

# Washington, CT

## Washington Steps into the Holidays

**A collaboration of the Washington Business Association and the Washington Parks and Rec Commission**

*By Dan Sherr*



## Holiday in the Depot

**Friday, Dec 8, 6:00 – 8:30pm**

*A collaboration of the Washington Business Association and the Washington Parks and Rec Commission*

You **know who** is coming to the Depot Friday, Dec 8. But first, we'll open the holidays in Washington with the Montessori students singing carols and a special guest will light the Town Christmas tree. Santa arrives on a hay wagon drawn by the amazing percheron horses of Utopia Percherons, Goshen, CT. Santa is resting his reindeer for their worldwide romp on Christmas Eve. Kids join Santa in Town Hall until 8:30pm to list their wishes and take photographs for the family Facebook pages. And then off for a hay wagon ride to enjoy the lights, sights and delights of the Depot.

Walk the Depot to view the Washington Business Association Holiday Wreath Display. Each business will have a unique wreath created by their staff to showcase their business. To entice you to stop, the shops will be offering Christmas drinks and munchies. Don't forget to pick up your raffle ticket at any business to enter to win an iPad mini or holiday basket filled with goods from the Washington Business Association members. Entries must be dropped off at Washington Supply before the drawing at 8:30pm.

## New Preston Holiday Walk

**Saturday, Dec 9, 1:00 – 4:00pm**

**Walk** is the perfect depiction of Christmas in New Preston; one of the most walkable villages in Litchfield County. A dozen designer shops literally loaded with Christmas gift temptations. Santa's elves delivered some of their best work early to the shops of New Preston.

Start with lunch at Nine Main Bakery & Deli or The White Horse Country Pub. Antiques? New Preston has them. Clothing? New Preston has it. Home furnishings? New Preston has them. Even Sweets! New Preston has them, too. Walk, shop and get into the Christmas spirit in New Preston.

Washington... You'll live Christmas here.

## Message from the Selectman's Office

As we head into the winter season there are projects wrapping up all over town. The Highway Department has completed its paving and drainage projects. This year 3.5 miles of road were reclaimed and repaved. The reclamation creates a new, smooth roadbed for the repaving. There have also been extensive drainage improvements on those roads which will extend the life of the road. New sidewalks were constructed along Kirby Road and School Street, replacing walkways that had become hazardous.

While shifting from summer to winter the road crew will be doing patching and tree removal along with prepping our fleet for the winter plowing season.

The Bryan Plaza renovation continues on schedule and while it has been inconvenient our businesses have remained open and our citizens have coped with changing traffic patterns. We expect the project to be ready for Holiday in the Depot December 8.

The Selectmen's Office has started sending a weekly email blast with Town news and announcements. If you aren't receiving the email and wish to there are forms at the Town Clerk's and Selectmen's office.

The Town of Washington wishes all its residents and visitors a Happy and Safe Holiday Season.

## Slices with Santa

The Washington Volunteer Fire Department will be holding their 10th annual Slices with Santa fundraiser on Saturday, December 9, 5:00 – 8:00pm.



Funds raised will be distributed to the Washington Community Fund and the St. John's Fund in order to offset the cost of Washington's Holiday Baskets. These baskets provide food and gifts at Thanksgiving and Christmas to nearly twenty-five families in need! Additional funds will be used throughout the year for Washington families and individuals who find themselves faced with unforeseen emergencies and require assistance with such needs as heating and utility bills, rent or mortgage payments, food, clothing, medical bills, home and auto repairs, etc.

# Spotlight on Business: Dobson Pools 50 Years of Passion

By Dan Sherr

Passion with personal engagement is the Dobson family mantra. It's not just for their pool customers but the community, too. Jim Dobson was born in Stamford, CT to a large family. He started early in property maintenance, including pools. He collects cars and properties and provides ongoing support to the community, particularly those in need.

He started his career with a pool company in Darien, CT but saw an opportunity to build pools in the northwest corner. Opened in 1968, Dobson Pools is celebrating five decades of business. Building 50 pools a year, Dobson provides design, construction and maintenance services.



