

Washington, CT

Keeping Washington Safe

As most, if not all of our residents know, cars traveling at high speeds on our roads is a far too common occurrence. This has proven to be a threat not only to automobile traffic, but to the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians as well. The number one volume of calls taken at the Selectmen's office are concern for speeding and safety on our roads. The Town of Washington has ninety-three miles of roads and while we have a dedicated and highly trained police department, it's impossible for them to cover all of Washington's roads.

Until recently, the State of Connecticut was one of two states in the nation that didn't allow for the use of automatic traffic safety devices. In October of last year, the state passed legislation that now allows for municipal use of these devices. The Town has budgeted for and purchased these units. An ordinance allowing the use of the devices was recently passed at a Town meeting. By



Automatic traffic safety device

the time of this publication, the devices will soon be up and running on our Town roads. We're currently going through the very comprehensive process of obtaining needed permits and state DOT approvals. The Board of Selectmen, as the local traffic authority, and our police have been in ongoing training on the use of these devices.

Once active, the devices will radar, photograph and issue citations directly to the registered owner of the vehicle. The

Board of Selectmen feel confident that this will help solve a problem in our community that has only gotten worse through the years. Our goal in implementing the use of this technology is simply to make our roads safer for all users. We strongly urge residents to check the Town website for more detailed information. If you have further questions about these devices and their use, please contact the Selectmen's office at 860-868-2259 or jbrinton@washingtonct.org.

Message from the Selectmen's Office

As we look forward to the fall season and all that it offers, we can't help but look back on the summer of 2024 here in Washington. Our community was busy as usual throughout the summer. Music on the Green, Spring Hill Farm, Judy Black Park, Parks & Rec events and the Farmers Market just to name a few.

In addition to a much-needed break from the heat and humidity of the summer, the fall promises to be a busy season as well. Local civic organizations continue to offer a wide variety of events for the public to enjoy. One such event not to be missed is the annual cemetery tour on the green sponsored by the Gunn Memorial Library and Museum. If you've never been, we strongly urge you to attend this exciting and informative event

that will not be forgotten. Below is from the Gunn Memorial Library's website.

"The Washington Cemetery Tour is an annual "living history" event held each October by the Museum with the support of local theater luminaries, Doug and Martha Winkel of The Dramalites, showcasing the rich history of Washington using costumed actors to portray residents from the past. Costumed tour guides with lanterns will lead groups of visitors along a magical path of 1,000 luminarias, spanning a quarter-mile from the Gunn Museum through the shadowy Washington Green Cemetery, where the town's departed citizens will be stationed at their graves to tell their true tales."

Our Public Works Department will be wrapping up road projects throughout

the fall. Chip sealing as well as paving and drainage projects will be completed in anticipation of winter. Be sure to stop by our Transfer Station. We have incorporated many new and exciting recycling initiatives. When you do stop by, take a minute to view and enjoy the newly installed mural. This beautiful piece was conceived by our own Transfer Station Attendant Jerry Crandall. We approached art teacher Donna Wright and the end result was this amazing mural created by her Shepaug students. As always, we wish our residents an exciting and safe fall season.

Board of Selectmen
Jim Brinton
Jay Hubelbank
Dean Sarjeant

Spotlight on Business: b.hive

For over 21 years, Erin Light and Lisa Mahon have been partners in the hair business in Washington Depot. Now in their third Depot location, b.hive has been situated in their lovely space above the Hickory Stick since 2012. This spring, they've been busy with a makeover, creating an even brighter and more inviting space.



Left to right, Tracey Curtis, Erin Light, Jessica Brown, Lisa Mahon

Both Erin and Lisa specialize in all aspects of hair, including color and cuts for women, men and children. With their many years of experience, they excel at helping clients with personal transformations, which they find extremely rewarding. Their clients refer to b.hive as their “happy place” due to the personal attention and connection they receive.

In addition to regular services, b.hive offers hair and makeup for special events like weddings and proms. Erin and Lisa also have experience prepping clients for television, including their work on “Common Ground with Jane Whitney.” There’s no need to drive to New York to find experienced stylists.

Along with Erin and Lisa, the team includes Tracey Curtis, Jessica Brown and Kathy Bachelier. The expansion of the team has allowed b.hive to serve more clients and welcome new ones. To make an appointment, simply call their number and leave a message. They’ll return your call as soon as they’re done working with their current client.

b.hive, 2 Green Hill Rd., 860-868-7219

b.hivesalon@gmail.com

Affordable Housing is Workforce Housing

For some people the term “affordable housing” can cause anxiety. For the town of Washington affordable housing is workforce housing. Many of the workers in our town - teachers, nurses, landscapers, office workers, and others cannot afford to live where they work because of the high cost of real estate in our idyllic, beautiful town.



