

What's happening in Washington, CT

Fall 2021

What's the POCD, and Why Does It Matter?

The Washington Planning Commission has begun work on the town's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), a 10-year plan that outlines how the Town of Washington will address land use, housing, sustainability and economic issues as a community over the next decade. State law requires every town in Connecticut to have a POCD, and ours is scheduled for an update in 2023.

Wait a minute...2023? Isn't this a bit early? Not really. The process needs to begin with some conversations, and that's where everyone matters. Members of the Planning Commission are fanning out among the community to speak with any and all who may be interested. No issue is too large or small; if it's on your mind and you think it's important, then we want to know.

That's because the success of any plan is dependent on buy-in. The more input we receive from stakeholders in the community (and yes, if you're reading this, you're a stakeholder), the better the job we can do in crafting a plan that meets the future needs and challenges we may face as a town.

The POCD is the guiding document that steers all major town decisions, from open space acquisition to investments in infrastructure to amending land use policies to determining

municipal staffing. The Planning Commission will be taking a deep dive into numerous local data to verify the anecdotal observations we receive from our community conversations. Both of these information sources—data and anecdotes—are critical in reaching consensus on a path toward sound stewardship and enhancing Washington's quality of life.

I and my fellow planners—Jennifer Averill, Dick Carey, Sarah Gager, Carole Matteo, Shane Mongar and Dimitri Rimsky—will be reaching out to many of you informally in the next few months. If you'd like to reach out to us, contact the Planning Commission at www.washingtonct.org/planning-commission (click on "email the Planning Commission") or via the Land Use Office at 860-868-0423.

Enjoy the fall, and we look forward to speaking with you soon!

Wayne Hileman – Chair, Washington Planning Commission

Message from the Selectmen's Office

As we look with a touch of sadness at the summer winding down there is much to look forward to. While Washington's numbers for vaccination remain strong, there are still one out of four in our community who are unvaccinated. We're continuing to urge residents to protect yourself, protect your family and protect your community.

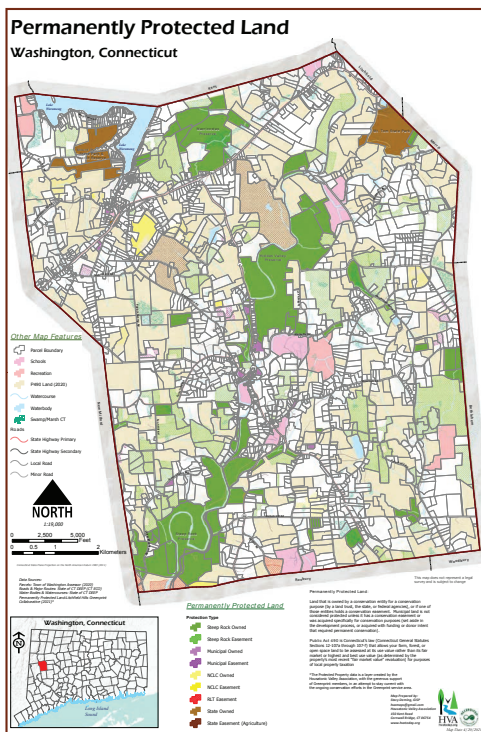
If you spent any amount of time in town this summer, you had the opportunity to attend countless venues of family fun and entertainment. The Spring Hill Arts Gathering, Friday night Music on the Green, Gunn Memorial Library events and the Farmers Market at the Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens to name a few. These events and all that took place in town were safe and successful due to the efforts and cooperation of the organizers. Because of those efforts, we can continue to look forward to a busy fall season with plenty more on tap.

In spite of some summer storms, which caused an incredible amount of cleanup, our Public Works Department has stayed on or close to schedule with an aggressive road repair plan. Most notable is the repaving and drainage of Wheaton Road in the Marble Dale section of town as well as a complete overhaul of Mygatt Road and its' intersections. In the time frame of late September to early October, we'll be replacing the sidewalks and drainage for the Village of New Preston. Be sure to keep an eye on our Transfer Station over the next several months. Improvements include new compactors, office trailers, fencing and paving. The goal is to make our Transfer Station safer, more efficient and more sustainable.

