



★ October 2015 ★



Special Town Election Voter Registration and Absentee Ballots

As stated in the Selectboard letter, the Town of Washington will hold a special town election on Saturday, November 14, 2015 from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

If you need to register to vote in the Town of Washington, the deadline to do that and be eligible to vote at this election is Monday, October 26, 2015. Please contact the Town Clerk - washingtontownclerk@yahoo.com - for a [voter registration form](#) on or before this date. The Town Clerk will hold extended office hours - 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM - on this date as well.

If you will be out of town on election day and unable to make it to the polls, you have the option of requesting an absentee ballot. The deadline to request an absentee ballot for this special town election is Friday, November 13, 2015 at 12:00 noon. Please contact the Town Clerk - washingtontownclerk@yahoo.com - for an [absentee ballot application](#) on or before the deadline, but please be aware that process for an absentee ballot includes completing the application requesting a ballot, so earlier than the deadline is recommended. An absentee ballot cannot be issued until a completed application is on file with the Town Clerk. Voted absentee ballots must be received at the polls by the time the polls close at 4:00 PM.

JOHN F.X. KEATOR
Memorial Pumpkin Walk
 Friday, October 30th
 Viewing 6:00-10:00PM
 Trick or Treat 6:30-7:30PM
 Refreshments at the Gazebo
 PLEASE NO PETS
 Donations accepted & appreciated
 at The Transfer Station
 and Becket General Store

MONTHLY DINNER & MOVIE

October 16th, 2015
COA Potluck Dinner

Dinner 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Attendees select Movie, 6:30 pm til ?

Bring what you can, you guys and gals are great!

WASHINGTON LOVES ITS SENIORS

Saturday, October 3, Kathy DeVlyder, Master Gardener will be giving a talk on "Putting your Garden to Bed" at the Springside Master Gardener beds near the greenhouse at 10 am lasting about 2 hours. For more information, contact Kathy at 413 637 1769 or artmdev@msn.com.



WASHINGTON CULTURAL COUNCIL SEEKS FUNDING PROPOSALS
Proposals for community-oriented arts, humanities, and science programs
due October 15TH

Date: September 14, 2015*Contact: Denise Johns*Phone: 413-358-8801*E-mail: nisijohns@gmail.com

The **Washington Cultural Council** has set an **October 15th** postmark deadline for organizations, schools and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in the community.

These grants can support a variety of artistic projects and activities in **Washington and Berkshire County** -- including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies or performances in schools, workshops and lectures.

The **Washington Cultural Council** is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community. This year, the **Washington Cultural Council** will distribute about **\$4,400** in grants.

For specific guidelines and complete information on the **Washington Cultural Council**, contact **Denise Johns** at **413-358-8801** or email: **nisijohns@gmail.com**. Application forms and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available online at http://www.mass-culture.org/lcc_public.aspx.

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To our Washington neighbors:

October 2015

The annual Sons & Daughters reunion hosted almost 50 people despite a rather overcast day. The food was great, particularly the pies – Trish Drugmand and her daughter Dana took prizes for both apple and raspberry – the music wonderful, but the highlight, as always, was the celebration of our Town's history and character that makes us all proud to live here. Thanks to all those whose efforts made for a special occasion. For anyone who missed it – see you next year!

Congratulations to our whole financial team! The Town's tax rate was the fourth one certified in the Commonwealth. The modest increase of 1.6% reflects both the loss of our largest taxpayer – Bucksteep – to tax exempt status as well as growth from new construction.

We had a visit from Eric Nakajima, Director of the Mass Broadband Institute (MBI). MBI is a government agency which acts as the conduit for the state's portion of the funding for the high speed internet construction by WiredWest. MBI is now insisting that the Town's borrowing authority is insufficient proof of our intent to go forward with this project that is vital to our economic viability and wants us to have a debt-exclusion vote. The vote has no financial implications for the Town but without it MBI will not include us in the early planning for construction of the system. The vote is scheduled for Saturday November 14 from 12-4.

Although we may still be able to put the Cross Place culvert out to bid, it appears unlikely that we will be able to complete the construction this year. If so we will seek recovery of at least some of the money paid to the design contractor, Holden.

Balthazar, the contractor who will be reconstructing Washington Mountain Road, has started preliminary work.

We hope to see you all at a Special Town Meeting at 7:00 on Monday October 26. There are three ballot questions, to see whether the voters:

- Want to spend roughly \$110,000 to restore the Eden Glen Dam area or a slightly lesser amount to remove the dam.
- Will approve a business by-law to require everyone in Town with a home-based business to register and pay a \$10 annual fee. This will insure that all business activity conforms to our zoning and the character of the Town is preserved.
- Will continue to support the Town's participation in the Pipeline Working Group since we no longer appear to be in the pipeline's path.

There will also be free flu shots available at the Town Hall before the Special Town Meeting on October 26 from 5 to 7. Get protected!

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Shaun Lennon
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case
Select Board

"Introducing A Matter of Balance, a FREE program brought to you by Berkshire Health Systems, YMCA and Elder Services of Berkshire County, designed to help older adults manage concerns about falls.

The workshop is 8-2 hour sessions held two times a week for 4 weeks and will be held in the auditorium at Washington Town Hall.

This program will be given in October and November. Confirmed dates and times are coming soon."

"Announcing the Becket Federated Church Parish House will hold its Christmas Bazaar on November 14, 2015 from 9:00 am to 2:00pm.. Featured will be live wreaths, kissing balls, homemade baked goods and arts and crafts. Vendors are wanted. Call Mary Peltier at 413-623-8844".



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

www.washington-ma.com

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By appointment only

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

mrsabeski@mac.com

Please put TRACKS in the subject line.