

What's happening in Washington, CT

Summer 2016

Things are Happening in Washington!

By Dan Sherr

Major progress has been made on a number of Washington Economic Development projects. The Washington Depot sign is up at the 47 & 202 intersection. Following Tony Bedini's extended negotiations with the Connecticut Department of Transportation, Ghi Signs created and installed a sign highlighting the many attractions of the Depot and the Green. Next on the agenda are gateway signs at the western and eastern entries to the Town and signs at the Main St and Rte 45 entries to the Village of New Preston.



Help shape the future of Washington in less than 10 minutes! Participate in our town survey at www.washingtonct.org

Electric has graciously offered to install the station at no cost. The Washington charging station will be prominently listed on Plug Share used by electric car owners to map their trips. This is the first of several projects being developed by the Planning Commission Sustainability Committee.

Pursuing the Return to the River initiative, River Park has been refreshed. The fencing has been replaced by the Town Crew and the Shepaug River invasives have been removed by Arbor Tree Services. New picnic tables are being installed to encourage outdoor lunch and dinner from any of the many eateries nearby.



With expertise from the Connecticut Economic Resource Center (CERC), the WEDC is undertaking a major learning project in the support of economic and social development planning for the Town. Starting in mid-July the community, both full and part-time, will be invited to complete an online survey. The survey asks "what do you like about the Town now" and "what changes would make it an even better fit to your interests and lifestyle"? To participate, look for a link on the town website.

Workshop #5, Thurs, July 28, 5:30 – 7:00pm, Washington Town Hall will outline the Washington Economic Development priorities and plans for next year.

Letter from the Selectman

New England's construction season is in full swing and there are many projects in progress townwide, both municipal and private. There'll be chip sealing of roads, drainage improvements, and complete reconstruction of several roads with the combined efforts of our highway department and contractors. Aquarian Water Company is working on a major water main replacement for their customers in the Washington Green area. Eversource contractors are performing an aggressive tree trimming program throughout Washington in the hopes of minimizing storm damage and future power outages. This is in conjunction with large and small private projects that'll inevitably lead to anything but a peaceful summer for some. Please be patient when travelling our roads and when encountering any of these crews, they're doing their best to minimize your inconvenience while performing their work in a safe manner.

Watch for a Public Information Meeting on Bryan Plaza improvements in the next few months, it will be posted on the Town website.

Potential July Car Tax Bill Problems

Due to issues with the DMV computer software conversion we are anticipating problems with motor vehicle tax bills. If you received a car tax bill from a town you didn't reside in or garage your vehicle in as of October 1, 2015, contact the Washington Assessor at 860-868-0398 to request a transfer to the correct town. If you didn't receive a motor vehicle tax bill for motor vehicles that resided or were garaged in Washington as of October 1, 2015, contact the Washington Assessor at 860-868-0398 for assistance.

Community Day, sponsored by the Washington Business Association

The June 4, 2016 event was a great success. Thank you to the event participants, volunteers and the community for your support! More photos can be found on the WBA facebook page and website!



Spotlight on Business Everything Botanical, llc

By Dan Sherr

What are gardens? Why do we have them? Why do we visit them? They refresh us emotionally and physically. Abbey Johnson Taylor, founder and partner of Everything Botanical, has made this a personal mantra since selling her first plants in the second grade. A stellar student at Ithaca College, Abbey blended this awareness of gardens with a major in leisure services focused on horticultural therapy.



Abbey Johnson Taylor, founder and partner

Abbey is an area native; she grew up in Roxbury, and moved to Washington when she founded Everything Botanical nearly a decade ago. Committed to all natural and certified organic products, her personal mantra extends to the health of her clients, their children, their pets, the employees and the organisms in the soil. In her words, “gardens make for happier people, plants and the planet.”

With a greenhouse and design studio at the intersection of Old Litchfield Road (Rt. 109) and Shearer Road,

Washington, CT, Everything Botanical delivers design, installation and maintenance services. Most clients avail themselves of Botanical’s full range of services, from arbor care to custom arrangements.

