

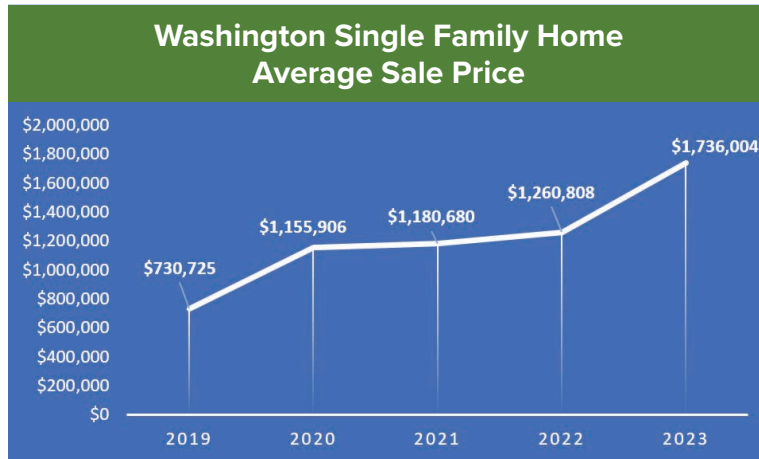
# Washington, CT

## Can We Afford *Not* to Have Affordable Housing?

Our picturesque town of Washington has been celebrated for its beautiful scenery, preserved land offering a multitude of outdoor activities, its cultural and artistic opportunities, its historic charm and its tight-knit community spirit. But we aren't immune to the housing issues affecting communities in our state and in fact, nationwide. This town celebrated for its historical character and beauty is faced with the task of preserving the best of what it is amidst the challenges of evolving housing needs.

The rising cost of homes has become a pressing concern. Affordable housing has been a topic of discussion in many of Washington's commission meetings from Housing, Zoning, Economic Development and Sustainability. Why? Because the high price of housing in our town affects everyone. Business owners are having trouble finding employees. Volunteers on the Washington Volunteer Fire Department and the Washington Ambulance have a hard time finding a place to live near where they volunteer. Seniors who wish to downsize cannot find suitable affordable homes.

Young families and middle-income workers are housing challenged. The lack of young



people is obvious in our schools, our volunteer organizations and our businesses. 37% of our residents are over the age of 60 and that percentage is growing.

Housing prices have soared recently. From March 2019 to March 2023, the average price of a house skyrocketed from \$730,000 to \$1,736,000. At this rate, the town will become a stagnant gated community, losing the vibrancy that a diverse population contributes to all our lives.

As our community navigates this intricate issue, understanding the concept of affordable housing within the context of Washington is crucial. So, what is affordable housing? It's housing including mortgage or rent, utilities, taxes and insurance that does not cost a family more than 30% of their

income. Also, the household must make 80% or less of the Area Median Income of Litchfield County which was \$84,978 in 2021.

The Town of Washington by a Town Meeting approved the Housing Plan for 2022-2027 with the goal of creating 30 more affordable housing units by 2027. Since then, the Housing Commission has been working with the Washington Community Housing Trust and the Zoning Commission to create more affordable and middle-income housing for Washington.

We all have the opportunity to shape the future of Washington. What can you do? Keep yourself informed by reading the Affordable Housing Plan and keeping up to date with the work the Housing Commission and the Zoning Commission are doing to meet these challenges. Share your ideas for making affordable housing a reality. In the past, some very generous donors have donated land or money to fund the affordable homes we do have. As Washington, CT stands at the intersection of tradition and change, it has the opportunity to define itself with resilience, adaptability and collective dedication to ensuring that it remains a vibrant, inclusive community.

## Message from the Selectmen's Office

The spring season means different things to different people. In our community, spring is a time to say goodbye to winter and look forward to all the new year has to offer. 2024 promises to be an exciting year for Washington. Our business community and civic organizations are busy planning another year of exciting events to keep citizens engaged in all things Washington.

To be certain, there are many challenges to be dealt with as well. Our Town recently completed a state-mandated revaluation

of all taxable properties. In Connecticut, this is required of every municipality to be completed once every five years. Residents should be aware that the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance are committed to adjusting our mill rate to minimize any impact of the increase in the grand list.

