

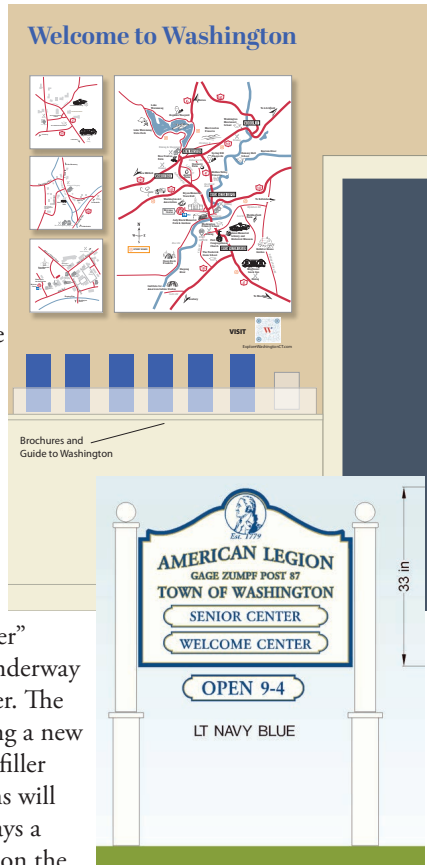
What's happening in Washington, CT

Fall 2022

Welcome to Washington!

"Is there somewhere I can get food? Can you tell me how to get to Steep Rock? Where is Luke's Diner from Gilmore Girls?" If you have spent anytime walking around the Depot you have probably been asked at least one of these questions. The Economic Development Committee has been discussing how to welcome and inform visitors about our town. Our extensive website, ExploreWashingtonCT.com, has the answers but we need to let visitors know it's there. The idea of an outdoor kiosk was abandoned over concern it would look cluttered.

Instead, a mini "Welcome Center" concept was developed and is underway in the Legion Hall/Senior Center. The exterior and entry way are getting a new coat of paint and a water bottle filler is being installed. The bathrooms will be open 9:00am – 4:00pm, 7 days a week, with help from the WBA on the weekend. A tribute to our veterans as well as some info about the Shepaug Railroad and stations are going to be displayed with help from the Gunn Museum and SandorMax. A map of Washington as well as our guidebook and a QR code leading people to the website will also be included. This refresh of part of Legion Hall will be a service to residents and visitors alike. We're hoping to be finished with this project sometime in the fall.



Plans for Welcome Center information wall and sign.

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.



Message from the Selectmen's Office

As we look forward to the fall season we would like to take this opportunity to shine a light on some of the people, that not only keep the Town of Washington running smoothly, but also make it the amazing community it is.

This summer we saw the retirement of several key, long-term employees. Pam Collins served the Town for more than thirty years as our Senior Center Director. Pam oversaw all aspects of senior activities in Town from fuel assistance and medical appointments to shopping trips and exercise programs.

Anyone who visited Town Hall over the last thirty-two years, most likely encountered John Gueniat. John served the community in a variety of roles. He was the custodian for Town Hall as well as serving as our I/T professional. He also supervised and was on-hand for assisting in any events held at Town Hall.

Dan Kenney came on board several years ago to fill the roll of Assessor for the Town of Washington. Dan always greeted the residents with respect and professionalism in an effort to address their concerns.

Bill Jenks will be leaving his role as the Town's Building Official, a position he has held for over thirty years. His knowledge and professionalism are greatly appreciated.

On behalf of a grateful community, we wish them all a long and happy retirement and thank them for their service.

While they have lived in Town for decades, we're very excited to welcome several new employees to the team. Jenn Pote has taken on the role of Community Services Director, joining the Senior Center and Parks and Recreation departments together. Jenn also dedicates a great deal of volunteer hours serving on the Region #12 Board of Education. Peter Bowman will begin work in September as our new Building Official. Peter is an architect, Connecticut Certified Building Official and volunteers his time as our Zoning Board of Appeals Chairman. Mark Showalter brings a wealth of experience to the position of Facilities Director. Mark is a lifelong resident and held a similar position at the Frederick Gunn School for thirty-eight years. Mark has served more than forty years on the Washington Volunteer Fire Department.

We wish our employees, both retired and newly hired, all the best in the years to come.

Board of Selectmen
Jim Brinton
Jay Hubelbank
Dean Sarjeant

Spotlight on Business: National Iron Bank

By Robin Provey

When Iron Bank opened its first office in Falls Village in 1847, it had \$200,000 in assets and a handful of employees. This year, New England's oldest private bank, now National Iron Bank, is celebrating its 175th birthday.



Steven Cornell, NIB's CEO and President, said the bank has grown comfortably over the years from one to four branches and two loan offices with assets of more than \$250 million. He said the bank became a necessity for the community in the mid-1800s as the northwest corner of Connecticut grew to become a major producer of iron starting in the mid-1700s. Without a local bank, iron workers had to saddle up their horses and ride outside of the county

to safely deposit their money. It was time for "Iron Country," as the area was nicknamed, to have its own bank.

