

Washington, CT

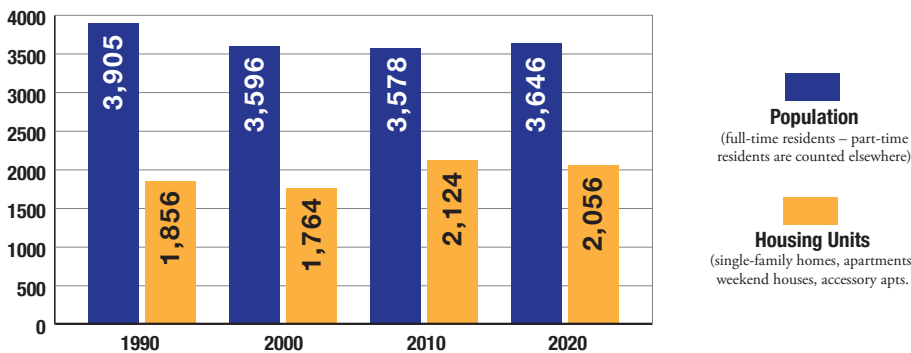
The 2020 Census: What Does It (not) Tell Us About Washington?

By Wayne Hileman, Chair of the Washington Planning Commission.

The U.S. Census Bureau believes the Town of Washington had a full-time population of 3,646 as of April 1, 2020—a 2% increase from the 2010 Census. That’s good news. The Bureau also believes we had 2,056 housing units—a 3% decrease. That’s not good news.

Normally, planners are excited to receive new data, especially from sources that can aid in tracking trends. The holy grail is the decennial census, a hard count of population and housing statistics that can be used to craft local planning strategies.

Washington, CT Population and Housing Units



However, census data can sometimes leave us with more questions than answers. With 68 fewer housing units than in 2010, our 2020 housing count is obviously wrong. Local records show that 77 new housing units were created here over the same timeframe, meaning that if the Census Bureau is right, 145 homes in Washington “disappeared” during the previous decade. We suffered a similar undercount in the 2000 Census, but the 2010 Census realigned its data to concur with our local records.

As for our 145 “missing” homes in the 2020 Census—where did they go?

This is important. The Census is conducted on a household basis under the assumption that “everybody has to live somewhere.” The Bureau ascertains all the housing units in each census block *before* beginning its population count. If the housing count is suspect, all the derived data are suspect.

Other small communities are struggling with this issue, which was further complicated by the onset of the pandemic and political chicanery during the 2020 Census. In addition, the Bureau’s enhanced enforcement of differential privacy measures to protect personal data—a topic too complicated to address here—all but assures these figures will not be revisited.

So what do we do? As in the past, we’ll rely on local hard data, such as zoning applications, building permits and assessor’s records, to gain an accurate portrait of our demographic and housing profile as we craft our upcoming 2023 Plan of Conservation and Development. Rest assured we’ll base our town-wide goals and strategies on the most reliable information. Most of that information resides in Washington, CT—not Washington, DC.

Message from the Selectmen’s Office

Looking forward to warmer weather and increasing activities throughout town is one of the many joys of spring. As of this writing, COVID numbers in and around town continue to drop. As we all look forward to a new sense of normalcy, we’re continuing to ask residents to exercise caution and continue safe practices.

2022 promises to be a busy time for the Town of Washington. In addition to all of the usual happenings in town, we’ll also be taking on several exciting projects. Through the generosity of our residents, the Town has raised the funds needed to purchase the property at 92 Bee Brook Rd. to house our new ambulance headquarters. For many years, the Ambulance Association and the Washington Volunteer Fire Department have shared the building at 109 Bee Brook Rd. This new facility will provide both of our volunteer organizations with the continued ability to provide first rate emergency services to all of our residents and surrounding communities.

Our Public Works Department will be busy again this year with a very ambitious bridge and road program. We’ll be doing repairs and/or replacement of three bridges in town. Work on the Calhoun St. bridge began in February and work on the Rabbit Hill Rd. and Whittlesey Rd. bridges will begin in early summer. All bridge work will be completed by November.

The Board of Selectmen are seeking volunteers to staff two soon to be appointed committees. We’ll be appointing a Fiberoptic Advisory Committee and an ARPA Advisory Committee. If you’re interested in serving, please contact First Selectman Jim Brinton at jbrinton@washingtonct.org or call the Selectmen’s office at 860-868-2259.

In closing, we wish all residents a happy spring season and encourage the continued support of all the men and women who volunteer with our emergency services.

