



October 2016



The Berkshire Public Health Alliance

presents a:

PUBLIC FLU VACCINATION CLINIC

...at no out-of-pocket cost to you!

Monday, October 3, 2016, 5-7 p.m.

Washington Town Hall

8 Summit Hill Road

Washington, MA 01223

ALL ARE WELCOME

The Becket Police Association will hold the COPS & RODDERS Car Show and Fundraiser Event at the Town Park on Saturday, October 1st from 10am - 3pm. Many family events and free activities for kids. Food - Drinks - Prizes - 50/50 Raffle. Proceeds will benefit the Becket Police Association sponsored Children Holiday Party in December. The Becket General Store will be selling beer and wine during this event.



Washington Scholarship Bake Sale

November 8, 2016, is an important date to remember for 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 baked goods as well as volunteers willing to serve an hour or two at the bake sale table are being sought. Anyone wishing to drop off baked goods may do so either Monday night, November 7, from 7-9 (leave them in the kitchen refrigerator) or anytime on the 8th. If you would be willing to tend the bake sale, please contact Linda Levernoch at 623-8309.

Proceeds from the bake sale fund scholarships which serve to encourage local high school seniors in their pursuit of post-secondary education. Many students show their appreciation by writing thank you notes. The following is an excerpt from one of this year's letters:

"I am very thankful to receive your support. The fact that the community helped to raise this money makes it that much

more special and makes me proud to be a citizen of [the town of] Washington."

Your contributions will enable the Washington Scholarship to continue this tradition of giving which began 45 years ago. Thank you all for helping to make this year's fundraiser a rousing success!

Linda Levernoch, Washington
Scholarship Committee

TOWN of WASHINGTON SENIORS POT LUCK DINNER

at the Town Hall, 8 Summit Hill Rd
October 21st, 5:30PM

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

TOWN OF WASHINGTON

STATE PRIMARY OFFICIAL RESULTS

Tuesday, September 8, 2016 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT Berkshire, Hampshire, Franklin, Hampden District	
Democrat	
Rinaldo Del Gallo	11
Andrea Harrington	22
Adam Hinds	35
Blanks	7
Republican	
Christine Canning	10
United Independent	
No Party Ballots Cast	0
Green Rainbow	
No Party Ballots Cast	0

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS First District	
Democrat	
Richard Neal	60
Blanks	11
Republican	
Blanks	10
United Independent	
No Party Ballots Cast	0
Green Rainbow	
No Party Ballots Cast	0

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT Fourth Berkshire District	
Democrat	
William "Smitty" Pignatelli	63
Blanks	8
Republican	
Blanks	10
United Independent	
No Party Ballots Cast	0
Green Rainbow	
No Party Ballots Cast	0

COUNCILLOR Eighth District	
Democrat	
Mary Hurley	38
Jeffrey Morneau	23
Blanks	10
Republican	
Blanks	10
United Independent	
No Party Ballots Cast	0
Green Rainbow	
No Party Ballots Cast	0

SHERIFF Berkshire County	
Democrat	
Thomas Bowler	65
Blanks	6
Republican	
Write In: Thomas Bowler	1
Blanks	9
United Independent	
No Party Ballots Cast	0
Green Rainbow	
No Party Ballots Cast	0

TOTAL VOTES CAST 81
TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS 407

VOTER TURNOUT
19.9%

Allison Mikaniewicz
Allison Mikaniewicz
Town Clerk
September 9, 2016
A True Copy Attest



2016 Dog License Reminder

If you have not licensed your dog for the current license year (April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017) please do so before October 31, 2016. After this date, there will be a \$10 late fee imposed for each license.

Licensing your dog is required by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (MGL Chapter 140, Section 137) and a violation of this law is punishable by a fine of at least \$50 (MGL Chapter 140, Section 141).

Licensing your dog requires the following:

- A current rabies certificate.
- If your dog is spayed or neutered; proof of this.
- Applicable fee: \$4.00 for spayed / neutered dogs and \$10.00 for unaltered dogs.

Please see the Town Clerk on Monday evenings from 7:00 – 9:00 PM with above mentioned items. You may also mail these to the Town Clerk, 8 Summit Hill Road, Washington, MA 01223 and license and tag will be mailed to you.

•• Early Voting ••

What is Early Voting?

