

NOVEMBER 2018

TOWN of WASHINGTON SENIORS POT LUCK DINNER At the Town Hall 8 Summit Hill Road November 16, 2018 Time 5:30PM

Please come and enjoy the pot luck dinner with the COA. Have a wonderful evening in the company of your fellow Senior Town residents.

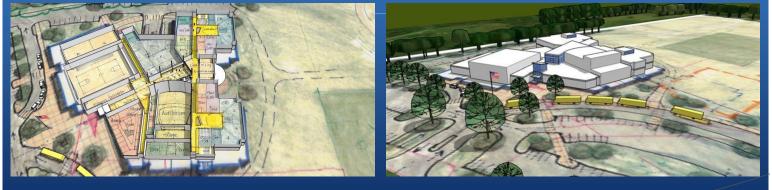




Fiber Broadband Network Status Updates Now Available Online

A page has been created for us on the WiredWest co-op's website to post periodic status updates about our Fiber Broadband Network project. You can check there monthly to track our slow (but steady!) progress forward on this important investment. The web address is: https:// wiredwest.net/towns/washington

Wahconah Building Project Update



Meeting with the MSBA

On October 10th members of the Wahconah Building Committee and the Design Team attended a meeting at the MSBA in Boston to answer questions and hear feedback about the Preferred Design Option, pictured above. The questions focused on plans for professional development to get staff ready for the new building and some suggestions about the location of a few rooms. The MSBA complimented the District on the Educational Plan. Official comments will be presented to the district in the next few weeks. On October 31st the MSBA will be voting to approve the Preferred Design Option.

In the next few months the Wahconah Building committee will be making decisions on a variety of features of the building to better define the budget and to prepare for the next submission to the MSBA. Some of these features include:

- Classroom layouts
- HVAC Systems
- Interior and Exterior Materials
- Green/Energy Efficient Features
- Lighting Systems
- Athletic Field Repair

Updated Timeline

October 31st MSBA will vote to approve the preferred design option.

<u>Nov and Dec</u> The WBC will be choosing materials, systems, and green options for DRA to incorporate into the design.

February 7, 2019 The budget for the project will be finalized

<u>February 20, 2019</u> Final Schematics, Scope, and Budget are due to the MSBA

Late March/Early April CBRSD voters will vote on the project.

Next WBC Meeting:

November 15th 4:30pm in the WRHS Library

For more information visit: <u>www.cbrsd.org/m s b a building project</u> or <u>www.facebook.com/WahconahBuildingProject</u>



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Entity Assessors		Contact Karen Avalle	α α	Number 717-7216				Entity Finance Committee		Contact Kent Lew		Number 623-0202	
Board of Health	ith	Janice Paxton	ion	655-8668				Parks Commission		Dave Drugmand		623-6651	
Building Inspector Chapel Commission	ector nission	Paul Greene Rose Boranis	e lis	446-0964				Planning Board Police Chief	þ	Marilyn Wiley Nicole Miller		623-5859 446-4294	
Clerk		Allison Mikaniewicz	aniewicz	623-2185				Selectmen		Jim Huebner		655-8668	
Conservation		Michelle Lampro	mpro	623-8333 441 0787				Tax Collector		Gina Campbell		623-0146	
	96												

Conservation Commission and Parks Commisison will meet as needed during the fall and winter.

To the Residents of Washington,

I feel the need to clarify some of the issues surrounding Question 1 and the "situation" that led up to this Question being on the ballot.

First, Question 1 recognizes that Health Care Facilities adjust the level of staffing in many facilities to suit their needs and for their convenience. We, the nurses of the MNA across the State have decried this situation as not serving our patients well and as contributing to issues of compromised patient safety and caregiver burnout. We also saw this situation as the underlying issue during our protracted recent negotiations with the Berkshire Health System Administration

Second, we believe there has been a concerted effort to confuse the Yes/No debate. A Yes vote will set limits on the number of patients Nurse can be responsible for, variable by the unit and the acuity of illness, as it should be. A No vote will allow Health Care Organizations to continue to control those assignments.

Over the last 10 years many Hospitals in the state have allowed attrition and normal turnover to decimate the ranks of staff nurses creating a shortage at many facilities. This situation can be easily resolved by incentivizing State and Local Colleges to ramp up programs for Nurse and Health Care support staff as they have done for Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants.

As I always tell folks, if your Mom is hospitalized do you want her nurse to have 4 or 7 patients to care for? It really is that simple!

