

What's happening in Washington, CT

Summer 2019

Shakespeare is Coming to the Litchfield Hills this Summer

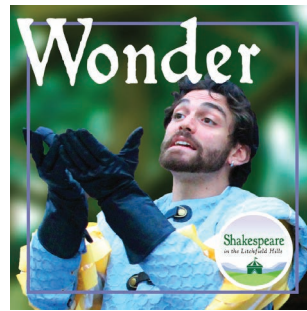
By Karen Silk and Kathryn Kehoe

In 2018, the Friends of Shakesperience in the Litchfield Hills came together to assess the interest NW Connecticut communities might have in a summer program of Shakespeare in the Park. Through a series of local friend raisers including short original performances by Shakesperience Artistic Director Emily Mattina, the response to the expanded program was immediate and enthusiastic. Community members have since rallied to the call for financial support. The result: the Bard is coming to Litchfield County the summer of 2019!

The Northwest Hills, a community already home to the visual, musical, and cultural arts, has opened its arms to a summer with Shakespeare. Sponsored by The Friends of Shakesperience in the Litchfield Hills, Shakesperience Productions, Inc. is bringing a professional company featuring Equity actors to Washington for a mid-summer engagement with the Bard. Shakesperience is a nonprofit educational and professional theater company located in Waterbury.

Shakespeare in the Litchfield Hills will engage the community over a three-week period and culminate in five FREE outdoor performances of *The Comedy of Errors* at Riverwalk Pavilion in Washington Depot, Wednesday, August 7 through Sunday, August 11 at 7:30pm. During the three weeks of the festival, area residents will be welcome to participate in set construction, community discussions, actor instructed classes for young people, post-performance talk backs with the company, and much more. Area residents are generously opening their homes to cast and crew. The Friends of Shakesperience plan to make this an annual festival in the Litchfield Hills.

Complemented by original music and a youth chorus, *The Comedy of Errors* is performed on a set inspired by a town square built around a glockenspiel. Identical twin boys are separated from their father for twenty-five years. Each



has a servant who is also an identical twin. They all converge on the same town where their father has also arrived, condemned to death but determined to find his long-lost family before his tragic end. Emily Mattina, Founder and Artistic Director of Shakesperience, brilliantly explores nurture versus nature as she directs this wild confusion to its neat and happy conclusion.

Emily and her husband Jeffrey Lapham, founded Shakesperience Productions, Inc. twenty years ago to educate and inspire students, families, and whole communities through the arts. Shepaug Regional High School has long been familiar with the in-school programs offered by Shakesperience, including a special program offered this past year to introduce students to *The Comedy of Errors*.

Shakespeare in the Litchfield Hills is sponsored in part by Connecticut Community Foundation, Valley Spirit and Wellness, Washington Supply Company, The Litchfield Distillery, Devine Hair Company, Connecticut Office of Arts, Byrde & the b, The Owl, Washington Cleaners, the Town of Washington, Litchfield Bancorp, DK Schulman Design, County Wine and Spirits, and Friends of Shakesperience in the Litchfield Hills. Daily, additional businesses are joining the effort to support the festival.

Individual donations are welcome at www.shakesperienceproductions.org/summer Interested in hosting a member of the company, volunteering for backstage crew or ushering? Contact Jeffrey Lapham, jlapham@shakesperienceproductions.org or 203-754-2531.

Message from the Selectmen's Office

The weather is finally breaking after a long, cool and wet spring. The first project this year was new drainage for the Town Hall, the 1930's clay tiles had plugged up and collapsed over the years causing water to backup into the Town Hall basement. After an exploratory dig to find the pipes and having no plans on where the old pipes went, it was decided to run all the drains into a stubbed off pipe that was run across the plaza during its renovation and tie in to the subterranean water filtration system installed with that project. This has been completed before the Town Hall sidewalk replacement project that will be performed in late June and July. The Highway Department is looking ahead to another busy summer of road maintenance and reconstruction. Watch the weekly email postings from the Selectmen's office for chip sealing and paving schedules.

Once again Washington has many events scheduled for the summer months and there are many ways to keep track of them. Start with the Town website at washingtontonct.org which has a detailed calendar of Board and Commission Meetings and an archive of their minutes. There are links at the bottom of the page to general Town information. Two more links in the middle of the page will connect you to an events calendar or our explorewashingtontonct.org website, a more comprehensive attractions and events page.

We're once again including inserts in your tax bill requesting contact information, name, address, and email address. If you're not currently receiving our weekly announcements, please return it with your tax payment. Washington is working to grow our email list to provide information on Town events, reminders of Town Meetings, and general information about goings on in Town. Your information will NOT be shared and our current Alert Now reverse 911 phone system will continue to be used for emergency messages.

