

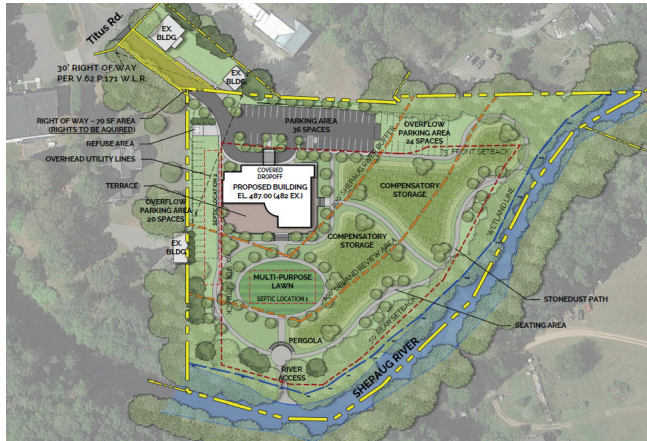
What's happening in Washington, CT

Winter 2020

A Washington Community Center - Community Conversation #1

By Dan Sherr

The Town of Washington is experiencing changes to its demographic character. Graced with a growing adult population, the Town has been challenged by a declining population of young families. Both find Washington a socially aware and engaging community. This Town of 3,500 full-time residents and a major presence of weekenders are asking,



“Can we provide a multi-generational community meeting place with programs for adults, young families and children – a Washington Community Center?” A well-attended January 2020 Town meeting indicated a strong interest in just that – the development of a community center for Washington. The location? Titus Park, a 4.7-acre town property off Titus Road abutting the Shepaug River. Available for development, the location would provide ready access to Depot services, shopping and the Town Hall. SLAM and Milone & MacBroom, both long-established –design-build Connecticut firms, were retained by the Town to develop a preliminary plan for the center.

The early plans locate the community center building in the corner of Titus Park with direct access to Titus Road. Parking, even overflow, is convenient to the center's entry. To draw people outdoors, park-like grounds with walking trails and sitting areas are planned.

The proposed location is in a flood zone with significant setback regulations (from the Shepaug River). SLAM and Milone & MacBroom, long-experienced with projects in flood zones, will utilize these park-like areas to shelter the proposed center from the threat of floods. The Washington Zoning and Inland Wetlands Commissions reviewed the preliminary plans and encouraged the continued development of the community center.

Community Conversation #2 Washington – Community Center – Zoom Meeting: January 28, 2021, 7pm – A full review of the preliminary Washington Community Center and discussion of next steps including funding.

Message from the Selectmen's Office

Winter approaches and the holiday season is upon us. This is typically a time to reflect on all that has gone on in our lives the past year. A time to give thanks for friends and loved ones as well as all of the blessings given to us as members of such an amazing community. I know what many are thinking, “What has been good about 2020?” We've had to deal with back to back powerful summer storms as well as the ever-changing reality of living in a time of pandemic. 2020 has been a huge challenge for all of us on a variety of levels, but all the adversity of the past year has shown what a tight knit community Washington truly is. We'll continue to work together to ensure the safety of all of our residents.

The Board of Selectmen continues to stay busy with several irons in the fire. We're moving forward with plans for the Senior/Community Center, a complete rebuild of our transfer station, refurbishing and adding sidewalks and crosswalks to the Titus Plaza area and a continual long-term plan of assessment and repair of our bridges in town. We currently have applications in for several state and federal grants. Including \$128,000 STEAP grant for our transfer station improvements, \$685,000 in state matching grants for bridge work and \$600,000 to repair and replace sidewalks in and around the Depot.

In spite of the fact that our Highway Department lost roughly six weeks due to storm cleanup, the crews continue to work on scheduled road repairs.

As we enter the winter months, please reach out to the Town Hall if you or someone you know is in need of assistance. There are many resources in place to help those in need. On behalf of all Town employees, we wish you a happy, healthy and safe holiday season.

Board of Selectmen
Jim Brinton
Jay Hubelbank
Dean Sarjeant

Stay in the loop on Washington news and events!



Visit [ExploreWashingtonCT.com](https://www.explorewashingtonct.com), the official community website for events, things to do, shopping, dining, and happenings around town. Sign-up for “This Month in Washington” e-news to stay in the loop on all things Washington! Just click on the envelope icon at the top of the website to sign-up.



Visit [washingtonct.org](https://www.washingtonct.org), the town's website for municipal and departmental information. To sign-up for weekly e-news from the First Selectman, look for the envelope icon on the website.



Spotlight on Business: Five Janes

By Dan Sherr

With 15 years of experience with Newbury Place of Connecticut and now with the sale of the Newbury brand, Liz Page rebirthed her Washington Depot location at three Bryan Plaza in January 2020 as Five Janes. The energy and creative vision of the store flows from the five Janes in her family, representing several generations.



Five Janes charms you with choice - choice of merchandise, choice of style, and choice of price points. Whether serving your own interests, or looking for a special something for a friend, Five Janes will hit the mark. Carrying everything from gifts to clothing and handbags, to jewelry- all with the casual style of Five Janes. And the spirit of the Town of Washington is captured in a line of Town branded clothing, stationary, and vintage map blankets.

Five Janes has prospered with the arrival in early 2020 of the new residents seeking comforts in Northwest Connecticut. Drawing from many of the surrounding towns, the store has cultivated a strong following with many repeat clients. Patrons are drawn to the welcoming vibe, and curated mix of eclectic goods.

