



# FEBRUARY 2020

## BROADBAND PROJECT UPDATE



Tremendous progress has been made this past month. All of the fiber cable in our first Fiber Service Area (FSA) is installed — **Stonehouse Rd, Simmons Rd, Frost Rd, Washington Mountain Rd, Watson Rd, Schulze Rd**, and part of **Lovers Lane Rd**. Most of the MSTs (“outlets”) have also been installed. Now the splicing crews are starting to tie it all together. The electronics in the hub will be installed in the coming weeks. The goal is to have FSA01 tested and certified before the end of February. Then we can start scheduling customers in this area for installations and service.

Meanwhile, FSA02 is coming along fast behind. Cable is already installed on the lower part of **Upper Valley Rd, Lower Valley Rd, Cross Place Rd, Johnson Hill Rd, Ryan Rd, Upper Sargent Rd**, and the outer end of **Lovers Lane Rd**. Work will be focused next on **Middlefield Rd** and **S Washington State Rd**.

We’ve even managed to start getting cable placed in FSA03, up **Summit Hill Rd** and out **Old Middlefield Rd**. Soon we’ll be headed north from Town Hall.

So, as we make our way through winter and look forward to spring, we hope to be able to keep up the good pace.

Thanks to everyone for your patience with all our crews out on the roads.

Go to [www.wiredwest.net/washington](http://www.wiredwest.net/washington) for more detailed construction updates.

### DON’T MISS OUT ON HIGH-SPEED, STATE-OF-THE-ART BROADBAND!

Due to the eight-week delay in the start of our construction last fall, we’ve extended the sign-up deadline for receiving a discount until Leap Day.

**Sign up before Feb 29** to receive a **\$650 drop credit** toward your installation costs.

There is no money due at the time of sign up. You won’t be invoiced until your home actually gets connected and your service is up and running. You can even change your mind later, if you need to. So what are you waiting for?

We are currently at **87%** of our overall goal for subscribers, thanks to **156** Washingtonians.

Go to [www.wiredwest.net/washington](http://www.wiredwest.net/washington) to get started.

If you have questions or concerns that are holding you back, please contact Kent at [washingtonfiber@kentlewis.com](mailto:washingtonfiber@kentlewis.com) and let’s get them answered.

#### **Becket Federated Church Parish House**

3381 Main St., Becket (across from library)

**Becket Food Pantry** - 1st and 3rd Sat., 9-11am

**Free Supper** - 1st Friday every month

#### **COA**

Ongoing at the Town Hall

Free Classes

**Yoga** 10AM Tuesdays

**Osteoporosis class** 10AM Thursdays

**Tai Chi/Qi Gong** 10AM Fridays

**Pot Luck Dinner** 5:30 Fri.Feb. 21st

### **Ballot Counters Needed for the March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary**

I need people to help count ballots after the polls close on Tuesday, March 3, 2020. I currently have two sets of ballot counters and would like to have two more.

Here are the details:

- Arrive at the Town Hall for 7:30 PM. I will run a quick training on the counting/tally process for any new counters. Counting will start once the polls close at 8:00 PM.
- It could take anywhere from 1 - 3 hours to tally the ballots, depending on how many counters we have and how many total ballots we have.
- You will work in pairs with one person reading the ballots and one person marking the tally sheet.
- Once you have tallied all of your ballots and confirmed that your vote totals match the number of ballots you have for each race, you will transfer your totals to the master ballot sheet.
- You will be paid for your time. The rate is \$10 per hour.

If you are interested please send contact the Town Clerk at [washingtontownclerk@yahoo.com](mailto:washingtontownclerk@yahoo.com) or call me 413-207-7526.

**What is Lyme Disease?** Lyme Disease is a multi-stage, systemic infectious disease most often spread by ticks. It is caused by the bacterial spirochete *Borrelia burgdorferi* (Bp). However, Bp is not the only strain of *Borrelia*, as scientists believe there may be as many as three hundred different strains worldwide. While in existence for millions of years the story of Lyme disease as we know it today began in the town of Lyme, Connecticut, when strange arthritic symptoms began to spread amongst the town's residents. In the 1970's Dr. Allen Steere discovered that Lyme was a tick-borne illness. The cause would remain unknown until *Borrelia burgdorferi* was discovered as the causative agent in 1981 by scientist Willy Burgdorfer.

### **Berkshire Lyme Alliance**

Have Lyme Disease? Know or take care of someone with Lyme? Have any questions about Lyme? Berkshire Lyme Alliance meets monthly at the Berkshire Athenaeum, ground floor auditorium 1 Wendell Ave. Pittsfield, MA

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Saturdays 1-3PM  
February 8  
March 21  
April 11

**Upcoming at the Becket Athenaeum:** please call or email for more info: [info@bwlibrary.org](mailto:info@bwlibrary.org) 623-5483

**Book Club** Tuesday, February 4, 1:30pm

All are welcome to join us at the Athenaeum to discuss No Visible Bruises: What We Don't Know About Domestic Violence Can Kill Us by Rachel Louise Snyder.

