

Washington, CT

Library Renovations After Water Damage

On February 5, the Gunn Library experienced a frozen pipe break that caused extensive water damage in the Adult and Children's Libraries.

Since that time the Adult and Children's Libraries have been opened with modified services in the upstairs Wykeham Room (the original part of the Library). We have enjoyed seeing many of you!

In February, we were busy removing our books and other library materials to a suitable environmentally-controlled facility and beginning to make plans for a reimagined Adult and Children's Library.

We have now substantially repaired and painted the interior of the library. We have ordered new carpets and bookcases. We will soon follow up with furniture orders and other enhancements including digital information screens and extended Wi-Fi throughout the library.

We appreciate your input through our earlier community survey. Those comments along with our staff visits to recently renovated



Plans for the Adult Library

libraries in our region have helped inform us as we update our spaces while preserving the warmth and history of our facility.

We will have a lighter and subtly brighter Adult Library that will accommodate more seating for reading, studying and gentle conversations. The Children's library will be more colorful and engaging. Yes, the cow has been cleaned and will once again be at home in the Children's Library!

Below are thematic computer renderings of the Adult Library and the Children's Library.

We are extremely grateful to our community



Plans for the Children's Library

neighbors: Congregational Church on the Green, The Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens, The Hickory Stick Bookshop as well as the Senior Center and American Legion Hall for collaborating with us so that we can continue to provide our programming and services.

We anticipate completion in the fall and will keep the community updated. In the meantime, we also invite you to visit the Gunn Museum during normal operating hours.

Please feel free to reach out to any of our staff members or trustees with your comments or questions.

Message from the Selectmen's Office

June, July and August are always exciting here in Washington. School graduations, farmers market, outdoor festivals and summer concerts are just a few of the things to look forward to. As the season begins and more and more people visit our amazing community, it's a good time to focus on and better understand the roll that our first responders play in helping to keep our townspeople safe.

The Washington Volunteer Fire Department was organized in 1926 with one truck, one building and forty-three charter members. Today, the department has grown to nine pieces of apparatus working out of two stations with sixty active members. Working under a Chief, two Assistant Chiefs, a Captain and two Lieutenants, it's an all-

volunteer fire department providing fire protection and first responder capabilities for the 4,000 residents of Washington. Our volunteer firefighters also participate in a "Mutual Aid" agreement to assist our neighbors in surrounding communities.

In 1941, a group of civic-minded residents came together with the idea of providing ambulance service in the town of Washington. They formed the Lions Club of Washington and in 1942 they incorporated as the Washington Ambulance Association.

The Washington Ambulance Association of today is very fortunate in having highly trained and dedicated personnel available day and night. Their goal is to have medical personnel on the scene as quickly as possible.

All WAA members are issued "jump kits" that are carried in their personal vehicles so they're able to respond directly to the scene of an emergency. In the event there are multiple calls simultaneously, the Washington Volunteer Fire Department responds with a crew of medically-trained personnel to assist our ambulance first responders.

On behalf of the Town of Washington, we sincerely thank all of our dedicated and highly-trained emergency services volunteers for their sacrifice and commitment to our community.

James L. Brinton
Jay Hubelbank
Dean Sarjeant
Board of Selectmen

Spotlight on Business: Washington Food Market

At Washington Food Market, customers are friends and employees are family. This summer, the market will celebrate 50 years as the heart of our community.

“We are the classic example of what small businesses are all about,” said George Verrastro, who owns the market with his wife Jocelyne. Daughter Lisa Stein manages the market and their 30 employees, several of whom have worked at the market for decades.



Since 1867, the location has served as a mercantile store in one of the town's oldest buildings. After operating two successful grocery stores in Waterbury for 18 years, Gene Verrastro and his brother-in-law, Jim Anelli, purchased the business in 1973. It was expanded in 1977, doubling in size.

George is often one of the first people customers see when they walk into the store, doing the same work side by side with his employees.

“I do a bit of everything. It's a family business and we all do what we have to do,” Verrastro said.

Verrastro said he's seen a lot of changes since he first came to Washington.

“The town had more of a village vibe to it in the sense there were a lot of small independent businesses: a paint store, a pharmacy, a doctor, a few dentists. It was a self-sufficient village. Over time, demographics changed and it became more difficult for those things to continue to survive. We have a number of successful businesses in the community today, but generally, people have to leave town for many basic needs,” Verrastro said.

Almost any town resident would agree that Washington Food is the essence of a village market.

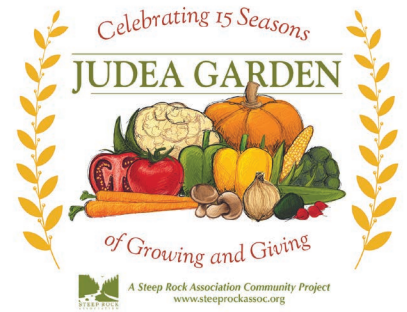
“You still get that personal touch,” Verrastro said. “You see the same people every day and there's a loyalty factor there. Being here for 50 years, we provide a consistent product and the community can depend on us.”

www.washingtonfoodmarket.com

5 Bryan Hall Plaza, Washington Depot, CT

Judea Garden, 124 Christian St., New Preston

Judea Garden – The Giving Garden, a Steep Rock Association Community Project, is thrilled to announce the commencement of its 15th season and the celebration of the garden, the people and their stories. This remarkable milestone highlights a decade and a half of hard work, dedication and community involvement that has allowed the garden to flourish and provide fresh produce for the less fortunate in the region.



