

August 2016



Washington Council on Aging 2016 appointees are listed below, we look forward to meeting and working with the Towns Seniors in the upcoming months.

Jan Paxton-Huebner, Barbara Keyes, Beverly Wiley, Stephen Deloye , Jeff Sawtelle

2016 FARMER'S MARKET COUPONS

Available for pick up on Tuesday, August 2, 2016 at 7PM at the Town Hall. The coupons will be issued on a first come, first served basis for senior residents of the Town meeting the eligibility requirements.

TOWN of WASHINGTON SENIORS POT LUCK DINNER

At the Town Hall 8 Summit Hill Road

August 19, 2016 - Time 5:30PM

The COA will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, and corn on the cob at this month's pot luck dinner for the Washington Seniors. Please come and enjoy a relaxing evening cookout and the company of your fellow Town residents.

10 year old, Ja'Quan lives in Becket with his 2 younger brothers and has autism.

His family is running the Son Rise Program to help him learn communication skills, make eye contact, and build friendships.

Ja'Quan and his "team" are looking for volunteers to come play with him in his Son Rise playroom.

They are looking for open hearted, fun loving community members to come to Becket (near the Chester line) to join the team.

If you have a couple hours a week you could donate to this amazing boy, please call his mom,

Tammy Merenda at 413.717.2085 or email her at tammymerenda@gmail.com

No special skills needed :)

107th Annual Washington Sons & Daughters

will be held on Sunday, September 11th

ALL Washington residents and anyone who has ever lived in the town are welcome!

Music and refreshments will be served.

Please bake your favorite cookies and enter them in the baking contest - tape your name on the bottom of your plate. Prizes will be awarded & please bring enough to share :)

On Saturday, August 13, 2016 **Western Massachusetts Master Gardeners** will be soil testing and answering gardening questions at the Berkshire Mall 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.

Upcoming Election Reminder

Election: State Primary
 Date: Thursday, September 8, 2016
 Voting Hours: 7:00 AM 8:00 PM
 Polling Location: Town Hall
 8 Summit Hill Road
 Washington, MA

Actions required if you would like to vote in this election:

- Town residents 18 years or older that are new residents in town or have never been registered to vote in Washington need to register by Friday, August 19, 2016.
 - Not sure if you are already registered? You can use the following online tool provided by the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Election Division. [Am I Registered to Vote?](#)
- As this is a primary election, there will be separate ballots for each of the political parties Republican, Democrat, Green-Rainbow and United Independent.
 - If you are registered in one of these parties, you will have to vote in that party. If you would like to vote in a party other than the party you are registered in you will need to change your registration by Friday, August 19, 2016
 - If you are an Unenrolled voter, no action is required. On election day you will be asked at check-in which party's ballot you would like to vote and you will be given that ballot. Your voter registration does not change; you will still be an Unenrolled voter.
- If you will not be able to vote at the above polling location during the voting hours, you can apply for an absentee ballot and mail the completed application to the Town Clerk at 8 Summit Hill Road, Washington, MA 01223.
 - An absentee ballot cannot be mailed to you without a completed application.
 - The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is Wednesday, September 7, 2016 at 12:00 noon.
- Races on the Primary ballots in September include: Representative in Congress, Councillor, Senator in General Court Representative in General Court and Sheriff.

TOWN OF WASHINGTON TRANSFER STATION GUIDE

Wednesdays 5-8 pm
Saturdays 8-4 pm

HOUSEHOLD TRASH: FREE - includes normal every day household trash - **NO RECYCLABLES**

PAPER & CARDBOARD RECYCLING: FREE - please familiarize yourself with the dos and don'ts - we have magnets on container with lists - breaking down your boxes helps save on hauling charges.

BOTTLES & CANS RECYCLING: FREE - please familiarize yourself with the dos and don'ts - we have magnets on container with lists - squishing plastic containers will save on hauling charges

FLUORESCENTS - RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES - MERCURY T'STATS - CAR BATTERIES: FREE - please deposit with attendant (alkaline batteries go in trash)

METAL CONTAINER: Most misc. items are free - bulky lightweight appliances will be charged for depending on current prices for recycled metals.

CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS: For items that can't be burned with normal trash - please see attendant before dumping - this container goes to a landfill - we try to burn everything possible - charged according to items.

