

September 2023

Annual Washington Sons and Daughters Annual meeting at The Old Town Hall

Sunday September 10th 12-3pm

Food and beverages will be provided. Entertainment 1-3 pm

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 and stories.

This year prior to the event Tom Hoffman of Washington is willing to share his knowledge of some town history, leading us to various sites in the state forest. We can drive to the sites and then walk around with Tom. Anyone wanting to attend could meet at the Town Common at 10:30am, car pool or drive to the 4 corners intersection down West Branch Road.

Carol Lew will give us an update on the great progress of the cemetery, she and others have really been working hard!

Ladies and gentlemen please bake your favorite pie and enter our contest.

Please tape your name on the bottom of the plate.

This is our dessert so please enter the contest.

Prizes will be awarded

Please join us for this event, come meet your neighbors

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU

COA

Classes Chair Yoga Mondays at 11:00 AM Yoga Tuesdays at 9:00 AM Osteoporosis Thursdays at 9 AM

Pot lunch dinner on Friday 15th at 5:30 PM Steve will be serving up burgers hot off the grill! All seniors are welcome with or without a dish to share.

COA needs you help!! If you can help set up for the pot luck dinners, have ideas for additional classes, want to be in the board, let me know!!

Questions, comments or concerns contact Rose at 413-394-0003 Washingtoncoa@gmail.com

Estate/Barn Sale at the Drugmands

Sat, Sept 2nd & Sunday, Sept 3rd. 9-3pm. Rain or Shine

572 Washington Mountain Rd, Washington. (Up at our barn)

Furniture, lamps, rugs, Waterford and Tiffany glassware, vases, bowls, Rockwell figurines, assorted housewares, microwave, oven, Cuisinart ice cream maker, copper bowls, miniature clocks, brass candlesticks, linens, books, garden items, large baskets, saddle, harness, fencing, dog kennel, some tools, lots more really good stuff......

It may have been one of coolest days of the summer, but two dozen folks gathered on the Town Common last month for our community picnic. We were spared any rain, thankfully, and kites did indeed get flown. Thanks to Susan Colgan and Sue Gagnon for doing most of the organizing. We'll hope for nicer weather next year to bring out more picnickers.

Fortunately, absolutely beautiful weather has graced this year's Music in the Park events. Nearly every Sunday has a been a picture postcard for a Berkshire summer. Thanks as always to Jodi Hostetter and Friends of the Park helpers for pulling together another wonderful month of free music for all. If you want to get involved in next year's event, reach out to volunteer.

The periodic bouts of rain have not helped with the ongoing flooding of Upper Valley Road along the swamp. The road remains closed to through-traffic for public safety. Unfortunately, we do not have control over the underlying problems with the swamp, the beavers, or the compromised culvert at the railroad crossing. We continue to press on CSX to solve the issues with drainage.

We appreciate everyone's patience with the closure of Frost Road last month. By the time Tracks hits mailboxes, the road should be open again, for one lane at least. Work on the new culvert itself will continue through most of September, however, and occasionally delay traffic.

Before winter, the Highway crew intends to work on improvements to a gravel section of Lovers Lane Rd at Schulze Rd which is a chronic problem in mud season. This will entail excavating and replacing the road base with better material, including a geotech stabilization fabric, and improving overall drainage. This will require a period of road closure, which is currently expected to occur in early October. Area residents may need to detour. Stay tuned to the website for updates.

Beginning this month, the Select Board will be changing its regular meeting to every other Monday night, starting on Sept 11 and coinciding with payroll warrants. The meeting schedule is kept up to date on the Public Meetings calendar on the Town website.

Sean Curran, our Town Administrator, continues to get settled into his responsibilities. He is at Town Hall for part of nearly every weekday. His office schedule is posted on the town website, under Government > Town Administrator. Residents are invited to contact him with any issues. His Town email address is <washingtontownadm@gmail.com>.

