



April 2022



Washington Town Park's Summer Concert Series Slated to Continue Into Second Year as Washington Cultural Council Announces 2022 Grant Recipients

The Washington Cultural Council has awarded funding to 10 diverse cultural programs slated to benefit not only the Washington town residents but also those of the neighboring communities. 2022 grant recipients are Becket Arts Center of the Hilltowns, Becket Athenaeum., WAM Theatre, Massachusetts Walking Tour Concerts, The Highway Men: Songs and Stories Presented by Matt York, and the famed "Friends of the Washington Town Park" Music in the Park Concert Series, which last year featured musical artists like Krishna Guthrie and Rev Tor. Other awards granted will benefit the members of the Washington Council on Aging as well as the students at Becket Washington Elementary.

Among the awarded programs are FREE opportunities for community engagement through local cultural attractions, like the Becket Atheneum's museum passes program that grants access to the various world-class museums in the Berkshires; opportunities for children in the community to explore the studio arts with the assistance of IS183, Inc.; several outdoor events hosting musical entertainment of many genres, as well as, chances for expression through movement and dance. The WCC is eager to support these and others that not only enrich our community but the neighboring communities as well. As the year progresses, visit the Town of Washington at, www.washington-ma.gov/cultural-council for more information on these events.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS A reminder that May 1 is the deadline for submitting Washington Scholarship applications. 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. Applications can be found on our town's website <https://www.washington-ma.gov>, go to community tab and click on schools.

Attention High School Seniors Class of 2022 : Any high school senior who is a resident of the Town of Washington and is planning to continue his/her education is eligible to apply for an Emma Bailey Scholarship. Application submission deadline is May 1, 2022. Applications can be found online at Washington-ma.gov. Choose the "Community" tab then select "Schools" for the history of the Emma Bailey Scholarship Fund and an application.

Vital Services Come to Town:

Supported by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Berkshire Harm Reduction Program at Berkshire Medical Center provides several vital services to the community including:

- Testing for HIV, Hepatitis C & other STI's
- Syringe Services & Sharps Disposal
- Overdose Education & Narcan Distribution
- HIV Health & Prevention
- Hepatitis C treatment & Case Management

The Washington Board of Health has teamed up with the Berkshire Harm Reduction Program to bring those vital services to town. Berkshire Harm Reduction Program will pilot a mobile Syringe Services Program at the Town Hall beginning on April 26th then every fourth Tuesday of the month a mobile van will be parked in the rear of the Town Hall from 10AM to 12PM to provide a variety of services and information.

All services are *free and confidential*

Classes

Chair Yoga Mondays 11:00 AM no class April 18
Yoga Tuesdays at 9:00 AM
Osteoporosis Thursdays at 9:00 AM
Tai-Chi/QiGong Fridays at 10:00 AM

Pot Luck Dinner Friday, April 15 at 5:30 PM Join us for chicken and pasta! As always all seniors are welcome with or without a dish to share - we look forward to seeing you!

Questions, comments, or need assistance? Call 413-394-0003 or email washingtoncoa@gmail.com

Washington Clean Up 2022!

Our Washington Clean Up Day is scheduled for April 23 from 9-12!

What can you do to help keep our town beautiful?

- * Get together with your neighbors and claim ownership of your piece of road! Clean up!

- *Take a walk with your dog, your kids, your friend and bring a bag with you!

Remember, Community service benefits everyone in our town!

Come and join the volunteers tackling Washington Mountain Road- We'll have safety vests and bags to share! More information will be available on the town website as the date approaches!

Washington-Ma.gov

2021 Dog Licenses Have Expired

Dog licenses for 2021 expired on March 31, 2022. We are now in the grace period before late fees apply, so please apply for your dog's 2022 license before May 31, 2022. After that date a late fee of \$25 will be charged.

Please see the Town Clerk at the Town Hall on Monday evenings or send the following in the mail:

- Current rabies certificate
 - Proof that your dog is spayed or neutered
 - Applicable fee: \$4:00 if your dog is spayed or neutered; \$10 if not
 - Completed [dog license form](#). Forms also available at the town hall
 - If you received a late fee invoice from 2021, that must be paid before you can receive a 2022 license
- Checks are payable to the Town of Washington. Address if mailing: 8 Summit Hill Road, Washington, MA 01223

Annual Town Census Reminder

Reminder to update, sign, and mail your town census form if you haven't already.

