



March 2022

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. Scholarship applications, due May 1, are available on our town's website: <https://www.washington-ma.gov>, go to the community tab and click on schools.

Linda Levernoch
Washington Scholarship Committee



Journaling for Wellness
with Lara Tupper
Swift Ink Stories

FREE Online Writing Workshop
Wednesday, March 30, 2022, 6:00 pm ET
Register here for link: www.laratupper.com/contact

Join author Lara Tupper for a brief discussion about the health benefits of journaling, short and sweet freewriting exercises and tips about how to sustain greater self-compassion and self-awareness through writing. All are welcome. (60 minutes.) This program is supported in part by a grant from the Lee Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.




Girl Scout Cookie Booth at the Washington Town Park

The Becket/Washington Girl Scout troop will be holding a cookie booth at the Washington Town Park on Saturday, March 5, 2022 from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Cookies are \$5 and \$6 a box.

COA News

Classes are continuing with masks being required for all

Yoga Tuesdays at 9:00 AM

Osteoporosis Thursdays at 9:00 AM

Ti-Chi/QiGong Fridays at 10:00 AM

Pot Luck Dinner Friday, March 18 at 5:30 PM

Join us for corned beef and cabbage! Sean Connors and friends will be providing some lively after-dinner music. As always all seniors are welcome with or without a dish to share - we look forward to seeing you!

(Masks required for socializing before and after eating)

Questions, comments, or need assistance? Call 413-394-0003 or email washingtoncoa@gmail.com



Spring Writing Workshop
with Lara Tupper, MFA
ONLINE

For writers of fiction/nonfiction with work in progress.

Five Mondays starting April 18, 2022
6:00 - 8:00 PM ET

Supportive feedback with fellow writers.
Class size limited. Please email to register.

laratupper.com/contact
for registration and details

2022 Annual Town Census

The 2022 Annual Town Census was mailed the last week in February. The deadline for returning the census form is Tuesday, March 15th.

Included in the census mailing is an envelope to mail the census form to the town hall. Alternatively, you can drop the census form in the drop box at the town hall.

2022 Dog Licenses Available

Just a reminder that the current (2021) dog licenses will expire March 31, 2021. The dog licenses for 2022 are now available. Please see the Town Clerk on Monday evenings with the following information or send it in the mail (Attn: Town Clerk, 8 Summit Hill Road, Washington):

- 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.
- If you received a late fee invoice for 2021, you will have to pay that first before you can renew your dog for 2022.

Any questions please contact the Town Clerk 413-207-7526 or washington.ma.townclerk@gmail.com.

Town Nomination Papers Available

Nomination papers are available for the following town positions that are up for election this year:

- Finance Committee (3 year term)
- Finance Committee (3 year term)
- Planning Board (5 year term)
- Board of Selectmen (3 year term)
- Tree Warden (2 year unexpired term)
- Municipal Light Board (3 year term)

If you would like to take out nomination papers, you can find the papers on the website: <https://www.washington-ma.gov/town-clerk/pages/town-elections> or pick them up at the town hall on Monday evenings. You will need to collect 25 signatures from town residents that are registered to vote and the completed nomination papers must be returned to me by Friday, April 1, 2022. Any questions please contact the Town Clerk 413-207-7526 or washington.ma.townclerk@gmail.com.

Washington Insights

Accessory Dwelling Units

by Carol Lew

Over the past few months, Washington's Steering Committee has been focusing on one of the primary issues outlined in the Town Plan: Housing. The group is exploring a solution that many other Berkshire towns have been adopting or considering over the last several years, and that's Accessory Dwelling Units.

An Accessory Dwelling Unit is a self-contained living space that includes sleeping quarters, cooking facilities, and bathroom facilities. It can be within or attached to a primary dwelling or existing structure, or it can be an accessory structure. ADUs are not permitted in most circumstances under Washington's current bylaws, so there are a number of steps between the idea of it and the ability of residents to implement this option for themselves.

Why is the idea of adopting an ADU bylaw attractive?

- It's an avenue that could make it possible for senior residents in Washington to age in place. An accessory dwelling might allow a family member or caretaker to live with them while still maintaining an independent lifestyle.
- It's a way that residents could earn income, renting a unit to a long-term tenant or short-term vacationers.
- Accessory dwellings would increase town revenue through increased property value and, potentially, 6% room tax from short-term rentals.

Don Gagnon, co-chair of the Steering Committee and Chair of the Planning Board, is happy to have the input of the group on the topic. "The different perspectives have been both interesting and enlightening," Don says. "Our collective research has allowed the team to examine and compare our Zoning Bylaws with other towns of similar size and agricultural/residential zoning."



