

# *What's happening in* Washington, CT

Spring 2018

## The Washington Economic Development Committee Spring 2018 Update

By Dan Sherr

2017 – 2018 Each fiscal year, the WEDC develops a list of projects based on the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD). The 2017-2018 year was focused on communications including Wi-Fi for the Depot. The "What's Happening in Washington" newsletter was expanded to six pages with postal patron distribution to insure everyone is fully informed on the remarkable events in Town. Additionally, ExploreWashingtonCT.com was added to the Town's media mix to insure everyone, including the weekenders and visitors, are also fully informed. Comments from the community and the Google stats clearly indicate the communications projects were well received.

ExploreWashingtonCT.com by the numbers:

- > **13,054** Unique visitors
- > **29,194** Pages viewed
- > **CT, NY, CA, MA, FL** Top five states
- > **881** events Community Events Calendar

It's well known that Wi-Fi coverage of the Depot is limited. The providers, other than AT&T, have shown no interest in adding service. While this is pervasive throughout the Northwest Corner, no workable solution has been developed. The WEDC has identified it as a critical community issue. A working plan has been outlined with the goal of implementing a prototype during 2018-2019.

2018-2019 The focus for 2018-2019 is Rte. 47 from the Depot Center to Rte. 202 and co-working space. A plan and preliminary cost for sidewalks from the Hickory Stick to the GW Tavern have been developed. Funding and negotiations with the State Department of Transportation are expected to take most of next year. The vacant site at the intersection of Rte. 47 and 109 conjures up many ideas for a pop-up community park. Steep Rock and the WEDC have committed to refreshing the Steep Rock Greenway along the Shepaug from Rte. 109 to the Hidden Valley Preserve.

New on the agenda for 2018-2019 is the consideration of a Washington Community Center. Steep Rock, with available property on the west side of Rte. 47, has encouraged the WEDC to visualize a site for a 10,000 sq. ft. Community Center just south of the Firehouse. At the far end of Rte. 47, a Complete Street 3 mile exercise loop is visualized to encourage wellness for runners and bikers.

The Washington Community Survey clearly indicated a strong interest by weekenders in extending their weekend stays. In response, the WEDC is developing a plan for co-working space with high-speed internet service.

Much has been accomplished. Many thanks to the community for their continuing support of WEDC projects.

## Message from the Selectman's Office

While we wait for the real spring the Highway Department has dealt with an early mud season followed by several winter storms. There have been many winter events over the course of the winter but the most disruptive have been this March. A number of our residents have spent multiple days without power over the course of several storms. We're anxiously waiting for spring and a return to milder weather.

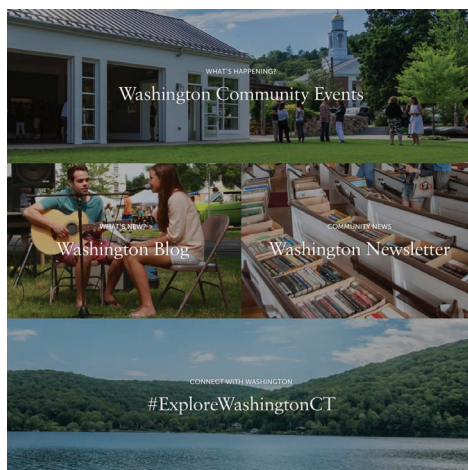
There has been progress on our construction projects. Bryan Memorial Plaza is 95% complete, the new lights are on and all driving lanes are open and parking spaces are accessible. Ipaluccio will be back in the spring to patch in the holes left by utility pole removal and complete the punch list created at final inspection.

The Walker Brook Road culvert replacement has been completed and the road is open. LaRosa Construction worked through some very difficult weather to complete the job. They'll return in the spring to do landscaping and planting.

The Romford Road bridge is moving along and is currently on schedule for a late summer, early fall opening.

The Board of Selectmen is putting together Washington's Fiscal Year 2018-19 budget. When complete and approved by the Board of Finance it'll be available on the Town website for review. The public hearing on the proposed budget will be 7:30 p.m. May 3 at Washington Town Hall and the Town Meeting to vote on the budget will be 7:30 p.m. May 17 at the Town Hall.

It has been a difficult winter for many of our residents and a very busy winter for our Highway Crew. For those who enjoy the snow, it has come and gone and returned. Others of us are awaiting spring.