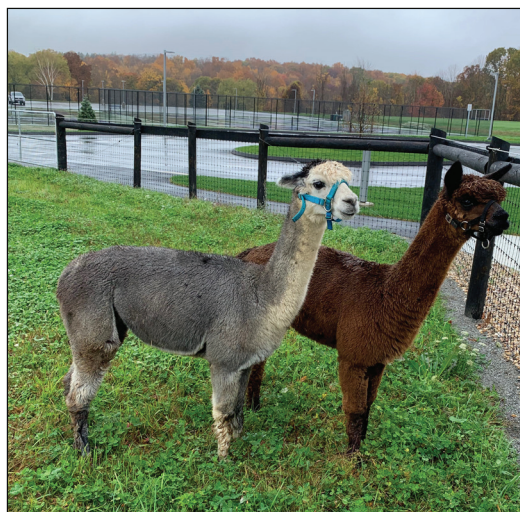
A lifelong Fairfield county resident, Liz has fallen in love with the hills of Litchfield county and the community of Washington. She speaks of the rural character, creative energy, volunteerism and friendliness as to what makes Washington CT so unique. She has been actively involved on the board of the Washington Business Association and looks forward to the continued growth of local business and sharing her passion for serving the community.

Five Janes
3 Bryan Hall Plaza
Washington Depot CT 06794
860-619-0789

News from Regional School District 12

Regional School District 12 is proud to announce our successful start of the 2020-2021 school year. It is with the support and care of our communities that we have been able to open our doors to the students in Bridgewater, Roxbury, Washington, and beyond. Students have been able to choose temporary online learning or in-person learning opportunities. We have partnered with our students and families to customize educational options to meet their needs.

We are proud of our community partnerships with the Town and businesses of Washington. Our drama production will take place on the Five Senses Stage, our outdoor learning was made available because of the donation of tents from Jim Brinton and town leaders, and our sports teams were able to play because of the access to fields in our town. Thank you for giving our students the opportunity to grow and learn in a supportive environment.



This year, Region 12 Schools welcomed 88 new students to our schools. Twenty four of those students were agriscience students from our surrounding towns, 16 are new, tuition-in students and 48 students are new, local students. Our new students have helped enrich our classrooms while our returning students continue to



showcase our wonderful school environment.

In addition to welcoming our students back to school, we welcomed back our animals in the agriscience program. Our small animals were able to join us on the first day of school, while our large animals returned on October 23 with our horses being the final touch when they arrived on

November 13. We are all looking forward to the time when we can invite the public to see our new agriscience facilities in action.

Thank you to all of the families and community members in Washington who continue to support, advocate and promote our students. There is so much joy in our

hallways and through computer monitors. This joy is a mirror of our community. We welcome you to continue to watch our students grow and learn throughout the year. For information regarding the Region 12 schools reopening plan, school events and to see learning in action, please visit our website at www.region-12.org.

News from the Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens



THE JUDY BLACK
MEMORIAL PARK
AND GARDENS

As the air turns chilly and our plants go dormant for the winter, the Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens is looking forward to its role in the Town's Drive-Thru Holiday in the Depot Celebration on Friday, December 11 from 6-8:00pm. The park will be hosting the Community Giving Tree Program, one of the centerpieces of this year's celebration. Laura Neminski, executive director of the park, reminds you and yours to "pick up a free natural disc ornament from The Hickory Stick Bookshop, the Gunn Memorial Library or the Judy Black Memorial Park. Encourage your children to decorate it creatively and add a personalized message to the community — or decorate one yourself!" Decorated ornaments with their seasonal messages will be hung on one of the large trees in the park. ***The first 50 children or families to deliver their message on the Giving Tree during the Drive-Thru Holiday in the Depot will receive a gift!*** The Judy Black Memorial Park will also be



hosting an opportunity for you to give back during the Drive-Thru Holiday in the Depot! The Washington Council of Congregations will hold its sixth and final 2020 Drive-Thru Food Drive at the park that evening — and late afternoon as well! Our local food banks remind

us that the needs of some of our neighbors will only increase as the pandemic continues into the winter months. Just drive up to the park, open your car trunk or door, and let volunteers remove your donations of shelf-stable boxes and cans of food, personal care and cleaning products or, if you prefer, you can drop off a holiday donation of cash, a check or grocery store gift card. (Checks should be made out to the First Congregational Church, with Food Drive on the memo line.)

Last but not least, we're pleased to exhibit the works of artist Lisa DeLoria Weinblatt, from her "SCHOOL LUNCH" series, on view until December 30. In the artist's words, "the 'SCHOOL LUNCH' is a visual essay of contemporary student life." Her works explore current cross-cultural issues and the emotional attitudes in the shared experience of school lunch. They are generated from direct observation, drawing on location in the lunchrooms of high schools and colleges throughout the country.

Our board and staff wish you a happy and healthy holiday season!

Native American Indian Museum Offering Crafts and Wigwam Escape

We are continuing our annual holiday season tradition of featuring Native American Indian crafts at our Museum as we have done for more than 10 years.

At the Museum, starting the last weekend in November, we will host our Native Holiday Arts and Crafts Market here in the Museum as well as recognize the consequence and opportunities from COVID-19 responsibility by offering an alternative online sale that will virtually support independent Native artists outside Washington and help keep your family safe.

