

# *What's happening in* Washington, CT

Spring 2023

## Transfer Station Makeover

As most of us know, the Washington Transfer Station has needed repairs for many years. Through the efforts of our Public Works Department we have recently completed these much-needed improvements. Residents will notice new compactors for recycling and solid waste as well as a new traffic pattern and many new recycling options.

We have a new container for glass recycling. Residents who bring their recycling to the Transfer Station are asked to separate glass from other recycling materials. We have installed a textile bin, a mattress container and a food scrap drop off station (composting). All of these are dedicated recycling initiatives. Please see our Transfer Station attendants for more information on these new programs. New to the Transfer Station this year is a "Swap Shop" building. Items are put in this area at the discretion of our attendants.

As always, the Transfer Station continues to accept tires, batteries, e-waste, demolition materials, metals, appliances, batteries and propane cylinders. We encourage residents to view the Transfer Station fees for these items on the Town



Michael Bowman Photography.

website at [washingtonct.org](http://washingtonct.org).

While we will continue to make adjustments in an effort to improve the operations at the Transfer Station, we ask that all residents be patient and follow the direction of our attendants. The staff is there to help

residents understand the new procedures, protocols and traffic pattern. This newly renovated facility will be safer and more efficient for our residents and employees and we expect it to serve the community for many years to come.

## Message from the Selectmen's Office

As of this writing, we've had a relatively calm winter and look forward to welcoming spring. This spring will see the completion of many of our road and infrastructure projects and the beginning of others. Our Public Works Department has completed the rebuilding of Mygatt Rd. and the makeover at our Transfer Station. Once again, we anticipate a busy season with many of our community organizations ramping up for the better weather ahead. As always, we encourage residents to frequently check the Town website at [Washingtonct.org](http://Washingtonct.org) as well as [ExploreWashingtonCT.com](http://ExploreWashingtonCT.com) for all the latest updates.

One of the larger projects to take place this year will be the replacement of the Tunnel Road bridge at the Steep Rock preserve. We ask residents to be patient as this will be a roughly eight-month project from start to finish. Beginning in April, Tunnel Road from River Road will be closed to all traffic both vehicular and pedestrian. All equestrian access and SR1 and SR2 campsites will be closed for 2023. Access to the Steep Rock preserve will be from Spring Hill Rd. off of Roxbury Rd. (Rte 199). Please check the Steep Rock website often for updates. <https://steeprockassoc.org/>

In keeping with tradition, we try to recognize an individual in each season's

newsletter who has gone above and beyond in their efforts to improve our community. This season we recognize Luke Cheney. Luke has been the custodian at Bryan Memorial Town Hall for more than two years and handles all tasks from daily maintenance to raising and lowering the flags out front. Luke takes great pride in his work for the Town and can often be found checking buildings on the weekends. If you're visiting Town Hall be sure to say hello to Luke.

Board of Selectmen  
Jim Brinton  
Jay Hubelbank  
Dean Sarjeant

## Spotlight on Business: Wright Electrical Company

From its humble roots as rural farm country, Washington has changed a lot since Darryl Wright grew up here learning his father's trade. Harry Wright started his electrical business in 1971, taking care of a handful of active dairy farms with Darryl by his side when he was old enough, eventually taking over the business.



Photo courtesy of Sari

Wright Electrical Company has since grown to 20 employees including two of Wright's three sons and handles everything from generators and communications to residential and commercial jobs with the majority of business in the region.

Wright attributes his success to adopting his father's philosophy: "I'm on the job, just like my sons and employees. Nothing is above me and I instill that in my sons. You show your employees and customers that you're not afraid to pick up a shovel and dig a hole."

In addition to running a successful local business, Wright makes sure he sets an example by giving back to his community, hoping to encourage younger residents to get involved. He's been on the fire department for 17 years, serving four years as chief. He's President of the Swanson Family Foundation, board member of Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens, and member of the Washington Housing Commission. He frequently heads local fundraisers for charity.

"I try to instill volunteerism and local pride because it's important for a small town like Washington," Wright said.

Even when he's relaxing, he likes to stay close to his roots and often walks through town with his wife Donna, art coordinator for Shepaug Valley School.

"It's such a good community," he said.  
"Everybody waves. There is nothing better."

## Town of Washington Tax Benefit Programs

Washington homeowners who were 65 years or older by December 31, 2022, or who are receiving Social Security disability payments may be eligible for a State tax credit on their property tax bill. Their property must be their principal residence and their total income including Social Security, cannot exceed:

**State Income Limits - Single \$40,300 or Married \$49,100**

In addition to the above credit from the State, residents may be eligible for a Town tax credit. Applicants must be 65 years or older by December 31, 2022 and must have been taxpayers of the town for a period of (3) three years prior to their application. For the town credit, total income including Social Security, cannot exceed:

**Town Income Limits - Single \$40,700 or Married \$49,500**

Application must be filed in the Assessor's office by May 15 and, if eligible, will apply to the July billing. Once approved, for the State benefit program, re-application is every two years unless there is a change in income. Forms will be mailed to State program homeowners who must reapply this year.

Persons currently receiving a Veteran's exemption may be eligible for an additional income-based exemption (see State limits). There is no age requirement for this exemption. Apply between February 1st to October 1st for tax benefit on the October 1, 2023 Grand List.

All applications are available at [www.washingtonct.org/assessor](http://www.washingtonct.org/assessor) or at the Assessor's Office. Please call 860-868-0398 for more information.

