

What's happening in Washington, CT

Spring 2016

Things are Happening in Washington!

By Dan Sherr

The Town has spoken; some would say, has been speaking, for some time about “refreshing” Washington. With the great recession receding and the Town Plan of Conservation and Development published in late 2014, it was time to get started. Make things happen in Washington.

With the support of Town voters, Washington Economic Development funding was approved in the 2015-2016 budget. It started with a Town workshop in late July. Standing-room-only attendance clearly indicated strong interest by the community. Twenty project areas were identified. Simplified to the WED Big 10, they are guiding the efforts of scores of community volunteers.



Mark your Calendar!
Washington Economic Development Workshop #4, Thursday, April 28, 5:30 - 7:00pm, Town Hall.

First and foremost on the list was the need to improve Town communications. Quarterly economic development workshops have been scheduled to update the community on progress. The workshops also encourage feedback from those in attendance, and help to provide future direction.

Supporting improved communications, Lisa Stein, Howard Rosenfeld, and Kathy Giarrano have created washingtoncteventscalender.org. The purpose of the calendar is to provide people with one place to find out about events taking place in the community. Check it out... and make sure to post your events.

Next up on the project list—River Park. Following the lead of The Park at One Greenhill, now Judy Black Park and Garden, the Town provided funding to remove the invasive plant species along the Shepaug River. The old fence will be replaced, and new picnic tables will encourage lunching and chatting in the Park. The Bader Chestnut, recently planted in River Park, reminds us of the role of community leaders in setting the energy and character of Washington.

The Depot is not visible to the traffic on Route 202. A sign at the intersection of Rtes. 202 and 47 is planned for June installation. With the goal of linking the Five Villages of Washington, a 4 x 6 foot Washington Depot sign will introduce travelers to the Historic Green, Steep Rock Preserves and Gunn Library and Museum.

Mark Lyon, the First Selectman, organized the WED Committee in January. A cross-section of Town Commission members and at-large volunteers, the WED Committee is focused on “Making Things Happen In Washington.”

And, we are just getting started.

The Major Reich Award

The Major Stephen Reich Award for Exceptional Citizenship was established in 2006. The award is given annually to a citizen of Washington who stands out among the many people who give so much, in so many ways, to our community. The award will be presented at the Memorial Day service at Town Hall on May 30.

Letter from the Selectman

The Board of Selectmen are working through Washington's budget season with all departments and outside agencies.

While the Region 12 proposed budget is at a 0% increase, Washington's share is up 5% due to student population shift within the Region. The final Region 12 education budget will be voted on at a region-wide referendum May 10, polling will be at Washington Town Hall. With our education costs making up nearly 70% of the total budget, it creates a 3% increase before any Town needs are considered.

The Board of Selectmen is working diligently to keep Washington's total budget increase to a minimum without effecting Town services and will be presenting their municipal budget proposal to the Board of Finance April 11. The Board of Finance and Selectmen will present a proposed Town Budget at a Public Hearing held May 5, 7:30pm at Town Hall. After consideration of Public Hearing comments, a final budget and any other Town business on the agenda, will be voted on at a Town Meeting May 19, 7:30 pm at Town Hall.

Memorial Day

The town of Washington will celebrate on Monday, May 30, starting with a Roll Call of Honor at noon at the Washington Green Cemetery. At 1pm, the commemoration will continue at the New Preston Congregational Church in New Preston, where a parade will proceed to New Preston Cemetery on Baldwin Hill for a 21 gun salute. At 2:15pm, the parade will recommence at Washington Primary School with a pause at the bridge where flowers will be tossed into the Shepaug River in memory of Naval veterans. The parade will end at Bryan Memorial Town Hall for the presentation of the Major Stephen Reich Award for Exceptional Citizenship. There will be a chicken-in-the box dinner offered at the American Legion Hall following the ceremony.

Spotlight on Business

The White Horse Pub & Restaurant

Marble Dale,
New Preston, CT

By Dan Sherr



A remarkable restaurant disguised as a country pub, a community living room with great food, a gathering place for all parts of society, The White Horse Pub and Restaurant has established itself as a true Marble Dale New Preston Connecticut institution. The White Horse Pub is the creation of a gifted couple – John and Lisa Harris. With a passion for the guest experience as well as fine food, the Harris' provide varied dining ambiance— true English pub, a fine international dining room and a seasonal deck overlooking the East Aspetuck River. Take your choice depending upon mood or event.



