



HAPPY  
Mother's  
Day

2019  
May



### BROADBAND PROJECT UPDATE

**Temporary Road Closing**  
**Lower Valley Road**  
***Approximately 4 weeks, starting May 6***

For one or two days, Lower Valley Rd will be closed at the railroad crossing between Rte 8 and Cross Place Rd. Then, for the rest of the month, Lower Valley Rd will be closed from Cross Place Rd to the base of Johnson Hill Rd.

This temporary closure is to allow construction of an underground pathway for our fiber-optic network to connect the Johnson Hill, Middlefield Rd, and Ryan Rd neighborhoods with our main distribution back to the central hub at Town Hall.

At the same time, the Highway Dept will also be replacing all of the culverts along that route.

We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate your patience with these projects.

### **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, or contact Kent Lew to participate 413.446.7897.)

### **Volunteers needed!**

The next Washington Mt. Rd. Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday May 11 from 9-12. We'll meet at the Town Hall, pick up bags and spread out along the road. Come for a little bit, come for the morning, everyone is welcome. (This cleanup will happen unless it's raining buckets. Or snowing).

Even if you can't attend this cleanup, please consider going out onto your own road for a quick cleanup. Every road in town could use some help!

Thank you to the Select Board and our DPW for assisting with this cleanup. Special thanks to the Lew's for helping me tackle the first mile from Dalton in the sleet, rain and snow.

KEEP WASHINGTON CLEAN!

For more info or to RSVP email Ann-Marie Desautelle at [amdesaut@yahoo.com](mailto:amdesaut@yahoo.com)

## Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting will be held Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at 7:00 PM.

## Annual Town Election

The Annual Town Election will be held Saturday, May 18, 2019. Polls are open from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Offices and candidates on the ballot are:

- Auditor: no candidates
- Finance Committee: Kent Lew
- Finance Committee: no candidates
- Planning Board: no candidates
- Select Board: Patricia Drugmand

There is also a Ballot Question asking if the Town of Washington should be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition 2 1/2.

## Absentee Ballots for Annual Town Election

Absentee ballots for Annual Town Election are now available. Please contact the Town Clerk to request a ballot if you will be out of town on election day. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is Friday, May 17, 2019 at 12:00 PM, but please take into account the time to process requests.

Allison Mikaniewicz

Town Clerk

washingtontownclerk@yahoo.com

## Reminder from the Washington Fire Chief:

The open burn season for 2019 has closed as of May 1, 2019.

Any registered voter in the town of Washington who would like to attend a Special town meeting or the Annual Town Meeting but is unable or unwilling, for safety reasons of driving at night, may receive assistance from police Chief Nicole Miller. She has graciously agreed to provide transportation to and/or from our Town Meetings for those in genuine need of this service. You may reach Chief Miller by calling 413-446-4294 in advance to make arrangements. Thank you Chief Miller.

## Becket General Store New Business:

Due to the increase in minimum wage, the store will no longer be offering grocery items.

We will still be offering beer, wine, liquor, cigarettes, candy & chips. Thank you for your continued support. :)

## COA

Ongoing at the Town Hall  
Free Classes

**Yoga** 10AM Tuesdays

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

**Pot Luck Dinner** 5:30 Friday, May 17th

## 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:

May 2019

Thanks to all who voted to build a new Wahconah High School. The turnout was great and the Town's sentiment to have a new school that we can all be proud of was overwhelming.

- The funding of the new school will begin with in FY2021; there will be a debt exclusion question on the 5/18 Town election ballot that we hope receives the same level of support.

We also had a great turnout of over 40 residents at the Broadband update on April 13.

- The service is projected to be competitive with private sector offerings - especially for telephone.
- Construction will begin this month with underground fiber conduit along Lower Valley Road - unfortunately this will mean that the road will be temporarily closed.
- Kent Lew and Steve Nelson have donated enormous amounts of time and energy to the project and we can't thank them enough!

The Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee completed our mitigation plan and submitted it to MEMA along with a new grant application to replace the deep culvert on upper Frost Road

- Thanks to everyone who filled out the Natural Hazard questionnaire.