## Cheers for Washington!

The residents of Litchfield County magazine have spoken! In the magazine's Reader's Choice edition, Washington practically swept each "Best of" category. Categories range from "Best Book Store" and "Best Builder" to "Best Gallery" and "Best Restaurant." Fifty-nine Washington businesses were recognized in 58 categories earning 79 awards—making the Town of Washington the leader in the county! The Economic Development Committee recognizes the fantastic service these businesses and organizations provide our community.

### Congratulations to our Washington Winners:

Community Table, The White Horse Country Pub, The Owl Wine & Food Bar, Mayflower Inn, Hopkins Inn, The PO Café, Hopkins Vineyard, Peter Talbot Architects, Reese Owens Architects, Union Savings Bank, National Iron Bank, Byrdeman, New Preston Dermatology, Hickory Stick Bookshop, Byrde + the b, Pilar BLaC, West Mountain Builders, J. Seitz, Caceci Family Dentistry, Wright Electrical Company, Eagle Electric, Washington Farmers Market, Washington Art Association, Washington Supply, Steep



Rock Preserve, Hidden Valley Preserve, Privet House, Ericson Insurance Advisors, Davis Raines Design, CFK Interiors, ASAP!, Jeff Coploff, James Kelly Law Offices, Gunn Memorial Library, Institute for American Indian Studies, David Grausman, Aspetuck Animal Hospital, Pampered Pets, Depot Dog, Melissa Wilson Photography, Dr. Nicole Altorelli, Dr. Alphonse Altorelli, Jeff Berry, Marbledale Plumbing and Heating, Dobson Pools, Denscot Pool & Spa, William Raveis Lifestyles Realty, William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Washington Montessori School, Rumsey Hall School, Frederick Gunn School, Washington Home Care, DK Schulman, The Well at the Mayflower, Litchfield Jazz Camp, Titus Tutors, Spring Hill Arts Gathering, Julie Haesche Yoga + Wellness, Caroline Kinsolving

For a complete list of winners in each category, please visit <https://litchfieldmagazine.com/readers-choice-results-2023/>



# Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens

Here at the Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens the days are beginning to grow a little longer and the plants have begun to stir from their winter's rest. Our board and staff are already busy planning for another fabulous year of events and programs.

## Football Watch Party @the Park

How about that big game on February 12?! We hosted our second football watch party and our first one since February of 2020, just before the pandemic rocked the world. Folks turned out in true tailgate style to cheer on Philadelphia and Kansas City while enjoying a special game day menu from the Meraki food truck—a big thanks to owners Patty and Martin for putting together such a spectacular custom selection of fare!

## Madness @the Park

We're planning another fantastic college basketball event with free activities for the entire family. We invite all members of our community to join us on Saturday, April 1 for free-throw, three-point and one-on-one contests for all ages, a chili cook-off and a double-header semi-finals watch party. Check

out the events page of our website for more details to come soon.

## Third Annual Plant Sale & Gardenpalooza

The growing season will be upon us again before we know it! We are hosting our third annual Plant Sale and Gardenpalooza on Saturday, May 21 from 10 am to 1 pm. Meadowbrook Gardens will be offering perennials, annuals, flowers, veggie and herb plants to add to your garden. Plus, we'll have activities for adults and kids, too.

## Farmers Market @the Park

We're excited to welcome back returning vendors and a few new ones to our weekly farmers market running each Saturday from May 27 through November 19. Our market features locally grown fruits and vegetables, pasture-raised meats, breads and baked goods, natural pet food, specialty cheeses, dairy products and more. Opening day will feature live music and children's activities. We hope



you'll stop by regularly again this year to support our area farmers, makers and artisans!

## Sixth Annual FUNraiser @the Park

Mark your calendars! We've set the date for our sixth annual FUNraiser for the afternoon of June 17. This year's event will feature a live musical performance by Frank Sellman and Love Rockit. Select ticket tiers will include admission to a post-concert reception with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Registration on our website will open soon. Keep an eye on our social media for updates.

# Tax Collector's Office

## Delinquent Tax Information and Statutes

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

Motor Vehicle taxes unpaid as of February 2, 2023 were reported to DMV. State law requires DMV to deny vehicle registration in the name of a person reported as tax delinquent. All taxes must be paid on all vehicles before the tax collector can release the compliance issue with DMV – CGS 14-33. If payment is made in cash, clearance may be done immediately. Clearance for payments made online take 3 business days, and clearance for check payments take 10 days.

Real estate tax liens are applied to any unpaid real estate tax as of March 31, 2023. At least 15 days prior to the filing of these liens, a "Notice of Intent to Lien" is sent to each delinquent taxpayer. All tax, interest, and \$24 lien fee must be paid in full before the lien can be released – CGS 12-173-175.

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

All tax information is available on [washingtonct.org](http://washingtonct.org). You can print tax bills, payment receipts and IRS records; research 3 years of tax records; and pay online.

# What's New at the Senior Center?

The Senior Center has partnered with Bantam Cinema for monthly matinees. "A Man Named Otto" was the first movie to start off the year, which happened to be on National Popcorn Day... how perfect! February's featured film is "80 for Brady." There has been such a positive response, we hope to keep it going. Stay tuned for March and April matinees.

Programs and classes are growing, including Tai Chi, Yoga, Balance and now Zumba! Zumba will begin in March, call the center to sign up!