**Bright Spot Reading Buddies** Saturday, February 8, 10-11:30 am

**Lara Tupper Book Release Party & Reading** Saturday, February 8, 1pm

Local Washington author, Lara Tupper will read from her just-released novel Off Island. Discussion to follow. Cookies and beverages will be provided.

**Census 2020 Information Session** Tuesday, February 11, 6pm

Library staff and members of the Berkshire County Complete Count Committee will bring you up to date and answer questions regarding this important effort in our county.

**Movie Night for Adults** Friday, February 14, 7pm

Harriet - Bring your own beverage (alcohol if you like) and we'll provide light snacks and popcorn.

**Community Movie Afternoons**

Saturday, February 15, 1:30pm - Arctic Dogs

Saturday, February 29, 1:30pm - The Addams Family

**Blood Pressure Clinic** Thursday, February 20, 4:30-6:30pm

Join local Registered Nurses David and Lisa Rosier for this free monthly clinic.

## TOWN OF WASHINGTON FEBRUARY 2020 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">TOWN HALL</div> <div>Selectmen Meeting    7 PM Town Hall Offices Open 7 - 9 PM Assessors/Tax Collector 6-8 PM Police Department 6-9 PM</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">TOWN HALL</div> <div>Yoga with Rima 10:00 AM</div>	5	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">TOWN HALL</div> <div>OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">TOWN HALL</div> <div>TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM</div>	8
9	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">TOWN HALL</div> <div>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</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">TOWN HALL</div> <div>Yoga with Rima 10:00 AM Planning Board Meeting 7 PM</div>	12	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"></div> <div>OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">TOWN HALL </div> <div>TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM</div>	15
16	<div align="center">President's Day Observed No Office Hours</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">17</div> <div>Yoga with Rima 10:00 AM COOP DELIVERY</div>	19	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">TOWN HALL</div> <div>OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">TOWN HALL</div> <div>TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM ***** COA Pot Luck Dinner 5:30 PM</div>	22
23	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">TOWN HALL</div> <div>Selectmen Meeting    7 PM Town Hall Offices Open 7 - 9 PM Assessors/Tax Collector 6-8 PM Police Department 6-9 PM</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">24</div> <div>Yoga with Rima 10:00 AM</div>	 Ash Wednesday	26	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"></div> <div>OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM</div>	29
Conservation Commission meets as needed. Contact Chairman M. Lampro. Parks Commisison meeting as needed in the winter. Contact Chairman D. Sinopoli.						
To join the food coop call Sarah Francis at (413) 623-6190						

Entity	Contact	Number
Assessors	Karen Avalle	717-7216
Board of Health	Janice Paxton	655-8668
Building Inspector	Paul Greene	446-0964
Chapel Commission	Rose Borgnis	441-0787
Clerk	Allison Mikaniewicz	623-2185
Conservation	Michelle Lampro	623-8333
Council on Aging	Rose Borgnis	441-0787

Entity	Contact	Number
Finance Committee	Kent Lew	623-0202
Highway Super	Tom Johnson	623-5648
Parks Commission	Dominic Sinopoli	528-1710
Planning Board	Don Gagnon	623-5859
Police Chief	Nicole Miller	446-4294
Selectmen	Jim Huebner	655-8668
Tax Collector	Gina Campbell	623-0146
Veterans Agent	John Herrera	499-9433

## Upcoming Election Reminder

Election: Presidential Primary  
Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2020  
Voting Hours: 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM  
Polling Location: Town Hall  
8 Summit Hill Road  
Washington, MA

Actions required if you would like to vote in this election:

- Town residents 18 years or older that are new residents in town or have never been registered to vote in Washington need to register by Wednesday, February 12, 2020.
- Not sure if you are already registered? You can use the following online tool provided by the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Election Division. [Am I Registered to Vote?](#)
- If you will not be able to vote at the above polling location during the voting hours, you can apply for an [absentee ballot](#) and mail it to the Town Clerk, 8 Summit Hill Road, Washington, MA 01223.
  - An absentee ballot cannot be mailed to you without a completed absentee ballot application.
  - The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is Monday, March 2, 2020 at 12 noon.
- **Early Voting** will also be an option for this election. Early voting will take place at the Town Hall in the Town Clerk's office on the following schedule.
  - Monday, February 24: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
  - Tuesday, February 25: 7:00 AM - 10:00 AM
  - Wednesday, February 26: 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
  - Thursday, February 27: 7:00 AM - 10:00 AM
  - Friday, February 28: 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM
- As this is a primary election, there will be separate ballots for each of the political parties – Republican, Democrat, Green-Rainbow and Libertarian.
  - If you are registered in one of these parties, you will have to vote in that party. If you would like to vote in a party other than the party you are registered in you will need to change your registration by Wednesday, February 12, 2020.
  - If you are an Unenrolled voter, no action is required. On election day you will be asked at check-in which party's ballot you would like to vote and you will be given that ballot. Your voter registration does not change; you will still be an Unenrolled voter.
- Races on the Presidential Primary ballots include: Presidential Preference, State Committee Man, State Committee Woman and Town Committee (Washington does not have a Town Committee).