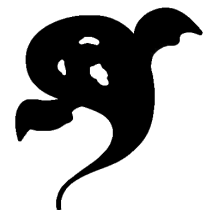
Early voting allows ANY registered voter to cast their ballot prior to election day. Voting can take place by mail or in person.

Early voting will only be allowed in biennial state elections. The November 8, 2016 State Election is the first election where Massachusetts will allow early voting.

Early voting will begin 15 days prior to the election during the Town Clerk's regular business hours and during additional hours as determined by the Town Clerk and will end the Friday before the election.

For the November 8, 2016 election, the early voting schedule for the town of Washington will be as follows:

Monday 10/24/16	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Thursday 10/27/16	2:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Saturday 10/29/16	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Monday 10/31/16	7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Wednesday 11/2/16	2:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Friday 11/4/16	7:00 AM - 11:00 AM



Early voting in the town of Washington will take place in the Town Clerk's office at the Town Hall, 8 Summit Hill Rd.

How will Early Voting Work?

In Person: Voters who are casting early ballots in person *do not* need to complete any prior paperwork. Once you arrive at the Town Clerk's office at the Town Hall during any of the above hours, the Town Clerk will check your name off the voter list and give you a ballot and an envelope to seal your completed ballot in. All early ballots will be kept by the Town Clerk until election day. Early ballots will be processed on election day in the same manner as absentee ballots.

By Mail: Voters who want to vote early by mail **MUST** first submit an application (or other written communication evidencing a desire for an early ballot). The deadline to apply for an early ballot is 12:00 PM on November 4, 2016. Upon receipt of the completed application, the town Clerk will mail you an early ballot with instructions for voting and returning it.

To Washington Taxpayers,

With the change of seasons has come some changes at the Washington Tax Collector's Office. First, it is my bittersweet duty to inform you that Susan McGrath, our current Assistant Tax Collector, has been offered a second job at the Savoy Town Offices and has accepted it. This means that after 12 years of service, Sue will be leaving the Washington Tax Collector's Office. Sue has helped me learn the ropes as a new tax collector. No one will miss her more than I will. Because of Sue's departure, the Tax Collector's office hours will change effective October 17, 2016:

New Tax Collector's Office Hours:
Monday 6:30pm – 9pm
Wednesday 6:30pm – 8pm

Over the next several months I will be using the *Washington Tracks* to communicate news from the Tax Collector's Office. I hope that you find this useful.

Yours truly,
Sandra L. Cameron
Washington Tax Collector

Ballot Counters Needed for the November 8, 2016 Election

I need people to help count ballots after the polls close on November 8, 2016. I currently have two sets of ballot counters and would like to have three more.

Here are the details:

- Arrive at the Town Hall for 7:00 PM. I will run a quick training on the counting/tally process for any new counters. Counting will start once the polls close at 8:00 PM.
- It could take anywhere from 1 - 3 hours to tally the ballots, depending on how many counters we have and how many total ballots we have.
- You will work in pairs with one person reading the ballots and one person marking the tally sheet.
- Once you have tallied all of your ballots and confirmed that your vote totals match the number of ballots you have for each race / ballot question, you will transfer your totals to the master ballot sheet.
- You will be paid for your time. The rate is \$10 per hour.

If you are interested please send contact the Town Clerk at washingtontownclerk@yahoo.com or call me 413-207-7526.

Public Hearing Notice for Electrical/ Telephone Pole Installations and Relocations.

A public hearing will be held to review the petitions from EverSource and Verizon to install and/or relocate electrical/telephone poles on Summit Hill Road, Cross Place Road and Frost Road. All of the installs/relocations are part of the bridge replacement projects on these roads.

The hearing will be held on Monday, October 17, 2016 at 7:30 PM at the Washington Town Hall, 8 Summit Hill Road.

Information on the exact poll locations will be presented at the hearing and are available now at the Town Clerk's office.

Upcoming Election Reminder

Election: State Election
Date: Tuesday, November 8, 2016
Voting Hours: 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM
Polling Location: Town Hall • 8 Summit Hill Road • Washington, MA

Actions required if you would like to vote in this election:

- Town residents 18 years or older that are new residents in town or have never been registered to vote in Washington need to register by Wednesday, October 19, 2016.
 - Not sure if you are already registered? You can use the "Am I Registered to Vote" online tool provided by the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Election Division.
 - The web address for this tool is:
<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/VoterRegistrationSearch/MyVoterRegStatus.aspx>
- If you will not be able to vote at the above polling location during the voting hours or would just like to cast your ballot early you will be able to take advantage of Early Voting for the first time ever in Massachusetts. You will be able to vote early by mail or in-person. Please review the Early Voting section in this newsletter for all the details.

