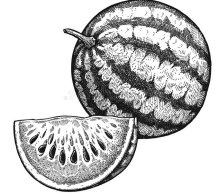


AUGUST 2020



BROADBAND PROJECT UPDATE

As we move into August, we are entering the home stretch of our Broadband Project. We have now connected 80% of our subscribers. And we are currently on pace to wrap up pretty much all customer installations by Labor Day.

Here are just a few of the comments I've gotten from folks about their new high-speed broadband Internet service:

"[I]t is brilliantly fast! We have 4 adults, all working who were desperate about not being able to do zoom calls, and we have 4 children who are still in home schooling and finally they can now participate in activities, and the connection holds! ... It is like a new world at our house ..." — S.C.

"I just updated my phone and I thought something didn't work right because it was so quick." — M.S.

"[It's] so nice not to have to restart the modem 20 times a day or see wait buffering." — T.C.

"The streaming is great." — K.W.

"It's so exciting to join the 21st century. Much appreciated." — D.S.

LAST CALL FOR HIGH-SPEED, STATE-OF-THE-ART BROADBAND!

A handful of latecomers have continued to sign up during these past few months, and we've continued to extend the Town's drop credit incentive. But we aren't able to offer this indefinitely.

As we approach the end of the project, this new deadline is now the final extension of the sign-up incentive: **Sign up before Aug 16** to receive a **\$650 drop credit** toward your installation costs.

Folks who want to take service later will always be welcome, of course. But after the completion of this startup period, the entire installation cost will fall to the homeowner. So don't wait any longer if you can help it.

Go to www.wiredwest.net/washington to get started.

If you have questions, please contact me and let's get them answered. You can email washingtonfiber@kentlew.com or call 413-446-7897.

— Kent Lew, Washington Broadband Manager

Vote by Mail Applications Mailed by the State

The Massachusetts Elections Division has mailed a vote-by-mail application to every registered voter in the state. You can use this application to request an early voting ballot for the upcoming State Primary (September 1st) and General Election (November 3). If you would like to vote by mail, please mail the completed application to the Town Clerk. The application will be pre-addressed to the clerk's office and postage pre-paid.

- You can complete and send in the vote-by-mail application as soon as you receive it and you will be mailed an early ballot as soon the ballots are received by the Town Clerk (on or before August 3rd).
- If you check off that you want an early ballot for both elections, you will **not** have to re-apply for an early ballot for November. You will automatically receive a ballot for November once they are available.
- Vote-by-mail applications for the State Primary must be received by the Town Clerk by 5:00 PM on Wednesday, August 26, 2020.

Voting in the State Primary

Date: Tuesday, September 1, 2020

Polling Hours: 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Polling Location: Washington Town Hall, 8 Summit Hill Rd, Washington, MA 01223

Registering to Vote or Changing Your Registration

- If you are not currently registered to vote in Washington, please contact the Town Clerk for a registration form or go to <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/> to register online. You must register on or before Saturday, August 22, 2020 in order to vote on Primary day.
- As this is a Primary, there are separate ballots for each of the four parties (Democratic, Green-Rainbow, Libertarian and Republican). If you are registered in one of these parties, you must vote that party ballot in the Primary. If you are an Unenrolled (Independent) voter, you may select whichever party ballot you would like.
- If you would like to change your party affiliation before Primary day, please contact the Town Clerk or go to <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr/> to change your registration. You must do this on or before Saturday, August 22, 2020.

Voting Methods for the State Primary

- **Vote by Mail:** Apply for an early ballot. See information above on this process.
- **Early In-Person Voting:** Early in-person voting will be held from Saturday, August 22nd - Friday, August 28th. An early voting application is not needed to vote early in-person. See below for specific dates and times.
- **Voting on Primary Day:** Tuesday, September 1, 2020 from 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM at the Washington Town Hall. Remember a mask/face covering is required to enter the Town Hall. See below for reminders on the safety procedures so we can all stay safe and healthy during this pandemic.

Offices and Candidates on the Primary Ballots

Office	Democratic Candidates	Green-Rainbow Candidates	Libertarian Candidates	Republican Candidates
Senator in Congress	Edward J. Markey Joseph P. Kennedy, III	No candidates on the ballot	No candidates on the ballot	Shiva Ayyadurai Kevin J. O'Connor
Representative in Congress	Richard E. Neal Alex B. Norse	No candidates on the ballot	No candidates on the ballot	No candidates on the ballot
Councillor	Mary E. Hurley	No candidates on the ballot	No candidates on the ballot	No candidates on the ballot
Senator in General Court	Adam G. Hinds	No candidates on the ballot	No candidates on the ballot	No candidates on the ballot
Representative in General Court	William "Smitty" Pignatelli	No candidates on the ballot	No candidates on the ballot	No candidates on the ballot
Register of Probate	Anthony P. Patella	No candidates on the ballot	No candidates on the ballot	No candidates on the ballot

