



August 2022

Friends of the Washington Town Park present

**MUSIC
IN THE
PARK**

**FREE
SUNDAY CONCERTS
4:00 P.M.**

Sponsored by grants from the
Washington, Becket and Hinsdale
Cultural Councils.

Join in the family-friendly outdoor fun and help
raise funds to improve the playground!

NEW this year kids are welcome to enjoy a fairy
garden activity!

7/31 **Matt York** *The Highway Men - Songs & Stories*
8/7 **Rev Tor** *Jam Band*
8/14 **Bobby Sweet** *Americana*
8/21 **Krishna Guthrie** *Rockin' Folkin' Blues*
8/28 **Misty Blues** *Blues, Blues infused Jazz, Funk*

Blankets, lawn chairs and picnic baskets welcome.
Route 8 just south of the Town Hall.
Raindates to be posted.

Made with PosterMyWeb.com

COA

Classes

Chair Yoga Mondays 11:00 AM no class Aug 1
Yoga Tuesdays at 9:00 AM no class Aug 2
Osteoporosis Thursdays at 9:00 AM
Ti-Chi/QiGong Fridays at 10:00 AM

Bring your steak knives!

Pot Luck Dinner Friday, Aug 19 at 5:30 PM Steve will have steaks on the grill and baked potatoes!
Come early 4:45-5:30 to socialize, cornhole available for anyone who wishes to play. All seniors are
welcome with or without a dish to share - we look forward to seeing you!

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!

Questions, comments, or need assistance? Call 413-394-0003 or email washingtoncoa@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	Representative in Congress
Lieutenant Governor	Councillor
Attorney General	Senator in General Court
Secretary of State	Representative in General Court
Treasurer	District Attorney
Auditor	Sheriff

Deadline to register or change registration: Saturday, August 27, 2022

A voter registration session will be held on this date from 9:00 am - 11:00 am and 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm.

Ways to vote:

- **Vote by mail:** the State is sending out vote by mail postcards to all registered voters. If you would like to vote by mail, just completed the postcard and mail it and a ballot will be mailed to you. You can also complete a [vote by mail application](#) and send it to the Town Clerk. The postcards and/or applications must be received by the Town Clerk no later than Monday, August 29th. Voted ballots must be received at the Town Hall by the close of the polls on primary day. You can return ballots by postal mail, the drop box at the town hall, or hand delivery.
- **Early voting:** there will be in-person early voting held at the Town Hall on the following days / times.
 - Saturday, August 27: 9:00 am - 11:00 am and 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
 - Monday, August 29: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
 - Wednesday, August 31: 8:00 am - 10:00 am
 - Friday, September 2: 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
- **Election day:** polls will be open from 7:00 am until 8:00 pm on Tuesday, September 6th

Reminder about voting in a Primary: Primary elections have separate ballots for each political party. You will have to vote the ballot for which ever party you are registered in. 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.

Due to training requirements the Chief of Police has changed her August office hours.

MONDAY July 25, 2022 NO OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY AUGUST 1, 2022 NO OFFICE HOURS
FRIDAY AUGUST 5, 2022 OFFICE HOURS 6pm-8pm
MONDAY AUGUST 8, 2022 NO OFFICE HOURS
MONDAY AUGUST 15,22,29 REGULAR OFFICE HOURS

Please call the Chief at 413-427-2995 if you would like to setup an appointment for a different day/ time.

The Weissbrods' are downsizing!

Come one, come all:
The Washington Historical Commission will hold a 1-day tag sale Aug 20th, 9am to 5pm, at 1866 Washington Mt Rd, Washington. Rain-date is Sunday, Aug 21. All proceeds will benefit the Washington Historical Commission.

Carol and David Weissbrod

Sharon the Shopper is a full-service grocery shopping & delivery service. Direct from store to your door, we offer affordable and convenient shopping so you don't have to. Call or email today to schedule your pick-up and delivery. Serving Washington, Becket, Hinsdale, Dalton and Pittsfield

Sharon Davis: srd52957@hotmail.com (760)831.1555 CASH ONLY

Athenaeum

- Tuesday, August 2, 1:30pm - Book Club: Beheld
- Tuesday, August 2, 6-8pm - Herbal Tinctures with Kali Tomasi
- Wednesdays, August 3, 10, 17, 24, 10:30am - Library Storytime & Craft
- Monday, August 8, 6pm - Cookbook Club: The Gefilte Manifesto
- Wednesday, August 17, 6:30-8pm - Estate Planning with Pamela Green
- Saturday, August 20, 10-4 - Book sale fundraiser
- Saturday, August 20, 11am - New England Birds of Prey by Wingmasters
- Saturday, August 20, 2pm - Storyteller Eshu Bumpus
- Tuesday, August 23, 11am - Hands on Nature - Butterflies & Moths

It Takes a Village is a local non-profit that provides FREE postpartum support for families in the area.