Due to the severe cold, the Gunn Memorial Library suffered extensive water damage. The Senior Center is working closely to assist them in hosting programs, such as the Book Club and tutoring while they continue their cleanup and remediation. Partnership at its best!

Please be on the lookout for more exciting things to come. As the Senior Center grows and evolves, community is always at the heart of what we do!

Don't forget...Coffee & Muffins is every Monday at 10:30am, join us for coffee and conversation!

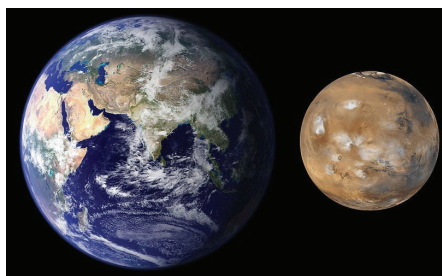
# Steep Rock Upcoming Programs, Events and Volunteer Opportunities

To register, please visit [steeprockassoc.org/events-programs](https://steeprockassoc.org/events-programs)

## Is Going to Mars the Answer? Reflections from Physics and Astronomy

**Thursday, March 9, 2023 @ 6:30pm via  
Zoom (Link provided upon registration)**

Using scientific thought, Ray Reich, a retired Physics & Astronomy teacher with 45 years of teaching experience, including 16 years at The Frederick Gunn School, will discuss the pros and cons of NASA's Mars Exploration Program and its ability to improve the quality of life on Earth or serve as a possible destination for the survival of humankind.



## Volunteer Info & Appreciation Event at the Firepit

**Monday, March 20, 2023**

**Information Meeting @ 5:00pm**

**Firepit @ 5:30pm**

**Steep Rock House, 116 Christian St.,  
New Preston**

We invite you to learn about the variety of ways you can contribute to Steep Rock Association and support the land you love. Whether you're interested in getting your hands dirty, learning new skills, collecting conservation data, growing vegetables for your neighbors, stewarding your favorite trails, or assisting with office-related tasks, we would love to have you join us. After an intro to our volunteer initiatives, join us around our firepit for refreshments as we celebrate our seasoned volunteers!

## Trail Manager Training

**A Volunteer Opportunity**

**Saturday, April 1, 2023 @ 9:00 - 11:00am**

**Macricostas Preserve (124 Christian  
Street, New Preston, CT) and via Zoom**

Love Steep Rock Association's trails? Help us keep them in tip-top shape by becoming a Trail Manager. Everyone within this special group of volunteers helps steward a designated trail over a one-year period, regularly scouting

the trail for environmental concerns and safety hazards as well as performing light trail maintenance duties.

## Monthly Trail Work Party A Volunteer Opportunity

**Every third Saturday, April 15, 2023,  
through November 18, 2023 @ 10:00am  
– 12:30pm**

Put your hands (and not just your boots) on the trails this hiking season by joining Steep Rock Association's monthly trail work party. The work party meets at 10:00am the third Saturday of every month from April through November. For location and project details, visit <https://steeprockassoc.org/events-programs/>.

## Spring Wildflower Walk

**Saturday, May 6, 2023 @ 10:00am**

Come explore the thawed trails in Hidden Valley Preserve with SRA Naturalists Peary and BK Stafford and discover the magnificently rich community of spring ephemerals adorning the forest floor. Participants should wear hiking boots or other appropriate shoes, and we highly recommend bringing water and binoculars.

## Summer Saunters with SRA

**Wednesday, May 17, 2023 @ 5:30 -  
6:30pm**

**Johnson Farm, 37 West Mountain Rd. #2,  
Washington, CT 06793**

Join Executive Director Brian Hagenbuch on a casual walk around Johnson Farm. The 52-acre Johnson Farm Preserve showcases several active agricultural fields, as well as a mix of sunny meadows and shady, open forests, with 1.25 miles of hiking trails crisscrossing the landscape, offering breathtaking hillside views. Bring your binoculars and we'll look for signs of spring.

## Odonata (Dragonfly & Damselfly) Survey Training

**A Community Science Opportunity  
Saturday, May 20, 2023 @ 9:00am-  
4:00pm**

**Macricostas Preserve (124 Christian  
Street, New Preston, CT)**

Fascinated by dragonflies and interested in science? Join Rory Larson, SRA's Director of Conservation, and Valinn Ranelli,



Connecticut's leading Odonata researcher, on May 20 to become a trained member of our "Ode Corps" – a group dedicated to catching dragonflies and damselflies on an ongoing basis as part of a comprehensive inventory effort throughout SRA's nature preserves. Participants are encouraged but not required to stay for the afternoon survey portion of the program.

## Judea Garden

**Macricostas Preserve (124 Christian  
Street, New Preston)**

Judea Garden, The Giving Garden, grows and distributes organically grown produce to our neighbors in need. Now in our 15th season, we have helped fill plates and bellies with over 46,000 pounds of fresh vegetables. This could not happen without our volunteers. Come join us! For more information, and other volunteer information contact [denise.arturi@steeprockassoc.org](mailto:denise.arturi@steeprockassoc.org)



**Spring Cleaning** – April 8, 2023, @ 1:00 – 4:00pm - Get the garden ready for the upcoming season and maybe get some seeds in the ground!

**Early Planting Day** - April 16, 2023 @ 1:00 – 4:00pm - Plant those cool weather plants and get a jump start on the season and harvesting.