Spotlight on Business: The Hopkins Vineyard

By Dan Sherr

They started early, Hilary Hopkins as a youngster and her father Bill, making wine...dandelion wine, that is. Then in 1979, Bill Hopkins and Sherman Haight (Haight-Brown Vineyard, Litchfield, CT) set the standard for commercial vineyards in Connecticut, convincing the legislature to not only permit them to make wine but distribute it for sale as well. However, it took until 1993 to convince the legislature to permit the Vineyards to sell wine by the glass.



Hopkins Vineyard, overlooking Lake Waramaug, is an economic cornerstone of the town of Warren, drawing large crowds with their frequent wine tastings and social events. For many, it's a seasonal destination. Interestingly, this is not new.

The history of the Vineyard's location clearly indicates Native Americans occupied the soft hilly countryside above the lake 14,000 years ago. It's a recognized location for Native American archeological excavations with many of the finds in major museums.

In 1787, Elijah Hopkins returning from the Revolutionary War, purchased the land. Seven generations have seen the Hopkins family lead a continuing evolution of farming in Connecticut. As a wine-maker for the last 40 years, they have been instrumental in creating the Connecticut wine business, establishing the state wine trail and advancing Connecticut wine brands nationally.

With her very early wine-making experience, Hilary joined the family business in 1996. In 2005, she took over as CEO and in 2016, with her husband George Criollo (a/k/a, Stonewalls by George), purchased Hopkins Vineyard from her parents, making it one of the oldest continuously family owned farms in the state. The passion and commitment of the Hopkins' to the land is clear – 232 years in Warren with a proven record of aligning to the changing demands of the Connecticut and national farming and brewing marketplace.

Hopkins Vineyard, 25 Hopkins Rd, Warren, CT 06777
hopkinsvineyard.com, 860-868-7954

Washington Parks & Rec

Kicking off the summer season, join us for a FREE concert featuring Raging Gracefully at the River Walk Pavilion on July 4 at 2:00pm. Bring a picnic basket to complete the experience. Feel like grilling? This year we will be offering an open grill. It'll be on and hot so bring your favorite grillable and cook it up!

Before you head to the Pavilion, put on your running shoes and come down to Steep Rock for the annual Major Stephen Reich 5K Freedom Run. Same day registration begins at 8:30am with the run/walk beginning at 9:00am. There will be two water stations.

The beach and boat ramp are now on summer hours through Labor Day. The beach is open 10:00am – 5:00pm seven days a week and the boat ramp is open from 6:00am – sunset, Friday-Monday and 10:00am – 5:00pm, Tuesday – Thursday.

There's still time to register for some of our later summer camps. Don't wait any longer. Get those registration forms in. Stay tuned for more info on upcoming activities and events and be sure to follow @Washington-ParksandRec on Facebook.

News From the Washington Environmental Council

We did it!!! Washington became the first town in Litchfield County to ban single-use disposable plastic check-out bags. WEC's hard work paid off because of the incredible support from the Washington Business Association, the Board of Selectmen, the Washington Sustainability Committee and, of course, the community!!

The ordinance goes into effect on November 1, 2019 allowing residents and businesses time to adjust to a plastic-free check-out experience. WEC is ready to help consumers and merchants reduce their plastic dependency by offering bag alternatives, educating shoppers, selling reusable items and, most importantly, encouraging a lifestyle of BYO (Bring Your Own) reusable bags, straws, cups, plates, etc.

Additionally, WEC is providing a "Reduce Your Plastic Footprint" handout at events like the Community Block Party, the Farmer's Market and Conversations on the Green. The handout is free and informative. And since WEC believes strongly in setting an example, we recently offered a free glass of Prosecco to anyone (over 21) who brought their reusable cup to last month's First Friday/Block Party. This was a huge success because lots of FUN and thought provoking conversations about our reducing our plastic dependency were happening at the same time.

If you have concerns or questions about the plastic bag ban, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us at info@wec-ct.org. Also, look for WEC's table at the Farmer's Market and most First Fridays.

Do you have a question about the WEDC? Want to submit something for the newsletter? Take a look at our page on the Town of Washington website, washingtonct.org/economic-development-committee or email us any questions or comments to washingtonctedc@gmail.com.

Steep Rock Association www.steeprockassoc.org

Contribute to the Giving Garden

Macricostas Preserve (124 Christian Street, New Preston)

Located at Macricostas Preserve and in its 11th growing season, Judea Garden is as fruitful as ever with recent additions that have extended its growing season and almost doubled its size. At the end of last year, Judea Garden grew, harvested, and distributed 36,000 lbs. of produce to members of the community.

