



September 2022

110th Annual WASHINGTON sons and daughters

September 11th 12noon -3PM

The Washington Sons and Daughters will be holding the annual meeting (after a 2 year hiatus due to COVID) at the Old Town Hall on Washington Mountain Road

All Washington residents and anyone who has ever lived in the town of Washington are welcome to join us, children included.

Meet your neighbors and share your memories (new and old) stories or any history of our town.

Food and drink will be provided by the committee

Ladies and Gentlemen please bake your favorite cookie and enter the baking contest. Please tape your name to the bottom of the plate. This is our dessert so please enter the contest and bring something to share. Prizes will be awarded !

Entertainment by Dave Bacon on the keyboard
The old town hall will be handicap accessible that day.
Come one come all and enjoy!

The Washington Historical Commission

welcomes students young and old, past and present, to join us at the old School House on Washington Mountain Road from 10:30am - noon on September 11th. Stop please in and join us at the schoolhouse on your way to the Sons and Daughters event at the Old Town Hall.

COA

Classes

Chair Yoga Mondays 11:00 AM

Yoga Tuesdays at 9:00 AM

Osteoporosis Thursdays at 9:00 AM

Ti-Chi/QiGong Fridays at 10:00 AM

Pot Luck Dinner TBD will put on website once plans are final for Sept

Chief of Police has changed hours on Monday, September 19. New hours 5pm-6pm

Assistance for our Assistant

The Select Board is looking for some extra assistance for our Administrative Assistant. Specifically, Jodi needs someone who can back her up and take minutes for Select Board meetings on those occasions where she can't attend due to an urgent conflict. It doesn't happen too often, but when the need arises we want to have someone already oriented and prepared to step in on relatively short notice.

This will require flexibility and general availability on Monday nights from 6:30-9:30pm, as well as good typing and note-taking skills. In addition to getting paid a modest amount, you'll have a front-row seat to the workings of our small town government. If you might be interested in helping out, send Jodi an email at washington.aas@gmail.com.

State Primary Information

Date: Tuesday, September 6, 2022

Polling Hours: 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Polling Location: Washington Town Hall, 8 Summit Hill Road

Positions on the ballots:

Governor

Lieutenant Governor

Attorney General

Secretary of State

Treasurer

Auditor

Representative in Congress

Councillor

Senator in General Court

Representative in General Court

District Attorney

Sheriff

Reminder about voting in a Primary: Primary elections have separate ballots for each political party. You will have to vote the ballot for whichever party you are registered in...Democratic or Republican. If you are registered as Unenrolled, you will have to choose a ballot for one of the political parties and you will need to indicate that on the postcard / application if you are voting by mail.

If you have any questions, please contact the Town Clerk by email washington.ma.townclerk@gmail.com.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE



For Residents of:

Alford Becket Egremont Great Barrington Lee Lenox Monterey Mount Washington New Marlborough
Otis Richmond Sandisfield Sheffield Stockbridge Tyringham Washington West Stockbridge

When: Saturday, October 29th, 2022, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Where: Great Barrington Recycling Center
601 Stockbridge Rd, Rt 7, Great Barrington, MA, 01230

What to Bring

<u>From The Yard/Garden</u>	<u>From The Workbench</u>	<u>From The House</u>	<u>From The Garage</u>	<u>Mercury Products:</u>
Pesticides, Fungicides	Rust Proofers	Drain Cleaners	Fuels/Gasoline/Kerosene	Thermometers
Herbicides	Wood Preservatives	Oven Cleaners	Brake & Transmission Fluids	Thermostats
Insect Sprays	Wood Strippers & Stains	Floor Cleaners	Car Wax, Polish	Other mercury
Rodent Killers	Paint Thinners	Metal Polish	Engine Degreaser/Motor Oil	Button Batteries
Muriatic Acid	Lead & Oil-Based Paint	Arts & Crafts Supplies	Swimming Pool Chemicals	
Flea Powder	Varnish	Photo Chemicals	Driveway Sealer	
No-Pest Strips	Full Aerosol Cans	Chemistry Kits	Antifreeze	
Chemical Fertilizers	Sealants	Rechargeable Batteries	Car-Lead Acid Batteries	
Lighter Fluid	Adhesives			
Moth Balls	Solvents			

