

Washington, CT

Welcome To Summer In Washington!

As we relish the resurgence of activity at the Town Beach, Hollister House Garden, the Farmers Market, the camps, the Green Fair and other summer events, we should pause to appreciate the volunteers and town employees who make it all possible. It's easy to assume that these things will always be here, but a lot of time and talent go into ensuring that our unique quality of life endures for all to enjoy. These outward indicators of the "Washington lifestyle" are neither organic nor ordained; all the things we hold dear in our Town – our villages, institutions, and open spaces – must be stewarded for future generations.

With that in mind, we want to know what you think. The Washington Planning Commission is updating the Town's ten-year Plan of Conservation and Development



and needs your views as we assess the opportunities and threats in the decade ahead – from infrastructure to invasive species, from affordable housing to arts and recreation, from staffing to sustainable practices.

A working document (text only) of the plan update is now available for review on our web page (washingtonct.org)

“Plans are useless, but planning is everything.”

— Gen. Dwight Eisenhower

planning-commission). Maps, charts and appendix items are being readied and will be uploaded as they become available. We'll be holding gatherings in New Preston, Marbledale, the Green and the Depot in June and July to present our work to date and enlist your help in crafting a long-range plan worthy of this great community. Be on the lookout for info on times and locations.

Enjoy the summer!
Wayne Hileman
Chair – Washington Planning Commission

Message from the Selectmen's Office

As we look forward to the summer months and our "busy season" here in Washington, the Board of Selectmen would like to recognize the contributions of two of our most active residents. While our entire town survives and thrives through the efforts of our dedicated volunteers, these two individuals have logged countless volunteer hours for the betterment of our townspeople. Much of what we see and enjoy today are the direct result of the efforts of Dan Sherr and Tony Bedini.

Dan Sherr has been a charter member and driving force on the Washington Economic Development Committee (WEDC). He recognized from the beginning the need for a thriving and successful business community as integral to the health of the entire community as a whole. Dan was instrumental in efforts to improve the Senior Center and increased programming for our elderly residents. He also played a leading role in promoting our town on a

variety of social media platforms, creating a greater visibility for our business community as well as all of our civic organizations.

For many, many years, Tony Bedini has been a driving force for all things Washington. He has served on the WEDC, Chairman of the Inland/Wetlands Commission, and member of the Board of Selectmen to name just a few. He also played a key role on the Building and Property Commission for many years. Tony laid the groundwork for the current policies we use today for maintaining and enhancing all of our town property's.

If you should see Dan or Tony around town, be sure to say hello. The Board of Selectmen thank them for their tireless efforts in making Washington the amazing community it is.

Board of Selectmen
Jim Brinton
Jay Hubelbank
Dean Sarjeant

Summer's big kick off!

COMMUNITY Block PARTY

Friday June 7th 5:30-8:00

The Depot

fun & creative outdoor activities

Live music
Outdoor games
Food samples
Wine tasting
Outdoor movie

Sponsored by Washington Business Association & Washington Parks and Recreation

Spotlight on Business: County Wine & Spirits

Welcome to County Wine & Spirits, where you might just be greeted by the friendly presence of Tucker, the lovable canine companion, in a laid-back atmosphere. In 2015, Laurie and Dennis White embarked on their journey as owners of County Wine, taking over from Bill Fore. Dennis, with deep roots in the Lake Waramaug area, was drawn to the store by his fondness for the region. Despite his background in construction, Dennis's passion for wine traces back to the 1980s when he first ventured into the wine industry.

The Whites had a vision of owning a wine store that embodied a personal touch, and when they discovered County Wine & Spirits, they knew it was the perfect fit. They were enamored with the store's existing tradition and the welcoming ambiance created by a fantastic team, led by Jamie Webb, with over 25 years of wine expertise. Jamie is dedicated to curating a selection that highlights wines from small vineyards, always seeking out exceptional quality and value for their customers.

During the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, they were grateful to remain open, continuing to serve their customers with personalized wine cases tailored to their tastes and introducing them to exciting new varieties. They also offer convenient delivery services and specialize in crafting unique gift baskets, perfect for any occasion. Need help pairing wine with cheese? They carry a selection from Murray's in Manhattan and are happy to assist.

