



October 2017



**TOWN of WASHINGTON SENIORS
POT LUCK DINNER**

At the Town Hall 8 Summit Hill Road

October 20, 2017

Time 5:30PM

All seniors, please come and enjoy the pot luck dinner with the COA and have a wonderful evening in the company of your fellow Senior Town residents



WASHINGTON CULTURAL COUNCIL SEEKS FUNDING PROPOSALS

Proposals for community-oriented arts, humanities, and science programs due October 17th

The **Washington Cultural Council** has set an **October 17th** deadline for organizations, schools and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in the community.

These grants can support a variety of artistic projects and activities in **Washington** including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies or performances in schools, workshops and lectures.

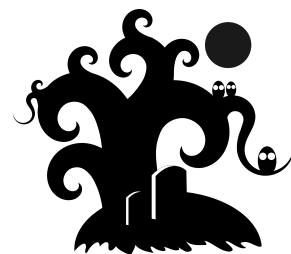
The **Washington Cultural Council** is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

This year, the **Washington Cultural Council** will distribute about **\$4,400** in grants.

For specific guidelines and complete information on the **Washington Cultural Council**, contact **Jodi Hostetter** at **413-464-6656** or email: **jlhstetter@gmail.com**.

Applications are available on line at <http://www.mass-culture.org>

All applications must be submitted online by the October 17th deadline.
No paper applications will be accepted.



To the Residents of the Town of Washington

Many of you have heard of the conflict in Contract Negotiations between Berkshire Medical Center and the BMC Nurses (as represented by the Massachusetts Nurses Association). It has been a contentious period for all involved and troubling for the Community as a whole. Across the State many Hospitals appear to have determined to fight the development and implementation of Safe Staffing Guidelines, as proposed by the Nurses, across the State, who provide care on a daily basis to their patients and families. The Nurses at many of the Hospitals have authorized a "one day" strike (no plan or date of when to actually strike has been selected). I can assure everyone that there is no desire on the Nurses part to engage in a Strike and effectively lose pay and Benefits but this is an "extremely important issue" in health care today. Those of you who have been in the Hospital or Emergency Room can attest to that fact. Our Local Hospital Administration does not appear to want to settle this issue amicably and we are hoping the Community Leaders on the Board of Trustees will engage the Administration to resolve this quickly. Please Support your Local Nurses.

Sean Connors, RNC,CEN
Lovers Lane
Washington

On Saturday, September 30, 2017 Western Massachusetts Master Gardeners will be soil testing and answering gardening questions at the Berkshire Mall, Lanesboro, from 10-2. Directions for obtaining soil for testing may be found on the WMMGA.org web site. Fall is the best time to have your soil testing. There is a suggested \$1 donation for soil testing.

Vera Cormier has resigned from the Town's Board of Health after several years of service for which we thank her. Anyone interested in joining this vital Town Board please contact Jodi.

The 108th annual Sons & Daughters reunion was well-attended. Thanks to those who made it happen – great job on the catering – and especially to those who shared their memories of their past experiences in Town. We hope everyone makes it to this unique event next year!

We were fortunate to have crews from Precision Valley Communications gathering additional route and premises information for designing our optical fiber network in September – almost a month ahead of schedule. Because of the last-minute schedule acceleration, we used a reverse 911 call to let our residents know. Precision is a subcontractor to Westfield Gas and Electric with whom we have contracted for system design.

- Lieutenant Governor Polito held a Roundtable with residents on September 26 to hear first hand from Town residents what benefits they expect from our high-speed internet network.

Once again our Assessors and our whole financial team have done a great job getting the Department of Revenue to certify our books in a timely fashion. Our tax rate will increase due to several factors: the Town's overall Assessed Valuation went down; we collected \$10,000 less in motor vehicle taxes than expected; and new growth was less than expected – even though we put Bucksteep back on the tax rolls.

- The good news – at least for most residents – the increase will be smaller than originally projected.

Road & Bridge:

- One of the open issues with Washington Mountain Road – a misaligned culvert that created a new beaver pond – has been corrected, but we are still asking DOT to correct bad drainage at a resident's driveway and we will have to wait and see whether the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile section that showed a "W" pattern will last the winter.
- The Town Common was restored and we have new post-and-chain thanks to our agreement with Baltazar that allowed them to use the Common for a staging area.
- Thanks to Tom Johnson, our Highway Superintendent, for securing a \$37,750 grant from the Division of Ecological Restoration to help pay to design a new culvert on upper Frost Road. The Board has requested grant funding from MEMA that will help create a hazard mitigation plan for the Town and allow us to ask for further funding.
- Our engineer is evaluating the abutments of the Middlefield Road bridge over Coles Brook. This has a direct bearing on the expected cost of its replacement next year.
- Work on Summit Hill Road bridge over the CSX tracks and the Frost Road culvert should both be completed this month.

In response to a number of residents' concerns about speeding on Washington Mountain Road, Chief Breen and the State Police have been doing additional patrols.

Find some time to enjoy the fall foliage while it lasts!

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand
Select Board Clerk

Dick Grillon
Select Board



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It's that season, again, when you will undoubtedly be running into the "Clip Board Brigade" as folks hit the streets (or transfer stations and town hall, in our case) to collect signatures to put ballot initiatives on the November 2018 ballot.

For our part, we will be collecting signatures for 3 initiatives that are near and dear to our hearts: Safe Patient Limits, Raising the Minimum Wage, and Paid Family Sick Leave.

There are many important concerns and questions surrounding each ballot question, but please keep in mind that your signature today only helps get each proposal on the ballot, where citizens may then express their informed opinions by voting their consciences on each question.

We hope to see you at the transfer station or town hall within the next few weeks. And thank you, for all you do, to make this town and our greater community a wonderful place to live!

Sean and Debby Connors



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

www.washington-ma.com

Support Our Local Businesses

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

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Full Service Pet and Home
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Pet sitting in your home: Dogs,
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markspetcare@gmail.com

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

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.

The Olde Village Market
Melissa Spagnuolo-Avalle
30 Washington Rd
Becket, MA
(413) 623.6003
[fb theoldevillagemarket](https://www.facebook.com/theoldevillagemarket)

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

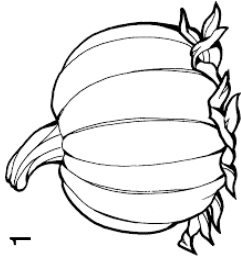


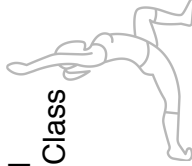


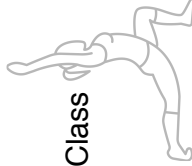


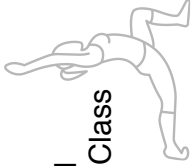


Summit Hill Campground
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Washington, Ma. 01223
413-623-5761
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Full Hook Ups
Pet Friendly
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Events scheduled May through Sept

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

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 OCTOBER 2017 Council on Aging

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 	2	3	4	5 10AM Osteoporosis Class 	6 10AM Tai-Chi/Qi-Gong Class 	7
8	9	10 10AM Yoga Class 	11	12 10AM Osteoporosis Class 	13 10AM Tai-Chi/Qi-Gong Class 	14
15	16	17 10AM Yoga Class 	18	19 10AM Osteoporosis Class 	20 10AM Tai-Chi/Qi-Gong Class  5:30PM Pot Luck	21
22	23	24 10AM Yoga Class 	25	26 10AM Osteoporosis Class 	27 10AM Tai-Chi/Qi-Gong Class 	28
29	30	31 10AM Yoga Class 