We will be hosting several on-site merchants here in our Discovery Room at the Museum as well as our new Virtual Holiday Market featuring Native artists from throughout the country as well.

Native artists in the twenty-first century have many ways and diverse media with which to preserve, promote and represent their cultures, traditions and heritage. Some Native artists create contemporary works of art, while others use materials that are more

traditional — many Native artists blend the traditional with the contemporary. This Virtual Holiday Market, supported by a grant from the Connecticut Community Foundation, will allow our Museum to collaborate with artists who would not otherwise be able to participate. Several of our featured artists, including Dawn Spears (Narragansett — wearable art, corn husk dolls and paintings), Vera Longtoe Sheehan (Elnu Abenaki — hand-woven textiles, baskets and accessories), Brenda Hill (Tuscarora — pottery) and Jeanne "Morningstar" Kent (Abenaki — gourd artwork), will do Zoom-based presentations or submit videos demonstrating their work and explaining how they incorporate cultural elements.

To "shop" in our Virtual Holiday Market, please visit our website (www.iaismuseum.org) beginning end of November and throughout December for a curated webpage of Native artist bios, with information on how you can purchase items directly from them. While there, you will also be able to see a list of virtual artist presentations, ongoing throughout the holiday season.

Prefer to shop in person? The Museum gift shop as well as special Native vendors with holiday crafts are located in our Discovery Room and have a range of unique items for special personal gifts.

Admission to the gift shop and holiday market is free, but capacity is limited and masks are required.

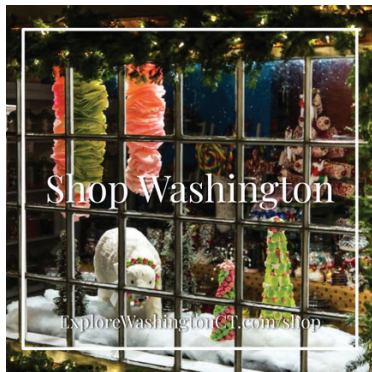
Those who wish to shop in person are asked to reserve a time to shop by calling 860-868-0518 or emailing events@iaismuseum.org.

Washington Native Holiday Arts and Crafts Market is at the Museum for three weekends — November 28 and 29, December 5 and 6 as well as the 12 and 13. Online Virtual Holiday Market is opening November 27 and continuing online until January 3. We will close for Christmas and New Year's on December 24 and 25 as well as December 31 and January 1.

The Museum and Wigwam Escape are open Friday through Sunday in December and throughout the winter.

"Shop Washington" for a One-of-a-Kind Shopping Experience

It's never too early to get ready for the holidays, is it? After what has been quite an unconventional and challenging year, we'd like to share a more traditional and gratifying way of holiday shopping.



In many ways, this year has been about slowing down, coming together, and appreciating what we have. And we certainly appreciate and want to support Washington's amazing family-owned shops.

"May this season find you among those you love, sharing in the twin glories of generosity and gratitude."

— Oprah Winfrey

With the holiday season quickly approaching, we invite you to explore the shops in our charming villages of New Preston and Washington Depot and experience their curated, world-class products and attentive service. There are many convenient ways to "Shop Washington" this holiday season:

1. Explore Our Shops

Explore the decorated shop windows twinkling with their holiday finest, shops stocked with fun finds, and the perfect treasure for even the most discerning on your list. Enjoy the "un-mall" experience and browse the unique offerings in the Depot and on the "Street of Shops" in New Preston.

2. Browse Online

If you can't make it in person, you can still find the perfect gift online as

many of our local businesses have e-commerce websites. You'll get the best of both worlds: unique gift ideas from the comfort of your home. Also browse through the shops' stunning Instagram profiles to get a sense of their exquisite style and variety of products. Our local business owners offer convenient ways to shop (even by phone!) and provide one-on-one customer service to offer you a personalized shopping experience.

3. Gift Certificates

Can't decide what to get everyone on your holiday list? Gift certificates are always a good idea! This year, the Washington Business Association and the Washington Economic Development Commission have created a unified e-commerce website to make it easy to purchase gift certificates online (all in one convenient place) to support our local businesses. To buy a Washington business gift certificate, visit: washingtonctgiftcertificates.com



And it keeps getting better – New shops in Washington!

In 2020, we've welcomed a few new unique shops including **The Valley**, **Washington Curated** and **Friedrich's Optik** in Washington Depot, as well as **Hays Worthington** (opening soon) in New Preston.

Explore the Washington and New Preston shops and service businesses, including salons and spas, and wonderful restaurants at ExploreWashingtonCT.com/SHOP



Parks & Recreation

During these uncertain times, we're working to provide safe, family-friendly opportunities for the community. In a departure from the norm of year's past, this year we'll be bringing you a

Drive-Thru Holiday in the Depot on Friday, December 11 from 6-8:00pm. Stay tuned for more information as we plan the event in collaboration with Economic and Community Development, Washington Business Association, the Fire Dept., local police and others.

The Washington Plaza Hanging Gardens

by Dan Sherr, Liz Page

They are in the sky for all to see. A collaborative project of committed Town organizations, the hanging gardens transform the lamps of the Depot Plaza into seasonal reminders of the natural beauty of Washington. The baskets, made in the United States of recycled materials, with a "green design," hold up to 4 gallons of water refreshing the hanging gardens between waterings.