Looking to the future, Laurie and Dennis are committed to the long-term success of County Wine & Spirits. They dream of expanding their offerings and eventually adding a tasting room to enhance the customer experience. For them, owning this store is not just a job—it's a passion. They derive immense joy from keeping their customers satisfied and plan to continue doing what they love for years to come. You can find County Wine & Spirits located at 178 New Milford Turnpike in New Preston, open Monday through Saturday from 10 am to 7 pm and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. Come visit us and discover a world of great wine, spirits, cigars, and more, served with a personal touch and a warm welcome.



Working Together for Housing in Washington

Those of us who have a home in Washington are blessed by the incredible resources available. We're surrounded by preserved land which allows us to take advantage of all nature has to offer. The public and private schools our children can attend provide for unequaled educational opportunities. The many cultural activities allow us to enjoy music and art. Our merchants, professionals, essential volunteers, and our workforce serve us well. The Housing Commission and the Washington Community Housing Trust (WCHT) are working together to provide more diverse housing opportunities in our town.

The WCHT is a nonprofit that acquires the land and oversees the construction and management of affordable housing. Thanks to generous donors and financial support from the Town of Washington, the WCHT has developed 37 affordable apartments among three properties and three affordable homes for purchase. Currently, the WCHT has had two new properties donated to them. A property on Baldwin Hill has had feasibility studies completed with funds given to the Trust from the Housing Commission. An application has been made for a multitown grant to support the building of a one family house. A 30-acre property was recently donated to the Trust and will need feasibility studies.

The Housing Commission is a commission appointed by the Board of Selectmen to study housing needs in Washington and works to implement the 2022-27 Housing Plan with the Zoning and Planning Commissions. Through the town budget, the Commission supports the activities of the WCHT and provides down payment assistance to new homeowners. With the combined volunteer efforts of the WCHT and the Housing Commission, more diverse housing opportunities exist and will continue to grow.

Please come celebrate with us as two families officially become Housatonic Habitat for Humanity homeowners and are warmly welcomed to the beautiful Town of Washington. We'll be co-hosting a "Home Dedication" on June 29 at 11:00 am in Town Hall.



SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 2024 AT 11 AM
WASHINGTON TOWN HALL
2 Bryan Hall Plaza, Washington Depot, CT 06794

Town Taxes Due July 1 to August 1

Town of Washington personal property taxes are based on ownership as of the Grand List date **October 1, 2023** and become payable at the beginning of the fiscal year, **July 1, 2024**. The last day to pay without interest is **August 1**.

New tax bills will be mailed on June 26 and posted on the town website July 1. You cannot pay nor look up your new tax bills online prior to July 1. The tax office will be closed for fiscal year-end on June 27 and 28.

Questions regarding assessments or motor vehicle tax bill issues should be addressed to the **Assessor's office @ 860-868-0398** prior to paying your tax bills.

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, 2025, tax liens will be applied. If motor vehicle taxes remain unpaid as of August 2, 2024, they will be reported to the DMV.

Region 12 News

Dear Washington Community,

The eclipse in April encouraged teachers to focus on a teachable moment - an awe-inspiring celestial phenomenon. Students at Washington Primary School and our other elementaries across the district accompanied their teachers outside for a special viewing that afternoon. Region 12 provided every student with ISO approved solar eclipse glasses so they could view the event safely, both at school and at home. The eclipse was not only something that will resonate with students for a lifetime, but it allowed teachers and students to witness and enjoy the experience together.



The play “Matilda,” produced by students and staff at Shepaug Valley School, was a resounding success. Community feedback was extremely positive, and many audience-goers praised the production for its “stand out” performances. Just prior to the opening on April 7, elementary students at Washington Primary and from across the district traveled to Shepaug as a field trip to view a condensed version of the play. Needless to say, students thoroughly enjoyed the experience of seeing a famous children’s book by Roald Dahl come to life on stage.

The Shepaug band and chorus held a concert on May 7 to a fully engaged

audience and led by both Mark Obolewicz and Beth Harvison. Student singers and band members entertained parents and community members. The event was a positive musical experience, despite the lights going out for a period of time. But as they say, *the show must go on!*

Throughout the district, our students and staff have been engaged in state-mandated testing, including SAT and AP exams at Shepaug. While this is often a bit stressful for our learners, the support of our staff to prepare students has allowed this annual academic period to run smoothly. Meanwhile, at the elementary level, students at Washington have worked diligently on their passion projects, which is meant to provide voice and choice to students and empower them to explore topics that are meaningful to them. Fifth graders at Washington Primary School continue to practice for their play and will visit the Agriscience Academy at Shepaug on May 17.