Any questions, please contact the Town Clerk at allison8788@gmail.com or 413-623-8788 x 105 or 413-623-2185.



Pumpkin Walk News:

Thanks to the generosity of the Parks Commission residents can pickup a pumpkin to carve for the John FX Keator Memorial Pumpkin Walk. A limited amount of pumpkins will be available on Saturday, October 23rd at the Transfer Station. Your finished master piece can be dropped off at the Town Park during the day on Friday the 28th. Please take a picture of your carved pumpkin and send it along with any information you would like to appear on the website to JLHstetter@gmail.com. Happy Halloween.

Becket Federated Church

presents our

Annual Christmas Bazaar

3391 Main St., Becket

November 12, 9am-3pm

Homemade Kissing Balls & Wreaths, Baked Goods, Craft Vendors, Lunch, Kids Wrapping Room, Raffles - including over 30 Raffle Baskets.

November 8th State Election Offices and Initiative Petitions on the Ballot

The following offices and initiative petitions will be on the November 8th Ballot.

Electors of President and Vice President

- Clinton and Kaine (Democrat)
- Johnson and Weld (Libertarian)
- Stein and Baraka (Green-Rainbow)
- Trump and Pence (Republican)

Representative in Congress

- Richard Neal (Democrat)
- Frederick Mayock (Independent)
- Thomas Simmons (Libertarian)

Councillor

- Mary Hurley (Democrat)

Senator in General Court

- Christine Canning (Republican)
- Adam Hinds (Democrat)

Representative in General Court

- William "Smitty" Pignatelli (Democrat)

Sheriff

- Thomas Bowler (Democrat)

Regional School Committee

- Becket (Vote for not more than one): John Les
- Dalton (Vote for not more than three): Richard Farley, Richard Lacatell, Nicole Tucker
- Hinsdale (Vote for not more than one): Richard Peters
- Peru (Vote for not more than one): Bonny Ditomasso
- Washington (Vote for not more than one): Michael Case
- Windsor (Vote for not more than one): Richard Wagner

Initiative Petitions:

Question 1: If passed, this law would allow the state Gaming Commission to issue one additional category 2 license, which would permit operation of a gaming establishment with no table games and not more than 1,250 slot machines.

Question 2: If passed, this law would allow for up to 12 approvals each year of either new charter schools or expanded enrollments in existing schools, but to exceed 1% of the statewide public school enrollment.

Question 3: If passed, this law would prohibit any confinement of pigs, calves, and hens that prevents them from lying down, standing up, fully extending their limbs, or turning around freely.

Question 4: If passed, this law would allow persons 21 and older to possess, use and transfer marijuana and products containing marijuana concentrate (including edible products) and to cultivate marijuana, all in limited amounts, and would provide for the regulation and taxation of commercial sale of marijuana and marijuana products.

Further information on the initiative petitions will be available in the voter information booklets published by the state. These booklets will be available at the Town Hall once the state has printed and shipped them.

Please contact the Town Clerk allison8788@gmail.com or 413-623-8878 with any questions.



To our Washington neighbors:

Congratulations to our Assessors. For two years in a row they placed Washington among the earliest municipalities to have a certified tax rate, projected as a 2+/- % increase for next year.

On a sad note, our Assistant Tax Collector, Sue McGrath is leaving us to spend more time as tax collector in Savoy. Sue joined us in 2008 and has done a terrific job working down the unpaid tax backlog. We will miss her.

The Annual Sons & Daughters Reunion at the Old Town Hall on September 11 was a great success with reminiscences, good food and music. If you missed it, plan on being there next year!

The Berkshire County Education Task Force, comprised of educators and civic leaders including Selectman Mike Case, has been working for over a year to address three trends – falling student population, rising costs and lower government subsidies - that unless reversed mean degradation of our still excellent schools. The Task Force has now secured funding to develop plans for improved diversity, breadth and quality of education for all our children so they are fully prepared for college, career and a life here in the Berkshires. This will likely be achieved through consolidation of schools, improved use of technology, partnerships and regional agreements. The Task Force has pledged to respect and maintain the unique identity of each Berkshire community to ensure that our citizens remain fully connected to and engaged with our schools,

It appears that we now have a three-person committee for the design and financing of an expanded Veterans' Memorial. Anyone interested in being on the committee please contact Jodi.

