



*August 2015*



The monthly potluck dinner for Washington Seniors  
will be Friday, August 21 at the town hall at 5 pm.

**SUNDAY EVENING  
IN THE PARK**

**Washington Town Park on Rte 8  
By The Gazebo**

**Come One And Come All**

**Free Live Jam Session Every Sunday Evening  
From June 7 to August 30  
From 5 PM to Dark, Weather Permitting  
(No Event If Rain or Windy Conditions)**

**Bring Your Instrument Or Bring Yourself  
Take Turns Playing A Song  
Jam Along, Sing Along,  
Or Just Enjoy The Music  
Everyone Is Invited**

**Hosted by B. Michael Moro and Friends**

Our Wonderful Park Is Clean and Help Us Keep It That Way



**There will be no Hilltown Hoot this year**

We are taking the time to reorganize and we'll see you in 2016!

## **DROP-IN WRITING CLASSES**

Need a gentle push in your writing practice? Each session will begin with a painless writing exercise, followed by (optional) time to share your work in a supportive setting.

**Mondays in August** at the Becket Arts Center, 7 Brooker Hill Rd., Becket, MA, August 3 - 31, 7:00-8:30 pm (5 sessions). Drop-in for one or all.

**For details, please email Lara: [laratupper@gmail.com](mailto:laratupper@gmail.com)**

Lara Tupper, MFA, is the author of *A Thousand and One Nights* (Harcourt and Untreed Reads), a novel about singers at sea. She taught writing at Rutgers University for nine years and now presents workshops throughout the Berkshires. She facilitates a warm, unpretentious space for writers to gather. [www.laratupper.com](http://www.laratupper.com)

**Date: 7/27/2015**

**Contact: Denise Johns**

**Phone: 413-358-8801**

**E-mail: [nisijohns@gmail.com](mailto:nisijohns@gmail.com)**

The Town of Washington is currently seeking town residents interested in serving on the Washington Cultural Council. There are at least 2 vacancies on the council that need to be filled beginning in November. The Washington Cultural Council is part of a grass-roots network of 329 local councils that serve every city and town in the state. The program is the largest, most decentralized one of its kind in the United States. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which then allocates funds to each local council.

The Washington Cultural Council is responsible for awarding grants each year to support cultural activities in town and Berkshire County, using the funding the town receives from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The Washington Cultural Council generally meets 3 times a year in the fall.

Anyone interested in serving on the council should contact Denise Johns at 413-358-8801 or email at [nisijohns@gmail.com](mailto:nisijohns@gmail.com).

**Western Master Gardeners** will be soil testing and answering gardening questions at the Berkshire Mall Farmers' Market from 9-12. on Saturday August 15th and Saturday, August 29. Directions for obtaining soil for testing may be found on the [WMMGA.org](http://WMMGA.org) web site. There is a suggested donation of \$1. for soil testing.

**We are having the Music in the Garden Event** at Canterbury Farm on Aug. 16, 2015 from 12-7 with the following bands: The Corvettes a Doo Wop Revue, Lady Di sings Motown, and Jack Waldheim. We will be selling food and beer and wine. Antique cars will be displayed. Tickets are \$20 at the door and \$15 if bought prior to the show date at Becket General Store, Wood Bros Music, and Canterbury Farm. As in the past, proceeds will go to the Food Pantry.

To our Washington neighbors:

August 2015

Dr. Rob Putnam has stepped down as Superintendent for the Central Berkshire Regional School District. Dr. Putnam served our community very ably and will be missed. Our very capable Assistant Superintendent, Laurie Casna, will serve on an interim basis.

Thanks to Hinsdale's Ray Bolduc and Kathy Turner for presenting us with the range of Salvation Army services available. If you or one of your neighbors is struggling to make ends meet, pay for heat or need assistance for food clothing or shelter you can contact the Reverend Jennifer Kimball at (607) 434-5632. Help is typically provided on a one-time basis but for those in need, this should be the first call.

The formal application for the proposed pipeline is expected in October. The good news is that the route should be fixed then and at this time we have no indication that it will revert to any part of Washington. The bad news is that it appears that the project is moving forward.