The home visit program provides new families with a volunteer once a week for a few hours to help so the parent can take a break. Families living in the Hilltowns with a baby under the age of 1 year should email lisa@hilltownvillage.org.

The Village Closet donation center, located at 2 E. Main St. in Huntington, MA, carries clothing, baby gear, diapers, formula; 100% free to all families regardless of income or town of residence. The Village Closet is open Sunday & Monday 11am-2pm and the first Tuesday of the month 5pm-7pm. Donations are accepted during open hours.

Finally, the Parent Chat group meets at the St. John's Corner House in Ashfield every Monday from 10:30-noon. Free childcare and refreshments are provided. For more information, please visit www.hilltownvillage.org.

We encourage individuals that are interested in volunteering to reach out, as well!

SPECIAL EVENT: Sunday, August 14th, 11am to 2pm, the Village Closet will host a Back to School event for families to take home backpacks, clothing, and other school supplies.

2022 ANNUAL HOUSATONIC HERITAGE WALKS ANNOUNCED

5 Weekends of Free, Guided Tours

The Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area announces the **20th annual autumn "Housatonic Heritage Walks"** on five weekends: **September 3 & 4, 10 & 11, 17 & 18, 24 & 25 and Oct. 1 & 2.** 80+ free, guided walks will be offered throughout Berkshire County, MA, and Litchfield County, CT. Detailed Heritage Walks brochures will be available at libraries, post offices, restaurants and grocery stores in the region. The Walks schedule is also available online at:

<https://housatonicheritage.org/events/heritage-walks/>

To request a brochure by mail, email programs@housatonicheritage.org



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

August

Come Dance With Us! Fran Hamburg & Louise Heit - Monday, August 11, 10:30am.

Exploration Series Lecture: Michael Hamburg, "Across the Universe: A Tour of the Cosmos" - August 1, 6:30pm. \$5 suggested donation for non-members of Becket Arts Center.

Tai Chi & Qi Gong with Doreen Black - Fridays, August 5, 12, 19, 26 & September 9, 16, 23, 30, 10am. \$10 per class, register online: becketartscenter.org/community-classes

Annual Members' Show
Friday, August 5 to Monday, August 22, 12:00-4:00pm, Friday-Monday. Free and open to the public. Artist Reception: Saturday, August 6, 10am-12pm.

Open Studios DriveAbout
Saturday, August 6, 12pm-5pm & Sunday, August 7, 10am-5pm. Maps and guide for the artists can be picked up at Becket Arts Center and found online: becketartscenter.org/whiskeytreatyroadshow. Free and open to the public.

Music Brings Communities Together: Chantell McFarland & Louise Mettler - Sunday, August 13, 5:00pm. Outdoors on BAC lawn (rain location at Becket Federated Church diagonal to BAC). Free and open to the public. Donations welcome.

Exploration Series Lecture: Bob Reiss, "Borders Between Fact and Fiction: What Really Happened?" - August 15, 6:30pm. \$5 suggested donation for non-members of Becket Arts Center.

Inmate - Juried Exhibit 4
Friday, August 26 to Monday, September 12, 12:00-4:00pm, Friday-Monday (closed September 3); Artist Reception: Saturday, August 27, 2:00-4:00pm. Free and open to the public.