John brought a renaissance set of skills to the 2008 opening of the White Horse. These included a hospitality degree from Sussex University in his home country of England, international experience running five star hotels in Bermuda, the Middle East and Africa, real estate development in Fairfield County and an extensive marketing background.

Living in Westport, looking for a weekend retreat, John and Lisa found Washington and built a second-home in the community in 2003. In 2008, a local bar and eatery became available. Despite a collapsing economy, it presented a challenge to John's rich set of business skills. He and Lisa took the plunge with a commitment to creating a "Neighborhood Living Room with Food."

To set the place and pace, it was named the White Horse. The White Horse is the mythological symbol of England. It symbolizes hope. To confirm their new adventure as restaurateurs, the Harris' ordered their sign from the oldest pub sign company in England. And the White Horse has met, indeed exceeded, their hopes.

Parks & Recreation

Washington Town Beach 2016

Available to all residents and taxpayers of the Town of Washington. Membership includes use of picnic area and swim area.

The Beach Opens Memorial Day Weekend, Saturday, May 28 for weekends only.

Opens for the season (7 days a week) on Saturday, June 18 through Labor Day, September 5.

Hours: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

Fee: \$20.00 for the season

Permit available for purchase at the beach.

Director: Jeff Cox

Boat Ramp 2016

Opens For The Season – Saturday April 16

Spring/Fall Hours:

Saturdays, Sundays, Wednesdays, Memorial Day and Columbus Day

6:00am - 11am and 4pm -Sunset

Summer Hours:

Saturday June 18 to Labor Day, Monday September 5

Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays & Mondays – 6:00am – Sunset

Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays – 10:00am - 5:00pm

\$25.00 annual sticker fee.

All boats will be inspected for invasive aquatic life.

Subject to a **\$5.00 per launch inspection fee.**

Parking limited on a first come, first served basis.

Violators will be towed.

Ramp closes for the season Sunday, Oct 30 at sunset.

Extra fee for late removal \$75.00.

Watch for **2016 Summer Recreation Information** on our website: www.washingtonct.org.

Also, if you'd like to sign up for our Constant Contact emailed information, please drop us your email at rec@washingtonct.org.

ASAP

For more information on these and other events, please go to afterschoolartsprogram.org.

Cooking at The Silo with Nancy Stuart
Grades 3-5, The Silo in New Milford
Wednesdays, 4:00-5:30pm Apr. 6, 13, 27,
May 4, 11, 5 Sessions: \$60 for Region 12
Residents; \$75 for Nonresidents

Fashion Fun with Lesley Neilson-Bowman
Tuesdays 3:45-5:00pm, May 3, 10, 17, 24
4 Sessions: \$48 for Region 12 Residents;
\$60 for Nonresidents

Weekend Workshop: **Fish Stocking at Smyrski Farm** with The Weantinog Heritage Land Trust
Saturday, May 21 Time TBD, Rain Date:
Sunday May 22
\$35 per family, New Milford, CT

Summer Theatre Intensive with Emily Hubelbank
Grades K-12 \$300

Shepaug Valley School Auditorium,
Washington, CT, **Grades K-5**
June 20-24 (Mon-Fri) 10:00am-12:30pm
June 27-30 (Mon-Thu) 10:00am-12:30pm
July 1 (Fri) 9:00am-1:00pm

Show at 12:00pm
Grades 6-12 \$325
June 20-24 (Mon-Fri) 1:00pm-5:00pm
June 25 (Sat) 11:00am-5:00pm
June 27-30 (Mon-Thu) 1:00pm-5:00pm
July 1 (Fri) 1:00pm-8:30pm
Show at 7:00pm

ASAP Summer Camp 2016

Ages 4.5-13 | August 1-12
Washington Montessori School, New
Preston, Monday-Friday, 9:00am-3:30pm
240 Litchfield Turnpike, New Preston, CT
06777, \$650 for both weeks

Shepaug Regional School District 12: News from Washington Schools

By Karen A. Fildes

Washington, CT – March 28, 2016 - Washington Primary School has always been a warm and welcoming environment for students, but this year there is a special emphasis on becoming a “Kindness Campus” using the Ben’s Bells Program. The program focuses on spreading the message of kindness and generosity throughout the school community and developing students who are engaged, global citizens.

