

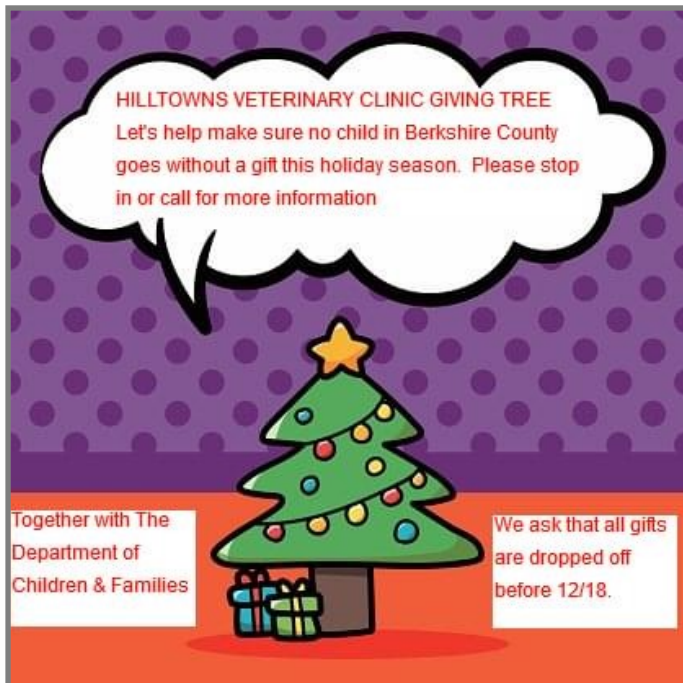
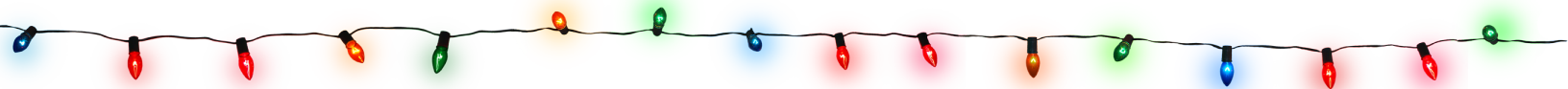


DECEMBER 2020

Remembering...

I'm writing this memorial for Carol Kennedy who passed away unexpectedly in November. I will always remember Carol as someone who loved being a Washingtonian. Carol and I served on a couple of town committees together and she has been a check-in clerk at our elections for at least as long as I've been Town Clerk. She always brought a high level of professionalism and enthusiasm to everything she did for the town. The town seems a little emptier without her presence and she will be deeply missed. My thoughts go out to her husband, Frank and their children.

Sincerely, Allison Mikaniewicz, Town Clerk, Washington



BECKET POLICE ASSOCIATION



"DRIVE THRU HOLIDAY CELEBRATION"

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the Police Department is saddened to cancel our annual Children's Holiday Party.

However, that doesn't mean we can't celebrate the holiday season!! If you are a family in need of a little extra help this year, please reach out to the department. We want everyone in the Becket/Washington area to know that we will help in any way we can to make this holiday season a little more manageable. Please use the registration page of this website and sign up to receive a gift(s) for your child.

DRIVE THRU PICKUP DATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

WHEN: Saturday & Sunday, December 12&13, 2020

WHERE: Pickup will be at the Police Department

557 Main St. Behind the Town Hall

TIME: 12pm-4:00pm each day

Please sign up before Dec 10, 2020

<https://becketpdkidsparty.weebly.com/>

If you have any questions please reach out to Officer Miller at officermillertownofbecket@gmail.com



Tree Lighting Ceremony in the Town Park

Tis the season to be merry and bright, unfortunately COVID-19 is casting a Grinch cloud over this year's tree lighting. The Tree Lighting Ceremony has been canceled. The tree in the park will be lit but cookies and cocoa will not be provided and we will not be caroling in the gazebo this year. The tree will be lit on December 12, at 5:00PM. If folks choose to observe the lighting, they must wear a mask and stay socially distance from other observers. I've been asked by the Parks Commission to collect contact information from observers.

2021 Dog Licenses Available

Dog licenses for 2021 are now available. As the Town Hall is still closed, please send the following to the Town Clerk:

- Current rabies certificate
- Proof that your dog is spayed or neutered, if applicable
- Appropriate fee. \$4 if dog is spayed or neutered, \$10 if not
- Mail the above to the Town Clerk, 8 Summit Hill Road, Washington, MA 01223 and a license and tag will be mailed to you.

The current dog licenses will expire on March 31, 2021. Any questions please contact the Town Clerk 413-207-7526

or washington.ma.townclerk@gmail.com.

Neighbor-to-Neighbor Fund

provides one-time emergency assistance for local residents who are in economic distress. The Fund makes small grants to help those with overdue utilities, medical bills, short-term housing costs and transportation problems.

For more information contact
Berkshire Community Action Council
Phone: 413-418-3683

Invitation to all Washington seniors

The Council on Aging would like to hear from you. We are looking to put together some virtual programs and are asking you to send us an email so that we can send you invites once we have programs in place. Please include any ideas you might have for programs. Looking forward to hearing from you
washingtoncoa@gmail.com

Becket Washington Library News Join our email list to hear about upcoming virtual events & workshops as they are scheduled. Email info@bwlibrary.org to be added.