With a commitment to enhancing the transformed Plaza, the Lion's Club and the Village Improvement Society provided the funding to acquire and install the planters. The Washington Garden Club designs and plants the gardens each year and maintains them throughout the seasons. The Rotary Club also gave funds that allowed Stonewalls by George to provide watering services. Each year, the sky gardens are removed in late Fall and reinstalled in the Spring by the Town crew. Wreaths replace the gardens during the winter season.

Annually, with leadership from the Washington Business Association, community donations provide the monies for the plants and wreaths. The Washington Business Association, The Mathews Group and National Iron Bank have provided funding for the seasonal gardens. The town has assisted with the funds for watering the baskets during the summer months.

Collaboration brought this project to life and it is to be enjoyed by all who enter the plaza. Interested in providing support for the Washington Plaza Hanging Gardens? Contact the Washington Business Association info@wbact.com

Meet Our New Economic and Community Development Coordinator

A big welcome to Michelle Gorra. Michelle has transitioned from the Board of Selectmen to being Washington's new Economic and Community



Development Coordinator. Michelle took the position in September and has been busy ever since. Much of her time through the fall has been dedicated to reaching out to our business community. She has been meeting with local businesses as well as helping several new businesses navigate the economic landscape. Michelle is ideally suited for this position due to her many volunteer activities in town, her 15 years as the Business Manager at Aspetuck Animal Hospital, as well as many years serving on the Board of Education for Region 12. Feel free to reach out to Michelle with any questions. Her email is mgorra@washingtonct.org.

— Board of Selectmen

Explorations in Nature with Steep Rock Association

Steep Rock Association is excited to announce publication and release of "The History of Steep Rock Association: The Jewel in the Crown." Written by local author and landscape historian Carol Santoleri, the book chronicles the evolution of Steep Rock's preserves from the original purchase by famed architect Ehrick Rossiter in the late 1800s through today.

Based on both archival material and recent conservation reports, the book is illustrated with over 150 photographs and maps and features 25 "then and now" comparisons with 100-year-old photos from the Town of Washington's Gunn Historical Museum.

"The History of Steep Rock Association: The Jewel in the Crown" is available at The Hickory Stick Bookshop, 2 Green Hill Road, Washington Depot, CT and J. Seitz & Co., 9 East Shore Rd, New Preston, CT. The book can also be ordered online from the Steep Rock

website (www.steeprockassoc.org). Both the author and The Hickory Stick Bookshop have graciously offered to forgo income from book sales. All funds from sales will go directly to support Steep Rock Association.

Counting Chickadees and Tallying Titmice: A Citizen Science Opportunity

Sunday, December 20, 2020 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Macricostas Preserve (124 Christian Street, New Preston)

Join Steep Rock Association on a 1 ½-mile, winter birding excursion through the diverse habitats of Macricostas Preserve. Your eyes, ears and enthusiasm are needed to collect data for the nation's longest-running citizen science bird project, Audubon's **Christmas Bird Count**. Everyone from seasoned ornithologists to first-time birders, individuals to families with children are welcome to participate in this special holiday activity.



Thanks to the generous support of local residents, lay volunteers and clergy of the WCOC, the WCOC organized **five successful drive-thru food drives, 25 weekly collections of fresh produce and money** at the Saturday farmers market, and the **first of several local blood drives**.

Food drives: Since May, WCOC has delivered to local food banks (the Washington/Warren Food Bank and the New Milford Food Bank) a total of **8,323 lbs. of shelf stable food, personal care and cleaning products; and an additional \$13,705 in cash and checks!** A special thanks to student volunteers from Shepaug and New Milford High Schools who did some of the heavy lifting at a few of the food drives. WCOC is currently planning a sixth food drive in Washington Depot on Friday, December 11, as part of the Town's celebration of Holiday in the Depot. Look for details soon!

Farmers market table: WCOC has hosted a weekly collection table at the Saturday farmers market at the Judy Black

Memorial Park and Gardens. Through early November, shoppers and vendors donated a total of about **100 lbs. of fresh produce and an extra \$6,420!** Our donations have helped the chefs of the Community Culinary School of Northwest Connecticut prepare a total of 19,540 packaged meals for seniors and the food banks since the start of the pandemic.

Blood drives: In September, St. John's Episcopal Church hosted WCOC's first Red Cross Blood Drive, to be followed by blood drives on January 15, July 9 and September 10, 2021. Blood donors can book their blood donations at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=StJohnsCT>. To be a volunteer for two hours or more, contact stjohnschurch@snet.net.

The WCOC consists of the seven established religious congregations in the Town of Washington, who are working together for the benefit of our community. They include First Congregational Church of Washington, the Greater Washington Coalition for Jewish Life, New Preston Congregational Church, the Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, St. John's Episcopal Church, and Salem Covenant Church.

Thank You from Hollister House Garden



We are grateful to be part of such a caring and generous community. This season Hollister House Garden welcomed a record number of visitors many of whom told us how thankful they were to have access to this place of beauty and tranquility. It was our pleasure to share Hollister House Garden with our friends and neighbors during these unprecedented times. Thank you for being part of this special place and for your continuing support.

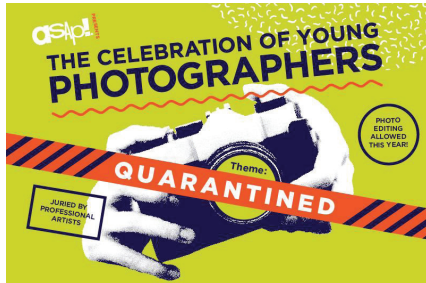
The garden will open for the season on April 23, 2021. In the meantime, stay safe and well. We look forward to seeing you again in the spring.