The residents of Washington are seeing the value of workforce housing. The voters approved a housing plan in 2022 which calls for the addition of 30 new “affordable” housing units by 2027. The Washington Community Housing Trust, a nonprofit, and the town government-appointed Housing Commission work together to try to make this goal a reality. Progress is being made. A feasibility study was completed on a donated property on Baldwin Hill and contractors have been encouraged to bid. A second donated, much larger property off of Wykeham Road is in the process of a feasibility study. In the 2024-25 town budget voters approved a significant increase in money which can be used for housing. At the most recent town meeting voters again rose to the need by approving money to be spent for the feasibility study and by approving an ordinance which would allow the Selectmen to negotiate tax abatement on properties owned by the Washington Community Housing Trust.

What can you do as an individual? You or your neighbor can donate money or land to the Washington Community Housing Trust (washingtonhousingtrust.org). You can keep up to date and support proposed housing projects by logging on to Housing Commission meetings. Recently we welcomed to our community two new families who purchased Habitat for Humanity homes at Myfield Rd. We look forward to many more wonderful families joining us here in our beloved Washington. Let’s do it!

Welcome!

The Economic Development Committee (EDC) would like to welcome Litchfield Pilates & Integrative Health to the Depot.
2 Green Hill Rd., Washington Depot, CT 06793
860-318-6283

www.litchfieldpilatesandintegrativehealth.com



ASAP!® Upcoming Programs

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

14th Annual Celebration of Young Photographers

Submissions open now through October 1
Grades 6-12

Students in grades 6-12 are invited to submit 1-2 photos inspired by this year’s theme: Grace. Participation is free and submissions may be placed through ASAP!’s website by Tuesday, October 1, 2024. The 60 top selected photographs and their photographers

will be honored at a free gallery exhibition on Sunday, November 10 at the Mattatuck Museum in Waterbury. Visit asapct.org for full guidelines.

Save the Date - ASAP! Celebrates

Saturday, May 31, 2025

Save the date to celebrate another year of arts-infused learning with ASAP!.



Local ASAP! teaching artists Krystyana & James Czeiner pose with guests at ASAP!’s 25th Anniversary celebration in June 2024.

Region 12 News

Dear Washington Community,
Happy August!

It seems like only yesterday we were waving to students as they departed for their summer break. At the time, we had much to celebrate during the school year, and following a productive year filled with many accomplishments, students and staff earned a well-deserved vacation to reconnect with family and friends.

The ending of the previous school year was punctuated with celebrations, photo ops, and happy tears of joy. Educators and leaders celebrated students for their academic, artistic, agricultural, and athletic achievements at awards banquets and Board of Education meetings. Students demonstrated content and skills they learned throughout the year through the development of inventions and senior projects, and in the production of plays, art shows, and concerts. The smiles on the faces of parents and community members who attended school events illustrated the pride they felt in the accomplishments of our students!

Washington Primary School's 5th grade students enjoyed the finale of their elementary experience with an annual aloha ceremony. Emily Judd hosted the event in the gym, and students were recognized for their hard work and dedication in the spirit of a Hawaiian theme. Staff and parents had the opportunity to wish their children well as they prepared to move on to Shepaug Valley School and become 6th graders. Similarly, the commencement ceremony for

graduating seniors at Shepaug Valley School recognized another important educational milestone, and graduation speeches by our students appropriately highlighted the close connections students had made with their peers, their teachers, and school leaders throughout their educational journey.

A New School Year

However, a new school year is right around the corner, and staff and leaders are excited to welcome our students back on **Tuesday, August 27th**. Thanks to the passing of our school budget in May, new initiatives will serve our community well, including the hiring of an ASO (armed security officer) at Washington Primary School and each of our elementary schools as a strong commitment to the safety and security of our youngest students. Additionally, Washington Primary School is excited to implement a new elementary reading program poised to enhance students' foundational literacy skills. The 2024-25 budget also supported the creation of *Primary Partners*, a homegrown initiative allowing 4th and 5th grade students to travel to Shepaug and work with high school teachers through enrichment activities in the sciences. Further, high school students will participate in the pilot of a new dual enrollment program in collaboration with EdAdvance (our Regional Educational Service Center). This program provides students with the ability to earn credits for college.

Region 12 staff and building leaders worked diligently over the summer to develop

school schedules and ensure students have ample time for academics and elective areas in PE, Art, and Music, as well as time for grade level staff to meet for professional dialogue and ongoing collaboration. In June, Keri Snowden, our Director of Teaching, Learning, and Assessment, guided K-12 staff



to support the development and revision of curriculum that will continue to build students' conceptual understandings and relevant skills. Having a common vision for teaching and learning is a priority in our District Strategic Plan and will help our teachers prioritize instructional quality in every classroom in the year ahead.

