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 George Washington made critical decisions that helped shape the new United States,” said Kulleseid. “The headquarters has been state property since 1859, 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 all who visit from America and around the world.”

Begun in the summer of 2020, the $1.85 million project — funded under NY Works — included repair of existing bluestone walkways, enhancements to accessible parking, new fusing and improvements to accessible paths on nearly seven acres of grounds overlooking the Hudson River. Pathways and parking are now ADA compliant.

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.

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 (NESAA). 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 shine a light on the many ways straining the nation. Historic New England and NESAA 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 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 NESAA 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.historicnewengland.org.

Three Firefighters Hurt Battling Blaze At Historic Connecticut Building

NEW HARTFORD, CONN. (AP) — Three firefighters were hospitalized, and several pets and cats were missing when a blaze that was first reported shortly before 3:30 a.m. at 1468 Wick Avenue in New Hartford, Conn., officials said. About 12 residents were accounted for and unaccounted for.

Nearly 100 firefighters from more than 30 departments responded to the blaze, which was first reported shortly before 3:30 a.m., 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 part of the brick facade still standing.

“We were sleeping, and we heard a booming noise,” Christina Cricciata, 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.