



June 2015



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
No Jam Session August 2nd
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

To all town citizens,

Open burn season in Massachusetts ended May 1. Agricultural qualified individuals may still burn provided weather and related conditions are met and they obtain permission from the Fire Chief.

Outdoor cooking is allowed year-round and not subject to open burning limits. An excerpt from Massachusetts General Law states:

"...persons eighteen years of age or older may, without a permit, set, maintain or increase a reasonable fire for the purpose of cooking, upon sandy or gravelly land free from living or dead vegetation or upon sandy or rocky beaches bordering on tidewater, if the fire is enclosed within rocks, metal or other nonflammable material."

Due to the lack of rainfall this year and the number of recent red flag days, extreme caution is recommended when cooking outdoors.

A bonfire is not considered a cooking fire. Bonfires must be pre-approved and permitted by the Fire Chief and are extremely regulated and limited.

Any questions relative to the aforementioned material or other fire department or forest warden related questions contact the Fire Chief at 413-623-2185.

Thank you,

Paul Mikaniewicz
Fire Chief/Forest Warden

**OFFICIAL RESULTS
TOWN OF WASHINGTON
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION**

**Saturday, May 16, 2015
12:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.**

AUDITOR (3 year term)
Vote for one

Write-Ins: 5
Blanks: 167

FINANCE COMMITTEE (3 year term)
Vote for one

Michael Burke, Incumbent: 119
Write-Ins: 6
Blanks: 47

PLANNING BOARD (5 year term)
Vote for one

Donald Gagnon, Incumbent: 156
Blanks: 6

SELECT BOARD (3 year term)
Vote for one

James Huebner, Incumbent: 112
Rose A. Borgnis: 56
Write-Ins: 3
Blanks: 1

TAX COLLECTOR (1 year unexpired term)
Vote for one

Sandra L. Cameron 146
Write-Ins: 5
Blanks: 21

TOWN CLERK (3 year term)
Vote for one

Allison Mikaniewicz, Incumbent: 161
Write-Ins: 1
Blanks: 10

TREE WARDEN (3 year term)
Vote for one

Write-Ins:
Craig Willis: 24
Other: 11
Blanks: 137

TOTAL BALLOTS CAST: 172

TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS: 430

40% VOTER TURN OUT



Allison Mikaniewicz
Town Clerk
May 16, 2015

Western Massachusetts Master Gardeners will be soil testing and answering gardening questions at the Berkshire Mall Farmers' Market on Saturday, June 13 and June 27 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.

Seven Family Tag Sale in Washington and Becket!
Estate, Antiques and Household Items:
Sat. June 6, 2015, 9:00am - 2:00pm
First stop is at 554 S. Wash. State Rd. in Washington. Continue from there to next 6 homes. All on or close to Rt.8.

Washington Qualifies as a WiredWest "Fiber Town"!

At our Annual Town Meeting on May 6, an article was approved authorizing Washington to borrow our share of the funds to build the WiredWest regional broadband network. With a standing-room only turnout, the likes of which has not been seen in years, the vote in favor of the article was nearly unanimous, 102-7. Just hours before, the town reached our goal to get 40% of households to sign up for service. The vote and the success of the signup campaign qualified Washington as a "Fiber Town" eligible to become part of the network.

Thanks for your support at Town Meeting and for signing up. If you haven't yet, you can still sign up at www.wiredwest.net. Washington joins 14 other western Mass. towns in qualifying, and more are yet to come. Preliminary work on the network will begin this summer with crews out surveying utility poles to determine where the fiber cables can be strung. We won't actually get service for another 2-3 years, but the process of bringing broadband home to Washington is finally underway.

Steve Nelson, Washington Delegate to WiredWest, 413-623-2221, steve@wiredwest.net

To our fellow Washington residents:

June 2015

Thank you to the 172 people who voted on May 16 and to the majority who maintained the stability of our Select Board by reelecting Chairman Jim Huebner. We will continue to work in the best interests of all of Washington's citizens. We will continue to make sure that we manage by consensus and foster an atmosphere of civility. Everyone is welcome to our meetings and we will always make time to listen. We want to hear from you!

- Congratulations to the others reelected: Town Clerk Allison Mikaniewicz, Planning Board member Don Gagnon and Finance Committee member Mike Burke.
- Special congratulations and welcome to our new Tax Collector, Sandra Cameron!

We had well over a hundred attendees at the Annual Town Meeting on May 6, most in anyone's memory. Democracy in action! After some spirited debate our voters overwhelmingly supported bonding for WiredWest's fiber optic network, a by-law clarifying home-based businesses, and notional support to honor all of the Town's veterans from the Revolutionary War to the present.

- The intent is to fund any construction of an expanded veterans' memorial through donations and grants. We thank Eyal Shapira who offered \$1000 to offset the Town's proposed seed money for design.
- The question on the future of the Eden Glen Dam was tabled to allow gathering more information. We will be doing an assessment of its condition, determining the boundaries of the Town's ownership, and cleaning out at least some of the accumulated debris.
- Thanks to everyone who put the warrant and the supporting documentation together. Special thanks to Moderator Ed Bond who made the meeting go so smoothly.

Thanks to Michelle Lampro for getting a grant to partially fund a new paper recycling bin for the Transfer Station and to Craig Willis for supplying a rigid plastics container.

Thanks to our Parks Commission for repainting the Park's bridges, Gazebo, tables and benches in time for the summer season.

Thanks to Selectman Lennon the Town will have help from the Sheriff's Department to fix up the Old Town Hall and other maintenance projects under Ed Bond's direction

As we come to the end of the Fiscal Year the Select Board will be making annual reappointments. We have one volunteer for the Conservation Commission but more are welcome and the Parks Commission can always use help. The Town always has things to be done, so please step forward if you can and let Jodi Hostetter know of your interest.

Work is proceeding on schedule for both the replacement of the Cross Place/Depot Brook culvert this summer and the Frost Road/ Depot Brook bridge for summer of 2016.

Despite our appeal to the Secretary of Transportation to expedite the replacement of the Summit Hill Road/CSX bridge we still have no firm commitment from DOT, other than that a design is in the works. We will keep after them.

All of the Annual Town Reports through FY2013 are now available at the Town Hall. FY2014 should be ready shortly and FY2015 later this fall.

We plan to have a Special Town Meeting on June 29 to adjust our accounts before year end. We hope many of our voters will attend.

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Shaun Lennon
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case
Select Board

The monthly pot luck for Washington Seniors will be held Friday, June 19 at town hall at 5:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to share.

Western Massachusetts Master Gardeners' will be conducting four gardening classes at Springside Park, 874 North St., Pittsfield at the demonstration gardens behind the Springside House.

June 6th, 2 pm, Planting a Vegetable Garden, Diane Wetzel.

June 13, 10 am, Color in the Shade Garden, Donna DiGennaro

June 20, 10 am, For the Love of Roses, Liz Leonard, Geri Jones

June 27, 10 am, Transplanting and Dividing, Kathy DeVlyder

The classes are free and last from 1-2 hours. You can register or obtain more information by contacting Jim McCarthy, 413 637-2940, heljim@msn.com.

**HAPPY
FATHERS
DAY!**

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

www.washington-ma.com

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