General Volunteering

Volunteers are the backbone of Judea Garden. Without them, we wouldn't be able to bring fresh produce to those in need. There are so many ways to help, whether in the garden itself, helping with distribution or doing supportive work that keeps the Judea Garden project going. There's a place for every volunteer to use their skills or develop new ones.

Those interested in volunteering are encouraged to sign up on Steep Rock Association's website (<https://steeprockassoc.org/volunteer-sign-up-form/>), contact Denise Arturi (denise.arturi@steeprockassoc.org), or stop by when your summer schedule permits Monday – Friday 8:00am – 12:00pm.

Weed & Wine

Spend time with fellow gardeners weeding vegetable beds at Judea Garden before enjoying conversation over a glass of wine on us. Weed & Wine is held every Wednesday from June 12 – August 21 from 5:30pm – 7:00pm.

Distribution

Washington distribution is located in Bryan Memorial Town Hall and takes place on Mondays at 11:45am – 5:00pm from July through October. For more information, call the Steep Rock Association Office at 860-868-9131 or the Selectmen's Office at 860-868-2259.

Put Your Hands (And Not Just Your Boots) On the Trails This Season

All Public Preserves

With over 40 miles of trails, volunteers are needed to help keep them in tip top shape. Participants in our monthly trail work party will learn by doing, tackling new and exciting projects every month, ranging from backcountry trail construction to water

and vegetation management. Whether you participate for one workday or for the entire season, you're sure to enjoy the camaraderie of the group while leaving a lasting, positive impact on the trails you love.

The work party always take place 10:00am – 12:30pm on the second Saturday of every month. Location and project details are posted two weeks prior to the work party event.

Conservation Conversation

Macricostas Preserve (124 Christian Street, New Preston)

Join us on Monday, July 1 from 4:30pm – 5:30pm for an informal walk with state legislators and our partners through a land conservation success story made possible by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Open Space and Watershed Acquisition Program (OSWLA) – funded by the Community Investment Act – and other local investments.

Seniors in Steep Rock

Steep Rock Preserve (2 Tunnel Road, Washington Depot)

What better way to spend a summer day than a hike and picnic in the great outdoors with friends and neighbors. On Thursday, July 25 from 10:00am– 12:00pm, senior citizens can enjoy exactly that in the serenity of Steep Rock's largest preserve. Back by popular demand within the senior community, staff will lead a short and leisurely guided hike to historic points of interest followed by a complimentary light lunch. Please make arrangements with your town's senior center if transportation is needed. SRA will have its ATV available on-site to assist those who have difficulty walking over uneven terrain.

Annual Community Picnic

Steep Rock Preserve (2 Tunnel Road, Washington Depot)

We'll host our annual community picnic on Saturday, September 7 from 12:00pm – 2:00pm. Washington residents and Steep Rock supporters are encouraged to bring the entire family for free food and refreshments. Make a day of it with a hike to the Steep Rock Summit, exploration of the Holiday House ruins, or stroll along the Shepaug River.

Washington Art Association

The Washington Art Association is pleased to present, "Life in the Balance," paintings and drawings? by Caroline Harman of Newtown, July 13 – August 24.

Ms. Harman's richly patterned works explore the ideas of life and adaptability. She poses the questions, "In order to survive, how do the complex systems that support life adapt to change? What are the qualities of adaptability, and how could those traits be explored and represented through art?"



Blue Ice by Caroline Harman

Believing that nature speaks in patterns, she uses multi-rhythmical forms, color and geometry to respond to the boundless stimuli and increasing instability all around us. She explores how living organisms, and the entangled systems within which they exist, adapt to random events and adverse conditions.

Her paintings and drawings shift from chaos to symmetry. The "edge of chaos" is a term in complex systems theory that describes the exact point where a chaotic system meets an ordered system. It's a moment where new emergent phenomena can occur. The idea, then, is to push each painting up to and past the point of chaos in order to observe what happens.

Ms. Harman's process involves a slow, careful buildup of layers to create balance, and the frequent introduction of random disruptors (ink stains, paint pours, sprays and drips) to create imbalance. The two opposing forces work continuously with and against each other over many months, ultimately evolving into a state of equilibrium.

The opening reception of "Life in the Balance" will be Saturday, July 13 from 4:00 – 6:00pm. It's free and open to the public.



A critic's choice of headline opinion makers are coming this summer to headline programs focusing on pressing national issues during the seventh season of Conversations On the Green, the town hall style speakers series which this year will start airing some episodes on Connecticut Public Television.