The Washington Giving Garden supports local families in need with fresh, healthy produce including tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, peppers and more. It has also become a vital community hub where volunteers unite to cultivate the land and make a difference.

Judea Garden's 15th season showcases their unwavering commitment to fighting food insecurity. From a small patch of land, it has grown into a sustainable operation, feeding countless families in our community. The garden has also served as a model for other organizations and communities to follow, inspiring similar projects in the region and beyond.

To celebrate the 15th season Judea Garden is hosting an Open Garden event on August 19. Enjoy food, drinks and garden tours, and learn about their mission and goals.



“We're thrilled to be celebrating our 15th season and the growth of Judea Garden,” said Denise Arturi, the Manager and Head Gardener of Judea Garden. “We're grateful to everyone who has supported us over the years and contributed to our success. We look forward to continuing to serve our community and inspire others to do the same.”

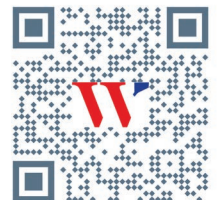
Join the Judea Garden event to support their mission and celebrate their success. Visit www.steeprockassoc.org/events-programs for info on events.

Contact Denise Arturi at denise.arturi@steeprockassoc.org or 860-868-9131 for further inquiries.

- Judea Garden 15th Season Celebration Calendar
- June 22 at 6pm – Round Table/Potluck: Food Insecurity in Litchfield County
- June 24 at 9am – Garden to Exercise, Exercise to Garden
- July 20 at 6pm – Round Table/Potluck: How Can You Build Food Security
- July 29 at 9am – Kids in Judea Garden
- August 19 from 5 – 7pm – Season Celebration and Open Garden

Stay in the Loop on Washington News and Events!

Go to ExploreWashingtonCT.com, or scan the QR code at the right to visit the official community website for events, things to do, shopping, dining and happenings around town.



Visit washingtonct.org, the town's website for municipal and departmental information.

2023 Revaluation – Washington

Washington is scheduled for a town wide revaluation for the October 1, 2023 Grand List and has contracted with eQuality Valuation Services of Waterbury, CT to assist in the process.

Data mailers will be sent to all improved properties which will list details such as style of house, room count and special features. The participation of owners is critical in this phase of the process, and we ask that you review the data, make any changes that may need to be addressed, and return the form. Our goal is to ensure that the data is correct so accurate values can be applied to all properties.

Look for further updates as the revaluation process continues throughout the coming year on the Town of Washington website: www.washingtonct.gov. Please contact the Assessor's office at 860-868-0398 if you have further questions.

What's New at the Senior Center in June?



Join us on June 14 for a presentation on Dolly Parton. Stephen Armstrong is not only a history professor at Central Connecticut State University, he's a Connecticut State Historian. More fun than all of that is that he's well-versed in the music and movies of our lifetime. He'll talk about Dolly Parton, not only about her personal history, but also show clips of her music. He'll lead a discussion about Dolly and offer his thoughts, but also give those in attendance time to offer their opinions.

Lunch Date! Join us for lunch on June 20 at the Saybrook Fish House. The bus will leave the center at 11am. Call the center to reserve your spot!

Let's meet at the River Walk Pavilion and get our steps in! The benefits of walking are a simple and effective way to improve our health and well-being. Join Jenn and George and let's get moving! June 7 and 21 at 2pm.

Yoga for ALL- Friday's at 10am- All are welcome!

Zumba- Join the fun on Friday's at 11:15am.

Tai Chi - Tuesday's at 10am. All are welcome!

Balance Class- Thursday's at 9:30am.

June 14 - 11-12pm- Blood Pressure Clinic- come check your BP and enter to win a raffle!

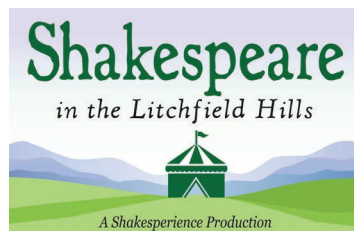
June 23 - 1pm- Join us for an ice cream cone and fresh air!

Coffee & Muffins- Every Monday at 10:30am- Join us for coffee and conversation!

Shakespeare in the Litchfield Hills Invites You to Two Exciting Upcoming Events In Support of *Romeo And Juliet*

August 5, 2023 - Wanda Loves William featuring Wanda Houston and her HBH Band

September 23, 2023 - Everything Old is New Again House Tour in Washington



transformation of five homes from old to new! The residences you visit will intrigue and engage your interest in home design. Each home will have a written description of the house's history, and informed hosts will be

available to answer your questions. For an additional \$50 per person, you can attend an after-party at a private home where you'll be able to meet the homeowners and some of the designers. This will be an afternoon to relish and remember!



Wanda and the HBH Band

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW FOR BOTH 2023 EVENTS

Wanda Houston and her HBH Band WOWED her audiences in 2020 and 2021 at The Pavilion.

She not only received standing ovations at all of her performances, but many in the audience could not resist the urge to dance along to the music. Wanda sings the Great American Song Book, jazz standards, rhythm and blues, soul and rock. Wanda is also a lover of Shakespeare and is thrilled to support our efforts to bring five live, FREE performances of *Romeo and Juliet* to Washington in summer 2024.

Shakespeare in the Litchfield Hills is also pleased to sponsor a **House Tour** on September 23 that highlights the amazing

Twelfth Night (2021) and *Midsummer Night's Dream* (2022) to Washington.