Our Shepaug teams have enjoyed a successful athletic season, and soon the beginning of the CIAC tournaments will be here. As reported by Matt Perachi, Shepaug Valley School Athletic Director, “Currently, the baseball team sits alone in first place in the Berkshire League, with a league record of 11-1 (12-3 overall) and a handful of



games left on the schedule. The boys’ tennis team sits atop the Berkshire League with an 11-0 league record (13-0 overall) with a big showdown with Nonnewaug looming that will dictate first place in the league.” Further, Matt noted that the softball team holds the top spot in the Berkshire League with an 11-0 league record (13-2 overall), with two hard-fought wins over state powerhouse Newtown on their resume, as well as two very close and exciting one-run losses to Oxford and New Milford. The track & field teams are in preparation for the May 18 Berkshire League Championship meet in Litchfield, and the girls’ tennis team is busy preparing for both the upcoming Berkshire League and CIAC tournaments. *For the latest Shepaug Spartan scores and schedules, please be sure to check the Shepaug Athletics pages on the Region 12 website.*

We are now only weeks away from the close of a wonderful school year and graduation for our seniors. I know everyone across the community is anxious to start the summer and spend quality time with family and friends. Wishing everyone in the Washington community a beautiful summer!

Respectfully,

Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue,
Interim Superintendent

He’s Coming Back!



Join in with the annual Find Waldo hunt all through Washington Depot during July!

More details available at The Hickory Stick Bookshop.



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.



ASAP!® Upcoming Programs

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

ASAP! Celebrates 25 Years in Washington

June 1, 2024, Thomas S Perakos Arts & Community Center, Frederick Gunn School

ASAP! will celebrate 25 years of arts-infused education programming with surprise hosts, entertaining performances, live music, and an exhibition of student work on Saturday, June 1. ASAP!'s innovative in-school, after-school, and summer programs have brought joyful learning to thousands of people around CT each year since 1999. Thanks to our community and local businesses for supporting their mission to foster hands-on learning through the arts. You can support the next 25 years of accessible arts-integrated learning at asapct.org.



Celebration of Young Writers

Friday, June 21, 2024

Join us for our 19th Annual Celebration of Young Writers! Top selected students from across Connecticut will share short stories, poetry, and prose at Spring Hill Vineyards on Friday, June 21, 2024

at 6pm. This special evening will be hosted by Ellen McCourt and feature professional spoken word artists. The event is free to attend; pre registration is required at asapct.org.

ASAP! Summer Camp August 5-16, 2024, Grades 1-10

ASAP!'s arts and nature camp is back at Rumsey Hall School for a second year! Campers in grades 1-6 will experience puppetry, circus, painting, clay, rock climbing, nature, and field games. Campers in grades 7-10 will be outdoors exploring nature, and will

experiment with visual and performing arts, cooking, and music. Only 15 spots left! ASAP! is hiring summer camp counselors 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.



The Washington Friends of Music

The Washington Friends of Music 2024 Classical Music Festival will be held on Fridays at 5:30 p.m. on August 16, 23, 30, and September 6 in the Historic Meeting House, First Congregational Church at the Washington Green, 6 Kirby Road.

For over ten years, the Washington Friends of Music (WFM) concerts have become events not to be missed, attracting classical music lovers from all over Western Connecticut and beyond. Artistic Director and world-class cellist Wendy Sutter will present a varied program spanning the baroque and classical periods to the 20th century with a stellar cast of musicians, prominent soloists, and principal players, including members of the New York Philharmonic, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, and the NYC Ballet Orchestra, who perform in the U.S. and internationally.



These superb artists come to Washington to perform a unique concert series exclusively designed for this festival, featuring Bach, Mozart, Schubert, Dvorak, Mendelssohn, and other fine composers. After the performance the audience is invited to meet the artists and enjoy bubbly and snacks.

The concerts by WFM, a nonprofit charitable organization, are made possible in part by the Northwest CT Community Foundation and the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of the Arts, which also receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Details and ticket information are on the WFM website; please scan the QR code or go to WashingtonCT4Music@blogspot.com. Tickets can also be purchased at the Hickory Stick Bookshop in Washington Depot and at County Wine & Spirits in New Preston. Children and students are welcome free of charge.



Gunn Memorial Library & Museum www.gunnlibrary.org

News & Highlights

The Gunn Memorial Library aims to launch the Makerspace by the summer of 2024. The new Makerspace is a creative hub that promotes learning, collaboration, and innovation, creating a space where ideas thrive and individuals come together to explore their interests.

