

Washington, CT

A New Life for Pavilion Hall

by Sarah Griswold

The Harry O. Erickson Pavilion Hall has been listed on the National Register for Historic Places.

The National Register designation is an honorific that recognizes the historical importance of the building to the town, the state and the nation. It does not protect the building from future changes or even demolition. However, it does provide documentation of the historic architectural features of the building and recognizes its importance to the community. The nomination can be read online at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DECD/Historic-Preservation/06_About_SHPO/State-Review-Board/sept-18-2020/Pavilion-Hall-NR.pdf.



When they purchased the building, owners Michael DePerno and Andrew Fry recognized that it was a beloved as well as beautiful part of the New Preston community. Their aim was to restore it as much as possible, using period-appropriate original materials and hand-crafted reproductions, while also adapting it to a functional retail space. They started the National Register nomination process in 2018, shortly after acquiring the building, and received an Award of Merit from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation (Now CT Preservation) in 2019.

Pavilion Hall is the centerpiece and glory of the village of New Preston. Dominating the view as one comes into New Preston from Route 202, its imposing presence asserts itself and it is difficult to imagine the village without it.

Built in 1897 as a "Public Hall, to be used for any and all public purposes for which Public Halls are commonly used, such as Literary, Dramatic, Musical, Social Entertainments, Public Lectures, Political Meetings, Religious services, etc.", the building had a lively existence for its first few years. Gradually the Association became less active and the hall was acquired by the Town of Washington in 1940 for payment of back taxes. The building housed the fire truck for New Preston and also served as the Post Office. It was also used as a polling place. Many town residents remember it fondly from its days as the Boys & Girls Club, or for the rummage sales and dances held there.

By the 2000s the building was underused. Without adequate septic or parking, it was no longer suitable for community events. The Town of Washington, wishing to relieve itself of the expense of caring for it, decided to sell it and requested bids for its purchase. The building went to the business Plain Goods which had been established in New Preston a couple of years before. It remains the shining centerpiece of the village.

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.



Message from the Selectmen's Office

While it may not have been a severe winter, it certainly took its' time in exiting to spring and summer. With the onset of better weather, we can all look forward to more of the established events that continue to make our community such a special place. The farmers market at Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens, outdoor concerts, local nonprofit events and many Parks and Recreation programs are just a few of the exciting things happening this summer.

The Board of Selectmen recently appointed an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Advisory Committee. The Committee is made up of a dedicated group of volunteers eager to see the most efficient and beneficial distribution of these funds. We're encouraging residents to send their requests to selectmen@washingtonct.org. The Board will meet on a regular basis and evaluate all submissions.

Road and bridge work continues this summer. To date, we have completed the Calhoun Street bridge, will be finished with the Rabbit Hill Road bridge by July, and complete replacement of the Whittlesey Road bridge by November. Our Highway Department will also be continuing improvements to local roads that will include paving and drainage as well as chip sealing.

With each newsletter we try to recognize those who have shown above and beyond dedication to our community. This time we have three outstanding individuals to recognize. John Gueniat, Pam Collins and Dan Kenny are all retiring this year and all have dedicated themselves to the residents of Washington as town employees. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors' and thank them sincerely for all they have done.

Board of Selectmen
Jim Brinton
Jay Hubelbank
Dean Sarjeant

Spotlight on Business: Arbor Services CT, Inc.

by Robin Provey

Arbor Services CT, Inc. began modestly out of the trunk of Bill and Joslyn Pollock's 1983 VW Jetta. Operating a tree business was a way for the young couple to provide a service to the community while putting food on the family table. Thirty-three years later, their roots run deep in the community and the business has grown to include 12 employees and a fleet of more than 20 vehicles.

Today Arbor Services tends to all phases of tree care from pruning and removals to insect and disease management. In addition to tending to many area landscapes, the couple are also known for their contributions to local land trusts and environmental associations, as well as the town's



holiday lights.

The Pollocks and their two children, Danielle, who works for the family business, and Garth, a licensed electrician, believe in giving back to the community that has helped them grow over the years.

As local business

owners, they give gift-in-kind donations to the local land trusts and environmental associations annually to help create a safer environment for the community members who enjoy these areas.

"When we started Arbor Services as a starry-eyed couple with a young family, we never dreamed of being where we are today – contributing to the twelve local households of our amazing team and able to give back to the community that has so generously supported us for more than three decades. We are extremely grateful to be where we are."

9 Bryan Hall Plaza #363, Washington Depot, CT 06794

Phone: (860) 868-1930

<https://arborct.com>



New Business Welcome

The Washington Business Association and the Economic Development Committee is starting this new column to welcome new businesses in town.

We would like to welcome **Flemming's Hidden Valley Restaurant**, 88 Bee Brook Rd., flemmingshvrestaurant.com, which just opened in March.

Also, with the Ambulance purchase of 92 Bee Brook, **Ericson Insurance Advisors** has moved to 10 Titus Rd and **Aita Financial** is now **CCR Wealth Management** and located at 9 Bryan Hall Plaza. Your support of our local businesses and nonprofits help make Washington the vibrant community we love. Thank you!