As John Dewey, a noteworthy educational theorist once said, "Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." On behalf of the staff and administrative team, we thank the Washington community for their ongoing support of our school district. The passing of our budget demonstrated a genuine commitment to our students and helped in the advancement of programs and services that will challenge, support, and enrich the educational experience for all learners.

We hope to see Washington community members at events during the upcoming school year. Our students and staff are proud of their work and achievements. Your visible support is extremely appreciated throughout the year.

Respectfully,

Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue, Interim Superintendent

New Preston's Stone Church & Meetinghouse Kicks off its Bicentennial Year

At the Bicentennial Kick-Off Picnic and Squaredance in July, Trustee Stephen Bartkus (former Curator of the Gunn Museum and now Executive Director of the Ridgefield Historical Society) spoke and here is an abridgment:

"The early 19th century was a period of prosperity for New Preston Hill area residents which inspired them to build this structure for \$3,660.20 under the aegis of the First Ecclesiastical Society of New Preston. Completed in 1824, it was designed by Theodore Cadwell of Windsor and Leman Ackley of New Preston. The exterior walls are gray gneiss and the marble elements were quarried in the nearby village of Marbledale. This church is notable for being one of the

only stone meetinghouses in Connecticut and features a unique architectural arrangement so that anyone arriving late to services faced the entire congregation!

The Rev. Boardman delivered the dedication on January 19, 1825 alongside Jerimiah Day, President of Yale College (and son of the affiliated minister Rev. Jeremiah Day).

Today, we honor the legacy of those who erected this sacred space. As we look to the future, we are inspired by their example to nurture and preserve this historic landmark for generations to come to enjoy for cultural and ceremonial use.

I'll close with these actual words of Rev. Boardman's from his dedication of the Stone

Church 200 years ago:

'And let us go, brethren, and fulfil all the duties, which the prospects of this day, disclose; cheered by the hope, that, when our days of toil and anxiety are past, and we sleep in the dust of the earth; that a generation shall here bow before God, with a deeper humility, and sing his praises with a loftier elevation of faith and hope, and gratitude, than we have ever felt.'"

Our Upcoming Fall Events Include:

Stone Church & Meetinghouse Annual Meeting, Sunday, 29 September 2024, 1-3pm

The Blessing of the Animals, Saturday, 5 October 2024, 1-3pm

News from Your Transfer Station

Policies and Procedures

If you have any questions, please ask any attendant.

Follow traffic lines/signs, stay in appropriate lane. Please do not walk from station to station, move your vehicle with you.

- **Safety, efficiency are key!** Keep the line moving.
- **Household garbage** does not include metal, wood, electronics, clothing, books, or glass.
- **Recycling must be clean** - Rinsed and dried. Flattened cardboard is important to make compacting easier. Ask attendants for help with cutting up or folding if needed. No black plastic containers or bags in recycling.
- **Glass recycling:** Food and beverage containers only. No broken glass, caps, lids or corks.
- **Demo and metal** areas close at 1:30PM. Persons already in place in those areas, are able to finish and pay before leaving.

Closing times:

- 1:45PM Swap Shop closes.
- 1:50PM Ewaste, food scraps, mattress recycling closes.
- 1:55PM Lower gate closes as per signage at gate.

Any questions? Please ask us!

We are here to help as much as you need!

New Mural at the Transfer Station



Have you seen the new mural at the transfer station? Transfer station employees asked if Shepaug students would be interested in creating it and were able to partner with Donna Wright, the art teacher at Shepaug. As part of the Drawing and Painting classes, students create murals as a culminating group project. For this particular project, she had a few students explore some ideas/inspirations and then one did an initial sketch/layout. From there they had multiple high school students add details from different areas/sites in the town. “We tried to take a little piece from each of the town villages/areas in order to get the feel of the whole town.” Once they had an image, all Drawing and Painting students worked on their vision for a color scheme. AP Art students then chose their favorite color designs. It ended up being a true cooperative project from many of the high school art classes/students. The Town crew then installed the mural. Many thanks to all involved in brightening up the Transfer Station!



Where does your Garbage and Recyclables go?

Have you ever wondered where your material solid waste (aka garbage) and your recyclables end up? In Washington, it depends on how you dispose of them. Washington offers two options, you can have either one picked up at your home or you can bring them to the Transfer Station.

Material Solid Waste (MSW)

If you have your garbage picked up by a commercial hauler, (most residents use All American Waste), it will most likely be brought to a landfill in Pennsylvania or Ohio.

If you bring it to the Transfer Station, the town pays to have it hauled to the Bristol Resource Recovery Facility. The facility processes 650 tons per day of solid waste into 16.3 megawatts of renewable energy. It is owned and operated by Covanta Bristol Energy under a 30-year agreement with 14 communities, including Washington, that are members of the Bristol Resource Recovery Policy Board.