ASAP!® Upcoming Events & Workshops

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

ASAP! PRESENTS THE 10TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHERS

Sunday, December 6, 2020, 4:00-4:30pm | Youtube Livestream Event



Join us for our first-ever Livestream Event where the top 60 selected photos will be recognized, and the Top 4 honorees will be revealed during the live event. The Top 2 photographers from middle and high school will receive the 2020 Dylan's Wings Photography Award.

GET MOVING!

GRADES K-5 | PILOBOLUS | VIRTUAL
Up, down, forward, backward, side to side, it's as easy as that! Work with a member of the internationally renowned Pilobolus Dance Theater in live Zoom classes to explore movement, practice collaborative teamwork and discover the thrill of performance while learning Pilobolus' signature method of creating dances.
2020 | Wednesdays | Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23
Grades K-2 | 3:30-4:00pm
Grades 3-5 | 4:15-5:00pm

A GIFT FROM NATURE

GRADES K-5 | MELANIE YUKOV | VIRTUAL
Join us for a new virtual class where you can connect with plants through your senses. Alongside herb and plant guide, Melanie Yukov, you will create a relaxing sleep pillow to keep and to give to a loved one. We will learn about these plants' gifts through song and a performance. All supplies will be provided.
2020 | Monday | Dec. 7
Grades K-2 | 4:00-4:30pm
Grades 3-5 | 4:45-5:30pm

"MOO"VIN AND GROOVIN TOGETHER

AGES 3-5 + ADULT | PILOBOLUS | VIRTUAL

Explore the movement of your favorite animals, how they walk, jump, eat, play and roam. A member of the internationally renowned Pilobolus Dance Theater will lead students along with an adult through playful games of movement that will inspire creativity, generate the thrill of performance and provide opportunities to connect with one another through the process.
2021 | Wednesdays | Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27 | 10:00-10:30am

CHARACTERS IN ACTION

GRADES K-5 | JANELLE ROBINSON AND ALYSSA ROBB | VIRTUAL
Join Janelle and Alyssa as we create colorful, expressive masks and play imaginative acting games. Alyssa will guide you through the steps to create a fantastical mask of your dreams, and Janelle will help you develop your new character and create a story connecting everyone together.
2021 | Tuesdays | Jan. 12, 19, 26, Feb. 2
Grades K-2 | 4:00-4:30pm
Grades 3-5 | 4:45-5:30pm

VIRTUAL MASTER CLASS

GRADES 9-ADULT | PILOBOLUS | VIRTUAL
Imagine being in your own living room and dancing with Pilobolus. You'll be guided to explore movement through improvisation and collaborate with other participants virtually. There is no need for experience because in the world of Pilobolus it's about what you CAN do! 2021 | Sunday | Jan. 10 | 12:00-3:00pm

PAINT TO THE GROOVE

GRADES K-2 | ALYSSA ROBB | VIRTUAL
Explore fun painting games and techniques that we'll play along with music through a virtual class. How do the sounds you hear make you feel and what do they inspire you to create? Movement while you paint is encouraged!
2021 | Saturday | Jan. 16 | 10:00-10:45am

FOOD FUEL

GRADES 6-8 | ALISSA MONTELEONE | VIRTUAL
Learning the connection between what we eat and how we feel empowers us to make healthy choices. Middle school traditionally comes with stress, uncertainty and change for students and this year has plenty of all three.

Food Fuel teaches kids to take back some control with simple and delicious snacks that fuel their body.
2021 | Wednesday-Friday | Jan. 20-22
Session 1: 3:00-4:00pm (12 students max)
Session 2: 4:15-5:15pm (12 students max)

HEALTHY INDULGENCES WITH YOUR LOVED ONES

ANY AGE | ALISSA MONTELEONE | VIRTUAL
February and chocolate go hand in hand. Good thing chocolate is an amazing part of a healthy lifestyle! It's true! Join Personal Chef Alissa Monteleone and learn how to make simple, crazy delicious chocolate treats. This fun, family-friendly program is open to all ages. All kits come complete with everything you need in a beautiful, reusable gift bag.
2021 | Friday | Feb. 12 | 4:00-5:00pm

LOOK, BUILD, PLAY!

GRADES 3-7 | JENNA ROBB, JASON KILLINGER AND RORY LARSON | VIRTUAL AND IN-PERSON | MASKS REQUIRED FOR THIS PROGRAM
What could you build with sticks, rocks, mud and moss? A fort? An obstacle course? A sculpture? Spend four virtual sessions with ASAP! artists Jenna and Jason imagining, planning and designing possibilities. In the spring, we'll get outside and get dirty at Steep Rock Association's (SRA) Macricostas Preserve to forage for natural materials, and build our magical structures. Rory, Conservation and Program Coordinator at Steep Rock will join us to talk about Macricostas, and help us envision how we can connect our creations into one fantastic play path.
Virtual | 2021 | Thursdays | Feb. 18, 25, Mar. 4, 11 | 4:00-4:40pm
Outside | 2021 | Friday | May 14 | 4:00-6:00pm
Outside | 2021 | Saturday | May 15 | 2:00-5:00pm
Outside | 2021 | Sunday | May 16 | 2:00-4:00pm

ASAP!'s CELEBRATION OF YOUNG GAME DESIGNERS

New this year, ASAP! is expanding its suite of Celebrations to include game design. Celebration of Young Game Designers (CYGD) is an opportunity for students to submit their ideas for their own custom game. More details to come! 2020-2021 | December-February

Lake Waramaug Task Force Combats Toxic Cyanobacteria by Stocking Lake

By Robin Provey

It was every angler's dream come true. On an unseasonably warm Saturday in November, a truck carrying a full tank of fish pulled up to the water's edge and released over 1,500 foot-long brown trout into Lake Waramaug.