Road & Bridge:

- Congratulations to Adam Southard for becoming our third DOT Road Scholar!
- Line painting and guard rails for Washington Mountain Road will be done this month.
- Blotz Road will also have lines painted in the near future. Thanks again to our road crew whose prep work saved the Town over \$10,000.
- The new Cross Place culvert is on schedule to be done this fall; there will be a public hearing on moving utility poles.
- DOR delayed the bid opening for the construction of the Frost Road culvert over Depot Brook until October 3; we do not expect any construction until spring.
 - The silver lining is that we should know whether our grant request for funding the removal of the Eden Glen dam has been approved long before that so that any work will be integrated with the culvert construction. We will hold a Town meeting to determine if our citizens will accept the money for removal or have the Town fund restoration of the dam.
- We are still waiting to hear whether funding for the Middlefield road bridge through either a MassWorks grant or the new small bridge program will be available.
- There will be three public hearings on October 17 regarding utility pole placement for Cross Place, Eden Glen and the Summit Hill bridge construction.

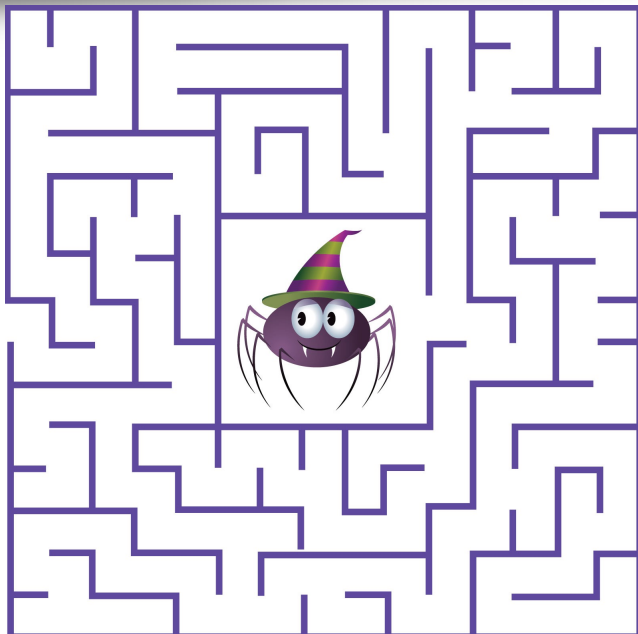
While the pole survey to prepare the installation of fiber optic cables appears on schedule for this fall, the Board still has serious questions regarding the financing.

See you all at the Pumpkin Walk on October 28!

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

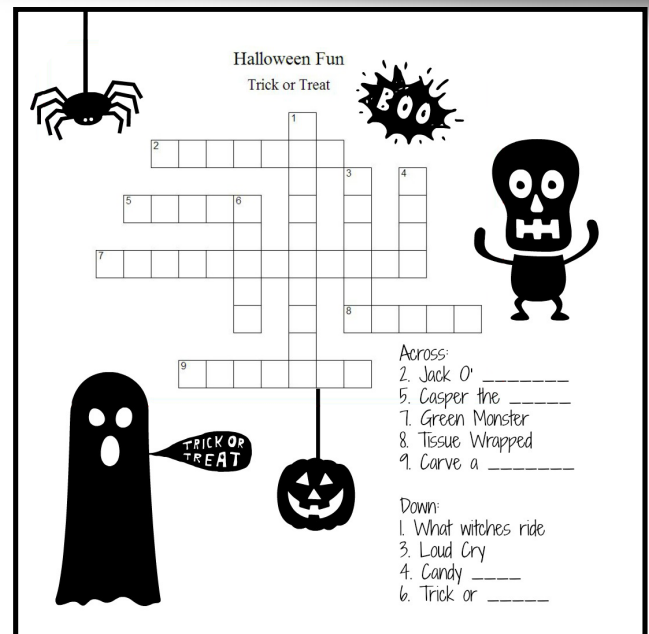
Tricia Drugmand
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case
Select Board



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

www.washington-ma.com

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justicedora@gmail.com
<http://www.justicedora.com>

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Frank Kennedy
1153 Washington Mt. Road
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Call: 623.5180 / Fax: 623.2018
E-Mail:
carolandfranksr@carolandfrank.com
By appointment only

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

mrsabeski@mac.com

Please put TRACKS in the subject line.