



MARCH 2018



Attention high school seniors: Any high school senior, who is a resident of the Town of Washington and is planning to further his/her education, is eligible to apply for a Washington Scholarship. Applications for the Washington Scholarship, which are due April 15, are available by contacting Linda Levernoch at 623-8309.

TOWN of WASHINGTON SENIORS

POT LUCK DINNER
At the Town Hall
8 Summit Hill Road
March 16, 2018
Time 5:30PM

Please come and enjoy a relaxing evening in the company of your fellow Senior Town residents with a lovely dinner.

Interested in helping town residents save money and transition away from fossil fuels?

The town of Washington has an opportunity to partner with other towns to participate in the Solarize Mass program. Solarize Mass works to increase the adoption of small-scale solar electricity systems through a grassroots educational campaign, driven mainly by local volunteers and reduced pricing that increases the savings for participants. Since 2011, over 70 communities have participated in the program, resulting in over 21.6 megawatts of solar installed. Washington could be the next Solarize success story, but we need volunteers to make it happen! We're looking to form a Solarize committee to work on an outreach campaign with funds and assistance provided by the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center. For more information, see <http://www.masscec.com/solarize-mass> Interested in helping out? Contact Dave Drugmand, 413.446.1774 or drugmand3@gmail.com

Annual Town Meeting

The date for the 2018 Annual Town Meeting is Wednesday, May 9, 2018. The meeting will be held at the Town Hall, 8 Summit Hill Road and will start at 7:00 PM.

If you have an article you would like included on the warrant, please submit a petition to the Town Clerk. The petition must include the wording for the article along with a minimum of 25 signatures of town residents that are registered to vote. The last date for any such petitions to be submitted is Monday, March 26, 2018.

Annual Town Election

The 2018 Annual Town Election is Saturday, May 19, 2018 at the Town Hall, 8 Summit Hill Rd. Voting hours are from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

The following offices will be on the ballot this year.

- Auditor: One 3-year term
- Finance Committee: One 3-year term
- Moderator: One 1-year unexpired term
- Planning Board: One 5-year term
- Select Board: One 3-year term
- Tax Collector: One 2-year unexpired term
- Town Clerk: One 3-year term
- Tree Warden: One 3-year term

Nomination Papers for Elected Town Positions

If you would like run for one of the above elected positions, please see the Town Clerk to obtain nomination papers. Nomination papers are available now through Friday, March 16, 2018.

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 Tuesday, March 20, 2018.

Voter Registration Session for Annual Town Meeting and Election

A voter registration session will be held on Thursday, April 19, 2018 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. If you are not already registered to vote in the town of Washington, this will be your last chance to register and be eligible to vote at the Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election.

The 14th annual Berkshire County garden symposium will be held at Lenox High and Middle School on April 7th with classes starting at 8:45. Obtain more information on the fifteen classes in three groups from Chris Stodden at wrselect@aol.com or 413.443.2910 or from WMMGA.org. The registration fee is \$40 through March 31 and \$45 after March 31. There will be a sale of early vegetables and flowers, a garden glove sale, a used garden books sale and booths from gardening and environmental groups as well as a raffle of garden items donated by local gardening and landscape vendors.

Keep An Eye On The Park This Spring



Last fall the Parks Commission along with members of local Girl Scout Troop 40367 and landscaper Pat Perkins added some color to the park planting 100 Gritty Southern Daffodil Bulbs and 50 Purple Sensation Allium Bulbs.

A **Thank You** shout out to Gardens Of The Goddess for helping with the design and Olivia, Sarah, Cote, Helayna, Jessica, Allison, Tricia, Denise, and Paul for digging, fertilizing and planting. Keep an eye out along the rock wall by the park sign for their beautiful work. Be the first to email the commission that you see color blooming to win a prize. (Dandelions not included ☺) There is much more to do. If you would like to join us in the next fun event or become a member contact the PC at washingtonaas@gmail.com

To our Washington neighbors:

March 2018

For all our current and prospective Apiarists (beekeepers): the Department of Agricultural Resources has a “highly trained and knowledgeable staff” to support you through education, how-to’s, best practices and legal concerns. www.mass.gov/apiary-program-honey-bees.