Board of Selectmen
Jim Brinton
Jay Hubelbank
Dean Sarjeant

Spotlight on Business: CT Gold & Silver Brokers Come to Washington Depot

By Dan Sherr

Launched in 2008, CT Gold & Silver Brokers has opened five Connecticut locations in Greenwich, Wilton, Monroe, New Milford and coming in April 2021, Washington Depot. The Brokers buy gold, silver, designer jewelry and sports memorabilia. Customers are invited to bring items to the closest outlet for a broker to appraise and purchase.



The team has decades of experience with jewelry, coins, watches and collectibles. This includes graduate gemologists for diamond evaluations, numismatic experts with coin and currency, expertise with luxury watch brands – Rolex, Patek Phillipe and designer jewelry – Cartier, Van Cleef & Arpels, Tiffany, sports memorabilia, and historical collectibles such as autographed baseballs and documents signed by Thomas Jefferson.

CT Gold & Silver Brokers often work with clients who are downsizing and seeking to liquidate accumulations of jewelry, household flatware, coins and currency. The Brokers have developed a reputation with attorneys and trustees settling estates for probate or family members wishing to liquidate inherited high valued items. With the Broker's extensive network of partners, it's able to assure clients competitive pricing.

The Washington Depot outlet was opened to service clients traveling from Northwest Connecticut for a review of items they were seeking to evaluate and liquidate. And in the words of the Depot Brokers, "We enjoy having people come in to say hello and find out more about us. We look forward to supporting the community in any way we can."

CT Gold & Silver Brokers
5 Bryan Hall Plaza
Washington Depot, CT 06794
860-619-0363
ctgoldandsilver.com

TOWN OF WASHINGTON Property Tax Benefit Programs

Washington homeowners who were sixty-five or older by December 31, 2021 or who receive Social Security disability payments, may be eligible for property tax credit for the 2021 Grand List. The property must be their principal residence and total household income including Social Security cannot exceed **2021 State income limits:**

\$38,100 - Single or \$46,400 - Married. (State credit)

Additionally, residents may be eligible for a local Town tax credit. Eligibility requirements are those listed above and applicants must have been taxpayers of the town for three (3) years prior to their application.

2021 Town income limits:

\$38,500 – Single or \$46,800 - Married. (Town credit)

Applications must be filed in the Assessor's office February 1 - May 15. If eligible, tax credit will apply to the July 2022 billing.

Finally, Washington residents currently receiving a veteran's exemption may be eligible for an additional exemption if they meet the above state income limits. There's no age requirement for an additional veteran's exemption. Applications are accepted from February 1 to October 1 for exemption on the future October 1, 2022 and 2023 Grand Lists.

All applications are available in the Assessor's office beginning February 1, during office open hours or at www.washingtonct.org/assessor. Call 860-868-0398 for more information.

Join Us in Celebrating Earth Day 2022 on April 23

Check ExploreWashingtonct.com for details.

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!



Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens



THE JUDY BLACK
MEMORIAL PARK
AND GARDENS

Despite the snow and ice, the Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens maintained a busy and spirited winter season! With an exciting assortment of upcoming events, the park continues to serve as a community hub.

Holidays @the Park

Fully embracing this magical time of the year, the Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens hosted Holidays @the Park. The joint exhibition featured Jean Sullivan's and Dixie De Luca's personal collection of handcrafted, painted building and figurine collectibles from The Dickens' Christmas Village as well as Sue Reich's curated collection of quilts depicting the poem 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. The former display garnered national attention, premiering on an episode of CBS Mornings on December 23, while the latter exhibit geared up to tour the country in commemoration of the 200th year of Dr. Moore's poem.

The park continued to revel in the holiday spirit by taking part in Washington's annual Holiday in the Depot. Various local businesses joined us to offer tasty treats and activities: s'mores from National Iron Bank, hot apple cider from Averill Farm, specialty donuts from Ericson Insurance Advisors, and hot cocoa from the Mayflower Inn. It was a wonderful time to connect with our community and celebrate this joyous holiday season.



Art @the Park

As we entered the new year and approached Martin Luther King Day, we partnered with KMR Arts to present "Goodnight My Love," a photography exhibit by Ernest C. Withers. Withers' exhibit documented the Civil Rights Movement in the South from the late 1940s through the 1960s. The exhibit captured some of the most historic events in U.S. history, from the funeral of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to the Mississippi trial of Emmett Till.

Upcoming Events @the Park

Even though Punxsutawney Phil predicted six more weeks of winter, the Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens has a fully packed spring season planned! On exhibit until March 28 are Karen Bonanno's and Heather Scofield's beautiful oil on canvas works. Madness @the Park will bring a weekend filled with basketball and fun to our community. And, on May 21, we'll welcome back a community favorite, and winner of *Litchfield Magazine's* Reader's Choice in 2021 and 2022, the Saturday Farmers Market.