TICKETS

Wanda Loves William, 5:30pm – Adults \$50, Children under 14, \$25; Preferred Seating \$125 pp

Everything Old is New Again House Tour, 2-5pm, \$75 pp; \$125 pp includes After-party at 5:30pm. Tickets for the House Tour and After-party are limited.

****\$1,000 entitles you to two tickets at each event, including Preferred Seating at Wanda Loves William, the After-party following the House Tour and recognition as a Special Friend of**

Shakespeare in the Litchfield Hills at each event.**

Please reserve your tickets by going to www.shakesperience.org. Call 203-754-2531 for assistance.

All proceeds of these two events will go to the 2024 professional production of *Romeo and Juliet*, produced and directed by Shakesperience Productions and offered for FREE to all attendees. This nonprofit organization brought FREE performances of *Comedy of Errors* (2019),

Conservation Commission News

We should all be grateful that we live in the Town of Washington where so many landowners are acting as good stewards of our natural resources. **It is the mission of the Conservation Commission to encourage more private property owners to actively manage the “protected open spaces,” specifically to eradicate and prevent the spread of non-native invasive plants which crowd out the native vegetation and threaten the entire ecosystem.**

The beloved Steep Rock Association, a land trust, was founded in 1925 with a total of 100 acres. As of 2022, the Association has greatly expanded: now protecting 5,500 acres of forests, landscapes and rivers in the Town of Washington. We appreciate their continued efforts to increase the acreage of protected areas and properly manage all of this conservation land.

The Washington Environmental Council provides leadership in maintaining,



protecting and enhancing the environmental quality of the Town of Washington. The Council works closely with town officials and commissions, organizations and local schools. Many thanks for their contributions.

The Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy is a regional land trust (the largest land trust in the State of Connecticut which protects 13,000 acres of land in

Litchfield and northern Fairfield Counties). A portion of this preserved land lies in the Town of Washington.

The State of Connecticut and the Town of Washington also own conservation land.

All of our trees and forests are “**natural treasures**” which should be protected. Not only are they beautiful and majestic, trees play an important role in our ecosystem: **they sequester CO2**, release oxygen, convert moisture from their leaves to water vapor, improve soil, prevent soil erosion and floods, provide medicinal and food sources, create and enhance animal and plant habitats and provide humans with a special place to connect with nature.

The Conservation Commission hopes that all property owners will continue to appreciate the importance of our forested lands and meadows and help us manage the “protected open spaces” in the Town of Washington.

In the Garden

As a residential landowner and gardener, it’s important to be aware of invasive plant species and take steps to prevent them from taking over your property. Invasive plants are non-native species that can outcompete and displace native plants, reducing biodiversity and negatively impacting the ecosystem. Here are some common invasive plant species to watch out for:



Japanese knotweed

Japanese knotweed: This invasive plant can quickly take over a garden or streambank. It has deep roots that can damage foundations, and it’s difficult to eradicate once established. If you suspect that you have Japanese knotweed in your garden, contact a



Garlic mustard

professional for advice on removal.

Garlic mustard: This invasive plant is a common weed in gardens and landscapes. It can quickly spread and outcompete native plants. If you find garlic mustard in your garden, pull it as soon as possible and dispose of it in the trash (not compost).

Multiflora rose: This invasive shrub was introduced to North America as an ornamental plant, but it quickly became a pest. It can form impenetrable thickets that displace native plants and wildlife. Remove any multiflora rose plants and dispose of them properly.

In addition to watching out for invasive plants, there are steps you can take to

prevent their spread. Avoid planting invasive species in your landscaped areas and dispose of any plant material carefully to prevent the spread of seeds. Instead, plant native species that provide important habitat for Connecticut’s wildlife and are adapted to the local climate and soil conditions.



Multiflora rose

Overall, being aware of invasive plant species, managing infestations and taking steps to prevent their spread are essential for maintaining a healthy and diverse ecosystem. More information can be found on Steep Rock Association’s website at <https://steeprocksassoc.org/invasive-task-force-resources/>. Brought to you by the Sustainability Committee.

Gunn Memorial Library & Museum

www.gunnlibrary.org

News:

- Closed Monday, June 19
 - Closed Tuesday, July 4
- Library Luminaries is June 10! Ticket information can be found at www.gunnlibrary.org
- Visit www.gunnlibrary.org for more information on our programs and to register.

Adult Programs:

- Summer Reading for Adults & Teens is June 1 through August 31. Stop in to pick up a summer reading challenge card. Earn tickets for each completed challenge and enter to win a prize!
- June 2 from 5:30-8:30 pm- Washington Block Party!
 - June 3 from 12-3pm - Pride on the Green at the First Congregational Church- Don't miss our table of books, resources and giveaways!
 - June 3 at 3pm at Judy Black Memorial Park & Gardens- Book Talk and Signing with author Seh-lynn Chai on her book *"The Hard Road Out: One woman's escape from South Korea."*
 - June 27 at 1:30pm - Virtual Author Talk with Dahlia Adler on her latest young adult novel and her work with lgbtqreads.com in honor of Pride Month.
 - June 29 at 6:30pm - Virtual History Lecture in collaboration with Gunn Museum on CT native Johnathan Trumbull's role in the Revolutionary War.
 - July 22 from 11-12:30pm - Crop Swap - Garden overflowing with more than you can eat? Swap your crops with neighbors and share tips and tricks on maintaining

your garden.

- August 29 at 6:30pm at the American Legion Hall - Book Talk: The Eighth Connecticut Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War with authors Bill Liska and Kim Perlotto.
- 4th Thursday of each month - Book Club - each month we read and discuss a contemporary novel in person at the library.