**Spring Planting Day** - May 13, 2023 @ 9:00am – 12:00pm - Start the miracle of a season of growing and giving. Help us sow the garden with seeds and plants.

**Summer Planting Day** - May 27 & 28, 2023 @ 9:00am – 12:00pm - Help us get those warmer weather plants in the ground on planting day.



# Gunn Memorial Library & Museum

[www.gunnlibrary.org](http://www.gunnlibrary.org)

## News & Updates

On February 4, we experienced a sprinkler head malfunction and as a result the building suffered water damage. Rest assured most books, art and equipment managed to miraculously escape damage. This is in part due to the quick response of our staff and the immediate arrival of the Washington Fire Department. We extend our deepest gratitude to our first responders!

We have created a temporary library space in the Wykeham Room and will be offering limited services while repairs continue. Many of our programs will continue virtually or at other locations within the community. We're extremely grateful for the First Congregational Church, the Hickory Stick Bookshop and Washington Senior Center for opening up their spaces for us.

Below are the programs we'll be offering this spring.

You'll still be able to browse our selection of new items, request items from other libraries, access the internet, our wireless network, read the newspaper or a magazine and more! Since we'll be in the historic part of the library, it's not fully handicapped accessible. We'll be offering curbside pickup for your library materials. Please call to request curbside service.

We'll be open for basic library service Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 9:30am-5pm and Saturdays from 9:30am-3pm. Contact our staff via phone at 860-868-7586 or by email at [gunncirc@gunnlibrary.org](mailto:gunncirc@gunnlibrary.org)

## Adult Programs

We'll still be able to offer limited programming either virtually or offsite as repairs continue. Please check the library website for locations of programs and to register for the following at [www.gunnlibrary.org/programs](http://www.gunnlibrary.org/programs)

- Short Story Discussion Group: Tuesday, March 14 @ 6:30pm via Zoom.
- Book Club Meeting: Thursday, March 23 @ 6:30 pm; location TBD.
- Virtual Author Talk with Roseanne Montillo on *Deliberate Cruelty: Truman Capote, the millionaire's wife, and the murder of the century*: Thursday, March 30 from 6:30-7:30pm via Zoom.

- The Washington Environmental Council presents: *Sustainability with Peter Becker*- Thursday, April 6 @ 6:30pm - location TBD.
- Short Story Discussion Group: Tuesday, April 11 @ 6:30pm via Zoom.
- Author Talk with Dr. Maryanne Bette on *Living with a Grieving Heart: thoughts from a grief warrior*- Tuesday, April 18 @ 6:30pm- location TBD.
- Book Club Meeting- Thursday, April 27 @ 6:30 pm- location TBD.

## Junior Library:

Limited story times and Saturday programs will be offered this spring. Please register for the following at <https://www.gunnlibrary.org/junior-library/programs/>

### Saturday Programs:

- Butter Making Workshop with the Gunn Museum- Saturday, March 4 @ 1:00pm- *limited seating available*.
- St. Patrick's Day Crafternoon- Saturday, March 18 @ 1:00pm
- Seed Planting Program with Judea Gardens- Saturday, April 1 @ 1:00pm
- Earth Day Recycling Program- Saturday, April 29 @ 1:00pm

### Story Times:

- Morning Toddler Story Time- Mondays @ 10:00am in the Wykeham Room.
- Afternoon Preschool Story Time- Fridays @ 2:15pm in the Wykeham Room

*There will be no after school programs until further notice.*

## Gunn Museum

Please register for the following at <https://www.gunnlibrary.org/gunn-museum/upcoming-programs/>

- History Book Club- Monday, March 13 @ 1:00pm- location TBD.
- "Trouble in the Land of Steady Habits: How We Got to the Constitution of 1818"- Monday, March 20 @ 6:30pm on Zoom.
- History Book Club-Monday April 10 at 1:00pm- location: TBD
- History Book Club-Monday May 15 @ 1:00pm-location: TBD
- The Dutch and Indigenous Communities by Dr. Lucianne Lavin: Zoom lecture- Monday May 22 @ 6:30pm

## ASAP!® Upcoming Programs

For more information about these programs, please visit [asapct.org](http://asapct.org) or call 845-518-5859.

### ASAP!'s Celebration of Young Writers

Grades K-12 | February 1 - April 3, 2023

We're looking for writers to submit a piece of poetry or prose to our 18th annual Celebration of Young Writers. Public, private and homeschooled students from across Connecticut are invited to submit for a chance to be recognized for their outstanding work, and read their piece in front of a live audience. The Celebration of Young Writers stage is a place where student voices are amplified, and their passion for writing can be shared with the world. To learn more and submit, visit our website [asapct.org/celebration-of-young-writers](http://asapct.org/celebration-of-young-writers).

### ASAP! Summer Camp

Grades 1-6

& 7-10

July 31-

August 11, 2023

Washington, CT

Register by April

1 and save \$100!

This year, ASAP!

Summer Camp has

expanded to TWO

camps. Professional

teaching artists

will guide campers

in developing their artistic passions, while the ropes course, games, and giant swing will help them discover their courageous side. Grades 1-6 will experience puppetry, circus, clay, rock climbing, nature, games, and more. Grades 7-10 will explore visual arts, culinary arts, music, hiking, and hanging with friends in their very own lounge. Learn more and register at [asapct.org/summercamp](http://asapct.org/summercamp).