TOWN OF WASHINGTON AUGUST 2020 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<i>The Town Hall continues to be closed to the public. As of July 13, 2020 Town Hall Offices are open by Appointment ONLY.</i>					1 Transfer Station 8AM-4PM
2	TOWN HALL Selectmen Meeting Call-in (413) 672-0134 PIN: 336662 at 7 PM * Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM * Town Hall Offices Open By Appointment	4 No Planning Board Call-in meeting this month. Next meeting scheduled for September 8, 2020 7PM	TOWN HALL Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM * Transfer Station 5PM-8PM	6 Conservation Commission Public Hearing on Site 441 Cross Place Road 4:30 PM	7	8 Transfer Station 8AM-4PM
9	TOWN HALL Selectmen Meeting Call-in (413) 672-0134 PIN: 336662 at 7 PM * Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM * Town Hall Offices Open By Appointment	11	TOWN HALL Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM * Transfer Station 5PM-8PM	13	14	15 Transfer Station 8AM-4PM
16	TOWN HALL Selectmen Meeting Call-in (413) 672-0134 PIN: 336662 at 7 PM * Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM * Town Hall Offices Open By Appointment	18	TOWN HALL Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM * Transfer Station 5PM-8PM	20	21	22 TOWN HALL Transfer Station 8AM-4PM September 1, 2020 State Primary Voter Registration & Party Affiliation change ends * EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING 2PM-4PM & 6PM-8PM
23 EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING 1PM-3PM	TOWN HALL Selectmen Meeting Call-in (413) 672-0134 PIN: 336662 at 7 PM * Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM * Town Hall Offices Open By Appointment EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING 7PM - 9PM	25 EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING 10AM-2PM	TOWN HALL Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM * Vote-by-Mail application for the September 1st Primary must be received by the Clerk today by 5:00PM EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING 5PM-7PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM	TOWN HALL Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM * Vote-by-Mail application for the September 1st Primary must be received by the Clerk today by 5:00PM EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING 2PM-6PM	TOWN HALL Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM * Vote-by-Mail application for the September 1st Primary must be received by the Clerk today by 5:00PM EARLY IN-PERSON VOTING 4PM-6PM	29 TOWN HALL Transfer Station 8AM-4PM
30	TOWN HALL Selectmen Meeting Call-in (413) 672-0134 PIN: 336662 at 7 PM * Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM * Town Hall Offices Open By Appointment	31	TOWN HALL Selectmen Meeting Call-in (413) 672-0134 PIN: 336662 at 7 PM * Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM * Town Hall Offices Open By Appointment			

Entity	Contact	Number
Assessors	Karen Avallie	717-7216
Board of Health	Janice Paxton	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

Entity	Contact	Number
Finance Committee	Kent Lew	623-0202
Parks Commission	Dominic Sinopoli	623-2086
Planning Board	Don Gagnon	822-8385
Police Chief	Nicole Miller	446-4294
Selectmen	Jim Huebner	655-8668
Tax Collector	Gina Campbell	623-0146
Transfer Station	Michelle Lampro	464-2388
Veterans Agent	John Herrera	499-9433

To our Washington neighbors:

August 2020

Our treasurer, Diane Sturtevant, resigned effective July 31. Fortunately, another qualified candidate, Jon Lumbr, was available and agreed to take over. The Board had interviewed Jon last fall, so after a brief discussion the Board voted to appoint Jon for a six months trial period, during which the Board will also advertise the position. We welcome Jon aboard!

- Diane will work with Jon for a smooth transition and make sure that the FY2020 books are closed before Jon takes over.

There are two other personnel additions:

- Ken Pettibone who has worked as a detail officer for the Town has been appointed as a backup for Chief Miller.
- Mary Jarvie, in addition to her duties as an Assessor, will now also support Jodi as an Administrative Assistant.

Thanks to Terry Robbins, who put together the Town's ADA self-evaluation detailing what needs to be done to make the Town fully ADA compliant.

- The work was funded by a grant from the MA Office on Disability. We will be applying for an additional grant to make the needed changes.
- The self-evaluation is available on the Town's website. Thanks also to Mark Roos' help and his volunteering as our ADA Coordinator.

The pandemic continues to overshadow our lives. Although Washington and the Berkshires have been largely spared, the steep rise in cases around the country provides a cautionary tale about moving too quickly. Stay home as much as possible, wear a mask and practice social distancing when you go out.

- On a sad note Washington's Sons & Daughters reunion has been cancelled this year.