DO NOT BRING

Latex Paint, Standard Batteries, Asbestos, Fireworks & Explosives, Ammunition, Construction Debris, Propane/Gas Cylinders, Smoke Detectors, Radioactive Material, Fire Extinguishers, Fluorescent Lamps, Electronics, PCB's, Medications, Medical Wastes, Medical Sharps

Pre-Registration is required.
Please register online at
www.tritownhealth.org

For additional questions, call
Tri-Town Health Department
at 413-243-5540



TOWN OF WASHINGTON SEPTEMBER 2022 CALENDAR

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
	4	TOWN HALL	5	6	7	TOWN HALL	8	TOWN HALL	9	TOWN HALL	10		3
		Labor Day		Yoga with Rima 9AM	Historical Commission 10AM Administrative Assistant 10AM-2PM Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM		OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM	TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10AM		Transfer Station 8AM-4PM			
	11	TOWN HALL	12	13	TOWN HALL	14	TOWN HALL	15	TOWN HALL	16	TOWN HALL	17	
		Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM Select Board Meeting 7:00 - 9:00PM Finance Committee 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 Chair Yoga with Rima 11AM		Yoga with Rima 9AM Conservation Commission Meeting 6:30PM Planning Board Meeting 7PM	Administrative Assistant 10AM-2PM Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM		OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM *	TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10AM		Transfer Station 8AM-4PM Town Plan Steering Committee 9AM - 11AM			
	18	TOWN HALL	19	20	TOWN HALL	21	TOWN HALL	22	TOWN HALL	23	TOWN HALL	24	
		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 5:00 - 6:00PM Chair Yoga with Rima 11AM		Yoga with Rima 9AM	Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM		OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM	TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10AM		Transfer Station 8AM-4PM			
	25	TOWN HALL	26	27	TOWN HALL	28	TOWN HALL	29	TOWN HALL	30	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 Chair Yoga with Rima 11AM		Yoga with Rima 9AM Berkshire Harm Reduction Services Mobile Van parked at rear of Town Hall	Administrative Assistant 10AM-2PM Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM		OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM	TAI-CHI/QI-GONG CLASS 10AM					
Entity	Assessors Board of Health Building Inspector Chapel Commission Clerk Conservation Council on Aging	Contact Karen Avalle Jim Huebner Paul Greene Rose Borgnis Allison Mikaniewicz Michelle Lampro Rose Borgnis	Number 717-7216 655-8668 446-0964 394-0003 623-2185 464-2388 394-0003	Entity Finance Committee Parks Commission Planning Board Police Chief Select Board Tax Collector Transfer Station Veterans Agent	Contact Dave Drugmand Dominic Sinopoli Don Gagnon Nicole Miller Kent Lew Gina Campbell Michelle Lampro John Herrera	Number 446-1774 623-2086 822-8385 446-4294 623-0202 623-0146 464-2388 499-9433							

Entity	Contact	Number	Entity	Contact	Number
Assessors	Karen Avalle	717-7216	Finance Committee	Dave Drugmand	446-1774
Board of Health	Jim Huebner	655-8668	Parks Commission	Dominic Sinopoli	623-2086
Building Inspector	Paul Greene	446-0964	Planning Board	Don Gagnon	822-8385
Chapel Commission	Rose Borgnis	394-0003	Police Chief	Nicole Miller	446-4294
Clerk	Allison Mikaniewicz	623-2185	Select Board	Kent Lew	623-0202
Conservation	Michelle Lampro	464-2388	Tax Collector	Gina Campbell	623-0146
Council on Aging	Rose Borgnis	394-0003	Transfer Station	Michelle Lampro	464-2388
			Veterans Agent	John Herrera	499-9433

Please CALL AHEAD



Dear Washington Friends & Neighbors:

September 2022

Despite last year's super soggy summer, the Berkshires are experiencing a drought this year. Some neighboring towns have implemented mandatory water restrictions. While Washington has no municipal water supply to manage, we encourage residents to take common-sense measures to reduce water usage. Regionwide water levels are not expected to return to normal for quite some time. As shared aquifers run low, water quality can be affected and individual wells can run dry.