In June we held our second event of the season, ***The Party's Over: The Future of the GOP***, that featured *The New York Times'* conservative columnist Bret Stephens, *MSNBC* analyst Susan Del Percio and David Jolly, a former Republican representative from Florida and frequent network commentator.

The Supreme Court, which will have just finished its latest term, will be the focus of a **July 21** discussion ***The Reckoning: SCOTUS Breakpoint*** with court savant Linda Greenhouse of *The New York Times*, Jeffrey Toobin of *CNN* and *The New Yorker*, and *CNN's* Joan Biskupic, who just finished the first biography of Chief Justice John Roberts, one of more than a half dozen books she's written on the court.

A panel from the historic class of 2016 freshman representatives will headline an **August 25** discussion, ***New Kids on The Hill: Ms. Smith Goes to Washington***. The luminaries will include Connecticut's Jahana Hayes, Florida's Donna Shalala and Iowa's Abby Finkenauer, among others.

Democracy In Danger? History's Lessons on September 15 features the dynamic trio of Timothy Snyder, the Yale historian and author of the *The New York Times* bestseller "On Tyranny," *Washington Post* columnist and historian Max Boot, and *MSNBC's* national security expert, Malcom Nance.

The **October 27** event, ***Working Without A Net: On Air In The Age of Trump***, will be headlined by Stephanie Ruhle of *MSNBC* and Jeff Mason, a *Reuters* White House Correspondent and the former head of The White House correspondents' Association.

Proceeds from ticket sales benefit Greenwood's Counseling Referrals, Inc., New Milford Hospital and the Susan B. Anthony Project. For tickets and more information, visit our website www.conversationsonthegreen.com. But please note that seating is limited and several of last year's programs sold out. So buy your tickets early and often.

News from The Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens



The Judy Black Park and Gardens in the center of the Depot is open and buzzing with activity this summer – with something for everyone!

FUNraiser for the park: Support the Judy Black Park by attending our second annual FUNraiser, to be held on Saturday, July 13, from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. Enjoy the food and festivities, along with live performances by the dynamic and upbeat pop singer/songwriter Theo Kandel, recent graduate of Vanderbilt University with ties to the community; along with award-winning songwriter, singer and multi-instrumentalist Matt Nakoa. Tickets (while they last) are available at www.thejudyblackparkandgardens.org.

Outdoor Movie Nights: Don't miss upcoming free (donations are welcome), outdoor movies on the big screen at the park scheduled on the evenings of the first Fridays of the month: *THE KING'S SPEECH* on July 5, sponsored by Washington Supply Company and Wright Electrical Co.; *TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD* on August 2, sponsored by William Pitt Sotheby's; and *DRIVING MISS DAISY* on September 6, sponsored by Meadowbrook Gardens and Union Savings Bank. Bring a lawn chair or blanket, a picnic, and a love for classic films.

US Open Tennis Watching Parties: In early September join us for the Watching Parties of the US Open Women's Tennis Finals (on the 7th) and the US Open Men's Tennis Finals (on the 8th), both sponsored by Ericson Insurance Advisors. Enjoy light refreshments while cheering on your favorite player. Or take a break at

the Wii console for a little tennis match of your own.

Farmer's Market: Come for the beautiful produce of our local vendors (and stay to greet friends and neighbors), from 10:00am to 1:00pm every Saturday morning through late October. Bring the kids for craft activities and games, and catch occasional Chef Demos (e.g., CT Community Table on July 27 at 11:00am).

Art Exhibits: July 1 through July 30 see the exhibit of mixed-media artist Peter Wooster, *TRYING TIMES* - New Works. Join us for an opening reception on July 6 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Starting on August 1, visit the exhibit of Catherine Erb, a self-taught fine art photographer from Memphis, Tennessee. On October 2, an exhibit of new work by Don Florence will be on display for six weeks. Meet the artist at a reception on October 5.

Creative Afternoons with ARTROOM: On August 31 from 1:00 – 2:30 pm we welcome back Jessica Jane Russell of ARTROOM Atelier for the third in a series of creative afternoons tailored for children. Space is limited at these free programs, so don't miss it! More information and a link to register may be found on our website.

Check out our website (www.thejudy-blackparkandgardens.org) or follow us on Facebook for details of these events and more! Enjoy our mission in action this summer: *"A gathering place that invites friends and neighbors to relax, learn, play, and share all that our community offers."*

Gunn Memorial Library & Museum

LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE

Friday 9/26 through Tuesday 10/1

Explore the nooks and crannies, as well as the major spaces, including the Field Community Room (remember the Book Basement?) and our new Washington Room – during a week-long open house at the Library. Step behind the desk, see the back room staff work areas, pop in for one-on-one digital tutorials, or take a guided tour. Use your library knowledge to join in on our 'fun and games' – and maybe win a prize or two. Details to follow!