With the backing of the Northwest CT Community Foundation Khurshed Bhungara Fund, the generous grant has played a vital role in kickstarting this innovative project, and we sincerely appreciate their commitment to enhancing our community through education and creativity.

*** Registration is required for all programs.** Visit www.gunnlibrary.org for more program information and to register.

Adult Programs

Monday Movie Matinees continue **every Monday, 1:00 pm** in the Wykeham Room (except the second Monday of each month).

Puzzle Contest - Two evenings of fun jigsaw challenges between-teams of 4; Thursdays, 7/11 & 8/1, 6:00-7:30 pm

YA Writing Club - A unique, creative writing club for young adults and adults aiming to enhance their writing skills. Led by Natalie Klemm. Fridays, June 28, July 12, 19, 26, and August 2, 3:00 - 4:00 pm. ***(No July 5)**

Cafe, Croissants & French Conversation
Two French conversation sessions for intermediate and fluent French speakers, Thursdays, July 18 & August 15, 3:00-4:00 pm

Adult Summer Reading Challenge - June 22 – August 3

Bronze, silver or gold? The 2024 Summer Olympics are upon us. The library presents a unique summer reading challenge, aiming to expand your horizons, spark creativity, and inspire you.

Gunn Memorial Library Book Clubs:

Friday Afternoon Book Club meets on the second Friday of each month, June 14 & August 9, 1:00-2:00 pm ***(No July meeting)**
Thursday Evening Book Club meets on the fourth Thursday of each month, June 27 & August 22, 6:00-7:00 pm ***(No July meeting)**

Special July Saturday Book Discussion to discuss the Pulitzer prize-winning book, "A Covenant of Water" by Abraham Verghese - Saturday, July 20, 1:00-2:00 pm

Junior Programs:

*** All programs are free - Registration is required**

Hollister House Gardens Family Day - Two children's story times; Sunday, June 2, 1:00-4:00 pm.

Two's Time - Fridays, June 7-August 2, 11:00 am-12:00 pm - seasonal themes for preschoolers and friendly social time for moms

Summer Reading Book Club (4th & 5th Grade) - June 20-August 1, 3:15-4:15 pm - Fulfill your summer reading with us while enjoying pizza and engaging discussions.

Mario Kart Madness: Weekly Racing Adventures (4th & 5th grade) - Tuesdays, June 25-July 16, 4:00-5:00 pm; Gear up for high-speed fun and friendly competition!

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, Sonic Superstars, and Lego Worlds.

JR Summer: Grab your passport, participate in our programs, and meet the challenge!



"Around the World Adventure" Summer Reading 2024 begins June 22 to August 3. This is a collaboration – Roxbury, Bridgewater, and Washington are joining forces again to coordinate a summer reading passport and events, offering something for everyone.

Check neighboring library calendars for more information.

Minor Memorial Library: www.minormemoriamlibrary.org/childrenslibrary/

Burnham Public Library: <https://burnhamlibrary.org/>

Summer Reading Kick-off Winnie the Pooh Story Time with Steep Rock Assoc. - Gunn Memorial Library, Saturday, June 22, check-in time at 11:00 am. Children all ages are welcome.

Litchfield County 4-H Programs - Gunn Memorial Library, Washington - TBA (4 weeks in July)

Makerspace Fun - Gunn Memorial Library, Washington - Friday, July 12, 11:00 am

Magical Beasts & Where to Find Them - Burnham Library, Bridgewater - Saturday, July 20, 11:00 am

Casey Carle's Bubblemania: Comedy with Drop - Minor Memorial Library, Roxbury - Saturday, July 27, 11:00 am

Last day to turn in Summer Reading tickets - Saturday, August 3.

End your summer travel adventure in **Mad Science: Fizzy Potion Explosions (K-6) - Hurlburt Park, Roxbury, CT** - Saturday, August 3, 11:00 am - Learn about gasses and reactions with mad experiments! Soda geysers, seltzer fountains, water rockets, crazy foam, and more!

Summer Outreach Programs:

Washington Block Party - Friday, June 7, 5:30 pm

Hollister House Gardens Story Time - Sunday, June 2, 1:00-4:00 pm

Washington Beach Club - TBS

Judea Gardens/Steep Rock programs - TBA

Washington Park & Rec - TBA

Lake Waramaug Country Club - TBA

Stairwell Gallery Exhibits:

"Wonderful World of Peter Barrett," watercolor and oil on canvas, by Peter Barrett: *Saturday, May 25 - Saturday, July 20, 2024*

"Litchfield Hills in Mind," oil landscapes by Dennis Stuart: *Saturday, July 27 - Saturday, September 9, 2024*

Gunn Museum

Gunn Museum Exhibit:

"Letters Home," the experiences of Helen Wersbe, World War II Army Nurse.