Lastly, there has been much fuss made about additional costs to hospitals and other facilities. Yes, there will be higher costs! Care will improve, though, and many Quality Improvement issues and reductions in rehospitalizations will reduce costs. Hospital Administration are well trained to streamline their organizations and have faced similar challenges in the past. Different types of units will have different staff ratios and patients will need to be admitted quicker to free Emergency Rooms and Discharge planning will need to start and be carried through early in the process. More patients will need to be treated in their own homes.

It is important to provide Safe Care when we need it, we are all potential patients!

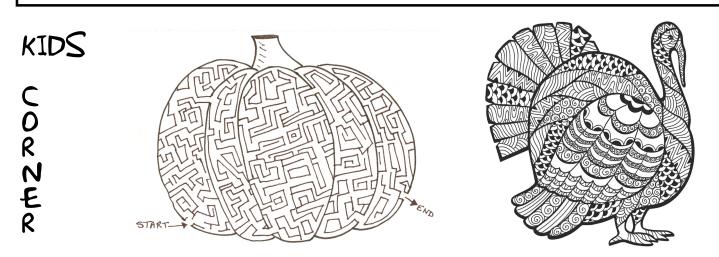
Sean Connors, RN 158 Simmons Road Washington, MA 01223

November 6, 2016, is an important date for at least two reasons 1) election day and 2) the Washington Scholarship bake sale which will be held at the town hall from 7am-8pm.

Donations of food items as well as volunteers willing to serve an hour or two at the bake sale table are being sought. Anyone wishing to drop off goodies at the town hall may do so either Monday night, November 5, from 7-9pm, (leave in the kitchen refrigerator, with a note indicating it's for the sale) or any time on the 6th. If you would be willing to tend the bake sale, please contact Linda Levernoch at **623-8309**.

Proceeds from this sale fund scholarships which serve to encourage local high school seniors in their pursuit of post-secondary education. Your contribution will enable the Washington Scholarship to continue this tradition of giving which began 47 years ago. Thank you all for helping to make this year's fundraiser a rousing success!

Linda Levernoch Washington Scholarship Committee



The Town needs:

- Volunteers to determine what environmental hazards the Town faces or may face. This will involve a few meetings to brainstorm and refine our ideas. It is vital for us to be able to create a Hazard Mitigation Plan for FEMA and open the door for grant funding! Please sign up by letting Jodi know.
- Someone with clerical skills and experience to back up our Administrative Assistants Jodi Hostetter and Jan Nelson.
- Someone willing to take over as head chef for the monthly Council on Aging Pot Luck suppers. Organizational skills are more important than culinary skills!

There will be a Special Town Meeting on Monday December 10th at 7:00 PM to approve the Marijuana by-law and address a few financial items.

- There will be a Q&A session between 6:30-7:00.
- Becket will hold a hearing at their Town Hall at 7 pm on Wednesday November 14 regarding an application for a marijuana dispensary.

Our grant application to replace the Town Hall roof was rejected, but our application to become a Green Community has been submitted and we believe we can use some of that grant to fix the roof next year if it is approved. Meanwhile we will take preventative measures to keep the roof from leaking this winter.

• If our Green Community designation is denied, the Town may have to adjust our by-laws and zoning to conform to Green Community requirements. If so, public hearings will be held prior to a Town Meeting to vote on any change.

The Woody's saga goes on; the Board is loath to leave the property in its present condition, but the cost of demolition is prohibitive; we are seeking grant funding through the Attorney Generals' Abandoned Housing Initiative.

We have asked Pittsfield to install gate restricting access to Ashley Lake to try to forestall any more incidents like the shooting on August 20.

Highway:

- The reconstruction of the Middlefield Road bridge over Coles Brook will have to be deferred to spring since we do not yet have a bid package to solicit construction.
- We finally received FEMA funding to develop a Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Town; while we work on that we should be able to apply for FEMA grant funding for the deep culvert on upper Frost Road. .

The Board has joined many other small towns in sending letters to Governor Baker, Secretary Beaton of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, and the Division of Local Services within DOR asking for specific changes in PILOT funding policies. We are asking for transparency, consistency and fairness in the way the Commonwealth pays us for their ownership of land in our Town.

Please make sure to come to the Town Hall and vote on Tuesday November 6^{th} and the Special Town Meeting on December 10^{th} ; democracy only works if we all participate!

Jim Huebner Select Board Chair Tricia Drugmand Select Board Clerk Dick Grillon Select Board



www.washington-ma.com

Realtor & Notary Lisa Peltier 500 S. Washington State Rd. 413.822.1257 Keller Williams Realty LPeltier@kw.com

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

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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

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Becket General Store Heather Anello 3235 Main Street Becket, MA 01223 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 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.