BOOKED! *The Next Chapter continues...*

Building on our successful event last year, BOOKED! will be held on Columbus Day weekend, **Saturday, October 12**. Join us for a special evening at Bryan Memorial Town Hall and enjoy cocktails, robust hors d'oeuvres, music, and an enlarged silent auction – all to support an institution that stands at the center of our community!

CHILDREN'S FUN Summer Reading

"Universe of Stories" Space Adventures with summer reading begins June 24. Children receive a bag filled with goodies and a journal to record time spent reading, being read to or listening to books. Tickets are awarded for each hour and can be used as chances to win prizes donated by local businesses and patrons!

Tuesday Evening Summer Reading Programs

ScienceTellers: Aliens Escape! *special paid program* - Tuesday, July 9 @ 6:30pm

Star Gazing – Tuesday, July 16 @ 6:30pm

Star Wars Party – Tuesday, July 23 @ 6:30pm

Space Trivia Night – Tuesday, July 30 @ 6:30pm

Science Experiment Night – Tuesday, August 6 @ 6:30pm

Space Movie Night – Tuesday, August 13 @ 6:30pm

Last day to turn in Summer Reading tickets – Saturday, August 17

Ice Cream Social – Tuesday, August 20 @ 6:30pm

Litchfield 4H Programs

Thursdays, July 11, 18, 25 @ 1:30pm - Lessons on all 4 seasons, including activities about what plants need to grow, fisheries management, all about the harvest and farm to table agriculture, and finally, a lesson about dairy products where the students will be making their own ice cream!

Saturday Drop-in Programs

Weekly in July & August, 10am-2pm

ADULT PROGRAMS

Young Picasso – EXHIBITION ON SCREEN

Documentary (Co-sponsored with Washington Art Association) – Thursday, July 11 @ 6:30pm

A Night at the Opera – Musically Enhanced Visual Presentation by Musicologist Dr. Gil Harel – Thursday, July 18 @ 6:30pm

The Versailles Treaty: From Victory to Chaos – Lecture by Professor & Historian Mark Albertson Thursday, August 1 @ 6:30pm

Healthcare in CT – presentation by Eva Bermudez Zimmerman former candidate for Lt. Governor of CT and current Director of Child Care and Organizing for CSEA SEIU – Thursday, August 8 @ 6:00pm (sponsored by Washington Democratic Town Committee)

Lincoln in the Bardo – Book Lecture/Discussion by Literary Scholar Mark Scarbrough – Thursday, August 15 @ 6:00pm

Griefwalker – Film Documentary, Thursday, August 22 @ 6:30pm

Seed Saving Program – Tuesday, August 27 @ 6:30pm (in collaboration with Steep Rock's Judea Garden)

Archeological Oddities – Book talk and presentation by Kenneth L. Feder, Professor of Anthropology – Thursday, September 5 @ 6:30pm

Going to Mars? – Lecture by Ray Reich, Tuesday, September 10 @ 6:30pm

Rembrandt – EXHIBITION ON SCREEN

Documentary (Co-sponsored with Washington Art Association) – Thursday, September 12 @ 6:30pm

Paris to Pittsburg Documentary – (Co-Sponsored with WEC & UCC) – Tuesday, September 17 @ 6:00pm

How Coffee Explains the World – Lecture by Zero Prophet Coffee Founder Nick Benson – Thursday, September 26 @ 6:30pm

Sunday Matinees: September 8, 15 & 22 @ 1:00pm Screened feature films TBA

STAIRWELL GALLERY

Frank Metz – Landscape Paintings on display through July 20

Susan Lerner – Mixed Media on display July 27 through September 7

Jim Aaby – Paintings on display September 14 through October 26

MUSEUM

History of the Shepaug Railroad – Presentation by Col. Donald A. Woodworth Jr. – Tuesday, July 30, 6:30 – 7:30pm. At American Legion/Washington Senior Center.

Exhibit Grand Opening Reception – Saturday, August 17, 1:00-3:00pm – An exciting new long-term exhibit, *Washington, Connecticut: An American Story*, at the Gunn Historical Museum that explores the unique people, places, and events that have shaped Washington's rich history.

Heritage Walk - Museum Tour – Sunday, September 29, 1:00-2:00pm & 3:00-4:00 – Curator Stephen Bartkus will lead a tour of the new long-term exhibit *Washington Connecticut: An American Story*. (Offered in collaboration with the Housatonic Heritage Area).

