



December 2022

Results of the Washington Scholarship Bake Sale – This year's scholarship fund bake sale raised a record \$1,717! THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the success of this fundraiser in any way: from donating mouth-watering goodies, to buying them, to overseeing the sale of baked goods. Thank you one and all! We should be proud of the fact that we live in a community which encourages and supports our youth in their pursuit of higher education. One might say that the real winners on November 8 were the young people of our town. Many, many thanks!
Marieanne Clark and Linda Levernoch
Washington Scholarship Committee

COA

Classes

Chair Yoga Mondays 11:00 AM

Yoga Tuesdays at 9:00 AM

Osteoporosis Thursdays at 9:00 AM

Ti-Chi/QiGong Fridays at 10:00 AM

Holiday Pot Luck Dinner

featuring the Becket Praise Team

Friday Dec 16 5:30 Steve will be serving ham. Bring a dish to share if you can.

We will also be accepting donations for the Becket Food Pantry.

Questions, comments, or need assistance?

Call 413-394-0003 or email

washingtoncoa@gmail.com

Blueberry Hill by the Appalachian Trail on Washington Mountain Road in Washington is hoping to create a large compost pile. If you are looking for a place to unload yard debris like grass clippings, leaves, or manure- this is just the kind of thing we would like to collect. In time, this will decompose and make great fertilizer for our berries and vegetables. Please call or text Ruth Sangree at (860) 942-1038. Also, our email is atblueberryhill@gmail.com



2023 Dog Licenses are Available

We have received the 2023 dog tags. The 2022 licenses and tags do not expire until March 31, 2023, but you are welcome to get the 2023 license/tag anytime you would like before the current one expires. You can see the Town Clerk on Monday evenings with the following:

- [Current rabies certificate](#)
- [Proof of spay or neuter, if applicable](#)
- [Fee: \\$4.00 if spayed/neutered or \\$10 if not](#)

You can also mail the above (checks payable to Town of Washington) to the Town Clerk, 8 Summit Hill Rd, Washington, MA 01223 and a license and tag will be mailed back to you.

Please note that if you received a 2022 or 2021 late fee invoice, you will have to pay that first before receiving your 2023 license/tag

Thank you,
Allison Mikaniewicz
Town Clerk
Washington, MA

Becket Washington Athenaeum

December 13, closing at 6pm

December 24, closed

- Monday, December 5, 6pm
Cookbook Club: Bring your favorite dish to share and optional cookie swap
- Tuesday, December 6, 1:30pm
Book Club: The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles
- Tuesdays, December 6, 13, 20, 10:30-11:30am
Pre-School STEAM Program.
Preregistration required:
BecketAthenaeum.org/events
- Saturdays, December 3, 10, 17, 31, 10:30am
- Library Storytime (2nd Saturday of the month, the craft project is replaced by creative movement.)
- Weekdays, 2:55-5:30pm
Kids Club After-School Care at BWS.
Contact Jon Yetto at the Dalton CRA 413-684-0260 jyetto@daltoncra.org for information and to sign up.

Open Burning for 2023

Open burning will run from **January 15 - May 1, 2023**. Washington residents and property owners must obtain a permit for open burning from the Fire Chief for each day they want to burn. There are two options for obtaining a permit:

1. Call the Fire Chief's residence (413) 623-2185 and speak directly to the Chief or leave a message (listen to the entire message to be sure burning is being permitted for the day). When leaving a message include name, address where you will be burning, and a contact phone number.
2. Log onto www.bcburnpermits.com and follow the directions that are listed.

Weather conditions, current and predicted, are part of the determining factors for permitting. The MassDEP also makes a determination based on air quality. Call the MassDEP Air Quality Hotline at (800) 882-1497 or visit [MassAir Online](https://MassAirOnline.com) to find out if the daily air quality is acceptable for burning.

Open burning must be done:

- Between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM
- At least 75 feet from all buildings
- As close as possible to the source of the materials being burned
- When air quality is acceptable for burning
- Attended by an adult until completely extinguished
- Extinguishment materials / tools must be onsite and use available
- No hazardous materials
- Use common sense and be safe
- Call 911 immediately if fire gets out of control

Paul Mikaniewicz

Fire Chief

Becket / Washington



New-Lenox Road Washington, May 1972

Map 5-A

#1 Gravestone on Richard Congdon's farm - about 10 yds. east of the Keller hole (#3) inside of road located on lot due to #5, N. east of Mill Brook Run Lee #2 & #3; also Map of 1852 & 1876