Spring is also the time for Town leaders to create the next fiscal year's budget. There are many factors that determine the annual budget, and by extension, the taxes we all pay each year. The Board of Selectmen

strongly urge all residents to participate in the process. Please follow the Town website for the most up-to-date information, attend Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance meetings, ask questions and perhaps above all, attend the annual Town budget hearing and budget vote held in May each year.

James L. Brinton  
Jay Hubelbank  
Dean Sarjeant  
Washington Board of Selectmen

## Spotlight on Business: Ericson Insurance Advisors

Ericson Insurance Advisors has long been a part of the Washington community. It all started up on the Green in 1936 when Arlo Ericson hung a shingle. He quickly grew his business and became an integral part of the community. In 1963, William Houldin joined the growing agency and they moved their offices down to the Depot. Their commitment to the community continued through their service as members of the Lion's Club. Both William and Arlo were drivers for the first Washington Ambulance. After Arlo's death, William continued the agency until sons Scott, Spencer and Peter joined in the 80s and 90s. William went on to retire in 2005 and Peter and Spencer took over, continuing the tradition of dedication to their clients and the community that had been established in the previous 70 years.



Fast forward almost 20 years to today and Ericson Insurance is excited to announce that they are combining their operations with Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. (NYSE: AJG), a global giant in insurance brokerage and risk management. Peter, Spencer and their 27 employees will all remain and are looking forward to continuing to provide exceptional insurance advice while enhancing their capabilities. They feel these added resources will allow them to serve their clients even more effectively and that "the best is yet to come."

Ericson Insurance Advisors, PO Box 438, Washington Depot, CT [info@ericsoninsurance.com](mailto:info@ericsoninsurance.com), 860-868-7361, [ericsoninsurance.com](http://ericsoninsurance.com)

## The Sustainability Committee

As you know, road salt application helps keep our roads safe in winter. But the sodium chloride from it leaches through our soils into our surface waters and private wells, and it's important to keep this to a minimum, as it can harm our waters and our health. Excessive salt intake aggravates chronic congestive heart failure and raises blood pressure. Drinking water may contain 10% of a person's total sodium intake. For persons on a restricted salt diet, drinking water may contain as much as 64% of their total sodium intake. Elevated levels of salt in surface water increase heavy metal contamination and are toxic to fish and other aquatic life. One teaspoon of salt contaminates five gallons of water.

Some towns in our area have programs in place to monitor the levels of sodium in streams and wells, and the Sustainability Committee is researching how it might implement such a monitoring program, which would start with regular testing of these waters for sodium. We've received proposals for bulk, discounted private well testing, and have learned of methods for testing our tributaries on a regular basis. At our next meeting on February 14, we'll discuss these methods and determine which ones will help us keep our streams healthy. The committee will update the progress with these salt monitoring efforts in future issues of the newsletter.

### WHAT TO DO

<b>SHOVEL</b> 	<b>SCATTER</b> 	<b>SWEEP</b> 
Clear walkways before snow turns to ice.	A 12 oz mug holds enough salt to treat a 20' driveway or 10 sidewalk squares!	Sweep up excess salt and reuse it!

**JOIN SALT WATCH**  
Want to find out how much chloride is in local waterways?  
Visit [saltwatch.org](http://saltwatch.org) to request your free Salt Watch Kit!  
 **SALT WATCH**  
IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

## Washington Montessori School

Time to start thinking about the summer!

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 the full summer, we offer fun programming and flexibility to meet your family's needs.

Registration will open soon. In the meantime, if you're interested in learning more, please email [summer@washingtonmontessori.org](mailto:summer@washingtonmontessori.org) to inquire or visit our website [washingtonmontessori.org](http://washingtonmontessori.org).



## Region 12 News

Dear Washington Community,

With the holidays behind us, our students have settled into the second half of the school year and continue to engage in a variety of academic, social and enrichment activities. Classrooms at Washington Primary School (WPS) have been engaged in their annual Invention Convention and students have created inventions they hope will solve a problem or change the world! WPS also continues to partner with the community to support student knowledge of important life skills. Recently, Dr. Matt Caceci and assistant Wendy from Caceci Family Dentistry visited WPS classrooms to talk about dental care. Students learned the importance of healthy eating, brushing regularly and flossing. A demonstration using slime to show how to brush and floss teeth was fun and engaging. Every student left with a care package for home use.