Thanks to Jodi Hostetter, Laurel Lenski, Sean Connors, Abe Guthrie, and all the folks from Parks Commission for another successful year of Music in the Park throughout August. And thanks to the Highway crew for keeping the Park looking neat for the events. A good time was had by all (including kids in the Fairy Garden!).

Thanks also to the volunteers who helped in the latest round of cleaning and restoring headstones at the Old Town Hall cemetery — Carol Lew, Linda Levernoch, Susan Colgan, Scott Hayward, Ellen & Ed Bond, Chris Primi, John & Rachel Fish, and out-of-towner Sherri Brown.

There are vacancies on both the Planning Board and Conservation Commission due to the recent resignation of Lisa Peltier. We thank Lisa for her many years of dedication and service to the town. Anyone who might like to serve on either of these important bodies should contact the chairpersons to express interest — Don Gagnon (Planning) or Michelle Lampro (Conservation).

Our Select Board has been in discussions with our neighbors on the Middlefield Select Board about hiring a full-time Town Administrator to be shared equally between the two towns. The objective is to attract and retain a higher caliber of skill and experience than either could get on their own with separate part-time jobs. The role of a Town Administrator is to oversee weekly operations, coordinate departmental activities, and solve day-to-day problems under the direction of the Select Board. They will be responsible for managing the budget, improving efficiency and effectiveness, pursuing grant funds and managing the grant projects.

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is helping to guide the Washington-Middlefield negotiations and draft the legal intermunicipal agreement between us, using State grant funding. BRPC will also be helping to recruit qualified candidates. And the grant will pay for half of the initial-year Town Administrator salary. By spring, we will hope to have demonstrated the value of the position, as both Towns will need to approve the full costs in next year's budgets.

Don't forget the 110th Annual Sons & Daughters Reunion — back after two years' Covid hiatus — at the Old Town Hall on September 11 at noon. In addition to history and memories, there will be a cookie baking contest and musical entertainment.

Kent Lew
Select Board chair

David Ellis
Select Board

John Fish
Select Board clerk

Becoming Green

What does becoming a Green Community mean for Washington?

By Susan Colgan

Tracks' Insight Team thought our neighbors should know about our Town's efforts to qualify as a Green Community.

In 2008, Massachusetts legislature passed the Green Communities Act, intended to help municipalities become more sustainable by controlling energy costs while also creating an environment for clean energy technologies. The legislation as intended would put our communities and the Commonwealth at the center of the clean energy economy.

The benefits of such a program are painfully clear today. Massachusetts was the first state to implement such a plan and it has become a model for other states. Of the 351 communities in the Commonwealth, there are now 280 Green Communities, including our neighbors in Becket, Middlefield, and Peru. Soon we hope Washington will be one of them!

"Surprisingly, this is one government program that seems to have no downside," says Peter Matson, member of our local Green Committee, adding: "The Commonwealth gives us a grant which the town uses to save money on energy. The extensive paperwork we were required to supply is well worth it."

That extensive paperwork outlines the steps communities must take, and it often takes years to complete. According to Dave Drugman, Chairman of Washington's Green Committee, the process requires "patience and perseverance."