As the bank continued to grow in step with the community, it never became too large to forget its humble



beginnings. The bank continues to support Summer Movie Night in the Depot in June, holiday events and local organizations including Steep Rock Association, ASAP!® and local sports teams.

"We do loans and help nonprofits. We take deposits and put them into loans that benefit the local community," said Cornell. "We stick to what we do, and we support our neighbors. We never try to be more than that."

Throughout the year, each branch hosts a celebration. On September 22, the Salisbury branch will host a chamber event with live music and food and on October 22, the Cornwall branch will hold a Fall Festival. The Washington, New Milford and Norfolk branches held events in July and August. The Litchfield branch will participate later in the year.

Assessor's Office

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 2022 grand list and in future years, must file their Form DD-214 service record with the Town Clerk on or before Sept. 30 – if they haven't previously done so. Veterans may also apply for a two-year increased exemption based upon income; if they file an application with proof of income by Oct. 1.

'Renters Rebate' Tax Relief applications are due by Oct. 1, 2022 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 Oct. 1; between Sept. 1 – Oct. 31, 2022.

Any other organizations already enjoying tax-exempt status must file a supplemental application before Nov. 1, 2022, for any new property acquired after Oct. 1, 2021.

Owners of business personal property of assets held as of Oct. 1, 2022 are required to file declarations with the Assessor's Office by U.S. mail, postmarked no later than Nov. 1, 2022.

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 voice mail to 860-868-0398, or by email @ assessor@washingtonct.org.

Washington Montessori School News

Washington Montessori School is pleased to welcome Launa Schweizer as new Head of School.

Washington Montessori School, a fixture in the Washington community since 1965, has a new leader.

Launa is a passionate and creative educator with experience with all ages of learners. Her first job after receiving a bachelor's degree in English magna cum laude from Amherst College was at The Taft School. From there she has served as a teacher and administrator at a wide variety of institutions: The University of Michigan, Poly Prep Country Day School, Brooklyn Heights Montessori, and most recently, The Hewitt School in Manhattan.

For Launa, WMS feels like home. "Having had the pleasure of visiting Washington

Montessori over the years I recall beautiful preschool classrooms with outdoor space. I remember purposeful math work, the joy of a Shakespeare rehearsal and the independence of a middle school student presenting his geography work to his peers. The respect for all stages of human development that I learned as a Montessori educator is a lodestar for me and it will guide my approach to the exciting work that lies ahead for WMS."

Launa is especially excited to support WMS's signature programs, such as the Hero's Journey, Outdoor Education, student-led sustainability initiatives, and



the school's comprehensive arts program. She has called Washington Montessori "a beacon for Montessori education."

Launa will be joined in our community by her husband, Bill Lienhard. Bill is an attorney in private practice specializing in social justice

work. Launa and Bill have two daughters, Grace, 23 and Abigail, 20, and a new puppy named Professor. Launa's family divides their time between Brooklyn and Litchfield.

We are thrilled to have them join our wonderful community and Launa looks forward to learning about the people and organizations that make it so special.

Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens

What a busy and fun-filled summer season it was! This year, parties and events were back again in full swing in the Litchfield hills. Here at the Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens, the highlight of our summer was our annual FUNraiser held in July. We welcomed Litchfield County native Sarah Kinsley for a live musical performance. She shared her captivating songwriting and singing talent with all who attended. We would like to extend our gratitude and a heartfelt thank you to all those who came out for our 2022 FUNraiser to support the park!

We continue to host our weekly farmers market through November 19. The market runs each Saturday from 10:00am to 1:00pm. 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 before the end of the season.

Additionally, we also began hosting monthly hootenannies on the second Saturday

of each month. So, what is a hootenanny anyway? Originating in Appalachia, a hootenanny is an informal, acoustic, unamplified musical jam session open to any musician of any age or skill level, usually in the folk or bluegrass style. We've been having a hootin' good time with the folks that show up to play music during these gatherings!

As always, beautiful artwork graces our interior space here at the park. We hosted three fantastic art shows over the summer: "Life Patterns" by Susan Harris featuring her abstract watercolor paintings, "Animal, Vegetable, Mineral" by Nicole Alger featuring her realist works and "Summer 2022" by Karen Pepper featuring her abstract expressionist works. Coming up next, we're delighted to host a show presented by the KMR Arts Gallery, based



right here in Washington, featuring works by Lucas Reiner, on view from September 16 through October 23.

This autumn, we once again look forward to hosting our second annual Jack-O-Lantern Carving Contest, back by popular demand! Grab a pumpkin

from one of our many local farms, carve it with your most creative design at home and bring it to the park on October 29. All pumpkins must be registered by 9:30am. Voting begins when the farmers market opens at 10:00am. The public is invited to stop by and vote for their favorite jack-o-lantern. Winners will be announced at 1:15pm.

Lastly, we invite you to stop by the park during these crisp, colorful days of autumn to enjoy our beautiful gardens in their final glory of the growing season. We look forward to seeing you this fall!