#2

#3 Richard Congdon farm site on lot #5 (1st demand) north side of New-Lenox Rd Washington (see #1 & #2). This road was laid out Apr 7th 1772 (see map survey). Lot #5 (1st dem) from the Stone Mountain

The sites above are numbered & located on the appended map 5-A, as D, Q, etc

Knurow's 1972 photos of the Congdon site

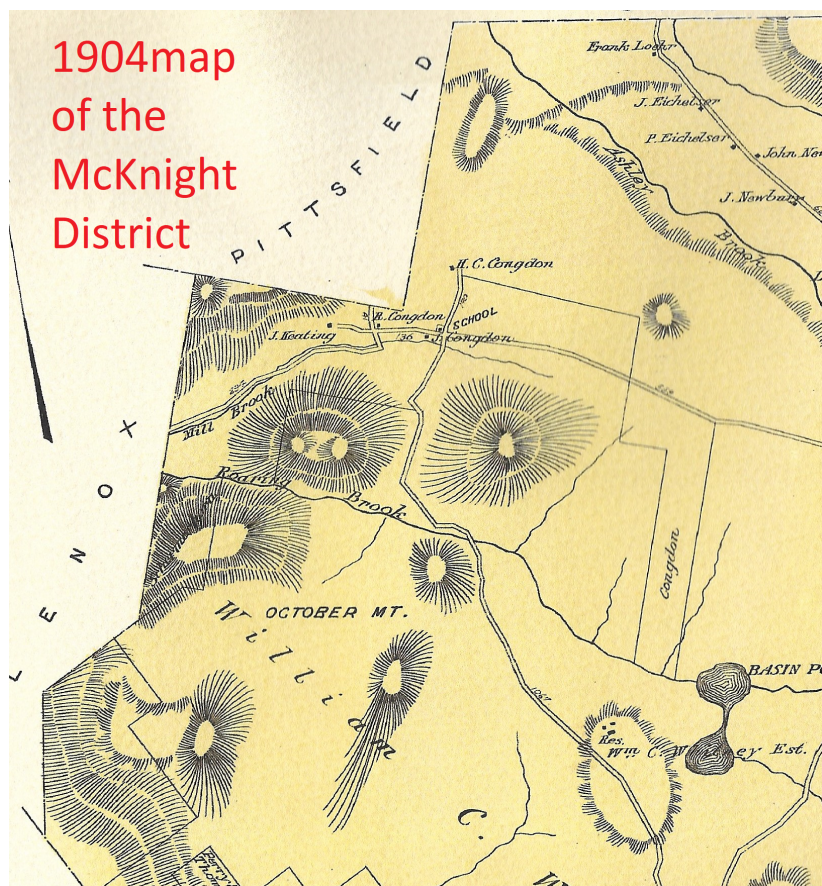
EDWARD R. KNUROW
LANESBORO, MASS. 01237

Richard married Eunice Coe (1831-1885) , around 1853, and had their first son William, in 1854. They would eventually have 8 children, 2 boys and 6 girls.

he did not sell his farm to William Whitney. Deeds show him selling a 50 acre piece to Whitney, but not his 120 acre farm. Richard's brother Henry, who owned a farm farther out the Congdon Road, almost to Ashley Brook near Dalton, also refused to sell to Whitney. Though he was not surrounded by Whitney, like Michael Navin was in the south part of town, Congdon's neighbors did accept Whitney's offer.

Edward Knurow, who in the 50's, 60's and 70's scoured the backwoods of Berkshire County looking for historic sites, took a photograph of two gravestones leaning against trees at the Congden cellar hole. One of the stones he photographed was for Congdon's young son William, who died at the age of 2 in 1856. The other stone in the photo remains a mystery...is it Richard? There is no record of him being buried next to his wife in New Lenox, so who was the second stone on the farm for?

- Submitted by Tom Hoffman



Dear Washington Friends & Neighbors:

December 2022

As the winter weather descends upon us, it is shaping up so far to be another year with perhaps more ice than snow. The Highway crew has set up the sand shed at the parking area by the Town Park athletic field for residents to fill buckets with sand/salt mix for walkways.

The last of the major roadside edge washouts from the July 2021 flash floods has finally been repaired along Stonehouse Rd and Washington Mountain Rd between Phillips and Nocker Rds. The gravel roads have been regraded and readied for winter. But we are still waiting impatiently for the line-painting vendor to schedule us before the end of the year.

This Tracks may not arrive before the annual tree-lighting at Town Park on Friday evening, Dec 2. We hope that everyone enjoyed this festive kick-off to the holiday season. Special thanks to the donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, for planting a living tree this year and for future seasons. And thanks as always to Jodi Hostetter for heading up the decoration and celebration.