Jim LeBlanc, Everything Botanical’s landscape design partner, brings an integrated planning approach to design projects. Simplified as “sight line – insight – site plan,” the planning process assures the delivery of the client’s expected visual and emotional experience. By working closely with local growers, installation of the plan is enhanced by ready access to plants, trees and shrubs. Abbey and her husband Patrick have begun to grow a combination of materials at their Washington site, including hard-to-find plants and their personal favorites.



Jim LeBlanc, landscape design partner

Everything Botanical has enjoyed double digit growth over the last 10 years. And all from word-of-mouth. Abbey attributes this to a growth covenant with her employees. Liberal benefits and a commitment to ongoing personal growth and job training has enabled her to retain her core staff over the decade. This also assures Everything Botanical’s customers of an on-going commitment to the maintenance and enhancement of their gardens...and what the gardens deliver to each of them personally.

Everything Botanical, 237 & 253 Old Litchfield Road, Washington, CT 06793
203.217.6996 | abbey@everythingbotanical.com

The Judy Black Memorial Park & Gardens @ One Green Hill



After a great deal of hard work over the winter and spring, The Judy Black Memorial Park & Gardens @ One Green Hill has been completed! We have some exciting things planned for this coming season.

Please join us every Saturday from 10am-1pm (rain or shine) for the second year of our very successful farmers market. You’ll see familiar vendors in a fabulous new setting.

From July 2-16, Steven Harvey Fine Art Projects will present *Painting in the Garden*, the first art exhibit in our newly renovated space. On July 2 from 4-6pm there’ll be an opening for the public and on July 9 at 4pm there’ll be a panel discussion and an opportunity to interact with the artists.

The Peter Drake Landscape Paintings Exhibit will run from mid-August to mid-September. Peter Drake is the renowned director of New York Academy of Art.

As always, we welcome any ideas for events / programs that you may have.

Looking forward to seeing everyone this summer!
doug@theparkatonegreenhill.org | 860.248.5494

ASAP®

ASAP!® recently held its 11th annual Celebration of Young Writers. Guests were greeted by blue skies as they entered the silent auction and reception on the green at The Gunnery.

This year’s writers included 10 children from across the state: Francesca Vattuone, Josephina Drago, Charlie Brodhead, Rebecca Racz, Madison Stamp, Dylan Toll, Emily Prezioso, Halena Weymouth, Evan Woerner and Daniel Saed. Each student

read his or her piece on stage to an audience of more than 300.

The event was hosted by Hollywood actor and activist Jonathan Del Arco who’s best known as Dr. Morales in the cable hit series “Major Crimes” and “The Closer.”

The evening concluded with a special presentation of the Frank McCourt Prize for Excellence in Teaching. This year’s Celebration of Young Writers honoree, Ellen McCourt recognized Rena Winton of Nonnewaug High School as this year’s prize recipient who inspires her students to be enthusiastic learners.



To read the selected pieces from ASAP!’s young writers, please visit www.asapct.org.

Shepaug Regional School District 12: News from Washington Schools

By Karen A. Fildes

Governor's Reading Challenge On Your Mark, Get Set...Read

Governor Dannel P. Malloy, stressing the importance of reading during the summer, launched the 2016 Governor's Summer Reading Challenge. This past spring, Washington Primary School (WPS) was identified for the second year in a row as one of the top-performing schools in the state for the Summer Reading Challenge 2015. WPS was among several elementary schools honored. Kaya Peck, Asia Peck, Spencer Campbell and the WPS Library Clerk, Brooke Faison, attended a special ceremony at the State Library in Hartford. Once again, students are geared up for another summer of reading!

Aloha Day at WPS

On June 9th, Washington Primary School honored seventeen fifth grade students at their "Aloha" promotion ceremony.



Resource Officer

Barbara Alenckis highlighted her work with the students throughout the D.A.R.E. Program and shared a part of each student's D.A.R.E. essay reflecting on the importance of dodging negative influences and practicing healthy habits for success. Students were congratulated on their successes at WPS and were encouraged to use their energy, natural curiosity, and kind spirits to explore all that middle school can offer. Congratulations to our fifth graders!