The Washington Art Association & Gallery

Art in the Open

A Fundraiser for the Washington Art Association & Gallery
September 24 (rain date September 25)

ART IN THE OPEN is our next very popular fundraiser for 2022. It will be an outdoor exhibition taking place on September 24, 2022 on the grounds of the Washington Depot Town Hall. Welcome autumn by choosing a work of 12x12 affordable art for your own! Price: \$100. There will be refreshments throughout the day! Invite your friends and family and come stroll through our outdoor gallery.

House & Garden

September 3 – October 9, 2022

Washington Art Association

4 Bryan Memorial Plaza, Washington Depot, CT 06794

Curated by Kenise Barnes

Reception: September 3, 4:00 – 6:00pm, public invited

Hours: Wednesday – Saturday, 10:00am – 5:00pm,

Sunday, 12:00 – 4:00pm

Contact: Kenise Barnes, Kenise@kbfa.com

Washington Art Association, info@washingtonartassociation.org

Artists:

Mio Akashi	Yayoi Asoma	Julia Whitney Barnes
Lisa Dahl	KK Kozik	Kristen Lamb
Jill Parisi	Melanie Parke	Roger Ricco
Roxa Smith		

The connotation of home is emotionally charged, the very word "home" makes us pause.

Tenderness for our home and garden has rooted more deeply in the past few years. The ten artists in this exhibition make work that's distinctly individual, what unites them is that their work conveys taking care, cultivating growth and being the custodian of memories.

The artists in the exhibition work in various media including ornately decorated hand-colored and cut prints, pattern paintings who's digital and collage elements add meaning and contemporary context, as well as several painters working in the more traditional medium of paint. The show includes two photographers whose flower photographs are elegant elegies to single specimens and an artist whose work is a hybrid of photography and painting.

NYC Bus Trip October 27, 2022

Excellent opportunity to get into the city for a day of museum going or other activities of interest!

Explore NYC museums on your own.* The bus will drop you off at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on 5th Avenue. The Guggenheim Museum, Neue Galerie, Frick Madison (1 East 70th street) and MOMA are all open.

Departure time from Washington Art Association is 8:30am

Arrival at the MET approx. 10:40am

Return trip departure time 3:30pm

Arrive at WAA approx. 5:35pm

\$90.00 pp

Call WAA to make a reservation @ 860-868-2878 or reserve on our website **Education NYC Bus trip**

*Admission to museums are separate.

Gunn Memorial Library & Museum www.gunnlibrary.org

News & Highlights

BOOKED! Turning the Page on September 17, 6:00 – 8:00pm.

Hosts Whitney & Raja Chatterjee and our committee members invite you to join us to celebrate the fall with friends and supporters of the Gunn Memorial Library, featuring cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and music. Visit www.gunnlibrary.org to learn more.

After almost 25 years of exemplary service, our dear librarian Martie Smolka has retired. We thank her for her dedication and service to the community. Martie will be greatly missed as she has been such an important and integral part of Gunn Memorial Library.

Our fall Sunday hours begin September 11 through November 27 from 12:00 – 4:00pm.

Holiday Closings:

- Labor Day – September 5
- Columbus Day – October 10
- Thanksgiving – November 25

Catch us at the Town Harvest Festival on October 9!

Adult Programs

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

Monday Movie Matinees continue every Monday at 1 pm!

Short Story Group (virtually) meets the second Tuesday of each month.

Book Club (in-person) meets on the fourth Thursday of each month.

Evening Programs

- September 1 @ 6:30pm – Coping with Loss: A Book Discussion with Dr. Marianne Bette.
- September 8 @ 6:30pm – Taking the Mystery Out of Trusts with Judge Domenick Calabrese.
- September 29 @ 6:30pm – Author Talk: Soon Wiley in Conversation with Joseph Montebello.
- October 6 @ 6:30pm – The Discovery of a Masterpiece: Napoleon's Marble Bust
- October 13 @ 6:30pm – The Music of Peter Biederman
- October 18 @ 6:30pm – Author Talk: Noushin Ehsan on her memoir, *Noushin*:

The making of a woman architect.

- November 10 @ 6:30pm – The Importance of Focus with Greg Dwyer

Junior Library Programs

Story Times & After School Programming:

Morning Toddler Story Time: Fridays 10:30 – 11:15am, September 23 – November 4.

Afternoon Preschool Story Time: Fridays 2:15 – 3:00pm, September 23 – November 4.



Toddler Playscape Fun Time:

Mondays 10:00 – 11:00am, September 19 – November 7. Kids up to 5-years-old are invited to come Monday mornings for creative fun on our new tumbling blocks and foam mats.

Kindergarten & 1st Grade Storycraft:

Tuesdays 3:30 – 4:15pm, September 20 – November 1.

2nd & 3rd Grade Storycraft: Thursdays 3:30 – 4:15pm, September 22 – November 3.

4th & 5th Grade – Express Yourself: Mondays 3:45 – 4:30pm, September 19 – November 14.