Thanks also to Jodi for stepping in and stepping up to serve as our new Vocational Education bus driver for the remainder of the school year. We can still use a backup driver(s) in emergencies, and anyone who is interested should reach out to her to learn about the requirements.

The Dept of Revenue has approved this year's tax rate at \$15.21 (up 37¢). But most property values increased around 10.5%, which will lead to higher bills for many owners. The tax bills are being printed and should go out the first week of December. Payments will be due thirty days after the bills are mailed. A final due date will also get posted to the website. Note that Town Hall offices will be closed Dec. 26 and Jan. 2 since Christmas and New Year's both fall on a Sunday this year.

Speaking of taxes: after a year since we filed our motion, the Land Court in Boston has finally advanced our tax title case on the Bucksteep property seeking to recover several years' worth of back taxes. The owners have said they are actively seeking borrowing to settle all liens. We hope to see further developments in this case before the end of the calendar year.

The Washington and Middlefield Select Boards interviewed candidates for a Shared Town Administrator on Nov 21. The position has been offered to one of the candidates. As of the Tracks deadline, we are still awaiting acceptance and finalization of terms of employment. If all goes well, we hope to have this person in place and ready to steer operations as of the first of the new year. Stay tuned. We will aim to host a meet-and-greet event in January or February to welcome him.

Please stay safe and healthy as you gather with family and friends to celebrate this season. Happy Holidays to one and all.

Kent Lew
Select Board chair

David Ellis
Select Board

John Fish
Select Board clerk

TOWN OF WASHINGTON DECEMBER 2022 CALENDAR

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
Chanukah Begins Christmas Day	4	TOWN HALL	5		6	TOWN HALL	7	TOWN HALL	1	TOWN HALL	2	TOWN HALL	3
		Administrative Assistants 11AM-1PM Select Board Meeting 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		Yoga with Rima 9AM		Historical Commission 10AM Administrative Assistant 11AM-1PM Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM		OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM	OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM	TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10AM		Transfer Station 8AM-4PM Tree Lighting in Town Park 5:30PM	
	11	TOWN HALL	12		13	TOWN HALL	14		15	TOWN HALL	16	TOWN HALL	17
		Administrative Assistants 11AM-1PM Select Board Meeting 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		Yoga with Rima 9AM Planning Board Meeting 7PM		Administrative Assistant 11AM-1PM Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM		OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM	OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM Council On Aging Polluck Dinner 5:30PM-7PM	TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10AM		Transfer Station 8AM-4PM	
	18	TOWN HALL	19		20	TOWN HALL	21		22	TOWN HALL	23		24
		Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM Select Board Meeting 7:00 - 9:00PM Finance Committee 6:00 - 7:00 PM 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		Yoga with Rima 9AM		Administrative Assistant 11AM-1PM Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM				TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10AM		Transfer Station 8AM-4PM	
	25	TOWN HALL	26		27	TOWN HALL	28		29		30		31
		Chanukah Ends & Kwanzaa Begins		Yoga with Rima 9AM		Administrative Assistant 11AM-1PM Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM				TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10AM		Transfer Station 8AM-4PM New Year's Eve	

Entity	Contact	Number	Entity	Contact	Number
Assessors	Karen Avelle	717-7216	Finance Committee	Dave Drugmand	446-1774
Board of Health	Jim Huebner	655-8688	Parks Commission	Dominic Sinopoli	623-2086
Building Inspector	Paul Greene	446-0964	Planning Board	Don Gagnon	822-8385
Chapel Commission	Rose Borgnis	394-0003	Police Chief	Nicole Miller	446-4294
Clerk	Allison Mikaniewicz	623-2185	Select Board	Kent Lew	623-0202
Conservation	Michelle Lampro	464-2388	Tax Collector	Gina Campbell	623-0146
Council on Aging	Rose Borgnis	394-0003	Transfer Station	Michelle Lampro	464-2388

Please **CALL AHEAD**





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

Presorted Standard
US Postage
PAID
Permit 121
Pittsfield MA

www.washington-ma.gov

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
Provide Financial and retirement products too

Hilltowns Veterinary Clinic

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

John Fish Piano Service

413-281-6130
johnfishpiano.com
Piano tuning, repair & restoration; 20 years
experience

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

Realtor & Notary

Lisa Peltier
500 S. Washington State Rd.
413.822.1257
Neilsen Realty
lisa@neilsenrealty.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

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.