Assessor's Office

The Assessor notifies Washington residents of the following:

Motor Vehicle Increased Assessments 2021GL – July 2022 Tax Bill Increases

Increases are due to an unprecedented growth in the Motor Vehicle List of 29%, or \$13,383,684, is directly attributed to factors associated with the pandemic. Supply chain delays and demand issues have affected the new and used car market leading to dramatic price and value increases.

New residents responsible for Motor Vehicle tax

Welcome new residents. We're pleased that you selected Washington, CT as your new residence. The Assessor wishes to remind you that Connecticut General Statute states that you need to register your motor vehicles, in CT, within 60 days.

If you have not registered your motor vehicles for over 60 days, but are NOT a resident, you are still required to file a personal property declaration for those vehicles by Nov 1. Please call the Assessors office for information, at 860-868-0398.

Tax Assistance for Elderly or Disabled Renters

Renters in Washington with total household income at or below **Single - \$38,100 or Married - \$46,400** may be eligible for a benefit payment if they have been in residence in Connecticut for a 1-yr period prior to filing. Persons 65 years of age by December 31, 2021 and persons receiving total disability from Social Security are eligible to apply. New applications are filed between April 1 to October 1, 2022; available at www.washingtonct.org/assessor

Tax Exemptions for Veterans

Residents who are honorably discharged veterans, having served at least 90 cumulative days during wartime *or* who have a disability rating from the Veteran's Administration, may be eligible for some tax exemption. Their DD-214 or honorable discharge must be filed with the Town Clerk by September 30 for exemption on the upcoming Grand List.

Additional Veterans Exemptions

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. **New filers must still apply by October 1.** Any new filer needing an extension of time to file, must be approved by the Assessor's office, on or before December 31, 2022.

Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens

Warm weather and sunshine are finally here—summer has arrived. There's something special about Litchfield County in the summertime, with lush foliage, languid outdoor living and spectacular sunsets. We here at Judy Black Memorial Park & Gardens are looking forward to another fabulous summer of fun-filled events.

Our farmers market (thejudyblackparkandgardens.org/farmers-market) is in full swing again for the 2022 season. The market runs each Saturday from 10am to 1pm. We're excited to welcome back returning vendors and a few new ones, too. Our market features locally grown fruits and vegetables, pasture-raised meats, breads and baked goods, natural pet food, specialty cheeses, dairy products and more. We hope you'll stop by to support our area farmers, makers and artisans!

We're looking forward to bringing back our popular Movies @the Park (thejudyblackparkandgardens.org/movies) series with four films showing on Friday evenings: June 3—"Singing in the Rain," sponsored by National Iron Bank; July 1—"In the Heat of the Night," sponsored by Rod Pleasants and Steve Godwin; August 5—"The Secret Life of Pets," sponsored by Depot Dog Boutique and September 2—"The Proposal," sponsored by

Ericson Insurance Advisors. BYO chairs, blankets, food and beverages and join us at the park itself for these films. We'd like to extend a special thank you to the Gunn Memorial Library for their contribution in presenting these movies. These events are free and open to the public.

On June 12, we're delighted to host contemporary musician Jason Spooner (jasonspooner.com) and his band for a concert from 2 to 5pm. Spooner is a Maine-based singer/songwriter who grew up right here in Washington. He's been a visible and respected presence on the northeastern and national live music circuits for close to two decades. This concert is free, thanks to support from Ericson Insurance Advisors, and open to the public. We invite the community to join us for what we know will be a spectacular musical event!

We'll also be hosting two art exhibits by two artists: Susan Harris on view from June 9 through July 5, with an opening reception June 11, and Nicole Alger on view from July 8 through August 8, with an opening reception July 8.



Our annual FUNraiser will be held on July 10. We welcome indie pop music artist Sarah Kinsley, (www.sarahkinsleymusic.com) currently based in New York City and raised right here in the Nutmeg State, for a live performance beginning

at 5pm. Kinsley wrote and recorded many of her early songs from her college dorm room at Columbia University. Since then, she has been launched into stardom, quickly accumulating a passionate young fanbase all swooning for her ethereal disco-kissed indie songs, pulsing in technicolor. Her style bursts at the seams with heart, melody and soul. A cocktail reception will follow the performance for select tiered ticket levels. Tickets can be purchased on our website (thejudyblackparkandgardens.org/fundraiser).

Lastly, we welcomed two new members to our staff in April: Elyse Sadtler, our Director of Marketing, and Ruby White, our Marketing Assistant. They are a talented team who now oversee much of our marketing and public relations efforts here at the park.

We invite you to stop by the park for our many events this summer, and we look forward to seeing old friends and new faces.