As the spring unfolds, the school will embrace kindness and generosity through participation in the H2O For Life initiative, a service learning project focused on the global water crisis. WPS students will participate in a series of educational events and projects that will raise funds for their partner school, Matugga High School in Uganda, for water, sanitation, and hygiene education. You can learn more about the project and follow the school’s efforts by visiting their H2O For Life page at <http://bit.ly/1S8sKyq>.



A second kindness project that the WPS community will embark upon this spring is the Matthew’s Hearts of Hope Hug a Pillow Project. This project, inspired by Matthew Hatcher, invites community organizations to help sew heart-shaped pillows to be used by children with Congenital Heart Defects (CHD) as they go through treatment. The pillows’ shape is not only symbolic but also assists children who use them for rest or relief when coughing. The WPS community will come together to learn more about this initiative this spring and to craft these pillows for the program. To learn more about this organization, visit <http://matthewsheartsofhope.org/>.

At Shepaug Valley School, planning for the opening of the Agriscience STEM Academy is underway! The AgSTEM Building Committee, chaired by Board of Education member Greg Cava, named the architectural firm Kaestle Boos to lead the project. At a recent meeting, the Washington Sustainability Committee participated to discuss elements of sustainable design with the aim of “creating a focal point for sustainability in the community.” The building committee will continue to work on revising the conceptual plans with the goal of creating bid-ready designs near the end of April.

An AgSTEM Advisory Committee, comprised of agricultural professionals across a wide range of areas, has also been assembled to assist Principal Gallo, as is a requirement of all state-funded agriscience programs. This group is currently reviewing curriculum pathways and conceptual drawings to provide industry-specific advice to build the best agriscience program possible for our students. Their work will continue throughout the spring while the appropriations bill works its way through the state legislature.

Summer ~ and Beyond ~ at Washington Montessori School

If you are looking for a variety of summertime experiences for your children we invite you to consider the offerings at Washington Montessori School. Children ages 3 to 5 may attend either a half day or full day of Summer Montessori. This



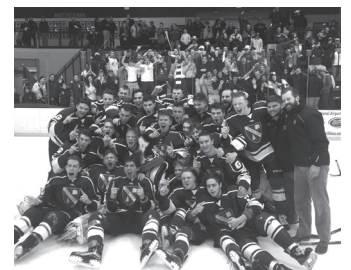
new program is designed to welcome young children to our beautifully designed classrooms, with added opportunities for summertime fun on our lovely campus. Full and half-day schedules are available.

Older children, ages 6 to 14 can choose soccer, tennis or lacrosse camp (one week each) or children 6 to 10 can opt for a day camp (one, two, or three week sessions) that includes swimming, science and nature study, art, and outdoor activities. Washington Montessori School is located on 48 hillside acres on Route 202 in New Preston and is fully air conditioned. Please visit our website for more information about summer at WMS. <http://www.washingtonmontessori.org/wms-summer-camps/>.

Parents looking beyond summer to the next school year are encouraged to contact Laura Martin at lmartin@washingtonmontessori.org or 860.868.0551 to arrange a visit while classes are in session this spring. Observing our students and teachers at work and at play is the best way to understand Montessori education. Spring weather also enables visitors to have a good look at the new ‘natural playground’ for young children, the woods and trails, the outdoor science lab, and the school garden as well as our new Sports Park which includes playing fields, a track, and tennis courts. You might even catch a glimpse of our fourth and fifth year students rehearsing their annual Shakespeare play in our theater.

The Gunnery

Winter sports at The Gunnery were exciting and eventful with three teams heading to the New England Championships including Girls Varsity Basketball, Girls Varsity Hockey and Boys Varsity Hockey. The Boys Varsity Hockey team took home the New England Elite-Eight Championship with a 3-2 win against Milton Academy at St. Anselm College in New Hampshire.



The spring sports season kicks off at the beginning of April. For the most up to date schedule on, please visit our website.

Upcoming Events:

- Founders Day Regatta, Sunday May 8. For more information, please visit our website.
- ALS Run, Saturday May 28
- Graduation, Monday May 30

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.