At Shepaug Valley School, 7th and 8th grade students are eagerly anticipating a special Valentine's Day dance on February 23, which will be hosted by the PTO. These social events are exciting for students and are often well attended.

Students in the Agriscience program have been busy installing maple sap collection lines on the property to be boiled in our brand-new sugar house. The sugar house is the newest building to be added to the school. This is a wonderful season for students who are in their second year of making maple syrup on campus. Sweet!

Entrepreneurship students at the high school have worked on various projects



throughout the semester-long course. One of their favorites is a "Business Idea from a News Source." This project allows groups of students to read current events and brainstorm profitable business ideas from problems in the real world. They then research the competitive environment of that market and find demographic information on a target buyer. Students later explore the commercial real estate market in the Northeast to find an appropriate property, electronically develop a floor plan for the business, perform an analysis and write marketing goals and objectives.

In the athletic world, spring registration is finally here. Students who want to participate in spring sports are asked to register by March 3. Middle School students who want to join a spring sport will need to register by March 10. Kudos to all of the Shepaug Valley School coaches and assistants who continue to make the athletic experience accessible and rewarding for all students.

Students and staff are looking forward to the myriad of new activities and opportunities the next half of the school year will bring. We thank the parents and community members who support our schools, staff and students throughout the school year. Your partnership and investment in our schools' help make Region 12 a special place for all of our students.

Respectfully,  
Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue  
Interim Superintendent

## TOWN OF WASHINGTON Property Tax Benefit Programs

Washington homeowners who were sixty-five or older by December 31, 2023 or who receive Social Security or disability payments, may be eligible for property tax credit for the 2023 Grand List. The property must be their principal residence and total household income including Social Security cannot exceed **2023 state income limits of \$43,800 Single or \$53,400 Married.**

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

Applications must be filed in the Assessor's office February 1 - May 15, 2024. If eligible, tax credit will apply to the July 2024 billing.

Finally, Washington residents currently receiving a veteran's exemption may be eligible for an additional exemption if they meet the above state income limits. There's no age requirement for an additional veteran's exemption. Applications are accepted from February 1 to October 1, 2024 for exemption on the future October 1, 2024 and 2025 Grand Lists.

All applications are available in the Assessor's office beginning February 1 or at [www.washingtonct.org/assessor](http://www.washingtonct.org/assessor). Call 860-868-0398 for more information.

# ASAP!® Upcoming Programs

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



## ASAP!'s 19th Annual Celebration of Young Writers Grades K-12 February 1-April 1, 2024

Submissions are now open - all public, private and homeschooled students in grades k-12 are invited to submit a piece of writing for the chance to be recognized for their outstanding work. Selected writers will have the opportunity to read their pieces in front of a live audience alongside professional performers at the CYW event on Friday, June 21, at Spring Hill Vineyards. To learn more and submit for free, visit our website [asapct.org/celebration-of-young-writers](http://asapct.org/celebration-of-young-writers).



## ASAP! Youth Ensemble Concert February 2024 Grades 6-12

ASAP!'s new interdistrict Youth Ensemble performed for the public at the Silo in New Milford on February 28. The unique visual art and music program brought together students from New Milford, Washington, Waterbury and Woodbury. Painting and music sessions were held at Rumsey Hall School. ASAP! and the community congratulates these thirteen

talented young musicians for all of their dedication and hard work. To learn more about this innovative, playful music and art program, visit [asapct.org](http://asapct.org).



## ASAP! Summer Camp Grades 1-6 & 7-10 August 5-16, 2024 Washington, CT

Registration is now open for ASAP!'s Summer Camp, which will be held at Rumsey Hall School. ASAP! teaching artists will guide campers in developing their artistic passions, while fun outdoor activities will foster friendships and teamwork. Register by April 1 and save \$100. Visit [asapct.org/summerprograms](http://asapct.org/summerprograms) to learn more.



## ASAP! Celebrates 25 Years June 1, 2024, 6-9:30pm Thomas S. Perakos Arts and Community Center Frederick Gunn School

Join us in celebrating 25 years! Let us bring you back in time for a fun and entertaining variety show with surprise guests, inspiring performers, live music, art installations, cocktails and canapes. More details to follow via [asapct.org](http://asapct.org).