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'd 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.

Delinquent Tax Information and Statutes

Tax bills remain due and payable for 15 years from the due date CGS 12-164. As soon as a tax becomes delinquent, it shall be subject to interest at 1.5% for each month, or a fraction thereof, from the due date of the tax until the tax is paid in full – CGS 12-145. A tax collector does not have the authority to waive interest on a delinquent tax – CGS 12-146. Collection enforcements include: DMV registration holds, garnishment of wages, bank executions, collection agency, state marshal, tax liens and tax sales.

Motor vehicle taxes unpaid as of February 2, 2022 were reported to DMV. State law requires DMV to deny vehicle registration in the name of a person reported as tax delinquent. All taxes must be paid on all vehicles before the tax collector can release the compliance issue with DMV – CGS 14-33. If payment is made in cash, clearance may be done immediately. Clearance for payments made online will take 3 business days, and clearance for check payments may take as long as 10 days.

Real estate tax liens are applied to any unpaid real estate tax as of March 31, 2022. At least 15 days prior to the filing of these liens, a "Notice of Intent to Lien" is sent to each delinquent taxpayer. All interest and taxes and the \$24 lien fee must be paid in full before the lien can be released – CGS 12-173-175.

Failure to receive a tax bill does not exempt the taxpayer from payment of all taxes, interest and fees – CGS 12-130. Interest is charged on all late payments. Any past due taxes, interest and fees must be paid in full before payment on current bills can be accepted.

All tax information is available on washingtonct.org. You can print tax bills, payment receipts and IRS records, research 3 years of tax records and pay online.

Washington Environmental Council Earth Day Celebration!

The Washington Environmental Council (WEC) will be postponing our annual Moon Dance due to the ongoing pandemic and all of its complexities.

Instead, we're ramping up our Earth Day Celebration on **Saturday, April 23** in honor of WEC's 50th anniversary! There will be events at The Judy Black Memorial Park & Gardens, our annual Roadside Clean-Up and a celebration of the community that has supported WEC and its mission over the last 50 years. More information coming soon!



WEC is a local nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the environmental quality of the Town of Washington and beyond through advocacy, leadership, education and collaboration. Please check out our website at Wec-ct.org to learn more and to find out how you can get involved!

Gunn Memorial Library & Museum www.gunnlibrary.org

News & Updates

Our Winter Reading Challenge ends March 31 for kids and adults! Visit our website to download your bingo card today. Thank you to the local businesses who donated prizes for this challenge!

Adult Programs

Registration is required for all of these programs. Visit www.gunnlibrary.org/programs for more information and to register.

- Monday Movie Matinees continue every week at 1pm
- March 3 - Job Searching Strategies with Joyce Mandel (Virtual)
- March 8 - Genealogy One-On-One with John Dwyer



Lake Waramaug Haze by Beth Carlson

- March 14 - Tech Help at the Washington Senior Center
- March 15 - Short Story Group Meeting (Virtual)
- March 17- 10 Tips for Stress with Dr. Wendy Hurwitz (Virtual)
- March 24 - 12 Tips for Anxiety with Dr. Wendy Hurwitz (Virtual)
- March 28 - Pop-Up Library at the Washington Senior Center
- March 31 - Book Club Meeting - *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* by V.E. Schwab
- April 7- Collage Program with Susan Lerner
- April 11 - Tech Help at the Washington Senior Center
- April 12 - Genealogy One-On-One with John Dwyer

- April 12 - Short Story Group Meeting (Virtual)
- April 21- Author Talk in collaboration with The Hickory Stick Bookshop- School Days by Johnathan Galassi (Virtual)
- April 23 - Mugs & Minds: A Collaboration with Minor Memorial Library & Burnham Library
- April 25 - Pop-Up Library at the Washington Senior Center
- May 10 - Genealogy One-On-One with John Dwyer
- May 10 - Medicare 101 Program (Virtual)

Junior Library

Children's Story Times (In-Person)

- Morning Toddler: Fridays, February 4 - April 8, 10:30 - 11:15am
A simple program of stories, finger plays, flannel board activities, music and crafts designed for two-year-olds
- Afternoon Preschool: Fridays, February 4 -April 8, 2:15 - 3:00pm. This program includes music, finger play, crafts and, of course, books!

Afterschool Story Times (In-Person)

- Kindergarten & 1st Grade - Storycraft: Tuesdays, February 1 - April 5, 3:30 - 4:15pm.
- 2nd & 3rd Grade - Storycraft: Thursdays, February 3 - April 7, 3:30 - 4:15pm

Both series feature seasonal themes, books, games, crafts, activities and a snack.

