



October 2019



John FX Keator Memorial Pumpkin Walk

Washington Town Park
Friday, October 25, 2019
6:00 PM to 10:00 PM

HAYRIDE

BONFIRE

Hotdogs,
Hamburgers,
Pizza, Hot Cider
plus more
refreshments
served in the
Gazebo



Ongoing

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

COA

Ongoing at the Town Hall
Free Classes

Yoga 10AM Tuesdays

Osteoporosis class 10AM Thursdays

Tai Chi/Qi Gong 10AM Fridays

Pot Luck Dinner 5:30 Friday, October 18th

Becket's Fire Chief, Mark Hanford, has retired. Mark showed tremendous courage in standing up for public safety last year when a budgetary dispute threatened to remove our fire protection. We thank him and wish him a healthy and fulfilling retirement.

- Our own Paul Mikaniewicz has been chosen to replace Chief Hanford and we are confident he will do a great job for both our towns.

Other personnel changes:

- We are still looking for replacements for Dan Parnell, our Town Accountant, and Glen Grogan, our Treasurer. These part time positions require knowledge of municipal finance and at least one evening - Monday - a week at the Town Hall. If you are interested or know someone who might be interested please let Jodi know. We expect to be doing interviews this month.
- Thanks to Chief Miller's efforts we have identified two "Detail Officers" - Ken Pettibone & Steve Parkington - who will work security during any construction taking place on our roads and/or at any functions at the Town Park or elsewhere as required. There is no cost to the Town as they will be paid by "pass-through" funding.
- Marilyn Wiley stepped down after many years of service to the Town as Chair of our Planning Board. Thanks to her and congratulations to Don Gagnon who succeeds her.

Please mark your calendars for two upcoming events:

- Saturday October 12 there will be two informational/sign-up sessions for Broadband at the Town Hall. One session is from 10am to noon, the other from noon to 2 pm. We are on the final phases of the project and the expectation is that actual home hook-ups may begin in 2019! Thanks to Kent Lew and Steve Nelson for all their hard work and dedication.
- This year's Flu Clinic will be held Monday October 21 from 5 to 7pm at the Town Hall. There is no charge, but please bring your insurance information.

Highway:

- One of our two grant applications to fund the replacement of the deep culvert on upper Frost Road has been denied; we are still waiting to hear from MEMA about the other.
- After a meeting with DOT we may finally making progress on three stalled issues:
 - The bid package for the Middlefield Road bridge over Coles Brook is being reworked and will be reissued in hopes of getting a bid within the \$500,000 grant.
 - We have contacted new engineering firms to repair the three bridges on Lenox-Whitney Road; DOT insists that design and construction can be done within the \$500,000 Small Bridge grant..
 - Francisca Heming, head of DOT District One, has agreed to look into ongoing drainage issues with Washington Mountain Road that we had written to her about.

Property issues:

- The Bucksteep court date was postponed until October 18.
- We are still in the process of having a hazardous materials inspection of Woody's done in preparation of an RFP for the building's demolition.
- The property owner proposing a "glamping" operation has filed paperwork with the Planning Board but no public hearing has yet been set.

The Board opened bids for a consultant to help us create a transition plan for full Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. After reviewing them we expect to apply for funding for the plan development from a Mass Office on Disability planning grant.

Time to button up for the cold weather! If you need help paying for heat, please contact Jodi.

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand
Select Board Clerk

Dick Grillon
Select Board

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING RESULTS
SEPTEMBER 23, 2019**

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote to rescind the unissued remainder of \$17,118.00 from a borrowing authorization, originally passed at the July 31, 2017, Special Town Meeting for the purchase of a 1-ton plow truck with dump bed and sander, which is no longer needed to accomplish the purpose for which it was originally approved.

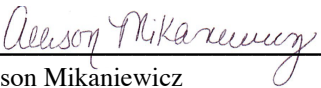
Article 1 passed unanimously

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to rescind the encumbrance of a remaining sum of \$1,491.80 in the Stabilization Account, originally authorized at the July 31, 2017, Special Town Meeting for the purchase of a light-duty truck for general use by the Highway Department, which is no longer needed to accomplish the purpose for which it was originally approved.