Shepaug Class of 2016 Graduates



Shepaug Valley School (SVS) conducted its commencement ceremony on Saturday, June 13. Class valedictorian Haley Pesce and salutatorian Daniel Laranetto encouraged their classmates to recognize and acknowledge the importance of those individuals who have helped them reach this important milestone. They also referenced the

uniqueness of this class and the legacy they will leave at SVS. We wish all of the graduates the best of luck in their future endeavors!

Enjoy your summer at The Gunnery!

This year we're proud to offer a field hockey, soccer, and rowing program. All programs, led by highly qualified, dedicated, and energetic counselors, provide campers (age 11-17) with a learning environment that'll encourage growth and enjoyment. To find out more about dates and pricing, please visit www.gunnery.org/SummerCamps or contact Elliott Fisher, Program Director at fishere@gunnery.org.



The Boys Varsity Lacrosse team finished the season 15-3, was undefeated (10-0) in the Western New England Secondary School Lacrosse Association (WNESSLA), and captured the Division II championship title.

The Coed Varsity Golf team was overjoyed with their 2nd place

finish at the KIT, which serves as the final tournament for 23 of the top New England Prep Schools.

The Girls Varsity Tennis team finished a great season with a 2nd place win at the 2016 Suffield Academy Invitational Tournament.

Gabby Lescadre '18 of Bethlehem, CT received the HALO award for Best Standout Performance in an Ensemble Play for her performance in *And Then There Were None* from Seven Angels Theater in Waterbury.

On Monday, May 30, seventy-nine Gunnery seniors marched into the Meeting House to celebrate their graduation and receive their diplomas.

To read more about any of the stories mentioned above, please visit www.gunnery.org.

Rumsey Hall School Historic Alumni Reunion Weekend Celebrations

On Saturday, June 11, Rumsey Hall School's Alumni Reunion brought back over 325 alumni, family and friends, from points abroad to Farmen Hall for a special luncheon in honor of Associate Headmaster/Master Teacher Rick Spooner for his distinguished career spanning nearly five decades. Former Headmaster Lou Magnoli, Trustee Tina Couch '94, Jason Spooner '88 and Headmaster Tom Farmen delivered heartfelt and humorous remarks commemorating "Sensei" Spooner's inspirational influence on the school and generations of students.

Later that evening under the tent on the P. Lincoln Cornell Field "A Farewell to Farms" gala festively celebrated Headmaster Tom and Ashley Farmen for their 31 years of leadership. The event brought together over 850 guests, the single largest gathering of its kind in Rumsey's history. The fourteen speakers to share stories, tributes and advice to the retiring couple included Board Chair Jon Neuhaus '87, Former Faculty and Current Parent Scott Schereschewsky '73, P'20, '23, Past Parent and Taft Head of School Willy MacMullen P'10, '12, Trustee and Former Board Chair Gary Cole P'01, Faculty Members Chris Dyball, Sean Kinsella P '22, '23 and Cynthia Hill P '04, Executive Assistant Julie Fredlund, Alumni Eric Falkenstein '84, Sarah Payne '85, Drennon Kimpton '08, Jimmy Connor '10, and son and Art Department Chair, Tyler Farmen '97.



What's Going on in Washington, CT

This is just a small sampling from washingtoncteventscalender.com. Please check the site for more information and for other events.

July

5 | 6:30pm – 7:30pm

The Amazing Li Liu Acrobat Show at Gunn Memorial Library

Li Liu was born in China and began her acrobatic career when she was six years old. She has performed all over Europe and Asia and came to America in 2000 with Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus. Her performance includes hand balancing, plate spinning, foot juggling and ribbon dancing. Children will get a chance to try some of the easier skills such as plate spinning and ribbon dancing after the performance. Li Liu will also share some of her Chinese culture and traditions. This amazing program is perfect for the whole family. Contact: Linda or Gail
Email: gunnjr@biblio.org
Phone: 860-868-2310

23 | 4:00pm – 6:00pm

Opening for *The Thing Of It Is* at the Washington Art Association

Curated by Eric Aho, renowned abstract painter, this exhibition will feature paintings from U.S. artists whose works were selected by Mr. Aho through a jurying process. Please join us at the opening reception on Saturday, July 23, from 4 - 6pm. Contact: Barbara von Schreiber
Email: washingtonart@snet.net
Phone: 860.868.2878

30 | 10:00am – 1:00pm

The Washington Farmers Market at The Judy Black Memorial Park & Gardens

The farmer's market at The Judy Black Memorial Park in the center of town features farm-fresh foods from local farmers and restaurants every Saturday in the summer.