Saturday Family Programs (In-Person)

Saturday programs continue in March and April for multiple ages. Please stop in and pick up our monthly calendar or check our website for further information and to register. Registration will be required. Masks and social distancing are necessary. Seating is limited to ensure safety.

- Dr. Seuss Celebration - March 5 @ 1pm
- Springtime Crafts - March 19 @ 1pm
- Fairy House Workshop - April 2 @ 1pm
- Easter Egg Dyeing - April 16 @ 10am-2pm
- Earth Day Recycling Crafts - April 30 @ 1pm



Gunn Historical Museum

For more information and to register, please visit www.gunnlibrary.org.

March 21 @6:30 on Zoom
"History of the Shepaug Railroad"
Lecture with Col. Donald Woodworth
The Danbury Railway Museum is a sponsor of the program.



April 18 @ 6:30pm on Zoom
"Lake Waramaug and the Generations of People Who Made It Their Own"
Lecture with Christine Adams
The Lake Waramaug Association and Lake Waramaug Task Force are sponsors of the program.

May 10 @6:30pm on Zoom
"Merchants of Washington, Past & Present"
Washington History Club, discussion group moderated by Dimitri Rimsky

May 16 @6:30pm on Zoom
"How the Lake Waramaug Task Force Brought the Lake Back from the Brink"
Lecture with Sean Hayden
The Lake Waramaug Association and Lake Waramaug Task Force are sponsors of the program.

News from Washington Parks and Recreation

We've been working hard this month to plan and coordinate our upcoming spring and summer programs! Our goal is to resume the programs offered prior to the pandemic and add even more recreational opportunities. Check our webpage on washingtonct.org and our Facebook page "Washington Parks & Rec" for updates and information. Please contact us at 860-868-1519 or cchapin@washingtonct.org with your thoughts and ideas!

Washington Parks & Rec is collaborating with Berkshire Field Hockey to present beginner field hockey clinics at the Washington Primary School to be held on Wednesday afternoons through March! Sticks will be available as needed.

Berkshire Field Hockey Presents

INTRO TO INDOOR FIELD HOCKEY



WHEN: 2/23, 3/2, 3/16 & 3/23
(3/30 Weather Make-Up)

WHERE: Washington Primary School

TIME: 3:15-4:30 **COST:** \$40 **GRADES:** 4-9

WHO: Coaches Jaye Stuart and Owen Moore

PLEASE CONTACT: berkshirefieldhockey21@gmail.com

- Shin guards and mouth guards are required
- Sticks will be available!

To register to join us!

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.



News from Regional School District 12

Our students continue to be enthusiastic and show the spirit that we know and love. The current school year can be summed up with "never a dull moment." We had high hopes of some return to normalcy, but see that normalcy is a relative term. Our students recognize the ever-changing health conditions and respect the need for masking and honoring social distancing so we can safely celebrate and host events. We are so appreciative of our community and the care that is provided to each other.



Peppermint Patty our new Belted Gelding cow

There are some exciting events that I want our community to watch for in the upcoming months. The Shepaug Planetarium has been given new life. This planetarium will open up programs and immersion experiences for our students at all grade levels and our community members. We're looking forward to hosting the public for stargazing. In our push to explore the universe, we have partnered with *Slooh* to allow our students in fourth and fifth grade as well as the Shepaug Astronomy Club to have access to fifteen telescopes from around the world. Students will have the ability to engage in scavenger hunts for stars and planets as well as the ability to keep a portfolio of their space exploration.

The Shepaug campus continues to evolve with our agriscience program. We welcomed a Belted Gelding cow named Peppermint Patty. Peppermint Patty is a social, young calf who enjoys her time with our goats and horses. Additionally, we're working with the producers of the film, *Sacred Cow*, to host a public showing of the movie as well as hold a debate for our students regarding the meat industry and regenerative

farming. We welcome people to visit Shepaug's campus when school is not in session to see our animals enjoying their home.

Our Washington Primary School students continue to shine this year both in performance and in its appearance. Our students and staff are doing great work inside of the building. *US News and World Reports* highlighted the Region 12 schools as the best in Connecticut. Washington Primary School was ranked #14 in Connecticut Best Elementary Schools. This ranking is reflective of the wonderful staff, amazing students and supportive community. Washington Primary School's children continue to thrive in a warm and nurturing environment.

There is true unity that occurs in our hallways and in our community. We appreciate all of the care that is offered to each other during this pandemic and beyond. Region 12 Schools want to thank the town of Washington and its community members for allowing our students to grow and thrive in our schools. Our small town always shows its big heart!