Children's Programs:

- Friday Preschool Storytimes June 2- August 4 at 11am!
- Children's Summer Reading program begins on June 24 and runs through August 5. Join our Tri-Town Summer Challenge with Minor Memorial Library in Roxbury and Burnham Library in Bridgewater!

Special Events:

- June 24 at 1pm- Summer Reading Kick Off Ice Cream Party
- July 15 at 11am- Saving the Earth Together at Minor Memorial Library
- July 22 at 11am- Reptiles at Burnham Library
- July 29 at 11am- Magic Show at American Legion Hall

Community

Outreach Events:

- June 11 at 1-4pm- Hollister House Gardens Story Time
- June 29 at 3pm- Washington Beach Club



- July 6 at 10:30am- Lake Waramaug Beach
- July 13 at 10am-12:00pm - Washington Park & Rec
- July 18 at 1:00pm- Judea Gardens/Steep Rock Program
- July 27 at 10am-12:00pm - Washington Park & Rec

Gunn Museum:

Hours: Thursday and Friday 10am-4pm and Saturday 10am-3pm. Self-guided audio tours are available during open hours. Guided tours are offered every Saturday at 1pm. Please email museum@gunnlibrary.org or call 860-868-7756 to register for tours.

TDB New Exhibit Opens this Summer: *Homespun Virtue* showcasing the unique textiles made by Washington residents.

Programs:

- June 12 at 1pm at the Senior Center - History Book Club - *The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough
- July 10 at 1pm at the Senior Center - History Book Club (Title TBD)



Town Taxes Due July 1 to August 1

Town of Washington personal property taxes on the Grand List October 1, 2022 become due and payable July 1, 2023 at the rate of 14.25 mills. **The last day to pay without interest is August 1.**

Tax bills will be mailed on June 28, 2023. The new bills will be posted on the town website July 1. You cannot pay nor look up your tax bill online prior to July 1. The tax office will be closed for fiscal year-end on June 29 and 30.

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

Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve a taxpayer of the responsibility to pay taxes or delinquent charges. *CGS 12-130.* Past due taxes must be paid in full before payment on current bills can be accepted. If real estate taxes remain unpaid as of March 31, 2024, tax liens will be applied. If motor vehicle taxes remain unpaid as of August 2, they will be reported to the DMV.

Save time by using one of the following payment options:

1. **Drop Box** next to town hall central doors. Place check with phone number and payment coupon in a sealed envelope. **NO CASH** in the box; call ahead for cash payments.
2. **U.S. Postal Service.** Postmark is accepted as date of payment.
3. **Online** at www.washingtonct.org. Credit/debit card payments cannot be processed in the office.

Questions regarding assessments or motor vehicle tax bill issues should be addressed to the assessor's office at 860-868-0398.

Steep Rock Upcoming Programs, Events and Volunteer Opportunities

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

Rossiter Run Virtual 5K Run/Walk

June 1-20

Please visit steeprockassoc.org/5K for details!



Join our monthly trail work party! Meet at 10am on the third Saturday each month to contribute hands-on efforts to the trails.

CT Trails Day

June 4, 10am

Macricostas Preserve, 124 Christian St, New Preston

Enjoy a guided, moderate/hilly hike exploring our Boulders Trail in Macricostas Preserve.

Summer Saunters with SRA: Hidden Valley Bridge Loop

June 15, 5:30pm

Hidden Valley Preserve, 198 Bee Brook Rd, Washington Depot

Join us as we walk the Hidden Valley Preserve Bridge loop.

Monthly Trail Work Party

June 17, July 15, Aug. 19, Sept. 16, 10am – 12:30pm



Summer Solstice Firepit Celebration

June 21, 5:00pm

Steep Rock House, 116 Christian St, New Preston

Join us as we welcome summer and celebrate our Rossiter Run virtual 5K participants!

Odonata (Dragonfly & Damselfly) Survey Blitz

July 15, 9am-5pm

Macricostas Preserve, 124 Christian St, New Preston

Join our team of “dragon hunters” for an educational and scientific day of sampling odonates.

Summer Saunters with SRA: Macricostas Hayfield

July 18, 5:30pm

Macricostas Preserve, 124 Christian St, New Preston

Come explore the hayfield at Macricostas Preserve.

Summer Saunters with SRA: Bronson Field Pollinator Meadow at Hidden Valley

August 14, 5:30pm



Hidden Valley Preserve Seasonal Parking, 287 Sabbaday Lane, Washington Depot

Come visit the Bronson Field Pollinator Meadow at Hidden Valley Preserve.

Summer Saunters with SRA: Hillside Farm at West Mountain Preserve

Sept. 13, 5:30pm

Hillside Farm, 397 Nettleton Hollow Rd, Washington, CT

Come explore Hillside Farm.

Weed & Wine Wednesdays at Judea Garden

124 Christian St, New Preston

June 7, 2023 – Aug. 23, 5:30PM (except June 21)

Join us on Wednesdays from 5:30-7pm. Weed the garden, then enjoy a complimentary glass of wine (bring your own glass). No registration needed.

It's back to the future for “Common Ground with Jane Whitney.”

After a year of shooting at Wamogo High School in Litchfield and a season of virtual shows due to the pandemic, the nationally syndicated PBS current affairs program will celebrate its Washington homecoming.

And once again it will be “up close and personal” as ABC used to say.