## Community Day

Save the Date: Saturday, June 9, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Be Involved! Email us at [wbact@gmail.com](mailto:wbact@gmail.com)

# Spotlight on Business: Washington Supply @125

By Dan Sherr

Can a store claim to have birthed a community? Located at the geographic center of the Town of Washington, The Supply, over the last 125 years, has literally delivered the very foundation of the Town. From feed and seed to construction and outdoor living, Washington Supply has fueled the growth of the Town of Washington. And it has done this with a commitment to the preservation of the rural character and traditional values of the Town.



Literally this month, 125 years ago, March 20, 1893, recognizing the growing vitality of Washington, six farming families, with a total investment of \$2,500, opened the Washington Feed and Supply Company in the center of the Depot.



It was incorporated in 1909. Responding to the growth of Washington, The Supply emerged as a major Town fuel source with coal silos (1909), propane (1909) and gasoline (1922). Work clothes and GE appliances followed. Over the years, the signs were often repainted, “Flour, Feed, Coal, Lumber, Hardware.”

In 2006, the third generation of owners acquired The Supply – Val Sedelnick, Jay Combs, Jim Bate, Tom Saunders and Bob Whelan, all employees. Bob and Tom have now retired. The new owners continue the Supply’s established customer service mantra, in the words of Val Sedelnick, President/Treasurer. “We make it personal.” Competition is fierce...and near at hand. “We offer competitive pricing and quality material but it is the customer service, indeed the personal customer service that makes the difference and assures continuing success of The Supply.”

The Washington Supply is committed to the community and the community to The Supply. As Jay Combs, VP Sales & Service says, “All roads lead to the Washington Supply.” And with it, commitment to the changing needs of the Town. The Supply has emerged as a social as well as a commercial center of Washington. Whether a homeowner, caretaker or do-it-yourselfer, your first stop is The Supply. On Saturday mornings, parking is a challenge. The draw? They know their customers and projects personally.

The Washington Supply has grown the Town and grown with the Town. Over the last 125 years, it has literally mirrored the economic and social transition of Washington – farming to rural social center of Litchfield County. With local owners, a proven culture of personal service and a Town committed to its continuing success, the next 125 years is assured.

Happy, Happy Birthday to The Supply!

Historical photo: Joseph West, 1915, courtesy of the Gunn Historical Museum.

## The Washington Art Association & Gallery “Portraits” Exhibition

The Washington Art Association & Gallery is pleased to announce the exhibition, “Portraits,” opening Saturday, March 31 and running through Saturday, April 28. Curated by Susan Bogle Finnegan, the exhibition “Portraits” will feature selected works by Stephen Brown, Jennifer Knaus, Renee Brown and Mary Anne McCarthy.

John Berger’s collection of essays, “Portraits,” was the inspiration for this exhibition. Finnegan chose these artists, all with important connections to Connecticut, because the portrait has a significant place in each of their work. Through medium and skill, intensity and strength are evident in the specific way each painting addresses the encounter between artist and the subject. These paintings give the opportunity for the viewer to witness an interesting collective “dialogue” about considering identity and to experience the pleasure of really, really good painting and drawing.

The public is invited to the opening reception of “Portraits,” Saturday, March 31, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

The exhibition is on view March 31 - April 28, 2018

## TOWN OF WASHINGTON Property Tax Benefit Programs

Washington homeowners who were sixty-five or older by December 31, 2017, or who receive Social Security disability payments, may be eligible for property tax credit for the 2017 Grand List. The property must be their principal residence and total household income including Social Security cannot exceed **2017 State income limits:**

**\$35,300 - Single or \$43,000 - Married. (State credit)**

Additionally, residents may be eligible for a local Town tax credit. Eligibility requirements are those listed above and applicants must have been taxpayers of the town for (3) three years prior to their application.

**2017 Town income limits:**

**\$36,100 – Single or \$43,600 - Married. (Town credit)**

Applications must be filed in the Assessor’s office February 1 - May 15. If eligible, tax credit will apply to the July 2018 billing.

Finally, Washington residents currently receiving a veteran’s exemption may be eligible for an additional exemption if they meet the above state income limits. There’s no age requirement for an additional veteran’s exemption. Applications are accepted from February 1 to October 1 for exemption on the future October 1, 2018 and 2019 Grand Lists.

All applications are available in the Assessor’s office beginning February 1, during office open hours or at [www.washingtonct.org/assessor](http://www.washingtonct.org/assessor). Call 860-868-0398 for more information.

## Historic New Preston Falls



In the 1700 and 1800's a two and a half mile stretch of the East Aspetuck River provided the power to 21 mills. The 300-foot drop from Lake Waramaug powered mills producing plows, shovels, wagon wheels, cotton, grains, lumber and twine: New England ingenuity at work.