Hollister House Spring Events



Join us as we welcome spring at Hollister House Garden with a season of inspiring and informational programs open to the community. Registration information and a full listing of events can be found at www.hollisterhousegarden.org/events/

APRIL

Saturday, April 2, 10-11:30am

Book Talk: *The View from Federal Twist: A New Way of Thinking About Gardens, Nature and Ourselves*, presented by James Golden

Author James Golden will share images and insights from the development of his garden at Federal Twist.

Friday, April 8, 5-6:30pm, Saturday, April 9, 10am-3:30pm, Sunday April 10, 10am-3:30pm

Garden Workshop: New Gardener's Bootcamp, presented by Daryl Beyers

A weekend of garden lessons, based on Daryl Beyers' book, *The New Gardener's Handbook*, includes classroom lectures, hands-on projects and a field trip to a local nursery, all designed to present the fundamentals of gardening in a fun and informative way.



Book Talk: *Edible Landscaping in New England*, presented by Dan Furman April 30, 10-11:30am.

Friday, April 22, 1-4pm

Opening Day

Hollister House Garden opens for the season today. Come, be inspired by the gentle beauty of the early garden. April-May hours are Wednesdays and Fridays 1-4pm and Saturdays 10am-4pm.

Saturday, April 23, 10-11:30am

Barn Talk: Perennial Plant Combinations: More than Pretty Flowers, presented by Richard Rosiello

Flowers, ethereal by nature, are fleeting

moments in a garden. Achieve season-long interest by combining plants through form, texture, structure, colors and patterns, with flowers as the "icing on the cake."

Friday, April 29, 10am-3:30pm

Art Workshop: Tiptoe Through the Tulips, presented by Betsy Rogers-Knox

Step-by-step demonstrations, learn how to portray tulips using a variety of watercolor techniques.

Saturday, April 30, 10-11:30am

Book Talk: *Edible Landscaping in New England*, presented by Dan Furman

This talk will cover the what, where and how of growing both old favorites like heirloom apples as well as more unusual fruits such as pawpaw, persimmon and cornelian cherry.

MAY

Saturday, May 7, 4-5 pm

Yoga for Gardeners, presented by Julie Haesche

Saturday, May 7, 10-11:30am

Barn Talk: Shade Revealed: How to Garden Successfully in Low Light, presented by Amy Ziffer

Since the early 1990s, Amy Ziffer has been experimenting to find the best shade-adapted plants for the Northeast. *Shade Revealed*, a talk abundantly illustrated with beautiful photography, focuses on what makes some shade plants better performers than others.

Friday, May 20, 10am-3:30pm

Watercolor Workshop: Garden Journaling, presented by Betsy Rogers-Knox

Learn how to setup and use a garden journal to capture the ever-changing beauty in your garden as well as other natural habitats you may visit throughout the year.

Saturday, May 21, 10-11:30am

Barn Talk: Development of a Garden, presented by Leslie Needham

Leslie Needham's twenty-year journey at River Hills, the 1780s house and property



she and her husband John have restored in Bedford, NY, has been rooted in respect for history. Leslie will share the principals of her design and photos of River Hills—a garden that continues to cast a spell.



Watercolor Workshop: Garden Journaling, presented by Betsy Rogers-Knox, May 20, 10am-3:30pm

Saturday, May 28, 10-11:30am

Barn Talk: Container Counsel: Tips and Tricks for Creating Successful Container Plantings, presented by Robert Clyde Anderson

Join Robert Clyde Anderson for an opinionated and informative illustrated talk based on his years of experience as a designer and in the retail gardening business.

EARLY JUNE

Sunday, June 5, 1-4pm

Community Day in the Garden

Beginning in June – special opening times for artists and photographers, Thursday Evening Hours and First Fridays

Washington

Refugee Resettlement Project

We are eager to share the story of how our extraordinary community has pulled together in preparation for the arrival of our first Afghan refugee family – a small number among the 100,000 or so Afghan refugees who mostly worked for or on behalf of the U.S. government, whose lives were in danger when the Taliban took over, and who were evacuated from Kabul in August.

The support of this project from Washington and nearby towns has been nothing short of a miracle. Following our late October information session at the Judy Black Park, more than 50 people volunteered their time. In addition, many more have made generous monetary and/or in-kind donations. We knew that this project would help bring many of us together to respond to an urgent humanitarian need, but we never anticipated such an enthusiastic and kind response.