Three generations... sort of... are engaged in the business. Admittedly the third generation, Colton James, is only two years old. The proverbial three-legged stool defines the Dobson Pools business model. Jim is the driver, always with an eye on the money. Brian is the hands-on chief of operations. Julie, with a bit of help from Liberty, the office greeter dog, is administrative officer. Over the years, the team has set the standard for pools in the northwest corner. Just as Jim Dobson had expected when he opened the company in 1968.

Pools are life changers. For many, they are less about prestige and more about creating joy for the owner and their families. Dobson's personal approach seeks to understand "Why the owner wants a pool? How will it change their lives?" For Dobson, design is driven by a personal, hands-on commitment. And none are constructed without onsite engagement by one of the Dobson team. It's personal for them.

That personal engagement finds a place in the community as well. Jim's family says he has "a really soft, sometimes bleeding heart." With a particular sensitivity to the underdog, veterans and the less fortunate, Jim Dobson shares his accumulated success on an as-needed basis. He says, "It just feels good."

A passion for personal engagement, marked success in delivering life changing experiences for its clients and a sensitivity to primary community needs, Jim Dobson and Dobson Pools have added much to Washington and the northwest corner over the last 50 years.

## Washington Parks and Recreation Commission

### Introducing the "Little Free Library"

Located at the River Walk Pavilion, this little library is up and running and open to anyone looking for a book. Stop by and browse the selection. Take a book if you'd like, leave a book if you can. Although the Pavilion is closed for the season, the Little Free Library is open all day, every day!



### Upcoming Events:

The 26th annual Holiday in the Depot will be Friday, December 8. The evening begins with the lighting of our Christmas tree at 6:00pm followed by the arrival of Santa by horse and wagon. With lots more to do in the Town Hall and at businesses throughout the Depot, it's sure to be a fun night for the whole family!

With the start of 2018, we're proud to once again offer a series of wellness programs. Starting in January and going through February, each week will feature a unique class geared toward your wellness. From fitness to nutrition with lots in between, there will be classes for everyone.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 11. Winterfest 2018! Weather permitting, that is, if we have any snow, Winterfest will be held at the River Walk Pavilion starting at 1:00pm. Come join us to roast marshmallows by the fire, sip hot cocoa and give snowshoeing a try. Sportsmen's of Litchfield will be onsite providing free snowshoe use and lessons for anyone interested in giving it a try.

Be sure to like @washingtonparksandrec on Facebook for more information about upcoming events.

## Washington Montessori School

The Washington Montessori School Polar Plunge is an annual dip into Lake Waramaug to raise money for our Community Partnership Program (WMSCPP). This program provides middle school education to six graduates of the Children's Community School (CCS) in Waterbury, CT each year. The children who come to WMS from CCS have been identified as potential academic and social leaders within inner city Waterbury. They come from homes with limited financial resources. The program provides tuition, transportation to and from school and expenses for materials and activities. In conjunction with this program, a group of volunteers from the Washington area comes to WMS to support these students academically.

Every year over one hundred brave souls, ranging in age from six to sixty plus, take a refreshing jump in the lake. It has quickly become an event that both the WMS community and other local residents look forward to. With a lively MC, great music, fresh cookies and hot chocolate, both plungers and non-plungers enjoy a morning of good cheer for an important cause. This year the Polar Plunge is on Sunday, December 3 at 11:00am

Last year the Polar Plunge raised \$25,000 toward our WMSCPP program and this year our goal is \$30,000. We invite everyone to join our plunge. Register here: [www.washingtonmontessori.org/takethepolarplunge/](http://www.washingtonmontessori.org/takethepolarplunge/) To learn more about WMSCPP: [www.washingtonmontessori.org/giving-to-wms/community-partnership-program/](http://www.washingtonmontessori.org/giving-to-wms/community-partnership-program/)

## Shepaug Regional School District 12:

# TV Production & Broadcasting Students Featured on FOX 61

Washington, CT – November 14, 2017 - Washington town residents shouldn't be surprised to see Ms. Pitt's TV Production & Broadcasting students around town reporting on events and stories of local interest. The class, new at Shepaug this year, provides hands-on learning in the field of broadcast journalism. Students learn the art of finding and developing good topics and combining video footage, interviews and effective storytelling to create news packages.

