



October 2023



John FX Keator

Memorial Pumpkin Walk

Friday, October 27th

Berkshire
Public Health
Alliance



WASHINGTON TOWN HALL VACCINE CLINIC



OCT. 30

**WASHINGTON
TOWN HALL**
8 SUMMIT HILL RD,
WASHINGTON

5:00PM TO 7:00PM

Moderna or Pfizer vaccination & boosters and Influenza (Flu)

*Nurses will do their best to abide by the registration appointment schedule;
unregistered clients will be vaccinated as time and supplies allow.
Please wear short sleeves.*

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER

by visiting this website:

<https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/berkshire>

or by scanning the QR code



Please note: Registration may not be open until late Sept/ early Oct.

The Washington Historical

Commission will be leading a hike to 2 quarries in the town. The date is October 7th, at 9 AM.

The hike will be about 4 miles in length, and there will be some off trail hiking. Bring water and a snack. Sturdy shoes will be required. We will meet at the Appalachian Trail parking lot on Washington Mountain Road. Any questions, call 413-212-6039

COA

Classes

Chair Yoga Mondays at 11:00 AM

Yoga Tuesdays at 9:00 AM

Osteoporosis Thursdays at 9 AM

Pot lunch dinner on Friday October 20th at 5:30 PM

Steve will be cooking chicken cordon blue. All seniors are welcome with or without a dish to share.

COA needs you help!! If you can have ideas for additional classes, or would like to be on the board, let me know!!

Questions, comments or concerns contact Rose at

413-394-0003 Washingtoncoa@gmail.com

Special Election to Fill Select Board Vacancy

Date: Saturday, October 21, 2023

Time: 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Polling location: Washington Town Hall, 8 Summit Hill Rd

Voter registration session will be held Wednesday, October 11, 2023 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am and 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm at the Washington Town Hall. This is the last date to register to vote in the special election, if you are not already registered.

If you would like to vote by mail in the special election, the deadline to request a ballot is Monday, October 16th by 5:00 pm. Please request earlier if possible to account for mailing times. The vote by mail application is available on the website: <https://www.washington-ma.gov/town-clerk/pages/vote-mail>.

Dear Washington Friends & Neighbors:

October 2023

Fall is definitely here. Time to put the gardens to bed and get ready for the season ahead.

The Highway crew has been doing another round of grading on the gravel roads in preparation for winter. There are also plans to replace drainage culverts all along Stonehouse Rd this month, which will mean some traffic disruption when we do.

Tom also still intends to rebuild the road base and improve drainage for one of the worst parts of Lovers Lane Rd, at the bottom of Schulze Rd, before the ground freezes and the snow flies. The goal is to get this section of road to hold up better during the ever-growing mud season. There are plenty of other areas that need help as well, of course. If the materials and techniques used here are successful, then we can tackle other problem spots similarly over the next few years.

The exact timing for these projects was not known by the time this letter was due for Tracks. Residents in these areas are encouraged to Subscribe to Alerts at the town website in order to receive email notifications and updates when road closures are scheduled.

Thanks to Town Administrator Sean Curran who got through to appropriate officials at CSX to get them to take the flooding situation on Upper Valley Rd seriously. CSX finally brought in pumps to address the immediate issues and then managed to get their culverts under the tracks mostly cleared of accumulated obstructions. The water levels are back down closer to normal. The Highway crew continues to monitor, and Sean will stay after CSX if the problems reemerge.

Our Public Health Nurse will hold the annual Flu Vaccination Clinic on Monday, October 30. The latest Covid-19 booster will also be available. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Many folks were unhappy last year that the “appointment” times which the online registration sets up weren’t really honored in practice. We’ve asked the team to make adjustments this year to prioritize those who take the time to pre-register. Walk-ins are still welcome of course, but may wait longer to get a shot. The Select Board won’t be meeting that night, so there shouldn’t be the same time crunch at the end as in years past.

County health officials are anticipating an uptick in Covid infections as we head back indoors for fall and winter. We still have plenty of N-95 masks available at Town Hall for residents who want to stop by during open hours. Unfortunately, the few remaining Covid tests expired in April. If the opportunity arises to stock up on more, we will. Meanwhile, residents are encouraged to go to [CovidTests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov) to request four free tests from the Federal government.

A Special Town Election to fill the vacancy on the Select Board will be held on Saturday, October 21, noon-4:00. And the Pumpkin Walk will be the next Friday, October 27. Enjoy the Fall!

Kent Lew, Select Board chair

David Ellis, Select Board clerk

Proposed Zoning Bylaw

Approved at Town Meeting: May 10, 2023

Approved by Attorney General: September 5, 2023

Claims of invalidity by reason of any defect in the procedure of adoption or amendment may only be made within ninety days of such posting, which is December 21, 2023. Copies of this by-law may be examined and obtained from the Town Clerk and are available on the town website: <https://www.washington-ma.gov/planning-board/pages/zoning-bylaws>.

Section 6.7 Accessory Dwelling Units

6.7.1. Purpose:

- A. Create more housing options for town residents.
- B. Provide homeowners with a separate space for family, companionship, security, or service providers.
- C. Maintain the single-family character of the town.
- D. Create options for those residents who wish to downsize and remain comfortably on their property.
- E. Provide homeowners with an opportunity for supplemental income.

6.7.2 Definitions:

- A. Accessory Dwelling Unit (or “ADU”): a residential living unit on the same parcel as a single-family or two-family dwelling. The ADU provides complete independent living facilities for one or more persons. It may take various forms: a detached unit; a unit that is part of an accessory structure, or a unit that is part of an expanded or remodeled primary dwelling.
- B. Attached Accessory Dwelling Unit: an ADU which shares wall-to-wall or any permanent roof attachment such as a breezeway with an existing residential unit.
- C. Detached Accessory Dwelling Unit: an ADU which does not share common walls or roofing with an existing residential unit.
- D. Detached Existing Structure: an accessory structure existing as of the date of a proposal for conversion to an ADU (such as a shed, garage, barn, etc.) which does not share common walls or roofing with an existing residential unit.

6.7.3. Applicability:

Notwithstanding any restrictions contained in Section 5.1 of the zoning bylaw:

- A. An Accessory Dwelling Unit within, or attached to, any single or two-family dwelling or in a detached existing structure shall be authorized as of right, provided that the requirements listed in section 6.7.3.C of the zoning bylaw are met.
- B. A newly constructed detached Accessory Dwelling Unit to any single or two-family dwelling shall be subject to a special permit. At a minimum, the ADU shall be subject to the requirements listed in Section 6.7.3.C of the zoning bylaw, as well as the following findings made by the special permit granting authority:
 - 1. Is in compliance with all provisions and requirements of this bylaw; and in harmony with its general intent and purpose.
 - 2. Will not be detrimental to adjacent uses, the natural environment, or to the established or future character of the neighborhood.
 - 3. Will not create undue traffic congestion or unduly impair pedestrian safety.
 - 4. Will not adversely alter drainage patterns or rates of flow on adjacent properties or pose any risk of hazard to the public health, safety, or general welfare on adjacent properties or elsewhere in Town.

C. Accessory Dwelling Unit Requirements:

1. ADUs may not be in separate ownership from the main residence.
2. Maintains a separate entrance, either directly from the outside or through an entry hall or corridor shared with the principal dwelling sufficient to meet the requirements of the state building code for safe egress.
3. A total of one (1) Accessory Dwelling Unit shall be allowed on a residential lot under Section 6.7.3.A or 6.7.3.B of the zoning bylaw.
4. A total of two (2) Accessory Dwelling Units can only be sought as a combination of one (1) attached and one (1) detached ADU by special permit approval, subject to the requirements of this Section and the findings listed under Section 6.7.3.B.1 through 4 of the zoning bylaw.
5. A detached ADU subject to Section 6.7.3.B of the zoning bylaw shall not be visible from the public right-of-way if located between the main dwelling and the street where frontage is located. If the structure is or will potentially be visible, the Planning Board may waive this requirement as part of the issuance of a special permit under Section 6.7.3.B if it deems the proposal otherwise conforms with the intent of the zoning bylaw and will not result in any significant adverse impacts.
6. No Accessory Dwelling Unit may be constructed without prior approval of a Building Permit.
7. The gross floor area of a detached Accessory Dwelling Unit shall be no larger in floor area than 1/2 of the floor area of the principal dwelling or 900 square feet, whichever is smaller (stairwell access, porches, patios, shall not be included in the computation).
8. An addition or remodel to an original dwelling is permitted, provided that the Accessory Dwelling Unit shall be clearly a subordinate part of the dwelling with any addition being not more than 1/3 of the floor area of the principal dwelling or 900 square feet, whichever is smaller (excluding unfinished attic and basement, garage, porch, patio).
9. An existing accessory structure or portion thereof may be converted to an Accessory Dwelling Unit as long as the converted portion is no larger than 1/2 the floor area of the principal dwelling or 900 square feet, whichever is smaller.
10. The siting of an ADU in an existing nonconforming primary or secondary structure shall be subject to a special permit under Section 6.7.3.B and 6.1.3 of the zoning bylaw.
11. The construction of the Accessory Dwelling Unit shall conform to all applicable standards in the State Sanitary, Building and other applicable codes required for a residential dwelling.
12. ADUs will follow the rules for residential structures for setbacks, lot coverage, etc. conforming to Section 5.1 of the zoning bylaw.
13. Vehicles may only be parked in driveways or in parking areas located no closer to the street than the structure containing the ADU.

Proposed Zoning Bylaw

Approved at Town Meeting: May 10, 2023

Approved by Attorney General: September 5, 2023

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6.8. SHORT-TERM RENTAL OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

6.8.1. Purpose Short-Term Rentals (STRs) as defined in this section are allowed for residential properties in accordance with the regulations below. These regulations exist to promote and support the town as an attractive travel destination, and seek to:

- A. Provide a range of accommodations for town visitors and guests.
- B. Preserve and protect the single-family residential character of the town.
- C. Provide residents with an opportunity for supplemental income from their properties to better afford to reside in Town, maintain their properties, and contribute to the community.

6.8.2. Definition: Short-Term Rental: an owner-occupied or non-owner occupied property including, but not limited to, an apartment, house, cottage, condominium or a furnished accommodation that is not a hotel, motel, lodging house or bed and breakfast establishment, where:

- A. at least 1 room or unit is rented to an occupant or sub-occupant;
- B. all accommodations are reserved in advance; and,
- C. an occupant maintains tenancy for 31 or less calendar days.

6.8.3 Applicability:

- A. Owner occupied dwelling units or property
 - 1. Up to two bedrooms in an owner occupied dwelling unit may be rented year-round by right provided that the dwelling unit is owner occupied at the time of the rental.
 - 2. A separate attached or detached dwelling unit located on a property with an owner occupied dwelling unit at the time of the rental may be rented year-round by-right.
- B. Non-owner occupied property
 - 1. An entire dwelling unit may be rented up to 150 days per calendar year by right.
 - 2. An entire dwelling unit may be rented for an additional 50 days (up to 200 days in total) per calendar year by Special Permit.

6.8.4. Requirements:

- A. During the Short-Term Rental use
 - 1. All overnight parking must be within the property's driveway or garage.
 - 2. Events that include tents or amplified music or which would customarily require a license or permit are not allowed.
- B. Signs advertising the Short-Term Rental are not allowed.
- C. Operators of Short-Term Rentals must register annually with the Town and the Massachusetts Department of Revenue (DOR).
- D. A certificate of registration must be clearly posted on the exterior of the Short-Term Rental unit at all times.
- E. Short-term rental properties will be subject to the Massachusetts state room occupancy excise tax as per Massachusetts General Law c. 64G, §3.
- F. A Short-Term Rental is not allowed on any property with outstanding violations of the Building Code, Fire Code, Board of Health, or Town General Bylaws

Addressing Town Hall

When sending mail to the Washington Town Hall or dropping something off in the drop box, please be sure to indicate on the envelope who it's meant for. Otherwise, someone has to open the letter and try to determine its destination. Making sure that your envelope includes a line indicating "attn: _____" (i.e., Tax Collector, Town Clerk, Building Inspector, or whomever) will ensure it gets to that person in a timely fashion. Thanks for your cooperation.

Save the date...Saturday, November 11, 11 am...Washington Town Hall

A special Veterans Day presentation honoring America's first female veteran, Deborah Sampson

With Steve Nelson, publisher of "The Memoir of a Female Soldier" by Jan Lewis Nelson

Free vaccinations for the flu and covid are available at over 40 sites in the Berkshires in October. A clinic will be held at the Washington Town Hall on October 30 between 5 and 7 pm. Please go to <https://getvaccinatedberkshires.org/where-can-i-get-a-vaccine> to register to get either or both vaccines.

If you are homebound or otherwise unable to get to a clinic, or cannot access the website, please call our Public Health nurse at 413-442-1521 ext.52 and leave a message. Someone will get back to you to help register over the phone.

Becket Athenaeum

3367 Main St, Becket

BecketAthenaeum.org

- Tuesday, October 3, 1:30pm
Book Club: Dinners with Ruth by Nina Totenberg
- Saturdays, October 7, 21, 28,
10:30-11:30am
- **Library Storytime**
- Monday, October 9, 6pm
- **Cookbook Club:** The Silver Palate Cookbook by Julee Rosso and Sheila Lukins
- Saturday, October 14, 10:30-11:30am
- **Creative Movement & Storytime with Laurel Lenski**
- Saturday, October 14,
6:30-9:30pm, movie starts at 7pm
Movie Night for Adults
- Wednesday, October 18, 5-7pm
- **Game Night**





**Washington Tracks
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Email your TRACKS info by the **25th of the month** to get in to next month's
issue to Lisa at: **mrsabeski@mac.com**
Please put TRACKS in the subject line.