Dave supplies a bit of history. "The initial Green Committee work in Washington was spearheaded by former Select Board Chair Jim Huebner in 2012 when he proposed adoption of the Stretch Energy Building Code bylaw, which is one of the criteria necessary to obtain GC status. It was voted down at a town meeting. The Stretch Code aims to ensure greater energy efficiency in new building in the town. In May of 2018, it was brought up again and finally passed. "

But our first application for Green Community designation submitted in 2018 did not. Despite this, over the past ten years the town has worked to reduce energy usage. Windows and doors have been replaced at the Town Hall, and more efficient lighting and heating have been installed. At the Town Garage better insulated bay doors are in place and Tom Johnson is strict about not leaving doors open in the cold, and not leaving vehicles idling more than necessary.

Frustrated by the slow process and the rejection of this first application, in 2019, Jim Huebner appointed Dave Drugman to chair the Green Committee and to sort out the deficiencies in the original plan and to submit a new application. Dave then sought out members of the community to help. Tina Hayward, Peter Matson and Susan Colgan volunteered.

"It has been a long process that all the committee members worked diligently on," Dave emphasizes, "including the amendment to our Solar Photovoltaic Bylaw, and several attempts to complete the energy audits which are the basis for the Energy Reduction Plan."

Finally, on July 18, 2022, at a Select Board meeting, Kent Lew motioned to approve our revised Energy Reduction Plan. With a letter from Town Council the plan will go to Mark Rabinsky, Western Regional Coordinator for Green Communities at the Department of Energy Resources or DOER. He will review the application before it goes to DOER in Boston for—we hope—approval.

Once we achieve Green Community status, we will qualify for a \$125,000 initial grant to pay for energy-efficient upgrades. This will save the town money over the short and the long term. Municipal governments such as ours and all others in the state are substantial consumers of fossil fuels for buildings and vehicles.

Emily Lang of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission helped us this spring to chart a roadmap for reducing our energy by the required 20 percent over the next 5 years. She had the invaluable input from Energy Resources USA who performed energy audits of the Town Hall and Garage in the fall of 2021.

Here are some of the Energy Conservation measures we are proposing in our Energy Reduction Plan:

- In the Town Hall four propane fired boilers will be replaced with heat pumps. And insulation will be upgraded, replaced, or added throughout the building. Existing lighting will be upgraded to LED.
- The Town Garage's propane fired boilers will be replaced with heat pumps, and insulation will be supplemented or upgraded throughout the building. Existing lighting will also be upgraded to LED. And employees will be required to participate in workshops to aid in energy efficient habits like idle free driving and other energy conservation initiatives.
- We hope to purchase a hybrid police cruiser when the current cruiser is retired.

Once the town has achieved designation as a Green Community other grant opportunities will open up allowing us to further reduce our energy costs. One goal is, within five years, to install electric charging stations at the garage and at the Town Hall.

According to Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, "The projects funded by these grants will allow cities and towns across the Commonwealth to reinvest their energy savings in vital public services like schools, public safety, and local infrastructure."

Here Here!



If you are interested in a more detailed look at Washington's Energy Reduction Plan you can go to www.Washington-ma.gov/energy-reduction-plan.

Becket Arts Center



7 Brooker Hill Rd., Becket, MA
413-623-6635
becketartscenter.org

September

Innate - Juried Exhibit 4

Friday, August 26 to Monday, September 12, 12:00-4:00pm, Friday-Monday (closed September 5); Artist Reception: Saturday, August 27, 2:00-4:00pm. Free and open to the public.

CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY - SEPTEMBER 5

Tai Chi & Qi Gong with Doreen Black - Fridays, September 9, 16, 23, 30.; 10am. \$10 per class, register online: becketartscenter.org/community-classes

Annual Members' Meeting

Saturday, September 10, 3:00pm

Music Brings Communities Together: Latin Roots and Dance - Saturday, September 10, 5:00pm.

Outdoors on BAC lawn (rain location at Becket Federated Church diagonal to BAC). Free and open to the public. Donations welcome.

