



# March 2020

## BROADBAND PROJECT UPDATE

***Two steps forward, one step back . . .*** After making excellent progress in January and the first part of February, our construction has now unfortunately slowed to a crawl. We have 85% of the cable and about 70% of the MSTs installed; but Sertex has run out of work that they can productively tackle, due to ongoing residual make-ready issues that the utilities have not addressed in FSA02 and FSA03. The line crews have had to demobilize from town for the time being, until the way is clear again to proceed. As of press time, that return date has not yet been determined.

Nevertheless, we continue to work on getting the first Fiber Service Area spliced, tested, and certified. And we continue to work on getting final logistics for installations worked out. The goal is to be able to start scheduling installations in FSA01 within the next few weeks.

Stay tuned to [www.wiredwest.net/washington](http://www.wiredwest.net/washington) for more detailed construction updates. From that site, you can also sign up for semi-regular email updates.

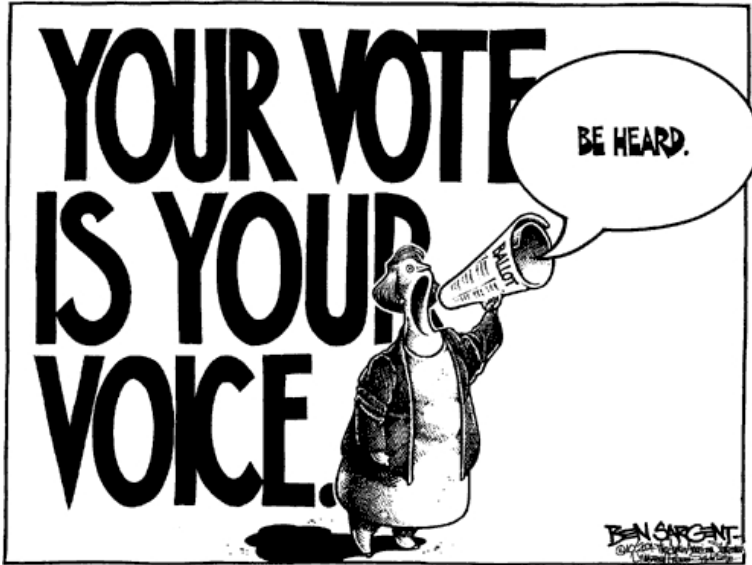
## **Q&A DROP-IN SESSION — Saturday, March 14, 1–3:00 at Town Hall**

Whether you've got burning questions or just idle curiosity, plan to drop in at Town Hall on Saturday afternoon, March 14. Kent will be hanging out to provide whatever answers he can. No program, no presentation, no agenda — just making himself generally available for anyone who wants to stop by and ask about broadband. Whether you're already signed up or still trying to decide, feel free to come on by.

## **BROADBAND FINANCING OPTIONS AVAILABLE**

We have now established a relationship with Berkshire Bank to offer financing options for residents who may benefit from some assistance with managing out-of-pocket installation costs. This is not something that either the Town or WiredWest can provide directly, but we've arranged a direct contact with someone who is familiar with our project and prepared to help customers with a range of options to fit their needs and means. This is offered through the bank's MyBanker program, which provides personal banking services at no extra cost. If you're interested, please get in touch with Kent at [washingtonfiber@kentlewis.com](mailto:washingtonfiber@kentlewis.com) or (413) 446-7897 for more information and contact info.

# Presidential Primary Tuesday, March 3rd Washington Town Hall 7AM-8PM



**What are co-infections?** Ticks carry a lot more than Lyme Disease. They can transmit many bacteria, viruses, protozoa and fungi, all in one bite and at the same time. Some of them are anaplasmosis, babesiosis, bartonella, borrelia miyamotoi, colorado tick fever, ehrlichiosis, mycoplasma, powassan viral encephalitis, Q fever, rocky mountain spotted fever, rickettsiosis, and tularemia as well as many others and many still being discovered. Co-infections are more common than previously thought, especially in those suffering from chronic lyme disease. A co-infected person may experience more severe illness, a larger amount of symptoms and a delayed recovery time.

