



NOVEMBER 2021



Photos by: Jane Pytko

On a beautiful day in late September, 8 volunteers joined at the Old Town Hall Cemetery to clean and right headstones. The group cleaned about 20 headstones, and righted three large, heavy stones that were precariously leaning and in danger of breaking. There's more to be done, but great headway was made that day. If you're interested in joint future volunteer graveyard shifts, contact Carol Lew at carol@carollew.com.

Hello fellow Washingtonians! Here is some information for those doing fall gardening, and planning for spring planting.

As I was gardening last week, I came across an unusual worm. The worms acted differently, more slithering than crawling, and were very active. So, I began to research these creatures, and found they are **Asian Jumping Worms**. They are also called "crazy worms", or "snake worms." Normally earthworms are beneficial to soil and plant health, however, **these invasive species are destructive** and have several survival tactics. They first appeared in Wisconsin in 2013, and still there is uncertainty as to how they can be eradicated.

A few facts: The worms feed on plant roots, and beneficial fungi, disturbing the healthy soil. Soil affected by jumping worms has decreased moisture, becomes compacted, erosion increases, which increases the risk of disease. The soil can no longer properly support plants. It becomes a poor environment for native plants to grow and invasive plant species eventually establish themselves. In a jumping worm-invaded habitat canopy cover may be thinned out as well as ground cover. The lack of vegetation exposes ground dwelling critters to potential predators resulting in reduced biodiversity of animals. With awareness, knowledge of their life cycle, and management, we can ensure a healthier ecosystem. (From Formecology)

Below are several links in the event you want to read more. You can report these invasive worms to the Massachusetts department of agricultural resources, web address below.

<https://formecology.com/jumping-asian-crazy-snake-worms/>

<https://www.umass.edu/news/article/got-worms-umass-amherst-extension-has-resources-help-invasive-jumping-worms>

Report invasive species to <https://massnrc.org/pests/report.aspx>.

-Sherri Thomas

Special Town Meeting Scheduled:

- A special town meeting has been scheduled for **November 15, 2021** at 6:00 PM
- If you are not currently registered to vote in town, **Friday, November 5, 2021** is the deadline to register and be eligible to vote at this Special Town Meeting.

Special Town Election Updates:

Date: Saturday, December 4, 2021

Polling hours: 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Polling location: Washington Town Hall, 8 Summit Hill Road

Positions on the ballot: Board of Selectmen: vacant seat, 2-year unexpired term

Municipal Light Board member: term to expire 2022

Municipal Light Board member: term to expire 2023

Municipal Light Board member: term to expire 2024

Absentee Ballots:

- If you need an absentee ballot you will first need to complete an absentee ballot application.
- The last date to request an absentee ballot is **Monday, November 29, 2021**.
- Please see the Town Clerk on Monday evenings from 7:00 - 9:00 PM or send an email to washington.ma.townclerk@gmail.com

Dog License Updates

Late Fee Invoices for 2021 Licenses will be Mailed Early November

If you have not licensed your dog for 2021, you will be receiving an invoice for the \$25 late fee per dog, plus the cost of the dog license during the month of November. Once you receive the invoice, please see the Town Clerk on Monday evenings to pay it.

2022 Dog Licenses are Available

We have received the 2022 dog tags. The 2021 licenses and tags do not expire until March 31, 2022, but you are welcome to get the 2022 license/tag anytime you would like. You can see the Town Clerk on Monday evenings with the following:

- Current rabies certificate
- Proof of spay or neuter, if applicable
- Fee: \$4.00 if spayed/neutered or \$10 if not

You can also mail the above (checks payable to Town of Washington) to the Town Clerk, 8 Summit Hill Rd, Washington, MA 01223 and a license and tag will be mailed back to you.

Please note that if you received a 2021 late fee invoice, you will have to pay that first before receiving your 2022 license/tag.