For more information and a complete listing of programs and events at GML, Inc. visit www.gunnlibrary.org

Summer Programs at Rumsey Hall School rumseyhall.org/summer

summer academic enrichment / July 1-august 2

A balanced five-week program of academics, recreation and enrichment. Focusing on academic enrichment, language skills, developmental reading, English as a Second Language (ESL). Also, daily recreational activities, field trips and cultural experiences are offered. Day and boarding options are available.

summer camp / July 1-august 2

Five-week Summer Recreation Program for children ages 3 –10. Weekly themes explore exciting activities designed to expose campers to new and interesting projects. Experienced staff, small counselor-to-camper ratio, in our beautiful Bantam River Valley setting.

volleyball skills / July 22-July 26

One-week program for girls in grades 6

–10, led by Ali Spooner '90 Linley, designed to develop and strengthen skills and understanding of the game, while increasing self-confidence.

basketball camp / August 12-16

Hosted by Bret Nichols and YGB Basketball on the Rumsey campus, this one week program focuses on fundamentals and competitive games.

Shepaug Regional School District 12

Shepaug graduation took center stage on June 15. The construction at Shepaug Valley School forced a change of venue for the graduation ceremony this year. The graduation exercises occurred at Washington's Bryan Memorial Town Hall. The Region 12 team worked closely with First Selectman Mark Lyon and Trooper Matt Costello to plan for the celebration. The graduating seniors, Shepaug staff, and all of the Region 12 community thank the town leaders, local businesses and community members for allowing our students to be honored at such a distinguished location.

Shepaug Valley School students were recognized throughout the school year for various achievements. Shepaug was ranked the 34th High School in Connecticut by *US News and World Reports*. Our high school was ranked against others for students taking Advanced Placement classes, student/teacher ratio, and graduation rates. We're proud of this recognition.

The arts program boasts two award winners from Congressional Art Exhibition at The Mattatuck Museum as well as having our artists' work displayed at Hunt Hill Emerging Artists Exhibit. Shepaug Dramatics Program received eight Halo nominations for their productions of *Lapin Agile* and *Big Fish*. Our Digital Media Club began

their year traveling to New York City for the *2018 All American High School Film Festival* and completed their year with ten nominations for the *Fox 61 Student News* awards.

Shepaug's academic achievements include introducing Physics First, various AP scholars, Seal of Biliteracy, and the senior projects. Wilson King's National Merit Scholarship Award coupled with his winning Foreign Service Essay only further demonstrate the caliber of our students when stacked up against students nationally.

The athletic reputation that has been built by the Shepaug program is one of sportsmanship, skill, and perseverance. The CIAC and the Berkshire League have recognized Shepaug students for their athleticism and academics as scholar-athletes. Our sports teams have won CIAC coaches awards because of their character and performance.

The construction project at Shepaug is on-time and on-budget. The Shepaug campus will be closed during the summer to allow for abatement and large scale construction to occur. Shepaug Valley School along with the agriscience program will open to students on August 29, 2019. We could not be more excited!

For the second year, Washington Primary School has been recognized by the State



Washington Primary School students work with their teacher, Mrs. White to prepare for their outdoor garden.

Department of Education as a School of Distinction. Academic excellence continues to drive Principal Emily Judd and the WPS staff to design lessons that raise our students' expectations for themselves. Each child is brought to their personal best each day by our dynamic and caring staff.

We are proud of the educational evolution occurring in our schools. To learn more, we welcome you to visit our website at www.region-12.org and follow us on social media: *Twitter@ShepaugRSD12*, *FaceBook* Shepaug Regional School District 12, or our YouTube channel Region 12 Schools. We want our school system to reflect the needs and vision of the towns we serve. Thank you to our Washington community for the care and support you give to our students.

Hollister House

The Stars of Summer: Clematis Rendered in Pan Pastel and Colored Pencil Two-Day Workshop, July 11-12, Event Times 10:00 am - 3:30 pm

Using close observation, you'll learn to create the texture and form needed to render a clematis plant including the flowers, buds, leaves and climbing vine. This workshop is taught by Jeanne Reiner, co-founder of Tri-State Botanical Artists. Hollister House Garden members \$190|Non-members \$230. Visit www.hollisterhousegarden.org/events for more information.

First Fridays at Hollister House Garden Event, Friday, August 2, Time 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

As the light fades and day turns to evening, enjoy the company of friends and the beauty of the garden. Come, have a glass of wine and delight in the intimate outdoor spaces, bordered by dramatic hedges and overflowing with exuberant plantings. A perfect start to a summer weekend. Reservations are not required. A \$10 per person donation is requested (includes a glass of wine).