Today we are still drawn to the water. While the view has changed a bit, we can see the foundations of the original buildings as we walk toward the falls. The power of the water that brought the early settlers to the river continues to bring people to the Village of New Preston where the roar of the falls can always be heard.

The Washington Conservation Commission is undertaking the preservation of this historic resource. With special thanks to: Bill Pollock, Arbor Services of Ct, Inc.; Steven Bartkus, Gunn Historical Museum, Brian Neff, Engineer; Dirk Sabin, Landscape Architect; J. McLaughlin; and Steve Solley.

Located at the intersection of Route 202 and Route 45 New Preston, CT.

## Washington Parks & Rec

With the conclusion of the winter season and our Health and Wellness Community Events series, it's time to kick off our spring/summer season. Spring Swim Lessons will offer three sessions starting on Tuesday May 1, Friday, May 11 and Thursday, May 17. Friday's sessions will include a free family swim following the lessons at 6:45 p.m. The boat ramp is scheduled to open on Saturday, April 14. Spring hours will be Saturdays, Sundays, Wednesdays and Memorial Day from 6:00-11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.-sunset. The beach will open for weekends only starting Memorial Day weekend. Annual boat ramp stickers and beach passes are available at the beach and ramp. The River Walk Pavilion will also be opening soon! If you're looking for a great venue to have a family gathering, BBQ or just about anything else, call the Selectman's Office to reserve a date. Spaces are filling up quickly so don't delay. Be sure to like Washington Parks & Rec on Facebook to stay informed about future events including our Summer Rec program, 4th of July concert and BBQ and more. For more information, please contact Jeff in the Parks & Rec office at 860-868-1519 or [rec@washingtonct.org](mailto:rec@washingtonct.org). Office hours are Tuesday – Thursday from 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

## ASAP!® Upcoming Events & Workshops

For more information about these programs, please visit [asapct.org](http://asapct.org) or call 860-868-0740.

### Ceramics

Grades K-2 | Will Talbot  
Washington Primary School,  
Washington

Get ready to play in the mud and use your imagination to design fun pottery pieces! Experience the joy of working with clay while learning about structure, shapes and form. Think of your favorite animal...is it a monkey? A dog? An elephant? You can make these animals part of your very own bowl, mug or pitcher.

Mondays, Apr 2, 9, 23, 30 | 3:45-4:45 p.m.

4 sessions: \$60 • \$48 for Region 12 students

To register, please visit:

<http://asapct.org/grades-k-5>

### Henna

Grades 3-5 | Elyse Sadtler  
Washington Montessori School,  
New Preston

Henna is a form of temporary body art that has been used by many cultures across India, northern Africa and the Middle East for thousands of years. Come join henna artist Elyse Sadtler to discover this ancient art. Learn about what henna is, where it comes from, the science of henna on skin, henna across cultures and how to do basic design elements. You'll receive your own kit, containing organic henna paste and supplies to begin your henna journey. All participants also receive a henna design of their choice by Elyse.

Grades 3-5

Saturday, Apr 7 | 3:00-5:30 p.m.

1 session: \$35

To register, please visit:

<http://asapct.org/asap-weekend>

### Family Fish Stocking

All Ages | Weantinoge Heritage  
Land Trust

Smyrski Farm, New Milford  
This is a special experience for the entire family and a fun way to celebrate spring. Here's your chance to learn from our local fisheries

about how fish are raised and understand the health of our rivers and streams. Everyone will get their very own bucket of fish to release into the river. Rain or shine – wear your galoshes!

Saturday, May 5 | 1:00-3:30 p.m.

1 session: \$35

To register, please visit:

<http://asapct.org/asap-weekend>

### Calling All Explorers

Grades 3-5 | Steep Rock Association  
Macricostas Preserve, New Preston  
Explore nature at the Macricostas Preserve with Steep Rock

Association Program Leader, Rory Larson. As a group, determine the perfect place to create and design a secret fort. Collect sticks, rocks, branches and so much more on a wild scavenger hunt. Working together, you'll draw a design and learn about constructing a lasting structure in the magical woods of Steep Rock. Only true explorers will be able to find this secret place. Tuesdays, May 8, 15, 22, 29 | 4:00-5:30 p.m.

4 sessions: \$60 • \$48 Region 12 students

To register, please visit:

<http://asapct.org/grades-k-5>

### ASAP!'s 13th Annual Celebration of Young Writers & Benefit Auction

Saturday, June 2 | 5:00 p.m.