At the Transfer Station, residents can separately recycle their food waste, which is taken to a New Milford company that turns the food waste into compost. Approximately 25% of all garbage is food waste. Recycling it into compost reduces the amount of waste going to Bristol. For more information on this action, please visit the town's website.

Recyclables

The town provides residents with the opportunity to have their recyclables picked up at their homes by All American Waste. These recyclables are brought to All American's "state-of-the-art recycling facility" where they are divided up to be used in new products. According to All American, approximately 75% of all material is recyclable. The other 25% is either non-recyclable material or recyclable materials placed in non-recyclable bags. All American requests that you do not put your

recyclables in plastic bags. Simply put them in your bins. Plastic bags are not opened; so anything in a plastic bag goes to a landfill.

The Town also collects single stream recycling at the Transfer Station. These recyclables are also brought to All American Waste's facility and processed at their plant. We give residents the option of recycling glass separately at the Transfer Station or in the bin behind Town Hall. All this glass is taken to a cement plant in Beacon Falls and used in their cement making process.

For more information about additional recycling options the town offers, please visit our website at <https://www.washingtonct.org/trash-recycling>. You can also visit All American's website to learn more about how they handle recycling: <https://www.usarecycle.com/learning-center>

Gunn Memorial Library www.gunnlibrary.org

News & Highlights

The Makerspace is open and offers programs and workshops for families, adults, teens, and children.

Limited seating and registration are required for all programs and workshops.

Scan the QR code at right for sign-up or check our website for more information and to register for programs at www.gunnlibrary.org/makerspace/



12:00-2:00 pm

Do you have fabric, scrapbook paper, yarn, or other craft supplies you don't plan to use? Bring them to our first-ever Makerspace Craft Supply Swap and trade them for something new to you!

- **DIY Club for Teens | September 24, 5:30-7:00 pm**
Try some of the popular crafts trending on TikTok and Instagram!

October Events

- **Adult Workshop: Personalized Camp Mugs | October 1,**

5:30-7:00 pm

Use the Cricut machine to cut custom vinyl decals and decorate a camp mug!

- **Creative Family Fun: Haunted Houses | October 12, 1:00-2:00 pm**

Transform clothespins into spooky characters and create cardboard houses for them!

- **Tech Thursday: Movies with Kanopy | October 17, 12:00-1:00 pm**

Learn how to use your library card to access free movies, documentaries.

(Gunn Library—continued on next page)

September Events

- **Fall Crafts for Teens: String Art | September 10, 5:30-7:00 pm**

- **Creative Family Fun: Leaf Creatures | September 14, 1:00-2:00 pm**

Use nature-inspired supplies to make a scarecrow, owl, or another creature from your imagination!

- **Adult Workshop: Sew a Mug Rug | September 17, 5:30-7:00 pm**

Learn the basics of machine sewing and patchwork quilting as you make a cozy

mug rug from flannel fabrics.

- **Tech Thursday: Meet the Acorn App | September 19, 12:00-1:00 pm**

Learn how to use the library's app to search for books, place holds, and more.

- **"Meet the Sewing Machines" Orientation | September 21, 10:00-11:00 am**

This workshop will cover all the basics needed to use the Makerspace's Baby Lock Aurora sewing machines during open hours. Open to adults, teens, and children ages 8+ accompanied by adults.

- **Craft Supply Swap | September 21,**

Gunn Museum Fall Programs

For more information, visit www.gunnlibrary.org/calendar

Letters Home

This new exhibit features selected letters and photographs taken by WWII Army Nurse Helen Wersbe.

History Book Club

Monday, September 9 at 1:00pm at the Gunn Memorial Library

We are reading *After the Ball* by Patricia Beard. History Book Club is a monthly program of the Gunn Museum.

Cooking Through Time Cookbook Club

Thursday, September 12 at 6:00pm at the Gunn Memorial Library.

Our September recipes are all about apples! We are using recipes from *Mrs. Rover's New Cook Book* published in 1902. The program combines history and food as we discuss the history behind the recipes and food fads. Registration is required.

History Book Club

Tuesday, October 15 at 1:00pm at the Gunn Memorial Library

We are reading *The Pioneers: The Heroic Story of the Settlers Who Brought the American Ideal West* by David McCullough. History Book Club is a monthly program of the Gunn Museum.

Washington History Mystery, a NEW Fall Program

Saturday, November 2. Timed group intervals starting at 4:00pm - 8:00pm Washington History Mystery will take place in both the museum and library as participants will be given challenging clues to puzzles and trivia questions, all leading to unlocking the mysteries of Washington's history. Registration coming soon!