Board of Selectmen
Jim Brinton, Jay Hubelbank, Dean Sarjeant

Mark your Calendar for the Washington Harvest Festival

On October 10 Parks & Rec will once again partner with the WBA to bring you family fun at the Riverwalk Pavilion. It's never too early to start thinking about entries for the crowd-pleasing scarecrow competition. Steep Rock will also be adding a 5K run to the weekend. Check explorewashington.com for details as we get closer.



Spotlight on Business: KMR Arts

By Dan Sherr

A longtime weekender, Kathryn McCarver relocated to Washington in 2005. In 2007, the KMR Arts Gallery opened and in the intervening 14 years has established a national reputation among photography artists, commentators/critics and collectors. The gallery showcases both vintage and contemporary photography from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, presented in a non-traditional gallery environment. KMR Arts celebrated its 5th year anniversary in 2012 with a momentous exhibit of vintage prints by Diane Arbus, a hugely influential photographer known for her darkly beautiful images.



Kathryn gained her experience with photography over two decades working as a photography editor for books - Lillian Bassman, Bulfinch, Weekend Retreats, Rizzoli - and prestigious magazines - *Esquire*, *Us Weekly* and *InStyle*. According to Kathryn, photographs tell a story, often a compelling one, but it requires the viewer to 'tell' the real story. Repeated viewings encourage the story to evolve.

A new and growing segment of the KMR Arts business is installations. Kathryn, with her extensive experience managing private and public photo collections, has developed best practices for installations. Kathryn works closely with each client, editing and curating the client's photographs and mementos, then creatively framing and arranging the images on the wall.

"After ten years of owning my own art gallery, I realized that many clients own beautiful and personal pieces that deserve a professional eye and installation to look their best. KM Installations is the culmination of my 30 years of photo editing, art consulting and curating experience.

KMR Arts
2 Titus Rd #1, Washington Depot, CT 06794
860-868-7533
www.kmrarts.com

Parks & Recreation

The Town of Washington welcomes Connie Chapin as our new Parks & Recreation Coordinator. Connie was born and raised in the area and has deep roots in the farming and local political communities. She is a former physical education teacher and Clinical Physiologist specializing in physical and worker rehabilitation and currently serves as the Program Director for the Nutmeg State Games in charge of the field hockey and girl's lacrosse venues.

"Washington is blessed with a whole host of recreational facilities, areas and opportunities available to us. With its beautiful parks, Steep Rock Association - with its scenic river, hiking trails, open spaces - River Walk Pavilion, access to Lake Waramaug at the Washington Town Beach and rural network of roads - I am excited to be given this chance to be a part of the growth of recreational programs here in Washington. My vision is to enhance the utilization of these areas - while maintaining and preserving their natural beauty. I am looking forward to collaborating with other town organizations and departments to develop and enhance programs for all of our residents."

Due to the success of this summer's stand up paddleboard (SUP) youth camp, a SUP clinic (SUP & Sip) for adults will be held on Sunday, September 12 at the Washington Town Beach. More information about the SUP clinic and other programs offered through the Parks & Rec Commission will be posted on the Washington Parks & Recreation Facebook page and our town website, so stay tuned!



News from the Assessor's Office

Daniel Kenny

The October 1 assessment date in CT is the '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 2021 grand list and in future years, must file their Form DD-214 service record with the Town Clerk on or before September 30, 2021 - 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, 2021.

'Renters Rebate' Tax Relief applications are due by October 1, 2021 with all supporting income documentation.

Real estate owners may submit new or amended applications for a special tax value for acres already in productive agricultural use on October 1; between September 1 - October 31, 2021.

All organizations of tax-exempt property used for charitable purposes pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 12-81, must file a 2021 quadrennial application on or before November 1, 2021.

Any other organizations already enjoying tax-exempt status must file a supplemental application prior to November 1, 2021, for any new property acquired after October 1, 2020.

Owners of business personal property of assets held as of October 1, 2021 are required to file declarations with the Assessor's Office by U.S. postmarked mail no later than November 1, 2021.

Additional 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 voicemail to 860-868-0398, or by email @ assessor@washingtonct.org.

