



# 2019 June



## Annual Town Park Clean Up

On Saturday June 8th, the Washington Parks Commission will hold its annual town park clean up event beginning at 9AM until 1PM. Volunteers are needed for projects including, raking, mulching, weed around tree bases, painting and staining. We will also be replacing pieces of wood in the benches and installing cooking grills. You could help tend to the fantastic new garden planted by Gardens of the Goddess last year in areas at the front of the park and through the beautiful Heartwood School's wooden entry arch into the fairy garden. Come, help your community to further beautify our wonderful Town Park.

This year the own Park.is hosting some terrific family friendly events. The Girls Scouts are having a badge earning campout on June 15<sup>th</sup>. The 4<sup>rd</sup> Annual Hilltown Brouhaha will be held on July 13<sup>th</sup>. Treasures in the trunk (tag sale) spots are still available ([www.HilltownBrouhaha.org](http://www.HilltownBrouhaha.org)). The Cops and Rodders car show fundraiser is happening on September 28<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy a frightfully good time at the John FX Keator Pumpkin Walk on October on 25<sup>th</sup> and some holiday festive fun at the Tree Lighting on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.

For anyone looking to volunteer time for the ongoing care of the park please contact the Parks Commission at [washingtonaas@gmail.com](mailto:washingtonaas@gmail.com) for further details.

## "thank you"

The Parks Commission would like to give a big Thank You! shout out to the Girls Scouts for making the wonderful nesting boxes in the park and to Ed Neumeth for helping the scouts make them and for installing them. You all have added great places to live for the park's diverse community of feathery friends. A Thank You! shout out to Always Growing for generously donating mulch and another Thank You! shout out to Craig Willis of White Wolf Excavation for the great job grating the bike path every year. If you get a chance take a walk around it. Enjoy the beauty of your park.

The Washington Mt. Rd. cleanup had a bumpy start between the snow, sleet and rain and a lack of volunteers but a few hardy folks went out over the course of 3 Saturday mornings and collected nearly 35, 45 gallon bags filled with trash from the Dalton line to the AT. As an added bonus, the sheriff's department also came up on the 18th and helped out as well. A huge THANK YOU to Carol and Kent Lew, Trisha Drugmand and Ann-Marie Desautelle for their hard work to keep Washington Mt. Rd. beautiful. A big shout out to the Washington DPW for their support and helping collect those bags! If anyone's interested, the next stretch of road that needs some work is from the AT to the Becket line. Just walk outside your house and walk 100 yards to your left and right with a bag and do your part to keep our corner of the Berkshires beautiful!

## BROADBAND PROJECT UPDATE

Eversource and Verizon are actively working in town, preparing the utility poles for us to attach our fiber-optic cables. You may have seen their crews. It may take a few months still, but once the utilities complete their work, then our contractor will be able to begin installing the actual fiber.

The site for the main network hub has been prepared, next to Town Hall. The pre-fab concrete shelter is scheduled to be delivered on Tuesday, June 4. Many thanks to Dick Spencer, Dave Drugmand, and Frank Polizzi for all their volunteer assistance with this project.

### Lower Valley Rd to Remain Closed a While Longer

The culverts along Lower Valley Rd have all been replaced now, but construction of the underground pathway for our fiber-optic network is moving much more slowly than we'd hoped. This is partly due to the Highway Dept being short-staffed this summer, since Adam has had to take medical leave. (We wish him all the best for his recovery.)

Unfortunately, this means that Lower Valley Rd will have to remain closed for several more weeks. We apologize for the ongoing inconvenience and appreciate the patience of the Johnson Hill, Middlefield, and Ryan Rd residents.

Special thanks to Dick Spencer for his help with setting the mid-assist boxes. If anyone else has time and wants to volunteer (and doesn't mind physical labor and getting your hands dirty), please get in touch with Kent Lew (413.446.7897).

### Broadband is Coming! Take the Survey

To help with our planning and to make sure that you will be directly notified when sign-ups begin later this summer, please take our Broadband Survey online at: [www.wiredwest.net/towns/washington](http://www.wiredwest.net/towns/washington)

(If you have no internet access at all, paper copies of the survey can be found at Town Hall.)