History Book Club

Tuesday, November 12 at the Gunn Memorial Library

History Book Club is a monthly program of the Gunn Museum.

Cooking Through Time Cookbook Club

Thursday, November 14 at 6:00pm at the Gunn Memorial Library

The program combines history and food as we discuss the history behind the recipes and food fads. Registration is required.

(Gunn Library—continued)

- **Adult Workshop: Fall Wreaths | October 19, 10:00-11:00 am**
Make a festive fall wreath cut on the Cricut machine.
- **“Meet the Cricut” Orientation | October 26, 10:00-11:00 am**
This workshop will cover all the basics needed to use the Makerspace’s Cricut machines during open hours. Open to adults, teens, and children ages 8+ accompanied by adults.
- **DIY Club for Teens | October 29, 5:30-7:00 pm**
Try some of the popular crafts trending on TikTok and Instagram!

November Events

- **Adult Workshop: Silhouettes with the CNC | November 5, 5:30-7:00 pm**
Learn how to use the CNC machine and photo editing software to design and cut a wooden silhouette of a family member, friend, or pet.
- **Creative Family Fun: Crafts for the Thanksgiving Table | November 9, 1:00-2:00 pm**
Visit the Makerspace to create wooden turkeys and other holiday decor.
- **Tech Thursday: Digital Scrapbooking with Canva | November 14, 12:00-1:00 pm**
Celebrate Family Stories Month by creating a virtual scrapbook page to share

memories with family and friends.

- **Adult Workshop: Engraved Journals | November 16, 10:00 -11:00 am**
Just in time for National Novel Writing Month, create a personalized wooden journal with the help of the Makerspace’s CNC machine.
- **DIY Club for Teens | November 19, 5:30-7:00 pm**
Try some of the popular crafts trending on TikTok and Instagram!

For all additional library programming including after school and story times, visit www.gunnlibrary.org

*Registration is required for all GML programs

Hollister House Garden 2024 Fall Events



Join us as we welcome fall at Hollister House Garden with a new 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/



SEPTEMBER

Garden Party

Saturday, September 7, 4pm-7pm

As day fades into evening, enjoy cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, music by the Gene Bozzi Quartet, an extraordinary silent auction and spectacular plants from Broken Arrow Nursery and Cricket Hill Garden.

Private Garden Tour

Sunday, September 8, 10am-4pm

Join us for an opportunity to tour four extraordinary private gardens: Brush Hill Garden, The Rocks, Japanese Garden at Cedar Hill and The Ridge, along with a special opening at Hollister House Garden.

INTO THE WOODS: An Ungardener’s Approach to Woodland Restoration with Dee Salomon

Saturday, September 14, 10am-11:30am

Dee Salomon will share her experience, in words and images, as well as explain how to undertake the process of ungardening in a way that is manageable and even enjoyable.

Garden Journaling: Berries and Pods presented by Betsy Rogers-Knox
Friday, September 20, 10am-3:30pm

After a step-by-step demo and exercise in the barn, we’ll explore the garden and capture its autumn treasures in our journals.

Fall Mushroom Cultivation Workshop presented by Willie Crosby

Saturday, September 21, 10am-12pm

Celebrate the autumn equinox and learn how to grow mushrooms in your own backyard!

Roman Gardens led by George Schoellkopf

Saturday, September 28, 10am-11:30am

Join us for a look at the world of Roman gardens based on what actually survives and what we have learned from ancient literature and modern archeological excavation.

OCTOBER

Sumi-e Brush Painting: Birds and Branches taught by Joanne Wasti

Saturday, October 5, 1pm-4pm

Gain confidence in the basic techniques of sumi-e as you learn to create original ink paintings featuring birds and branches.

Wonders of the Winter Landscape with Vincent Simeone

Saturday, October 12, 10am-11:30am

Come learn how you can use horticultural treasures to enhance the aesthetic value and interest of your home landscape.

Dried Wreath Making Workshop presented by Beth Crowell

Saturday, October 19, 10am-12:30pm

Create your own fabulous, dried winter wreath using locally sourced materials in this seasonal workshop.

JOIN PILOBOLUS FOR

FAMILY DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 @ 1-3PM

Shepaug Valley High School
159 South Street, Washington, CT

GET TICKETS & INFO ABOUT OUR PRE-SHOW WORKSHOP
PILOBOLUS.ORG/FAMILY-DAY

The Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens

Summer days will soon come to a close. In a few short weeks, the whisper of autumn will arrive on the breeze—rustling leaves, vibrant colors and shorter days. At The Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens, we are looking forward to a fall season full of events and activities.