Together Again at the Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens



THE JUDY BLACK
MEMORIAL PARK
AND GARDENS

This summer we were “Together Again!” at the Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens. (This was the theme for our annual FUNraiser, at which local singer and actor Audrey Heffernan Meyer and her band entertained many of our supporters on the lawn of Town Hall in mid-July.)

We hope being together again meant everyone had a chance to enjoy summer Saturdays at the Farmers Market; or Caroline Kinsolving’s Theatre for Good’s special presentation of “Almost, Maine.” Of course, Art @ the Park did not disappoint, with exhibits that included the Shepaug Valley School and The Frederick Gunn joint Student Show, works by Jason Wallengren and by Sandi Fellman, as well as an artist talk with Lisa Elmaleh. Or did you attend any number of our free community events, such as Science @ the Park for kids during the market, the Sherman Chamber Ensemble’s “Children’s Concert,” or their lively Blue Grass concert? Did we see you at our many Outdoor Movie Nights? A heart-felt thank you to our movie sponsors: Bouyea & Associates, Candlewood Valley Pediatrics, Dental Associate KIDS, the Glass Family, National Iron Bank, Trevenen & Coploff LLC, Union Savings Bank and William Pitt Sotheby’s International Realty.

This fall, we hope you’ll continue to join us and your neighbors at our “gathering place” in the heart of Washington and Litchfield County. We’ll continue to respect and adapt our events to meet current Covid-19 guidelines. Here’s a sample of what’s to come:

Farmers Market

Litchfield Magazine’s 2021 Reader’s Choice Award for Best Farmers Market will remain open every Saturday through November 22, from 10:00am to 1:00pm, weather permitting. Live music will continue to be provided the first Saturday of each month during market hours.

Art @ the Park

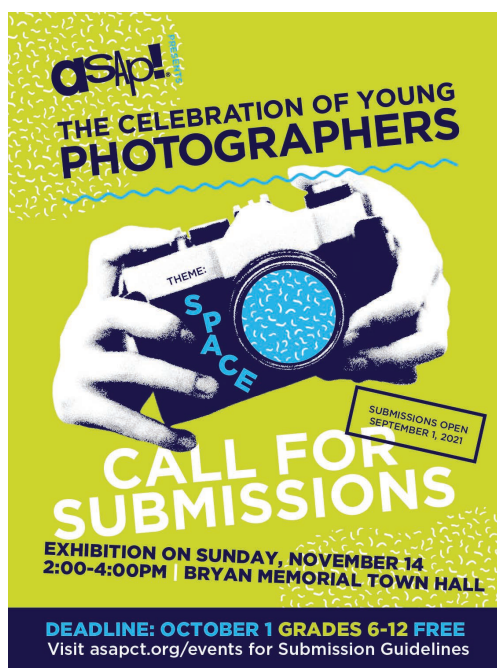
Come see our amazing new line-up of artist exhibits in the coming months. Peter Cusack will be on view from September 4 to October 12. From October 16 to November 19, we’ll have a joint exhibit of works by Judy Jackson and Elizabeth MacDonald. In January, KMR Arts brings us works by photographer Ernest Withers on view all month and will be a highlight of our third annual MLK Day festivities, honoring volunteerism and giving back to community.

A Charles Dickens Christmas

Courtesy of Washington’s own, Dixie Deluca, a special installation of a Charles Dickens Christmas Village will be on view the month of December, adding to Washington Depot’s annual Holiday in the Depot.



Check out our website (www.thejudyblackparkandgardens.org), sign up for our e-blasts, or follow us on Facebook and Instagram for details of the events and more. If you would like to be part of “the action” at the park, join us as a volunteer, sponsor an event or donate. Contact Laura Neminski at laura@thejudyblackparkandgardens.org for more information.



ASAP!® Celebration of Young Photographers

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

ASAP!’s annual Celebration of Young Photographers provides students in grades 6-12 the opportunity to participate in a large-scale professional art exhibition and juried show. A panel of professional photographers selects 60 photos to be included in a unique exhibition. The top four photographers are recognized for their outstanding work and receive the Dylan’s Wings Photography Award and a special prize.