BAC Annual Gala at Camp Watitoh featuring The Whiskey Treaty Roadshow - Sunday, August 28, 5:00pm. Ticket price includes food by 9:00am. Cash bar service by Applebee's brand. \$40 until August 27th, \$45 day of event and at the door. becketartscenter.org/gala

MEMBERS MAKE THIS POSSIBLE
BECOME A 2022 BAC MEMBER
www.becketartscenter.org/membership



BECKET ARTS CENTER
Gala

The Whiskey Treaty Roadshow

SUNDAY, AUG 28 | 5:00 PM
CAMP WATITOH
1885 MAIN ST., BECKET

TICKETS

TICKET PRICE INCLUDES FOOD
\$40 PRE-SALE (THROUGH AUG 27)
\$45 DAY OF EVENT & AT THE DOOR

becketartscenter.org/gala
OR BUY AT THE BAC
7 BROOKER HILL RD., BECKET



Dear Washington Friends & Neighbors:

August 2022

With the highly transmissible Covid-19 subvariant BA.5 surging, more and more Washington residents seem to be testing positive. Our Board of Health helped obtain 90 free at-home Covid test kits from the DPH. We will be making these available at the Transfer Station on Saturday, 8/6, on a first-come first-served basis, limit 2 per household please.

The last piece of the funding puzzle has finally fallen into place for the collapsed culvert on upper Frost Rd. After giving up on three years of red tape with a federal FEMA grant application, we turned to the MA Dept. of Ecological Restoration for a Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance grant and were just awarded \$367,000 for construction. This is welcome news!

Final permitting for the project is currently underway with the help of community grant from the Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee. It is probably too late now for fall construction, so work will most likely happen next spring. When it does, Frost Road will need to be completely closed to through traffic for about a month. We will keep everyone apprised.

Repaving of the driveway to the Highway Garage has been contracted, but a date has not yet been set, pending other small paving projects we hope to get done at the same time.

The Select Board recently adopted a new Energy Reduction Plan to cut the Town's energy consumption by at least 20% over the next five years. With this in place, we will once again be seeking Green Community designation from the State, which will open the door to grants to help achieve our goals. Thanks to Dave Drugmand, Susan Colgan, Peter Matson, and Tina Hayward for overseeing development of the plan and shepherding this process forward.

The Board is looking for someone who can be a backup administrative assistant to take meeting minutes when Jodi is unable to attend Select Board meetings. This person will serve on an as-needed basis and be paid for hours worked. Anyone who is interested can let Jodi know.

Chief Miller has arranged for a CPR certification course to be held Wednesday evening, 8/17, starting at 5pm in the Town Hall auditorium. Thanks to Ray Ferrin, the Becket Ambulance director, for providing this training. There will be a \$20 fee, due at the door, for processing the paperwork to issue the certification upon completion. Space is limited to 25 participants. Interested residents can sign up via a form on our Town website washington-ma.gov.

The Music in the Park summer series is underway with free concerts scheduled for every Sunday in August, 4–6pm, in the Town Park. Be sure to get out and enjoy summer around town and throughout our beautiful Berkshires!

Kent Lew
Select Board chair

David Ellis
Select Board

John Fish
Select Board clerk

Kayaking around Washington

By Carol Lew

“So lovely was the loneliness of a wild lake.” —Edgar Allan Poe

There are many ways to enjoy the natural beauty of Washington and the surrounding areas. For those who have a kayak, there's an added benefit: the tranquility of paddling on a peaceful lake. Residents of Washington who kayak have favorite spots. Some are in town, and some nearby. Here are ones that are on top of the list.

October Mountain Lake – This lovely lake was created in recent times. Previously, a road existed on land that is now under water. It's a quiet spot; no motorboats are permitted here. In fact, you're more likely to see wildlife than people, particularly on a weekday.

You can get there by way of West Branch Road, off of Washington Mountain Road. Follow West Branch past Four Corners. Take your first left, and at the end of this road you'll see a place to park. You'll have to carry your kayak a short distance to the launching spot.

To the right of the launch parking, there's a picnic area. You'll find picnic tables, grills, and a spot along the shore that's just right for a lawn chair and a good book. This is one part of the State Forest where large trees were cleared recently, so the picnic area still looks a bit bare. It's not noticeable when you're kayaking though, and it's a great place to enjoy nature.

Schoolhouse Reservoir – This tucked away body of water in October Mountain State Forest was created in the 1980s from a shallow valley of forest and wetlands. It's my favorite getaway place of nature. It's quiet, lovely, and I've never seen another person anytime I've paddled there. I've spotted beavers and deer, and they seemed very surprised to see me. The alcoves at the far end of the lake are fun to explore, and in a year when we've had enough rain, you might be able to make your way into one of the creeks that feed the lake.