FUNraiser

Our most-anticipated annual event will be held on Saturday, September 14 beginning at 5pm. This year, our largest fundraising event will be held on the grounds of the Bryan Memorial Town Hall, featuring a live concert by yacht rock band Anchor Management. Afterward, mingle with friends and neighbors at a reception with delicious refreshments and hors d'oeuvres at the park. Admission to the reception is included in select ticket tiers. Tickets start at \$25 and can be purchased on our website at judyblackpark.org/fundraiser.

Farmers Market

The weekly farmers market continues through November 23, running every Saturday from 9:30am to 12:30pm. Our vendors offer a diverse selection of locally grown, raised and produced food, featuring late-season crops like apples and cider,

winter squashes, brussels sprouts and other fruits and veggies in addition to gourmet cheeses, fresh fish, flowers, meats, dairy and more. Rotating bands and musicians continue to provide live music at the market through the end of the season, too.

Movie Nights

In spite of unpredictable weather, it has been a fantastic season of outdoor movie nights! Our last movie of the season is on Friday, September 6. We'll be screening the 1977 comedy romance "The Goodbye Girl" following a live, in-person interview with actor Marsha Mason at 6:30pm. We will also be showing an afternoon movie the day after Thanksgiving; more details will follow soon.

Art

Spectacular artwork representing a diverse range of styles and mediums has graced the interior space at the park this summer. Our current show highlighting the work of Brendan O'Connell is on view through Sunday, September 8. This will be followed by a National Hispanic Heritage art show September 13 through 29, and exhibits by Theresa Bates October 4 through 20, Lisa Cuman October 25 through November



10 and Terri Tibbats November 15 through December 1.

Annual Jack-O-Lantern Contest

Our fourth annual Jack-O-Lantern carving contest is coming up, and the community is invited to participate! Grab a pumpkin from one of our many local farms, carve or paint it with your most creative design at home, and bring it to the park on Saturday, October 26. All pumpkins must be registered by 9am. Voting begins when the farmers market opens at 9:30am. The public is invited to stop by and vote for their favorite jack-o-lantern. Not into pumpkin carving? You can still get in on the action by stopping by the park to vote!

For more information about the park and our upcoming events, visit judyblackpark.org. For the latest updates and changes, check our social media at [@judyblackpark](https://www.instagram.com/judyblackpark) on Instagram and Facebook.

Join us for 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.

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.**

These episodes will feature expert conversations designed to bridge the pervasive partisan divide that has come to define modern politics. Duval L. Patrick, David French, Fran Drescher, and more will be joining us. We hope to see you there.

Saving the Shining City on the Hill - August 25

When the Soviet Union dissolved, the triumph of liberal democracy seemed so assured that some political scientists famously dubbed it "the end of history." Yet, three decades later, history marches



on while many of our political institutions have remained moored in place, creating a disjuncture that threatens the future of democracy. This episode features a panel of experts discussing the struggle between autocracy and democracy and offering strategies to safeguard our Republic.

Our Better Angels: The Thinkers Shaping the Future - September 8

America has entered an age of discord. Besieged by an unprecedented convergence of crises, our trust in institutions has eroded, generating a collective anxiety as oppressive as putrid smoke. Despite the diminished stature of many political leaders, a few voices rise above the maddening cacophony, summoning our 'better angels.' In one-on-one conversations with these influential thinkers, this episode provides historical perspective and a moral clarity that can

inspire a broad cross-section of Americans.

The American Dream: A Dying Myth - September 22

The American Dream, rooted in the belief that hard work leads to success, is the very soul of the nation. In recent decades, however, progress for many has stagnated while income and wealth inequality have surged. The data is irrefutable: With a backsliding labor movement, a growing housing crisis, uneven wealth distribution, and stalled social mobility, the once-bright promise of the American Dream is fading. This episode explores these trends, examines the values shaping economic policy, and charts a path to making the American Dream attainable for all.

Tickets are available now 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 of Washington Tax Collector's Office

Municipal property taxes are based on ownership as of October 1 each year and become payable at the beginning of the following fiscal year July 1. Personal property is assessed at 70% of fair market value.

Update Addresses

Please update your mailing address with the tax department. Do not wait until payment season when tax bills are returned in the mail and interest penalties are applied.

The tax office cannot change addresses on motor vehicle bills. The **DMV** requires notification of your new domicile and mailing address within **48 hours** of moving. It is your responsibility to change your driver's license and all vehicle registrations on the DMV website: ct.gov/dmv.

Delinquent Property Taxes

Unpaid property taxes that were due by August 1 and prior are delinquent, incurring interest penalties of 1.5% per month from the due date. Interest increases on the first day of each month. A tax collector has no authority to waive interest. Past due taxes, interest, and fees must be paid in full before paying current bills. Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve a taxpayer of the responsibility to pay taxes or delinquent charges. Unpaid taxes remain due and payable for 15 years. Collection tools will be enforced.