The theme for this year’s Celebration of Young Photographers is: **Space**.

This event is FREE and open to the public and all photographs are available for purchase. We look forward each year to celebrating talented young photographers, providing creative opportunities and helping to build a community of support around our emerging young artists. ASAP! will begin accepting submissions on September 1, 2021. The deadline for submissions is October 1, 2021. Please visit www.asapct.org to submit your work.

Join us for an in-person exhibit on November 14 at Bryant Memorial Town Hall where the top 60 selected photos will be recognized and the Top 4 honorees will be revealed. The Top 2 photographers from middle and high school will receive the 2021 Dylan’s Wings Photography Award. This award is presented by Ian Hockley, Executive Director of Dylan’s Wings of Change, to the photographer whose piece most thoroughly embodies the criteria.

The Lake Waramaug Association Remembers Kate D. Tallmadge 1917-2021

Kate D. Tallmadge passed away on July 11, 2021 in her own home by her beloved Lake Waramaug surrounded by her family. She was 104 years young. Kate saw six generations at the Lake, where her family grew to three children, seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.



Kate's family helped form the Lake Waramaug Association in 1917 and contributed greatly to the environmental improvements around the Lake. She saw Lake Waramaug as a place of nature, adventure and imagination.

Here's an excerpt from an article about Kate's life written by her son, John in 2017 which gives a rich glimpse into what life was like on the Lake over the past 100 years.

From "Kate Tallmadge: One Hundred Years on Lake Waramaug" by John Tallmadge

In the beginning there was Brooklyn, where Nana and George Albert Allin raised their children Kate Duryea and George Litchfield. In the summer of 1910, fleeing the heat and congestion, they stayed at the Loomarwick and

fell in love with the Lake. They bought a twenty-acre hayfield with water frontage on West Shore Road, where Nana later built an Adirondack style cottage with green shutters and cedar shingles. Soon grandchildren began to arrive, and in 1917, the Allins helped found the Lake Waramaug Association. That same year my mother was born, and Nana gave her mom, Kate Weber, a plot on the hillside where she built a rustic Cape Cod cottage surrounded by wildflowers that drew the butterflies so beloved of her husband, the Rev. Herman Weber, an accomplished theologian, naturalist, mason, and wood worker. My mother, Kate Duryea Weber, grew up spending summers at the Lake, which became for her and her cousins a magical place of nature, adventure, and imagination.

In those days the road around the Lake was still unpaved, there were no phones, radios, showers, indoor plumbing, or electricity. The family had a cow for milk and a big garden for vegetables. They gathered wild blueberries on the top of Mt. Bushnell, wild strawberries

in the meadow, and wild grapes in the woods. They drank spring water from a hand-dug well and washed their sheets, clothes, and bodies in the Lake using Octagon soap made from pork fat and lye. Mom remembers scratchy wool bathing suits that never dried and the long, two-day drive from New Jersey using the Yonkers Ferry and later the Bear Mountain Bridge. She remembers riding to the village on the hay wagon after a local farmer had mowed the meadow for tax money and coming back afterwards to make ice cream with home-grown strawberries, chipping ice from a hundred-pound block cut from the Lake and hauled up the hill by a sweating Swanson boy. She remembers Mr. Schiapacasse's vegetable wagon with its jangling bell making weekly rounds. She remembers lighting and cooking with kerosene.

Altogether, it was a summer life of rustic simplicity, full of exploration and outdoor delights. The Lake came to represent all that was clean, natural, wild, and free, a place of refuge and redemption for us city folks.

To read the full article, visit: waramaugassoc.org/our-community/remembering-kate-tallmadge

Join the Conversation By Kate McGarr

Broadcast nationally by PBS under the title of "Common Ground with Jane Whitney," the shows – which are produced by COG, as the Washington-based group is known by the cognoscenti – will gather diverse panels composed of the country's most erudite authorities to discuss issues that power the country's stasis but remain veiled by reticence.

The first show, "Women's Rights Rollback: The New Frontier," will take place on September 12.