“Express Yourself” will feature a book talk, a journaling exercise and an open art project each week. Each participant will receive a journal to keep track of their personal journey and will choose a copy of one of the books to keep. Snacks will be provided.

6th, 7th & 8th Grade – Life Hacks: Mondays 2:45 – 3:30pm, September 19 – November 14.

“Life Hacks” will feature a book talk, a self-reflection activity and an open-ended art challenge to complete in each weekly meeting. Each teen will receive a journal to keep track of their personal journey and will choose a copy of one of the books to keep. Snacks will be provided.

Saturday Programs

Trivia & Secret Art (Grades 4 – 8): September 24, 10:00 – 11:00am.

Participants will have the chance to answer trivia questions in a group setting.

Trivia topics are autumn, New England, Halloween, books and movies. Donuts and cider will be served.

Ultimate Werewolf Collaborative Game

(Grades 4 – 8): October 22, 10:00 – 11:00am. Participants will play Ultimate Werewolf, a collaborative game of deduction with villagers and one werewolf that's chosen at random using a card deck. Use your debating, discussing and bluffing skills to see if you can fool the other players. Donuts and cider will be served.

Autumn Crafts & Activities: October 1, 1:00pm

Pumpkin Painting: October 22, 10:00am – 2:00pm

Halloween Party: October 29, 1:00pm.

Thanksgiving Centerpieces: November 12, 1:00pm.

Gingerbread Houses: November 26, 10:00am – 2:00pm.

Annual Holiday Sale for Children Only –

Dec. 8, 9, 10: This sale gives children an opportunity to purchase holiday gifts for family members at very reasonable prices.

Gunn Historical Museum Programs

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



Save the date: The 15th Annual Cemetery Tour: October 28, 6:30 – 8:30pm.

September 20 @ 6:30pm: William Hamilton Gibson: 19th Century Renaissance Man for the 21st Century with Mary Ellen Carsley via Zoom. Reexamining his works in the 21st century provides an important perspective

and depth into not only American art but also the environmental movement and the popularity of engaging in the natural world in America today.

November 7 @ 6:30pm: Ehrick Rossiter: Architect for a Golden Age in Washington and the Nation with Ann Smith via Zoom. Ann Smith, author of the definitive book on Rossiter, will introduce the architect's accomplishments with period illustrations of his impressive projects in Washington and throughout the northeast.

Later this month, the Awrang family, who were evacuated from Kabul, Afghanistan a year ago, will celebrate their half-year anniversary in Litchfield County! We're eager to share with you some of their recent accomplishments.



Alibaba Awrang was recently recognized as one of the world's leading modern Islamic calligraphic artists. Last month, he was awarded the commission to produce a large, modern calligraphic artwork for the Introduction Gallery of the Museum of Islamic Art (MIA) in Doha, Qatar. The museum, designed by renowned architect I.M. Pei, houses one of the most comprehensive collections

of Islamic art in the world. Alibaba's submission was inspired by, and will hang alone in the gallery with MIA's famous Abbasid Blue Qur'an, known as one of the finest and rarest manuscripts in the Islamic world.

Many of you have asked when you might see some of Alibaba's work. The Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens recently announced that they'll be hosting this fall an exhibit of some of his works, along with works of fellow Afghan artist and master Istalifi potter Martin Malkisada (whose family arrived in New Milford with the Awrang's). Look for details at thejudyblackparkandgardens.org.

Gul Zivar Awrang displays her own artistic talents. She regularly treats visitors to samples of her delicious homemade breads and yogurt and models her handicraft — Afghan blouses, produced by hand or on the sewing machine generously donated by Toni Sabari, owner of the Nail Chalet in Washington. Maybe we'll see her handicrafts at local retailers before too long.

The four Awrang children enjoyed their own major achievement this summer: They learned to swim! In four short weeks, Maureen (Mo) Van Moffaert, a Washington resident and head of the waterfront at the Lake Waramaug Country Club, helped them overcome their fear of water and proclaimed them "swim safe." Thank you, Mo and the LWCC. Thank you, too to the Pratt Nature Center and the Village Center for the Arts, two New Milford nonprofits that offered scholarship camp weeks to the Awrang children. Thanks also to those of you who have provided rides or invited the family on local excursions and to your homes. It does indeed take a village!

Hollister House Garden Events September – November 2022



Join us at Hollister House Garden, open through

October 8, Wednesdays and Fridays 1 – 4pm and Saturdays 10am – 4pm. Admission is \$5.00 per visitor. The garden also presents a series of lectures and workshops with advance registration suggested. For more information, visitor guidelines and a full listing of events, visit www.hollisterhousegarden.org.



tells the story of how he started the garden at Hollister House over forty years ago and how he has shaped its growth through the intervening years.

September 24, 10:00am – 12:30pm Propagation by Cuttings with Adam Wheeler

Join Adam Wheeler, Horticulture and Container Production Manager at Broken Arrow Nursery for this fun-filled, hands-on workshop focused on the propagation of plants from stem cuttings.

