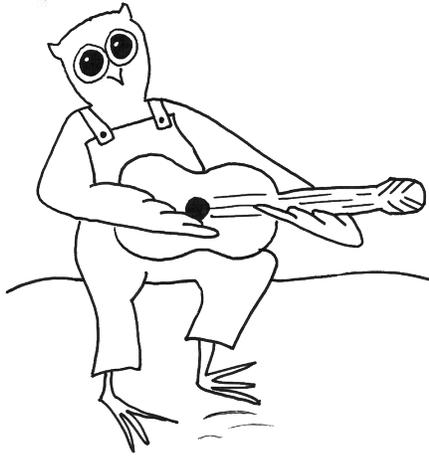




August 2014



8th Annual **Hilltown Hoot**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 12:00-7PM

Washington Town Park

Live Music, Crafts, Food & Fun

"FUN" raising for the schools of Central Berkshire

Live Music:

Terry a la Berry, Krishna Guthrie, Bobby Sweet, The Faculty, High Adventure with Wahconah Band Teacher, Brian Rabuse, White Liger

Tickets available starting August 1st at local stores

www.hilltownhoot.com

Washington Sons and Daughters

**The 105th Annual WASHINGTON
SONS AND DAUGHTERS**

meeting will be held at the Old Town Hall on
Washington Mountain Road

Sunday, September 14, 2014 beginning at 12:00 PM

Please mark your calendars!

The Sons and Daughters will be looking for a new Treasurer.
Carol Kennedy is Retiring from the position as
Treasurer.

The September Tracks will have more information.
I'll give a little hint. ENTERTAINMENT for this year's meeting
will be: **"The Limbshakers Jazz Band"**

The Limbshakers Jazz Band performs old-time, traditional jazz, blues and swing. Everything from "Tin Roof Blues," "Somebody Stole My Gal" and "Ole Miss Rag" to "Jersey Bounce" and "Opus One." Past performances include Club Helsinki Hudson, Naumkeag, Norman Rockwell Museum, Sheffield Land Trust, Berkshire Arts and Technology Charter School, New Lebanon Library, Roe Jan Library and other venues. Visit online at allenlivermore.wordpress.com

Allen Livermore, saxophone, clarinet and vocals

Tim Thibideau, guitar

Pete Toigo, upright bass

Voter Registration for the September 9th State Primary

If you are a town resident, 18 years or older and not currently registered to vote in Washington, please be advised that the deadline to register to vote in the September 9th State Primary is Wednesday, August 20, 2014. There will be a special voter registration on this day from 2:00 - 4:00 pm and from 7:00 - 8:00 pm at the Town Hall, 8 Summit Hill Road, Washington. Contact information 413-623-2185; washingtontownclerk@yahoo.com.

Absentee Ballots for the September 9th State Primary

If you need an absentee ballot for the upcoming State Primary, please contact the Town Clerk to request an absentee ballot application prior to Monday, September 5, 2014 at 12:00 PM. The absentee ballot application is also available on the Elections Division website http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/absentee_ballot.pdf. You can download and complete the application and either mail it to the Town Clerk or bring it to the Town Clerk's office on Monday evenings. Contact information 413-623-2185; washingtontownclerk@yahoo.com.

September State Primary Information

The State Primary will be held Tuesday, September 9, 2014. Voting for Washington town residents will occur at the Town Hall, 8 Summit Hill Road, Washington. Polling hours are the 7:00 am - 8:00 pm. For additional information about the election, including candidates that are running please visit the Elections Division website <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleidx.htm>

Ongoing...

Western Massachusetts Master Gardeners will be soil testing and answering gardening questions at the Berkshire Mall Farmers' Market on Saturday, August 23 from 9-12. Directions for obtaining soil for testing may be found on the WMMGA.org web site. There is a suggested donation of \$1. for soil testing.

Western Massachusetts Master Gardeners' will be conducting a gardening class at Springside Park, 874 North St. Pittsfield at the demonstration gardens behind the Springside House at 10 am. Saturday, August 2. The class is "Choosing, Growing and Harvesting Vegetables". The class is free and lasts from 1-2 hours. You can register or obtain more information by contacting Mary Ann Emery, 413 743-4284, memery395@gmail.com or Jim McCarthy, 413 637-2940, heljim@msn.com.

The monthly **Potluck for Washington Seniors** will be held at Town Hall on Friday, August 16 at 5:30 pm. If you have questions, e-mail Jeff Sawtelle at BBejeff@aol.com.

The children's reading and craft program currently held at the Becket Athenaeum on Tuesday mornings will be changing to Wednesday mornings 10:30-noon.