(continues on the next page)

Hollister House Garden 2024 Summer Events



Join us as we welcome summer 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/

JUNE

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

Saturday, June 1, 10:00 am-1:30 pm

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

Botanical Block Printing Workshop led by Joanne Wasti

Saturday, June 1, 1:00-4:00 pm

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

Family Day

Sunday, June 2, 1:00-4:00 pm

Join us in the garden for a special afternoon of fun and exploration as we celebrate our youngest gardeners and friends! Free admission.

Garden Design Studio: A Weekend Workshop

Friday, June 7 -Sunday, June 9

Craft your vision and map out a plan for your garden as you explore the core principles of garden design in this hands-on, weekend workshop.

Evening in the Garden

Friday, June 14, 6:00-8:00 pm

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 while enjoying a glass of wine.

Hydrangeas for Adventurous Gardeners Saturday, June 15, 10:00-11:30 am

Hydrangeas are among the most impressive shrubs available for adding late season color and flair to the garden. Join Broken Arrow Nursery's horticulture and plant development manager, Adam Wheeler, for an informative lecture that demystifies this complex group of plants and showcases some of the very best new selections.

Garden Journaling-Vignettes

Friday, June 28, 10:00 am-3:30 pm

Join us as we use our garden journal to create several watercolor vignettes. Hollister Hour with its pathways and garden rooms will be the inspiration for capturing scenes and vistas that incorporate multiple elements.



JULY

Evening in the Garden

Friday, July 12, 6:00-8:00 pm

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 while enjoying a glass of wine.

Daylily Blossoms Watercolor Workshop Friday, July 26, 10 am-3:30 pm

Learn how to mix and layer light washes of color to capture the rich tones of daylily blooms with noted watercolorist Betsy Rogers-Knox.

AUGUST

Evening in the Garden

Saturday, August 16, 6:00-8:00 pm

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 while enjoying a glass of wine.

Arranging Homegrown Flowers

Saturday, August 24, 11:00 am-1:30 pm

From low, lush table arrangements to stately vertical focal displays, discover imaginative ways to create loose, informal flower arrangements in this hands-on workshop.

Garden Party

Saturday, September 7, 4 – 7 pm

A festive evening with music by the Gene Bozzi Quartet, cocktails, hors-d'oeuvres and a very special Silent Auction.

Garden Tour

Sunday, September 8, 10 am- 4 pm

A special opportunity to visit several extraordinary private gardens in Washington and Roxbury.

(Gunn Library—continued)

Cemetery Walking Tour - Tuesday, July 23 at 1:00 pm

Join us as we learn the history of the rural cemetery movement and honor our past residents.

Registration is required as space is limited.

History Book Club meets on the second Monday of each month, Mondays, June 10, July 8 & August 1, 1:00-2:00 pm.

Archaeology Without Digging: Connecticut History Uncovered by

Ground-Penetrating Radar - Zoom Lecture Monday June 3 at 6:30 pm by Nicholas F. Bellantoni, PhD on ground-penetrating radar at historic sites in CT. The lecture will focus on the findings at Jeff Liberty's grave in Judea Cemetery.

The Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens

Summer is finally here with its lush foliage, heady scents of flowers on the breeze and abundant sunshine. We at The Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens are looking forward to a summer filled with fun events.

Farmers Market

The weekly farmers market is now in full swing, running every Saturday from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. 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. Rotating bands and musicians will be providing live music at the market throughout the season.

Movie Nights

Another fantastic series of outdoor Summer Movie Nights is planned for this season, sponsored by **National Iron Bank**. Come to the park on Friday, June 7 for “Guys and Dolls” in addition to the annual town-wide block party, “The Fugitive” on July 12, “Erin Brockovich” on August 2 and “The Goodbye Girl” on September 6. These movies roll at dusk and are free and open to the public. Folks are encouraged to



bring their own chairs, blankets, food and beverages to enjoy the evening.