The distinguished panel of women's advocates features Cecile Richards, who became the face of the reproductive rights movement and a political powerhouse during her 12-year tenure as the director of Planned Parenthood. She will be joined by U.S. Virgin Islands Delegate, Stacey Plaskett, a community activist and mother of five who became a household name earlier this year as one of the House managers of President Trump's post second impeachment trial, and Katty Kay, an outspoken advocate for women in the workplace and a veteran BBC correspondent who brought British refinement to the coverage of bare-knuckled American politics.

Set for September 26, the discussion, "Climate



Change: Sunrise or Sunset?" will be headlined by Bill McKibben, an environmentalist, author and journalist who is widely considered one of the fathers of common concern about the climate crisis; Katharine Hayhoe, an evangelist who is Chief Scientist of the Nature Conservancy and a professor of political science at Texas Tech University where she is director of the Climate Science Center; and Andrew Zimmern, the environmental activist and internationally renowned culinary expert, chef, restaurateur, food critic, teacher, and television and radio personality.

In the face of next year's election, the October 10 show will discuss the defining political question of the moment: Where are the political parties, especially the GOP? While the GOP dominates the south and still controls the majority of state legislatures and governorships, moderate Republicans have been marginalized and the party no longer has a platform beyond support of

the former president. Common Ground's eleventh show of the season will discuss the future of the two-party system, a foundation of American democracy.

Finally, Common Ground will wrap its season up with a Grand Finale on October 31 (Halloween), a show so secret that even its producers have been kept in the dark about the topic and guests. While it may be highly classified, we can guarantee the show will be "spooktacular."

As COG begins preparing for next season, which should feature a return to in person events, we're looking for volunteers and interns of all ages and skill-levels to join us. If you would like to participate or can contribute, please write to Laura Neminski, the executive director, at info@conversationsonthegreen.com.

Proceeds from the live shows continue to support local and national charities, including The Susan B. Anthony Project, Greenwood's Counseling & Referrals, New Milford Hospital Foundation, and the American Nurses Association: Corona Virus Fund.

Learn more at: conversationsonthegreen.com.

News from Regional School District 12

Region 12 Schools has been creative with its enrollment efforts over the last five years. These efforts have resulted in bringing more attention and



additional students to the district and our towns. For the past three years, much focus and awareness have been placed on the success of our fledgling agriscience program. However, the success of the Region 12 Schools tuition-in program cannot be underestimated. The tuition-in program has brought numerous students from beyond the towns of Bridgewater, Roxbury and Washington into our outstanding school system.

This quiet tuition-in program has offered educational opportunities for families that don't live in the towns but are willing to pay for their children to access our educational system at Booth Free School, Burnham School, Washington Primary School and Shepaug Valley School. Tuition-in doesn't just benefit the students and families accessing our schools; it also benefits the communities by providing additional revenue back to the towns. Roxbury Selectwoman Barbara Henry shared, "Having the tuition-in students is a win-win for our outstanding school system. One, it benefits the students to have slightly larger class sizes which brings a more diverse interaction and learning experience, and, two, the monies garnered from those tuition-in students are returned to the towns from the school. It's an example of collaboration that has worked well in our small communities for years. Now that we have the agriscience program up and running, it's taking what has been done in the past to a higher level."

Educating students who choose to tuition-in doesn't cost the district additional dollars. All monies received from tuition-in students are returned to the towns. Region 12 Schools has seen a steady increase with tuition-in revenue over the past three years: 2017-18 resulted in \$351,744 to the towns, 2018-19 increased to \$615,491 and 2019-20 refunded \$925,686. Washington Selectman Jim Brinton spoke about the refund to the town of Washington, "Our town was very pleased to see this year's refund from Region 12. It shows solid fiscal responsibility and a continued partnership between our schools and the three towns that make up the Region."