Photo by Lindsey Victoria Photography

### ASAP! Celebrates Joy

June 3, 2023 | Washington

Save the date to celebrate JOY at our annual fundraising gala on Saturday, June 3, 2023! This year will feature art and performance, cocktails, dinner, and dancing under a tent at the Frederick Gunn School. More details to come at [asapct.org](http://asapct.org).

## "Lake It Grow" – Planting Trees at Lake Waramaug State Park

In recent years, hundreds of trees have been lost at the State Park and around the lake due to age and disease. A lot of trees were planted around the lake between 70 and 100 years ago and they have run their natural course.

The Lake Waramaug Association (LWA) started discussions with the State Park in the Spring of 2022 and last June launched a new initiative to plant new trees titled, "Lake It Grow."

Last November, the first 14 new trees were planted with generous donations from LWA members, friends, and neighbors.

The Pin Oak, Maple 'October Glory,' Sycamore, Red Maple 'Red Point' and English Oak trees were planted by the State Park's DEEP Supervisor, Steven Merchant and his team.

LWA plan to expand the "Lake It Grow" program" in 2023 to support planting a total of 50 of additional trees as a part of its mission to "preserve Lake Waramaug and its environs as a natural, historical, residential, and recreational area and to promote the safety, health, and enjoyment of those who use the Lake." Please go to the Lake Waramaug website for more details of how you can participate in this program. Let's "Lake It Grow" together! <https://waramaugassoc.org>



Photo by chrishashspring

## Washington Environmental Council Moon Dance 2023

The Moon Dance is back after a brief pandemic hiatus! Join us for our annual fundraiser and celebration on Saturday, April 29 at the Washington Town Hall. Enjoy a wine and whiskey bar, plentiful hors d'oeuvres, desserts, a silent auction, and dancing to

The New Desperation. All proceeds will go to WEC's environmental projects and student scholarship fund. Tickets and updates on our website!

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



## Common Ground with Jane Whitney

The past is but a springboard for the future – at least for *Common Ground with Jane Whitney*.



Thanks to you, our loyal partners and sponsors, our 2022 shows reinforced our democracy's guardrails by building bridges across our political chasm.

In an era whose drumbeat is polarized verbal assaults, who can forget when two natural antagonists – George Farmer, the CEO of the far right social media platform Parler, and the legendarily confrontational journalist Kara Swisher – calmly discussed the dangerous social media cacophony and, miracle of miracles, agreed with each other about the underlying causes?

It was as unforgettable as it was unusual – except on *Common Ground*.

The series found agreements across the critical issues that affect Americans' daily lives. Whether it was the threat to our democracy, the Supreme Court's politicization, the scourge of racism, the pressing impact of climate change, our panelists found ways to talk to each other, share their insights, fears and feelings and provided roadmaps for how all of us can come together to make progress on the country's debilitating problems.

It is a community triumph. While these dialogues are produced by the *Conversations on the Green*, a Washington-based nonprofit, they are powered by a local alliance of volunteers, supporters and underwriters. Without this backing, the series wouldn't be possible.

Heartfelt thanks to all – but especially to Wamogo Regional High School and its staff, which gave the show a post-pandemic home.

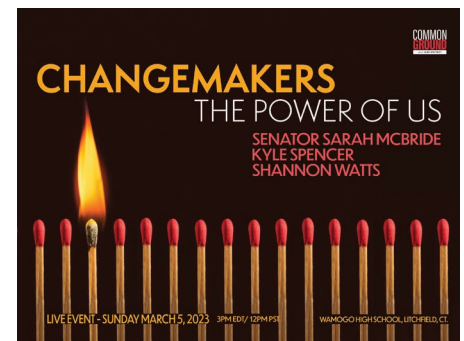
This year's stellar success has led our PBS affiliates around the country to renew and expand their commitments to *Common Ground*, which will take a short hiatus and resume shooting over the summer. Our new base will be the state-of-the-art Tisch Family Auditorium in the Frederick Gunn School's magnificent Thomas S. Perakos Arts and Community Center.

Conversations On the Green looks forward to partnering with the school, its faculty and its students, who will gain myriad opportunities to participate in producing, shooting and distributing digital programming as well as the national series. With programs that provide common-sense solutions to the country's most intractable problems, the show will continue to be a voice for democracy and the principle that out of many, we are one.

To learn more about Common Ground's future, explore our website at [www.cgjw.org](http://www.cgjw.org) or sign up for our newsletter, The Guide, by adding your name at the bottom of our home page.

**Upcoming episodes this season:**

March 5 – Changemakers: The Power of Us





# Spring and Summer at Washington Montessori School

## Discover Montessori @ WMS

We're excited to announce new programs for adults, babies, and young toddlers. Please find more information and register at: [washingtonmontessori.org/community/discover-montessori-wms](http://washingtonmontessori.org/community/discover-montessori-wms)



Montessori Beginnings classes are for young children and their parents or caregivers. Each session is facilitated by a Montessori-trained infant-toddler teacher who guides and models as the children interact with the materials, their parent or caregiver, and other children. Seeing is believing: if you wonder if Montessori might be right for your child and family, you'll have your answer after this class!