# Connecticut Arts Hero

Every year the CT Office of the Arts, a division of the Department of Economic and Community Development, chooses regional Arts Heroes. These awards “honor and celebrate Connecticut residents who are doing inspiring things in, for, or through the arts in Connecticut.” Congratulations to one of this year’s recipients, Stephanie Ingrassia, who founded the Spring Hill Arts Gathering with her husband Tim, here in Washington.



During the ceremony held at Infinity Music Hall in Hartford, January 24, Stephanie was asked what her goal was in creating the Spring Hill Arts Gathering. She said to “bring arts to the community...opening hearts and minds by bringing different communities together...and to enjoy art in nature.” Her vision has been evident in the last three, amazingly successful festivals which were open to the entire community.



# Gunn Memorial Library & Museum [www.gunnlibrary.org](http://www.gunnlibrary.org)

The Gunn Memorial Library is back in full swing in its beautifully renovated space, offering its full range of services with adult and children's programs, book clubs, movie matinees and art exhibits. Furthermore, the library's extensive collection of books, magazines, CDs and DVDs is available and constantly being replenished and updated. With a helpful staff always on hand to assist patrons, the Gunn Memorial Library has never been more accessible.

## News & Highlights

The Gunn Memorial Library and Museum received a \$45,000 grant from the Northwest CT Community Foundation Khurshed Bhungara Fund to transform their Field Community Room into a MakerSpace. Equipped with advanced technology and diverse materials, the creative workspace will cater to all ages and provide a platform for learning and collaboration.

The new hub for innovation will inspire technological explorations and hands-on creative ventures, benefitting schools, community groups and nonprofits. The Gunn Memorial Library is grateful for the grant and looks forward to expanding its services and enriching the community.

Registration is required for all programs. Visit [www.gunnlibrary.org](http://www.gunnlibrary.org) for more program information and registration.



## Adult Programs

- **Monday Movie Matinees** continue every Monday, 1:00 p.m. in the Wykeham Room (except the second Monday of each month).
- **Author Talk with Peter Vermilyea**, *The Strange Case of Dr. Beckwith: A Tale of Scandal and Intrigue in Civil War Litchfield County*; Thursday, March 7, 6:00-7:00 p.m.



Vermilyea analyzes the impact of the Civil War on Northern home life through the lens of a unique case in Litchfield.

- **Patricia Mason-Martin Poetry** (CT Beat Poet Laureate) presents "The Twists and Turns of a Writing Life," Saturday, April 20, 11:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.
- **Medicare and Beyond:** an informational session on Medicare. Thursday, April 4, 2024, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- **Author Talk and Book Signing with Roberta Satow-Wool** on her recently published book, "Our Time is Up," Saturday, April 6, 1:00-2:00 p.m.
- **Earth Day T-shirt Bag:** Celebrate this Earth Day by turning your old tees into a stylish tote to carry your things around in style. Adult program: Tuesday, April 23, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- **Educate to Navigate** – Advocacy services for assisting the elderly with the complexities of aging, with Art Mulligan and Sara Lynn Leavenworth of Senior Advocacy Services and Jade LaBella of Berkshire Hathaway, Thursday, May 2, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- **Special Movie Matinee:** "Star Wars," Friday, May 3, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

## Gunn Memorial Library and Museum Book Clubs

- **NEW! Cooking Through Time** is a bimonthly cookbook club highlighting recipes and cookbooks from yesteryear. Starts Thursday, March 14, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- **NEW! Friday Afternoon Book Club** meets on the second Friday of each month, 1:00 p.m. in the Wykeham Room. Starts Friday, March 15, 1:00-2:00 p.m.
- **The Fiction Book Club** meets on the fourth Thursday of each month, 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Wykeham Room.

- **History Book Club** meets on the second Monday of each month, 1:00 p.m. in the Wykeham Room.

## Gunn Museum Exhibit

Homespun Virtue tells the story of Washington residents' use of natural fibers to make clothing and needlework and explores the relationship between needlework and women's emerging independence. The exhibit runs through spring 2024.

## Junior Programs

**Dr. Seuss Day:** Saturday, March 2, 1:00-2:00 p.m. - games, crafts and stories.

**Cross Stitching with the Gunn Museum and Junior Library** - Friday, March 16, 1:00-2:00 p.m. - beginners-friendly class, ages 7 & up.