Age Friendly Berkshires is an initiative to create a more livable Berkshire County for people of all ages, focusing on the needs of our aging population. <http://agefriendlyberkshires.com/>

- The Home Modification Loan Program through the Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation offers loans of up to \$50,000 to homeowners seeking to make their homes more accessible to be able to “age in place”. The loans are interest- and payment-free and only repaid upon sale or transfer of the property. Application can be made at cedac.org/hmlp.

Dalton is seeking to eliminate heavy truck traffic from Washington Mountain Road by imposing a weight limit and has asked for our support. On the basis both of the safety of our citizens and concern for the durability of our newly-paved portion of the road (which DOT admits was not built for heavy trucks) we support Dalton, and have suggested some intermediate steps to re-route traffic and have greater speed- and weight limit enforcement.

We have written to DOR and demanded to know why an acre of October Mountain in Washington is valued at less than an eighth of the valuation of an adjacent acre in Lenox. This has a direct bearing on the over \$30,000 of PILOT funding the Governor’s budget has us losing next year. We have asked our legislative delegates to investigate DOR’s practices.

Road & Bridge: we are still waiting for a design of the Middlefield Road bridge over Coles Brook; we still need more quotes on the repair of the deep culvert on upper Frost Road; and we are still getting bids to pave the lower part of Frost Road.

Pending:

- Our broadband system design; we need agreements with Eversource and Verizon for the use of their poles. This is likely to be the most expensive part of construction!
- We have reached out to Pittsfield – again - on the five acres on Washington Mountain Road promised to the Town thirty years ago. No reply yet.
- Our Town Planning effort; Berkshire Regional Planning has grant-funding to support us but we will not get to work in earnest until after the ATM and Town Elections.

Lastly, our ATM will have a very full agenda including: 1) another look at becoming a Green Community; 2) a revision to the Central Berkshire School District (Seven Town) Charter; 3) adoption of a change to property assessment; 4) permission from the voters to sell the Town’s lots in Virginia Lakes; and 5) a marijuana by-law. Whew. More details in next month’s Tracks.

Keep warm, keep well, and start planning your garden!

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand
Select Board Clerk

Dick Grillon
Select Board

There will be a public Hearing at the Town Hall Tuesday March 13 at 7 pm on a proposed by-law amendment for a Temporary Moratorium on Recreational Marijuana. Full text is available at the Town Clerk’s Office.



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

www.washington-ma.com

Support Our Local Businesses

Hilltowns Veterinary Clinic

Dr. Sharon Lynch, MVB
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Phone: (413)623-5329
www.hilltownsvetclinic.com

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Realtor & Notary

Lisa Peltier
500 S. Washington State Rd.
(413) 822-1257

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.
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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






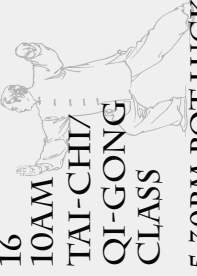
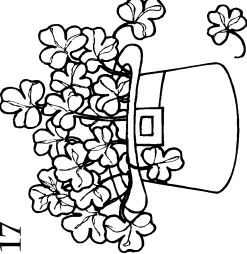




Becket General Store

Heather Anello
3235 Main Street
Becket, MA 01223
Phone: (413)623-6026
becketgeneralstore.com
fb 3235 main street

FREE coffee & donut at the
Becket General Store
no exp. date

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

TOWN OF WASHINGTON MARCH 2018 COUNCIL ON AGING

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|--|--|---|
| | | | | 1 10AM OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS  | 2 10AM TAI-CHI/ QI-GONG CLASS  | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 10AM OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS  | 9 10AM TAI-CHI/ QI-GONG CLASS  | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 10AM OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS  | 16 10AM TAI-CHI/ QI-GONG CLASS 5:30PM POT LUCK DINNER  | 17  |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 10AM OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS  | 23 10AM TAI-CHI/ QI-GONG CLASS  | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 10AM OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS  | 30 10AM TAI-CHI/ QI-GONG CLASS GOOD FRIDAY  | 31 |