The Gunnery, Washington  
Please join us as we celebrate our talented Young Writers of 2018. The event begins at 5:00 p.m. with a festive cocktail reception and silent auction followed by the readings of exceptional poetry and prose at 6:30 p.m. The night concludes at 7:30 p.m. with the presentation of the Frank McCourt Prize for Excellence in Teaching to an outstanding teacher. This will be a very special evening, a highlight of the season you will not want to miss!

To purchase tickets, please visit:

<http://asapct.org/project/celebration-young-writers>



## Shepaug Regional School District 12: 15th Shepaug World Affairs Forum Held

Washington, CT – March 12, 2018 - With one of its largest audiences on record, the 15th Shepaug World Affairs Forum addressed the hot button topics of nuclear proliferation and diplomacy with rogue states with the assistance of keynote speaker and Washington resident, Ambassador William Luers. Working alongside Luers were a panel of Shepaug students, including Jack Roush, Alvin Hermans, Bridget Snyder, and Wilson King.

The event was held Saturday, March 10, and coordinated by Jack Roush in partial fulfillment of his senior project. Social Studies Department Chair, Chris Dennis, facilitated the event.

Ambassador Luers opened the session with a keynote address detailing his five points of world affairs, cautioning “Diplomacy doesn’t mean friendship. It means business.” As such, he explained, it’s important to maintain diplomacy with everyone, friend and foe alike.

Each student on the panel presented on a related topic, with a robust conversation

following between the panelists, Ambassador Luers and the audience members.

Shepaug Valley School Principal Kim Gallo commented, “The World Affairs Forum is a chance for students to demonstrate all aspects of our core values and guiding beliefs. Not only are they aware of important issues in our world, but they analyze and articulate their positions about those issues.”

Ambassador Luers is an adjunct professor at Columbia University and Director of The Iran Project where he has worked with a dozen former senior U.S. government officials for nearly 16 years to promote a diplomatic solution to the nuclear standoff with Iran. In 1999, Ambassador Luers served as president of the United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA), a position which he held for 10 years. In 1986, Ambassador Luers was named president of The Metropolitan Museum of



Art in New York City and remained in the position until 1999. Prior to that post, he had a 31-year career in the Foreign Service. He served as the U.S. Ambassador to Czechoslovakia (1983-1986) and Venezuela (1978-1982) and held numerous posts in Italy, Germany, the Soviet Union, and in the Department of State, where he was the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Europe (1977-1978) and for Inter-American Affairs (1975-1977).

The Shepaug World Affairs Forum was recorded and is available on the Region 12 YouTube Channel as well as cable access Channel 194.

## Upcoming Events at The Gunnery

The Gunnery is hosting a poetry reading and book signing featuring New York City performance poet Taylor Mali on Tuesday, April 3, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Mali is one of the most well-known poets to have emerged from the poetry slam movement and one of the original poets to appear on the HBO series “Def Poetry Jam.” He’s a four-time National Poetry Slam champion and the author of four books, including “What Teachers Make: In Praise of the Greatest Job in the World.” This event, which is part of The Gunnery’s 2018 Speaker Series, will be held on campus in the Ogden D. Miller Memorial Athletic Center. Admission is free. The community is welcome to attend. Registration is required – please call (860) 350-0177.

The Gunnery and the American Red Cross will host the 7th annual Margaret P. Addicks Memorial Blood Drive on Sunday, April 8 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The blood drive will be held in the Ogden D. Miller Memorial Athletic Center. To register, please call 1-800-RED-CROSS or go to <http://rdcrs.org/2FIQxk2> and choose a time. For questions about eligibility, call the Red Cross at 866-236-3276.

On Tuesday, April 10 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., The Gunnery welcomes author and journalist David Owen, who will speak about his latest book, “Where the Water Goes: Life and Death Along the Colorado River.” Owen, who lives in Washington, has been a staff writer for The New Yorker since 1991. He is also a contributing editor at both Golf Digest and Popular Mechanics and the author of more than a dozen books. The event, which is part of The Gunnery’s 2018 Speaker Series, will be held in the Ogden D. Miller Memorial Athletic Center. Admission is free. The community is welcome to attend. Registration is required – please call 860-350-0177.

An exhibition featuring new works by Andrew Richards, Chair of the Visual Arts Department at The Gunnery, opens Friday, April 20. The

community is invited to a reception from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in The Gunnery’s Tisch Schoolhouse. A graduate of Rhode Island School of Design, Richards uses recycled and natural materials to create works based on an environmental theme. Admission is free. The community is welcome to attend. RSVP by April 18 – please call 860-350-0145 or email [bakerj@gunnery.org](mailto:bakerj@gunnery.org).

