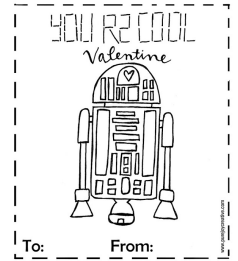


2019
February



To: All Washington Residents:

From: The Washington Historical Commission (WHC):



Do you or someone you know have old photos of our town? The WHC is looking for old pictures of our schools, homes, families, October Mountain/Whitney Estate, or of buildings and farms that have vanished from our surroundings. The WHC would like to see your old photos for possible inclusion in the digitizing project that the WHC has begun. Information regarding your photos is also important for us to record as part of this project. Please contact one of the WHC members for more information on the project and

for inclusion of your old photos.

Your historical commission and individual contributors from your town have recently embarked on an exciting project involving digitizing old town photos, in cooperation with the Boston Public Library (BPL) as part of the Massachusetts Digital Commonwealth project. These photos will be posted at the Digital Commonwealth site. They will be preserved for future generations to see! We also hope to display them, or a portion of them, at the Washington on-line site.

I will be at the town hall outside the administrator's office between 7PM and 8:30PM on Feb 5 and Feb 26. We can look over the photos, record pertinent information, and discuss the project if you'd like to learn more about it. If these evenings are not convenient for you, contact me and we'll try to find a time and day that works for both of us. Your original pictures will be returned to you following scanning by the BPL.

David Weissbrod (WHC) davidw6183@aol.com phone 623-6031



Messenger House, WHC

Public Hearing Notice – Town of Washington

Town of Washington Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing, on Monday, February 25, 2019 at 6:30pm at the Town Hall, 8 Summit Hill Road, Washington, MA 01223 to provide Eversource permission to install five hundred fifty feet of primary cable in an easterly direction from the intersection of Beach Road and Washington Mountain Road. The primary cable will run from a hexhole to a pad mount transformer for the transmission of electricity consisting of conduits located as shown upon the plan filed herewith and made a part hereof together with the necessary wires, cables, transformers switches protective devices and other appurtenances, and likewise the manhole and vault construction connected with said lines as indicated by said plan marked 6B821108.

Open Burn Season

State fire wardens determine each day whether conditions are safe for open burning. Weather and air quality can change rapidly, especially in the spring, and fire departments can rescind permits when that happens. Contact your local **fire department** to obtain an **open burning permit** in advance.

Contact the Fire Chief @413-623-2185 and leave your name, address you will be burning at and a contact phone number

According to Department of Environmental Protection regulation (310 CMR DEP 7.07), open burning must be done:

- Between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. from **January 15 to May 1**
- At least **75 feet from all buildings**
- As close as possible to the source of material being burned
- When air quality is acceptable for burning. Call the MassDEP Air Quality Hotline at (800) 882-1497 or visit the MassAir Online website at <http://public.dep.state.ma.us/MassAir> to find out if it is.

Only Certain Materials Can Be Burned

- Brush, cane, driftwood, and forestry debris from **other than** commercial or industrial land clearing operations.
- Agricultural materials such as fruit tree and bush prunings, raspberry stalks, and infected bee hives for disease control.
- Trees and brush resulting from agricultural land clearing.
- Fungus infected elm wood, if no other acceptable means of disposal is available

Burning Leaves and Other Materials Is Prohibited

- Brush, trees, cane and driftwood **from** commercial and/or industrial land clearing operations.
- Grass, hay, leaves, stumps, and tires.
- Construction material and debris.

*No hazardous materials/waste.

Piles should be away from utility lines

Large piles that will not readily burn or are of such size that they will not be totally out by 4:00 p.m. are prohibited. Complaints about smoke, soot or ash deposits occurring in neighboring property are grounds for revocation of a permit.

Fires Must Be Attended Until Extinguished

Becket Athenaeum News:

Zentangle Workshop with Delsie Dunn

Wednesday, February 13, 6-8pm

Preregistration is required for this FREE workshop.

Please contact us by noon, Monday, February 11th.

Evening Workshops are funded by a grant from the Central Berkshire Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

We have E-Catalog items available:

The Becket Athenaeum offers e-books, digital audiobooks, and video content! Our patrons have access to six different library network collections: CLAMS, C/W Mars, Minuteman, NOBLE, Old Colony, and SAILS.

STEAM Group Activities for Pre-schoolers with Wendy Provencher

Join Wendy Provencher for an hour of great fun! This is an opportunity to inspire your kids to engineer, create, design, explore, and build! Tuesdays 1-2pm at the Becket Athenaeum - FREE!

For more information on these programs - Email: info@bwlibrary.org or call 623-5483

To our Washington neighbors:

February 2019

Hard to believe, but the construction season is coming up and we have a number of highway projects:

- After more than four years we expect to bid the construction of a new bridge over Coles Brook on Middlefield Road bridge this month. The Board had to request a doubling of our Small Bridge Grant to \$500,000 after the initial engineering inspection and approval of the existing abutments turned out to be faulty.
- We have submitted a grant application to MEMA for the replacement of the deep culvert on upper Frost Road. If we are awarded the money we will be able to cover the Town's portion of the cost with Chapter 90 money and put the work out to bid this spring.
- We are submitting two proposals to the Transportation Improvement Project list: refurbishment of Lovers Lane and, jointly with Becket and Middlefield, refurbishment of Middlefield Road/High Street. Once on the TIP list the Metropolitan Planning Organization has to vote to fund them. Good news: no Town funding is required. Bad news: it will be several years even if the MPO approves them.