To get to Schoolhouse Reservoir, take County Road (past the Dreamaway Lodge), and when you get to a fork in the road, take a left. When you see a closed metal gate on your left, you're there. You'll have to carry your kayak about 100 yards to the lake, but it's worth the trek.

Buckley Dunton Lake – This 150-acre lake is in Becket, and can be accessed by a dirt road off of Yokum Pond Road. The entrance is directly across from the intersection with Leonhardt Road". There's parking near a boat launch, so it's easy to get in the water. From the launch site, head to the right and you'll start your journey along the most pristine, undisturbed section of the lake. You'll want to keep your eyes open for beavers. You're likely to see ducks and geese, as there's a nesting area on the lake. Near the end of the paddle, in a long narrow finger of the lake, there are a handful of summer homes. Following the shoreline, it's about a 1 ½ hour leisurely kayak journey.

This is a favorite paddle of Washington resident David Ellis though he notes that it can get choppy when it's windy. He likes fishing there, enjoys the trails along the shoreline, and appreciates that there are a few picnic tables where he can sit with friends. Michele Beemer notes that you can pick blueberries along the shoreline right from your kayak.

Center Pond –This lake is available for kayakers with a Becket Beach Pass. If you do, kayaking, swimming, and beach lounging are great ways spend a day. The lake is dotted with houses and summer camps. I like to play my favorite lake game on Center Pond. It’s called “Which house would I pick to live in?”I paddled the lake one early Fourth of July morning when the kids at the summer camps were just waking up. I saw a dozen or so flags raised and heard the national anthem played three times. There’s joyful activity on this lake, so it’s a great paddle if you prefer being around civilization more than remote spots.

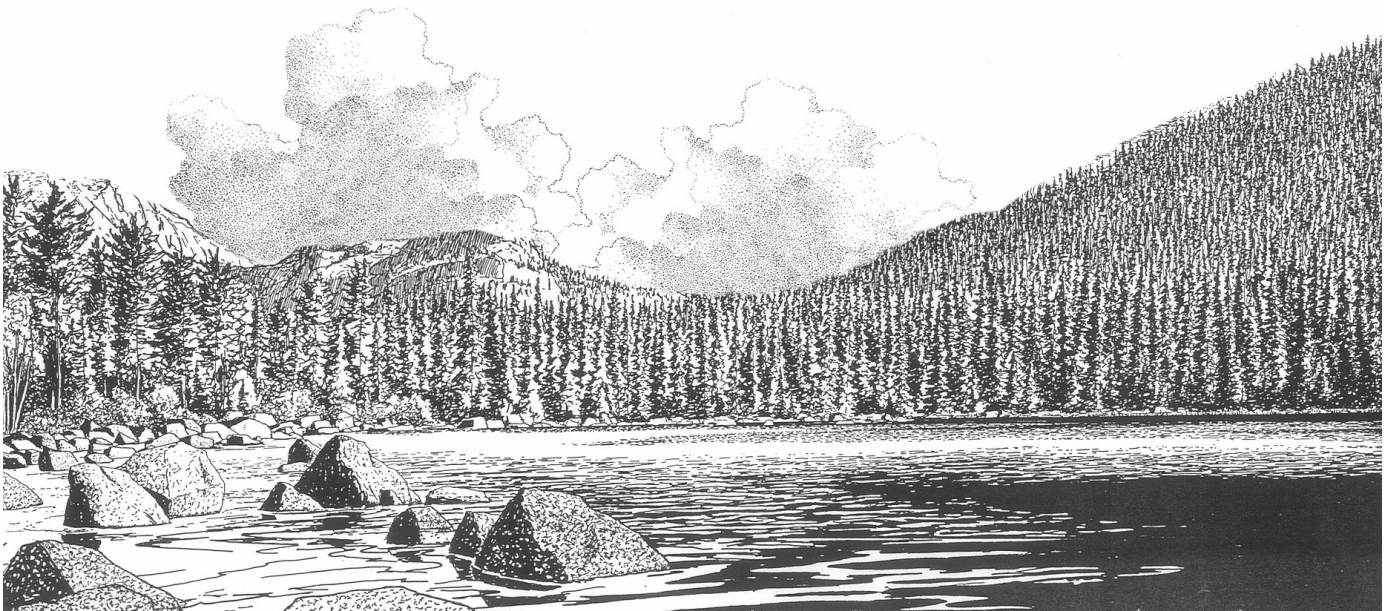
Center Pond is accessible by taking Mecum Way in Becket; if you are headed south from Washington on Route 8, it’s the first right turn after Camp Greylock and it’s before you get to Wade Inn Road.