**Easter Egg Dyeing** - Saturday, March 30, drop in between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

## Story Times

- **Toddler Playscape Fun Time:** Mondays weekly, March 4 - April 8, 10:00-11:00 a.m.
- **Morning Toddler:** Fridays weekly, March 1 - April 12, 10:30-11:15 a.m. A simple program of stories, finger plays, flannel board activities, music and crafts designed for two-year-olds.
- **Afternoon Preschool:** Fridays weekly, March 1 - April 12, 2:15-3:00 p.m. This program includes music, finger play, crafts and books!

## Afterschool Story Times

- **Kindergarten & 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Storycraft:** Tuesdays, 3:30-4:15 p.m., March 5 – April 8.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Storycraft:** Thursdays, 3:30-4:15 p.m., March 7 – April 11.

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

**Spring Saturday Family Programs:** Saturday programs continue in March, April and May, 1:00-2:00 p.m. for multiple ages—**registration is required**.

**Winter Reading Challenge:** Continues through March 31. Complete a challenge for a chance to win one of two winter-themed gift baskets or a free book in March!

*(continues on the next page)*

# Hollister House Garden 2024 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 all workshops and strongly suggested for lectures. A 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 and to register.

## APRIL

**Friday, April 5 – 4:30–6:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, April 6 – 1:00–2:30 p.m.**

Join us and learn about the different volunteer opportunities available this season at Hollister House Garden. Please sign up on our website [hollisterhousegarden.org/volunteer](http://hollisterhousegarden.org/volunteer).

**Friday, April 19 – 10:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.**

### **Watercolor Workshop: “Tulips” led by Betsy Rogers-Knox**

Celebrate spring and capture the vibrant colors of tulips in this one-day watercolor workshop with artist Betsy Rogers-Knox. All levels welcome.

**Friday, April 19 – 1:00–4:00 p.m.**

### **Opening Day at Hollister Garden**

Hollister House Garden opens for the season today. We hope you'll plan a visit soon! Opening hours Wednesday 1–4 p.m., Friday 1–4 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. –4 p.m.

**Saturday, April 20 – 10:00–11:30 a.m.**

### **Spring Bulbs in the Border with Eric Hsu**

Learn how to create stunning borders by mixing a variety of bulbs with herbaceous perennials and woody plants for maximum effect.

**Saturday, April 27 – 9:30–11:30 a.m.**

### **Understanding Trees: A Walking Tour of the Trees of Hollister House Garden with Chris Roddick.**

Learn to read the life stories of trees on this special guided walking tour. Explore the fundamental relationships trees form with other organisms and learn how you can be a better steward for the trees in your care.



## MAY

**Saturday, May 4 – 10:00–11:30 a.m.**

### **Reading the Landscape: Design Solutions Inspired by Nature with Heather Lijengren**

Get intimate with our local native flora while learning simple design techniques to create a functioning space that's both beautiful and supportive to wildlife.

**Friday, May 10 – 5:00–7:00 p.m.**

### **Evening in the Garden**

Delight in the beauty of the garden while enjoying a glass of wine at the first of our special summer evening hours.

**Saturday, May 11 – 1:00–4:00 p.m.**

### **Sumi-e Painting Workshop: Magnolia Buds and Blossoms led by Joanne Wasti**

Learn the basic techniques of sumi-e,

Japanese black ink painting. Suitable for all levels, materials will be provided.

**Friday, May 17 – 4:00–7:00 p.m. &**

**Saturday, May 18 – 10:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.**

### **Dig Into Gardening Weekend Workshop with Daryl Byers**

Dig deep into the fundamentals of gardening in this fun, weekend-long gardening intensive workshop. A lively combination of classroom instruction and hands-on activities will teach you the optimal way to plant, mulch, water, feed and weed.

**Saturday, May 25 - 10:00–11:30 a.m.**

### **Keeping Garden Fit with Madeline Hooper**

Learn how to work stronger and longer with Madeline Hooper, creator and host of the popular public television series “Garden Fit.”

## JUNE

**Saturday, June 1 – 10:00–11:30 a.m.**

### **Color in the Garden - Friend or Foe? with George Schoellkopf**

Get color to work for you. Create beautiful effects and avoid the trap of allowing misplaced colors to disrupt the harmony of your garden.