Art

Our first art show of the year featured a fantastic collection of pieces by AP art students at **Shepaug Valley School** and **The Frederick Gunn School**. This was followed by an exhibit featuring works by **Anastasya Peña**. Our current show by **Jack Rosenberg** will run through June 16. Other upcoming summer exhibits include a joint show by **Alicia Mordenti** and **Stephanie Johnson** from June 21 through July 7, **Hugh Kepets**, July 12 through 28, a joint show by **Adam Rogers** and Dennis

Flaherty August 2 through 18 and **Brendan O’Connell** August 23 through September 8.

Plant Sale & Gardenpalooza

Our fourth annual Plant Sale & Gardenpalooza in May was great fun with people and families coming out to shop for a variety of annuals and perennials from Meadowbrook Gardens, learn about the various projects and initiatives local community organizations are involved in and participate in games, crafts and activities.

Water Bottle Refill Station

As you frequent the park this season, you may notice a new feature—a water bottle refill station was recently installed! Thanks to the efforts of the park’s sustainability committee, spearheaded by Chrissy Armstrong, what started as an idea has finally become a reality. This refill station is part of our commitment to environmental stewardship, encouraging park visitors to bring their own reusable bottles to help reduce single-use plastic ones.

For more information about the park and our upcoming events, visit judyblackpark.org.

Common Ground with Jane Whitney: A Celebration of America’s Democracy

In the face of blinding polarization before November’s balloting, *Common Ground with Jane Whitney* is proud to present ‘Common Ground October,’ a PBS celebration of America’s democracy – its storied past, its complex present, and its hopeful future.

Join us at the Frederick Gunn School for expert conversations aimed at bridging the pernicious partisan divide that has come to define politics, bolstering democratic principles, and offering context, clarity, and hope as the election approaches.

Community members are invited to join us at The Tisch Family Auditorium at the Thomas S. Perakos Arts and Community Center for live tapings of the first three

episodes of the festival on **August 25, September 8, and September 22, 2024.**

The three episodes will focus on the fight to sustain democracy – and what Americans can do to reinforce the country’s constitutional guardrails. We will explore the state of the ‘American Dream,’ examining the stark cleavage between the haves and have-nots, the values that drive economic policy, and the connections between our political and economic crises. We will also add historical context to this specific moment in time through conversations with distinguished thought leaders who can offer the calming reassurance that America has weathered such storms before and can prevail again.

The Democracy Festival wraps up with a virtual celebration of Hope, Healing and Humor, spotlighting a few of our favorite conversations that are able to cut through the darkness of our time to illuminate how we can rekindle the optimism Americans used to celebrate as a birthright.

Tickets will be available in early August on our website!

To learn more about *Common Ground*, visit www.cgjw.org or subscribe to our newsletter, The Guide, available on the home page.

Please contact sophia.carter@cgjw.org with any questions.

Town Clerk's Office

Connecticut State Statute 22-338: Each owner or keeper of a dog of the age of six months or older shall cause such dog to be licensed in the town clerk's office in the town where such dog is kept, on or before June 30, annually, or at such time as such dog becomes six months old, and annually thereafter, on or before June 30.



The 2024/2025 licenses and tags will become available June 1 through June 30 at a fee of \$8.00 for an altered dog and \$19.00 for an unaltered dog. After July 1, there is a \$1.00 late fee per month. A rabies vaccination certificate and spay/neuter certificate (if applicable) are required. Licenses can be issued by mail or in person. For further information, contact the town clerk's office at 860-868-2786 or townclerk@washingtont.org

Sheila M. Anson, Town Clerk
Mildred Johnson, Assistant Town Clerk
Digby, Assistant Land Use Coordinator

Assessor's Office

In July 2024, you'll be receiving tax bills for your real estate, motor vehicle and business personal property. If you have questions regarding your assessed values, we encourage you to reach out to our office for further information. Did you sell your car? If so, please refer to the Assessor department page at washingtont.org. Click on the Motor Vehicle tab to see what documentation is required to make any adjustments to your car's assessment.

Questions for the Assessor?
Please contact us at 860-868-0398
or by email at assessor@washingtont.org.