Children ages six months to two years and their caregivers  
Mondays & Wednesdays in the spring from 9:00 - 10:30am  
\$300 for each five-week session

The Pre/Postnatal Yoga series will bring together a community of mothers and/or soon-to-be mothers to support each other in movement, mindfulness, and the journey of pregnancy and motherhood. There will be plenty of modifications offered to this yoga practice that will allow you to move in a way that supports both a pregnant and post-birth body, focusing on space, strength, pelvic floor stability, and grounding. If you're postpartum, we invite you to bring your baby. The classes will be taught by Siri Hoffman, a Registered Yoga Teacher, Licensed Massage Therapist, and mother of three children. Siri believes deeply in the power of community, movement, awareness, and intention. Siri has been teaching yoga for 15 years, and her classes are full of deep knowledge of the human body, fun, intention, and support.

\$75 for a four week session

Thursdays 9:00 - 10:00am in the spring

## Summer Camp

Washington Montessori offers a variety of summer camps and programs for students ages 3-13 on our 48-acre campus nestled in the Litchfield Hills. These offerings range from a Montessori-inspired program for our youngest campers, to sports clinics and specialty camps for our oldest campers. Whether you're looking to fill just one week in your child's vacation schedule, or to participate in a full summer of programming, we offer fun opportunities and flexibility to meet your family's needs. You can find more information at [washingtonmontessori.org/summer-programs](http://washingtonmontessori.org/summer-programs).

WMS offers rolling admission for enrollment. For more information, please contact Laura Martin at [lmartin@washingtonmontessori.org](mailto:lmartin@washingtonmontessori.org) or fill out an inquiry form at [washingtonmontessori.org/admissions/inquire](http://washingtonmontessori.org/admissions/inquire)

## Summer Internships with Steep Rock Association: Get Outside and Contribute to Conservation in Connecticut this Summer

Steep Rock Association (SRA) is offering five internship positions this summer. We're recruiting college and high school students who want to make a difference in our community, gain real-world experience in land conservation, sustainable agriculture, and nonprofit marketing, outreach, and management, and have fun in the process. We're hiring:

- Two Judea Garden Interns to support our community-based agriculture program.
- Two Van Sinderen Conservation Interns will help complete a variety of field-based projects, including habitat and invasive plant management, biological studies, ecological monitoring, trail maintenance and construction, visitor relations, and more.
- The Denise Trevenen Community Engagement Intern will help coordinate special events and support development and community engagement activities.

Positions are approximately 20 hours per week for ten weeks and based in Washington, CT. Compensation is \$15/hour. Start and end dates are flexible based on availability. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until positions are filled.

Detailed intern descriptions and applications are available online at <https://steeprockassoc.org/position-categories/internships>. All interns must be fully vaccinated, follow safety protocols, and abide by all Covid-19 regulations. For more information, visit [www.steeprockassoc.org](http://www.steeprockassoc.org).



## Help Protect Washington — Go Idle Free

Did you know?

- 10 seconds of idling your car uses the same amount of fuel as re-starting your engine.
- Idling your vehicle for just 10 minutes can use as much fuel as traveling 5 miles.
- Pollutants and toxic gases from tailpipe emissions exacerbate asthma and other respiratory diseases, especially in children.

Laws exist in Connecticut that prohibit idling for more than 3 minutes (except in traffic or extreme temperatures).

However, more options to curtail the effects of tailpipe emissions are available to all of us.

These environmental concerns are some of the issues behind the NO IDLING campaign to be launched this March by our town, the Sustainability Committee, and the Washington Environmental Council. We have good company with this campaign with towns throughout New England and beyond. The train station in Dedham, Massachusetts posts signs reminding commuters to shut off their engines as they wait for their train or pick up a traveler. Wilton, Connecticut's no idling campaign is in full swing, posting reminder signs throughout their town and on their website: [wiltongogreen.org](http://wiltongogreen.org).

Let us work together to make our town a safer place to live and breathe.



## Stay in the Loop on Washington News and Events!

Visit [ExploreWashingtonCT.com](http://ExploreWashingtonCT.com), the official community website for events, things to do, shopping, dining and happenings around town.

Visit [washingtonct.org](http://washingtonct.org), the town's website for municipal and departmental information.

# The Breakdown of Washington Montessori School's Composting Program

We're thrilled to announce the long-awaited revival of Washington Montessori School's composting operation. Our original program was introduced in the spring of 2012 with the classic "three bin" system as our mode of operation. The bins were built by our Middle School students, and the design was based on the model used at the Mansfield Middle School in Mansfield, CT. Since its inception in 2000, the MMS composting facility has been used as an example by the State of Connecticut DEEP to educate the public on larger scale composting strategies for schools and other public facilities.

For seven years, the crate-type structures served us well, but as the bear population in Northwest Connecticut began to expand, so did the potential of our compost becoming the target of maraudings by these opportunistic mammals. The compost operation was shut down in the spring of 2019, and we were forced to go back to the drawing board. As luck may have it, a visit to my gardening class by Denise Arturi, director of Steep Rock's Judea Garden, helped us with this conundrum. Judea, too, had been experiencing bear problems related to their compost pile, and they had recently acquired a Jora Composting Tumbler that seemed to be working out quite well. We purchased two of them in the winter of 2020,



but when Covid descended upon us the composting program was put on the back burner.

Two and a half years later, the Green Team and I are super-excited to report that we have reestablished this vital practice. Every day, right after lunch, a dedicated team of Middle School and Elementary students traverse the hallways, with galvanized pails in hand, to collect the food scraps from each classroom. Once they have made their

full rounds, they head downstairs to the compost tumblers and deposit their day's take. This simple process adds up to a desirable and efficient equation: minimal investment of time = extensive and long-lasting impact!