Article 2 passed by 2/3 majority: 38 for, 0 against

Article 3: To see if the Town will appropriate \$75,000 from the Stabilization Fund as contingency for the remaining costs of installation and start-up of the Town's fiber-optic broadband network, including payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, such project to be carried out by the Town's Municipal Light Plant, or take any other action relative thereto. If an additional state or federal broadband grant for this same project is awarded in the future, any such funding that becomes available will first be used to replenish the Stabilization Fund, to the extent permitted, up to the amount actually expended from this appropriation.

Article 3 passed by 2/3 majority: 36 for, 2 against



Allison Mikaniewicz

Town Clerk

Washington, Massachusetts

September 23, 2019

A true copy attest

BROADBAND SIGN-UP KICKOFF EVENT!

**Saturday, Oct 12, at Town Hall
Sessions at 10:00-Noon and Noon-2:00**

Finally! It's time to officially sign up for high-speed broadband and digital phone service. We'll be holding a kickoff event on the Saturday of Columbus Day weekend. (Discover the New World of Broadband!)

- Find out more about our Internet Services (including how to use broadband to stream TV and movies) and Digital Phone*;
- Learn about the logistics for scheduling installations and when they might start;
- Become familiar with the online billing and payment process;
- Get all your questions answered;
- And, of course, sign up on the spot!

Sign-ups will be made online. So if you can't make it to any of the sessions on Oct 12, that won't prevent you from doing so any time after that. But the kickoff will be the single best opportunity for you to ask questions and learn all you need to know.

(Even if you've already taken surveys and/or given a WW deposit, you still need to go through this one more step to sign up with WiredWest's ISP for installation and service.)




**Note: Digital phone (VoIP) is not suitable for many medical safety devices and alert systems.*

PROJECT UPDATE

Our fiber-optic contractor, Sertex, is now beginning construction in Washington. In the coming weeks, you will start to see their crews stringing our distribution fiber around town. The current schedule has them starting on the west side of town, where we already have all the necessary pole licenses in hand. The network project is currently estimated to continue through the winter. Installations will be able to begin as each Fiber Service Area is finished, tested, and certified.

Come to the **Sign-up Kick-off Event** on **Oct 12** to hear more details!

TOWN OF WASHINGTON OCTOBER 2019 CALENDAR

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
					1	TOWN HALL	2	TOWN HALL	3	TOWN HALL	4	5	
				Yoga with Rena 10:00 AM				OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM ***** Conservation Commission Meeting 6 PM		TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM			
6		TOWN HALL	7	TOWN HALL	8		9	TOWN HALL	10	TOWN HALL	11	TOWN HALL	12
		Selectmen Meeting 7 PM Town Hall Offices Open 7 - 9 PM Assessors/Tax Collector 6-8 PM Police Department 6-9 PM		Yoga with Rena 10:00 AM Planning Board Meeting 7 PM				OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM		TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM		Broadband Sign-up Kick Off 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM	
13		TOWN HALL	14	TOWN HALL	15		16	TOWN HALL	17	TOWN HALL	18		19
		No Meeting in Observance of Columbus Day		Yoga with Rena 10:00 AM ***** Cultural Council Grant Application Deadline				OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM		TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM ***** COA Pot Luck Dinner 5:30 PM			
20		TOWN HALL	21	TOWN HALL	22		23	TOWN HALL	24	TOWN HALL	25		26
		Selectmen Meeting 7 PM Town Hall Offices Open 7 - 9 PM Assessors/Tax Collector 6-8 PM Police Department 6-9 PM		Yoga with Rena 10:00 AM				OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 10 AM  GIRL SCOUTS PUMPKIN CARVING 		TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10 AM  6:30 - 7:30 John FX Keator Memorial Pumpkin Walk 6pm -10 pm			
27		TOWN HALL	28	TOWN HALL	29		30		31				
		Selectmen Meeting 7 PM Town Hall Offices Open 7 - 9 PM Assessors/Tax Collector 6-8 PM Police Department 6-9 PM		Yoga with Rena 10:00 AM				HAPPY HALLOWEEN OSTEOPOROSIS 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

Thursday, October 17
7-8:30pm

Food and Farming as Climate Change Solutions

with Mark Phillips, an independent researcher and writer focused on ecological sustainability and economic democracy in local and regional food systems.