Upcoming Voter Registration Deadline

If you are new to town or are not yet registered to vote, Monday, May 2nd is the deadline to register and be eligible to vote at the Annual Town Meeting and Election. You can register to vote [online](#), by [mail-in form](#), or at the town hall on Monday evenings.

Town Clerk Office Hours

The Town Clerk will not hold office hours on Monday, April 4th. If you need assistance from the Town Clerk, please contact her by email washington.ma.townclerk@gmail.com.

TOWN OF WASHINGTON APRIL 2022 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Annual Town Meeting - May 11, 2022 7PM. Tentatively scheduled to take place at the Town Hall.					TOWN HALL 1	2
Annual Town Election at the Town Hall on Saturday, May 21, 2022 from 12PM - 4PM					TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10AM	Transfer Station BAM-4PM
3	TOWN HALL 4 Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM <u>Select Board Meeting 7:00 - 9:00PM</u> Finance Committee 7:00 - 9:00PM Assessors Office 6:00 - 8:00PM Tax Collector 6:00 - 8:00PM Town Clerk 7:00 - 9:00PM Police Department 7:00 - 9:00PM Chair Yoga with Rima 11AM	5 Yoga with Rima 9AM Planning Board Meeting 7PM	TOWN HALL 6 Historical Commission 10AM Administrative Assistant 10AM-2PM Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM Girl Scout Troop 40367 6PM-8 PM	TOWN HALL OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM	TOWN HALL 8 TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10AM	TOWN HALL 9 Transfer Station 8AM-4PM state of the Town Meeting 10AM to 12PM
10	TOWN HALL 11 Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM <u>Select Board Meeting 7:00 - 9:00PM</u> Assessors Office 6:00 - 8:00PM Tax Collector 6:00 - 8:00PM Town Clerk 7:00 - 9:00PM Police Department 7:00 - 9:00PM Chair Yoga with Rima 11AM	12 Yoga with Rima 9AM	TOWN HALL 13 Administrative Assistant 10AM-2PM Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM Girl Scout Troop 40367 6PM-8 PM	TOWN HALL 14 OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM	TOWN HALL 15 TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10AM Council On Aging Potluck Dinner 5:30PM-7PM	TOWN HALL 16 Transfer Station BAM-4PM
17	TOWN HALL 18 Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM <u>Parks Commission 6:00 - 6:45PM</u> <u>Select Board Meeting 7:00 - 9:00PM</u> Assessors Office 6:00 - 8:00PM Tax Collector 6:00 - 8:00PM Town Clerk 7:00 - 9:00PM Police Department 7:00 - 9:00PM <u>Chair Yoga with Rima 11AM</u> CANCELED	19 Yoga with Rima 9AM	TOWN HALL 20 Administrative Assistant 10AM-2PM Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM Girl Scout Troop 40367 6PM-8 PM	21 OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM	TOWN HALL 22 TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10AM	23 Transfer Station BAM-4PM Town-wide Spring clean-up event 9AM to 12PM
24	TOWN HALL 25 Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM <u>Select Board Meeting 7:00 - 9:00PM</u> Assessors Office 6:00 - 8:00PM Tax Collector 6:00 - 8:00PM Town Clerk 7:00 - 9:00PM Police Department 7:00 - 9:00PM Chair Yoga With Rima 11AM	26 Yoga with Rima 9AM Berkshire Harm Reduction Services Mobile Van parked at rear of Town Hall	TOWN HALL 27 Administrative Assistant 10AM-2PM Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM Girl Scout Troop 40367 6PM-8 PM	28 OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM	29 TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10AM	30 Transfer Station BAM-4PM

Entity	Contact	Number
Assessors	Karen Avelle	717-7216
Board of Health	Jim Huebner	655-8668
Building Inspector	Paul Greene	446-0964
Chapel Commission	Rose Borgnis	394-0003
Clerk	Allison Mikaniewicz	623-2185
Conservation	Michelle Lampro	464-2388
Council on Aging	Rose Borgnis	394-0003