#### **Becket Athenaeum News for June 2019:**

#### **ATHENAEUM SUMMER HOURS BEGIN JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup>**

**Tuesday:** 1-7pm **Wednesday:** 10am-2pm **Thursday:** 1-7pm **Saturday:** 10am-4pm

#### **ATHENAEUM BOOK CLUB**

All are welcome to join us at the Athenaeum on **Tuesday, June 4th at 1:30pm**, we will discuss *The House at the Edge of Night* by Catherine Banner.

#### **SUMMER STORY TIME at the ATHENAEUM**

Beginning Saturday, July 6, 10-11am, we will have a weekly story time for children ages 0-7. We have local students from Becket Washington School volunteering to read a book each week to the children with a fun craft after the story.

Please call 413-623-5483 to pre-register so that we can have enough supplies for the children planning to participate!

#### **GAME NIGHT at the ATHENAEUM**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 13<sup>TH</sup>, 6-8pm** JOIN US ADULTS\* for a fun evening of board games!

For more information, please call 413.623.5483 or visit our website: <http://www.becketathenaeum.org>

#### **COA**

Ongoing at the Town Hall  
Free Classes

**Yoga** 10AM Tuesdays

**Osteoporosis class** 10AM Fridays

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

**Pot Luck Dinner** 5:30 Friday, June 21st - we will be having a presentation on Age Friendly Berkshires at 6

**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

To our Washington neighbors:

June 2019

Thanks to everyone who took the time to vote on May 18. Congratulations to newly elected Finance Committee member Debra Megas, returning Select Board member Tricia Drugmand, returning Planning Board member Craig Willis, and returning Finance Committee Chair Kent Lew. The debt exclusion for the new Wahconah High School passed as well.

- This is the time of year when the Select Board makes appointments. Please let Jodi know if you would like to volunteer for the many jobs that need to be done!

Thanks also to those who came to vote at the Annual Town meeting on May 8. Nearly all warrant items were approved unanimously.

- One controversial item was funding for a gate to prevent partying at Ashley Lake. The Board was unanimous in support since we felt that in light of the terrible shooting there we needed to take a preventative measure.
- Our budget reflects a loss of over \$30,000 in funding but we will keep working with our legislative delegation to make the PILOT process transparent and equitable.

The construction of our broadband system has begun with new poles going up and underground cable being placed along Lower Valley Road.

- In order to better plan we need all residents to fill out a survey either on-line at [www.wiredwest.net/towns/washington](http://www.wiredwest.net/towns/washington) or by picking up a hard copy at the Town Hall.

Highway:

- We have not yet heard if either of our grant requests (one to MEMA, one to DCR) to fund the replacement of the deep culvert on upper Frost Road has been granted.
- We received two bids for the Middlefield Road bridge over Coles Brook; one bid was for nearly \$700,000, the other almost \$1 million. Given our finances there was no way we could accept either bid. We are working with Foresight on what we can do next, but any expenditure over and above the \$500,000 Small Bridge grant is a non-starter.
- We are also negotiating with DOT over the \$500,000 Small Bridge grant for the three bridges on Lenox-Whitney Road; here too, we will reject any expenditure above the grant amount.

Property issues:

- The court date for our Health Agent's legal action against the owners of Bucksteep is set for the 26<sup>th</sup> of June.
- We have been told to expect a presentation from a potential buyer of Woody's Road House within the next few weeks.
- We are negotiating with the Nature Conservancy for their purchase of the properties owned by the Town in Virginia Lakes.

The Planning Board is working on several new by-laws including by-right commercial scale solar which will finally let us qualify for funding as a Green Community.

Thanks to Anne-Marie Desautels for her persistence in organizing a clean-up along our roads despite the weather.



Town Park clean-up is Saturday June 8. See you there!

Jim Huebner  
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand  
Select Board Clerk