While an enticing prospect for anyone who fishes, the trout are part of the Lake Waramaug Task Force's annual event to keep zooplankton plentiful and cyanobacteria at bay. The program, in effect for the past 25 years, has been working to improve water quality, according to executive director Sean Hayden.

Several Task Force members gathered at the tip of Arrow Point to help transfer trout from Rowledge Pond Aquaculture's tank truck into the lake. In the 1970s, the



state introduced alewives into the lake, a baitfish that thrives on zooplankton. As the alewives eventually reduced the zooplankton population to zero, there was an overgrowth

of cyanobacteria that threatened the quality of the lake. Since the mid-1990s, the Task Force has been stocking the lake with trout to eat the alewives.

"For years, there was absolutely no zooplankton in the lake," said Hayden, adding that evidence of the program's success has been determined by tests indicating less cyanobacteria. "We're trying to use natural processes to improve Lake Waramaug."

The vital, ongoing operations of the Lake Waramaug Task Force are funded exclusively through generous, annual donations from concerned residents around the lake, within its watershed area and throughout the region. For more information, please visit <https://www.lakewaramaug.org> or email seanhayden@lakewaramaug.org.

WAA | Washington Art Association & Gallery

The WAA Holiday Gift Show 2020: NEVER NORMAL!

We continue to experience a "new normal" almost every day.

This year, the WAA Holiday Gift Show is *Never Normal*, and we're stocking our shelves to bring you the best of unique, handcrafted gifts and décor items to brighten and bring cheer to your holiday season, with eye-popping colors, sparkle and bold designs.

Over 46 local artists and artisans will display their wares both online and in our galleries.

There will be ceramics, jewelry, scarves, furniture, and home goods, turned wood carved pieces, lighting, textiles, handknits, sculpture, blown glass, stationery, body care, candles, puzzles and games, and lots more useful and decorative items to fill your holiday gift list.

November 27 thru December 24
Wednesday thru Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm
(closed Monday and Tuesday)

Holiday in the Depot Special Hours:
Friday, December 11, 6 – 8:30 pm

For more information: 860-868-2878 / info@washingtonartassociation.org

Washington Friends of Music Celebrates Successful Fundraiser for Musicians

Over the last seven years Washington Friends of Music has brought a series of Summer Festival concerts and the very popular New Year's Day Concert with The New Baroque Soloists to Washington. The members of this chamber ensemble are internationally accomplished artists, many with leading orchestras such as the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.

As these events have grown in popularity, leading to sell-out concerts, the Board of Washington Friends of Music, a not-for-profit organization, launched a fundraiser to support the artists who performed over the last few years but have been idled by the COVID-19 pandemic. An ambitious goal of \$20,000 was set.

The community not only met, but exceeded the goal – clear evidence



of the admiration music lovers and friends of WFM have developed for these performers. Washington Friends of Music picked up the fees associated with online giving so that 100% of the donations could be distributed to the musicians.

The contributions tell the story - an estimated 70% of those who attended the concerts over recent years donated to the WFM Musicians Fund, some very generously. There is no better demonstration of the appreciation and enthusiasm the community has for these musicians.

Gunn Memorial Library & Museum

Gunn Memorial Library

- Yes, we are open! Patrons can check out items, use WiFi or computers at socially distanced workstations, use quiet study areas, read newspapers and check out magazines. Masks are required at all times while in the library.
- Curbside pickup is still available.
 - Use your Gunn library card to access our digital streaming service! Visit gunnlibrary.org/digital-library/ for unlimited access to platforms like Acorn TV, IndieFlix and Qello Concerts!
 - Your library card also gives you access to Overdrive Advantage, a collection of downloadable audio and e-books exclusively for Gunn Memorial Library patrons.
 - Don't have a library card? It's easy to apply - bring a piece of mail with your Washington address and we'll make a card while you wait!
 - Never Zoomed before? We can show you how.
 - Looking for tech help? Ask us! We can help you navigate your personal devices, our streaming services, and more.
 - All items are sanitized and isolated for three days in accordance with COVID-19 protocols before being checked in and shelved - if you see an item on your account that you returned, it may be in quarantine and fines will be removed.
 - Interlibrary loan services are available - if we don't own it chances are, we can get it!

Adult Programs

1/7/2021 - **Genealogy 101:** Learn how to trace your family's history in five easy steps, starting with what you know about parents and grandparents. Identify gaps in your family tree, focus your research direction and set priorities. Find out about useful, free resources to move you backward in time to identify older ancestors and download free forms to get started.

1/14/2021 - **CT Partnership for Long-term Care:** The State of Connecticut has joined forces with private insurance companies to provide Connecticut residents with unbiased information about the need for long-term care. The ability to find and purchase quality, affordable long-term care insurance; and the way to get needed care without depleting assets.