Please CALL AHEAD

Entity	Contact	Number
Finance Committee	Sean Connors	212-1182
Parks Commission	Dominic Sinopoli	623-2086
Planning Board	Don Gagnon	822-8385
Police Chief	Nicole Miller	446-4294
Select Board	Kent Lew	623-0202
Tax Collector	Gina Campbell	623-0146
Transfer Station	Michelle Lampro	464-2388
Veterans Agent	John Herrera	499-9433

Dear Washington Friends & Neighbors:

April 2022

With color rising in the willows, maples beginning to bud, and robins and bluebirds returning to the area, April brings hope for the season ahead and thoughts of getting outdoors more.

In that spirit, we're calling for a **Town-wide Roadside Cleanup** day on **Saturday, April 23** (the day after Earth Day). There will be an organized effort along Washington Mountain Rd, but residents should also consider connecting with neighbors and tackling a section closer to home. Keep an eye on the website for developing details.

Speaking of cleaning, our custodian Cindy Taylor has recently resigned. We thank her for her many years of service. So we are seeking a new custodian to clean the Town Hall. Details and an application are on the website at www.washington-ma.gov/job-opportunities.

The Highway crew will be tackling some tree removal this month, mostly dying ash, but also others endangering our roadways. Rather than have the logs hauled away, they want to try to make them available to residents who can use rough lengths for firewood. We still need to work out logistical details, but look for more information and a sign-up on the website after April 6.

April is also the height of fiscal budget season, in preparation for the Annual Town Meeting. Frankly, things do not look good. Many mandatory expenses are going up excessively. Our overall Education costs are slated to rise more than 15%! We are anticipating the need to seek a Levy Limit Override vote. If we can't raise enough revenue, we will need to make drastic cuts to services that are already suffering.

To better inform the community about the challenges we face and to get your input, the Select Board is planning to hold a **State of the Town gathering on Saturday, April 9, 10-noon**, at Town Hall. We intend to include a remote option via Zoom. As of this writing, details are still being worked out and more information will be available soon on the Town website. Think of it as a live version of the monthly Select Board letter, with the opportunity for some Q&A.

The Collins Center has provided their review of our Municipal Operations and Organization, including a recommendation for a part-time Town Administrator. This will also be part of the State of the Town talk. The report is publicly available on the Town website in the Select Board section.

Bids for the repaving project on lower Frost Rd and Lovers Lane Rd will be opened on April 4. Construction should begin around the end of the month and be substantially complete before Memorial Day. We will aim to post any information about traffic disruptions to the website's Town News section. Remember, you can subscribe to be notified by email when News like this is posted.

Kent Lew
Select Board chair

Tricia Drugmand
Select Board clerk

David Ellis
Select Board

Washington Insights

Short-Term Rentals—Where To Begin

by Susan Colgan

As spring light brightens our days, and fair-weather clouds race across the sky, our thoughts turn to the garden. We're getting the yard and house spruced up and, now that Covid restrictions are easing up, maybe even making that spare room ready for a short-term rental.

Carol Lew, writing on Town Finances (December 2021 Insights in the Tracks), pointed out that any Washington homeowner can rent out rooms—or their whole house—earning money for themselves and, through the state room tax, bringing in needed funds for the town.

You might be intrigued by the idea, but scratching your head about just where to begin. One place to start is an online vacation rental platform: The two most popular with guests and property owners are Airbnb and Vrbo, both designed to provide alternatives to hotel accommodations.

If it's that room you've been cleaning with the view of the hills, or if you have several rooms in the house you think would appeal to guests, Airbnb is a natural choice. A spare bedroom in someone's home, while it may lack the privacy of a full property rental, is great for travelers who don't mind sharing amenities in exchange for an affordable nightly rate.

Airbnb is also known to offer one-of-a-kind stays in tiny houses, yurts, castles, treehouses, even a private island; the site often attracts younger, adventure-seeking travelers, usually looking for a short stay. Airbnb also includes whole house rentals. Because of the wide variety of properties offered on their site, Airbnb typically attracts twice as many travel seekers each month as Vrbo.