Our composting program is a perfect example of a student-led initiative that directly benefits our school, local community, and beyond. It's a pleasure to work with such a devoted and united team, and together we look forward to continuing our mission of forging a bona fide standard of sustainability!

Please contact Nora Hulton at [nhulton@washingtonmontessori.org](mailto:nhulton@washingtonmontessori.org) if you would like a student-led tour of our composting routine and "facility."

## Upcoming Events at The Frederick Gunn School

The Frederick Gunn School is pleased to welcome the Washington community to these events, which will be presented in the Tisch Family Auditorium of the Thomas S. Perakos Arts and Community Center on campus. Admission is free! For more information, please visit [frederickgunn.org](http://frederickgunn.org).

### A Chamber Concert

**Presented by The Frederick Gunn School Music Program**

**April 30, 2023 at 7:00pm**

This concert features soloists and small chamber ensembles who are selected by audition and represent all levels of musicianship. The repertoire traditionally reflects a wide range of musical styles, from classical to contemporary.

### 2023 Rooted Research Conference: An Exploration of Heritage and History

**April 21 & 22**

This event will feature illustrated, place-based, and primary-source research presentations by the 2022-23 Gunn Scholars and select Gunn seniors, who will discuss their Civic Changemakers Projects. A diploma requirement, the CCP provides



students with the opportunity to put into action what they have learned over the course of the school's four-year citizenship curriculum under the Center for Citizenship and Just Democracy. The conference will also feature presentations by students and faculty in the Original Civic Research and Action program (ORCA) at Mamaroneck High School in New York.

### The Shakespeare Project: A Midsummer Night's Dream

**May 8 & 9 at 7:00pm**

Students in Kent Burnham's Advanced Acting class will perform an adaptation of William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. Performances will be presented in a black box theatre style, in the

round. Audience members will be seated on stage in close proximity to the actors. Seating is limited. Please check the website at [gogunn.org](http://gogunn.org) for additional details.

### The Frederick Gunn School Music Program: Spring Concert

**May 16 & 17 at 7:00pm**



This annual event features students in String Ensemble, Vocal Ensemble, and Jazz Band under the direction of Ron Castonguay, Director of the Arts and Music Director. The repertoire will include a vibrant mix of classical and contemporary music. This lively performance traditionally celebrates the culmination of all that students have learned and achieved musically over the course of the year as well as the arrival of spring!



# Hollister House Garden 2023 Spring Events

Join us as we welcome spring at Hollister House Garden with a season of educational programs open to the community. Advance registration is required for lectures and workshops. A full listing of events can be found at [www.hollisterhousegarden.org/events/](http://www.hollisterhousegarden.org/events/)

We're currently seeking volunteers for the new season. Please visit our website [www.hollisterhousegarden.org/volunteers](http://www.hollisterhousegarden.org/volunteers) for additional information.

## APRIL

### Thursday, April 20, 3:00 - 5:00pm Gardener Master Class

The Gardener Master Class is a 5-part series of lectures and workshops held on Thursday afternoons from April 20 – May 18. The classes will include lectures on assessing your property, designing your garden, selecting plant material, preparing the garden, and maintaining a garden. Suitable for new gardeners and those who want to enhance their skills.

### Friday, April 21 – 1:00 - 4:00pm Opening Day

Hollister House Garden opens for the season. Come, be inspired by the gentle beauty of the early garden. April-May hours are Wednesdays and Fridays 1:00 - 4:00pm and Saturdays 10:00am - 4:00pm.

### Friday, April 21, 10:00am - 3:30pm Art Workshop: Pressed Flower Notecards, Presented by Ellie Rodin

A hands-on workshop in which participants learn to work with organic materials and create their own pressed flower art. Each participant will leave with a finished pressed flower project.

### Saturday, April 22, 10:00 - 11:30am Barn Talk: Demystifying Dahlias, Presented by Debra Kaye

Dahlia tuber handling can be an anxiety-producing part of the dahlia experience. You'll learn ways to manage the process and get hands-on experience with different options and figure out what's best for you and your garden.

### Friday, April 28, 10:00am - 3:30pm Art Workshop: Cyanotype Print Making, Presented by Brie Killion

Explore multiple methods of toning and staining cyanotypes to create not just blue prints but also yellow and sepia stains on eco paper, prints and notecards.

### Saturday, April 29, 10:00 - 11:30am

### Barn Talk: The Art and Science of Soil, Presented by Monique Bosch

Are you looking for an effective alternative to chemical fertilizers and pesticides? Monique Bosch will explain proven methods to improve soil quality and help plants grow healthy and beautiful. Register for a free soil analysis.



## MAY

### Saturday, May 6, 10:00 - 11:30am Barn Talk: Creating Outdoor Garden Rooms, Presented by Gordon Hayward

Join English landscape designer Gordon Hayward as he explores creating outdoor garden "rooms" within your existing garden. He'll discuss the use of stone and gravel, trees, shrubs, and perennials and how to consider viewpoints and site lines.

### Saturday, May 13, 10:00 am - 3:30 pm Art Workshop: Daisy Wildflower Meadow Watercolor Workshop Taught by Betsy Rogers-Knox

Capture the beauty of a spring meadow of daisies. In this step-by-step class, Betsy Rogers Knox will offer demonstrations of a variety of fun and useful watercolor techniques. Students will learn about masking fluid technique, wet-on-wet brushes, blending colors, dry brush, and glazing.