WAA | Washington Art Association & Gallery

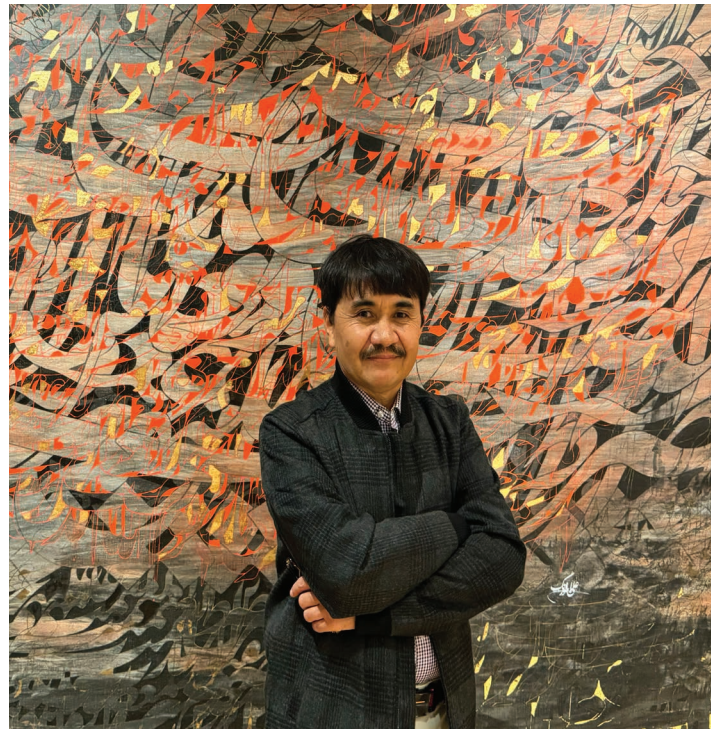
Washington Art Association is pleased to announce a juried group exhibition scheduled for June 8 through July 28, 2024. Titled **Our Litchfield County Landscape**, the exhibition includes works by member artists of the Art Association and nonmembers residing in Litchfield County. Juried by Souby Boski and Liz Dexheimer, the artwork is inspired by some of our local land trusts, preserves, lakes and rivers including Steep Rock, Lake Waramaug, the Housatonic River, Kent Falls, and all the untouched places and wildlife in between!

Please join us for our Opening Reception on Saturday, June 8, 4:00pm to 6:00pm.

We are also delighted to announce a two-day participation workshop called **Discover Calligraphy with a Master** with Alibaba Awrang, introducing experienced artists and beginners to Persian calligraphy on Saturday, June 15 and Sunday, June 16, 2024. The workshop runs from 9:00am to 4:00pm both days, with a break from noon to 1:00pm.

The fee is \$300 and there is a limit of 8 students. Students must enroll for both days.

One of the world's leading living Persian calligraphers, with works hanging in museums throughout the Eastern world, Alibaba will explain the historical role of calligraphy as an art form that conveys human emotions, aspirations, and beauty. He is a master at Nast'liq calligraphy, a fluid calligraphic script developed in the 14th century in Iran that remains one of the most expressive forms of aesthetic refinement. It is considered "the bride of calligraphy." Alibaba often fuses letters with images to produce a contemporary approach to this traditional art form. Following his presentation, Alibaba will demonstrate his art and then invite students to try their hand (specifically, their bamboo pen, with inks and paint, on paper) at creating their original piece of calligraphy.



To register for the workshop and to sign up for our summer classes that begin on July 8, please visit www.washingtonartassociation.org or call 860-868-2878.

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

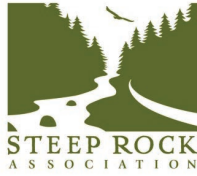
Steep Rock Upcoming Programs, Events, and Volunteer Opportunities

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

CT Trails Day

Sat., June 1, 2024,
10:00am

Hidden Valley
Preserve, 198
Bee Brook Rd,
Washington Depot



Enjoy a guided hike and explore Hidden Valley Preserve. Ages 16+.

Weed & Wine Thursdays at Judea Garden

Thurs., June 6, 2024 – August 22, 2024,
5:30-7:00pm
124 Christian St, New Preston

Weed the beds, enjoy wine on us! Ages 16+ to weed, 21+ for wine.

Summer Saunters with SRA: Hidden Valley Preserve

Thurs., June 11, 2024, 5:30pm
Hidden Valley Preserve, 198 Bee Brook Rd, Washington Depot

Join Executive Director Brian Hagenbuch on a casual walk in Hidden Valley Preserve. Ages 12+.

Monthly Trail Work Party

Sat., June 15, July 20, August 17, 2024,
10:00am – 12:30pm

No experience necessary. Ages 16+.

Summer Solstice Firepit Celebration

Fri., June 21, 2024, 5:00pm
Steep Rock House, 116 Christian St, New Preston

Join us as we welcome summer. Hayfield hike at 5:00pm, refreshments and firepit at 6:00pm. All ages.