ART WEEK: SEPTEMBER 15 - SEPTEMBER 25

Exploring Vision - Juried Exhibit 5

Friday, September 16 to Monday, October 3, 12:00-4:00pm, Friday-Monday; Artist Reception: Saturday, September 17, 2:00-4:00pm. Free and open to the public.

Failure Cabaret Open Rehearsal - Saturday, September 17, 7:00pm. Donations welcome

Music Brings Communities Together: Simon Ruiz Guthrie opens for Louise Mosrie - Saturday, September 24, 5:00pm. Outdoors on BAC lawn (rain location at Becket Federated Church diagonal to BAC). Free and open to the public. Donations welcome.

Fall for Oysters Fundraiser at Canterbury Farm featuring Lady Di & the Dukes - Sunday, September 24, 2:00pm. Ticket price includes 2 oysters, wine ticket and live music. \$25 until September 24th, \$30 day of event and at the door. \$2.50 raw oyster bar will also be available (cash only).

MEMBERS MAKE THIS POSSIBLE

BECOME A 2022 BAC MEMBER

www.becketartscenter.org/membership

BECKET ARTS CENTER AT
CANTERBURY FARM

FALL FOR OYSTERS FUNDRAISER

TICKETS



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2PM

CANTERBURY FARM

1986 FRED SNOW RD, BECKET

\$25 in advance (through 9/24)

\$30 at event

PRICE INCLUDES TWO RAW OYSTERS,
WINE TASTING, AND LIVE MUSIC BY:
LADY DI & THE DUKES

TICKETS CAN BE
PURCHASED ONLINE
AT BAC.

\$2.50 RAW OYSTER BAR - CASH ONLY
PORTION OF PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT BECKET ARTS CENTER

Canterbury Farm
Nordic Center - Bed & Breakfast
Linda and David Bacon

1986 Fred Snow Road
Becket, MA 01223
413-623-0100
www.canterbury-farms.com



Becket Washington Athenaeum

- Tuesday, September 6, 1:30pm - Book Club: My Life in France
- Wednesdays, September 7, 14, 21, 28, 10:30am - Library Storytime
- Saturday, September 10, 10-4 - Book sale fundraiser
- Saturday, September 10, 11am - Drum to the Beat with Otha Day
- Monday, September 12, 6pm - Cookbook Club: Against All Grain
- Tuesdays, September 20, 27, 10:30am - Pre-School STEAM Program



COST SAVINGS Strategies TIP #1 from SHINE

Did you know that the **Medicare Savings Plans** can help you pay for Medicare premiums and make you eligible for BIG SAVINGS on your prescriptions? Check these current 2022 numbers. If you have Medicare and your income and assets are similar to those below, you might qualify!

Medicare Savings Plans	Gross Monthly Income Limit	Asset Limit*	Application to use	Benefits
MassHealth Senior Buy-In (QMB)	\$1,473 (individual) \$1,984 (couple)	\$16,800 (individual) \$25,200 (couple)	MassHealth SACA-2 or Buy-In 1-800-841-2900	Medicare A, B premiums, deductibles and copays, automatic full extra help with prescription costs
MassHealth Buy-In (SLMB, QI-1)	\$1,869 (individual) \$2,518 (couple)	\$16,800 (individual) \$25,200 (couple)	MassHealth SACA-2 or Buy-In 1-800-841-2900	Pays Medicare B premium & full extra help with prescription costs

* Primary residence and one vehicle are not counted

If you have any questions about these programs, contact a SHINE counselor or outreach worker at your COA or MassOptions at (1-800-243-4636). You can apply any time and reap big savings!



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

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www.washington-ma.gov

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413.623.5329
www.hilltownsvetclinic.com

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johnfishpiano.com
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Dorothy Filanowska
413.446.6921 justicedora@gmail.com
<http://www.justicedora.com>

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Sharon The Shopper

Sharon Davis
Grocery Shopping & Delivery
srd52957@hotmail.com
760.831.1555

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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.