OCTOBER

October 1, 10:00 – 11:30am Unearthing the Secret Garden

Author Marta McDowell's engaging and illustrated lecture explores the life of Frances Hodgson Burnett, including her life, work and the passion for flowers and gardening that inspired her book, *The Secret Garden*.

October 8, 10:00 – 11:30am Cutting Gardens Revisited

Join flower farmer Elisabeth Cary and learn about her successes and failures on her five-year journey to develop her home cutting garden into a micro flower farm for fun and profit.

NOVEMBER

November 12, 10:00am – 3:30pm

Seasonal Woodland Scene

Create a "gift from the heart" with this simple woodland watercolor scene. Just in time for gift-giving or a holiday card! All skill levels welcome in this workshop filled with step-by-step demonstrations of a variety of fun watercolor techniques and plenty of individual instruction.

SEPTEMBER

September 10, 4:00 – 6:30pm Cocktails and Preview Buying at the Sale of Rare and Unusual Plants

Enjoy cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a special opportunity to purchase plants suitable for fall planting from many of New England's premier nurseries before the sale is open to the public on Sunday. Participating vendors include Atlock Farm, David Burdick Bulbs, Falls Village Flower Farm and more!

September 11, 9:00am – 3:30pm Sale of Rare and Unusual Plants

The Sale of Rare and Unusual Plants is a special opportunity to shop from some of New England's premier nurseries, including Broken Arrow Nursery, Cricket Hill Garden, Tiny Meadow Farm and more!

September 16, 10:00am – 3:30pm

Bumblebees in Colored Pencil

Jeanne Reiner, co-founder of the Tri-State Botanical Artists, will lead participants in the study of the anatomy of bumblebees, followed by instruction on the use of colored pencils and special drawing techniques to illustrate these fuzzy creatures.

September 17, 10:00 – 11:30am The History and Development of Hollister House Garden

Join George Schoellkopf as he

The Magic of Nature

It was the enthralling scenery that convinced me to buy a home in Kent. The trees, mountains, the lake, the immersive hiking trails, even the wildlife entranced me.

As a newcomer, I wanted to meet like-minded people, so I was thrilled to receive an invitation to be part of a group hike by the Lake Waramaug Association.

Our first “Lake a Hike” was around the Lake’s State Park trail. We all met at 9am and almost immediately there was a wonderful sense of camaraderie with the people and intimacy with our surroundings.



We chatted as we walked and climbed, the conversation distracting us from some of the challenging terrain and short ascents. And when we reached the peak of the trail, the view was stunning! That beautiful

lake below; those perfectly-rendered clouds above! We breathed it all in.

After our descent, we all had a cold drink at The Po’s new OutPOst right in the park.

I enjoyed these two short hours so enormously, that I jumped at the opportunity for a second hike through Macricostas Preserve to the pinnacle, which was a bit more challenging and wonderfully rewarding. We were again rewarded with vistas of pastures, hayfields, the lake, and a perfect sky. And, again, my fellow hikers enhanced the glorious day.

I learned from our Steep Rock Association guide that another mile is being added to the hiking trail options; he showed us beaver dams, a lovely bridge and he discussed the local flora and fauna.



In early August, we walked the former Girl Scout camp in Kent where Clark, our Kent Lake Trust guide, showed us another new breathtaking, head-clearing, soulful view. We are lucky – we are blessed – to have such places to walk, to explore and to both lose and find ourselves.

I am grateful.

Andria Budd
Kent, CT

CT in Stage 2 Drought Conditions Washington Sustainability Committee

Although Connecticut enjoys a plentiful supply of clean drinking water, drought can change that picture. Droughts most frequently occur from July 1 to October 31. In our neighboring watershed, the Pomperaug River flows have reached the second threshold in the Heritage Village low flows operation plan. As called for in the plan, Connecticut Water’s Heritage Village Water System, the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition and the Town of Southbury are taking steps to increase public awareness of the river flow. The current river flow on the Pomperaug is 20 cubic feet per second (cfs). (The current river flow on the Shepaug is 19 cubic feet per second.) The next trigger, which would include a call for conservation, is when the river flow drops below 15 cfs.

The Shepaug flow of 19 cfs is the minimum required release from the dam as per the settlement with the city of Waterbury. It’s important to know that the water we see in the Shepaug riverbed is actually about 80% Bantam River water. Without the Bantam, we would be looking at

a nearly dry river bed in the Shepaug. Waterbury diverts 80% of the Shepaug flow for the city.

The minimum flow of 19 cfs isn’t enough to maintain a healthy Shepaug River ecosystem. At this level, when daytime temperatures reach 90, fish die, from both lack of oxygen and excessive heat. As the river drops with lengthening drought, it becomes a series of long, wide cobble fields, broken by greatly shrunken holding pools, which all aquatic life – trout, dace, turtles and crayfish included – retreats to, and where mink, herons, mergansers and kingfisher’s feast. Water this shallow heats up quickly, further stressing what little aquatic life remains.