Our volunteers, representing a cross-section of our community, are busy in preparation

for our first family's arrival. We will need to provide assistance to the family in every aspect of their lives (housing, healthcare, education, English-language literacy, employment, transportation, cultural orientation, etc.) until they are able to gain self-sufficiency – the ultimate goal in refugee resettlement. We need to raise funds to help subsidize their living expenses until they are employed and able to support themselves financially – a heavier challenge if they don't speak English fluently. Given the tremendous ordeal that they have already endured, we are confident of their resiliency and grit.

Our Housing Committee located and signed a lease on an apartment in New Milford, close to stores, bus routes, doctors, schools, and hopefully jobs. We have furnished it almost completely with your donated furniture and necessary household items. A kitchen gadget collection by the middle school of Washington Montessori School put the final touches on the kitchen.

Together, as a community, we've accomplished a lot in the past few months, but much of our work still lies ahead. **You can help us now.**

We are primarily focused on:

- Are you, or do you know, a potential employer of possible non-English speaking adults while they are learning English?
- Are you willing to volunteer as an occasional driver to bring family members to important appointments?
- Would you like to join one of our committees (see list above)?
- Would you like to support our fundraising, by hosting a small event for your friends?
- Would you like to make a donation of money or offer your professional skills pro bono?

Monetary donations can be made on our website (www.wrrp.net) or checks can be made out to Washington Refugee Resettlement Project, and mailed to WRRP, PO Box 1205, Washington, CT 06793.

If you answered yes to any of the above, please contact us at info@wrrp.net. You can also sign up for updates and news of our family's arrival on our website. Thank you in advance for your continuing support, and for welcoming our refugee family. We know that they will enrich our community.

Mad as Hell

The legendary anchorman of the classic film "Network," Howard Beale, became infamous for the axiom "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore."

Many of us know the feeling. The left is mad as hell at the right, the right is mad as hell at the left; the vaxxed are mad at the unvaxxed... and so it goes.

If there's a national mood, it's mad. The anger has become so palpable that it has fractured our national psyche and is provoking daily speculation from even the most blasé pundits about whether America is on the verge of another civil war.

But where did all this anger come from? And how can the country come together again?

Those are the questions "Conversations On the Green" – now known as "Common Ground with Jane Whitney" – will pose in May when the forum returns with a bevy of nationally known headliners discussing the country's most critical issues, including the season opening program, "Fury: America's Uncivil War."

In addition to "Fury," this year's topics will



include shows on "The Politics of Sports," featuring some of the country's most beloved sports personalities; a discussion of the important cases decided by the Supreme Court with several of the country's most celebrated legal minds and a program tentatively entitled "Is Social Media the End of Civilization."

As in recent years, the forums will be filmed and televised on PBS stations around the country as "Common Ground with Jane Whitney." But unlike last year, when the pandemic forced the producers to go virtual, even as it went national with PBS broadcasting 13 programs, the discussions this year will be "up close and personal," as ABC used to say, shot in front of an audience at Wamogo High School in Litchfield.

A cross between the "PBS News Hour" and a community town hall, Common Ground is the equivalent of dinner conversations among

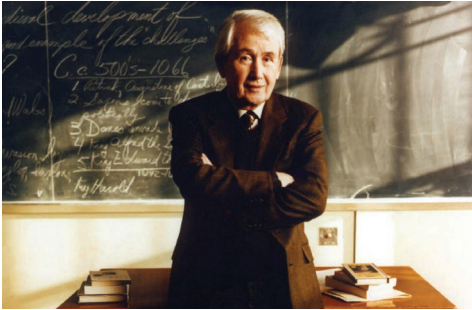
erudite guests, the only national television talk show that chats with – rather than talks to – Americans and introduces them to leaders who shape public policy in a free-flowing exchange of ideas.

Founded as a grassroots effort to raise money for groups working to help the area's most vulnerable residents, Common Ground is moderated by Jane Whitney, a Washington resident and a veteran talk show host who often is heralded for her "earthly sensibility" and her unique affinity for connecting with live and broadcast audiences.

Produced by area volunteers, Conversation On the Green is a federally recognized charity charged with improving civic engagement and education and is looking for supporters, volunteers and interns. If you would like to participate or can contribute, please contact us through our website, conversationsonthegreen.com. Or write Laura Neminski, the executive director, at info@conversationsonthegreen.org.

All episodes in the 2021 season are on our website, commongroundwithjanewhitney.org.

ASAP!® Upcoming Programs For more information about these programs, please visit asapct.org or call 845-518-5859.



Frank McCourt Prize for Excellence in Teaching

Nominations may be placed through ASAP!'s website by April 8. Nominated teachers must complete a brief application by April 27 in order to be considered for the prize. Visit asapct.org for more information.