12 | 5:30pm

Washington Friends of Music 2016 Summer Concert Festival

The New Baroque Soloists will perform Bach, Quantz, Telemann, Vivaldi, with French horns, oboe, strings, tympani, and organ at the Historic Meeting House on the Washington Green. Facilities are handicapped accessible and air-conditioned. Tickets: In advance \$25; First-time guests \$20; At the door \$30; Students \$10; Children Free.
Phone: 860-868-9174
More Info: <http://washingtonct4music.blogspot.com/>

13 | 4:00pm – 7:00pm

Tea for Two Hundred Garden Party

The Gunn Historical Museum and The Interfaith AIDS Ministry of Greater Danbury are the beneficiaries of this event. Dance to the music of legendary Beehive Queen Christine Ohlman and Rebel Montez. Enter the crazy hat contest, feast on plentiful food, tea and wine and dress in historical costumes or the usual white. More Info: <https://gunnhistoricalmuseum.org/tea-for-two-hundred-2016/>

27 | 5:00pm

Park and Rec Summer Concert

Concert will be at the River Walk Pavilion. Pack a picnic and bring a lawn chair!

30 | 5:00pm – 8:00pm

Night Owl - Live Music at Hopkins Vineyard

Join us for live music featuring Take 2 DJ – Gary and Laurie. No admission or cover charge.
More Info: www.hopkinsvineyard.com

**Subscribe to our Washington Events online newsletter.
Go to washingtoncteventscalender.com to sign-up.**

9 | 10:00am – 2:00pm

Come enjoy the fabulous Washington Green Summer Fair!

Egg sandwiches, a whole pig roast, hotdogs and burgers at the Open Pit BBQ, Traditional Yankee Bakery, and activities for the kids, including a Jumpy House, Face Painting, a Dunk Tank and Hayrides for All! Special sales include a Live Auction at 12:30 pm and Silent Auction from 10am until after the close of the Live Auction.

Also visit the Used Book Emporium, Ladies' Accessories Booth, Plant and Garden Shop, Gift Boutique, "Christmas in July" and a GIGANTIC TAG SALE.

Contact: Karen Esslinger

Email: admin@firstchurchwashingtonct.org
Phone: 860-868-0569

16 | 10:00am - 12:00pm

Basic H.O.R.S.E. Care Clinic

Learn the basics of horse care at H.O.R.S.E. of Connecticut. Demonstrations will be provided. Fee: \$10 per person
Email: horsectinfo@gmail.com
More Info: <http://www.horseofct.org/>

28 | 12:00pm – 2:00pm

Meet the Author for Lunch at The Hickory Stick Bookshop: Nan Rossiter - *Firefly Summer*

Join author Nan Rossiter for an intimate discussion over lunch about her new book, *Firefly Summer*, as part of the Hickory Stick Bookshop's "Meet an Author for Lunch" series on Thursday, July 28, at 12pm. For tickets and to reserve your place, please call 860-868-0525.

Email: books@hickorystickbookshop.com

August

1 | 9:00am – 12:00pm

Vacation Bible School at Salem Covenant Church

VBS is the premier event our children and youth look forward to every summer. Our program is coordinated by experienced elementary teachers and local youth serve as counselors. The program runs for a full week Monday, August 1 through Friday, August 5. Children, grades K through 5, are invited to participate. The program is free!
Phone: 860-868-2794
www.salemcovenantchurch.com/vbs



Washington Trivia

When was the first July 4 fireworks display in Washington?

See if your answer is correct in the fall issue, out in September!