The Gunnery’s inaugural Gunn Scholar Academic Conference will be held Sunday, April 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Tisch Schoolhouse. Students from the Gunn Scholar Program, surrounding schools and institutions will gather to share their place-based and primary-source research. The community is invited to attend. Admission is free. Registration is required – please call 860-350-0177.

The 2018 Founder’s Day Regatta will be held Sunday, May 6 from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Lake Waramaug State Park in Kent. The regatta will feature rowing teams from more than 20 independent and public high schools and boat clubs. Parking is limited. Red Gunnery shuttle buses for visitors will run between the parking areas and the regatta site throughout the day. For more information, visit [www.Gunnery.org/FoundersDay](http://www.Gunnery.org/FoundersDay).

The Gunnery will hold its annual Spring Concert May 18 at 8:00 p.m. in the Meeting House on the Green. The event will feature performances by The Gunnery Chamber Ensemble, Jazz Band and Rock Band. Admission is free and the community is welcome to attend.

The Memorial Run for ALS will be held Saturday, May 26 at The Gunnery to benefit The Angel Fund for ALS Research. The race begins at 4:00 p.m. on the quad; the course is about 3 miles. Registration is \$10 per person. Participants may run or walk the course. T-shirts and a BBQ dinner will be provided for all registered participants. For more information, email Anne Low at [low.anne@gmail.com](mailto:low.anne@gmail.com).

# Gunn Memorial Library & Museum

## LIBRARY LUMINARIES

Gunn Memorial Library's annual spring fundraiser, Library Luminaries, will be held on Saturday, June 16, 2018. A cocktail party will be held at the library, followed by unique dinners where noteworthy people will be honored as "Luminaries." We are so grateful to the generous local residents who graciously host these dinners! Reservations are required. Visit [www.gunnlibrary.org](http://www.gunnlibrary.org) or call 860-868-7586 for more details.

## CHILDREN'S FUN

**Two's Time** - Fridays 10:30 - 11:15 a.m., through April 13

**3 & 4 Year-Old Book Buddies** - Fridays 2:15 - 3:00 p.m., through April 13.

**K & 1st grade** - Storycraft: Tuesdays 3:30 - 4:15 p.m., through April 10

**2nd & 3rd grade** - Storycraft: Thursdays 3:30 - 4:15 p.m., through April 12

**4th & 5th grade** - After School Gaming Group: Thursdays, 3:30-4:15 p.m., through April 12

**Film & Book Discussion on Wonder by R.J. Palacio (For Tweens & Teens and their Families)** - April 7 - 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**Parent & Child Sewing** - April 14 - 1:00-2:00 p.m.

**Movie: Ferdinand** - Tuesday, April 17 - 11:00 a.m.

**Movie: The Greatest Showman** - Tuesday, April 17 - 1:00 p.m.

**Movie: Benji** - Thursday, April 19 - 11:00 a.m.

**Movie: COCO** - Thursday, April 19 - 1:00 p.m.

**Earth Day Crafts** - April 21 - 1:00-2:00 p.m.

**Puppet Making Workshop** - April 28 - 1:00-2:00 p.m.

**Judea Garden Pumpkin Seed Planting** - May 5 - 1:00-2:00 p.m.

**Mother's Day Craft** - May 12 - 1:00-2:00 p.m.

## ADULT PROGRAMS

**History of 20th Century American Literature in 5 Short Stories with Literary Scholar Mark Scarbrough** - Monday's at 10:00 a.m., April 2 thru April 30 -Join us as we discuss some of the dominant literary trends that have shaped last century's literature in the United States like the rise and failure of modernism, the emergence of once-forgotten voices, and the baffling notion of post-modernism. In this lecture/discussions series Mark will lead participants through five stories from the twentieth century, ranging from Willa Cather to Lorrie Moore, Zora Neale Hurston to William Faulkner and Flannery O'Connor. Time will be spent with multi-media presentations of music, painting, and dance, based on five representative selections.

**Amy Bloom, New York Times bestselling Author Book Talk & Signing for White Houses** - Thursday, April 5 - 6:00 p.m.

**SingOut CT!** - Sunday, April 8 - 2:00 p.m. - This concert will be held across the street from the library in Wersebe Hall at the Parish House to accommodate the anticipated number of attendees.