The only rural-based national affairs television program in the country, the series from now on will film its iconic shows at the magnificent Tisch Family Auditorium at the Frederick Gunn School.

The new season will kick off with “Reality Bites Back,” a discussion of how the country, which once celebrated science as its unofficial religion, came to accept

the parasitic oxymoron of “alternate facts” and how so many have come to live in impenetrable bubbles that elevate ill-considered opinions into intractable certitudes.

The second show, “Saving SCOTUS,” is scheduled for August 20. Featuring legal scholars from both left and right, it will examine how the Supreme Court, once among the most admired and trusted institutions in the country, became a political football and the burgeoning efforts to reform the court in what is billed as an effort to save it from itself.

The “Common Ground” season will continue through the fall and winter and



once again will tell the ongoing story of an evolving America in all its complexity and conflict. Produced by area volunteers, COG is a federally recognized charity charged with improving civic engagement and education and is looking for supporters, volunteers and interns. If you would like to participate or can contribute, please contact us through our website, cgjw.org. Or write Laura Neminski, the executive director, at info@commonground.org.

The Lake Waramaug Authority is Hiring Keepers

The Lake Waramaug Authority is mandated by the state of Connecticut and by the three towns of Washington, Warren and Kent to protect and patrol Lake Waramaug. We have been doing so for more than a decade with State police troopers and other law enforcement professionals on our police boats. We're augmenting those patrols going forward with a team of citizen patrollers to be known as Keepers. Come and make a difference protecting, educating and serving the Lake Waramaug boating community by becoming a Lake Waramaug Keeper.



Keepers will work part-time shifts of three to six hours from Memorial Day until Labor Day and will be driving the Lake Waramaug Authority's boat, observing and documenting all boating activity in and around the lake. Part of the job is to be available during shifts to answer any safety and environmental questions from boaters and render emergency assistance whenever appropriate. Keepers will not be approaching or policing any illegal or unauthorized activity as long as it's not causing any immediate and/or obvious threat to public safety.

This position is for the Town of Washington, paying \$20 per hour which will include all training time, other than a CT Safe Boating Certificate, which is a prerequisite for the job. (Easily acquired from the state.)

Minimum Job Requirements: CT Safe Boating Certificate. Ability to swim 100 yards and the ability to float or tread water for five minutes.

Preferences:

Medical training. EMT/ MRT/ Advanced CPR /Boating experience/911 response training. Communications/ radio/incident command knowledge.

Send resumes to Dsarjeant@washingtont.org or call Dean Sarjeant at 203-733-3252.

Region 12 News

"Aloha" is intriguing. For Native Hawaiians, "aloha" is more than a word. The term represents a state of being that simultaneously means love, peace, kindness and sympathy. In Polynesian culture, Aloha is used to say both "hello" and "goodbye." So, it's fitting that Washington Primary School (WPS) hosts an annual Aloha Day each spring. Aloha Day is a celebration of the end of the current school year and the anticipation of the new year to come. There's no question that our students, staff and families will feel all of the elements of this Hawaiian concept as they reflect on the year that was and look ahead with joy to the year to come. Our entire community is looking forward to this day of fun, food, music and art that celebrates our students this June and perennially serves as a highlight of the school year for WPS.



Shepaug Valley School (SVS) has recently enjoyed outstanding student success in various areas. Our boys' varsity basketball team played in the state championship game at Mohegan Sun Arena, Shepaug Dramatics packed the house for performances of *The Lightning Thief* and budding video journalists from SVS submitted a whopping SEVENTEEN student submissions to the FOX 61 Students News Competition this year. SVS hosted the CT Appellate Court during their "On Circuit" program where the court visits a high school or university each year for a day of actual court proceedings with legal counsel arguing appeals before a panel of Appellate Court Judges. Court marshals marveled at our students' decorum and engagement, describing our Spartan students as the best they've ever seen in the history of the program traveling to schools.

The Agriscience Academy of Shepaug Valley



School is growing in many ways. We're expanding as new livestock continue to join the flock. This spring brought the birth of goats, lambs and our first calf. Enrollment also continues to grow, and applications from interested students exceed our capacity. Our areas of exploration continue to expand with the addition of beekeeping, maple sugaring and a timber sports team. Word of our incredible program has spread all the way to the halls of the U.S. Capitol as Congresswoman Jahana Hayes highlighted Shepaug's agriscience program in a meeting of the House Agriculture Committee.

We thank the Town of Washington for continuing to provide space at Bryan Memorial Town Hall to host our Shepaug Valley Partnership program that provides transition services for special education students until they reach age 22. This program partners with community businesses and resources to help prepare students for life after school.

Region 12's integrated preschool program, REACH, brings special education students and typical peers together in a high-quality, early learning program to promote school readiness. This program is a staggering success and, like other programs across the region, has far greater applicants than we can accept. Our top-notch innovative programs continue to make Region 12 the district of choice for families in Washington and across the county.

Just as the term "aloha" has no English equivalent, the spirit of Region 12 is equally difficult to describe. You simply have to experience it firsthand. So come out anytime and experience one of our events. We'd love to see you. Aloha!

Hollister House Garden 2023 Summer Events



Hollister House Garden welcomes you to a summer 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/

Summer Hours June/July/August:

Wednesdays

Artists & Photographers 9am-1pm

Visiting Hours 1 – 4pm

Thursdays 5– 7pm

Fridays 1 – 4pm

Saturdays 10am – 4pm

Admission is \$10.

First Fridays

June 2, July 7 and August 4 6 – 8pm

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. Reservations not required.

Admission: \$10 per person includes a glass of wine.