We have put the new bridge on Middlefield Road over Coles Brook out for bid; the bid opening will be on May 6 so we hope to complete the project this year, fully five years after DOT reduced the weight limit.

Our Health Agent, Charlie Kaniecki, in coordination with Town Counsel, is starting legal action against the owners of Bucksteep. Over a year ago Charlie issued an enforcement order which has been completely ignored. By statute we can impose a fine of up to \$1000 a day for noncompliance.

We have written once again to our elected officials to reform the PILOT process and restore the over \$30,000 that the Baker administration plans to cut from our FY2020 reimbursement. We have also requested the authority to impose some level of taxation on properties currently considered to be tax-exempt.

Another owner of one of the small plots in Virginia Lakes has offered to donate it to the Town; a warrant item to accept the property will be on the Annual Town Meeting warrant.

- Although unwinding of this unconforming subdivision is a knotty legal and financial problem our goal remains getting as much financial benefit as possible for the Town.

For two weekends in a row the clean-up along our roads was thwarted - except for a few hardy individuals who braved the sleet last Saturday - by bad weather. We will try again:

- Please come to the Town Hall at 9 am Saturday May 11 to get organized. Safety vests and collection bags will be available and our highway crew will do pick-ups.

Democracy depends on participation:

- We hope to see everyone at the Town Hall on Wednesday May 8 for the Annual Town Meeting at 7 pm.
- Make sure to vote in the Annual Town Election Saturday May 18 from 12-4 pm.

Jim Huebner  
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand  
Select Board Clerk

Dick Grillon  
Select Board

# TOWN OF WASHINGTON MAY 2019 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 TOWN HALL OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM ***** Conservation Commission Meeting 6 PM	3 TOWN HALL TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM	4
5	6 TOWN HALL Selectmen Meeting 7 PM Town Hall Offices Open 7 - 9 PM Assessors/Tax Collector 6-8 PM Police Department 6-9 PM <b>NO TOWN CLERK HOURS</b> <b>Lower Valley Road will be</b> <b>CLOSED for 30 days to install</b> <b>Broadband Fiber Optic Cables</b> <b>Eversource Public Hearing 7 PM</b>	7 TOWN HALL Yoga with Rena 10:00 AM	8 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 7:00 PM	9 TOWN HALL OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM	10 TOWN HALL TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM	11 TOWN HALL
12 <b>Mothers' Day</b>	13 TOWN HALL 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	14 TOWN HALL Yoga with Rena 10:00 AM Planning Board Meeting 7 PM	15	16 TOWN HALL OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM	17 TOWN HALL TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM ***** COA Pot Luck Dinner 5:30 PM	18 TOWN HALL ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION NOON to 4 PM
19	20 TOWN HALL Selectmen Meeting 7 PM Town Hall Offices Open 7 - 9 PM Assessors/Tax Collector 6-8 PM Police Department 6-9 PM	21 TOWN HALL Yoga with Rena 10:00 AM	22	23 TOWN HALL OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM	24 TOWN HALL TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM	25
26	27 TOWN HALL <b>Memorial Day</b>	28 TOWN HALL Yoga with Rena 10:00 AM	29	30 TOWN HALL OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM	31 TOWN HALL TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM	

Entity	Contact	Number	Entity	Contact	Number
Assessors	Karen Avalle	717-7216	Finance Committee	Kent Lew	623-0202
Board of Health	Janice Paxton	655-8668	Parks Commission	Dave Drugmand	623-6651
Building Inspector	Paul Greene	446-0964	Planning Board	Marilyn Wiley	623-5859
Chapel Commission	Rose Borgnis	441-0787	Police Chief	Nicole Miller	446-4294
Clerk	Allison Mikaniewicz	623-2185	Selectmen	Jim Huebner	655-8668
Conservation	Michelle Lampro	623-8333	Tax Collector	Gina Campbell	623-0146
Council on Aging	Rose Borgnis	441-0787	Veterans Agent	John Herrera	499-9433

Please **CALL AHEAD**







**WASHINGTON TRACKS  
TOWN HALL  
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**WWW.WASHINGTON-MA.COM**

## **SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES**

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**FREE COFFEE AND DONUT AT THE  
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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.