## **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 Pittsfield Library, ground floor auditorium 1 Wendell Ave. Pittsfield, MA

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Saturdays 1-3PM

March 21

April 11

May 9

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

**Book Club** Tuesday, March 4, 1:30pm A lively discussion of The Wongs vs. the World by Jade Change

**Movie Night for Adults 7pm** Friday, March 6 The Good Liar, March 20 A Star is Born (2018) Both Rated R

**Bright Spot Reading Buddies 10-11:30 am** Saturday, March 7, 2, April 4, 18 - It is designed to help readers on all levels. Children read one-on-one to their canine Reading Buddy. \*Bright Spot Therapy Dogs, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to placing well-trained certified therapy dog teams in meaningful programs that provide comfort and caring through the human-canine bond. Our special volunteers serve in a wide variety of settings including hospitals, nursing homes, schools, libraries and other facilities where therapy dogs are needed.

**Lara Tupper Book Release Party & Reading** Saturday, March 7, 1pm Lara Tupper will read from her just-released novel Off Island. Discussion to follow. Cookies and beverages will be provided.





**Pre-School STEAM Program 1pm** Tuesday, March 10, 17, 24 Free

**Colorectal Cancer Information Session with Lisa Rosier, RN, MSN, NE-BC** Saturday, March 14 10am-12pm Free

**Equity & Diversity Community Conversation** Wednesday, March 25 6-7:30pm Staff members of the Becket Athenaeum, Central Berkshire Regional School District and Multicultural Bridge are holding an evening of conversation regarding equity and diversity. As a school district and a community, we are committed to exploring these topics, and one avenue is through community events. Please join us as we engage in meaningful conversations sparked by some brief videos on a variety of topics related to equity and diversity. Refreshments will be served.

**Community Movie Afternoon** Saturday, March 28 1:30pm Frozen II Popcorn will be served!

## TOWN OF WASHINGTON MARCH 2020 CALENDAR

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
	1	TOWN HALL	2		3		4		5	TOWN HALL	6		7
		Selectmen Meeting 7 PM Town Hall Offices Open 7 - 9 PM Assessors/Tax Collector 6-8 PM Police Department 6-9 PM		Presidential Primary Town Hall 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM  Yoga with Rima 10:00AM				OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM ***** Conservation Commission Meeting 6 PM		TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM			
Daylight Saving Time	8	TOWN HALL	9	TOWN HALL	10		11	TOWN HALL	12	TOWN HALL	13		14
		Selectmen Meeting 7 PM Town Hall Offices Open 7 - 9 PM Assessors/Tax Collector 6-8 PM Police Department 6-9 PM		Yoga with Rima 10:00 AM  Planning Board Meeting 7 PM				OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM		TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM		Broadband Q & A Session Town Hall 1 PM – 3 PM	
	15	TOWN HALL	16	TOWN HALL	17		18	1st Day of Spring	19	TOWN HALL	20		21
		Selectmen Meeting 7 PM Town Hall Offices Open 7 - 9 PM Finance Committee Meeting 7PM Assessors/Tax Collector 6-8 PM Police Department 6-9 PM		 St. Partick's Day   Yoga with Rima 10:00 AM				OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM 		TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM ***** COA Pot Luck Dinner 5:30 PM			
	22	TOWN HALL	23	TOWN HALL	24		25	TOWN HALL	26	TOWN HALL	27		28
		Selectmen Meeting 7 PM Town Hall Offices Open 7 - 9 PM Assessors/Tax Collector 6-8 PM Police Department 6-9 PM		Yoga with Rima 10:00 AM				OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM		TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM			
	29	TOWN HALL	30		31								1
		Selectmen Meeting 7 PM Town Hall Offices Open 7 - 9 PM Assessors/Tax Collector 6-8 PM Police Department 6-9 PM		Yoga with Rima 10:00 AM									

Conservation Commission meets as needed. Contact Chairman M. Lampro.  
Parks Commission meets as needed. Contact Chairman D. Sinopoli.