1/21/2021 - **Fall of the Berlin Wall:** Learn how the fall of the wall defined world geopolitics from 1945 to 1990 and influenced the following 30 years up to now, rather dire times from international journalist Jonathan Kapstein.

Are you one of our community's talented people who can speak to a unique topic? Might you consider presenting a virtual program on what you love? We'll gladly walk you through the process and set up the Zoom meeting. Email gunnprograms@biblio.org to pitch your idea!

Junior Library:

Virtual Story Times January - April
Morning Toddler Time Fridays @10:30am
Afternoon Preschool Fridays @ 2:15pm

Junior Library Virtual Programs - Check our website for topics, links, and registration. Videos air at 1pm on Saturdays! You can catch past programs on our YouTube channel.

January 9 - Winter Stem Activity
January 16 - Stretch It Out
January 23 - Yummy Hot Chocolate
January 30 - Guest Presenter TBD
February 6 - Bullet Journaling - learn how!
February 13 - Valentines Craft
February 20 - Guest Presenter TBD
February 27 - Sweet Treats
March 6 - Irish Dancing
March 13 - St. Patrick's Day Cupcakes
March 20 - Guest Presenter TBD
March 27 - Spring Time Crafts

Stairwell Gallery Exhibits:

Megan Marden, Nov. 21, 2020-January 2, 2021, Medium: Oil

Sue van Asch van Wyck, Feb. 27-April 10, 2021, Medium: Graphite, Charcoal and/or Pastel

Museum:

Registration is required to receive a link for the museum's free virtual programs on Zoom at gunnlibrary.org/gunn-museum/museum-registration-page/

Washington Connecticut: An American Story

Explore this exciting exhibit celebrating the unique people, places and events that have shaped Washington's rich history. Free admission. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 10am-4pm. Free one-hour docent guided exhibit tours are available on Saturdays at 1pm. Please call or email the museum to sign up for a guided Saturday tour. Visitors can also take an audio tour of the exhibit using their own smart devices. There is also an exhibit scavenger hunt available for kids and teens!

The **Gunn Historical Museum's 2021 calendar** features vintage early-20th century postcards of Washington, CT from the Museum's collection. A limited number of collectible calendars are available for sale online

at the Gunn Museum's website, and in person at the Gunn Museum, Gunn Library, and The Hickory Stick Bookshop.

The Spirit of Christmas Past: Four Centuries of Christmas in New England

Date: December 7, 2020 at 6:30pm on Zoom
Kenneth Turino, Manager of Community Engagement and Exhibitions at Historic New England will present an illustrated lecture tracing the development of the celebration of Christmas from the time it was outlawed in 17th century New England through the beginning of the 21st century when all the trappings of a traditional Christmas were in place.

Readings from the Archives

Reminiscences of Life in Washington

by Rev. Henry Calhoun

A Paper of Memories of Washington Green 1872-75 by Clarence Nettleton

Date: December 21, 2020 at 6:30pm on Zoom

Gunn Museum Curator, Stephen Bartkus, will share these selected readings from the Museum's archives while presenting images, followed by a brief discussion.

Author in Chief: The Untold Story of Our Presidents and the Books They Wrote

Date: January 11, 2021 at 6:30pm on Zoom
Craig Fehrman, an author, journalist and historian will give an intriguing presentation on his book, cited by the *Wall Street Journal* as "One of the best books on the American presidency to appear in recent years."

The Three Leavitt Houses and the Leavitt Store by Mary Mitchell Turner in 1921

Date: January 25, 2021 at 6:30pm on Zoom
Gunn Museum Curator, Stephen Bartkus, will share this selected reading from the museum's archives while presenting images; followed by a brief discussion.

Washington History Club

Washington Winters Then and Now

Date: February 9, 2021 at 6:30pm on Zoom
Join us for a lively conversation led by long-time Washington resident, Dimitri Rimsky, about winter in Washington over the years. .

A Mid-Century Artist's Haven and The Early Days of the Washington Art Association

Date: February 22, 2021 at 6:30pm on Zoom
Sarah Griswold, a former curator at the Gunn Museum, will give an illustrated presentation on the early days and impact of the Washington Art Association.

CONVERSATIONS ON THE GREEN

Pandemic Economics: Charting The Recovery

Conversations On the Green is returning in 2021 for its ninth season - this time bigger and better than ever and, lucky for us, more frequently.

After eight years in which the show grew from a Washington charity drive into a Connecticut icon, the program is going national and this year will produce 13 shows, which for the first time will be syndicated to public television stations across the country.

The forums, which are produced and filmed in Washington and are known by the cognoscenti simply as COG, will resume in spring with a bevy of nationally known headliners exploring the issues that affect Americans' daily lives.

While COG forums are driven by current events and follow the news, 2021 topics are planned on Climate Change, The Politics of Sports, Racism, SCOTUS, The Pandemic, The Future of the Political Parties and National Security and Foreign Policy, among others.

Founded as a grassroots effort to raise money for groups working to help the area's most vulnerable residents, panelists on 2020's eight broadcasts included a who's who of the country's most admired influencers: Nobel laureates such as Joe Stiglitz and Paul Krugman, the dangerously charming

restaurateur Danny Meyers, the historian Jon Meacham, former Secretary of State Madeline Albright, humanitarian and *New York Times* columnist Nick Kristof, et al. They joined forces to make last year the program's most successful season yet: a paradigm shift that allowed it not just to survive the pandemic but to expand its audience and led to a groundbreaking agreement by PBS to bring the Washington-based show to a national audience.