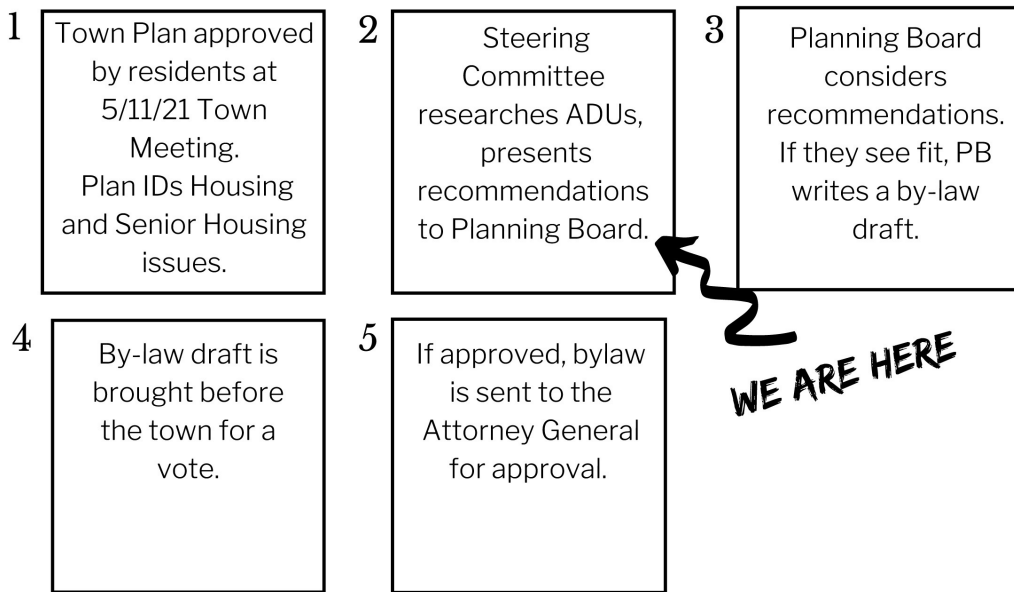
▲ Accessory dwelling units (or ADUs) come in many shapes and styles
From the ABCs of ADUs, AARP

An ADU can take many forms. It can be a unit within a current primary dwelling or outbuilding. It can be attached to a current building, or it can be detached.

What all accessory dwellings have in common is that they are smaller than the primary dwelling. How much smaller does it have to be? That's one of many questions the committee is discussing. Another question that needs a lot of thought is whether an ADU should be allowable "by right", or if it would require a special permit. With so many different types of ADUs, the answer will likely be: A little of both. Looking at ADU bylaws other towns have passed has helped to inform the conversation.

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Process for adopting an Accessory Dwelling Unit Bylaw






This early-on stage of exploration is the time to form a well-thought-out proposal.

Don says, "The Committee meeting venue is providing an open forum of discussion. Members are sharing information they hear from town residents bringing other voices to the discussion." He adds, "We welcome other town residents to participate if they'd like to add their ideas to the mix."

You can find a great pamphlet about ADUs called "Learn the ABCs of ADUs" at www.aarp.org/livable-communities/housing