Some good news:

- Our fiber optic network is almost complete.
- Upper Valley has been raised to minimize or eliminate flooding.
- The construction of the new Wahconah High School is proceeding on schedule.
- Berkshire Regional Planning has assigned Phil Arnold to work with our Town Planning committee. With his help we will reboot our efforts at creating a Master Plan for the Town's future.
- Dick Spenser has reopened negotiations with Nature Conservancy for the sale of Town-owned property in Virginia Lakes.
- We have gotten a bid that fits within our budget to replace the portion of the Town Hall roof not done last year; the work should be done well before the snow flies!

Please remember to vote in the primary election on September 1.

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand
Select Board Clerk

Dick Grillon
Select Board

Although the Town Hall remains closed to the public, Town Offices are open by appointment. Doors will remain locked with only the front entrance door opened by staff in response to knocking or preferably by appointment. Non-employees are restricted to the front entrance area. The restrooms are closed to the public. All CDC guidelines must be followed. Masks are required and social distance when possible.

Early In-Person Voting

If you would like to vote early in-person, the Town Clerk will have early voting hours on the following dates and times. There is no application required to vote early in-person. Just arrive during one of scheduled dates and times, practice social distancing and wear a mask/face covering.

Saturday, August 22nd from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Sunday, August 23rd from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Monday, August 24th from 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Tuesday, August 25th from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Wednesday, August 26th from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Thursday, August 27th from 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Friday, August 28th from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

State Primary Safety Procedures

For the well-being and safety of our voters and election workers, we will again put in place the safety plan (with a few minor changes) we used at our last election.

- All election workers will have face masks and gloves.
- The check-in table, check-out table, and ballot box will all have plastic barriers on them.
- There will be a revised traffic flow for entering and exiting the polling location.
 - All voters should enter the Town Hall through the side or back doors.
 - The floor will be marked in 6' increments and you should wait at the first available open marker.
 - Once you have finished voting you will exit the voting area through the kitchen and exit the building through the front door.
- Once you have checked-in you will be handed a ballot and a sanitized pencil to mark your ballot.
- Only two voters will be allowed in the voting booths at any given time and only every other booth can be occupied.
- At the check-out table there will be a basket for you to place your pencil in. All pencils will be sanitized before being used again.
- The voting booths will regularly be sprayed with disinfectant.
- As it is still a requirement in the state of Massachusetts, you will must wear a face mask the entire time you are in the Town Hall.
- Once you have voted please exit the Town Hall immediately so we keep the number of people in the building at any given time to a minimum

Although these procedures will certainly slow the process of voting, they are necessary to keep everyone safe.

Thanks,
Allison Mikaniewicz
Town Clerk
Washington, MA

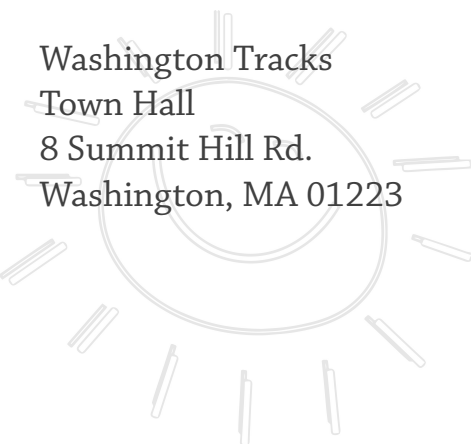
COA

Farmers market coupons (good for certified farmers markets throughout the state) are available on a first come first serve basis to applicants that meet the following criteria

I. Must be at least 60 years of age or Disabled and living in a housing facility primarily occupied by older individuals where congregate nutrition services are provided

II. Have income that is no more than 185% of the U.S. Poverty Income Guidelines - a household of 1 this would be if an annual income of \$23,606 , add \$8,288 for each additional household member

If you meet this criteria, please call Rose at (413)394-0003 to arrange to receive the coupons.



Washington Tracks
Town Hall
8 Summit Hill Rd.
Washington, MA 01223

www.washington-ma.com

Realtor & Notary

Lisa Peltier
500 S. Washington State Rd.
413.822.1257
Keller Williams Realty
LisaPeltier413@gmail.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 &
light carpentry

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

Support Our Local Businesses

Justice of the Peace

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

Horace Mann Insurance Agency

PO Box 772 Becket Ma. 01223.
Phone 413.623.2112
Fax 413.623.5551
Provide all Personal Lines of Insurance
Provide Financial and retirement products too

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

Hilltowns Veterinary Clinic

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

Becket General Store

outdoor dining & curbside pick up!
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3235 Main Street
Becket, MA 01223
413.623.6026
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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.