2nd Annual Celebration of Young Game Designers Livestream Event Virtual

Come experience how top selected students collaborated with the professional team to create their games, chat with ASAP!, and help us decide next year's theme. For more information visit asapct.org

Experience an evening of Pilobolus' surprising and inspiring choreography, along with a special piece featuring Waterbury students from ASAP!'s Community Dance Project. For more information, visit asapct.org.



Save The Date! ASAP! Celebrates Community

Saturday, June 4, 5:30-10:30 Pm Washington

In Person

Hosted by actor and producer Tim Daly in honor of former ASAP! Board member Rob Parker. Celebrate Community under a beautiful tent with great music, food, cocktails, and dancing. A night not to be missed! Tickets on sale soon.



Celebration of Young Writers Grades K-12

Submissions open March 1 - April 8. Visit asapct.org for more information.



The Ancient Art Of Henna

Grades 4-7 | Elyse Sadtler Saturday, April 30, 10am-12pm In Person. Masks Required For This Program

Join henna artist Elyse Sadtler for a hands-on, cross-disciplinary lesson in the ancient form of body art called henna. at Pratt Pavilion & Recreational Facility in Bridgewater. For more information, visit asapct.org.



The Village Project at the Mattatuck Museum

Exhibition Opens March 13, Closes May 8

In Person

The Village Project brings together communities from across Connecticut to express personal and universal aspirations of home and community. Opening reception Sunday, March 20 from 1-3p. Visit asapct.org for more information.



ASAP! Presents Pilobolus

Saturday May 7 At 2pm & 7pm

Palace Theater, Waterbury

In Person



ASAP! Summer Camp 2022

Grades 1-12

August 1-12, 9am-3:30pm

In Person

Join us at beautiful Warren Woods. This year, campers will decide what they want to experience each day: choose from ASAP! specialties like circus, visual art, music and dance or break from the classics to hike, play in the water, build a fort or add to the mural. Transportation provided from Waterbury, Torrington, Washington and Roxbury. Early bird discount offered until April 1, 2022. For more information, visit asapct.org.

Steep Rock Events

Volunteer Information Meeting

A Volunteer Opportunity

Macricostas Preserve (124 Christian Street, New Preston)

March 19, 2022

5:00 – 5:30pm

Calling all community members! We invite you to come learn about the variety of ways you can contribute to Steep Rock Association this year and support the land trust you love. Whether you're interested in giving back by getting your hands dirty, learning new skills, conducting science experiments, growing vegetables for your neighbors, stewarding your favorite trails, or assisting with office-related tasks, we would love to have you join us. After an informal discussion, you'll have a chance to meet seasoned volunteers and hear about their experiences working with Steep Rock.



Join us for a fun, family activity at Macricostas Preserve, spending a spring night marveling at the eccentric woodcock (also called the timberdoodle). We'll watch these chunky birds erupt into aerial breeding displays and sneak up to their position under the cover of dusk.

Monthly Trail Work Party

A Volunteer Opportunity

Every third Saturday, April 16, 2022 through November 19, 2022

10:00am – 12:30pm

Put your hands (and not just your boots) on the trails this hiking season by joining Steep Rock Association's monthly trail work party. The work party meets at 10am the third Saturday of every month from April through November. For location and project details, visit <https://steeprocksoc.org/events-programs/>.

Restoring Riparian Habitat

An Exploration in Nature:

Management Series

Steep Rock Preserve (2 Tunnel Road, Washington Depot)

May 7, 2022

9:00 – 10:30am

Join us on a level, three-mile round trip hike to study two complex riparian habitat restoration projects, discuss their significance and overview each undertaking from start to finish.

Judea Garden

Macricostas Preserve (124 Christian Street, New Preston)

Judea Garden, The Giving Garden, grows and distributes organically grown produce to our neighbors in need. Now in our 14th season, we have helped fill plates and bellies with over 43,000 pounds of fresh vegetables. This could not happen without our volunteers. Come join us!

Spring Cleaning - April 9 and 10, 2022 at 1:00pm - Get the Garden ready for the upcoming season and maybe get some seeds in the ground!

Early Planting Day - April 24, 2022 at 10:00am - Plant those cool weather plants and get a jump start on the season and harvesting.

Spring Planting Day - May 14, 2022 at 9:00am - Start the miracle of a season of

growing and giving. Help us sow the garden with seeds and plants.

Summer Planting Day - May 28 and 29, 2022 at 9:00am - Help us get those warmer weather plants in the ground on planting day.

Please visit www.steeprocksoc.org/programs-and-events for more information.