- August 31 is the deadline for preliminary comments from us to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regarding the potential impact of the pipeline. In addition to the overall Berkshires environment, this includes such issues as property values, the effects of the construction, public safety, etc. Comments from all of the Pipeline Working Group's members will be aggregated into a single submission for maximum leverage.

Brush, downed trees and other organic debris constantly accumulates along the Town's 40+ miles of roads. Rather than pay to have it hauled away the Highway crew will chip it up and it will be available at the Transfer Station for anyone who wants to use it as mulch.

We have hit a couple of delays in our road and bridge projects:

- Although the contract for the complete reconstruction of Washington Mountain Road has been awarded, the project may not be complete until next spring. The good news is that the resurfaced road should continue to serve us well until then.
- Holden, the firm we engaged for the Cross Place culvert design, failed to complete their work according to our contract. Town Counsel is seeking a recovery of the money we have paid them. We are still determining how to proceed with the culvert which will not be completed before winter.
- DOT's preliminary design for the Summit Hill bridge over the CSX tracks has been completed; timing of the construction is still not known.

The Eden Glen dam has been inspected and found to be viable. We have also determined how to proceed with the abutting property owner. Next steps will include clearing out the debris at the base of the dam.

- Determination of whether to restore the area for recreation or remove the dam will be discussed at a Capital meeting among the Select Board, Planning Board and FinComm on Monday August 17 beginning at 7:30.

We have run into both regulatory and insurance problems with using residents as flagmen on road projects, so we are not proceeding with the idea.

Thanks to the Guthries for the many many years of great music we've had at the Town Park. We look forward to next year when we hope the Hoot will resume!

Jim Huebner  
Select Board Chair

Shaun Lennon  
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case  
Select Board



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

[www.washington-ma.com](http://www.washington-ma.com)

## Support Our Local Businesses

### **The Becket General**

30 Washington Street  
Becket, MA 01223  
Heather Anello, owner  
Coffee bar, Deli, Sandwiches & Pizza  
Beer, Wine, Groceries & Dairy Products  
Ph: 623.5700 / Fax: 623.5707

### **Hilltowns Veterinary Clinic**

Dr. Sharon Lynch, MVB  
133 South Washington State Rd  
Washington, MA 01223  
Phone: (413)623-5329  
[www.hilltownsvetclinic.com](http://www.hilltownsvetclinic.com)

### **Horace Mann Insurance Agency**

Po Box 772 Becket Ma. 01223. Phone  
413)623-2112.  
Fax 413)623-5551.  
Provide all Personal Lines of Insurance. Provide  
Financial and retirement products too.

### **Independent Stampin' Up! Demonstrator**

Sue Paquette  
623.5918  
"quality stamp sets, card stock, ink pads, etc -  
I offer creative & fun parties for you and your  
friends in your home or mine.

### **Justice of the Peace**

Dorothy Filanowska  
(413) 446-6921 /  
[dora@justicedora.com](mailto:dora@justicedora.com)  
<http://www.justicedora.com>

### **Mark Newton's**

**Full Service Pet and Home  
Care, also light ground  
maintenance, minor home  
repair & snow plowing**  
Pet sitting in your home: Dogs,  
Cats, Horses, and so much  
more Passionate, Reliable, and  
Caring.  
413 623-2254 or email:  
[markspetcare@gmail.com](mailto:markspetcare@gmail.com)

### **Summit Hill Campground**

34 Old Middlefield Rd.  
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

### **Your Way Computer**

Frank Kennedy  
1153 Washington Mt. Road  
Washington, MA 01223  
Call: 623.5180 / Fax: 623.2018  
E-Mail:  
[carolandfranksr@carolandfrank.com](mailto:carolandfranksr@carolandfrank.com)  
By appointment only

**Email your TRACKS info by the 25th of the month to:**

**[mrsabeski@mac.com](mailto:mrsabeski@mac.com)**

**Please put TRACKS in the subject line.**

**OR: Washington Tracks, 216 Beach Rd. Washington, MA 01223**