JUNE

June 3, 10 – 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 reinterpret them with sustainability in mind. Explore



the benefits of using natives in your ornamental landscape.

June 8 – 10am - 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.

June 10 – 10 – 11:30am

Creating a Connecticut Garden with English Roots

Bored by her own constant lamenting of the lack of seasonal garden flowers that had always graced her grandmother's house in England, Pom Schillingford began her own cut-flower business and focuses on 'proper flowers,' those shaped entirely by the hand

of Mother Nature.

June 11, – 1 – 4pm

Family Day

An afternoon of fun for the entire family. The day will feature botanical themed activities, story time, puppet show, face-painting, art classes with Scribbles Art Workshops and more! You may bring a picnic or just come and enjoy an afternoon in the garden.

JULY

July 22, 10am – 12pm

Restoring and Rewilding Land with Robin Zitter

This site visit will encourage observation and understanding of the ecological, historical and cultural aspects of landscape.

AUGUST

August 12, 10am-12pm

Growing Wild: Gardening with Birds and Nature with Dr. Ian Stewart

This lecture will explore several ways that gardeners of all levels and experience can start a conservation effort in their own backyard and help birds thrive throughout all four seasons.

August 26, 10am-12pm

Topiary Demonstration with Anthony Bellomo

Learn the artwork of training, trimming and guiding a plant into a shape that's different than its natural form. Topiaries and garden accessories will be on display for purchase following the lecture.

Pilobolus Events

“All of Us” Family Day

June 18, 2023

The Frederick Gunn School

pilobolus.org/ball2023

We hope to see you at Pilobolus's second annual Family Day, “All of Us,” featuring an hour-long interactive dance performance followed by snacks and games on the lawn!



Pilo-BALL-Us, Pilobolus Ball

June 17, 2023

The Frederick Gunn School

pilobolus.org/ball2023

Please join us for Pilobolus's annual ball. Evening festivities include a cocktail reception with a generous array of hors d'oeuvres and culinary stations, a stunning Pilobolus performance inside the beautiful Tisch Family Auditorium, and an after-party featuring a silent disco with DJ Doctor, passed sweets and a few surprises!



Photos by Megan Mass Freeman

Judy Black Park News

Summertime in Litchfield County is a special time of year marked by lakeside living, farm stands brimming with produce and scenic views atop every hiking trail. Here at the Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens, we're looking forward to another fun-filled summer season.

10 Years!

This year marks the 10-year anniversary since the incorporation of the Washington Park Foundation, the nonprofit organization established to fulfill the mission of the park. Thanks to the foresight of early community leaders and to YOU for your ongoing support throughout the past decade, the park has earned the status of being the very heart and soul of our town.



Gardenpalooza

We recently hosted our third annual plant sale and Gardenpalooza. The sale featured a variety of perennials, annuals, flowers, vegetable and herb plants from **Meadowbrook Gardens**. Several community organizations, including the Washington Sustainability Committee, Washington Montessori Middle School

Green Team and Steep Rock Association's Judea Garden director, were also on-site to share various green and philanthropic initiatives they're involved in.

Farmers Market @the Park

Our farmers market is open for the season! Join us every Saturday from 9:30am to 12:30pm to shop from the best of Litchfield County's growers, makers and artisans.

At our market you'll find fresh fruits and veggies, bread and baked goods, pet food, pasture-raised meats, prepared food items, cheese, seafood, locally roasted coffee and more. Live music and guest vendors will also be making appearances periodically, too.

Movies @the Park

We're gearing up for another summer season of First Friday **movie nights**, sponsored by **National Iron Bank**. Our First Friday season lineup includes "Grease" on June 2, "Driving Miss Daisy" (with live, in-person Q&A with screenwriter Alfred Uhry before the film) on July 7, "Kiss Me Goodbye" on August 4 and "Notorious" on September 1.

We'll also be hosting two additional Summer Family Movies which include "The Parent Trap" on Saturday, July 15 held drive-in style at the River Walk Pavilion (11 School St) sponsored by the Glass Family and "The Secret Life of Pets 2" on Friday, August 18 at the park sponsored by **Depot Dog Boutique**.

All movies are free and open to the public. BYO chairs, blankets, food and beverages. Leashed pets only. Movies roll at dusk. Thank you to the **Gunn Memorial Library** for their contribution in bringing these movies to the public.

Art @the Park

We're delighted to present another fantastic lineup of **artists and their exhibits** this year, representing a diverse set of styles, mediums and techniques. We've already hosted exhibits by Nadine Kalachnikoff and Region 12 Schools' K-12 students. Currently on view is a show by Liz Dexheimer (through July 4). Our summer lineup includes Margaret Grimes (July 8-August 6), Michael Chelminski (August 12-September 3) and the NY Collage Ensemble (September 9-24). See our website for the full 2023 exhibit schedule.

For more information, visit our website at judyblackpark.org.

The Washington Friends of Music

The Washington Friends of Music 2023 Summer Concert Festival will be held Fridays at 5:30pm on August 18 and 25 and September 1 and 8 in the Historic Meeting House, First Congregational Church at the Washington Green, 6 Kirby Road.

WFM is pleased to present a stellar cast of world-class musicians who perform solo as well as in leading orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, under the leadership of Artistic Director and widely acclaimed cellist Wendy Sutter.

We're thrilled that these superb artists come to Washington to perform a unique program spanning from baroque and classical periods to the 20th century. The exciting repertoire includes "Eight Seasons" - Vivaldi's Four Seasons juxtaposed to Piazzolla's Four Seasons of Buenos Aires, with a Tango twist - and music by Mozart, Beethoven and of French and Spanish influence.