Are you a crafter/baker/cook who likes to teach and has a strong internet connection at home? Or is there a topic you'd like to share your knowledge of with our community? Or are you an author who would like to read from your work and engage with your audience? We are looking for presenters for virtual workshops & readings over the winter months. Email jodi@bwlibrary.org if interested.

Visit becketathenaeum.org to peruse our many virtual displays which can help you pick out your next book or movie! We have new books for kids! Science, Animals & Math!

On our website, you can also find resources related to the pandemic including ideas on how to spend your time while staying physically distant and resources for learning about and engaging in social justice.

We are now accepting appointment requests for in-person browsing or computer use! Please visit BecketAthenaeum.org for details on our policies and to request an appointment. Curbside services will continue.

Becket Athenaeum Book Club-Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens Tuesday, December 1 @ 1:30pm

Meeting is off-site. Masks and distancing required.

Email info@bwlibrary.org for details.

Join us for lively conversation!

A virtual book club meeting is being scheduled and will discuss a different book. Email info@bwlibrary.org for details

The Becket Athenaeum is starting an outreach delivery program for residents of Becket and Washington who are homebound or have limited access to transportation. If you would like to be able to check out books, DVDs, audio materials, and more, and have them delivered to your home by a generous volunteer, please contact us to sign up! Call 413.623.5483 or email info@BWLibrary.org We look forward to bringing you this exciting new community service!

ELECTION RESULTS

TOWN OF WASHINGTON STATE ELECTION NOVEMBER 3, 2020

ELECTORS PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT

240	Biden / Harris
1	Hawkins / Walker
5	Jorgensen / Cohen
107	Trump / Pence
0	Blanks

SENATOR IN CONGRESS

241	Edward J. Markey
99	Kevin J. O'Connor
12	Blanks
	Write-ins
1	Dr. Shiva

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS

258	Richard E. Neal
90	Blanks
1	All Others
	Write-ins
1	Dr. Shiva
1	Alex Morse
1	Don Bonigo
1	Elise Stefanik

COUNCILLOR

255	Mary Hurley
95	Blanks
3	All Others

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT

265	Adam Hinds
87	Blanks
	Write-ins
1	Don Bonigo

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT

270	William "Smitty" Pignatelli
81	Blanks
2	All Others

REGISTER OF PROBATE

259	Anthony P. Patella
93	Blanks
	Write-ins
1	Don Bonigo

REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Becket

238	Art Alpert
115	Blanks

REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Dalton

235	Nicole Tucker
816	Blanks
	Write-Ins
3	Jake Eberwein
4	Dick Lachtell
1	Howard Eberwein
	Blanks

REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Hinsdale

226	Richard Peters
127	Blanks

REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Peru

224	Bonny DiTomasso
129	Blanks

REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Washington

	Write-ins
13	Michael Case
2	Kim Sinopoli
1	Dick Spencer
1	Jan Paxton Huebner
1	Paul James Topolik
1	All Other
334	Blanks

REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Windsor

213	Elizabeth Lounsbury
140	Blanks

QUESTION 1: Right to Repair

278	Yes
62	No
13	Blanks

QUESTION 2: Ranked Choice Voting

150	Yes
190	No
13	Blanks

TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS: 423**TOTAL BALLOTS CAST: 353****VOTER TURNOUT: 83.5%**

Town of Washington: Town Planning Questionnaire



The Capital and Town Planning Team has prepared this survey to ask your help as we plan the Town's future. The more feedback we have from you, the better the plan will be! Please fill it out as best you can and return it in the enclosed envelope by January 10. ***Each survey is intended for one adult respondent, not the entire household.*** Additional copies of the survey are available on the Town's website or at the Town Hall. Thank you!

Name (optional)

1. Washington only has residential and agricultural areas; having a designated commercial area could boost the local economy by introducing new, small business which could be taxed separately from residential areas and provide jobs. Should a commercial area be developed in Town? Please check one:

Strongly agree _____ Agree _____ Unsure/neutral _____ Disagree _____ Strongly disagree _____

2. Washington is 97% single family detached dwellings; we have a 4 acre minimum lot size. A greater diversity in the housing stock might better accommodate the needs of some current residents, especially seniors, and attract new residents. Should our zoning laws:

Return to 2 acre zoning? Yes _____ No _____; Allow Multi-family housing? Yes _____ No _____;

Other dense housing? Yes _____ No _____.

3. Please add any comments on #1 & #2

4. Please check all that apply:

Do you care for a person(s) in your household who is elderly _____; a child or children _____; a disabled person(s) _____ Are you being cared for by a caretaker? _____

5. Please check all that apply:

I work from home _____; I work in Washington _____; I work outside of Washington _____; I am retired _____; I am retired but travel for volunteer work _____; not my primary home _____

6. What is your commute **distance** to work: less than 10miles _____ 10-30 miles _____ over 30 miles _____.

7. How many days per week do you commute? 0 _____; 1-2 _____; 3-5 _____; 6-7 _____; varies _____.

8. Has COVID-19 affected your commute? (Check one or none): I have begun working remotely _____; I was laid off and no longer commute _____; I commute less _____

9. Now that we have Broadband do you do more work from home? Yes _____ No _____. Do you see additional opportunities for yourself? Yes _____ No _____.