Tuition-in seats are offered based on availability within the grade level and school. Seats offered don't take away from the educational opportunities of the students who are residents in our three towns. Our analogy is that we sell the empty seats on the plane, we do not buy a new plane. Region 12 Schools' educational quality isn't compromised by accommodating tuition-in students; therefore, resources available and educational needs are taken into consideration during the application process. Selectman Curtis Read from Bridgewater credits the tuition-in experience for our children by saying, "The expression 'the more, the merrier' certainly applies to our Region 12 Schools. To combat declining population and low birth rates, the Region needed more students to add capability and vibrancy to the student body. With the expanding tuition-in program all our schools have gone beyond survival to a thriving level of academic achievement with financial benefits returning to the towns. Every agriscience or student from neighboring towns comes with tuition funds that must, by law, be returned to Bridgewater, Roxbury or Washington proportionally. More students equals more unexpected income. It's the definition of a win-win." Families seeking tuition-in opportunities complete an application and are interviewed

The quiet tuition-in program has thrived mostly through word of mouth. The waitlist continues to grow as the demand to be a part of Region 12 Schools increases. For the 2021-22 school year, Region 12 Schools has received 260 applications for the tuition-in program. For more information about the tuition-in program, please visit www.region-12.org/registration.

Thank You for a Successful Summer Music on the Green Series!



After hearing last spring that Washington residents wanted more family-friendly event options in the Town, First Congregational Church got together with The PO restaurant and local musicians to provide Washington's own version of Tanglewood on Friday evenings over the summer. With musical offerings from bagpipes to saxophone to Broadway show tunes and everything in between, there was something for every musical taste on the Washington Green.

"We'd like to thank all the people who joined us each week to stretch out and relax with a picnic and enjoy some great local music on our beautiful Green," said Pastor Robyn Gray of First Congregational Church. "The musicians were all top-notch and it was such a blessing to feel the sense of community and see the children running around and having a great time after all the isolation we experienced last year," she said.

First Congregational would like to thank the PO for their delicious picnic offerings, Alecia Evans of SingOutCT! for organizing the musicians, and offer a huge shout-out to all the performers who provided such wonderful evenings for the Town. Thank you, also, to everyone who contributed financially to the musicians each week.

In light of the success of these events, look for another season of music, community and fun in the summer of 2022.

Stay in the loop on Washington news and events!

Visit 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, 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.



Gunn Memorial Library & Museum www.gunnlibrary.org

News & Updates

We have an exciting array of programs planned for this fall. Keep in mind that the following programs are subject to change as more information comes in about the latest surge in Covid-19 cases.

Please go to www.gunnlibrary.org for more information and to register for our programs.

Check out two new resources available with your Library card! Visit our website to learn more.

- Consumer Reports – providing unbiased product ratings and reviews.
- NoveList – a new resource that helps readers find their next favorite books.

An OVERDUE fundraising event will take place on 9/25.

The Junior Library is accepting donations and volunteers for the annual Children's Holiday Sale. Please call 860-868-2310 before donating. The sale will be December 9-11.

The library will be closed on 10/11 for Columbus Day, 11/11 for Veteran's Day and 11/25 for Thanksgiving.

Community Outreach

- Washington Harvest Festival on 10/10.
- Join us at Judea Garden on 10/23 from 9am-12pm to lend a hand and learn about prepping your garden for the colder months.

Adult Programs

Visit our website for more information and for registration.

- The WAA will host a paint night on 9/ 9 at 6:30pm.
- Fall Short Stories Series – 9/7 & 9/14 and 10/12 & 10/26.
- Movie Matinees are back! 9/13 at 1pm.
- Mindful Meditation with Sheila Klapper on 9/21 at 6:30pm.
- In collaboration with Hickory Stick - Author Talk with Michael Blanding on his book *North By Shakespeare* on 9/23 at 6:30pm.
- In collaboration with Hickory Stick – New England Hiking Program on 10/5 at 6:30pm



- Join Gunn Librarian Martie Smolka to learn how to use our new reader's advisory resource, NoveList on 9/28 and 10/28 at 6:30pm.
- The Artistic Life of Kay Sage presented by The Mattatuck Museum on 10/14 at 6:30pm
- Make your windows safer for wild birds with the Litchfield Hills Audubon Society on 10/19 at 6:30pm.
- Genealogy: How to Use the Mattatuck Library and Archive presented by The Mattatuck Museum on 11/ 9 at 6:30pm.

Junior Library Programs

Visit our website for more information and for registration.