To join the food coop call Sarah Francis at (413) 623-6190

Entity	Contact	Number
Assessors	Karen Avalue	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

### **New Community Program**

Free Lunch at the First Congregational Church's Guild Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of each Month. Lunches will vary each month, but will be soup and sandwiches.

The first lunch will be held on **March 18th from 11:00-1PM** serving corn chowder & ham salad sandwiches.

Coffee & water are provided and lunches can be eaten in or brown bagged for take out.

### **COA**

Ongoing at the Washington Town Hall  
Free Classes

**Yoga** 10AM Tuesdays

**Osteoporosis class** 10AM Thursdays

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

**Pot Luck Dinner** Join in the St. Patrick's Day celebration

Friday March 20th Pot luck dinner at 5:30 - corned beef and cabbage provided - Irish songs performed by Sean & Deb Connors starting at 7:00pm Everyone is welcome !!

### **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



CLOVER  
GOLD  
GREEN  
IRISH  
LEPRECHAUN

LUCK  
MARCH  
POT  
RAINBOW  
SHAMROCK

# Happy St. Patrick's Day



The second “All-Hands” meeting was held on February 19. We had over 90% attendance from the boards, committees and individuals who keep our Town running.

- We were struck by the level of professionalism and dedication of the more than two dozen individuals who in turn represent many others who contribute their time and effort. We thank them all and remind everyone that there is always more to be done, so please volunteer any way you can.
- On a separate note Mike Case has volunteered to be the Town’s representative to the Central Berkshire School Committee. This will be Mike’s second turn in the position – he has also chaired the School Committee - and the Board highly recommended him to Superintendent Casna.

We have received nearly a hundred responses to our Town Planning questionnaire from you. We will use your insights and ideas along with financial and demographic information to create a profile of our Town. The profile will be available at <http://www.washington-ma.com/> later this month. The profile along with a list of the challenges we face will also be presented at an open forum tentatively scheduled for April 18 from 1-3 at our Town Hall.

- We hope you can participate in the public forum and help us decide how best to meet our challenges to sustain our Town’s character and solvency for the future.
- We would like everyone to be included so please continue sending surveys!

Berkshire Regional Planning has received a grant to study transportation needs in rural communities in coordination with the Age-Friendly Berkshires initiative. There will be a 15 minute presentation to the Select Board on Monday March 9 at 7 pm. Please plan to attend so your voice can be heard.

With marijuana production and sale now legal, the Town needs to address the complexities of law, environment and possible revenue. Washington is an attractive site for cultivation, but we want to make sure that our Town’s character does not become distorted. In coordination with the Planning Board we are creating a Commission to sort out and propose policies to deal with potential growers and retailers. If you would like to participate, please let Jodi know.

The Broadband project remains on schedule for completion this spring. The next step is for individual homes to be hooked in.

- Remember that a credit for installation is only available to initial subscribers, so if you have not yet signed up for service, now is the time!

Highway:

- There has been no progress on any of the three projects that are pending: the Middlefield Road bridge, the bridges along the Lenox- Whitney Road and the replacement of the partially collapsed culvert on upper Frost Road. We hope to have workable plans for the first two and FEMA funding for the third before the warm weather.

Property issues:

- We hope to issue a Request for Quotes for the demolition of Woody’s within the next week. If we get a low enough bid we will ask the voters to approve the work at the Annual Town Meeting.
- Once the weather warms we will be watching to see if the owners of Bucksteep are actually bringing the property into compliance with Board of Health regulations. Regardless, they are still liable for three years’ back taxes.

Don’t forget to vote in the primary on March 3. Democracy only works if we all participate!

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.**