This year's **111th Annual Sons & Daughters Reunion** takes place at the Old Town Hall on **Sunday, September 10**, starting at noon. Beforehand, Historical Commission member Tom Hoffman will lead a walk in the State Forest to visit historic sites from when the area was a fully settled part of Town. Meet at the Town Common at 10:30 a.m. to join him.

Kent Lew, Select Board chair

David Ellis, Select Board clerk

Slow Down, You're Moving Too Fast

by Carol Lew

There's a speed enforcement experiment going on that Washington residents are going to want to pay attention to. The question to consider is this: If you have felt that speeding vehicles are a problem in town, have you been seeing an improvement since April?

Since April of this year, Washington has increased its speed enforcement capabilities. That's because of a decision the Select Board made to work on the issue. Speeding has been a regular complaint by Washingtonians.

It wasn't a problem that could be addressed with current staff hours. Chief Miller divides her time between Washington and Becket (where she holds a full time position), with only about 12 hours per week devoted to Washington. In that time, she has paperwork to do, public office hours, grants to write, and calls to respond to. She also patrols the town and does speed enforcement, but she's stretched pretty thin.



Prior to the most recent budgeting process, the Chief proposed to the Finance Committee that an extra \$8,000 be put in the budget to hire someone to enforce speed limits. That would have covered 8 hours per week. The Finance Committee did not think that the budget could bear that extra expense, so the Select Board took another route to work on the problem. They decided to use some of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) money to hire a part time policeperson for a one-year experiment of increased enforcement of speed limits, which is an acceptable use of ARPA money. However, Chief Nicole Miller applied for and secured a \$19,000 federal grant to fund road safety issues. There were specific stipulations about what it could be used for. A portion went towards bike helmets and an educational day with kids, some of the funds were spent for a radar sign that is now on Summit Hill Road, and some is going towards the cost of six months of our speed enforcement experiment, freeing up some of the earmarked ARPA money for other uses.

To carry out our experiment, Chief Miller hired Officer Frank Murphy, a Sargeant in Chester and Blandford who also is a schoolteacher. He came to the job with the required training, so none of the grant funding went towards mandatory education. With only one police vehicle in town, Miller makes sure Officer Murphy has use of it when he is on duty. Chief Miller also increased the hours she stops speeding vehicles.



Although speeding is an issue in every part of town at times, there are three roads where the issue is more troublesome. Route 8 and Washington Mountain Road see most of the speeding issues, and Summit Hill Road has more speeding infractions than other Washington back roads during campground season.

Miller and Murphy are often issuing warnings, not tickets. "I think people need to be reminded to watch how they drive and pay attention to speed limits," Chief Miller says. But the warnings are documented so if a person has multiple infractions, they will get a ticket. Whether a person gets a warning or a ticket also has to do with how far over the speed limit they're going.

The increased hours devoted to speed enforcement has made a big difference in the number of stops made. Typically Chief Miller issues a few dozen warnings or tickets in a month. Officer Murphy issued 90 warnings or tickets in June. Most of the speed offenders are not residents, but campers or people passing through.

The road safety grant will expire in September. Chief Miller has applied for it again. If it's awarded, it will begin in December of this year. Regardless of the source of non-taxpayer funding, the experiment will continue for the rest of this budget season.

At the next annual town budget meeting, the increased speed enforcement item will likely be in the budget and up for discussion. Residents will need to consider whether they saw enough of a difference during the year that it's worth adding the operational expense to the budget, which is largely funded by taxpayer dollars.

Vote by Mail for the Special Town Election

- If you would like to vote by mail, visit <u>washington-ma.gov/town-clerk/pages/vote-mail application</u> to download the vote by mail application.
- Mail the completed application to the Town Clerk, 8 Summit Hill Road, Washington, MA 01223 or leave it in the drop box at the town hall.
- The application must be received by the Town Clerk on or before Monday, October 16, 2023.