The audience and the artists are invited to a jovial post-concert meet-and-greet with bubbly and snacks.



Details and ticket information on the WFM website: WashingtonCT4Music@blogspot.com
Children and students are welcome free of charge.

See you at the concerts!



ASAP!® Upcoming Programs

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

ASAP! CELEBRATES JOY JUNE 3, 2023, WASHINGTON

ASAP!'s spring fundraising gala, ASAP! Celebrates Joy, will be held on Saturday, June 3 at 6pm at The Frederick Gunn School in Washington. Congresswoman Jahana Hayes will host a festive evening of cocktails, live music and dancing, with a live showcase of ASAP! programs. Two ticket tiers are available. Ticket sales support ASAP!'s mission to foster joyful learning through the arts. To learn more, visit asapct.org.



ASAP!'s CELEBRATION OF YOUNG WRITERS AT SHAG NEW PRESTON, FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2023

Join us for our 18th Annual Celebration of Young Writers! Top selected students from across Connecticut will share short stories, poetry and prose at the Spring Hill Arts Gathering on Friday, June 23, 2023. Tickets on sale at springhillartsgathering.com.

ASAP! HIRING SUMMER ARTS CAMP COUNSELORS AGES 18+, JULY 31-AUG 11, 2023, WASHINGTON, CT

Join us in Washington to work alongside staff and teaching artists to create a cohesive, safe and joyful experience for campers. Counselors will be responsible for arriving on time for setup, morning meeting and greeting their campers. Throughout the day, counselors will lead campers to their activities, engage and support them and close the day with camper send-off and cleanup. For more information, visit asapct.org.



Parks & Recreation Summer Happenings

The town beach will officially open Memorial Day weekend! Residents can purchase beach parking permits on our new website. Seniors over the age of 65 and First Responders will receive one parking permit at no charge. Go to our website to learn more.

<https://washingtondepotct.myrec.com>

Summer Rec Camp registration is now open!
July 3-28 (closed on July 4)

Exciting news, we offer extended day hours. 9am-1pm or 9am-3pm. Please visit the website to register your camper today!

June 2 is the Community Block Party with outdoor activities, games, food samples and so much more. We're excited to announce the band Wires & Wood, which will perform on the green in front of town hall. The event kicks off at 5:30pm!

We're offering a seven-week Pickleball program at Washington Primary School on Thursday evenings beginning May 18 (ending June 29). Please register on our website, space is limited.



Washington Garden Club Upcoming Events— Open to All



Like much of nature, the Washington Garden Club is blooming! There are events and programs we're looking forward to sharing with all in the community as we seek to stimulate the knowledge and love of gardening as well as to restore, improve and protect our environment.

June 8, 2023 at 1:00 pm

You're invited to a Floral Design Demonstration Presented by Loretta Stagen, Salem Covenant Church 96 Baldwin Hill Road, Washington Depot Be our guest for tea and be inspired by the creation of glorious summer arrangements.

Throughout the summer months plan to stop by The Gunn Museum Panel Gardens designed and maintained by the WGC, in memory of Adele Worsley, a devoted member of the WGC and supporter of The Gunn Museum. This summer the gardens will be enhanced with pollinator and native plants, so important to the sustainability of ecosystems. Every little bit counts—even just a pot full by the back door!

On your walks in town and around our beautiful preserves, please keep your eye out for the Spotted Lantern



Fly. It's 1 inch long and 1/2 inch wide with large and colorful wings with spots. Native to Asia, scientists believe it arrived in a shipment of stones. Now it's in New York and Connecticut. If found, squish and stomp! Although humans are safe, it's causing devastating damage to plants and trees. So, please be a "Vigilante Exterminator." (You know you want to!)

Continuing a long tradition, the WGC underwrites Summer Camp

Scholarships to enable primary school children to experience nature firsthand. This summer, two scholarships will be offered at the Flanders Nature Center as well as a field trip for fourth graders.

Looking ahead.

Save the Date: October 15, 2023

Details in the next issue of a wonderful event!

As always, we're looking forward to partnering with other organizations in town, as we have in the past, to join in mutual efforts. It's all about community and dare we say planet. Just as important, however, is the individual participation and support of each of you. Come! We welcome you!

Happy Summer!

WAA- Summer Solstice 2023

July 22, 2023
6pm – 10pm

Get ready to party in the pavilion!

It's WAA's sensational annual Solstice Celebration and it's sure to be a night to remember!

Join us for live entertainment including performances by outrageous Brazilian dancers with tropical beats from Cuban band Ochun.

Savor sumptuous south of the border bites while sipping tall, cool cocktails created by our own Abdo, The Mojito King.

Also try the tasty traditional Cubanos prepared exclusively for us by The Mayflower Inn and Spa.

You can also treat your senses with a gallery wall of curated art available for purchase.

Fiesta al fresco! Get your tickets now!

www.washingtonartassociation.org



Coffee and Conversation

The Washington Art Association is excited to announce “Coffee and Conversation” at the galleries every first and third Friday morning of the month from 10am until noon. You're invited to come by, grab a cup of coffee and pastry and learn more about the latest exhibition, the classes and workshops, what's new with our community organization, and meet other artists and lovers of the creative process.

No need to RSVP; just come!

We look forward to seeing you!