### Saturday, May 20, 10:00 am - 3:30 pm Life in the Studio: Connecting Ceramics and Garden with Frances Palmer

In this illustrated talk, Frances traces how the ceramics and flowers are inextricably combined in her daily creative process. Following her talk, Frances will demonstrate her methods and techniques with a flower arranging demonstration.

### Saturday, May 27, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm Art Workshop: Sumi-e Japanese Watercolor Technique, taught by Joanne Wasti

Learn about the delicate, traditional Sumi-e (Japanese for "black-ink painting"). In this class you'll work in watercolor, employing

beautiful and minimal brush strokes to depict the beauty of peonies in the style of Sumi-e.

### Wednesday, May 31, 9:00am - 1:00pm Special Opening for Artists and Photographers

Beginning today and continuing until August 30, the garden opens on Wednesday mornings for plein air painters and photographers. Be inspired by the garden in the morning light.

## EARLY JUNE

### Thursday, June 1, 5:00 - 7:00pm Evening hours at Hollister House Garden

Beginning today and continuing until August 31, the garden will be open on Thursdays from 5:00 - 7:00pm. Come and enjoy this opportunity to see the garden in the fading light. During these special opening hours picnicking will be allowed on the main lawn. Enjoy!

### Friday, June 2, 5:00 - 7:00pm First Fridays

As the light fades and day turns to evening, enjoy the company of friends and neighbors and see the beauty of the garden in a different light. A perfect start to a summer weekend. Reservations not required. Admission: \$10 per person includes a glass of wine.

### Saturday, June 3, 10:00 - 11:30am Design-Less Gardening: A Naturalistic Approach, Presented by Dan Jaffe Wilder

This presentation will look closely at some of the old gardening rules and reinterprets them with sustainability in mind. Explore the benefits of using natives in your ornamental landscape.

### Thursday, June 8, 10:00am - 3:30pm Art Workshop: Garden Journaling, Presented by Betsy Rogers Knox

Designed for beginners or those with journaling experience, this class will take place both indoors and in the garden. Demonstrations of new techniques and warm-up exercises with a specific plant species will help to refresh your observation, drawing, and painting skills.

### Sunday, June 11, 1:00 - 4:00pm Family Day

An afternoon of fun for the entire family. Activities include an art workshop, story time, face painting, garden tours, a scavenger hunt and more. You may bring a picnic or just come and enjoy an afternoon in the garden.

## The Housing Commission

Across the U.S.A. there is an affordable housing crisis and we in our beautiful town of Washington are in the same situation. Housing is affordable when a person or family is paying no more than 30% of their household income for total housing costs. We Washington residents moved to Washington because we love its rural nature, its cultural offerings, its many wonderful schools, and the people who make this town what it is, full-time residents and part-time residents. But... living in Washington is very difficult for many people. Daughters and sons of longtime residents cannot afford to return to Washington. Empty nesters and seniors who would love to downsize cannot find suitable housing. Our essential workers, nurses, teachers, construction workers, volunteer firemen and women and EMTs are financially challenged living in Washington. In order to have a vibrant town we need and want these people in our town.

The Housing Commission is working on developing a small property that was donated to the Washington Community Housing Trust but we need more land that could be properly and handsomely developed into affordable housing. Preserving land for conservation is not mutually exclusive of affordable housing. A recent conference put on by the Connecticut Land Conservation Council was attended by a Housing Commission member, a Steep Rock employee and the Washington Director of Economic Development. We learned that we can continue to conserve land for recreation, farming, and wildlife diversity and also conserve land for affordable housing.

Land donations in the past have provided wonderful places for all of us to enjoy the natural landscape. Land donations in the past have also provided for elderly housing. Do you or someone you know have land that could be donated for affordable housing and conservation? We hope in the future the residents of Washington will think carefully about the need for land for more affordable housing. Our community health depends on this.

## Washington Parks & Recreation

BIG NEWS! The Parks & Recreation Department will be getting a new website! Keep your eyes open in March for a user-friendly platform to scope out the P&R happenings in town. It will be updated regularly as we work on spring and summer activities, events and camps!

## Washington Art Association: Faculty Show 2023

The Washington Art Association & Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of the 2023 Faculty Show, which opens simultaneously in two venues.

This exhibition is a first-time collaboration between Washington Art Association & Gallery, 4 Bryan Memorial Plaza, Washington Depot and Spring Hill Vineyards located at 292 Bee Brook Road. In honor of our 70th anniversary in 2022, WAA will be showcasing the work of current faculty members and a selected group who have taught at the Washington Art Association in the past. The illustrious list includes over 30 artists including, Ira Barkoff, Anthony Kirk, Wolf Kahn, Philip Grausman, Margaret Grimes, Stuart Shil and Eric Aho.



Progressive Opening receptions are on Saturday, February 25 at Spring Hill Vineyards from 3:00pm - 5:00pm and WAA from 4:00pm - 6:00pm.

The exhibition will be on view from February 25 until March 26 in both locations.

Hours at WAA will be Wednesday – Saturday 10:00am – 5:00pm and Sunday 12:00pm – 4:00pm.

The hours at Spring Hill will be: Saturday & Sunday 12:00 – 4:00pm.

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Look for our next issue, coming out in June.

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