



MAY 2018

TOWN of WASHINGTON
SENIORS

POT LUCK DINNER

At the Town Hall

8 Summit Hill Road

May 18, 2018

Time 5:30 PM

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



© coloring4kids.com

Calling all

CRAFTERS, ARTISANS & VENDORS

Join us @ Washington Town Park
Saturday, July 14th

for the 3rd Annual

hilltown brouhaha

Becket Washington Community Fair

Reserve space by June 1st

Treasure in
the Trunk \$10

OR

Table \$20

Reserve Your "Treasure in the Trunk" Space Today

**for the 2018 Hilltown Brouhaha - Saturday, July 14 @ Washington
Town Park**

What is Treasure in the Trunk?

Treasure in the Trunk is an easy and cost-efficient way to get your tag
sale items in front of some dedicated foot traffic at the 2018 Hilltown
Brouhaha, held this year at Washington Town Park on Saturday, July
14.

What Can I Sell?

You can sell anything (legal) that fits in your vehicle's trunk or on a
table (that you provide) no longer than 8 feet. You are welcome to
bring a canopy as well, but it must be no longer and no wider than 8
feet.

How Much Does It Cost?

It only costs \$10 to reserve a Treasure in the Trunk space at the 2018
Hilltown Brouhaha.

How Do I Register?

Visit <https://bwcp2018.typeform.com/to/uXD2rM> or go to the Becket
Washington Community Partnership (BWCP) Facebook page
(www.facebook.com/BWCP.COMMUNITY/) and click "Sign Up."

brought to you by
BWCP
Becket Washington
Community Partnership

Annual Town Election

Election Date: Saturday, May 19, 2018

Polling Hours: 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Polling Location: Washington Town Hall, 8 Summit Hill Rd

Offices and questions on the ballot:

Auditor:

No candidates on the ballot

Finance Committee:

Michael Burke, Incumbent

David Drugmand

Moderator:

Edwin Neumuth

Planning Board:

No candidates on the ballot

Select Board:

James Huebner, Incumbent

Tax Collector:

Rose Borgnis

Town Clerk:

Allison Mikaniewicz, Incumbent

Tree Warden:

No candidates on the ballot

Question 1:

Shall the Town vote to have its elected Tax Collector become an appointed Tax Collector of the Town?

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots for the Annual Town Election are available. If you will not be able to vote in person at the Annual Town Election on Saturday, May 19, 2018, you can request an absentee ballot. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is Friday, May 18, 2018 at 12:00 PM. You have to request the absentee ballot

in writing by either completing the absentee ballot application:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleabsentee/absidx.htm> or sending

a letter to the Town Clerk (postal or email letters are both accepted).

Please allow time for the Town Clerk to receive and process your application/letter and mail you a ballot. Allison Mikaniewicz, Town Clerk, washingtontownclerk@yahoo.com or 413-623-2185.

The Town Clerk will be out of town from May 13-18. If you request an absentee ballot during this time, please allow a few days for me to respond and get the ballot sent out.

FY19 Budget Summary

The total expenditures in the Town's upcoming FY19 budget come to \$1,652,613. This is a net increase in the town's budget of \$23,396 (1.44%) over FY18.

The largest driver in next year's budget increase is our CBRSD school assessment. We are among the four towns in the district that are seeing an increase in operating budget assessments. Washington's increase for FY19 is \$25,576. That is offset slightly by a decline of -\$8,852 in the capital assessment. With slight increases in costs for Vocational Ed., our total Education costs will see a net increase of \$21,311 for next year.

The FY19 budget includes a 2.0% cost-of-living-allowance increase to most wages, with the exception of the Select Board (who have again opted not to receive any increase) and a few minor positions. The net increase in wages is \$7,768, a portion of which is also due to the change to an appointed, professional Tax Collector.

Our Highway Dept. Supervisor has agreed to hold the Highway operating budget at level-funding for next year. The salary COLA increases will be offset by decreases in the Unemployment fund and Equipment Insurance. The result is a net decrease of -\$3,702 in the overall department budget, for the first time in many years.

The biggest financial news occurs on the other side of the equation, where we are facing a loss of non-tax revenue next year due to a decrease in our State Aid. Those who read the Berkshire Eagle may have seen the articles related to our loss of \$33,000 in PILOT reimbursement for state-owned land. Our legislators are seeking some measure of relief, but we cannot count on anything at this point. The loss of revenue may be offset to some extent by modest new growth in the tax base. But currently we are anticipating a total net increase in the Tax Levy of about \$40,500 or 3.37%.