Dear Neighbor,

The Town of Washington is asking for your help today with Internet for All!

Internet for All is an important Statewide project the town is participating in to make sure everyone who needs affordable access to the internet and skills to use their computers can have it.

Washington is participating to make sure everyone has access and the devices, skills, and resources they need to connect with family, friends, and services online like telehealth!

You can help us by taking this survey as soon as possible!

You can return the survey to the town clerk's office in the drop box at the town hall or at the transfer station during open hours.

If you have any questions please contact Pauline Clark at 413-623-2193 or jacksgalore@gmail.com.



Massachusetts Statewide Digital Equity Survey

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) wants to hear from you about your experiences with getting and using internet service! This survey is completely anonymous and should be completed by one individual per household. **Your feedback is vital to understand barriers to internet access, affordability, and adoption to help close the digital divide.** Thank you for your time and participation.

1. 2.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
D	o you have internet service in your home?				
	☐ YES – Please proceed to Section 2 below				
	□ NO – Please skip to Section 3 (flip this page over)				
	in the Frederick of Section 5 (input in 5 page over)				
Se	ction 2: Please answer the following questions only	if you CAN	connect to the internet from home.		
3.	Who is your internet service provider?				
4.	What kind of internet service do you have at home? Please check all that apply.				
	A data plan for a smartphone, hotspot, or tablet		Dial-up internet		
	☐ Home wireline connection (cable, fiber, DSL, etc.)		Satellite internet		
5.	How well does your home internet service work?				
	Good enough to meet my household's needs		I don't know		
	☐ Not good enough to meet my household's needs				
6.	Is your home internet service bundled with other services such as telephone or TV?				
	Yes	·			
	□ No				
7.	How much do you pay for the internet every month? \$				
8.	How hard is it for you to pay your internet bill?				
	☐ Very hard		Not too hard		
	☐ Somewhat hard		Not at all hard		
9.	Have you heard about the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) that provides discounted internet service for low-income households?				
	☐ Yes		I don't know		
	□ No				
	For more information and to find out if you qualify for ACP, call 384-2575.	the Federal	Communication Commission's ACP Support Center: 87		

When complete, skip to section 4 below.

Section 1: Please answer the following questions.

Section 3: Please answer the following questions only if you CANNOT connect to the internet at home.						
10. If you do not have internet service in your home, what is the reason?						
	\square Service is not available in my area			I can't afford or access a	device to use the internet	
	☐ Service is too expensive			I don't want / don't use	the internet.	
	\square I am concerned about online privac	y or safety		Other (please specify): _		
	$\ \square$ I don't feel confident navigating the	internet or				
	using online tools					
11. If you do not have internet at home, where do you go to use the internet? Please check all that apply.						
	☐ A workplace			A public space such as a		
	☐ A friend or family member's home			building		
	\square School, college, or university			On public transit		
	\square A library or community center				s internet in these or any	
	$\ \square$ A business such as a restaurant, caf			other spaces		
	(e.g., McDonald's, Taco Bell, Starbuc	ks, etc.)		Other (please specify): _		
Whe	en complete, proceed to section 4 belo	ow.				
Sec	tion 4: All respondents should ans	wer these questions.				
		The three questions.				
12.	Does everyone in your household have a	access to the computer devic	es t	hey need to meet their e	veryday needs for internet	
	use? (Computers, smartphones, tablets,	or other internet enabled de	vice	25)?		
	☐ Yes					
	□ No					
13.	Which of the following devices do you us	se most of the time to connec	ct to	the internet? (Check all	that apply)	
	☐ Cellphone			Tablet (or similar device	e)	
	☐ Desktop computer			Other (please specify): _		
	Laptop computer					
14.	How much would you be able to pay for	a laptop or desktop compute	er?			
	□ \$0-50			\$150-250		
	\$50-100			\$250-500		
	\$100-150			More than \$1,000		
15.	Are you able to regularly use the interne	et for online activities?				
	□ Yes					
	□ No					
16.	Please rank the level of difficulty for wha	at you use the internet for. (E	asy,	Not easy, Hard)		
		Facy		Not agry	Hard	
Sea	arching and applying for a job	Easy		Not easy		
	alth care or telehealth services	П		П	П	
	ticipating in your local community			П		
General internet searching						
	Insportation information					
	arching and/or applying for benefits or					
	ources for you or your family					