**Movie Matinees -**

**LBJ** - Monday, April 2 - 1:00 p.m.

**Darkest Hour** - Monday, April 9 - 1:00 p.m.

**The Greatest Showman** - Monday, April 16 - 1:00 p.m.

**Molly's Game** - Monday, April 23 - 1:00 p.m.

**All the Money in the World** - Monday, April 30 - 1:00 p.m.

**Phantom Thread** - Monday, May 7 - 1:00 p.m.

**The Post** - Monday, May 14 - 1:00 p.m.

**Film Stars Don't Die in Liverpool** - Monday, May 21 - 1:00 p.m.

**The Perfect Omelet, Talk, Demo, Tasting & Book Signing with Professionally Trained Chef and Author John Finn** - Thursday, April 26 - 6:30 p.m.

**Women & War Multimedia Presentation by CT Women's Hall of Fame** - Tuesday, May 22 - 6:30 p.m.

**Calder: The Conquest of Time: The Early Years 1898-1940, Talk & Signing Jed Perl, Acclaimed Art Critic & Author** - Sunday, June 3:00 - 2:00 p.m.

**The Beginnings of the National Parks Service by Professor Hamish Lutris** - Tuesday, June 19 - 6:30 p.m.

**Gunn Monthly Party Bridge** - Thursday, April 19, Thursday, May 17, Thursday, June 21 - 1 p.m.

## STAIRWELL GALLERY

**Bruce S Clark** - on display March 24 to May 5

**Rosalyn Pinney** (Shepaug High School) Wykeham Room Only - on display April 13 to April 21

**Sierra Soletsky** (Shepaug Student) Wykeham Room - on display April 25 to April 30

**Ruth Jaffe & Jim Stanton** - on display May 12 to June 23

## MUSEUM

**Readings from the Archives** - Monday, April 2 - 10:00 a.m. - "A Walk Through New Preston in the 1960s" by Doug McHan in 2015. At the Senior Center.

**Washington History Club at Night** - Tuesday, May 15 - 6:30 p.m. - Topic: Washington Volunteer Fire Department and Carnival. In the library's Wykeham Room.

**History Bites Lecture:** Thursday, May 24 - 12:00 p.m. - Topic: Music Education in American Private Schools - Looking at documents since the founding of The Gunnery, Emma Wang, a 2018 Gunn Scholar, has drawn connections between the school music programs and the broader history of music education. With a focus on the town of Washington, Connecticut and local institutions, her presentation will illustrate the changes and developments of musical instruction. In the library's Wykeham Room. Parking is limited, please carpool.  
**Washington History Club in the Morning** - Monday, June 18, 10:00 a.m. - Topic: TBA. At the Senior Center.

For more information and a complete listing of programs and events at GML, Inc. visit [www.gunnlibrary.org](http://www.gunnlibrary.org)



# Judea Garden 10th Season Celebration

This year Judea Garden – The Giving Garden, will celebrate 10 seasons of growing and giving. Begun in response to the financial crisis of 2008 by members of St. John's Episcopal Church, Judea Garden grows fresh, organic produce for members of its community with limited financial resources.

Unable to help their neighbors financially, residents gathered tools and seeds, dug the soil and grew the food to make sure no one went hungry. Now, over one hundred volunteers and supporters join together each season to grow and distribute fruits and vegetables in a garden filled, not just with plants but with a sense of community and friendship. Judea Garden is what a Village can create when it works together to help others.

To celebrate its 10th season, Judea Garden will be hosting a number of community events throughout the spring, summer and fall of 2018. Festivities will include pot luck round tables with local farmers, photography tips in the garden, an art show, a special performance by Pilobolus in the garden, and so much more. Please visit [www.steeprockassoc.org/judea-garden-10th](http://www.steeprockassoc.org/judea-garden-10th) for a full schedule of events and to see how you can participate.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Garden Bed Frame Building

Saturday, March 17 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Macricostas Preserve

Volunteers will assemble frames using drills and pre-cut lumber. No experience is necessary. Please bring a drill if you have one.

### Gallery Attendant

Friday, March 30 through Sunday, April 15  
Judy Black Memorial Park

Greet visitors to the Judea Garden 10th Season Celebration exhibit featuring artwork by local Shepaug Valley High School students. Various shifts available.

### Volunteer Gathering

Saturday, April 7 9:00 a.m.  
SRA Office: 2 Green Hill Road,  
Washington Depot

Interested in volunteering for Steep Rock but not quite sure what it involves? Come to the SRA office, meet staff and learn about the organization. Together we'll find a great volunteer fit for you.

### Judea Garden Spring Cleaning

Saturday, April 7 1:00m – 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday, April 8 1:00– 4:00 p.m.