The Finance Committee is currently projecting 1.25% growth in the Town's assessed value, based on preliminary information from the Assessors. If this holds true, along with current estimates for state aid and local revenue, then we project a tax rate of approximately \$15.14, an increase of \$0.31 (2.10%) over FY18. This would equate to an estimated increase in the Average Single Family Home annual tax bill of about \$70.

Kent Lew, Finance Committee chair

To our Washington neighbors:

May 2018

If you have any questions about the warrant items on the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) agenda, please come to the Town Hall Saturday May 5 between 10 and 12 am. And please come to the ATM next Wednesday May 9th at 7 pm. Democracy works best with full participation. Your vote counts!

- The Central Berkshire School Committee is no longer requesting an amendment to the District Charter so there are only four warrant questions remaining (Green Communities, a by-law to defer action on legalized marijuana, an exclusion from excise taxation for farmers, and authorization to sell Town-owned lots in Virginia Lakes Estates).
- The Select Board has voted unanimously in favor of all warrant items.

The roof of long-time Washington landmark, Woody's Road House, collapsed on March 29. A demolition order has been jointly issued by our Building Inspector and Fire Chief.

Becket is asking that we collect \$5 for beach stickers this year. They will be available at the Town Hall.

Our complaint about losing over \$30,000 in PILOT funds has gotten attention: both Representative Pignatelli and Senator Hinds have pledged to work on legislative relief and to make DOR more accountable - and the 4/5/2018 editorial in the Berkshire Eagle helped!

Road and Bridge:

- Now that the snow is finally gone our road crew will be out grading all twenty-five miles of our gravel roads, sweeping our paved roads, replacing culverts and catching up on small projects like replacing the broken pillar on the Town Common and repairing some damaged driveways.
- We should soon have designs for the Middlefield Road bridge over Coles Brook and the deep culvert on upper Frost Road. Construction of the bridge will be funded by a \$500,000 Small Bridge grant; we are seeking grant funding for the culvert.

After several difficult years we were finally able to appoint Gina Campbell as our Tax Collector last year and she has done an excellent job. At last year's ATM there was a unanimous yes vote on Article 21 "To see if the Town will vote on the following question: Should the Tax Collector become an appointed Tax Collector of Town." By law this action needs to be confirmed at the year's annual Town election on May 19.

- The Board unanimously supports a "yes" vote on the question: Shall the Town vote to have its elected Tax Collector become an appointed Tax Collector of the Town?

We hope all of our citizens participate in the Annual Town Election on Saturday the 19th of May. The polls will be open from 12-4 at the Town Hall. Exercise your right to vote!

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand
Select Board Clerk

Dick Grillon
Select Board

Emma Bailey Scholarship Update

This year the Emma Bailey Scholarship Committee has awarded 1 scholarship to the only graduating senior at Wahconah Regional High School from Washington. Thanks to a successful fundraising effort in 2017 we were able to increase the award to \$250. This year's fundraising was much less successful. To date eight donors have contributed \$420. That, however, will serve to boost the endowment and will help to sustain this worthy activity.

MEMORIAL



DAY

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

www.washington-ma.com

Support Our Local Businesses

Realtor & Notary

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

Mark Newton's

Full Service Pet and Home
Care, also light ground
maintenance, minor home
repair & snow plowing
Pet sitting in your home:
Dogs, Cats, Horses, and so
much more Passionate,
Reliable, and Caring.
413 623-2254 or email:
markspetcare@gmail.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

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.

Hilltowns Veterinary Clinic

Dr. Sharon Lynch, MVB
133 South Washington State
Rd
Washington, MA 01223
Phone: (413)623-5329
www.hilltownsvetclinic.com

Becket General Store

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

Your Way Computer

Frank Kennedy
1153 Washington Mt. Road
Washington, MA 01223
Call: 623.5180 / Fax: 623.2018
E-Mail:
[carolandfranksr@carolandfrank.co](mailto:carolandfranksr@carolandfrank.com)
m
By appointment only

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

FREE coffee & donut at
the


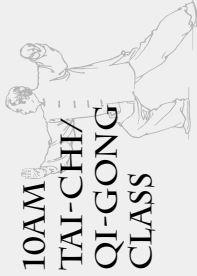
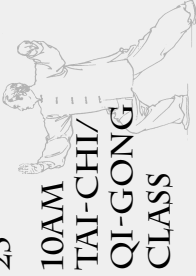
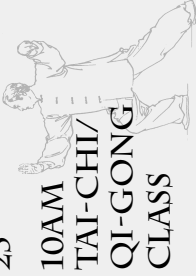
Becket General Store
no exp. date

Email your TRACKS info by the 25th of the month to:

mrsabeski@mac.com

Please put TRACKS in the subject line.

TOWN OF WASHINGTON MAY 2018 COUNCIL ON AGING

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