17.	7. If you do not have regular access to the internet, what would most li Searching and applying for a job		ike to	o use it for if you could? Searching and/or applying for benefits or resources for you and your family		
		Health care or telehealth services		Something else		
	☐ Ge	Participating in your local community General internet searching		I don't want to use the internet regularly		
				rudite want to use the internet regularly		
		Transportation information				
18.	What kind of digital skills support would you be most interested in?					
		In person classes		In person support from a friend or instructor		
		Online classes		A do-it-yourself training module		
19.	How concerned are you, if at all, about internet safety?					
		Very concerned		Not very concerned		
		Somewhat concerned		Not at all concerned		
20.	What are you most concerned about? (Select all that apply)					
		That my data could get stolen or used without my		That I could be tracked or surveilled		
		consent		That I or a loved one could be harassed or abused		
		That I or a loved one could get scammed or tricked		online		
21.	Are you aware of tools or resources you can use to stay safe online?					
		Yes, I have tools and resources I use stay safe online		I know of tools or resources to stay safe online, but they don't work for me		
		No, I don't know of any tools or resources to stay safe online		Other (please specify) :		
22.	How accessible are online government services like benefits portals, RMV services, or paying for permits or tickets to you?					
		Very accessible		Not very accessible		
		Somewhat accessible		Not at all accessible		
23.	When you have used online government services like benefits portals, RMV services, or paying for permits or tickets, how well did they work for you?					
		Very well		Not too well		
	П	Somewhat well		Not well at all		

When complete, proceed to section 5 below.

Section 5: All respondents should answer these questions. We collect demographic information so that we can make sure we are representing all neighborhoods, towns, cities and groups across the Commonwealth. 24. What is your age? ☐ 18 to 24 60 to 74 25 to 34 75 and older 35 to 44 Prefer not to answer 45 to 59 25. What is your gender identity? Woman Gender fluid Man Other Non-binary Prefer not to answer 26. How many people, including yourself, currently live in your household? (Note: A household is defined as all the people who currently occupy the housing unit where you live). 6 □ 7 □ 2 □ 3 ☐ 8 or more □ 4 Prefer not to answer 5 27. How many children under age 18, currently live in your household? (Note: A household is defined as all the people who currently occupy the housing unit where you live). 4 0 1 5 or more □ 2 ☐ Prefer not to answer □ 3 28. What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received? Less than high school, or high school incomplete Four-year college or university degree/Bachelor's (Up to grades 9-11 or Grade 12 with NO diploma) degree (e.g., BS, BA, AB) ☐ High school graduate (Grade 12 with diploma or Postgraduate or professional degree, including master's, doctorate, medical or law degree (e.g., **GED** certificate) MA, MS, PhD, MD, JD) ☐ Two-year associate degree from a college or university ☐ Prefer not to answer 29. Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, or Cuban? Yes No Prefer not to answer 30. Which of the following best describes your race? (Select all that apply)

☐ White or Caucasian

☐ Black or African-American

Asian or Asian-American

Native American/American Indian/Alaska Native

☐ Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian

☐ Prefer not to answer

Some other race (please specify)