A cross between the "PBS News Hour" and a community town hall, COG is the equivalent of a dinner conversation among erudite guests, the only national television talk show that chats with - rather than talks to - Americans, that involves them in the country's most pressing conversations and introduces them to leaders who shape public policy in a free-flowing exchange of ideas.

Produced by Litchfield County volunteers, COG is moderated by Jane Whitney, a Washington resident and a veteran talk show host who often has been heralded for her "earthly sensibility" and her unique affinity for connecting with live and broadcast audiences. Previously, she hosted the nationally syndicated TV program "The Jane Whitney Show" and has anchored broadcasts for PBS, CNN and CNBC. A political columnist, her social commentaries have appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *Newsweek* and *The New York Observer*.

Until 2020, COG was a live, in-person show. But the pandemic forced the production to go virtual. The current plan is to continue as a virtual program, at least, for the start of the 2021 season. But, depending on the pandemic, it's possible COG will resume live events in Washington in the late fall.

A federally recognized charity charged with improving civic engagement and education, COG is looking for supporters, volunteers and interns. If you would like to participate or can contribute, please write Laura Neminski, the executive director, at info@conversationsonthegreen.com.

The 2020 shows can be watched by clicking on the CPTV tab on the program's website, conversationsonthegreen.com.



Washington Environmental Council

The Washington Environmental Council strongly supports the efforts being made to stop the spread of the coronavirus. Wearing a mask and social distancing protects us, and are the keys to getting our economy up and running. And since WEC is committed to **all** aspects of the environment, not only do we encourage the use of washable/reusable masks, we also view the collection of *disposable masks* as an essential public service to our community.

The truth is that global sales of "disposable masks" went from \$800 million in 2019 to \$166 **billion** in 2020, and they are

now littering our beaches, clogging our rivers and threatening our wildlife. And, making matters worse, these masks are not meant to be recycled; they're meant to be *disposed of* - at least during ordinary times.

So what to do when we can't recycle or dispose of them? **We TerraCycle them!** TerraCycle (www.terracycle.com) is a social campaign to *eliminate the idea of waste*. They believe that everything is recyclable even items thought to be non-recyclable, e.g., disposable masks, plastic gloves, razors, toothpaste containers, candy



wrappers, pens, Styrofoam, glue sticks, etc.

WEC began purchasing TerraCycle boxes two years ago, and when the coronavirus hit the Northeast, WEC supplied a box for collecting plastic gloves.

Recently, WEC donated a box to the Washington Ambulance so their increased use of PPE could be collected, and now a box has been placed at the town hall for collecting *disposable masks*.

Together, it's possible to do all we can to keep each other safe and healthy while, at the same time, be mindful of our beautiful earth.

What's Going on in Washington, CT

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

December

11 | 6:00-8:00pm

Drive-Thru Holiday in the Depot

Location: Washington Depot

Save the date for Washington's Annual Holiday in the Depot! This year's event will be a drive-thru event. Families are invited to come to the driving tour to see a festive display of lights, decorated windows, singing station by SingOut! CT, a visit from Santa at Town Hall waving from his winter wonderland, and more! The Community Giving Tree/ Food Drive will be on the route for those who are able to make donations.

February

12 | 4:00-5:00pm

ASAP! Virtual Master Class with Pilobulus

Location: ASAP online

February and chocolate go hand in hand. Good thing chocolate is an amazing part of a healthy lifestyle! It's true! Join Personal Chef Alissa Monteleone and learn how to make simple, crazy delicious chocolate treats. Alissa will share the health benefits of all the ingredients and muse on why celebrating with food is positive to our well being. This fun, family-friendly program is open to all ages. Chocolate making kits will be available for pick up at the ASAP! Office (details below).

All kits come complete with everything you need in a beautiful, reusable gift bag. Make one for yourself or make many for beautiful handmade gifts.

WHERE: Virtual (invite will be provided via email)

WHEN: Friday, February 12 from 4:00-5:00 pm

Register by January 29, 2021

COST: 1 session: \$25 Fee includes 1 chocolate making kit. Additional kits only \$6 (1 kit makes 1 chocolate bar)

Supply pick up at the ASAP! office on Wednesday, February 10 at ASAP! 4:00-6:00 pm. Please call Program Director, Ali Psomas, for Torrington/Waterbury pick up locations/times 845-518-5859.



Washington Trivia by Shelia Anson

As you exit Washington Depot going up Green Hill Road between Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. John's Episcopal Church, there is an oval stone with a plaque of a man's face on it. Who is the man and why was the plaque dedicated to him?

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

Summer issue's answer: The Washington Senior Center is located in the American Legion Gage Zumpf Post #87 Hall. The building was originally the Shepaug Railroad Station and was moved from the spot where Litchfield Bancorp now is. Check out the mural in the bank!

Visit ExploreWashingtonCT.com

The official community website for events, things to do, shopping, dining and happenings around town. And

be sure to sign up for "This Month in Washington" e-news to stay in the loop on all things Washington!



What's Happening in Washington, CT is organized and printed through the Washington Economic Development Committee.

Look for our next issue, coming out in March.

*****ECRWSSDDM*****

Postal Patron

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail