



New York State Parks Opens Improved Grounds At Washington Headquarters State Historic Site

NEWBURGH, N.Y. — State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Commissioner Erik Kulleseid has announced that pathway, accessibility and parking improvements are completed at Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site in Newburgh, Orange County.

"This project makes the grounds of the nation's first publicly owned historic site more open and accessible to all under the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) to experience a beautiful and historic setting in the Hudson Valley where General Washington made critical decisions that helped shape the new United States," said Kulleseid. "The headquarters has been state property since 1850, so we are the latest in a line of stewards to preserve this for the coming generations. We are committed to ensuring this inspiring place is welcoming and inclusive to



Commissioner Erik Kulleseid (center), staff and site supporters cut the ribbon on the newly improved grounds at Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site.

all who visit from America and around the world."

Begun in the summer of 2020, the \$1.8 million project — funded under NY Works — included

repair of existing bluestone walkways, enhancement of accessible parking, new fencing and improvements to accessible paths on nearly seven acres of

grounds overlooking the Hudson River. Pathways and parking are now ADA compliant.

Work also reinstalled the East Gate and established an ADA-

compliant path to the recently restored Tower of Victory, which was built in 1887 to mark the centennial of victory in the War for Independence. Improved exterior lighting and drainage were also installed. A new 60-foot flagpole and new flags also were added with support from the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) and Friends of the State Historic Sites of the Hudson Highlands (FSHSHH).

Design work was performed by The LA Group Landscape Architects, of Saratoga Springs, and construction by Meyer Contracting, of Pleasant Valley.

Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site is a registered National Historic Landmark at the corner of Liberty and Washington Streets in Newburgh's East End Historic District. For more information, 845-562-1195 or www.facebook.com/washingtonheadquarters.

MVHS Rededicates Business & Media Archives Center



The newly renamed Stewart Media Archives Center. Photo courtesy of Mahoning Valley Historical Society.

YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO. — The Mahoning Valley Historical Society (MVHS) recently rededicated its Business and Media Archives Center. The archives collection is the legacy of Warren P. Williamson Jr, founder of WKBN Broadcasting Corporation and is housed in the carriage house directly behind the historical society's museum. The facility, now renamed the Stewart Media Archives Center, is named in memory of Williamson's grandson, Lowry A. Stewart, and contains an exhibit of broadcasting equipment, historic photos, WKBN News film (1955-2000), audio records, business records and viewing stations. Archival services include film repair, dubbing, research and duplication.

The building was built around 1905 as the original carriage house for the residence of Olive FA and Wilford P. Arms. Olive bequeathed the residence to the historical society in 1961; the MVHS opened the Arms Family Museum to the public in 1964. The carriage house building was restored and renovated in 1983 to house the MVHS

Library, which opened in 1984. In 1994, the Business and Media Archives of the Mahoning Valley (BMAMV) was established as a nonprofit organization to collect local broadcasting and media history, including MVHS, Youngstown State University and the shareholders of the WKBN Broadcasting Corporation as partners. In 1999, MVHS entered a management agreement with BMAMV and assumed operations and staffing for the collection.

The Tyler History Center was completed in 2014 and the MVHS Archives collection was moved to that site; renovations to the carriage house began to create a permanent site for the Business and Media Archives project. Stewart was vital in continuing his grandfather's legacy. Upon Stewart's untimely death in 2020, the Williamson and Stewart families contributed funds in his memory that were added to the existing endowment fund in support of MBAMV.

The Stewart Media Archives Center is at 648 Wick Avenue. For more information, www.mahoninghistory.org.

Outdoor Sculpture Opens At Eustis Estate

MILTON, MASS. — "Looking Back with 2020 Vision" has opened at the Eustis Estate in a partnership between Historic New England and New England Sculptors Association (NESA).

The exhibition will be on display through October 31; it features more than 25 sculptures by New England artists that reflect issues that were at the forefront in 2020.

The Covid-19 pandemic and the political and societal events of 2020 shone a light on the many cracks straining the nation. Historic New England and NESA asked sculptors to show how they responded to this unprecedented time with their art. The pieces in "Looking Back with 2020 Vision" represent many of the issues that appeared in news headlines, on social media platforms and in conversations between families and colleagues during 2020: isolation and fear in a global pandemic, the societal inequities that the pandemic exposed, calls for action and social justice on an incredible scale, the Black Lives Matter movement, environmental concerns and the demand for equal rights for all.

This exhibition presents a visual interpretation of these ideas and provides an opportunity for a communal response. Each piece is accompanied by an artist statement, with additional materials online.

These contemporary sculptures by members of NESA populate the grounds at the Eustis Estate. An 80-acre picturesque setting at the base of the Blue Hills, the estate is the perfect backdrop for art that inspires conversation and tranquil contemplation.

The Eustis Estate is at 1424 Canton Avenue. For more information, www.historic-newengland.org.



"Snowman for Warming Latitudes" by David Karoff

Three Firefighters Hurt Battling Blaze At Historic Connecticut Building

NEW HARTFORD, CONN. (AP) — Three firefighters were hospitalized, and several pet dogs and cats were missing Tuesday, August 10, as a fire heavily damaged a historic building in New Hartford, Conn., officials said. All 22 residents were accounted for and unharmed.

Nearly 100 firefighters from more than 30 departments responded to the blaze, which was first reported shortly before 2:30 am, said Jon Barbagallo, a spokesperson for regional emergency response agencies. Two firefighters suffered minor injuries and a third suffered a serious medical problem, he said.

The three-story building known as New

Hartford House dates from 1850 and had six businesses on the ground floor and 14 apartments above, Barbagallo said.

The 20 adults and two children who lived in the building were accounted for, but were left homeless, he said. The blaze destroyed much of the building, leaving only parts of the brick facade still standing.

"We were sleeping, and we heard a beeping noise," Christine Civitello, a resident of the building, said. "We grabbed our kid and we all just ran out the door without anything. I had a tank top on. The firemen gave me some clothes. But yeah, it was really intense."

The cause of the fire is under investigation.