31.	Do	Do you belong to a North American Indigenous, Native, or Tribal group?					
		Yes		Prefer not to answer			
		No					
32.	Wh	What is your total annual household income from all sources, and before taxes?					
		Less than \$22,000		\$45,000 to \$52,999			
		\$22,000 to \$29,999		\$53,000 to \$59,999			
		\$30,000 to \$36,999		\$60,000 or more			
		\$37,000 to \$44,999		Prefer not to answer			
33.		you identify as a person with a disability? (Note: Disability is define ult in limitations of activities or restrictions to full participation at sch Yes No Prefer not to answer					
34.	If vo	ou identify as a person with a disability, do you have difficulty in a	anv d	of the following areas? Please check all that apply.			
		Seeing even if wearing glasses		Communicating, for example understanding or			
		Hearing even if using a hearing aid		being understood			
		Walking or climbing steps		Prefer not to answer			
		Remembering or concentrating		l do not identify as a person with a disability			
		Self-care					
35.	Do	Do you identify as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community?					
		Yes					
		No					
		Prefer not to answer					
36.	Did	Did you serve on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces?					
		Yes					
		No					
		Prefer not to answer					
37.		Do you live in affordable housing? (Note: Affordable housing is defined as housing subsidized by a housing authority, paid for hrough a voucher, or in a building run by a private developer.)					
		Yes					
		No					
		Prefer not to answer					
38.	Wh	Where did you hear about this survey? Please check all that apply.					
		From a government website, email list, flyer, or other outreach		From an organization's website, email list, flyer, or other outreach			
		From a friend, colleague, or acquaintance		Other (Please specify)			
		From a community meeting, community anchor such as a library or school, or other local institution					

Thank you for taking the survey!

Your response will help shape Massachusetts's policies and future funding allocations to close the digital divide for all its residents. If you would like to learn more, please visit https://broadband.masstech.org/.

BECKET POLICE ASSOCIATION

COPS & RODDERS

SHOW FUNDRAISER



Location: Washington Town Park MA-Rt8 Washington State Rd. Located on Route 8 in the Town of Washington ~ Massachusetts



September 23, 2023

Family Event!! Free activities for kids! Food * Drinks * Prizes * 50/50 * Raffle

COLD BEER!!

FREE Admission for spectators

Specialty Trophies @ 1pm

event patch for the first 50 vehicles registered!

FREE SHOW CAR ONLY RAFFLE!!!

Registration \$10

All proceeds will benefit the Becket Police Association sponsored Childrens Holiday Party in December

Classic Cars, Trucks, Hot rods, Motorcycles

For more information or to register your show car please contact Nicole Miller @ officermillertownofbecket@amail.com Visit our website to stay up to date on raffle prizes and any news http://copsandrodders2023.weebly.com

HUGE RAFFLE INCLUDES:

* NUMEROUS BASKETS * LOCAL GIFT CARDS

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***AND SO MUCH MORE......

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Or at SouthernVoiceBand.com



The Parks Commission will be raffling off 3 pairs of tickets to the Deadfall Music & Arts Fest II at

Cops & Rodders Car Show Fundraiser on Saturday, September 23rd!

Deadfall Music & Arts Fest is Saturday, November 4th

3-11PM at The Stationery Factory in Dalton 5 Bands • Food • Craft Vendors • Family friendly



Becket Athenaeum

 Saturday, September 2 & Sunday, September 3, 10am-4pm

Book Sale Fundraiser

On the library lawn (weather permitting). By donation (cash or check). All proceeds support the services & programs at the Becket Athenaeum!

- Saturdays September 2,16, 23, 30, 10:30-11:30am **Library Storytime**
- Tuesday, September 5, 1:30pm Book Club: The Island of Missing Trees by Elif
- Saturday, September 9, 10:30-11:30am **Creative Movement & Storytime with Laurel**
- Monday, September 11, 6pm Cookbook Club: In Bibi's Kitchen by Hawa Hassan and Iulia Turshen
- Wednesday, September 13, 5-7pm **Game Night**
- Saturday, September 16, 6:30-9:30pm, movie starts at 7pm

Movie Night for Adults: Licorice Pizza



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I will convert your old 8mm movies, VHS
tapes and video cassette tapes to DVDs.
Call or email for pricing.

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.