- Friday story times for youngsters start 10/1 at 10:30am and 2:15pm. Join us for a story, a craft, songs and finger-play.
- Saturday programs resume 10/ 2 at 1pm for programs—fall favorites such as Pumpkin Painting and our Halloween party!



- After school programs for K-3rd-graders resume the week of October 4.

Gunn Historical Museum

Don't miss these wonderful events at the Gunn Historical Museum this fall! Please go to www.gunnlibrary.org for more information and to register for our programs.

- Frederick Gunn: An American Original with Peter Becker, Bart McMann and Emily Gum of the Frederick Gunn School on Monday, September 13 @ 6:30pm via Zoom.
- Washington History Club in the Morning – Washington Inns, Hotels and Taverns on Monday, September 20 @ 10am in-person at the Washington Senior Center.



- Catch us at the Washington Harvest Festival on Sunday, October 10 from 12-5pm! We will have a booth and a historical reenactment!
- 14th Annual Washington Cemetery Tour at the Gunn Historical Museum on Friday, October 29 from 6:30-8:30pm. Online ticket registration is required. Rain date is Saturday, October 30.
- Reflections on the Marble Corridor or Western New England with William Hosley – Monday, November 15 @ 6:30pm via Zoom.
- Washington History Club at Night – Washington Fun Times: Dances, Proms and Other Celebrations, moderated by Dimitri Rimsky on Tuesday, November 23 @ 6:30pm at the Gunn Memorial Library.
- Raising the Curtain: The History of Theater in Washington with Sarah Griswold on Monday, December 13 @ 6:30pm via Zoom.

Hollister House Garden 2021 Fall Events



Hollister House Garden is open Wednesdays and Fridays 1-4pm and Saturdays 10am-4pm through October 9. Join us for our educational programs open to the community. Registration information can be found at www.hollisterhousegarden.org/events/



Sunday, September 12 | 3-6pm Plant Sale & Wine in the Garden

As summer fades into fall we have invited some of the premier growers in New England to set up shop at Hollister House Garden. This is a special opportunity to purchase choice plants from Broken Arrow Nursery, David Burdick Bulbs, Cricket Hill Garden, Falls Village Flower Farm, Issima and McCue Gardens. Enjoy a glass of wine and nibbles as you shop and visit the garden.

Saturday, September 18 | 10-11:30am Putting Your Garden to Bed – Daryl Beyers

Daryl Beyers, author of *The New Gardener's Handbook*, returns to Hollister House Garden to share his expertise on what you can do this fall to ensure a healthy garden next spring. Learn techniques to improve soil quality, protect perennials and shrubs through the winter, provide winter habitat for beneficial insects, and manage all those fallen leaves.

Saturday, September 25 | 10-11:30am Solutions for Backyard Invasives – Christian Allyn

In our backyards, invasive plant species alter the ecosystem by crowding out our native plants that support pollinators and birds. Christian Allyn, owner of Plant Solutions, will share solutions to help us identify and remove these unwanted troublesome invaders. He will make suggestions for replacement plants to use after eliminating these invaders.

Saturday, October 2 | 10-11:30am Enhancing Your Garden with Spring Bulbs – Page Dickey

From snowdrops to alliums, spring bulbs

can enliven your garden, adding interest and splashes of color while taking little room. In this illustrated lecture, Page Dickey, garden writer, lecturer and designer, will show and describe a succession of bulbs, some well-loved, others little known, to consider and successfully plant.



Saturday, October 9 | 10-11:30am The New Heirloom Garden – Ellen Ecker Ogden

Get a head start planning next years' garden and take home fresh ideas for designing your kitchen garden. Discover what vegetables to grow for the best flavor and what flowers are best for old-fashioned fragrance and why it's important to save seeds. Ellen Ecker Ogden, author of *The New Heirloom Garden* will discuss the wide diversity of heirloom plants that you can grow to enhance your edible landscape.



The Village Improvement Society (VIS) was started in the late 1800s by Ehrick Rossiter. It was an informal association funded by gifts requested by Mr. Rossiter to support local projects as they arose. In January 1928, the Society was formally organized and a Board of Directors was elected. The mission remains the same today. Through the generosity of townspeople, VIS supports various projects throughout town, with the sole interest of making Washington an even better place to live.

As a thank you to the community, the VIS holds an annual picnic in June. This past June, we would have joined together for the Society's 92nd Annual Family Picnic. Like so many other

events and milestones, the picnic was canceled for the second time due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Although great strides have been made, the Board, in an attempt to keep everyone safe, made the decision to cancel the picnic. We have high hopes of returning to our tradition in June 2022!

Over the past several years, VIS has contributed in part or in full, toward the following projects:

- Spring, summer and fall flower planters at the intersection of Bee Brook Road and Route 202.
- Christmas tree and lights in Marble Dale.
- Support of Washington Gives.
- Distribution of VIS reusable bags.
- Support of Washington Environmental Council's "Good Bag Program." Support of Washington's Play and Learn After School Program with the purchase of supplies and indoor play equipment.
- Support of the Washington Primary School Garden Project.

- Risers for the Washington Primary School.
- Installation of bocce courts at the River Walk Park in collaboration with Washington Parks and Recreation Commission.
- Refurbishing the walking path at River Walk Park.
- Replacement of Washington Primary School sign.
- Planting of a horse chestnut tree in memory of William Bader along the Shepaug River.
- Replacement of the Nick Platt Field sign in New Preston.
- Support of tent rentals for outside learning at Shepaug during COVID-19.
- Hanging baskets in Bryan Plaza.
- Support of the deLIGHTful Depot project during the holidays.

Donations can be made to the Village Improvement Society, Inc., P.O. Box 203, Washington Depot, CT 06794.

Save All these Steep Rock Event Dates.

Then, for more information, go to our website steeprockassoc.org/events-programs

Saturday, September 11 – Annual

Community Picnic

Saturday, September 18 –Monthly

Work Party

Saturday, September 25 – Tunnel Road

Connector Ramble

Saturday, October 9 – Harvest Festival 5K @ Steep

Rock Preserve

Sunday, October 10 – Join us at the Harvest Festival

Saturday, October 16 – Nature Preserve

Monitoring Blitz

Sunday, October 17 – Nature Preserve

Monitoring Blitz

Saturday, October 23 – Fall Cleanup at Judea Garden

Sunday, October 24 – Fall Cleanup at Judea Garden

Saturday, November 6 – Bee Brook's Busy Beavers

Sunday, December 19 – Christmas Bird Count

www.steeprockassoc.org

info@steeprockassoc.org

860-868-9131



Why is the Town of Washington developing an Affordable Housing Plan?

The short answer is because the state of Connecticut says we have to by June 2022. However, as many of us are aware, housing and a lack of diverse housing options has long been an issue Washington struggles with. Currently, one in every three Washington households is paying more than 30% of their income on housing costs, which is the definition of unaffordable. Our median home sales price went from \$528,500 in 2019 to \$840,000 in 2020. Only 2% of our current housing stock is considered affordable by state definition. In a survey done in December 2020, 74% of the 273 respondents felt that the cost of housing in Washington affects the town's ability to attract or retain younger people or families. We also have a lack of smaller homes and condos for our seniors to downsize to; 65% felt that the town needs "downsizing" options.



To address these concerns, for almost a year, a committee of community members has been working with the Housing Commission to develop a five-year Affordable Housing Plan. The plan will be presented at a **Public Hearing of the Planning Commission October 6**. If housing in Washington is of interest to you, please mark your calendar and come learn about what's being proposed. For more information, please visit the Housing Commission page on the town website at www.washingtonct.org/housing-commission.

Washington Trivia by Shelia Anson

What was the 18th century name of the present Clamshell in the Steep Rock Preserve? (Hint: It's an anatomical reference.)

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

Answer from the last issue.

Who in Washington recently celebrated their 105th birthday and what is the name of the farm where this person lives?

Frances Whitehead celebrated 105 years in May and she has resided on the White Ayr Farm for over eighty years. The Town of Washington declared May 2, 2021 as Frances C. Whitehead Day.



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. mgorra@washingtonct.org

Look for our next issue, coming out in December.

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

*****ECRWSSDDM*****

Postal Patron