Signs warning of mercury contamination in Ashley Lake have been posted. At our next Special or Annual Town Meeting the voters will be asked to approve funding for a gate to restrict access.

Our application to become a Green Community has been denied. Although our by-laws allow by-right installation of solar or wind power by residents, DOER insists that we have a by-law permitting utility-scale generation. We appealed to them that there is no transmission capacity in Town to support any such installation, but bureaucracy won out. We will present an appropriate by-law to the voters as soon as we have guidance from DOER.

Our citizens' committee to identify environmental hazards in Town and create a Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) has kicked off. We have grant funding to support this effort and we have contracted with Berkshire Regional Planning. Anyone interested in joining the effort please contact Jodi.

- Two other planning efforts are also in the early stages: 1) Creation of a Capital Plan and subsequent expansion of it into a broader plan for the Town's future; and 2) A plan for the Town Common's usage and preservation. If you have any interest in helping on either - or both! - of these, please let Jodi know.

Our Broadband installation is moving forward. We expect to sign an agreement with Wired West to operate and service our network. Construction of the network and our control hub will begin in the spring. Detailed costs and what monthly users' fees are expected should be available then.

Town Counsel has filed for summary judgment against Woody's. The Board has not yet been able to find enough money to demolish the structure.

If you are struggling with utility bills there are two organizations that can help The Berkshire County Action Council (BCAC) offers fuel assistance (bcacinc.org or 445-4503). The second is Neighbor to Neighbor Contact Alison Peters (684-0260 or apeters@daltoncra.org.)

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand
Select Board Clerk

Dick Grillon
Select Board

Thanks to our State Senator, Adam Hinds, anyone over 65 on December 31 2018 can apply for a Circuit Breaker Tax Credit of up to \$1,100 if they file Schedule CB with their Massachusetts Income Tax Return. Brochures with more specific details and eligibility requirements are available at the Town Hall.



Becket Food Pantry

1st and 3rd Sat., 9-11am
Becket Federated Church
Parish House
3381 Main St., Becket
(across from library)

Free Supper

1st Friday every month
Becket Federated Church
Parish House
(same as above)

TOWN OF WASHINGTON FEBRUARY 2019 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					TOWN HALL 1	2
					TAI-CHII/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM	
3	TOWN HALL 4 Selectmen Meeting 7 PM Town Hall Offices Open 7 - 9 PM Assessors/Tax Collector 6-8 PM Police Department 6-9 PM	TOWN HALL 5 Yoga with Rena 10:00 AM	6	TOWN HALL 7 OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM ***** Conservation Commission Meeting 6 PM	TOWN HALL 8 TAI-CHII/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM	9
10	TOWN HALL 11 Selectmen Meeting 7 PM Finance Committee Meeting 7 PM Town Hall Offices Open 7 - 9 PM Assessors/Tax Collector 6-8 PM Police Department 6-9 PM Parks Commission Meeting 6-7 PM	TOWN HALL 12 Planning Board Meeting 7 PM Yoga with Rena 10:00 AM	13	TOWN HALL Valentines Day 14 OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM 	TOWN HALL 15 TAI-CHII/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM ***** COA Pot Luck Dinner 5:30 PM	16
17	 President's Day Observed No Office Hours	19 Yoga with Rena 10:00 AM	20	TOWN HALL 21 OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM	TOWN HALL 22 TAI-CHII/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM	23
24	TOWN HALL 25 PUBLIC HEARING - EVERSOURCE BEACH RD/WMR Selectmen Meeting 7 PM Town Hall Offices Open 7 - 9 PM Assessors/Tax Collector 6-8 PM Police Department 6-9 PM	26 Yoga with Rena 10:00 AM	27	TOWN HALL 28 OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM		
Entity Assessors Board of Health Building Inspector Chapel Commission Clerk Conservation Council on Aging	Contact Karen Avale Janice Paxton Paul Greene Rose Borgnis Allison Mikaniewicz Michelle Lampro Rose Borgnis	Number 717-7216 655-8668 446-0964 441-0787 623-2185 623-8333 441-0787	Entity Finance Committee Parks Commission Planning Board Police Chief Selectmen Tax Collector Veterans Agent	Contact Kent Lew Dave Drugmand Marilyn Wiley Nicole Miller Jim Huebner Gina Campbell	Number 623-0202 623-6651 623-5859 436-4294 655-8668 623-0146	

Please **CALL AHEAD**



HILLTOWN BENEFIT

One of our own needs our help and encouragement as he faces the battle of his life.

- WHO:** A 27 year old veteran from Becket who served in Afghanistan (wishes to remain anonymous)
- WHY:** Aggressive, inoperable brain cancer, unresponsive to standard treatments; now pursuing alternative medicine.
- WHAT:** Benefit featuring:
* Local Bands
* Catered Cuisine (Papa Bob's)
* Raffle Baskets
* 50-50 Raffle
- WHERE:** Papa Bob's
71 Chester Rd. (Rt. 20)
Becket, MA
- WHEN:** February 24, 2019
1:00PM-?
- TICKETS:** \$15.00 Available at the door

Checks payable to: Hilltown Benefit or
<http://gofundme.com/hilltown-benefit>
Advance Tickets: email hilltownbenefit@gmail.com



Come out and support one of our locals and if you can't make it, but would still like to donate, go to our [gofundme](http://gofundme.com/hilltown-benefit) page or send us an email!



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BECKET GENERAL STORE
NO EXP. DATE

Email your TRACKS info by the 25th of the month to Lisa at:
mrsabeski@mac.com
Please put TRACKS in the subject line.