10. Would you utilize a local shuttle service in Washington if there were regular times for pick up and drop off at specified locations in the County? Yes_____ No_____ Maybe_____
11. Our TRACKS newsletter is available on-line as well as mailed to all residents. Please check all that apply: I read the hard copy _____; I would prefer an e-mailed copy _____; I would like both_____
12. ***Our roads are well-maintained in the winter.*** Please check one:
Strongly agree _____ Agree _____ Unsure/neutral_____ Disagree_____ Strongly disagree _____
13. ***Our roads are well-maintained in the spring/summer.*** Please check one:
Strongly agree _____ Agree _____ Unsure/neutral_____ Disagree_____ Strongly disagree _____
14. Please add any comments on #12 & #13:

15. The use of Washington's Transfer Station for household waste is paid by our taxes and free for residents. Should this change to a fee-based service based on usage? Yes _____No_____
16. Do you feel that town government is transparent and communicates enough? Please check one:
Strongly agree _____ Agree _____ Unsure/neutral_____ Disagree_____ Strongly disagree _____
17. Please add any comments on #16:

18. The Town owns 3 acres around the Eden Glen dam. How much should the Town spend and/or borrow to restore/ create a recreational area there? Please check one: Nothing_____; up to \$50,000_____ ; up to \$100,000_____. Would you volunteer to work on such a project? Yes____No____.
19. Please add any comments on #18:

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THE WASHINGTON TOWN PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRE! Please add any additional comments, place the survey in the prepaid envelope and mail it or place it in the drop box at the Town Hall. Thank you!

From a pool of well-qualified applicants, we selected Lynne Baumgartner to be our Town Treasurer. Thanks to our interim Treasurer, Jon Lumbra, for graciously agreeing to stay on as long as needed to get Lynne comfortable in her new position.

The Berkshires are now experiencing the same sharp rise in COVID-19 infections seen around the country. The number of confirmed cases doubled over the latest two-week reporting window versus the previous two weeks, as has the percentage of positive tests. The good news is that our positivity rate is only a bit more than half that of the Commonwealth at large (1.6% vs. 3%) and there have been no COVID deaths over the past two weeks.

- The Select Board is mindful that the shutdown has been difficult for everyone, particularly our seniors, but given that 52 residents of the Berkshires have died from this pandemic we cannot in good conscience allow gatherings in the Town Hall. Stay home, avoid gatherings, wash your hands, social distance if you do go out. Please stay safe. We will get through this. All of us.

We hope that everyone will take a few moments to fill out and send in the follow-up survey included in this month's TRACKS. The Town Planning Committee has been working hard to put together a comprehensive picture of our Town and will then prepare a list of proposals to shape our future. The list will be shared with our citizens for comment and approval next spring.

- Unlike the first survey we are asking *each* member of a household to fill one out. Extra copies are available on-line and at the Town Hall. Thank You!

Grants:

- No word yet on our FEMA grant to replace the culvert on Frost Road.
- No word on our ADA Grant application.
- No word on the IT Grant to install a server and back-up system at the Town Hall.

The contractor for the Middlefield Road bridge over Coles Brook will begin work this week which means the road will be closed until the new bridge is completed in late February or early March.

A lien has been placed on Woody's so that the Town can recover our costs of fencing it and remediating its hazardous materials. No sign of any interest in the property.

Our attorney has filed a petition for a court-appointed receiver for Bucksteep. As usual the owners are trying hard not to be found and served with the subpoena.

Washington's broadband network is complete and we can now fully participate in the 21st Century economy. Thanks to Steve Nelson and Kent Lew for making it happen.

We hope everyone had a safe and happy Thanksgiving. Please make your plans for the upcoming holidays with everyone's safety in mind. Next year will be better!

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand
Select Board Clerk

Dick Grillon
Select Board

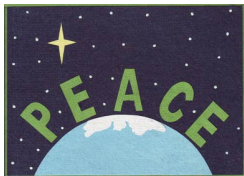
Superintendent Leslie Blake-Davis and Finance Director Greg Boino of the Central Berkshire Regional School District will call in to the December 14 Selectmans' Meeting at 7:30 pm. Anyone wishing to listen in or ask questions please call 413-672-0134 and use 336662 as a PIN #.

Thanks; monthly follows this evening.

THANK YOU to everyone who responded to the Washington Scholarship Fund's appeal this fall. Thanks to your generosity, the fund realized \$962 from this effort, which is very close to what we would have hoped to realize if the bake sale had been held on election day.

Our high school seniors are fortunate to live in a town where their neighbors value higher education and are happy to encourage them in this pursuit. Thank you for your overwhelming response to this cause.

Gratefully,
Linda Levernoch
Washington Scholarship Committee



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

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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>

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413.822.1257
Keller Williams Realty
LisaPeltier413@gmail.com

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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.**