Happenings on the Lake With The Lake Waramaug Association

JUNE 4, 9:30am

Lake a Hike: 'Little Waramaug Rock' at Lake Waramaug State Park

First in a series of new LWA guided hikes: The best little hike hidden in plain sight! If you've never camped at the State Park, you might not know there is a one-mile trail that leads to a spectacular bird's eye view of the ridge line on the west side of the lake and surrounding farmland. Afterwards, join us for coffee and say hello to our new park supervisor, Stephen Merchant, at OutPOst Eats - the State Park's new seasonal eatery. Register/more info at www.waramaugassoc.org/lakeahike
Rain date June 12, 9:30am

JUNE 12, 2:00pm

Plant Natives 101

Come learn from master gardener, Rebecca Gerlin, and landscape designer, Scott Weaver. Learn what is truly a native plant and why they are important to use in a residential landscape with an emphasis on buffer



plantings around lakes, ponds and waterways for beautification, erosion control, non-source pollution uptake, and reduction of geese, with recommendations on the use of natives in the lawn and lawn to meadow conversion.

Native plant resources including growing conditions, bloom time and sorted by type will be provided; all participants will receive a native plant. This is a free in-person event and limited to 15 people: email mostajom@gmail.com to RSVP.

JULY 9, 9:30am

Lake a Hike: Waramaug Rock (AKA 'The Pinnacle')

Co-sponsored by the Steep Rock Association Join us for a moderately challenging, guided hike, approx. 4 miles. Start/finish at the Macricostas parking lot on Christian Street. Learn from an SRA guide about the ecological gem of the Macricostas preserve and Meeker Swamp. Delight in songbirds, butterflies, wildlife and incredible views!

Breakfast will await you at Pinnacle Rock and refreshments will be available at SRA's Camp House at the end. Registration required at steeprockassoc.org
Rain date July 10, 9:30am

JULY 3

Fireworks Spectacular

Get ready to celebrate with our annual 'Rim the Lake with Flares' at 9:00pm followed by a fireworks display starting at 9:30pm. More details coming soon!
Rain date: September 3, 9:00pm

AUGUST 6

Lake a Hike: East Kent Hamlet Preserve

Co-sponsored by the Kent Land Trust Come out for a fantastic woodland tour, led by a Kent Land Trust guide. Learn how the health of the surrounding hillside environment impacts our lake waters. We'll also bask in the splendor of a 50' waterfall, the forested hilltops, amazing lake vistas and more. Approx. 2-3 miles. Easy/ moderate.
Rain date August 7, 9:30am

Gunn Memorial Library & Museum www.gunnlibrary.org

News & Highlights

We're open on Sundays from 12-4pm now through the end of June!

Visit our website at www.gunnlibrary.org to stay up-to-date on everything happening at GML. Most programs are currently being held in-person at the library.

Library Luminaries is June 11! Join us for the cocktail party at the library from 3-5pm. Ticket information can be found at www.gunnlibrary.org

Summer Reading

This summer the Gunn Memorial Library is encouraging readers to read "beyond the beaten path" by exploring new and different adventures through books. The Adult/YA Summer Reading Program "Beyond the Beaten Path" runs from June 2 through August 30 and is open to young adult and adult patrons.

Patrons can visit the Adult Service desk to receive a "reading passport" with details for a number of unique and interesting reading destinations. Upon completing a reading adventure, they will have their passport stamped and receive a ticket to put toward a chance to win prizes donated by many local businesses. Reading lists will be available to encourage patrons to explore reading journeys outside their comfort zone. There is no limit to the number and type of journeys readers can take. Explore a few or complete as many as you like!

Outreach

- Catch us at the Town Block Party on June 3 from 5-7pm
- Don't miss Pride on the Green on June 26- stop by our table for books, crafts and more!

Adult Programs

- June 2 @ 2pm- Yoga for Seniors with Caroline Kinsolving
- June 2 @ 6:30pm- Book Club Meeting on *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles
- June 6 from 10:30-11:30am- Tech Help at the Washington Senior Center



- June 6 @ 1pm- Movie Matinee: *Humans*
- June 13 @ 10:30am- Pop-up Library at the Washington Senior Center
- June 13 @ 1pm- Movie Matinee: *Licorice Pizza*
- June 14 @ 6pm- The Shepaug Libraries Present: Juneteenth in Poetry with Frederick-Douglass Knowles
- June 16 @ 4pm- The Life History of White Sharks in the Northeastern Pacific
- June 20 @ 1pm- Movie Matinee: *Death on the Nile*
- June 21 @ 6:30pm- Short Story Group Meeting (*virtual*)
- June 27th @ 10:30am- Tech Help at the Washington Senior Center
- June 27 @ 1pm- Movie Matinee: *Everything Everywhere All At Once*

Junior Library

Summer Reading starts June 25! We're kicking the summer off with a special ice cream party on June 25 @ 1pm. Pick up your reading logs and dare to read beyond the beaten path! Children will receive a bag filled with goodies and a journal to record time spent reading or listening to books. Tickets are awarded for each hour completed and can be used for chances to win prizes donated by local businesses and patrons!

Friday Preschool Story Times (June 3- August 12) Fridays @ 11:00am

These programs feature seasonal stories and offer relaxed and friendly social time for parents, caregivers and preschoolers.