**Saturday, June 1 – 1:00–4:00 p.m.**

### **Botanical Block Printing Workshop led by Joanne Wasti**

Learn how to carve linoleum blocks to make your own original botanical prints, using Hollister House Garden as inspiration.

**Sunday, June 2 – 1:00–4:00 p.m.**

### **Family Day**

Join us in the garden for a special afternoon of fun and exploration celebrating our youngest gardeners and friends!

*(Gunn Library—continued)*

## **Tween Programs**

• **Drop-in Game Club:** 6th grade and up, Saturdays Feb 17, March 16 and May 18, 11:00 a.m.

• **4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Book Clubs:** Mondays, 3:30–4:15 p.m., March 4 - April 8. Reading “Aru Shah and the End of Times” by

Roshani Chokshi.

• **6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Book Clubs:** Mondays, 2:30–3:15 p.m., March 4 - April 8. Reading “City Spies” by James Ponti.

• **May the 4<sup>th</sup> Be With You:** Star Wars-themed activities and crafts, 4th grade and up, Saturday, May 4, 11:00 a.m. –12:00 p.m.

• **Tween Gaming Center** at the Gunn Memorial Library daily for grades 5 and up, per staff availability. Games include FIFA 23, Super Mario Kart, Pokémon, Bluey and Sonic Lego Worlds.

## **Stairwell Gallery Exhibits**

• “Atmospheric Abstractions” by Edward Muszala from March 23 - May 18, 2024.

# The Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens

Breathe in deep—can you smell the scent of spring in the air? As the earth begins to stir and wake from its winter slumber, we at The Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens are busy as bees getting ready for a fun-filled season ahead.

## Art

Another fantastic year of art exhibits begins with a collection of pieces by Yale MFA students and recent graduates of the painting department. This show will be followed by the annual Region 12 Student Art Show during Memorial Day weekend.

## Plant Sale & Gardenpalooza

Our fourth annual Plant Sale & Gardenpalooza will be held on Saturday, May 18 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. A variety of annuals and perennials will be available from Meadowbrook Gardens. Stock up on plants to start or add to your home



garden. Additionally, there are plans to have a vendor selling pots, planters and garden decor. There will also be community organizations on-site to share about various projects and initiatives they are involved in.

## Farmers Market

Did you know that our market was voted

among the top three in Litchfield County in 2024 by Litchfield Magazine's Reader's Choice Awards? Well, mark your calendars to come check out what makes our market one of the best around! Opening day of our weekly farmers market is Saturday, May 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Our vendors offer a diverse selection of locally grown, raised and produced food: heirloom fruits and vegetables, artisan cheeses and dairy products, gourmet bakery items and bread, fresh seafood, prepared foods and more. Plus, opening day will feature live music and a kid's activity, too!

## Enjoy the Park

Lastly, we invite the entire community to come relax at and enjoy the park as the weather warms up! Read a book while sitting on a bench, lay on a blanket on the grass and soak up the warmth of the spring sun, or bring the kids to play on the lawn with a picnic. We look forward to seeing you at the park!

# Washington Environmental Council

## No Idling Initiative

The Washington Environmental Council and the Washington Sustainability Committee's NO IDLING initiative continues. Please notice the signs around town to spread awareness!

Did you know?

- Idling your vehicle for just 10 minutes can use as much fuel as traveling 5 miles
- 10 seconds of idling wastes more fuel than restarting
- Pollutants and toxic gasses 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)
- 3.8 million gallons of fuel is wasted by idling in the U.S. every day

## Food Scraps Program

The food scraps drop-off program at the Transfer Station is in full swing! Residents can drop off food scraps for compost at 57 Clark Rd. in Washington, CT. Transfer

station hours are from 8:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. daily (closed on Thursday and Sunday). Guidelines and more information can be found on the town website at [www.washingtonct.org](http://www.washingtonct.org) or by calling 860-868-0188. For more information on composting, visit [www.curbcompost.org](http://www.curbcompost.org).

## Annual Environmental Scholarships

WEC is now accepting applications for our 2024 environmental scholarships! Visit [www.wec-ct.org/scholarships](http://www.wec-ct.org/scholarships) for more information or to apply today. Deadline is Monday, April 15.

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 or email [lauren@wec-ct.org](mailto:lauren@wec-ct.org) to find out how you can get involved!