TOWN OF WASHINGTON MARCH 2022 CALENDAR

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
				TOWN HALL	1	TOWN HALL	2	TOWN HALL	3	TOWN HALL	4	5	
				Yoga with Rima 9AM		Historical Commission 10AM Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM Girl Scout Troop 40367 6PM-8 PM		OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM		TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10AM		Transfer Station 8AM-4PM Girls Scout Cookie Booth in the Town Park 10AM	
	6	TOWN HALL	7		8	TOWN HALL	9	TOWN HALL	10	TOWN HALL	11	12	
		Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM Parks Commission 6:00 -6:45PM Select Board Meeting 7:00 - 9:00PM Finance Committee 7:00 - 9:00PM Assessors Office 6:00 - 8:00PM Tax Collector 6:00 - 8:00PM Town Clerk 7:00 - 9:00PM Police Department 7:00 - 9:00PM		Yoga with Rima 9AM Planning Board Meeting 7PM		Administrative Assistant 10AM-2PM Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM Girl Scout Troop 40367 6PM-8 PM		OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM		TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10AM		Transfer Station 8AM-4PM	
Daylight Saving Time Begins 	13	TOWN HALL	14		15	TOWN HALL	16	TOWN HALL	17	TOWN HALL	18	19	
		Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM Select Board Meeting 7:00 - 9:00PM Assessors Office 6:00 - 8:00PM Tax Collector 6:00 - 8:00PM Town Clerk 7:00 - 9:00PM Police Department 7:00 - 9:00PM		Yoga with Rima 9AM		Administrative Assistant 10AM-2PM Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM Girl Scout Troop 40367 6PM-8 PM		OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM 		TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10AM Council On Aging Potluck Dinner 5:30PM-7PM		Transfer Station 8AM-4PM	
1st Day of Spring 	20	TOWN HALL	21		22	TOWN HALL	23	TOWN HALL	24	TOWN HALL	25	26	
		Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM Select Board Meeting 7:00 - 9:00PM Assessors Office 6:00 - 8:00PM Tax Collector 6:00 - 8:00PM Town Clerk 7:00 - 9:00PM Police Department 7:00 - 9:00PM		Yoga with Rima 9AM		Administrative Assistant 10AM-2PM Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM Girl Scout Troop 40367 6PM-8 PM		OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM		TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10AM		Transfer Station 8AM-4PM	
	27	TOWN HALL	28		29	TOWN HALL	30	TOWN HALL	31	The Parks Commission will begin meeting the third Monday of the month beginning in April.			
		Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM Select Board Meeting 7:00 - 9:00PM Assessors Office 6:00 - 8:00PM Tax Collector 6:00 - 8:00PM Town Clerk 7:00 - 9:00PM Police Department 7:00 - 9:00PM		Yoga with Rima 9AM		Administrative Assistant 10AM-2PM Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM Girl Scout Troop 40367 6PM-8 PM		OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM					

Entity	Contact	Number	Entity	Contact	Number
Assessors	Karen Avalle	717-7216	Finance Committee	Sean Connors	212-1182
Board of Health	Jim Huebner	655-8668	Parks Commission	Dominic Sinopoli	623-2086
Building Inspector	Paul Greene	446-0964	Planning Board	Don Gagnon	822-8385
Chapel Commission	Rose Borgnis	394-0003	Police Chief	Nicole Miller	446-4294
Clerk	Allison Mikaniewicz	623-2185	Selectmen	Kent Lew	623-0202
Conservation	Michelle Lampro	464-2388	Tax Collector	Gina Campbell	623-0146
Council on Aging	Rose Borgnis	394-0003	Transfer Station	Michelle Lampro	464-2388
			Veterans Agent	John Herrera	499-9433



Please CALL AHEAD



BECKET ARTS CENTER

VIRTUAL OPEN MIC

OPEN TO MUSICIANS & MUSIC LOVERS

FREE FOR EVERYONE

SUNDAYS, 5 PM
FEBRUARY 27
MARCH 27
APRIL 24

GET THE LINK
 BECKETARTSCENTER.ORG



Becket & Washington's Community Library

Automated closed captioning available on Zoom meeting

THE BECKET ATHENAEUM
 EST. 1885

BOOK CLUB

Digital copies available on Libby and OverDrive.

Email info@bwllibrary.org for a physical book or for details regarding the Zoom meeting or an off-site indoor meeting (masks required).

Join us for lively conversation!

Tuesday, March 1 1:30pm

THE STORIES OF AJ FIKRY
 Gabrielle Zevin

Funded by: Central Berkshire Fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

413-623-5483
info@bwllibrary.org
BecketAthenaeum.org

Follow us: [f](https://www.facebook.com/BecketAthenaeum) [i](https://www.instagram.com/BecketAthenaeum)

March 3 7pm on Zoom

Questions?
 413-623-5483
info@bwllibrary.org
BecketAthenaeum.org

Come by the library to check out our display of poetry books throughout the month of March!

VIRTUAL POETRY EVENING

Rebecca Faust
 Chloe Martinez
 Victoria Bosch Murray

Discussion led by Jayne Benjulian, founder of the Berkshire Writers Project*
 Will include readings by the poets and Q&A.

Preregistration required:
bit.ly/BA-March-poetry

Funded by: Central Berkshire Fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

Automated closed captioning available

Follow us: [f](https://www.facebook.com/BecketAthenaeum) [i](https://www.instagram.com/BecketAthenaeum)

FINANCIAL SMARTS WITH PATRINA DIXON

6:30-7:30pm on Zoom

Join for 1 or all 3!