Save the Date
Sunday, December 5
Wreath Workshop
Washington Town Hall
becketartscenter.org

Becket Arts Center
GIFT SHOP

shop in person | buy online & pick up in-store

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 13, 20 & 27
10 AM - 2 PM
BECKET ARTS CENTER
7 Brooker Hill Road • Becket

www.becketartscenter.org/gift-shop

Shop Small, Shop Local

10% DISCOUNT FOR BAC MEMBERS
WWW.BECKETARTSCENTER.ORG/MEMBERSHIP



Becket Federated Church
3391 Main St. Becket

Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, November 13th 9:30-3PM

Live Wreaths

Kissing balls

Raffles

***Pies**

*Call ahead to order - 623.8844
Pick up 11/13/21 at Bazaar

TOWN OF WASHINGTON NOVEMBER 2021 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	TOWN HALL 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	1 Yoga with Rima 9AM	2 Administrative Assistant 10AM-2PM Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM Scout Troop 40367 6 PM-8 PM	3 OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM Special Town Meeting 7:00PM	4 TOWN HALL TAI-CH/II-QI-GONG CLASS 10AM	5 TOWN HALL Transfer Station 8AM-4PM
7 Daylight Savings Time Ends	8 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	9 Yoga with Rima 9AM Planning Board Meeting 7PM	10 Administrative Assistant 10AM-2PM Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM Scout Troop 40367 6 PM-8 PM	11 OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM Veterans Day Cultural Council Meeting 10AM	12 TOWN HALL TAI-CH/II-QI-GONG CLASS 10AM	13 Transfer Station 8AM-4PM
14 TOWN PARK	15 Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM Special Town Meeting 6PM 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	16 Yoga with Rima 9AM	17 Administrative Assistant 10AM-2PM Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM Scout Troop 40367 6 PM-8 PM	18 TOWN HALL OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM	19 TOWN HALL TAI-CH/II-QI-GONG CLASS 10AM Council On Aging Polltuck Dinner 5:30PM-7PM	20 TOWN HALL Transfer Station 8AM-4PM
21 TOWN PARK	22 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	23 Yoga with Rima 9AM	24 Administrative Assistant 10AM-2PM Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM Scout Troop 40367 6 PM-8 PM	25 TOWN HALL OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM	26 TOWN HALL TAI-CH/II-QI-GONG CLASS 10AM	27 TOWN HALL Transfer Station 8AM-4PM
28	29 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	30 Yoga with Rima 9AM	31 Administrative Assistant 10AM-2PM Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM Scout Troop 40367 6 PM-8 PM			1 TOWN HALL Transfer Station 8AM-4PM

Upcoming Dates:

★ December 4, 2021 Special Town Election

Entity	Contact	Number
Assessors	Karen Avalle	717-7216
Board of Health	Janice Paxton	655-8668
Building Inspector	Paul Greene	446-0964
Chapel Commission	Rose Borgnis	394-0003
Clerk	Allison Mikaniewicz	623-2185

Entity	Contact	Number
Conservation	Michelle Lampro	464-2388
Council on Aging	Rose Borgnis	394-0003
Finance Committee	Sean Connors	212-1182
Parks Commission	Dominic Sinopoli	623-2086
Planning Board	Don Gagnon	822-8385

Entity	Contact	Number
Police Chief	Nicole Miller	446-4294
Selectmen	Kent Lew	623-0202
Tax Collector	Gina Campbell	623-0146
Transfer Station	Michelle Lampro	464-2388
Veterans Agent	John Herrera	499-9433

Survey of COVID-19 Impacts on the Washington Community

In order to get a better feel for the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic at the local level and to better apply the resources granted to the town of Washington under the American Recovery Plan Act we seek as many responses as possible to the following anonymous survey. Please complete the survey by November 20, 2021 and return by any of the following means. Thank you.

Return:

By mail to: ARPA Survey
Town of Washington
8 Summit Hill Road
Washington, MA 01223
or in the drop box at the town hall
or at the transfer station

Please rate the extent to which you were directly or indirectly affected by the COVID-19 virus and the resulting restrictions and requirements.