## What's New at the Senior Center?

**Walking Club** ~ 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 George and let's get moving! Wednesdays at 9:30am.

**Fun & Games** ~ Every Thursday at 2pm. Tables will be setup for Mah Jong, Scrabble, Rummy Cup and Yahtzee. Call the center to sign up!

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

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

**Balance Class** ~ Thursday's at 2pm.

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



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

Visit **ExploreWashingtonCT.com**, the official community website for events, things to do, shopping, dining and happenings around town. Sign up for "This Month in Washington" e-news to stay in the loop on all things Washington! Just click on the envelope icon at the top of the website to sign-up.



Visit **washingtonct.org**, the town's website for municipal and departmental information. To sign up for weekly e-news from the First Selectman, look for the envelope icon on the website.

## Washington Refugee Resettlement Project

The Awrang family recently celebrated their second anniversary as residents of Litchfield County, CT. They remain very grateful to all the supporters of the WRRP who have helped them adjust to their new home.

Calligraphic artist Alibaba Awrang received rave reviews for his first museum exhibition in the United States, *Uprooted: From Afghanistan to Connecticut*, at the Mattatuck Museum, which he shared with Afghan potter Matin Malikzada. Among the visitors to the show were the curators of the Islamic Art Department of the Metropolitan Museum in New York City. The curators and a group of the Met's Friends of Islamic Art toured the exhibition and enjoyed the artists' demonstration of the creation of their art.

If you missed the Mattatuck show, art lovers and friends of the Awrang's have another opportunity to admire (and maybe purchase) Alibaba's calligraphy at an exhibition of his work at the Five Points Annex, 15 Water Street in Torrington, from March 2-10. <https://fivepointsarts.org>. The Opening Reception will be on Saturday, March 2, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. See the flyer for days and

hours. For a private appointment, email [martha12@optonline.net](mailto:martha12@optonline.net).

Awrang has been invited to participate in the Smithsonian National Museum of Asian

Art's annual celebration of Nowruz to honor the Persian New Year in March. He'll give calligraphy demonstrations and show his work during the twelfth edition of this very popular program.

# ALIBABA AWRANG

MASTER CALLIGRAPHER

MARCH 2-10, 2024

**FIVE POINTS ANNEX**  
15 WATER STREET TORRINGTON, CT

MARCH 2	OPENING RECEPTION	4-6 PM
MARCH 8	RECEPTION	5-7 PM
MARCH 23/6/10	HOURS	12-6 PM
MARCH 8	HOURS	12-7 PM
BY APPOINTMENT	EMAIL	MARTHA12@OPTONLINE.NET

**Washington**  
Refugee Resettlement Project

# Steep Rock Upcoming Programs, Events, and Volunteer Opportunities

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

## Volunteer Info Event

Tuesday, March 19, 2024 @ 5:00PM

Steep Rock House, 116 Christian St, New Preston

The Information Meeting begins at 5:00PM, followed by a gathering around the firepit at 5:30PM. Learn about volunteer opportunities and celebrate our dedicated volunteers.

## Volunteer Appreciation Firepit Event

Tuesday, March 19, 2024 @ 5:30PM

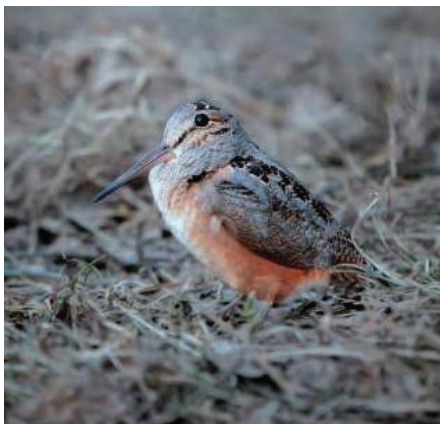
Steep Rock House, 116 Christian St, New Preston

Gather around the firepit for refreshments and join us as we celebrate our dedicated volunteers.

## Virtual Speaker Series – Bountiful Backyard Harvests

Thursday, March 28, 2024 @ 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Explore sustainable gardening with Patrick Horan from Waldingfield Farm and discover eco-friendly techniques for vegetable gardening. Via Zoom.