February 22: Saving & Budgeting
March 1: Credit - using credit responsibly
March 8: Side Hustles and Entrepreneurship

Patrina Dixon, owner of It's My Money, will share her breadth of financial expertise and answer your questions on these important topics:

- Saving & Budgeting:** Benefits of online savings, differences between banks and credit unions, needs vs. wants, steps to budgeting, and tips to maintain an active budget.
- Credit - using credit responsibly:** How credit scores are derived and operate and learn credit responsibility.
- Side Hustles and Entrepreneurship:** How to best earn extra money with side hustles and tips to be successful.

Preregistration required:
BecketAthenaeum.org/events

Automated closed captioning available

Funded by: Central Berkshire Fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

413-623-5483
info@bwllibrary.org
BecketAthenaeum.org
ItsMyMoneyJournal.info

Follow us: [f](https://www.facebook.com/BecketAthenaeum) [i](https://www.instagram.com/BecketAthenaeum)

Maple Syrup!

Grades 3-8 Fridays, 3-5pm
 March 11 & 25

We will visit Holiday Brook Farm in Dalton to learn how maple syrup is made and spend an afternoon at the library making our very own maple candy!

Activities are subject to change due to syrup-making conditions.

FREE! More information and to preregister:
BecketAthenaeum.org/events/maple-syrup

Funded by: Central Berkshire Fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

413-623-5483 3367 Main St. Becket
info@bwllibrary.org
BecketAthenaeum.org

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Cookbook Club
 Monday, March 14 6pm

- Email info@bwllibrary.org for a copy of the cookbook
- Let us know which recipe you plan to prepare
- Prepare the recipe to share
- Meet masked in library to discuss experience with recipes
- Exchange food and spread apart to unmask & eat
- Proof of full COVID-19 vaccination required. If unable to provide proof, you may participate via Zoom.

graze
 by ZANNA LEE

Funded by: Central Berkshire Fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

3367 Main St. Becket 413-623-5483
info@bwllibrary.org
BecketAthenaeum.org

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BANNED BOOK CLUB

Wednesdays, March 23 & 30 3:30-5pm

Have you heard about efforts to ban certain books from schools and libraries around the country? Are you wondering what's got everyone talking?

Join us to discuss **MAUS** by Art Spiegelman!

Email info@bwllibrary.org to request a copy of the book. Open to adults and students in grades 4+.
 Masks are required.

More information and to preregister:
BecketAthenaeum.org/events/maus

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413-623-5483 3367 Main St. Becket
info@bwllibrary.org
BecketAthenaeum.org

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Dear Washington Friends & Neighbors:

March 2022

For the second year in a row now, the Town Hall septic line has frozen, making the drains and toilets unusable. This time it can't be explained away as the result of being unused due to the pandemic shutdown. So, in addition to solving the immediate problem, the Board will need to have the possible causes investigated and weigh the costs of any long-term options.

The Highway Department wants to remind residents that plowing snow from driveways on to town roads is not permitted. Doing so creates a potential hazard to traffic. Please help us keep roadways as clear and safe as possible during and after snow events.

Bidding for the project to redo the paving on Lovers Lane Rd and lower Frost Rd is now open. We hope to get several competitive bids and award the contract in early April for construction in late spring or early summer, as soon as the weather permits.

Gov. Baker recently filed a Supplemental Budget bill to use surplus State revenue this year for various priorities and projects. The bill includes an earmark specifically to fund the replacement of our collapsed Frost Rd culvert. After nearly three years of unsuccessful efforts to secure various grant funding, this could finally be the break we need. It's up to the Legislature now. We have reached out to our legislators and will be monitoring progress closely.

The Select Board continues to explore the pros & cons of possibly having a part-time Town Administrator. The Collins Center for Public Management will present their evaluation and recommendations this month. At the same time, Washington has partnered with Savoy and Windsor in a grant application to research and develop a shared-service model that might make such a position financially viable for towns our size. Any final proposals will need voters' approval.

We were awarded a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) planning grant to identify and develop climate resiliency goals. This will lead to specific project proposals to address our community's vulnerability to the effects of increased flooding, extreme heatwaves, severe ice storms, etc., through State funding. There's a lot of State money going into this MVP program right now, and we want to gain access to the project funding opportunities. This is the first step. We will be looking for community involvement, so let Kent know if you have an interest in this.

Be sure to visit the Town's new website (washington-ma.gov) periodically for news updates in between issues of the Tracks. Or better yet, subscribe to be notified by email when new announcements are posted.

Kent Lew
Select Board chair

Tricia Drugmand
Select Board clerk

David Ellis
Select Board



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

www.washington-ma.gov

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

John Fish Piano Service

413-281-6130
johnfishpiano.com
Piano tuning, repair & restoration; 20 years experience

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

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.