It’s generally assumed that the river’s ecosystem will rebound when the flow returns to normal. That’s not the case. It will actually take years, even given normal flows. With such reduced habitat the reproductive potential of the river plummets and future generations are decimated.

Here are some home water conserving ideas from the Washington Sustainability Committee where you can make a difference. Read and share the tips below with your family!

- **Shorten your shower length to 5 minutes** ~ save 7.5 gallons/day
- **Compost vs. using garbage disposal** ~ save 1.5 – 5 gallons/day
- **Reuse grey water for indoor plants and garden** ~ save 5 – 10 gallons/day
- **Run FULL loads of dishes and laundry** ~ save 7 – 21 gallons/day
- **Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth or shaving** ~ save 2 – 6 gallons/day (a whopping 180 gallons/month!)
- **If it’s yellow, let it mellow** ~ The toilet is one of the most water-intensive fixtures in the house. ~ save 4 – 28 gallons/day
- **Choose tap water over bottled water** ~ It takes about 1.5 gallons of water to manufacture a plastic bottle, which is almost always made from new plastic. (Assuming daily water intake of eight, eight-ounce glasses.) ~ save 6 gallons/day

By putting into practice the tips above, you could potentially save 80 gallons/day which is a whopping 29,200 gallons per year! For more tips on water conservation, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/start-saving>

The Washington Housing Commission

In October 2021, the residents of Washington voted to approve the Town of Washington Housing Plan for 2022 – 2027. This plan has a goal of adding 30 additional affordable homes to our wonderful community. The need is great. Younger families have a difficult time moving into Washington. Many of the workers in our community are unable to live where they work because of the cost of housing here in Washington. Our older population who want to stay in town and continue to contribute to its vibrancy have a hard time finding affordable downsizing options.

The Washington Housing Commission is inviting you to learn about an exciting affordable housing project that might be an example for our town. On September 13 at 7:00pm, Kate Johnson, president of Norfolk Living will give a presentation on the Haystack Woods project in Norfolk. This is a sustainable



housing community which will provide affordable housing in the town of Norfolk. The Haystack project fits in beautifully with the town of Norfolk. Something akin to that project would be fabulous for Washington. Of course, we want to retain the beautiful rural character of Washington. And we want affordable housing that's sustainable, attractive and contributes to our town. Come learn what's possible and maybe someday it can be a reality here.

Come and learn: Washington Town Hall or on Zoom, September 13 at 7:00pm.

Zoom Meeting ID: 841 5076
2586, Passcode: 022524

Washington Friends of Music

WFM Summer Concerts, September 9 and September 16 Washington Friends of Music (WFM) is pleased to present two superb classical and baroque music concerts featuring prominent composers and world-class musicians. These outstanding artists have performed solo as well as in renowned venues and orchestras including the New York Philharmonic, the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and the famous Classical Tahoe Music Festival.

The mission of WFM has been to bring fine classical music events and a variety of talent to Washington. With these concerts, we're continuing our mission, building on numerous years of success and adding a more diverse program.



The exquisite concerts are taking place at 5:30pm in the Historic Meeting House of the First Congregational Church at the Washington Green, 6 Kirby Road.

Tickets can be purchased online and are also available at the Hickory Stick Bookshop in Washington and County Wine & Spirits in New Preston. Details on the WFM website WashingtonCT4music.blogspot.com or by phone @ 860-868-9174.

Common Ground with Jane Whitney

Since the start of *Common Ground with Jane Whitney's* 2022 season in May, America has turned upside down several times: the

reproductive law of the land for the last 50 years was overturned, 19 children and two teachers were massacred in Texas and the January 6 committee revealed how close we came to losing our democracy.

And, as *The New Yorker* noted, the Trump tsunami keeps breaking.

How do we maintain a semblance of balance when we can't absorb one seismic development before the next one upsets every preconceived idea? How do we understand – and have a say in – what often feels like madness? There's no manual for working through these issues. But it's certain that we can't move forward without listening to one another.

That's why the team at *Common Ground with Jane Whitney* brings together nationally known luminaries with conflicting beliefs.



So far this year the program has featured Senator Chris Murphy and Anne Applebaum discussing how to have hope while our democracy teeters, Laurence Tribe and Ted Olson debating the politicization of the Supreme Court and Muffet McGraw and Brandi Chastain examining about how politics colors sports.

"We have to be able to talk about these things," Ted Olson, the iconic conservative legal icon, said in the SCOTUS program. "We have to be able to listen to each other."

Headlined by a bevy of nationally known voices, *Common Ground with Jane Whitney's* season continues through next year with a group of shows that address the country's most pressing issues. Coming soon is "Is Social Media the End of Civilization?" Following are programs on the state of women's rights, the role of race in our democracy and a forum on climate change entitled "Can This Planet (Still) Be Saved?"

A cross between the *PBS News Hour* and a community town hall, *Common Ground* is the equivalent of dinner conversations among erudite guests. It's filmed in Litchfield and 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.