Please join us for interesting stories, fun crafts, and a nutritious snack. All children are welcome. The focus is on preschool and early elementary students.

This program is sponsored by the Becket Athenaeum and a grant from the Berkshire Taconic - Central Berkshire Fund.

8/6 Fish/Sea Make jelly fish using paper plates and yarn.

8/13 Bones Sarah Reedy, a Biological Anthropologist will read books, talk about bones, and assemble a skeleton with the children.

8/20 Quilts Jennifer Beatty will have each child design a quilt square and then sew them together to make a special story hour quilt.

8/27 Fire Fighters Visit the Becket Fire Station (Story hour to be held at the fire station. Drawing - Big E tickets and free Yankee Candle wax hand.

Yoga and Qigong

Health Preservation Classes are held every Friday in the Washington Town Hall community room from 2:30 to 4:00 PM. A great class for anyone who would like to take a more active role in maintaining a greater sense of wellbeing. Classes are low impact with a focus on breathing, stretching, massage and meditation. Individual needs are addressed. Individuals with disabilities are encouraged. Questions can be directed to Heidi Nugent at (413) 623-8713.

There will be no Selectmen's Meeting on Monday, August, 4, 2014. The Selectmen will meet again on Monday, August 11, 2014

To our fellow Washington residents:

August 2014

The ceremony dedicating Washington Mountain Road as a Scenic Byway in honor of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans was held at the Old Town Hall on July 19. Among the nearly one hundred attendees were our State Senator Ben Downing and our State Representative Smitty Pignatelli, both of whom were instrumental in getting the work done. Representative Paul Mark, Sheriff Bowler, members of the Dalton and Becket Select Boards, a member of Congressman Neal's staff, and, most importantly, dozens of veterans observed the dedication. The Town website has more details and pictures.

- Some of our residents expressed concern about this designation, primarily that the Board should have sought more public commentary. While we are confident that the overwhelming majority of Washingtonians support honoring our veterans, we are mindful that many misconceptions could have been avoided. We hope that in the future we have increased participation at Select Board meetings.

In response to concerns from some residents about the condition of some of our roads we have commissioned Berkshire Regional Planning (BRPC) to assess the Town's roads. The results will be used to both prioritize current work and as the basis for a comprehensive maintenance plan. We will share the study results when available.

Our Administrative Assistants have completed calling those who did not respond to our business census and have compiled the information. The data will be the basis for creating a business by-law or laws to protect our existing businesses and manage future development. We will begin the process Monday 8/19 with the Planning Board.

- One issue that arose during the survey is that many people no longer have a land line. We ask that those of you with no land line give your cell number to our Administrative Assistants. The information will be held in confidence and is only for use for emergency contact.

The heavy rains in June severely damaged Frost Road below the Eden Glen Dam. We have appealed to Senators Warren and Markey and Congressman Neal for expedited FEMA (Federal Emergency Management) funding. Representatives from both FEMA and MEMA (Massachusetts Emergency Management) visited the site on July 17. We hope to hear what funds will be available for reconstructing the area in the near future.

We are finalizing a Request for Proposals for hydrological studies and designs for new culverts on Cross Place, Lower Valley and Lower Sargent Roads. As we noted last month DOT will not provide any funding for these projects, so once we have cost estimates we will work with the Finance Committee on a schedule and a financing proposal for voter approval.

We are working with our neighbor towns through BRPC on the proposed gas pipeline. Dalton has already taken a stance against the pipeline. We may need to provide funding for an outside counsel. We have requested that Kinder Morgan, the company proposing the pipeline attend a Select Board meeting for a presentation and Q&A. We will post the meeting at the Transfer Station and Town Hall when it is scheduled.

Raspberries are in. Tomatoes and corn soon. Enjoy!

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Shaun Lennon
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case
Select Board

Chapter 61, 61A and 61B

Are you a landowner interested in conserving our forestland or farmland and saving property taxes? An excellent publication concerning the state of Massachusetts Chapter 61 current use tax programs is available at <http://masswoods.net/sites/masswoods.net/files/Ch-61-Web.pdf>. Alternately Dick Spencer (623-5865) can arrange to get you a paper or emailed copy. Briefly, the Chapter 61 programs allow landowners of at least 10 acres in excess of the minimum house lot to save significantly on their property taxes in exchange for committing to not develop the land for at least 5 years. The landowner benefits from reduced property taxes; the townspeople benefit from the preservation of open land; and town finances benefit from a reduced burden for education and road maintenance.



Washington Tracks
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8 Summit Hill Rd.
Washington, MA 01223

www.washington-ma.com

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Please send your Tracks info by 25th of the month

_mrsabeski@mac.com
put TRACKS in the subject