Together We Can Build It

The Housing Commission and the Washington Community Housing Trust have a mutual goal - that of increasing the number of affordable homes in our wonderful community per the 2022-2027 Housing Plan. The importance of these two entities working together was magnified by the presentation at a meeting of the Economic Development Committee which heard a presentation on the state of the real estate market in Washington. It was learned that at that time there were only two homes for sale under \$500,000, a couple between \$500,000 and \$1 million and the rest way above that. Businesses in town need workers and workers need housing. Current residents need affordable places to which to downsize. Young adults who grew up here need affordable housing in order to return to their roots.

Currently, the Washington Community Housing Trust with the financial support of the Housing Commission, is working on a property on Baldwin Hill Road. A survey and a soil report have both been completed. A



feasibility study which will determine how many homes the property can support is soon to be done. Getting funding for the actual building will be next. It's a long but worthy process. Members of the Housing Commission are working with the Zoning Commission to write regulations for multi-family homes. Habitat for Humanity is making great progress in building the two homes on Myfield Road. We would like to thank Wright Electrical Company and Washington Supply for already helping with the houses. On behalf of Habitat for Humanity, we'll be asking for volunteers from the community to help in finishing the project. In order to continue to move forward to maintain a healthy, diversified community, support from the town will be required.

What Does a Great School Look Like?

Maria Montessori has some guidance for us in answering this question. In *The Child, Society and the World* she writes: “As we observe children, we see the vitality of their spirit, the maximum effort put forth in all they do, the intuition, attention and focus they bring to all life's events, and the sheer joy they experience in living.”

How often do you get to see 4th year students performing a Shakespeare play? Or 1st year Elementary students presenting their research on marsupials, coral and phytoplankton? When did you last witness a group of Middle School students going out of their way to fully include all members of a group? Or see 20-month old children focus with care on choosing their own work?

If you spend time at Washington Montessori School, a truly great school, you see it all day, every day.

Our Upper Elementary performed *Macbeth* this spring. They wielded their swords, stirred their cauldron, and spoke their lines with clarity, calm and confidence. Before the show, these nine and ten year olds were full of nervous energy. After the show, they shared a congratulatory sheet cake and reveled in the scale of their accomplishments. Nobody won a trophy. No child needed praise for their efforts and hard work. Rather, their reaction was aligned with what Maria Montessori taught us to notice: vitality of spirit, maximum effort put forth, laser attention, and sheer joy. It was in their faces that we could see the greatness of our school.

For a great school inspires the delight of learning that every child deserves. A great school inspires connection and belonging. And a great school inspires children to think, to act, and to engage with their full being. A great school inspires its students to discover, to observe, to listen, and to grow to achieve their full individual and collective potential.

We invite you to come for a visit, and to see a great school in action.

From the people who brought you LAKE IT SLOW... Introducing LAKE IT EASY!

There's no place better than Lake Waramaug. But the lake's small size and unique shape make it a place that requires extra care from all of us. That's why the Lake Waramaug Association is asking for everyone's help to "Lake It Easy" and keep the lake safe while you're on the water this summer.



LAKE IT EASY

- 20-25 mph is the max manufacturer-recommended safe tubing speed.

- During peak water activity times, consider swimming closer to shore.

Did you know?

Whether on a boat, kayak, canoe or paddle board, CT state law requires you must have an accessible and wearable life jacket for each person on board, even for your dog!

Life jackets are required to be worn by children under 13 years of age and by all adults paddling

between October 1 and May 31.

Strong waves can disturb the lakebed and be hazardous to other lake users, docks and the shoreline and may also impact water quality and aquatic habitat.



Boat Safe

In addition to following all boating laws required by the state of CT, on Waramaug remember:

- Avoid areas that seem crowded - give people more space than you think they need.
- Recreational boats are heavy and can't make sudden stops - when in doubt, slow down or shut it down.

- For wakeboaters: Please wakesurf in the deepest, middle parts of the lake. When your ballasts are engaged, give other boats, paddlers and swimmers plenty of room. Empty ballasts when not in active use.

Paddle Smart

- Paddlers always have the right of way over powered vessels.
- During peak water activity times, consider paddling closer to shore.

Swim Aware

- Always swim with a buoy (and a buddy or spotter) in open water.

Washington Trivia by Shelia Anson, Town Clerk

The 2023 Shepaug Baseball book proudly displays on its cover the 1973 State Champion team (50 Years) and the 1983 State Champion team (40 Years). Who were the coaches and captains of those two teams?

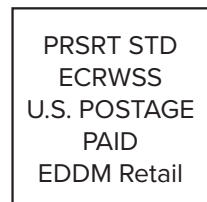
See if your answer is correct in the next issue, out in March 2023.

Question from the last issue: Litchfield Bancorp f/n/a Litchfield Savings Bank recently closed its Washington Depot branch. There was a mural in the bank of the Shepaug Railroad Station in the Depot that was later moved. Who painted the mural and who were some of the local models in the artwork?

Answer: The mural was painted in 1959 by Feodor Rimsky in oil on very high-quality imported Belgian canvas. It represents the first engine but not the first day, just a typical stop in the early days. Dimitry Rimsky, son of the artist, posed for the painting as well as Jackie Brunet, Mary Harwood, former assessor Barbara Johnson Went and Dimitry's dog "Hobo," a rescue. Stuart's Florals now occupies the space and the mural remains a special piece of Washington's history.



What's Happening in Washington, CT is organized and printed through the Washington Economic Development Committee. mgorra@washingtonct.org
Look for our next issue, coming out in September.



*****ECRWSSDDM*****

Postal Patron