State law requires **DMV** to deny vehicle registrations in the **name of a person** reported as tax delinquent. All taxes must be paid on **all**

vehicles prior to a DMV release. Please call the tax office 860- 868-7796 if you need a DMV release.

Motor Vehicle Taxes

If a vehicle is sold and the **plates are transferred** to a new vehicle, you must pay the entire amount of the "old" vehicle taxes. A credit will show on the pro-rated supplemental tax bill due in January for the "new" vehicle. However, if you **canceled the registration (plates)** on the old vehicle and obtained a new plate for the new vehicle, you must contact the Assessor to apply for a credit.

Contact the Assessor 860- 868-0389 prior to paying motor vehicle taxes if:

- You did not receive a MV tax bill.
- You sold or got rid of a vehicle on which you cancelled the registration.
- You moved out of town/state.
- Your vehicle was stolen or destroyed.

Payment Options

Online – www.washingtonct.org. Credit/debit card payments cannot be processed in the office.

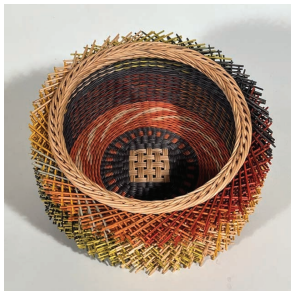
Drop Box – black, metal box beside the town hall central doors. Place check with **phone #** in a sealed envelope. **NO CASH**.

U.S.P.S. – **postmark** is accepted as date of payment.

Washington Art Association & Gallery

Washington Art Association is pleased to announce a late summer/early fall exhibition scheduled through September 15, 2024. The exhibition includes Baskets by Kari Lønning and Paintings by Timothy McDowell.

Kari Lønning has been weaving colorful, artist-dyed rattan baskets since 1973. Her work is represented widely in collections across the United States, including the Smithsonian Institution and the Yale Art Gallery. Her practice incorporates multiple weaving techniques, including some of her own invention, to achieve diverse textures and contrasting colors.



Timothy McDowell is a painter and professor of printmaking and drawing at Connecticut College in New London, CT. His most recent work explores dreamscapes in oils and mixed media. Historically, Timothy has embraced working in various materials, including encaustic, distemper, cyanotype, and intaglio etchings. His work is included in the Metropolitan Museum of Art collection and is represented by the Marcia



Wood Gallery in Atlanta, GA.

Both highly respected masters in their fields, Kari Lønning and Timothy McDowell's work speak to quality

in craftsmanship and embracing the history and tradition of process in art-making.

Please Save The Date for *All That Jazz* on Saturday, September 21, 5:00pm to 8:00pm at Spring Hill Vineyard to benefit Washington Art Association. Music performed by trumpeter Bruce Harris (Jazz at Lincoln Center) and his band.

5:00pm: VIP tickets, \$250 per person; 6:00pm: General Admission tickets, \$75 per person. Visit www.washingtonartassociation.org for more information and to buy your tickets!

While visiting our website you can also enroll in one or more of our fall classes and find out more about the Art Association!

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.

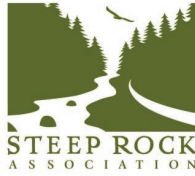
Assessor's Office

The Assessor's Office will be sending out 2024 Grand List Personal Property Declarations for October 1, 2024. If you reside in Washington and are conducting business, you are responsible for filing a declaration of personal property by November 1, 2024. Also, if you have an unregistered vehicle or an out of state registered vehicle, you are also required to file a declaration. If you are unsure if you should be filing a declaration, please review "What Is A Business" on the Personal Property tab on the Assessor page of the Town's website. If you have not received a declaration or think you may need to file, please contact the Assessor's office or visit <https://www.washingtonct.org/assessor> to print out a declaration. Need help filling out your form? Please contact us at 860-868-0398 or assessor@washingtonct.org so we can aid you through the process.

Steep Rock Upcoming Programs, Events, and Volunteer Opportunities

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

Annual Steep Rock Association Community Picnic
Sat., September 7, 2024, 12:00PM-2:00PM, Steep Rock Preserve, 2 Tunnel Rd, Washington Depot



All community members are welcome to join us for food, fun, and games!

Seniors in Steep Rock – Judea Garden & Camp House History

Fri., Sept. 13, 2024, 11:00AM-1:00PM

Tour Judea Garden, explore the historic Camp House, and discover the Camp family's impact on Washington's farming and industry. Enjoy a complimentary lunch afterward. This is a collaborative program with the Washington Senior Center and is generously supported by a grant from the Connecticut Community Foundation's "Pathways for Older Adults" program.



Family Mindfulness Hike

Sun., Sept 15, 2024, 10:00AM-11:00AM Johnson Farm, 37 West Mountain Road #2, Washington

Join us for this family-friendly version of "Mindfulness Hiking."