June 9 @ 10:30am- ESL Bilingual Toddler Story Time - The Literacy Volunteers on the Green of New Milford will join us as we read engaging stories in English and Spanish, dance and do a craft. ESL programs prepare families whose native language is not English to acquire skills of reading, writing, listening comprehension, and speaking at a level which will permit them to continue their studies or to function with effective language skills.

Summer Reading Programs

- June 25 @ 1:00pm- Summer Reading Kick off (Ice Cream and S'mores)

- July 14 @ 10:30am- Bilingual Story Time with ESL New Milford
- July 23 @ 1:00pm- – White Memorial "Build the Forest Community"
- August 4 @ 10:30am- Bilingual Story time with ESL New Milford
- August 13 @ 1:00pm- White Memorial "Animal Adaptation"
- August 20- Last day to turn in Summer Reading tickets
- August 20 @ 1:00pm- S'more Cups Dessert

Summer Outreach Programs

- June 3 @ 5:30pm- Washington Block Party
- June 5 @ 1:00- 4:00pm- Hollister House Gardens Story Time
- August 4 @ 1:00pm- Judea Gardens/Steep Rock programs
- Washington Beach Club-TBA
- Lake Waramaug Country Club- TBA

Gunn Historical Museum:



Vaillant Garden at 24 Old North Road in Washington in 1920

June 13 @ 10am- Washington History Club in the Morning: "Washington Gardens and Gardeners, Past & Present"- Discussion group in person at the Washington Senior Center.

LGBTQ Oral History Interviews:

We're seeking LGBTQ student volunteers to record oral history interviews with LGBTQ elders and capture the LGBTQ stories of our community for the Gunn Museum's archive. Contact the Gunn Museum if you'd like to participate in these exciting intergenerational conversations supported by a grant from the Pride in the Hills Fund at the Connecticut Community Foundation: curator@gunnhistoricalmuseum.org

Washington

Refugee Resettlement Project

After many months of preparation and anticipation, we finally welcomed our Afghan refugee family of six at the end of March!

It was a long journey for Alibaba and Gul Ziwari

Awrang and their four children (three boys, Armond, 15; Ali, 12, and Taha, 10; and a daughter, Arezo, 14). Their travels began with their August 2021 evacuation from Kabul, soon after the Taliban came to power, and continued with six months on U.S. Army bases in Qatar and the Balkans, another month at a “safe haven” in Virginia, and then at last their arrival at their new home in New Milford, furnished by our generous donors.



Since their arrival, we have learned a lot about this special family. Alibaba is a highly regarded traditional Islamic Calligrapher, whose works have been sold to collectors and exhibited at museums around the world, including the Smithsonian; and who taught painting and calligraphy in Kabul. Gul Ziwari is a homemaker who also produces magnificent traditional Afghan needlework – on dresses, shirts, neck ties,



belts and pillows. In addition, she's an excellent Afghan cook!

The children started school in late April after an eight-month hiatus. They are very happy to be back in a classroom and among young people again. Recently, we delivered to their home five donated bicycles and helmets, and the kids were thrilled.

Alibaba's art supplies are very costly. If you would like to help with their purchase, or the purchase of Gul Ziwari's needlework materials, or the cost of summer programs for the children, we invite you to make donations on our website at www.wrrp.net or mail checks made out to WRRP to PO Box 1205, Washington, CT 06793.

Thank you again to our wonderful community for your support.

Lineup for Washington's 2022 Music on the Green Series Announced

The family-friendly series, Music on the Green, returns to Washington, CT for a second year beginning in June. It's never too early to start planning summer fun! So, we're pleased to announce the 2022 schedule of musical acts.

Music on the Green – conceived as a fun, safe way to socialize during the pandemic – was so popular that we're thrilled to bring it back for the second year in a row. Hosted Friday nights from 6:30 – 8:00pm, June 10 through July 29 (except July 8) on the Washington Town Green, the series will feature a variety of musical styles and genres. This year's series is sponsored by Wright Electrical Company and is free to attend.

The 2022 schedule of musical acts will be:

- June 10 - Indigo Sway: Quintet performing jazz standards and lounge rock-n-roll
- June 17 - The Joint Chiefs: Quartet performing a mixture of acoustic originals and unexpected covers
- June 24 - Eva Millay Evans: Original songs with an old-soul Joni Mitchell feel and a modern Taylor Swift take on love
- July 1 - Jerry Phelps: Pianist/vocalist performing Broadway tunes, pop and R&B
- July 15 - Kayla Barone: Vocalist with guitar accompaniment performing an indie pop set of originals and upbeat popular songs
- July 22 - Kevin Vidou & Daniel Varghese: Acoustic/vocal duet performing original works and popular covers
- July 29 - Ron Castonguay: A one-man-band performing smooth jazz; polished tracks featuring saxophone



Bring a blanket and chairs and treat yourself to some fabulous food and treats from The Po Café, located right on The Green. Pre-order your picnic basket—featuring either butter-poached Maine lobster rolls or southern-fried boneless chicken—by calling The Po Café from 8:00am-2:00pm, Tuesday to Saturday at 860-868-1879. Though the kitchen is closed in the evenings, concert-goers will find an assortment of pre-made summer sandwiches, fresh salads and delicious sides, along with ice cream and other coffeehouse fare from 6:00-7:00pm on Fridays during the Music on The Green series.

