Act Green

WEC is a local nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the environmental quality of the Town of Washington and beyond through advocacy, leadership, education and collaboration. Please check out our website at wec-ct.org to learn more or email lauren@wec-ct.org to find out how you can get involved!



Washington Art Association

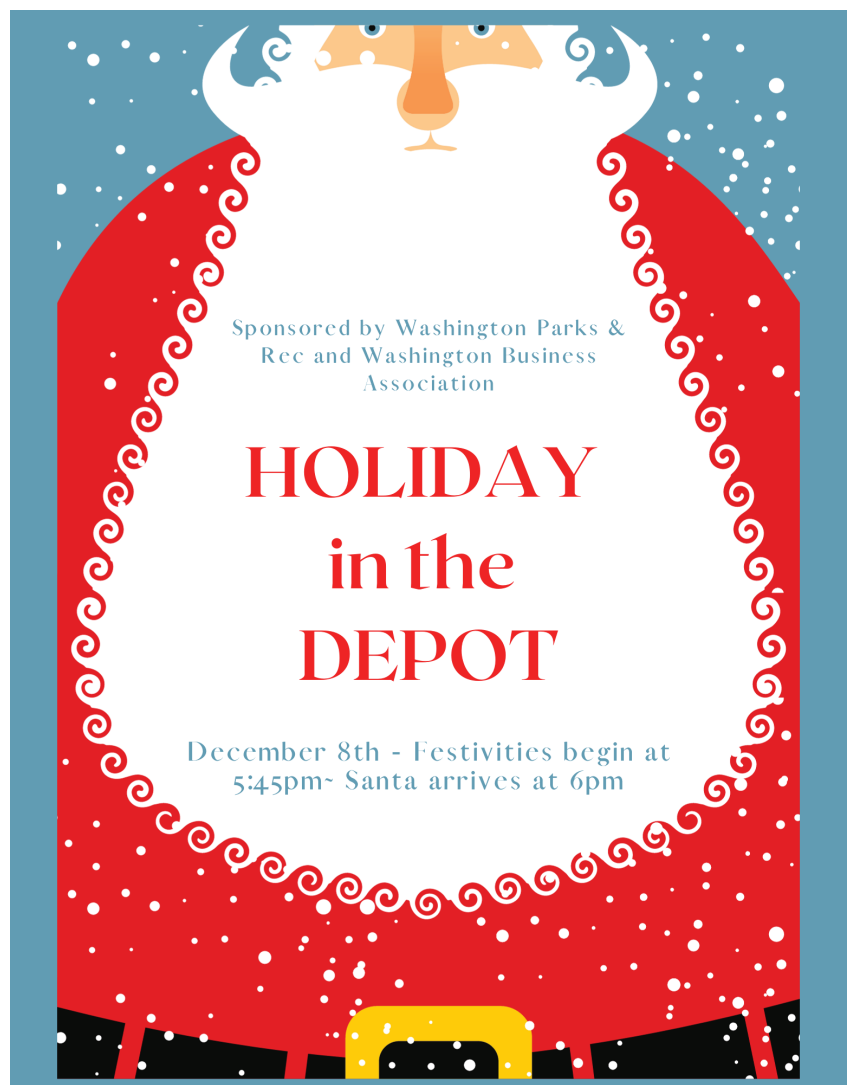


Temple in the Sky 2020 by Isaiah Rivera

Washington Art Association is pleased to announce its first Exhibition of 2024, About Printmaking, curated by Anthony Kirk. The Exhibition, running from January 20 until February 25, showcases the work of over 50 printmakers from around the country!

Please join us for our Opening Reception on Saturday, January 20, 4:00pm to 6:00pm. The snow date is Saturday, January 27, 4:00pm to 6:00pm.

Washington Art Association is located at 4 Bryan Memorial Plaza in Washington Depot. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 10:00am to 5:00pm and Sunday, 12:00pm to 4:00pm.



Shepaug River Association has a New Website

The Shepaug River Association, an organization of volunteers who work to protect the beautiful and beloved Shepaug River, has a new website: www.shepaugriver.org. Visitors to the site will find extensive information about the Shepaug River and useful information for planning a visit. The site features stunning photographs from Washington residents Lawrence Gendron and Kirsten Feldman.