## Timberdoodling - A Family Workshop

Friday, April 12, 2024 @ 7:00PM-8:00PM

Macricostas Preserve, 124 Christian St, New Preston

Join us for a delightful family evening observing the unique woodcock (or timberdoodle). Witness these robust birds perform mesmerizing aerial breeding displays and sneak into position for a close encounter. All ages.



## Trail Manager Training

Saturday, April 13, 2024 @ 9:30AM - 12:00PM

Macricostas Preserve, 124 Christian St, New Preston

Help us keep our trails in tip-top shape by becoming a Trail

Manager. Ages 16+.



## Virtual Speaker Series – Establish Pollinator Pathways in Your Backyard

Thursday, April 18, 2024 @ 6:00PM - 7:00PM

John Markelon, President of the Litchfield Land Trust, will share how to "Establish Pollinator Pathways in Your Backyard." Via Zoom.

## Monthly Trail Work Party

Every third Saturday, April 20, 2024, through November 16, 2024 @ 10:00AM – 12:30PM

Contribute to trail maintenance and enhancement. Ages 16+.

## Spring Wildflower Walk

Saturday, May 11, 2024 @ 10:00AM  
Hidden Valley Preserve, 198 Bee Brook Rd, Washington Depot

Discover the beauty of spring wildflowers. Limited to 12 guests, this event is led by SRA Naturalists Peary and BK Stafford.

## Summer Saunters with SRA

Thursday, May 16, 2024 @ 5:00PM  
Steep Rock Preserve, 2 Tunnel Rd, Washington Depot

Join Executive Director Brian Hagenbuch on a casual walk at Steep Rock Preserve. All ages.

## Rossiter Run 5K Race & Fun Run

Sunday, May 19, 2024 @ 9:00AM

Steep Rock Preserve, 2 Tunnel Rd, Washington Depot

Join us for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K race at Steep Rock Preserve.

## Celestial Celebration: Women's Full Moon Hike

Thursday, May 23, 2024 @ 6:30PM-9:00PM

Macricostas Preserve, 124 Christian St, New Preston

Connect with nature and like-minded women during this moonlit hike. Ages 13+.

## Judea Garden

Macricostas Preserve, 124 Christian St, New Preston

Judea Garden has contributed over 50,000 pounds of fresh vegetables for those in need. For more volunteer information, contact [denise.arturi@steeprockassoc.org](mailto:denise.arturi@steeprockassoc.org).



**Spring Cleaning** – April 6, 2024, @ 1:00-4:00PM - Get the Garden ready for the upcoming season.

**Early Planting Day** - April 21, 2024 @ 1:00 – 4:00 PM - Plant those cool weather plants.

**Spring Planting Day** - May 11, 2024 @ 1:00 – 4:00PM - Help us sow the garden with seeds and plants.

**Summer Planting Day** - May 25 & 26, 2024 @ 9:00AM – 12:00 PM - Help us get those warmer weather plants in the ground.

# Washington Art Association News

Washington Art Association is pleased to announce its **24<sup>th</sup> Annual Member Exhibition**, curated by Pamela Szybel and Souby Boski. The Exhibition, running from March 9 until April 7, showcases the work of over 100 of Washington Art Association's members! It will include paintings, works on paper, photography and sculpture. Works will be judged by Meg Hitchcock and awards will be given in each medium, thanks to generous patrons and art collectors Margaret Ferguson, Dan Sherr and Elizabeth Richebourg Rea.

Please join us for our Opening Reception on Saturday, March 9, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Awards will be given at 5:00 p.m.



**Design by John Campagna**

Washington Art Association is located at 4 Bryan Memorial Plaza in Washington Depot. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

# Parks & Recreation



## Pickle Ball

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at Washington Primary School

7:30 p.m.- 9 p.m.

Please register on our website- space is limited.

## Washington Trivia by Shelia Anson, Town Clerk

What is the oldest bridge over a former state highway in Washington/New Preston?

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

**Question from the last issue:** What was the cafeteria at Washington Primary School called during the Washington High School years and what events took place there besides providing school lunches?

**Answer:** The Rainbow Room provided school lunches, study hall, detention hall, middle school graduations, athletic awards ceremonies, and an occasional dance after Friday basketball games.

*What's Happening in Washington, CT* is organized and printed through the Washington Economic Development Committee. [mgorra.washingtonct.org](http://mgorra.washingtonct.org)  
Look for our next issue, coming out in June.

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