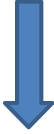
Dick Grillon  
Select Board

# TOWN OF WASHINGTON JUNE 2019 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	<div>TOWN HALL</div> <div>3</div> <div>Selectmen Meeting 7 PM Town Hall Offices Open 7 - 9 PM Assessors/Tax Collector 6-8 PM Police Department 6-9 PM <b>Lower Valley Road may still be CLOSED to install/culverts and Broadband Fiber Optic Cables</b></div>	<div>TOWN HALL</div> <div>4</div> <div>Yoga with Rena 10:00 AM</div>	5	<div>TOWN HALL</div> <div>6</div> <div>OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM ***** Conservation Commission Meeting 6 PM</div>	<div>TOWN HALL</div> <div>7</div> <div>TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM</div>	<div>TOWN PARK</div> <div>8</div> <div>  <p>Annual Town Park Clean Up <b>VOLUNTEER</b> Saturday, June 8th 9AM to 1PM</p> </div>
9	<div>TOWN HALL</div> <div>10</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>TOWN HALL</div> <div>11</div> <div>Yoga with Rena 10:00 AM</div>	12	<div>TOWN HALL</div> <div>13</div> <div>OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM</div>	<div>TOWN HALL</div> <div>14</div> <div>  <p>TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM <b>FLAG DAY</b></p> </div>	<div>TOWN PARK</div> <div>15</div> <div> <p><b>PRIVATE EVENT</b> GIRL SCOUTS CAMPOUT</p> </div>
16	<div>TOWN HALL</div> <div>17</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>TOWN HALL</div> <div>18</div> <div>Yoga with Rena 10:00 AM Planning Board Meeting 7 PM</div>	19	<div>TOWN HALL</div> <div>20</div> <div>OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM</div>	<div>TOWN HALL</div> <div>21</div> <div> <p>TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM ***** COA Pot Luck Dinner 5:30 PM ***** FIRST DAY OF SUMMER</p> </div>	22
23	<div>TOWN HALL</div> <div>24</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>TOWN HALL</div> <div>25</div> <div>Yoga with Rena 10:00 AM</div>	26	<div>TOWN HALL</div> <div>27</div> <div>OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM</div>	<div>TOWN HALL</div> <div>28</div> <div>TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM</div>	29

Entity	Contact	Entity	Contact	Entity	Contact	Entity	Contact	Number
Assessors	Karen Avale	Finance Committee	Kent Lew	Finance Committee	Kent Lew	Finance Committee	Kent Lew	623-0202
Board of Health	Janice Paxton	Parks Commission	Dave Drugmand	Parks Commission	Dave Drugmand	Parks Commission	Dave Drugmand	623-6651
Building Inspector	Paul Greene	Planning Board	Marilyn Wiley	Planning Board	Marilyn Wiley	Planning Board	Marilyn Wiley	623-5859
Chapel Commission	Rose Borgnis	Police Chief	Nicole Miller	Police Chief	Nicole Miller	Police Chief	Nicole Miller	446-4294
Clerk	Allison Mikaniewicz	Selectmen	Jim Huebner	Selectmen	Jim Huebner	Selectmen	Jim Huebner	655-8668
Conservation	Michelle Lampro	Tax Collector	Gina Campbell	Tax Collector	Gina Campbell	Tax Collector	Gina Campbell	623-0146
Council on Aging	Rose Borgnis	Veterans Agent	John Herrera	Veterans Agent	John Herrera	Veterans Agent	John Herrera	499-9433

Please **CALL AHEAD**



# RESULTS

## TOWN OF WASHINGTON ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2019

### AUDITOR (2 year unexpired term)

2	Edward Bond
1	Glenn Grogan
1	Allison Mikaniewicz
1	Michael Burke
1	Rose Borgnis
63	Blanks

### FINANCE COMMITTEE (3 year term)

58	Kent Lew, Incumbent
2	Michael Burke
9	Blanks

### FINANCE COMMITTEE (3 year term)

26	Debra Megas
4	Michael Burke
1	David Weissbrod
1	Richard Spencer
1	Sean Connors
36	Blanks

### SELECTBOARD (3 year term)

45	Patricia Drugmand, Incumbent
6	Kent Lew
5	David Fish
1	Rose Borgnis
1	Craig Willis
1	Eyal Shapira
10	Blanks

### PLANNING BOARD (5 year term)

16	Craig Willis
2	Michael Case
2	Leslie Conklin-Lennon
1	Mathew Lawrence
1	Debra Megas
1	Steve Nelson
1	Edward Bond
45	Blanks

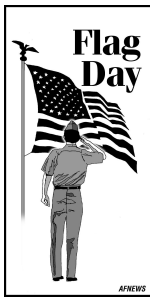
### BALLOT QUESTION

Shall the Town of Washington be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to pay for costs of designing, constructing, equipping and furnishing a new Wahconah Regional High School located at 150 Old Windsor Road, in Dalton, Massachusetts, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto?

37	Yes
28	No
4	Blanks



Allison Mikaniewicz  
Town Clerk  
May 19, 2019



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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.