In order to provide an authentic audience for their pieces, Ms. Pitt enrolled the class in the FOX 61 Student News program. According to their website, "The FOX 61 Student News program empowers Connecticut middle and high school students to explore the world of multi-media journalism by giving them the opportunity to capture, edit and publish original content under the guidance of industry professionals."

Shepaug students have been the first news packages featured on the state wide broadcast this season. The first to air was Kayla Amorosa and Mallory Noone's feature on New Milford's Oktoberfest, and the second was Katherine Denyko and Michael Iannazzo's piece about Harrybrooke Park's Haunted Trail.



Each video is produced by the students and is about a story local to the community and focused around the station's mission of "Hope." The news packages air during the FOX 61 morning news broadcasts at 6:20 and 8:20am, and in the evening broadcasts at 5:00 and 10:00pm. They're also featured on the station's website and Facebook page.

With such a positive start to the program, we expect to see many more Shepaug news segments in the future!

## Chris Herren to Speak at Shepaug

In an effort to raise awareness of drug and alcohol abuse throughout the school community, the Prevention Council of Bridgewater, Roxbury and Washington will welcome former NBA star and motivational speaker Chris Herren to Shepaug Valley School on January 16, 2018. Herren will share his story with the student body at Shepaug that morning. The school presentation will be followed up with another presentation that night at Shepaug, starting at 7:00pm, for the entire community.

Chris will share his story of going from a basketball star in Fall River to an NBA player to a patient in a rehab facility, all while struggling with addiction for over fourteen years. Chris Herren's Project Purple is designed to break the stigma of addiction, bring awareness of the dangers of substance abuse, and educate and encourage youth to maintain a healthy, substance-free lifestyle. The initiative uses positive messaging like "I am enough," "I am a warrior," and "I am strong" to support students as they navigate difficult decisions. To register for the event, please go to the following site: <http://tinyurl.com/y8uwcabw>.

For more information on the Prevention Council of Bridgewater, Roxbury and Washington, visit us on Facebook.

## Harvest Festival Recap

Our Town's Harvest Festival was a huge success as well as a triumph of teamwork. Together, the Washington Business Association and The Washington Park and Recreation Committee organized a day filled with family fun, healthy competition, great music, local foods and amazing community connectedness. And best of all, this event allowed the WBA to donate \$1,200 to the Washington Volunteer Fire Department.

Thirty five businesses created a scarecrow representing their business and one they hoped would win the "The Best Scarecrow" contest. With a mind-boggling 750 people voting, the winner was The Washington Ambulance with 118 votes. Second place went to the Washington Supply Company with 82 votes.

Many thanks to the following businesses that donated gift certificates for the Fall Dessert contest winners: The Pantry, The White Horse Country Pub, Hidden Valley Eatery and The Hickory Stick Bookshop.

The Washington Volunteer Fire Department provided one of the most fun activities of the day; fire truck rides on their own antique fire truck. Thank you, thank you, thank you to our amazing WVFD!

It was an amazing day with so much fun for everyone.



# What's Going on in Washington, CT

This is just a small sampling from [ExploreWashingtonCT.com](http://ExploreWashingtonCT.com). Please check the site for more information and for other events.

## November

**24-December** | 10:00am - 5:00pm  
**Holiday Fair at the Washington Art Association**

Location: Washington Art Association

The Gallery will offer holiday shoppers a showcase of unique gifts created by local fine artists and craftspeople. With a wide range of prices, there's a treasure to be found for everyone on your shopping list!

Many of our time-honored favorites will be featured such as sterling silver, semi-precious stone and beaded jewelry, hand-knit and woven scarves and hats, and cards created by talented, local artists. Also included will be a wonderful selection of turned wood objects, ceramic tableware, hand blown glass and holiday decorations.

More information: [washingtonart@snet.net](mailto:washingtonart@snet.net)

## December

**2-3** | 10:00am - 5:00pm  
**Native Art's and Crafts ANNUAL Market at American Indian Museum**

Location: 38 Curtis Road

Every year, throughout the month of December, IAIS hosts local Native American crafters, jewelers and artists at our annual Indian Market. Visitors are able to take advantage of this opportunity to meet and buy directly from the artists, while learning about contemporary Native American art and cultures.

Also on Saturday & Sunday - December 9 & 10 10:00am to 5:00pm;  
Saturday & Sunday - December 16 & 17 10:00am to 5:00pm  
Contact: 860-868-0518

**16** | 12:00pm - 5:00pm

**Chakra Chi: Root To Sky: A Yoga Workshop**

**Chakras are the Centers of Our Bodies**

Location: Valley Spirit Cooperative & Wellness Center

Chakras are the centers of our bodies, wherein energy and spiritual power flows. Blocked energy in the vortex centers often lead to illness, so it's important to understand what each chakra represents and what we can do to keep this energy flowing freely. Taught by Valley Spirit senior practitioner Pauline Koinis, integrating yoga postures, breath work, crystals, essential oils and guided meditation.

Instructor: Pauline Koinis

Pricing: \$250

## Washington Trivia

What year was the first Holiday in the Depot?

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

Last issue's answer: Washington Supply Company will celebrate 125 years in 2018!

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

*What's Happening in Washington, CT* is organized and printed through the Washington Economic Development Committee. Look for our next issue in March 2018.

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# Upcoming Events at The Gunnery

**Tuesday, December 12 from 7:00 to 8:00pm.** The Gunnery will host a holiday concert in the historic Meeting House on the Washington Green featuring students performing in the school's Chamber Ensemble, Jazz Band and Rock Band, as well as the Gunnery Troubadours, an a cappella performance group. The public is invited to attend and admission is free.

**Wednesday, February 7 from 7:00 to 8:00pm.** The Gunnery welcomes Dr. Martin Speight, a professor of zoology at the University of Oxford, England. Speight, who holds a bachelor's degree in marine zoology and a doctoral degree in applied entomology, will be speaking to students in biology and environmental science about marine biology and the coral reefs in the Caribbean. He'll discuss 3-D mapping of reefs, the management of coastal fisheries and the progression of the lionfish invasion in the Caribbean. Admission is free. This event, which is part of The Gunnery's 2018 Speaker Series, will be held in the Ogden D. Miller Memorial Athletic Center on campus. The community is welcome to attend.

**Thursday, February 15 from 7:00 to 8:00pm.** The Gunnery welcomes James Nolan a professor of anthropology and sociology

at Williams College, will speak about his latest research project, "Delivering Little Boy," which focuses on the Manhattan Project and the nuclear age. Notably, Nolan's grandfather worked on the Manhattan Project. Nolan is a recipient of the National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship and a Fulbright scholarship, among other awards, and has been a visiting fellow at Oxford University, Loughborough University and the University of Notre Dame. He has also authored several books, including "What They Saw in America: Alexis de Tocqueville, Max Weber, G.K. Chesterton, and Sayyid Qutb." Admission is free. This event, which is part of The Gunnery's 2018 Speaker Series, will be held in the Ogden D. Miller Memorial Athletic Center on campus. The community is welcome to attend.

**February 22, 23 and 24 at 7:00pm.** The Gunnery Drama Society will present their annual winter musical in the Lemcke Theater in the Emerson Performing Arts Center on campus. The public is invited to attend and admission is free.

The community is always welcome to attend athletic events on campus. To see the most up-to-date schedule, please visit [www.gunnery.org/athletics](http://www.gunnery.org/athletics).

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## ASAP!® Upcoming Events & Workshops

For more information about these programs, please visit [asapct.org](http://asapct.org) or call 860-868-0740.

Saturday, Dec. 2 | 3:00-5:30pm

### All Bark & Some Bites

Ages 3-10 | Alyssa Robb & Pastry Chef

Amanda Glover

Washington Montessori School, New Preston

Make your own Holiday Bark & Gift Wrap! What a perfect time to create a holiday gift for family and friends. Join Pastry Chef Amanda Glover in creating two types of chocolate bark; one is a festive white chocolate peppermint bark and the other a dark chocolate fruit and nut-studded bark. Of course, you need something to wrap this savory gift! Artist Alyssa Robb will introduce patterns and stamps to compose playful designs relating to the holiday season and print handmade wrapping paper for our chocolate bark. Everyone will take home a bundle of delectable, beautifully designed packages for sharing and gifting.

1 session: \$35

Saturday, Jan. 6 | Performance times: 2:00 & 7:00pm

### ASAP! PRESENTS

#### Pilobolus Maximus:

#### Beyond the Limits of Dance

Danbury High School, Danbury

For 45 years Pilobolus has tested the limits of human physicality to explore the beauty and the power of connected bodies. They have

created and toured over 120 pieces of repertory to more than 65 countries, and they perform for over 300,000 people each year. Recently Pilobolus was featured on The Late Show with Stephen Colbert, NBC's TODAY Show, and MTV's Video Music Awards. Pilobolus has been recognized with many prestigious honors, including a TED Fellowship, a 2012 Grammy® Award Nomination, a Primetime Emmy® Award for Outstanding Achievement in Cultural Programming, and several Cannes Lion Awards at the International Festival of Creativity. In 2015, Pilobolus was named one of Dance Heritage Coalition's "Irreplaceable Dance Treasures."

To purchase tickets, please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pilobolus-maximus-tickets-37888027109>

#### Inter-district Theatre Project

Jan. 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 31, Feb. 1, 2\*

\*A "sharing" of students work at 6:00pm at Booth Free School

Wednesdays-Fridays | 4:15-5:45pm

Grades 1-5 | Nick Jonzack

Booth Free School, Roxbury

Think like an actor, speak like an actor, breathe like an actor, move like an actor... become an actor! Learn how the professionals create characters that are funny, shy,

suspenseful, fearless, and more! Using our imaginations and exploring theatre games and role-playing we'll discover how to develop characters and bring them to life. The project will culminate in a play created collaboratively by participants. Invite friends and family to the premiere of your very own play.

11 sessions: \$132

Saturday, Jan. 27 | 3:00-5:30pm

### Hip-Hop Party Dancing & Graffiti Art

Ages 3-10 | Austin Dailey &

Emil Serrano Jr.

Washington Montessori School, New Preston

Children who love to move and groove won't want to miss this high energy, fun class with Austin Dailey and a creative journey that explores the infinite possibilities of graffiti art with professional artist Emil Serrano Jr. Kids will learn new party dance moves to the beat of hip-hop music and have fun with breakdancing, waving robotics and line dancing. Participants will learn hip-hop/breakdance vocabulary and basic routines, then work with Emil and learn how to make letters in bubble, block, 3D, and abstract form. Designs come to life with added highlights, outlines and background. Children will take home their custom graffiti hat to wear while showing off their new dance moves!

1 session: \$35

# Gunn Memorial Library & Museum

## Festival of Trees

Community Cocktail Party – Friday, December 1, 5:00 – 7:00pm,  
Suggested donation \$20/person

## CHILDREN'S FUN

**Two's Time** – Fridays 10:30 – 11:15am, Feb. 16 – April 13

**3 & 4 Year-Olds - Book Buddies:** Fridays 2:15 – 3:00pm, Feb. 16 – April 13.

**Kindergarten & 1st grade – Storycraft:** Tuesdays 3:30 – 4:15pm, Feb. 13 – April 10

**2nd & 3rd grade – Storycraft:** Thursdays 3:30 – 4:15pm, Feb. 15 – April 12.

## Winter Saturday Family Programs

**Drop in** from 10:00am – 2:00pm every Saturday in January for simple and fun activities

**Take Your Child to the Library Day** – February 3, 10:00am – 2:00pm

**Valentine's Day Crafts** – February 10, 1:00pm

**Indoor Sports Fest** – February 17, 1:00pm

**Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration** – February 24, 1:00pm

**Mom and Me Sewing** – March 3, 1:00pm

**Trolls Photo Booth and Craft** – March 10, 1:00pm

**Special Animal Program** – March 17, 1:00pm

**Springtime Crafts** – March 24, 1:00pm

**Easter Egg Dyeing** – March 31, 1:00pm

## New For Tweens & Teens

**Do-It-Yourself Holiday Gift Drop-In Program** – Saturday, December 16, 10:00am – 2:00pm

**Teen Book Club – next gathering December 1 at the Hickory**

**Stick Bookshop, 5:00 – 6:30pm.** Talk books with the library and the Hickory Stick staff. Book selection is “When Dimple Met Rishi.” Check it out!

## ADULT PROGRAMS

**Fantasyland & You Can't Spell America Without Me Author & Political Commentator, Kurt Andersen in Conversation Facilitated by Author & New Yorker Writer, David Owen** – Saturday, December 9 – 3:00pm

**Wykeham Consort Recital** – Thursday, January 4, 6:30pm

**Monday Matinees –**

*Dunkirk* – Monday, January 8 – 1:00pm

*Victoria & Abdul* – Monday, January 22 – 1:00pm

*Stronger* – Monday, January 29 – 1:00pm

Screenings of additional films are being planned for February & March.

**Healthy Habits for the New Year** – Tuesday, January 16, 6:30pm

**Pianist Sandy Kleisner & Friends** – Thursday, February 1, 6:30pm

**College Planning Workshop for Families** – Tuesday, February 6 – 6:00pm

**NASA's James Webb Telescope Presentation** – Thursday, March 1, 6:30pm

**One-on-One Tech Advice for Apple Products** – Friday, January 5; Friday, February 2; Friday, March 2 – 2:00-4:00pm – 20 minutes sessions, registration required.

**Gunn Monthly Party Bridge** – Thursday, January 18, Thursday, February 15, Thursday, March 15 – 1:00pm

## STAIRWELL GALLERY

**Vincent Giarrano** – “Small Paintings” on display through December 9  
**Raymond Kwiatkoski** – “Black & White & Color Photographs” on display December 16, 2017 to January 27, 2018

Reception: December 16, 2017, 12:00-2:00pm.

**Ron Crowcroft** – **Reverse Glass Paintings** on display February 3, 2018 to March 17, 2018

## MUSEUM

**Washington History Club in the Morning** – Monday, December 18, 2017, 10:00am – Topic: Christmas Memories in Washington. Discuss family traditions, church activities, parties and gatherings, favorite gifts and other Christmas stories at the Washington Senior Center.

**New Year's Tea Party** – Saturday, January 6, 2018, 11:00am – 1:00pm in the Wykeham Room of the Gunn Library – Ring in the New Year with an old-fashioned tea hosted by the Museum and Library.

Visitors will have the opportunity to socialize with friends under the historic 1914 gilded ceiling mural and enjoy period music in the festively decorated room. Bring a favorite tea cup and we'll provide tea sandwiches. Registration is requested. To register, please email your name(s) to: [info@gunnhistoricalmuseum.org](mailto:info@gunnhistoricalmuseum.org) or call 860-868-7756. Snow date: 4:00-6:00pm on Tuesday, January 9.

**Cookie Contest** – The highlight of the tea party this year is the cookie contest. Home cooks will have the opportunity to have their culinary creations judged by three professionals.

**Readings from the Archives** – Monday, January 8, 2018 – 10:00am – Topic: “In Litchfield Hills: Washington,” by George Alson Marvin in 1897. At the Washington Senior Center.

**Washington History Club at Night** – Tuesday, February 20, 2018, 6:30pm – Topic: TBA. In the Wykeham Room of the Gunn Memorial Library.

**Washington History Club in the Morning** – Monday, March 19, 2018, 10:00am – Topic: TBA. At the Washington Senior Center

**Readings from the Archives** – Monday, April 2, 2018, 10:00am – Topic: TBA. At the Washington Senior Center.

For more information and a complete listing of programs and events at GML, Inc. visit [www.gunnlibrary.org](http://www.gunnlibrary.org)

## Be a Citizen Scientist with Steep Rock Association <http://www.steeprockassoc.org/calendar/>

Interested in the natural world and its inhabitants? Want to contribute to meaningful science or hone your naturalist skills? Or just looking for a different excuse to get outside?

If your answer is “YES” to any or all of the above, please consider volunteering for one of Steep Rock Association's citizen science projects. The data you collect improves our knowledge as well as yours of biodiversity in the area. If the joy of actively conducting

research and becoming intimate with the local environment isn't enough, take pleasure in your findings being analyzed by professional scientists working to address large scale, crucial issues. Join us for our upcoming Citizen Science outings:

Sunday, December 17, 2017 10:00am – 12:00pm — Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, January 13, 2017 – Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey