



APRIL 2021

Attention high school seniors: Any high school senior who is a resident of the Town of Washington and is planning to further his/ her education is eligible to apply for a Washington Scholarship. Applications for the Washington Scholarship, which are due by May 15, are available by contacting Linda Levernoch at 623-8309.

COA updates

Any seniors needing assistance in booking an appointment for their COVID vaccine please let us know. Call 413-394-0003 or email washingtoncoa@gmail.com

Our grant application for funds to connect our seniors to our broadband network was not funded.

We received approval from the Select Board to set up a book and puzzle exchange at the town hall. We hope to get this set up this month.

Opening Burning Season Reminders

- Just a reminder that open burning season will end Saturday, May 1st.
- As the last of the snow melts and the ground dries out, there could be more days where burning will not be allowed.
- Air quality is also a determining factor in the closing of a burning day. This is determined by the State DEP each day, so you must call or go online each day you want to burn.
- Any questions, call the Fire Chief (413) 623-2185.

Visit the Becket Athenaeum from home! They are offering:

*Storytime Is Anytime! with their YouTube channel bit.ly/BA-stories

*Watch recordings of past events at bit.ly/BA-videos

*Start a monarch butterfly nursery! you can request FREE milkweed seeds donated by SaveOurMonarchs.org

*E-Books are available

413.623.5483 info@bwlibrary.org BecketAthenaeum.org

Annual Town Election: Voting by Mail

In light of the ongoing pandemic, the State is allowing early voting by mail for any Annual Town Election held before June 30, 2021. Since our election will be held on Saturday, May 15, 2021 you have the option of voting early by mail. Please contact the Town Clerk if you would like to receive an early voting ballot for the Annual Town Election. Phone 413-623-2185 or email washington.ma.townclerk@gmail.com. **The last day to request an early voting ballot is Tuesday, May 11, 2021.**

Voter Registration Deadline for the Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election

Any eligible town resident that is not currently registered to vote will need to **register on or before Thursday, April 15, 2021** in order to vote at the Annual Town Meeting or Annual Town Election. Registration can be done online: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/or> in-person at the Washington Town Hall by contacting the Town Clerk for an appointment. Phone 413-623-2185 or email washington.ma.townclerk@gmail.com.

Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting will be held Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the Washington Highway Department garage again this year so we may continue to practice social distancing. Masks will be required.

Annual Town Election: Saturday, May 15, 2021

The annual town election will be held at the Washington Town Hall on Saturday, May 15, 2021 from 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM. We will follow all of the same safety precautions that were put into place for last year's elections and more details will be provided in the May newsletter.

Positions on the ballot include:

- Auditor (3 year term)
- Finance Committee (3 year term)
- Moderator (3 year term)
- Planning Board (5 year term)
- Select Board (3 year term)
- Town Clerk (3 year term)

Gaetano's Organic Farm, situated at 453 Main Street in Becket MA, are accepting sign-up request for this year's CSA. Together we can make a difference and truly mirror the concept: NO FARMS- NO FOOD!

You are receiving 7 kinds of vegetables, herbs and berries. This year, we increased the variety of products offered, which means that if you don't prefer one kind of product, we will be able to switch to accommodate your preference.

Our growing season starts in May and ends in October. Pick up is on Saturday 9:30am - 11:30noon. The cost per share is \$419-\$599 (\$30 per week).

In addition to our last year offer of vegetables share, we are happy to introduce our new concept of meat share, which will include chicken, rabbit, and turkey. Please inquire if interested 413.329.3862.

We hope to have a great season with abundance of produce and to sustain your family!



GRAND OPENING
MARCH 7

Canna Corner Dispensary

Open everyday 10am-7pm
413-770-4283
cannacornerbecket.com

Located in the
Route 8 Pub &
Becket Liquor Store Plaza
3235 Main St., Becket, MA

Please consume responsibly. This product may cause impairment and may be habit forming. Marijuana can impair concentration, coordination and judgment. Do not operate a vehicle or machinery under the influence of this drug. This product has not been analyzed or approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). There is limited information on the side effects of using this product, and there may be associated health risks. Marijuana use during pregnancy and breast-feeding may pose potential harm. It is against the law to drive or operate machinery while under the influence of this product. KEEP THIS PRODUCT AWAY FROM CHILDREN. There may be health risks associated with consumption of this product. Marijuana can impair concentration, coordination, and judgment. The impairment effects of edibles may be delayed by two hours or more. In case of accidental ingestion, contact poison control hotline 1-800-322-3222 or 911. This product may be illegal outside of MA.



ROUTE 8 PUB

3235 Main Street, Becket MA 413-623-6026

We serve a wide variety of entrees, sandwiches, pizzas and more

Newly expanded Pizza Menu includes your favorite classics as well as exciting alternatives like our Greek Pizza, our famous Margherita Pizza and a cult classic Spinach and Pesto Pizza. And of course you can create your own pizza by selecting from our extensive toppings list.

And nothing beats our homemade desserts.

Beer, wine and mixed drinks available.

www.route8pub.com

To our Washington neighbors:

April 2021

It is just over a year since the Select Board declared a state of emergency and closed the Town Hall in concert with both the national and state-wide response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We had hoped that a few months would return us to normal but as you are all aware the crisis goes on.

- The Berkshire County rate of infection continues to decline, and we are well below state average, but people are still dying; we have lost over 250 of our neighbors in the county.
- Vaccine supplies have increased, and more appointments are available. If you are eligible, please get vaccinated as soon as you can. If you have access to the internet use <https://www.getvaccinatedberkshires.org/>, otherwise call the Berkshire County Vaccination Hotline (413-449-5575). As of April 5th, everyone 55 and over is eligible for vaccination; on April 19 everyone 16 and over can get vaccinated.
- If you are homebound or know a homebound person, call 1-844-771-1628 Statewide In-Home Vaccination Program to schedule a vaccination..
- We are still many months away from getting everyone vaccinated and until then - and perhaps even afterwards - please stay home, wear a mask if you do go out and avoid gatherings. Wash your hands. Stay safe.

The Town has joined with Westfield Wild and Scenic to sponsor a volunteer-led effort to remove invasive species from Savery Brook. If your property abuts the brook you will be contacted.

Our Town Plan has been favorably reviewed by the Select Board, Planning Board and Finance Committee. Next steps are presentation at the Annual Town Meeting on Wednesday May 5 and a public hearing by the Planning Board on May 11.

- The Plan involves five projects intended to solidify our finances and provide guidance to preserve the Town's character for the foreseeable future.
- We will be looking for volunteers to realize the work of the five projects.

The court-appointed Receiver for Bucksteep will pay the back taxes by April 1 unless the current owners, Family Unity, do. Thus, the Town will be made whole whatever else happens to the property.

- Several inquiries have been made to the Board from people interested in repurposing Bucksteep, but the situation remains quite complicated, and any next steps remain in the hands of the court.

Nature Conservancy has made a formal offer to buy 20+ Town-owned acres in Virginia Lakes. There is also another interested purchaser. The Select Board is reviewing the legal strictures around selling municipal-owned property. Spring is here, even if it does not always seem so. We have every expectation that we can put the worst of the COVID crisis behind us soon. Stay strong and stay safe.

Jim Huebner

Tricia Drugmand

Dick Grillon



WASHINGTON TRACKS
TOWN HALL
8 SUMMIT HILL RD.
WASHINGTON, MA 01223

Presorted Standard
US Postage
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Pittsfield MA

WWW.WASHINGTON-MA.COM

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES

Horace Mann Insurance Agency

PO Box 772 Becket Ma. 01223.
Phone 413.623.2112
Fax 413.623.5551
Provide all Personal Lines of Insurance
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Hilltowns Veterinary Clinic

Dr. Sharon Lynch, MVB
133 South Washington State Rd
Washington, MA 01223
413.623.5329
www.hilltownsvetclinic.com

Justice of the Peace

Dorothy Filanowska
413.446.6921 justicedora@gmail.com
<http://www.justicedora.com>

Mark F. Roos, Broker Associate ABR

The Kinderhook Group
413.822.6143
markfr909@gmail.com
Helping buyers and sellers achieve their dreams

Pinnacle Painting Company

578 South Washington State Rd
Washington, MA 01223
413.623.8737
Over 35 years experience Painting, wall covering &
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Realtor & Notary

Lisa Peltier
500 S. Washington State Rd.
413.822.1257
Keller Williams Realty
LisaPeltier413@gmail.com

Summit Hill Campground

34 Old Middlefield Rd.
Washington, Ma. 01223
413.623.5761
Great Family Camping
Tents, R.V.s Motor Homes
Full Hook Ups
Pet Friendly
Seasonals Welcomed
Events scheduled May through Sept

Your Way Computer

Frank Kennedy
1153 Washington Mt. Road
Washington, MA 01223
Call: 623.5180 / Fax: 623.2018
E-Mail: carolandfranksr@carolandfrank.com
By appointment only

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.