To stay up to date about Music on the Green, or to check on any weather cancellations, just follow @thepocafe on Instagram or Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/thePOcafe>).

The Washington Art Association & Gallery Celebrates 70 Years in Art

Anniversary Kicks Off with Phillip Grausman Exhibition, June 11-July 24 & 13th Annual Summer Solstice Party

Washington Depot, CT (June, 2022) – Since first opening its doors 70 years ago, the Washington Art Association & Gallery

(WAA) has been enriching the community through art. For over seven decades, WAA



has attracted and developed artistic talent by offering a wide range of classes, exhibitions and other educational opportunities. WAA will mark its 70th anniversary milestone with an exhibition (June 11 – July 24) by renowned local sculptor, Philip Grausman, a much-esteemed treasure of the community.

Two weeks after the opening of the Grausman exhibition, on June 25, WAA

will celebrate its 13th Annual Summer Solstice Party, “A Night at the Copa.” Abdo Ballester, the “Soul of Solstice” (formerly known as “The Mojito King”), will orchestrate a fabulous feast for all six senses. Rumba to the rhythms of the live Cuban music of OCHUN and sway to the Latin vibe of THELMA LADEIRA AND HER BRAZILIAN DANCERS, all while savoring a veritable feast of foods produced and provided by over 20 of our favorite local chefs. For tickets, visit www.washingtonartassociation.org/

Hollister House Garden 2022 Summer Events



Join us throughout the summer at Hollister House Garden. The garden is open June – August Wednesdays 1-4pm, Thursdays 5:30-7:30pm, Fridays 1-4pm and Saturdays 10am-4pm. A full listing of events can be found at www.hollisterhousegarden.org/events/

JUNE

June 1, 9am-1pm Artists and Photographers

Beginning Wednesday, June 1 and continuing through August 31, Hollister House Garden welcomes artists and photographers to come and be inspired by the beauty of the garden in the morning light. Admission \$5 per person.

June 1, 4:30-5:30pm Yoga for Gardeners, presented by Julie Haesch

Classes are open to beginners and seasoned practitioners alike.

June 3, 10am-3:30pm Art Workshop: Peonies with Colored Pencil, Presented by Jeanne Reiner

Capture the stages of these flowers from bud to blossom using colored pencil. Suitable for the beginner or advanced artist.

June 3, 6-8pm First Fridays

Enjoy the company of friends and neighbors, enjoy a glass of wine and see the beauty of the garden in a different light. Reservations are not required. A \$10 per person donation is requested (includes a glass of wine).

June 5, 1-4pm Family Day at Hollister House Garden

Children, parents, grandparents and other family members gather for a day of learning and fun! Admission is free, but guests are strongly encouraged to register ahead of time to help us plan!

June 17, 10am-1:00 pm Art Workshop: Botanical Cyanotypes for Beginners, Presented by Madge Evers

Magical and simple cyanotypes are a camera-less technique that results in graphic blue and white prints. Participants are encouraged to bring objects or pressed plants with interesting silhouettes from home to use in their compositions.

June 23, 5-7:30pm Flower Arranging with Anderson Acres Farm

Come learn about the art of making a hand-tied flower bouquet from the Anderson Acres Farm team. This is a hands-on program. We'll provide a vase, in-season flowers, foliage and foraged materials to help you create a magnificent arrangement to take home. Advance registration required.

June 24, 10am-3:30pm Go Beyond the Basics: Smartphone Photography for the Garden, Presented by Thad Kubis

This full-day course will provide a hands-on, application-based introduction to all aspects of garden-based smartphone and tablet photography.

JULY

July 1, 6-8pm First Fridays

Enjoy the company of friends and neighbors, enjoy a glass of wine and see the beauty of the garden in a different light. Reservations are not required. A \$10 per person donation is requested (includes a glass of wine).

July 6, 4:30-5:30pm Yoga for Gardeners, presented by Julie Haesch

Classes are open to beginners and seasoned practitioners alike.

July 8, 3-6:30pm Plein Air Painting, presented by Agnes Wnuk

Learn how to capture the light and shadow, colors and the structure of a garden. An initial classroom lesson will be followed by an extended drawing and painting session, with plenty of drawing and watercolor tips for managing painting outdoors.



July 15, 10am-3:30pm Watercolor Art Workshop: Lilies of the Field, Presented by Betsy Rogers-Knox

Learn to portray these beauties in watercolor with step-by-step demonstrations and plenty of personal attention.

July 22, 10am-3:30pm Art Workshop: Poppies in Colored Pencil, Presented by Jeanne Reiner

Capture the stages of these flowers from bud to blossom using colored pencil. Suitable for the beginner or advanced artist.

July 29, 10am-3:30pm iPhone Photography Editing, Presented by Thad Kubis

This full-day course will provide a hands-on, application-based introduction to all aspects of garden-based smartphone and tablet photography.