Help get Judea Garden ready for spring by cleaning up winter debris and prepping garden beds for planting.



### Preserve Monitoring Blitz

Saturday, April 14 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

We own over thirty preserves in town and each year we walk their boundaries to monitor for ecosystem health, signs of trespass, and presence of wildlife. With all that work, we need your help. Join us for a morning of blitzing through the monitoring process which will include training, walking the preserves, and reporting. Light breakfast and lunch will be provided.

### Earth Day 5k

Saturday, April 21 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
(entire time not necessary)

## Steep Rock Preserve

Along with WEC, we are hosting a second annual Earth Day 5k in Steep Rock Preserve. Volunteers are needed for set-up, clean-up and to bring post-race snacks for runners.

### Judea Garden Early Planting Day

Sunday, April 22 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Let's get those plants who don't mind some cool weather into the ground.

### Trail Monitor Training

Saturday, April 28 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

With forty plus miles of trails to maintain, we need eyes on the grounds to make sure the footpaths stay in tip top shape. Our two hour training starts inside with an overview of trail maintenance and reporting and then we'll move outdoors onto a trail to put these practices to work.

## Event Photographers

### Various events.

Calling all snap happy individuals. We are looking for volunteer photographers to photograph events and happenings in our preserves. We can provide a camera if you don't have your own.

For more information and to register to volunteer, please visit [www.steeprockassoc.org/volunteer](http://www.steeprockassoc.org/volunteer)

## Events

### Washington Earth Day 5k and Roadside Cleanup

April 21, Same Day  
Registration: 7:30 – 8:45 a.m.,  
Race Start Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Steep Rock Preserve  
Sponsored by: Washington  
Environmental Council &

Steep Rock Association  
KIDS 12 and UNDER RUN FREE!

Please join the Washington Environmental Council and the Steep Rock Association in celebrating Earth Day ,a great 5k and shoe drive!

### Timberdoodling: A Family Weekend Workshop

Friday, April 6 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
Macricostas Preserve

Steep Rock Association invites families to Macricostas Preserve to marvel at the eccentric woodcock (also called the timberdoodle). Watch these chunky birds erupt into aerial breeding displays and sneak up to their position under the cover of dusk.

### NestWatch: A Citizen Science Opportunity

March 30 from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
SRA Office & Macricostas Preserve

Join Steep Rock Association for a NestWatch training session to be held prior to the field season, which runs from April 1 through September 1.

All ages and experience levels are invited to participate in the second year of this project. Citizen scientists will have a unique look into a breeding bird's life by observing construction of a nest, counting eggs laid and hatched, watching the development of offspring, recording behavior of adults, and documenting invasions by other animals.

For more information on our programs and to register, please visit [www.steeprockassoc.org/programs-and-events](http://www.steeprockassoc.org/programs-and-events)

# Washington Environmental Council

## Wins the TownVibe Green Award

The Washington Environmental Council (WEC) is a winner of the 2018 TownVibe Green Award. This award recognizes Connecticut businesses, nonprofits and individuals who are leading the local fight to protect the environment while also creating a sustainable social and economic community. WEC is now a part of a very impressive group of past winners that include **Aspetuck Land Trust** (2017), **Bedford 2020** (2016), **Sustainable Westchester** (2015) and **Greening Our Children** (2014).

WEC was recognized not only for the creation of their 2017 Future Now Expo, but also because of the following successful achievements: banning the storage and disposal of fracking waste, continued Student Scholarship Awards, the Good Bag Program, the Annual Earth Day 5k/Town-wide Cleanup, and the Hardwood Lectures. If you see a WEC director, be sure to give them a "high-five."

## WEC's Annual Earth Day Roadside Cleanup and 5k Race: April 21, 2018.

Please join WEC and the Steep Rock Association in celebrating Earth Day on Saturday, April 21 with a great 5k and shoe drive! This beautiful 5k begins at 9 a.m. and meanders along the Shepaug River through the Steep Rock preserve on a dirt road with beautiful scenery. This mostly flat run is a great course for beginners and veterans alike. Join us at the end of the event for snacks, conversation and prizes. In honor of Earth Day we ask all runners to bring their own water bottles. The event will also offer a sneaker drive. Please bring your gently used sneakers tied together by the laces. All shoes will be donated through Woodbridge Running Company in Brookfield to the Rerun program. Rerun sends all donated sneakers to Africa to live a second life. To find out more go to <http://www.rerunshoes.com/> Same day registration for this event begins at 7:30 a.m. and closes at 8:45 a.m. See you there!