Financial Impacts

	Very Much	Somewhat	Not at All
- Loss of employment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Underemployment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Loss of Business Income			
• Temporary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Permanent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Problems Paying			
• Mortgage/Rent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Real Estate or other taxes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Car/Home Insurance			
Other (specify) _____			

Personal Impacts

- Reduced Social Interactions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Family Tensions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Remote Learning Difficulties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Child Care Difficulties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Remote Work Difficulties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Medical Health Challenges	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Mental Health Challenges	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Convenience Impacts

- Reduced Access To			
• Groceries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Church	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Appointments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Medical/Dental Care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Household/Business supplies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Other (specify) _____			

Comments:

Dear Washington Friends & Neighbors:

November 2021

Mornings are turning frosty. It's time to put the gardens to bed, store away the mower, bring in the firewood, get the storm windows up, and prepare for the season ahead.

We welcome Jim Atwell of Becket to the Highway crew. He brings experience in vehicle maintenance, equipment operation, and grounds keeping from decades of work with regional YMCAs. Tom, Adam and Jim will be busy replacing culverts, fixing beaver deceivers, patching potholes, and repairing roadside washouts before it's time to mount the snow plows.

The final demise of the Woody's Roadhouse structure marks the end of a years-long struggle to get that public danger (and eyesore) addressed. Thanks to new property owner Jacob Trudeau for doing the right thing and taking responsibility so the taxpayers didn't have to foot the bill.

Speaking of taxpayers, property tax bills have just gone out. Not always a welcome occasion, we know. But this is the primary way we pay to educate our children, plow our roads, and dispose of our trash. Because of revaluations, our tax rate has gone down to \$14.84 (-\$1.85 from last year), although many homeowners may see a higher overall bill due to an increase in property value.

- First installments are due by Nov 23, 2021. Be sure to pay the entire first half by then to avoid incurring interest. Remember, we have an online payment option now; a link is on the town website. There's also a secure dropbox outside Town Hall, for those who don't trust the mail.

There will be a **Special Town Meeting on Monday, 11/15, at 7:00 p.m.** to consider amendments to our Solar Photovoltaic Bylaw that will enable us to seek Green Communities status and access to grant funding, along with a few housekeeping articles. And we will be holding a **Special Election on Saturday, 12/4, 12:00 - 4:00 p.m.** to fill the vacant Select Board seat and elect a Municipal Light Board to oversee our broadband enterprise.

Thanks to Carol Lew, David Weissbrod, Linda Levernoch, Jane Pytko, Susan Matson, Ellen Bond, Scott Hayward, Josh Greene, John McElwain, and David Ellis for helping clean and re-set many headstones in the Old Town Hall Cemetery this past month. There will be more to attend to in the spring, so stay tuned for future opportunities to join in and get involved.

This year's Flu Clinic at Town Hall provided flu vaccinations for 31 residents. Thanks to our Public Health Nurse Leslie Drager and her helpers.

With Covid-19 infection rates remaining high in Berkshire County, be sure to get a booster shot if and when you are eligible. You can find Covid vaccination availability at vaxfinder.mass.gov (either boosters or first-time shots!). Stay safe and stay warm, everyone.

Kent Lew, Select Board chair

Tricia Drugmand, Select Board clerk

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 November 15th at 5:30 pm all seniors welcome with or without a dish to share - we look forward to seeing you!

(masks are required for socializing before and after eating)

Contact Rose @ 413-394-0003 with any questions or by email at washingtoncoa@gmail.com

WASHINGTON TRACKS
TOWN HALL
8 SUMMIT HILL RD.
WASHINGTON, MA 01223

Presorted Standard
US Postage
PAID
Permit 121
Pittsfield MA



WWW.WASHINGTON-MA.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
413.623.5329
www.hilltownsvetclinic.com

John Fish Piano Service

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

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES

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.