Founded as a grassroots effort to raise money for groups working to help the area's most vulnerable residents, *Common Ground* is produced by area volunteers with Conversations on the Green (COG), a federally recognized charity charged with improving civic engagement and education. If you'd like to attend a program, volunteer or contribute, please contact us through our website, <https://www.cgjw.org>.

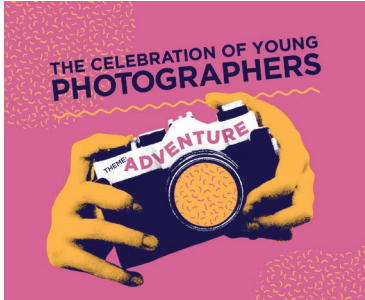
Most of this season's episodes, as well as all those from last year, are available by clicking the Watch tab on the program's website or by going to <https://www.cgjw.org/watch>.

ASAP!® Upcoming Programs

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

Celebration of Young Photographers

Submissions Due October 2
Grades 6-12



Submissions now open! Students are invited to submit 1-2 photos inspired by this year's theme: Adventure. Submissions may be placed through ASAP!s website by October 2. The top 60 selected photographs will be honored at a gallery exhibition on November 13 from 2:00 – 4:00pm. Visit asapct.org for more information.

The Ancient Art of Henna

Grades 4-7 | Elyse Sadtler
October 8, 10:00am – 12:00pm | Bridgewater
Join henna artist Elyse Sadtler



for a hands-on, cross-disciplinary lesson in the ancient form of body art called henna. Participants will learn all about the rich history and origins of this plant-based art used by cultures across India, northern Africa and the Middle East, all while exploring the art of making henna paste, and henna designs. Learn more and register at asapct.org.

A Day on the Farm

Grades 2 – 5
Fall 2022, Date to be Determined | Washington



Students and their families are invited to join Farmer Patrick on a tour of Waldingfield Farm to learn how food and farming affect our lives and the world around us. Participants will gather plant materials from the farm to create their very own sunlight print, also known as cyanotype. Learn more and register at asapct.org.

Interdistrict Strings Project

Grades 6 – Adult
September 20 – November 8



Experienced violin, viola and cello students from districts across Connecticut are brought together to train and collaborate with members of the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra (WSO). Participants work in small groups with a WSO member to learn classical pieces, gain a deeper understanding of their instrument, and prepare to play in concert with one another. The culminating side-by-side performance is a rare and exciting opportunity for the students to perform with the WSO in front of a live audience. Learn more and register at asapct.org.

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

After the success of the 2021 Music on the Green season, First Congregational Church continued its partnership with The PO restaurant and local musicians to continue offering live music on Friday evenings over the summer. We had Latin rhythms, Americana, jazz, Broadway, pop, and so much more, so that there was something for every musical taste on the Washington Green.



“We’d like to thank everyone who joined us each week to stretch out and relax with a picnic and enjoy some great local music on our beautiful Green, especially those who came back from last year, and our weekly regulars” said Pastor Robyn Gray of First Congregational Church. “This year’s musicians were amazing and it was such a blessing to feel the sense of community. Not having to cancel any performances because of weather was certainly a bonus,” she said.

First Congregational would like to thank The PO for their delicious picnic offerings, Michelle Manafy for getting us amazing musicians and passing the tip jar, and 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.

Look for one or two additional dates this fall, and then another season of music, community and fun in the summer of 2023.

News from the Frederick Gunn School

Save the Date!

The Frederick Gunn School Theatre program will present its fall play November 10 – 12 in the Tisch Family Auditorium of the Thomas S. Perakos Arts and Community Center. The Frederick Gunn School Music program will present a holiday concert for family and friends, featuring a string ensemble, chorus, jazz band and special guests, on December 12 at 7:00pm. Additional details to follow. Please visit GoGunn.org for updates. All community events are subject to change.



Steep Rock Upcoming Programs, Events and Volunteer Opportunities

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

Steep Rock Association's Annual Community Picnic

Sept. 10, 12:00pm – 2:00pm, Steep Rock Preserve, 2 Tunnel Rd., Washington

All community members are welcome to join us for food, fun and games! RSVP appreciated. To RSVP, please visit <https://steeprockassoc.org/events-programs/>

Monthly Trail Work Party

(Every third Saturday through November 19)

A Volunteer Opportunity

Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 19, 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 9:30am the third Saturday of every month from April through November. Ages 16+

Autumnal Equinox at the Steep Rock House Firepit

Sept. 22, 6:00pm, Steep Rock House, 116 Christian St., New Preston – Mark the equinox with a gathering around our fire pit

and celebrate the change of the season. Hike at 6:00pm and light refreshments at 6:30pm. All ages.