While Vrbo does not list shared spaces, the platform boasts traditional family accommodations and often, but not always, large vacation homes, attracting large families and an older audience. Vrbo properties tend to be more suited to longer stays.

Airbnb has a wide range of information on its website—from videos about hosting to helpful lists that include proper cleaning tips, safety information, building rules and,

importantly, filling out your tax returns. Airbnb's online "help center" answers most questions and covers what it takes to be a responsible host. First on the list: health and cleanliness.

There are also a range of companies offering services to help coordinate your short-term rentals, from cleaning to managing your business.

One couple in our town has rented their second home in the neighborhood over the past 25 years. Now that they are permanent Washington residents, they have acquired a little house adjacent to their home as a place for their grown children to stay when they come to visit, but also, after the positive experience of renting their home, they plan to offer the space as a short-term rental.

And there are other short-term renters in our town who have been doing it for a long time. Will and Michele Beamer have been renting their timber-frame guest house on Vrbo since 2014. They also list on Airbnb. Originally designed as an office, the space grew with the addition of a kitchen, bedrooms and a beautiful cruck-frame living room. They specify no children, no pets and no smoking. The uncluttered interiors and design, along with a washer and drier, make it easy to clean, according to Michele.

Another resident, Johnny Irion, has listed his cruck-frame home on Vrbo since 2015. The whimsical interior, designed by the Master Craftsman Jack Sobon, has four bedrooms and sleeps six. Irion allows children and stipulates a minimum stay of two nights.

Down the hill from Irion is the large "Berkshire Shingle Cottage" belonging to Andy Inganni who has listed this spacious home on Vrbo since 2008. His timber-frame home has two screened porches and views of the western hills; it sleeps eight and is offered for a minimum of six days, Saturday to Friday.

If you are intrigued by the idea of a short-term rental remember that the town of Washington has a lot to offer: our unique landscape, easy access to hiking trails and all the cultural advantages of the Berkshires.

The weather is getting warmer .



Spring Writing Workshop

with Lara Tupper, MFA

ONLINE

For writers of fiction/nonfiction with work in progress.

Five Mondays starting April 18, 2022
6:00 - 8:00 PM ET

Supportive feedback with fellow writers.
Class size limited. Please email to register.

laratupper.com/contact
for registration and details



Monday, April 4th 6:30 pm
In person at the Becket Athenaeum or via Zoom

PLANNING FOR LAND CONSERVATION AND OUTDOOR RECREATION

The 2022 Becket Arts Center Exploration Series begins. Co-hosted with Becket Athenaeum, this event will host the first showing of the 2022 Open Space & Recreation Plan Survey.

The planners and local volunteers spearheading this effort want the updated plan to reflect the current needs and desires of Becket residents, so consider attending and voicing your thoughts. The event will feature a series of poster-sized maps, a short presentation about the project, and many opportunities for you to share your ideas.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED
www.becketartscenter.org/explorations

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VICKEYMAZZER@GMAIL.COM
TEL:413-822-1390

All donations will be used to benefit the children of Berkshire County - For purchasing bicycles for the bike rodeo giveaway, back packs and school supplies to be given out, and other events benefiting the children. There will be a live radio broadcast by The Peak 97.1.

CALL FOR ARTISTS

BECKET ARTS CENTER 4TH ANNUAL OPEN STUDIOS DRIVEABOUT

If your studio is within a 30 minute drive of the Becket Arts Center (7 Brooker Hill Rd, Becket), you may apply to participate.



What is the Open Studios DriveAbout? Artists showcase their studios, present their work, and sell their creations as art-lovers drive from location to location.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6TH
RAIN DATE: SUNDAY, AUGUST 7TH

Cost to participate as an artist in the DriveAbout is \$20 and you must be a 2022 BAC Member. You may also show up to 3 pieces at the BAC Member Show August 6th through August 22nd.

APPLY AND PAY BY SUNDAY, MAY 1ST, 2022
becketartscenter.org/artists



BECKET ARTS CENTER

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SUNDAYS, 5 PM
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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.