Summer Saunters with SRA: Hillside Farm at West Mountain Preserve

Tues., September 17, 2024, 5:30PM

Hillside Farm, 397 Nettleton Hollow Rd, Washington

Explore Hillside Farm. Ages 12+

Monthly Trail Work Party

Sat., September 21, 2024, 10:00AM – 12:30PM

No experience necessary. Ages 16+

Fall Equinox Firepit Event

Sun., September 22, 2024, 5:00PM. Steep Rock House, 116 Christian St, New Preston

Welcome the Fall Equinox at our firepit. Light refreshments. All ages.

Tunnel Road Connector Hike

Sat., September 28, 2024, 11:00AM – 2:00PM, Steep Rock Preserve, 2 Tunnel Road, Washington Depot

Join Steep Rock Association and Roxbury Land Trust for a 4.5-mile hike. Ages: all, but please note the hike length.

3 Peaks in 3 Weeks Challenge

Sun., September 29, 2024 through Sun., October 20, 2024

Hike all three peaks in three weeks and register to win prizes. All ages and fitness levels are encouraged to join!

Summer Saunters with SRA: Hillside Farm at West Mountain Preserve

Wed., October 9, 2024, 5:30PM

Hillside Farm, 397 Nettleton Hollow Rd, Washington, CT

Join Executive Director Brian Hagenbuch for a casual walk through of Johnson Farm. Ages 12+

Washington's Annual Harvest Festival - Carve for Conservation

Sun., October 13, 2024, 12:00PM-



5:00PM, River Walk Pavilion, 11 School St, Washington

Join us for fall-themed fun. Visit our booth and carve the animals that call Steep Rock home. All ages.

Monthly Trail Work Party

Sat., October 19, 2024, 10:00AM – 12:30PM

No experience necessary. Ages 16+

Judea Garden Fall Clean Up

124 Christian St, New Preston, Sat., October 19, 2024, 9:00AM-12:00PM & Sunday, October 20, 2024, 12:00PM-3:00PM

Clean away plant debris, prep beds, and plant seeds. All ages.

Seniors in Steep Rock – Steeped in Steep Rock Coffee Hour

Fri., Nov. 15, 2024, 11:00AM-1:00PM

Join us for refreshments and conversation at the Steep Rock House. This is a collaborative program with the Washington Senior Center and is generously supported by a grant from the Connecticut Community Foundation's "Pathways for Older Adults" program.

Monthly Trail Work Party

Sat., November 16, 2024, 10:00AM – 12:30PM

No experience necessary. Ages 16+

No Idling Initiative

The Washington Environmental Council and the Washington Sustainability Committee's NO IDLING initiative continues. Help keep our community's air clean!

Did you know?

- 10 seconds of idling uses more gas than restarting your car
- 6 billion gallons of fuel is wasted annually in the U.S. through idling
- An idling car uses between 1/5 to 7/10 of a gallon of fuel an hour

- Idling adds the same pollutants into the air that moving cars do — those pollutants contribute to asthma, heart disease, and cancer
- Modern car engines do not need to warm up before driving in cold weather
- For every 10 minutes your engine is off, you'll prevent one pound of carbon dioxide from being released and contributing to global warming

The Washington Environmental Council (WEC) is a local nonprofit organization

that's mission is to be an advocate and provide leadership in maintaining, protecting and enhancing the environmental quality of the town of Washington and the surrounding region, and expanding community awareness of potential climate change impacts.

Please check out our website at wec-ct.org to learn more or email lauren@wec-ct.org to find out how you can get involved!

203-232-6049, lauren@wec-ct.org

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

Once again this summer, First Congregational Church continued its partnership with The PO restaurant and local musicians to continue offering live music on Friday evenings in June and July. While the weather was uncooperative early on, our last three shows brought smiles, toe-tapping, and a tremendous sense of community to the Washington Green.

“We’d like to thank everyone who joined us each week to stretch out and relax with a picnic and enjoy some great local music on our beautiful Green. Special shout outs to the folks who checked us out for the first time this season, and of course our weekly regulars who make each week special” said Pastor Robyn Gray of First Congregational Church. “While the first few rainy Fridays were frustrating, the weather the last two weeks was pitch perfect, and a great representation of summers in New England” she said.

First Congregational would like to once again thank The PO for their delicious picnic offerings and much gratitude to all the performers who provided such wonderful evenings for the Town. Thank you, also, to everyone who contributed financially to the musicians each week. Your generosity makes each week a true blessing.

Watch for additional performances on September 6 and 13, and then another season of music, community, and fun in the summer of 2025.



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 Trivia by Sheila Anson

Answer for the last issue.

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

Answer: United States Vice President Charles W. Fairbanks who served with President Theodore Roosevelt.

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 November.

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