April

14 | 8:30am

Zumba at Senior Center

Zumba is a fast-paced cardio workout.

Cost: \$25 for six classes or \$5 for walk-ins.

Email: seniors@washingtonct.org

Phone: 860-868-0735

24 | 2:00pm - 5:00pm

Night Owl - Live Music at Hopkins Vineyard

Join us for live music!

Featuring light jazz in the Hayloft Wine Bar by Acoustic Fish.

No admission or cover charge.

Contact: Patty Baillargeon

Email: pattyb@hopkinsvineyard.com

Phone: 860-868-7954

More Info: <http://www.hopkinsvineyard.com>

26 | 6:00am – 8:00pm

Connecticut Primary

Bryan Memorial Town Hall.

30 | All day

Celebrate Independent Bookstore Day at The Hickory Stick Bookshop

Celebrate the 2nd annual Independent Bookstore Day at The Hickory Stick Bookshop! Join us for a full day of events, exclusive merchandise, and festivities!

More Info: www.hickorystickbookshop.com/

30 | 2:00pm - 5:00pm

John Patrick Organic at J. Seitz & Co.

J. Seitz & Co. will host John Patrick as he introduces his latest organic, harmonious with nature collection from New York.

Patrick will also be bringing pieces from his couture collection.

More Info: jseitz.com

May

1 | 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Spring Fling w/SingOut! CT at Gunn Memorial Library

Connecticut's Premier Glee Group for Young Voices, SingOut! CT, will present a solo concert at the Gunn Memorial

Library. Talented members of this Ensemble will perform individual selections from Broadway, Art song and Popular Music. Additionally, the 12 member A Cappella Group will debut repertoire to be performed in June at the annual Spring Garden Concert. For more information visit www.singoutct.org

5 | 7:30pm

Town Budget Hearing

Bryan Memorial Town Hall.

14 | 10:00am - 5:00pm

Artist and Master Printer: The Collaborative Process

Two national known printers from our region, Anthony Kirk and Malcolm Moran, will showcase their prints in this Washington Art Association and Gallery exhibition.

More Info: washingtonartassociation.org

19 | 7:30pm

Annual Town Budget Meeting

Bryan Memorial Town Hall.

24 | 5:45am - 6:45am

Bootcamp Fitness Classes with Deb Andrews

Bootcamp with licensed physical therapist and personal trainer, Deb Andrews. This combination cardio and weight training class meets every Tuesday and Thursday at the Washington Primary School in the Gym (winter, early spring) or Riverwalk Pavilion (late spring, summer and fall). Bring weights, a mat, water and a can-do attitude to this challenging and fun exercise class!

Contact: Deb Andrews, 203-830-9247

\$10 per class

28 | 9:00am – 3:00pm

Lions Club Lobster Sale

River Walk Pavilion.

30 | All Day

Memorial Day

Town Hall offices closed.

June

Save the Date! Community Day! Saturday, June 4 10am-3pm

At businesses and Town Hall grounds.

10 | 6:00pm

Village Improvement Society Picnic

River Walk Pavilion.

11 | 5:30pm - 10:00pm

Library Luminaries

The evening of the Gunn Memorial Library's 21st annual Library Luminaries fundraising event features unique dinners in beautiful country homes, each highlighting a notable "luminary" guest. A cocktail party at the Library begins the evening.

Contact: Wendy Rhodes

Email: gunndevelopment@biblio.org

18 | 6:00pm - 9:30pm

8th Annual Summer Solstice Festival

The Washington Art Association's Summer Solstice Festival returns for its 8th year, on Saturday, June 18th with a sizzling evening of live Latin music, Caribbean cuisine prepared by your favorite local chefs. Featuring the Mojito King, Abdo Ballester, who will prepare his famous and popular Mojitos!!!! New this year will be an exhibition of the art work of several well known contemporary Cuban artists.

Contact: Barbara von Schreiber

Email: washingtonart@snet.net

19 | 4:00pm

Music in the Garden at Hollister House Garden

The New Baroque Soloists present music for the Summer Solstice. As summer begins celebrate with chamber music on the lawn. Bring a picnic (we provide the rosé) and greet the longest day with an outstanding concert. We request a donation of \$5 per person.

More Info: www.hollisterhousegarden.org/

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

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