AUGUST

August 5, 6-8pm First Fridays

Enjoy the company of friends and neighbors, enjoy a glass of wine and see the beauty of the garden in a different light. Reservations are not required. A \$10 per person donation is requested (includes a glass of wine).

August 5, 10am-3:30pm Watercolor Workshop: Garden Journaling II, Presented by Betsy Rogers-Knox

Learn how to set up 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.

Celebrate Pride On The Green Sunday, June 26

If you're looking for a fun, safe, family-friendly way to celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride this year, stop by the Washington Green June 26, from 1-4pm. Games, kid-friendly activities and information from various local organizations will bring a rainbow smile to every face, and

the PO Café's special events menu will delight taste buds as well.

"We're hoping to bring a fabulously festive Pride atmosphere right here to the Green" said Pastor Robyn Gray of First Congregational Church. "Not everyone wants to experience

the huge crowds of NYC, so we're planning to bring a little bit of that fun here to Washington," she said.

Go to firstchurchwashingtonct.org for more details.

Town Taxes Due July 1 to August 1

Town of Washington personal property taxes on the grand list October 1, 2021 become due and payable July 1, 2022 at the rate of 14.25 mills. **The last day to pay without interest is August 1, 2022.**

Tax bills will be mailed on June 28, 2022. The new bills will be posted on the town website July 1. You cannot pay nor look up your tax bill online prior to July 1. The tax office will be closed for fiscal year-end on June 29 and 30. Questions regarding assessments or motor vehicle tax bill issues, should be addressed to the Assessor's office @ 860-868-0398.

Payments received or postmarked after August 1 are considered delinquent and will be charged interest from the due date of July 1 at the rate of 1.5% per month or a fraction thereof. Interest is charged on all late payments, there are no exceptions to this policy. *Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-130, 145 & 146.*

Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve a taxpayer of the responsibility to pay taxes or delinquent charges, *Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-130.* Past due taxes must be paid in full before payment on current bills can be accepted. If real estate taxes remain unpaid as of March 31, 2023, tax liens will be applied. If motor vehicle

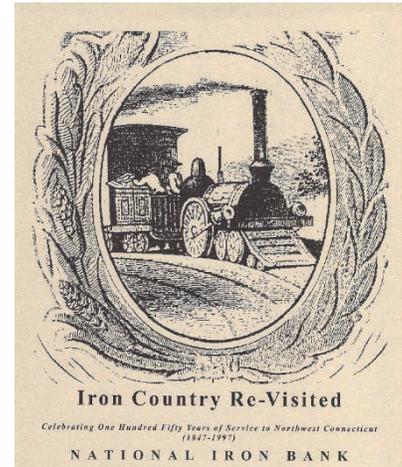
taxes remain unpaid as of August 2, they will be reported to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Save time by using one of the following convenient payment options:

1. Drop your payment in the **black metal box** next to the town hall central doors. Please place your check with phone number and original payment coupon in a sealed envelope. **NO CASH** in the box; call ahead for cash payments.
2. **U.S. Postal Service.** Postmark is accepted as date of payment. If no postmark, date of payment is date received in the tax office.
3. **Online at www.washingtonct.org.** Credit/debit card payments cannot be processed in the office.
4. Make checks payable to **Town of Washington** (include phone and bill number). Proofread your check carefully; incorrectly written and postdated checks cannot be processed.

Tax office hours: Monday-Thursday 9am-12pm, 1-4:30pm; Friday 9am-12pm. Due to the ever-changing Covid-19 environment, please be mindful of evolving safety protocols that may be posted. Only **one** visitor allowed in the office at a time, waiting areas will be designated.

National Iron Bank turns 175!



National Iron Bank, the oldest private bank in New England, opened on October 11, 1847. To celebrate this anniversary everyone is invited to the River Walk Pavilion on July 16. There will be music, food, games and fun for the entire family. Check explorewashingtonct.org for details as we get closer.

Common Ground with Jane Whitney is Officially Underway

On the 2022 season premiere of *Common Ground with Jane Whitney*, Congressman Jamie Raskin shared how he maintains hope amidst darkness that seems to tighten its grip on our nation every day:

“When we look around - and we see the violence, the despair, the millions lost to Covid, the hundreds of thousands lost to opioids - I tell my children what my father told me: When everything looks hopeless, you are the hope.”



Joined by panelists across the aisle and veteran journalist Jane Whitney, the Congressman was on the first in-person episode in three years to

discuss a looming civil war. The circumstances of his appearance, and the hope he pleaded we cling to, beg the questions that will drive our season: How do we come together to talk about the issues that affect Americans' daily lives, and how do we move forward?

Headlined by a bevy of nationally known voices, *Common Ground with Jane Whitney* is officially underway and will include shows on “The Politics of Sports,” the survival of the Supreme Court, climate change, and ask questions like, “Is Social Media the End of Civilization?”

A cross between the “PBS News Hour” and a community town hall, *Common Ground* is the equivalent of a dinner conversation 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* until

2020 was a live, in-person show. But the pandemic forced the production to go virtual even as it went national with PBS broadcasting 13 programs.

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.

Common Ground with Jane Whitney is produced by area volunteers who comprise the organization Conversations on the Green (COG). COG 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 laura.neminski@cgjw.org

All episodes in the 2021 season are available by clicking on the CPTV tab on the program's website, <https://www.cgjw.org>. Episodes from this upcoming season will also be posted to the website.

ASAP!® Upcoming Programs

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

ASAP! Celebrates Community



ASAP! Executive Director JoAnne Torti and Pilobolus' Matt Kent open the dance floor.

ASAP!'s spring fundraising gala, ASAP! Celebrates Community, will be held on Saturday, June 4 at The Frederick Gunn School in Washington. Actor and arts advocate, Tim Daly, will host this festive evening of local food, cocktails and dancing celebrating the ASAP! community. Longtime board member, Rob Parker, whose passion for education and arts-infused learning has propelled ASAP! to where they are today, will be honored.

Celebration Of Young Writers And Frank McCourt Prize For Excellence In Teaching At Shag Festival

Join ASAP! at SHAG Festival, Spring Hill Vineyard's annual celebration of nature, creativity and collaboration. ASAP!'s top selected Celebration of Young Writers will perform their poetry and prose, and 2022's honoree will receive The Frank McCourt Prize for Excellence in Teaching. This event will be held at 5pm on Friday, June 17 at Spring Hill Vineyard in New Preston.



Talia Ellis reads her piece "Being Me" at ASAP!'s Celebration of Young Writers at SHAG Fest in 2021.

ASAP! Summer Camp



ASAP! participants pose for a picture while building a fort with teaching artist Jason Killinger.

ASAP! Summer Camp 2022 will be held outdoors at beautiful Warren Woods in Warren, CT. Campers will experience ASAP! specialties like circus, theater, visual art, music and dance, and have the chance to break from the classics to hike, build a fort, or add to the collaborative mural which will be gifted to Warren Town. Camp runs from 9:30am-3:30pm August 1-12. Bus transportation will be provided from Waterbury, Torrington, Washington and Roxbury.

A History of WEC



The Washington Environmental Council, Inc. (WEC) was incorporated in 1972 under the direction and vision of its founder, writer and naturalist, Michael Harwood. The Council has pursued its

mission over the years to provide leadership in maintaining, protecting and enhancing the environmental quality of life in our area. As Harwood once wrote, "One night last Winter, friends and I got talking about starting a local nature club, as we sat together after dinner with our whiskeys and big ideas." The Council's origin as an early advocate of recycling has evolved and adapted as a nonprofit organization dedicated to maintaining, protecting and enhancing the environmental quality in the town of Washington for decades to come.

In conjunction with other local environmental groups, WEC has participated in various local major environmental initiatives. From 1986-1989, WEC played an active role in successfully diverting the threat of the Iroquois

Gas pipeline from traveling through the heart of Washington and surrounding communities. In 1999, WEC's advocacy in the year-long dispute over air quality degradation with the Sempra Power Plant in New Milford concluded with the plant being denied a permit. Six years later, the decades-long Shepaug River dispute with the town of Waterbury, that was supported by WEC and other organizations, was settled, with Waterbury being required to release twelve million gallons of water per day from its reservoir system into the Shepaug River in order to preserve the ecological health of the river.

Single stream recycling came to Washington in 2013, enhanced by strong WEC activism. Two years later, the Council lobbied heavily for a town ordinance banning the storage and disposal of fracking waste in our towns. More recently, WEC supported and continues to support local businesses in banning the use of single use plastics. And as the town of Washington currently revisits how we manage our organic waste and glass, WEC will play a vital role in the conversations and planning that will affect our land for years to come.

As our environmental challenges change, WEC is committed to educating citizens of our towns and our future generations to



meet the rising demands of climate change. Every year we have been committed to awarding scholarships to students interested in studying, pursuing and participating in environmental studies. Our Harwood Lecture Series, established in 1992, is designed to attract leading speakers of environmental issues to offer lectures that are open to the public.

With the support of our devoted directors, generous donors and our annual appeals, WEC is able to continue acting as a visible watchdog for local environmental concerns that have broad and global implications, and to discourage environmental degradation before it occurs.

Steep Rock Events

Steep Rock Association, 116
Christian St, New Preston, CT
06777 - 860-868-9131 - info@steeprockassoc.org



Programs, Events and Volunteer Opportunities

To register, please visit steeprockassoc.org/events-programs

CT Trails Day

An Exploration in Nature

Macricostas Preserve (124 Christian Street, New Preston)

June 4 12:00 – 2:00pm

Join Steep Rock Association for an exploration of Macricostas Preserve on CT Trails Day. We'll discover unique natural communities, observe an abundance of wildlife, discuss conservation stewardship practices and enjoy scenic vistas en route to our destination - the Lookout. Please dress appropriately for a 2.25-mile hike over varied terrain, which includes a section of steep ascent. Water, binoculars and a camera are recommended.

Weed and Wine Wednesdays

June 8 through August 17

5:30 – 7:00pm

Judea Garden at Macricostas Preserve, 124 Christian St, New Preston

Enjoy an evening with fellow gardeners weeding the vegetables in Judea Garden, then enjoy a glass of wine on us!



Odonata (Dragonfly & Damselfly) Survey Blitz

A Community Science Project

June 11, July 17 & Aug. 13

9:00am – 5:00pm

What odonates (dragonflies and damselflies) inhabit Washington, and what does their presence or absence mean for local and regional conservation? We aim to answer

these questions and we need your help. Join our team of “dragon hunters” for an educational and scientific day of sampling odonates in SRA preserves. Location is TBD and inclement weather will postpone to June 12.

Summer Saunters with SRA

Join Executive Director Brian Hagenbuch on a series of causal walks through Steep Rock's Preserves.

Dates listed below, 5:00pm

June 1 – Macricostas Preserve Hayfield

June 15 – Johnson Farm

July 15 – Bronson Field Pollinator Meadow at Hidden Valley Preserve

August 1 – Steep Rock Tunnel

August 15 – Hidden Valley Preserve Bridge Loop

Monthly Trail Work Party

A Volunteer Opportunity

June 18, July 17 & Aug. 20

(Every third Saturday through November 19, 2022)

9:30am – 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.

Macricostas in Moonlight

An Exploration in Nature

July 13 8:00 – 10:00pm

Explore your nocturnal side with Steep Rock Association this summer for a hike through Macricostas Preserve under a full moon. On July 13, we'll be graced by the Buck Moon. If skies are clear, we'll hike through an illuminated landscape from 8 – 10pm, a special time as the trails are typically closed. We'll meet at the main Macricostas Preserve parking lot (124 Christian Street, New Preston, CT) before proceeding over boardwalk, around hayfield, and into forest with the Lookout as a destination. This rocky outcropping will provide the perfect platform for viewing the moonrise and letting out a howl or hoot into the night.

Planting a Pollinator Meadow

An Exploration in Nature: Management Series

Hidden Valley Preserve Seasonal Parking (Bronson Fields), 287 Sabbaday Lane
August 6 12:00 – 1:30pm
Pollinators are all the buzz these days and for good reason! Populations are declining due to a variety of factors, with one significant cause being the loss of habitat. Join us on a 1.5-mile round-trip hike in Hidden Valley Preserve for the second offering in our new Management Series as we visit our recently established Bronson Fields Pollinator Meadow - our largest habitat creation project specifically targeting pollinating insect conservation.



Judea Garden Open Garden

A Volunteer Celebration

August 20 3:00 – 5:00pm

Macricostas Preserve (124 Christian Street, New Preston)

Join Steep Rock Association's Judea Garden for its annual Open Garden at Macricostas Preserve. Visitors, volunteers and friends are welcome to explore the beautiful garden, enjoy refreshments and learn from our interns. Come by and visit us any time during the event!

Judea Garden

A Volunteer Opportunity – Ongoing

Monday-Friday, 8:00am – 12:00pm

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. If you would like to join us, please visit <https://steeprockassoc.org/volunteer/> or call us at 860-868-9131.

Thinking About Buying a House? We Can Help!

Washington has a Down Payment Assistance Program

In 2014, in response to the rising cost of housing in Washington, the Housing Commission established a fund to provide down payment assistance to first time homebuyers who meet income requirements. At that time, \$100,000 was set aside for loans of up to \$10,000. These loans are interest-free and do not have to be paid back until the house is sold. Six homeowners have taken advantage of the program so far, so there are still plenty of funds for future homebuyers!

The program is administered in collaboration with the Housing Development Fund (HDF), a nonprofit organization that provides financial counseling and administers buyer education classes (required for homeowners who take advantage of this loan program). The HDF also processes program applications and verifies the borrower does not exceed a set income limit, currently \$102,900 for a household in Litchfield County.

The challenge of buying a house in town has only risen since the fund was established. The median sales price has risen from \$460,000 in 2016 to \$840,000 in 2020. The hope is that this loan from the town will help first time homebuyers chose Washington for their home. If you know someone who might be interested, please visit www.hdfconnects.org for more information or contact Judie Gorra at judiepink@yahoo.com.

COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY

FRIDAY | JUNE 3 | 5:30 - 8:00

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE OUR TOWN



LIVE MUSIC - GAMES - OUTDOOR EVENTS

In the Depot

Washington Trivia by Shelia Anson

In the late 60s and early 70s, what was the name of the hippie/chic café on the banks of the Aspetuck River right below the New Preston Falls? The original sign is on display at the “Washington, Connecticut – An American Story” exhibit at the Gunn Museum.

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

Answer from the last issue.

Tim “Sunny Duke” Cook, J. P. Flynn and John Quist attended the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, NY. They witnessed the “Miracle On Ice” between the USA men’s hockey team and the Soviet Union and also when Team USA won the gold medal against Finland.



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 September.

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

*****ECRWSEDDM*****

Postal Patron