Any questions, please contact the Town Clerk at [allison8788@gmail.com](mailto:allison8788@gmail.com) or 413-623-8788 x 105 or 413-623-2185.

## Nomination Papers for Elected Town Positions

Nomination papers for 2020 annual town election are available now through Tuesday, March 24, 2020. If you would like run for one of the following elected positions, please see the Town Clerk to obtain nomination papers.

In order to be included on the ballot you will need to obtain a minimum of 25 signatures from town residents that are registered to vote and submit the nomination papers to the Town Clerk by Thursday, March 26, 2020.

The following offices will be on the ballot this year.

- Auditor: One 1-year unexpired term
- Finance Committee: Two 3-year terms
- Planning Board: One 5-year term
- Select Board: One 3-year term

Thanks to all who replied to the questionnaire in last month's Tracks. Our Capital and Town Planning group has reviewed your responses and is developing a profile of our Town that combines our demographics, preferences, finances and what sets us apart from other municipalities. We are also developing a set of potential actions we can take to better secure the Town's character in the future. We plan to hold one or more public sessions to present our work and get more feedback from you.

- You can see the raw survey results and a one-page summary on the Town's website.
- If you have not yet done so please send in your survey so it can be included !

We have received a \$10,000 Planning Grant from the Mass Office on Disability. Terry Robbins is heading up the effort to create a transition plan for full Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. We expect to apply for additional funding to put needed changes in place. Anyone who is interested in helping, please contact Terry or Jodi.

The Town has had to contract for the removal of our recyclables as of the start of the new Fiscal Year (July 1). This used to be no-cost program but the changes in the market and rising costs have made this a necessity.

- In order to mitigate costs (and litter) the legislature is considering a broad extension of the current bottle bill to include all liquid containers.

We are entering the final phase of the construction of our broadband network. The overall system should be complete within the next six weeks (remaining cable, attachment points and the control electronics) and Westfield Gas and Electric will be doing the actual street-to-home connections. If all goes as expected we should all be connected this summer!

- Over half of our residents have signed up for service. Please join them and take advantage of the subsidized connection cost available during the system installation.

#### Highway:

- Our engineer, Foresight, has proposed draining Preston Pond in order to lower wetland compliance costs for the replacement of the Middlefield Road bridge. Both the affected property owner and the Conservation Commission will need to agree.
- Gill Engineering still has not provided a proposal for the replacement of the bridges along the Lenox-Whitney Road.
- MEMA has recommended that FEMA fund our grant application to replace the deep culvert on upper Frost Road; but there is no final word yet.

#### Property issues:

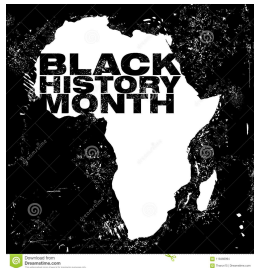
- The Planning Board denied approval for a "glamping" operation site along Lower Valley Road. The applicant never responded to Board of Health and Planning Board questions and requirements.
- At the December Special Town meeting the voters approved funding for the removal of asbestos from Woody's. This has now been done, allowing the building to be demolished and removed as ordinary waste. The next steps will be to place a lien on the property for the expenses already incurred by the Town and to issue an RFQ for the demolition of the building. Voter approval will be required for the actual demolition.
- The owner of Bucksteep has signed an agreement mediated by the Housing Court to bring the main building up to code by August 1. This is an important development because any failure to comply will make them subject to fines. We are still pursuing back taxes from FY2017.

Stay warm and stay safe. Spring will be here before we know it.

Jim Huebner  
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand  
Select Board Clerk

Dick Grillon  
Select Board



WASHINGTON TRACKS  
TOWN HALL  
8 SUMMIT HILL RD.  
WASHINGTON, MA 01223

[www.washington-ma.com](http://www.washington-ma.com)

**Realtor & Notary**

Lisa Peltier  
500 S. Washington State Rd.  
413.822.1257  
Keller Williams Realty  
LPeltier@kw.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](http://www.hilltownsvetclinic.com)

**Becket General Store**

Heather Anello  
3235 Main Street  
Becket, MA 01223  
413.623.6026  
[becketgeneralstore.com](http://becketgeneralstore.com)  
fb 3235 main street

FREE COFFEE AND  
DONUT AT THE  
BECKET GENERAL  
STORE NO EXP. DATE

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.**