Upper Goose Pond – Even though it’s a bit farther from Washington, I have to write about Upper Goose Pond. It’s an enjoyable kayak ride, and it’s also a great place to swim. Upper Goose Pond is connected to Lower Goose Pond by a narrow passageway. You can’t park close to Upper Goose Pond; parking is all the way at the other end of Lower Goose Pond, so on this kayak adventure, you’ll see the populated lake shores of Lower Goose, and the natural, pristine Upper Goose. It’s a great place to spend a day.

Washington kayakers have stories to tell about good times they’ve had on this lake. There’ve been many eagle sightings. There’s a favorite large rock on the shores of Upper Goose that’s perfect for picnics. My husband, Kent, and I went with Washingtonian friends for a picnic one gorgeous morning. On our way back, just as we entered Lower Goose Pond, the day became stormy, the winds were strong, and the waters were choppy. It was a daunting, but invigorating experience. By the time we arrived at the landing area, the sun had come out and the water was quiet.... As if it had never happened. One time, Will and Michele Beemer were in their double kayak paddling through the narrow waters between the two ponds, and a squirrel leapt from one shore into their kayak, and then to the other side.

The lake is on the border of Lee and Tyringham. Take Route 20 from Becket towards Lee. Before you get to the outlets, make a left onto Forest Street. Make a left on Ridge Street, and you’ll be able to park and launch your kayak into Lower Goose Pond.

“If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water.” —Loren Eiseley



TOWN OF WASHINGTON AUGUST 2022 CALENDAR

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
7/31	Music In the Park Free Concert Series 4PM Matt York	TOWN HALL 1 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	2	Yoga with Rima 9AM	3	TOWN HALL Historical Commission 10AM Administrative Assistant 10AM-2PM Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM	4	TOWN HALL OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM	5	TOWN HALL TAL-CHI/QUI-GONG CLASS 10AM	6	TOWN HALL Transfer Station 8AM-4PM Free Covid Test distributed on a first come first serve basis	
7	Music In the Park Free Concert Series 4PM Rev Tor	TOWN HALL 8 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	9	Yoga with Rima 9AM Conservation Commission Meeting 6:30PM Planning Board Meeting 7PM	10	TOWN HALL Administrative Assistant 10AM-2PM Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM	11	TOWN HALL OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM	12	TOWN HALL TAL-CHI/QUI-GONG CLASS 10AM Council On Aging Potluck Dinner 5:30PM-7PM	13	TOWN HALL Transfer Station 8AM-4PM	
14	Music In the Park Free Concert Series 4PM Bobby Sweet	TOWN HALL 15 Administrative Assistants 10AM-2PM Select Board Meeting 7:00 - 9:00PM Parks Commission Meeting 6PM 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	16	Yoga with Rima 9AM	17	TOWN HALL Administrative Assistant 10AM-2PM Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM	18	TOWN HALL OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM	19	TOWN HALL TAL-CHI/QUI-GONG CLASS 10AM	20	TOWN HALL Transfer Station 8AM-4PM	
21	Music In the Park Free Concert Series 4PM Krishna Guthrie Town Steering Committee Meeting 3:30PM	TOWN HALL 22 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	23	Yoga with Rima 9AM	24	TOWN HALL Administrative Assistant 10AM-2PM Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM	25	TOWN HALL OSTEOPOROSIS CLASS 9AM	26	TOWN HALL TAL-CHI/QUI-GONG CLASS 10AM	27	TOWN HALL Transfer Station 8AM-4PM	
28	Music In the Park Free Concert Series 4PM Misty Blues	TOWN HALL 29 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	30	Yoga with Rima 9AM Berkshire Harm Reduction Services Mobile Van parked at rear of Town Hall	31	TOWN HALL Administrative Assistant 10AM-2PM Building Inspector 1PM-2PM Transfer Station 5PM-8PM							
Entity	Assessors Board of Health Building Inspector Chapel Commission Clerk Conservation Council on Aging	Contact Karen Avale Jim Huebner Paul Greene Rose Borgnis Allison Mikaniewicz Michelle Lampro Rose Borgnis	Number 7-17-7216 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						

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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.