Tunnel Road Connector – an Intertown Ramble

Oct. 1, 11:00am – 1:30pm, Steep Rock Preserve, 2 Tunnel Rd., Washington

Join Steep Rock Association and Roxbury Land Trust for a four-mile intertown hike on Tunnel Road, traversing nature preserves protected by both organizations. Experience the fall foliage, marvel at the Shepaug River and learn about land stewardship along the way. All ages, but please note hike length.

3 Peaks in 3 Weeks Challenge

Oct. 3 – Oct. 23

Challenge family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to take the 3 Peaks in 3 Weeks Challenge! Enjoy the fresh air and take in the sights leading to the scenic viewsheds bursting with the vibrant colors of fall as you do a self-guided run, hike or walk to Steep Rock's three highest peaks in our preserves: the Summit at Steep Rock, the



Pinnacle at Hidden Valley and Waramaug's Rock at Macricostas. All ages.

Town Harvest Festival Oct. 9

Join us at the Town Harvest Festival on October 9 and carve pumpkins into animals that call Steep Rock home.

Judea Garden Cleanup

Oct. 22, 9:00am – 12:00pm and Oct. 23, 12:00pm – 3:00pm, Macricostas Preserve, 124 Christian Street, New Preston Clean away plant debris, prep beds and plant seeds to greet us early next spring. All ages.

Nature Preserve Monitoring Blitz

Nov. 12, 13, 14, 8:30am – 12:30pm

Did you know that SRA has nearly 30 preserves scattered throughout town? The one thing they all have in common is that SRA must walk their boundaries annually, monitoring the preserves for ecosystem health, signs of trespass and presence of wildlife. Join us to help monitor these areas!

Region 12 News

Region 12 might be small but it has a mighty heart and a growing reputation for excellence. The last several years have certainly been challenging for the school community. However, it's only through the ongoing support we have received that has helped us re-engage our students and once again be able to celebrate their accomplishments. We want to recognize our First Selectman Jim Brinton, town leaders and members of the Board of Education for their efforts throughout the year.

Our 63 graduates took part in the ceremony on the lawn in front of Bryan Memorial Town Hall. Families gathered to recognize the outstanding students in the Class of 2022. The Saturday commencement was a tribute to their perseverance and genuine dedication to their studies. While the speeches brought to light the wonderful journey of our graduates, the event was also a tribute to the support of families in the community and the partnership they have with the district.

There were bittersweet moments, and while it was the end of a journey for students, it was also a farewell to Megan Bennett, who



served as Superintendent for the last four years. Her support and guidance throughout the pandemic and her caring for the staff and families was deeply appreciated.

As we look ahead to a new school year and the hiring of Interim Superintendent, Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue, the district is prepared to continue on a positive path of engaging, supporting and nurturing the academic strengths, artistic passions and technological aptitudes of our students. The unique pathways and opportunities Region 12 offers learners has continued to attract students, not only from the region but from surrounding towns.

Our elementary schools have been recognized by the state of Connecticut, including Washington Primary School, as excellent places of learning. Attention to

individualized support and small group learning promotes a warm and nurturing environment. The academic pathways in both core and elective areas at Shepaug Valley School continue to inspire our students and prepare them well for college and career. Beginning in the fall, our agriscience program will now fully serve students in grades 9 – 12. The district is in the process of arranging to host four new champion mini-horses as an addition to the program. A new director was hired recently to continue to elevate the programs and resources offered so our students will have a robust agricultural sciences experience. Tyler Cremean has a rich background in agricultural programs and is enthusiastic to join the Region 12 family.

We look forward to another exciting new school year for Region 12!

Introducing New Town Staff

The Town of Washington welcomes two new staff members. **Jenn Pote is the new Community Services Director.** This new role combines two important parts of our community into one - Parks and Rec and the Senior Center. Her office is in the Legion Hall/Senior Center which will be open 9:00am – 4:00pm, M – F.

"I encourage everyone to stop by, say 'Hi,' share your ideas and get involved. My door is always open." The number to reach Jenn is 860-868-0735 and her email is jpote@washingtonct.org. Missy Brown will continue to be our Director of Social Services as well as our Municipal Agent for the Elderly. Requests for assistance with services and benefit programs should be directed to her.

We also welcome **Mark Showalter to the new position of Facilities Director.** In this position he will be overseeing the Town's nine buildings and various properties including the

fields and facilities down at the River Walk. Mark is coming to us after 38 years in a similar position at the Frederick Gunn School. "I am excited to start a new challenge in my home town taking care of the Town's assets."



WASHINGTON HARVEST FESTIVAL

FREE ADMISSION

Sunday, October 9th - Noon to 5:00

River Walk Pavilion, School Street, Washington Depot

Food, music, games, scarecrow contest, and more.

Washington Trivia by Shelia Anson

In the 1970s, during the Saturday Night Fever era, a disco opened in New Preston for a brief period of time known as "Alastair's Plum." Where was the disco located and what long-established institution did it replace?

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

Answer from the last issue.

The name of the café on the banks of the Aspetuck River below the New Preston Falls in the late 60s and early 70s was called "The Shed" and it was owned by Joe Young. The original sign is on display at the Gunn Museum.



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