'Annual Sale of Rare and Unusual Plants' at Hollister House Garden, September 8, 9:00am-3:00pm (rain or shine)

Don't miss this opportunity to shop for plants suitable for late season planting from some of the Northeast's premier specialty nurseries including Broken Arrow Nursery, Cricket Hill Garden, Falls Village Flower Farm, Garden Vision Epimediums, Green Spot, Issima, Meadowbrook Gardens, O'Brien Nurserymen, Oesco, Shakespeare's Garden, Snug Harbor Farm, and Young's at Three Rivers. M.O.C. Eatery Food Truck will be on premise offering a variety of delicious bites for purchase. \$10/pp (includes admission to the garden). For more information, visit www.hollisterhousegarden.org.

Message from the Assessor's Office

The October 1 assessment date in CT is so important because it's the 'start' or 'effective' date for many tax benefit applications or statutorily required filings with the Assessor's Office.

Military veterans seeking exemptions for Honorable service on the 2019 grand list and in future years, must file their Form DD-214 service record with the Town Clerk by the prior September 30 – if they haven't previously done so. Veterans may also apply for a two-year increased exemption based upon income; if they file an application with income proofs by October 1.

Real estate owners can submit new or amended applications for a special PA 490 tax value acres already in actual productive agricultural use on Oct. 1, between Sept. 1 – Oct. 31, 2019.

Any organization already enjoying tax-exempt status must also file a supplemental application for exempt status for any additional property acquired after the prior (2017) quadrennial filing.

Additionally, owners of business personal property are required to file declarations of assets held on the assessment date, post-marked no later than November 1, 2019.

There's even more tax benefit information for totally disabled, blind and/or elderly individuals, as well as other topics of interest at: washingtonct.org/assessor. Questions for the assessor can always be left by voice mail to 860-868-0398, or by email @ assessor@washingtonct.org

Events at The Gunnery

June 30–July 5; July 7–12; July 14–19

Rowing Camp at The Gunnery

A co-ed, one-to-three week residential or day program for beginning, intermediate and advanced rowers who are entering grades 7 to 12. Learn to row on beautiful Lake Waramaug! To register, go to gunnery.org/camps.

June 30–July 27

Litchfield Jazz Camp at The Gunnery

Students ages 13 and older are taught in skills-based combos and participate in performances, concerts, jazz and theory/composition workshops, master classes, jam sessions, electives like R&B band and more. Space is still available for the first two sessions, June 30–July 5 and July 7–12. Residential and day options available. Free concerts featuring Litchfield Jazz faculty, Sunday through Thursday at 7:00pm, Emerson Performing Arts Center. More information and camp registration at litchfieldjazzcamp.com.

July 26 – July 28

Litchfield Jazz Festival at The Gunnery

The 2019 Festival will keep up the star quality for which it has become famous while it begins a transition to a new location in a more intimate setting at The Gunnery's Emerson Performing Arts Center and a closer connection to its teaching arm, Litchfield Jazz Camp. An OuterFest on Saturday, July 27, features art, crafts, student concerts and family activities. It's free and open to the public from 11:00am to 5:00pm on the Washington Green and in the First Congregational Church, which hosts student concerts and artist talks. For the full 2019 festival schedule and to purchase tickets, go to litchfieldjazzfest.com.

August 4–August 9

Dutch Total Soccer Camp at The Gunnery

A co-ed, one-week residential or day program for ages 9–16. Players are challenged to think about the game and encouraged to develop all skills in game situations, improving greatly in a short period of time. The camp is led by Dutch Total Soccer staff, all of whom have KNVB and UEFA licenses. To register, go to gunnery.org/camps.

The Herstory of Washington

The Herstory of Washington, presented by Louise van Tartwijk, continues this fall, with dates still to be determined. The location will be the Maxwell A. Sarofim Performing Arts Center, at The Rumsey Hall School, 201 Romford Road, Washington, CT.

The topics that will be covered are:

- September: Patriots, Tories & A Mass Murder
- October: To Marry a Cherokee Indian: The Brinsmades, the Golds & the Boudinots
- November: The Great Awakening: Women of God, Prophets and Preachers

Visit www.rumseyhall.org for the exact dates of the talks.

ASAP!® Upcoming Events & Workshops

For more information about these programs, please visit asapct.org or call 860-868-0740.

ASAP! Summer Camp

In its 20th year, ASAP! is taking its celebrated Summer Arts Camp to a whole new level.

Ages 4.5-13 will explore and experiment with a common theme through engaging with the arts. They'll work with professional artists and educators in visual arts, dance, drama, music, creative writing, circus arts, yoga, pottery and science to discover something entirely new about themselves and the world around them. Children will have the opportunity to play, make friends, explore the outdoors, connect with nature, and generate real science.