The Shepaug River Association is a 501 c3 nonprofit organization founded in 1995 for the purpose of protecting the Shepaug River and its main tributary, the Bantam River. The Association monitors the city of Waterbury's compliance with the 2005 agreement the river towns, including Washington, reached with Waterbury for the release of water to the river. The Association also supports several initiatives aimed at protecting river health



and encouraging responsible use, including:

- Promoting the protection of thermal refuges where temperature-sensitive fish like trout congregate during periods of high temperature;
- Protecting wild fish populations by supporting the practice of catch and release fishing and using barbless hooks;
- Monitoring the river's water quality and temperature. Association volunteers collect water samples for analysis, the results of which are available at Science on the Fly (scienceonthefly.org) and



Photo by Loise Churyk

- Reducing stream bank erosion by helping riparian land owners identify potential/existing compromised areas and resources to protect and restore stream banks.

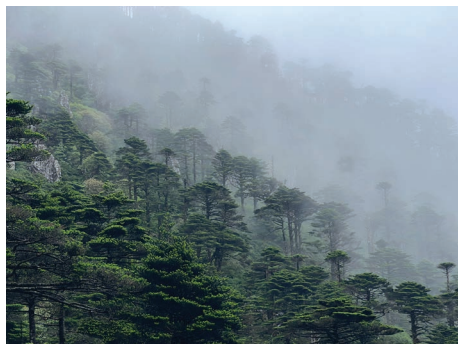
Please visit www.shepaugriver.org to learn more about the Shepaug River and the Association.

ASAP!® Upcoming Programs

For more information about these programs, please visit asapct.org or call 845-518-5859.

ASAP!'s 13th Annual Celebration of Young Photographers Recognizes Washington Students

ASAP! honored this year's top selected young photographers at an exhibition on November 12 at Spring Hill Vineyards. The event featured the top 60 selected photographs out of 383 submissions from around the state. Among the 56 schools represented were two Frederick Gunn School students, recognized for their outstanding images that captured the theme "Curiosity."



Behind the Clouds, Zining Lu, 12th grade, Frederick Gunn School. 2023 top selected photo.

This year's Celebration of Young Photographers was made possible in part by Arbor Services of CT Inc., Averill Farm, Baker Law Firm, Brierwood Nursery, Five Janes, The Frederick Gunn School, Hickory Stick, Litchfield Distillery, Litchfield Magazine, New Morning Market, Paramount Professional Roofing, Spring Hill Vineyards, Still River Editions, the Town of Washington, and William Raveis Lifestyles Realty. To learn more about the Celebration of Young Photographers, visit asapct.org.

ASAP! Youth Ensemble November 30 - February 28 Grades 6-12



Registration is now open for ASAP!'s new Youth Ensemble, an enriching and innovative orchestral experience for strings students. Sessions will take place at Rumsey Hall School, and will culminate in a concert for the public. Register at asapct.org.

Save The Date ASAP! Celebrates 25 Years June 1, 2024



Join us at Thomas S. Perakos Arts and Community Center at the Frederick Gunn School in Washington for a special celebration of ASAP!'s 25th anniversary. More information to come at asapct.org.

The Washington Council of Congregations

The Washington Council of Congregations (WCOC) is hosting a town-wide Food Drive during Holiday in the Depot on Friday, December 8 to help the Washington/Warren Food Pantry support our neighbors. The Food Pantry's need has doubled in the last year, resulting in supporting triple the number of people, which means your help is crucial at this time.

The WCOC's 2020 Holiday in the Depot Food Drive collected over \$4,500 and more than one ton of food and personal care items, and we believe we can beat those totals this year. For 2023, we're adding a little friendly competition to the event. The church, school group, community organization, business or other combination of friends and family that collects the most donations as judged by Santa will earn the title of "Amazing Angels."

For those participating in the contest, please coordinate your donations so we'll know



they are to go to your organizations, using colorful stickers or bright ribbons, or by boxing them up and marking the boxes.

Everyone, whether participating in a group or not, is invited to donate non-expired, non-perishable food, cleaning products, personal care items, cash, or checks made out to the Washington Food Bank. Look for the giant trailer in the Depot beginning at 4pm December 8.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Pastor Robyn Gray of First Congregational Church at pastor.robby@firstchurchwashingtonct.org

Parks & Recreation



Pickle Ball

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at Washington Primary School

7:30- 9pm

Please register on our website, space is limited.



Washington Trivia by Shelia Anson, Town Clerk

The Washington Primary School hosted a Thanksgiving meal for its senior citizens in the school cafeteria. What was the cafeteria called during the Washington High School years and what events took place there besides providing school lunches?

See if your answer is correct in the next issue, out in March.

Question from the last issue: What building in the Depot occupies the site of the old Catholic Church and Town Hall?

Answer: The Hickory Stick Bookshop!

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 March.

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