



JANUARY 2021

WISHING EVERYONE a safe, PEACEFUL, HEALTHY, JOYFUL New Year!

Our December Tracks is delayed in the mail. We hope everyone receives it soon!

Washington residence/property owners. Open burn season is coming and this year there is another option for getting a permit; 1) call (413)623-2185 and speak to me direct or leave a message (listen to the full message to be sure burning is being permitted for the day) when leaving message, include; name, address burning at, and contact phone number or 2) log onto www.bcburnpermits.com and follow the directions that are listed.

Weather conditions, current and predicted, are part of the determining factor for permitting. The MA DEP also makes a determination.

This past fall had red flag days and drought conditions and unless we receive significant precipitation those conditions will remain resulting in less permitable days.

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 [MassAir Online](http://MassAirOnline.com) to find out if it is.
- Fire must be attended by an adult until completely extinguished.
- Extinguishment materials/tools must be on site and available.
- No hazardous materials.
- Use common sense and be safe.
- Call 911 immediately if the fire gets out of control.

Paul Mikaniewicz
Fire Chief
Becket/Washington

911 reflective signs are available through the Becket Fireman's Association at the cost of \$25.00. Please to complete the form below to order one. If you have any questions, please call the Becket Fire Chief 413-207-1602 or email firechief@townofbecket.org.

Please place an order for a 911 reflective sign for the following residence:

Name _____

Address (including house number) _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Completed form and payment (checks payable to Becket Firemen's Association) should be mailed to:

Becket Firemen's Association
557 Main Street
Becket, MA 01223

To our Washington neighbors:

January 2021

The sharp rise in COVID-19 infections continues throughout the Berkshires. The number of cases has quadrupled since the end of October and our positivity rate has tripled. Thirteen people died of the disease in the last half of November.

- The Governor has reinstated some of the restrictions that had been rolled back in the summer and fall. Please stay home, wash your hands, wear a mask and social distance if you must go out. Stay safe.
- The Governor has also announced expanded free testing in the County.
- On the bright side we expect that effective vaccines will be distributed starting this month. The first Massachusetts recipients will be health care workers, emergency responders and those in long-term care. Next are those at high risk, seniors, essential workers and small children starting in February. The current projection is for the general public to get the vaccine starting in April.
- The bottom line: the best case, assuming that there are ample supplies of the vaccine, that it is as effective as advertised and that the distribution goes according to plan is that we will be back to some kind of normality by late spring or early summer. Normality means that most of the population has gotten both shots of the vaccine and the infection rate approaches zero.
- We have been living with this for nine months and need to keep doing our part until this deadly virus is contained.

If you have not yet done so, please have everyone in your household fill out and return the survey included in last month's TRACKS. Extra copies are available at the Town Hall, the Transfer Station and on our website.

- The more responses we have the better our plans for the future of the Town will be. Thank you!

We have been awarded a \$69,000 grant to install a dedicated server and back-up system for the Town Hall. Thanks to John Les for helping put the proposal together.

The Commonwealth's Auditor has recommended that the PILOT program be fully funded and returned to a more equitable valuation system. If implemented the Town would receive additional funding for our state-owned lands.

- Thanks to Kent Lew for his advocacy on this issue.

Replacement of the Middlefield Road bridge over Coles Brook has begun.

We should hear about our ADA grant to improve access at the Town Hall this month..

A Court date has been set to determine if a Receiver will be appointed for Bucksteep. If appointed the Receiver will repair the property's water and septic systems. The costs will be billed to the owners or the property auctioned off if they do not pay.

We hope everyone had a safe and happy Holiday season. With vaccinations starting we now have some expectation that by mid-2021 we can return to our pre-COVID lives. Please keep safe until then. Now is not the time to relax our vigilance.

Jim Huebner

Tricia Drugmand

Dick Grillon



New Year's Bunny Maze

The bunny can't find the rest of his festive friends. Help him search through the maze to find them.

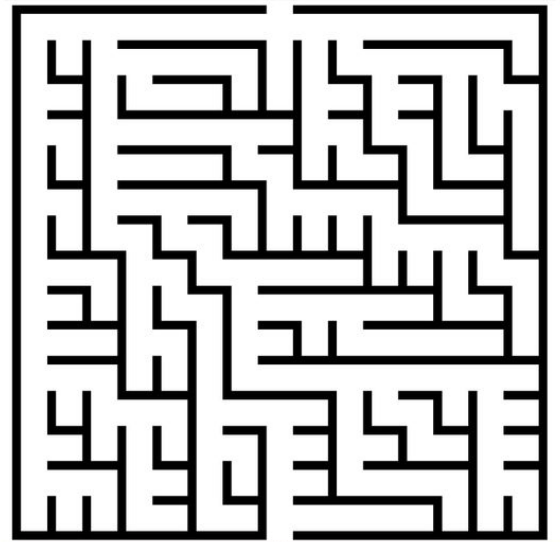
Just a reminder...

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.





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

WWW.WASHINGTON-MA.COM

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, MVB
133 South Washington State Rd
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>

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
Keller Williams Realty
LisaPeltier413@gmail.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

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

EMAIL YOUR TRACKS INFO BY
THE 25TH OF THE MONTH
TO GET IN TO NEXT
MONTH'S ISSUE TO LISA AT:
[MRSABESKI@MAC.COM](mailto:mrsabeski@mac.com)
PLEASE PUT TRACKS IN THE
SUBJECT LINE.