Ages 14-17 will develop leadership skills through the lens of art, imagination, science, and collaboration. Attending classes in visual arts, printmaking, ceramics, theatre, movement, hand drumming, videography, music and so much more will inspire and challenge. Students will have the chance to select ASAP! Teaching Artists to shadow and learn about how they can choose a career that they feel passionate about. Find your passion, meet new people and form meaningful friendships. We unplug at ASAP! Summer Camp so we can connect with each other.

WHERE: Washington Montessori School, Washington, CT

WHEN: Monday-Friday from 9:00am-3:30pm, July 29 – August 9

COST: Full Two Week Camp \$650, Week 1 only July 29-August 2, \$375, Week 2 only August 5-August 9, \$375

Participants are expected to bring a lunch. Please pack lunches in reusable containers to reduce waste. ASAP! provides a nut-free organic snack daily.

ASAP! Summer Camp is licensed by the State of Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, license #00997.

Move, Sculpt, Shake It Up!

Get ready to have fun with ASAP! and Pilobolus. In this one-of-a-kind camp, you'll move inside and out using all your physical abilities and creative ideas. Pilobolus will take you on a journey to explore all the possibilities of movement just the way they do in their studio. Shake it up! Move up, down, and all around to discover what you can make with what you've got. And have a blast discovering new moves with your friends. Work with ASAP!'s artist Jenna Robb, and imagine, invent, and create amazing giant sculptures. Will it be an animal? A robot? A tree? You decide! The camp will culminate in a show featuring your creations at the beautiful grounds of Five Senses Festival where all your family and friends are invited to a free performance. Space is limited to 30 participants. (15 Movement, 15 Giant Sculptures).

WHEN: July 22 - 26, 1:00pm - 3:00pm

July 27, 11:00am - 2:00pm

Show for family and friends at 1:00pm

Five Senses Festival, 292 Bee Brook Road, New Preston

COST: Free! Register through Washington Parks and Rec. 860-868-1519

Our Native American Museum is NEW again!

This is a summer of NEW at the Institute for American Indian Studies - new programs, new tours, new exhibits!

Some of the NEW is built on our past successes educating visitors about the Native people of the Eastern Woodlands' 11,000 years of lifeways and culture. And some of the NEW is our launch of unique new visitor experiences and methods of learning as we continue to evolve the vision of our founders, Ned Swigart and Sid Hessel. Since 1975, this excellent Museum continues to thrive as we combine traditional and NEW methods to share with visitors the diversity and culture of Native Americans and how they lived within their environment for eleven millennia.

- Camp is back! By popular request, IAIS Summer Camp is back and better than ever! Starting July 8 campers can participate in six separately themed weekly camp experiences for children 4 to 12. Our campers will focus on the lifeways of Native peoples and the environment. Call the Museum or visit our

website for more information!

- Our replicated Algonkian Village is being rebuilt! As this is written in June, the cedars, saplings, bark and reeds are on-site. Primitive Technologies, a Bethlehem business that has built the village here before, are back using stone tools and Native skills to create a new sachem wigwam and new reed wigwam. Our Village includes a successful Three Sisters Garden and our educators are developing new interactive lessons conveying how Native peoples have thrived here in the Shepaug River Valley.
- Our Museum Tours are NEW as well! The Native perspective that you'll gain at IAIS will have you understanding the myths you have heard in a new way, and the Native stories will enable you to reconsider what you were taught about how Native Americans thrived in these very woods, enjoying and utilizing the same rivers and lakes that are so important to the "Litchfield County" we live in today.
- Our NEW escape room has opened to great reviews! Wigwam Escape is a puzzle adven-



ture like no other Escape room and provides an immersive and interactive educational experience rarely found in museums.

- Our new Lovers Leap Exhibit challenges the story you think you know! Prepare to be surprised as it compares facts vs. story and be sure to catch this eye opening exhibit before it leaves on July 20.

Come share our summer of NEW at The Institute for American Indian Studies! Our Museum is open Wednesday through Sunday 10:00am to 5:00pm. On Sunday, we open at noon. Admission is \$10, \$8 seniors and \$6 for children. Members are free.

The Institute for American Indian Studies, 38 Curtis Road, Washington. 860-868-0518



Washington Trivia by Shelia Anson

River Walk Pavilion is the responsibility of the Washington Parks and Recreation Commission. What organization originally built the structure?

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

Last issue's answer: Jaye Alex Stuart will continue to teach at Shepaug but is retiring from coaching field hockey after nearly forty years and three state championships - one in Vermont and two at Shepaug!

Visit 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 September 2019.**

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