Pre-registration is required for this FREE workshop.
Please contact us by noon on Saturday, October 12th.

Tuesday, October 22
6:30-8:30pm

A Taste of Safe Conversations

With 2-Hour Workshop for Couples with Ani Nadler Grosser, LICSW

Talking is among the most dangerous things people do! And listening is the most infrequent! Safe Conversations helps people talk without criticizing, listen without judgement, and connect beyond their differences.

Pre-registration is required for this FREE workshop.
Please contact us by noon on Saturday, October 19th.

Tuesday, November 19
6-8pm

Simple Berry Basket Weaving with Lee Myers

Come enjoy conversation and learning a new skill as we work with Lee to make our own berry basket with ¾" reed supplies. Materials are provided.

Pre-registration required for this FREE class – limited space in this workshop.
Please contact us by 5pm on Thursday, November 12.



2 FREE After School Programs at the Athenaeum for Becket & Washington Students

ACE TUTORING PROGRAM:

- Grades 2-8 students
- Meets Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, through the school year to help students meet their academic goals.
- BWS students are met at the school by Athenaeum staff and walk back together. Middle school will be dropped off by the bus or their guardian by 3:15.
- Has paid staff, teen interns, and community volunteers working with 10-12 students. The aim is 1 to 2 students per tutor.
- Helps students with homework, studying for tests, and with their school projects, in addition to having supplemental educational and craft projects for when their individual work is complete for the day.
- The ACE and BWS staff work together to make sure students are getting the best team support possible as they work toward their academic goals.
- Starts Tuesday, September 10th, and there is space for a few more students.

If your child is in need of assistance with their school work, please return a completed application (available on our website and at the library).

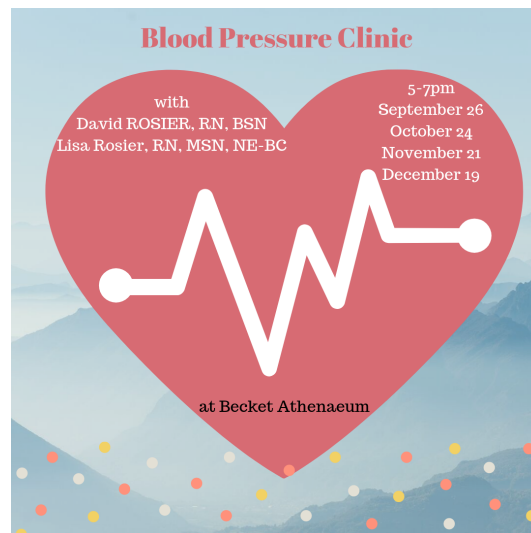
FRIDAY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM:

Friday Enrichment (FE) is shifting focus for the 2019-20 school year as Sarah Reedy is unable to return to lead the program. We will break the year down to 3 segments: Fall, Winter, Spring.

Program description for the fall:

- Begins Friday, September 27th
- Grades 4-8
- Will focus on the geography and culture of one region/country for the fall.
- Will include music, crafts, regional foods & cooking, maps, and other activities that come from the selected region.
- We will transport to the Berkshire Outdoor Center once monthly in October and November for team-building and supplemental activities.
- There will be 1 field trip this fall, with one or two more later in the school year.
- FE does not meet on any Friday that precedes a Monday vacation day, nor on half-day school release.

If you would like to apply for either program, or have questions, please call 413-623-5483 to speak with Jodi.





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NO EXP. DATE

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.