## Attention All Runners, Walkers and Earth Day Cleaner-Uppers

Your participation WEC's Town Clean-up and/or Earth Day 5K gives you a chance to win a prize from your favorite local store! On Saturday, April 21, bring your roadside clean-up trash bag to the WEC Town dumpster and/or donate a pair of shoes to the "Shoe Drive" at the Earth Day 5K Race (or Town Hall), and WEC will give you a ticket to take to your favorite participating store. Drawings are on Tuesday, April 24... keep your fingers crossed!!

Participating stores include (full list will be posted on Friday, April 20): Hickory Stick Bookshop, Newbury Place, Byrd+The B, B. Hive and the Food Market. Prices vary from gift baskets to big discounts on any purchase.

Person's dropping off trash/shoes before Saturday, can get their ticket from First Selectmen's office.

For more information on these and all events, go to [www.wec-ct.org](http://www.wec-ct.org).

## Washington Garden Club Happenings

### "Spring has Sprung Plant and Flower Sale!"

Including pots, containers, vases and other gardening accessories.

Where: The Judy Black Memorial Park

When: May 11 & 12

### "The Herstory of Washington"

"Washington's Women: From the Pootatuck to the Present"

The WGC 2017 Mary Anne Erichson Endowment Public Program

Presented by Louise van Tartwijk, WGC member and former Director of the Gunn Historical Museum

When: June - time, date and place to be announced

## Washington History A Year Later

2017...a year in the life of a New England Town? History is merely the present seen later. Alfred Kelman, an Emmy Award winning filmmaker and longtime resident of Washington, anticipates the history of our Town by showing us the people, places and events of Washington during 2017.

With stunning photography, witty commentary and poetic verses, Kelman's book, "Of Time and the River: A Portrait of a New England Town" reveals to us a Washington we live everyday. His book will be introduced to the Town folks Memorial Day Weekend at the Hickory Stick. Come see what happened in Washington last year.

### *Of Time and The River*



*Portrait of a New England Town*



# What's Going on in Washington, CT

This is just a small sampling from [ExploreWashingtonCT.com](http://ExploreWashingtonCT.com). Please check the site for more information and for other events.

## April

8 | 2:00-3:00 p.m.

### Singout! CT Spring Extravaganza

Location: Gunn Memorial Library

SingOut! CT, Connecticut's Premier Glee Group for Young Voices, returns for a concert to welcome in the spring. This performance, part of the Gunn Memorial Library Musicians Series, will be held across the street from the library in Wersebe Hall at the Parish House to accommodate the anticipated number attending.

Talented boys and girls of this ensemble will perform selections from the American Songbook, classical surprises, Broadway favorites, beautiful folk songs, and popular music. This concert is sure to brighten your day and keep you humming for weeks to come.

21 | 9:30-11:00 a.m.

### The Living Lawn: Simple Steps To Organic Lawn Care

Location: Hollister House Garden

In this presentation, you'll hear many compelling reasons why you should consider a natural approach to lawn care. The presenter, Chip Osborne, is a professional horticulturalist with over forty-five years in the green industry. He's the founder of Osborne Organics, a company providing natural turf consulting services. Chip will offer a detailed and systematic approach to natural lawn care, including basic soil biology and testing, proper use of organic products and sound cultural practices. These steps will be outlined and explained in a common sense way. This talk is suitable for the homeowner as well as for landscape professionals.

HHG Members \$30 | Non-Members \$35

## May

2 | 7:00pm - 8:00pm

### Musical Meditation

Location: Valley Spirit Cooperative & Wellness Center

Join award winning, internationally acclaimed percussionist, composer and educator John Marshall for an exciting excursion into the world of global hand percussion. No drumming experience necessary, and all levels are welcome, Djembes, dumbeks, frame drums, congas, and assorted hand drums will be provided, or bring your own favorite percussion instrument. This is a rare, and fun opportunity to gain musical knowledge, skill and confidence in a safe, welcoming and inspirational environment. Check the website to sign up: [valleyspiritcoop.com](http://valleyspiritcoop.com) or call us at 860-619-2788.



### Washington Trivia by Shelia Anson

For what movie were scenes shot from the Casino and other parts of New Preston Village?

See if your answer is correct in the next issue, out in June!

Last issue's answer: The first Holiday in the Depot was in 1991.

**Visit [ExploreWashingtonCT.com](http://ExploreWashingtonCT.com)**  
**The official community website**  
**for events, things to do, and**  
**happenings around town.**

*What's Happening in Washington, CT* is organized and printed through the Washington Economic Development Committee. Look for our next issue in June 2018.

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