Employment Opportunities with Steep Rock Association

Seasonal Trails and Grounds Assistant

Steep Rock Association (SRA) seeks a motivated individual to join our team as a Seasonal Trails and Grounds Assistant. This part-time, seasonal position works with the Trails and Preserves Manager in maintaining our grounds and trails and assisting in stewardship projects. For more information, please see <https://steeprocksoc.org/position-categories/staff/>.



Steep Rock nest watchers

Trail Manager Training

A Volunteer Opportunity

Macricostas Preserve (124 Christian Street, New Preston)

April 2, 2022

9:00 – 11:00am

Love Steep Rock Association's trails? Leave your imprint and help us keep them in tip-top shape by becoming a Trail Manager. Each individual within this special group of volunteers helps steward a designated trail over a one-year period, regularly scouting the trail for environmental concerns and safety hazards as well as performing light trail maintenance duties.

Timberdoodling

A Family Workshop

Macricostas Preserve (124 Christian Street, New Preston)

April 8, 2022

7:00 – 8:00pm



Summer Internship Opportunities

Steep Rock Association is hiring summer interns! We're recruiting college and high school students who want to make a difference in our community this summer, gain real-world skills in land conservation, sustainable agriculture and nonprofit management, and have fun in the process.

SRA is seeking two Judea Garden Interns to support our community-based agriculture program. Interns will identify and control insects, diseases and weeds, use succession harvesting through planting for fall crops, harvest and distribute foods, and participate in all garden tasks.

For more information, visit www.steeprocksoc.org/summer-internships.

Two Upcoming Exhibitions at the Washington Art Association & Gallery

WAA | Washington Art Association & Gallery

“The Art of the Possible” WAA Faculty Show

February 19 – March 27, 2022

“Second Annual High School Emerging Artist Expo”,

April 9 – April 24, 2022

The Washington Art Association (WAA) is pleased to announce “The Art of the Possible,” an exhibition of WAA Faculty work, showcasing the full range and scope of skills imparted by the teaching artists of this venerable 70-year-old Washington institution. Whether you’re a beginner or have a seasoned studio practice, WAA has something for everyone. Join us for a closing reception and demonstrations on the pottery wheel and at the easel with our teaching artists, Saturday, March 19, 4 - 6pm.

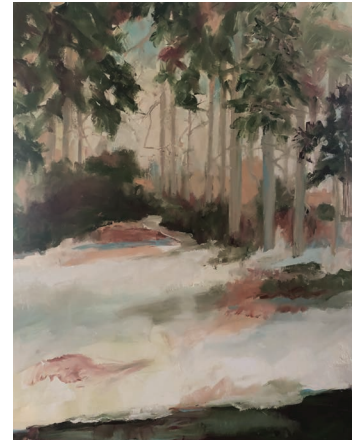
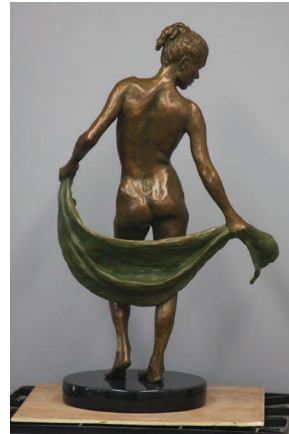
WAA is once again inviting all area high school students to send artwork to be considered for our Second Annual High School Emerging Artist Expo.

The exhibition will feature selected works of students from several area high schools both public and private. Please visit the gallery between April 9 and 24 and celebrate our talented youth.

Washington Art Association & Gallery is free and open to the public. The gallery hours are Wednesday–Saturday, 10am – 5pm and Sunday noon – 4pm.



Images (clockwise): Ira Barkoff, Forest Series Light Rising; Patty Fogle, South Beach; Souby Boski, First Snow #1; Mary Adams, After the Bath, bronze



Washington Trivia by Shelia Anson

At the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, NY, the men’s ice hockey Team USA upset the Soviet Union in the “Miracle on Ice” and went on to win the gold medal against Finland. An ESPN documentary entitled “Of Miracles and Men” tells the story of that game. In one shot of the crowd there’s a large sign hanging that reads “Washington, CT...Start Crushin’ The Russians.” Who were the three Washington/New Preston residents that attended that game and made the sign?

See if your answer is correct in the next issue, out in June 2022.

Answer from the last issue.

The A&P, located where Marty’s Café is now, was smaller than the Washington Food Market (WFM) so residents called WFM “The Big Store.” After the flood, Randy Johnson opened the Shepaug Market where the A&P was and it was bigger than WFM. Some old timers still call WFM “The Big Store.”



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Look for our next issue, coming out in June.

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