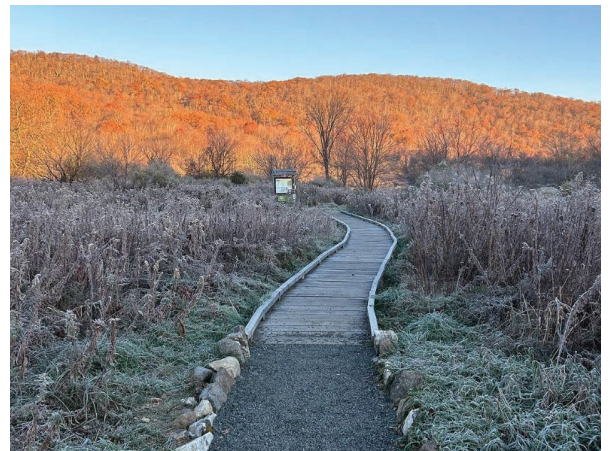


Steep Rock Family Summer Kick-Off

Sat., June 29, 2024, 11:00am-2:00pm

Steep Rock Preserve
Riding Ring, 2 Tunnel Rd,
Washington Depot

Join us for a day of family fun with a Winnie the Pooh Stick Race, games, food truck, and more. All ages.



Odonata (Dragonfly & Damselfly) Survey Blitz

Sat., July 13, 2024, 9:00am-5:00pm
Macricostas Preserve, 124 Christian St, New Preston

Join our effort to identify what dragonflies and damselflies inhabit Washington. Ages 16+.

Summer Saunters with SRA: Macricostas Preserve

Mon., July 15, 2024,
5:30pm

Executive Director Brian Hagenbuch will lead a casual walk at Macricostas Preserve. Ages 12+.

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

Wed., Aug. 14, 2024, 5:30pm
Hidden Valley Preserve Seasonal Parking,
287 Sabbaday Lane, Washington Depot

Join Executive Director Brian Hagenbuch on a casual walk in the Bronson Field Pollinator. Ages 12+.

Judea Garden Open Garden

124 Christian St, New Preston
Sat., August 17, 2024 5:00-7:00pm

Come experience the beauty of our gardens, meet our dedicated interns, and raise a toast to the volunteers who have been instrumental in making this project a success.



Lineup for Washington's 2020 Music on the Green Series Announced

The family-friendly series Music on the Green was conceived as a fun, safe way to socialize during the pandemic and is returning for a fourth year beginning in June. It's never too early to start planning summer fun! So, we're pleased to announce the 2024 schedule of musical acts.

Hosted Friday nights from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., June 14 through July 26 (except July 12) on the Washington Town Green, the series will feature a variety of musical styles and genres.

2024 Schedule of Musical Acts

June 14: Ron Castonguay: Smooth jazz with polished tracks featuring saxophone

June 21: Lost Search Party: Acoustic Americana and blues

June 28: Kevin Vidou & Daniel Varghese: Acoustic/vocal duet performing original works and popular covers

July 5: Tom Scarola: Solo guitar and vocals

covering songs from the 60s to today

July 19: Potter's Field: Soulful originals and popular covers from a variety of roots rock

July 26: Riva Jean: Melodic rock and country originals and covers

Plus, our popular "Fall Bonus Tracks" to hang on to summer a little longer:

Sept 6: The Regulators: Roots-rock, country, Americana and blues originals and covers

Sept 13: Indigo Sway: Quintet performing jazz standards and lounge rock-n-roll

Bring a blanket or chairs and treat yourself to some fabulous food and treats from The Po Café, located right on the Green. Pre-order your picnic basket by calling The Po Café from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Tuesday through Friday at 860-868-1879. Although the



kitchen is closed in the evenings, concertgoers will find an assortment of pre-made summer sandwiches, fresh salads, and delicious sides along with ice cream and other coffeehouse fare from 6 – 7 p.m. on Fridays during the Music on the Green series.

To stay up to date about Music on the Green or to check on any weather cancellations, follow @washington_green_events on Instagram or Facebook.



Washington Trivia by Sheila Anson and Bill Fairbairn

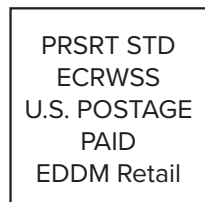
At Senator Orville Platt's funeral who was the highest-ranking elected official who attended?

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

Question from the last issue: What is the oldest bridge over a former state highway in Washington/New Preston?

Answer: A 1910 bridge on Christian Street (formerly Route 25) located near the entrance to Macricostas Preserve.

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.



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