USED MOTOR OIL & ANTIFREEZE: FREE - cannot be contaminated w/water - separate containers for each

TVs & ELECTRONICS: fee based on size & weight - must be put into one of the boxes in container

CLOTHING: please put in plastic bags for easy transport. Container is across from paper bin entrance.

NOTE: Below is a partial list of the most common items that are charged for separately. There is a \$ 25. per truck load charge for **non-household trash** (spring cleaning, etc.) and will be assessed per load based on weight. If everyone dropped one item for free - we would have a full container with no money to cover cost. PLEASE BE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOURSELF AND YOUR TRASH. Note: charge applies to items put in compactor as well.

Chairs: recliners	\$10.00
Chairs: upholstered	\$5.00
Dehumidifiers	\$15.00
Freezers	\$25.00
Pressure tanks	\$5.00
Refrigerators	\$25.00
Sofas: regular	\$15.00
Sofas: sleeper	\$25.00
Tires: off rim	\$3.00
Tires: on rim	\$5.00

Toilet / Sink	\$3.00	
TV's, Monitors, Misc. electronics	\$ 5 - \$ 20	
Water heaters - depends on size, weight	\$10.00	
Computers, printers and scanners	\$5.00	each
Demo debris - roof shingles, tiles	\$50.00	per truck load
Demo debris - sheetrock, wood	\$25.00	per truck load
Furniture - depends on size and material		
Gas tanks - LEAVE W/ATTENDANT	\$5.00	each
Mattresses and/or box springs - queen / king	\$20.00	each
Mattresses and/or box springs - single / full	\$10.00	each

Any questions, please contact the Town Clerk at allison8788@gmail.com or 413-623-8788 x 105 or 413-623-2185.

The Planning Board is looking for a new member to fill the term of Mary Jarvis who has resigned. The person, if interested, would be on the ballot at next spring's election. The Planning board meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at town hall. Any one interested should contact Chair Marilyn Wiley to express interest in the position and learn more details. Marilyn Wiley, 623 5859 or marilynwiley8@gmail.com.

To our Washington neighbors:

August 2016

Last month we forgot to mention that residents need a sticker to use Becket Beach. They are free and we have a new supply available at either the Town Hall or the Transfer Station. Selectman Mike Case one of whose other hats is heading up DCR in Western Mass is looking into making the Washington Mountain Lake recreational area on West Branch Road more accessible to Town residents.

Road & Bridge:

- Washington Mountain Road remains on schedule. The drainage work should be about done as you read this. Pavement reclamation has started from the Dalton line and, once completed, will be followed by paving. Guard rails, loam and seed and other roadway finishes will complete the job.
- We have contracted for the resurfacing of Blotz Road and the replacement of the Cross Place culvert. Work on both should begin this summer.
- We are still waiting for DOT commentary and approval on our plan to use the existing Middlefield bridge abutments.
- Likewise DOT still has not given full approval of the plans for the Eden Glen culvert, but we still expect to bid the project for work to be done this year. In addition to applying for a MassWorks grant we may also be able to tap into the state's new small bridge funding program.

- There will be an informational session on the culvert work at the Select Board meeting on August 15.

Although MBI will pay for the survey work on the Town's utility poles in preparation for the installation of fiber optic cables, both Verizon and Eversource (owners of the poles) are imposing "filing fees". Verizon wants \$425 bad enough but Eversource is charging us \$10 per pole between \$5500 and \$6000. Since these specific costs were not planned for (they would have been wrapped into the overall project had not MBI insisted on towns, not WiredWest, owning the infrastructure) we may have to have a Special Town Meeting to authorize the spending.

A proposal to put the new Veterans' Memorial on the Old Town Common and move the existing veterans' memorial there from the Old Town Hall is being considered by the Historical Commission and the Select Board. We have reached out once again to Eyal Shapira to see if he will head a committee to work through design and finance while maintaining the proper focus on the solemnity of the memorial.

The Board is pursuing two new proposals for reduced-price renewable electrical energy:

- Becket is working with a firm named Syncarpa that is building "Community Solar" arrays in Pittsfield and Hancock. Syncarpa has offered to provide the Town and any of our residents who want to participate solar-generated power at a rate 12% below Eversource's.
- Another firm, Clean Footprint, is building solar sites in North County and is offering a similar proposal.
- The Board will follow up on both, get more details, and keep you posted.

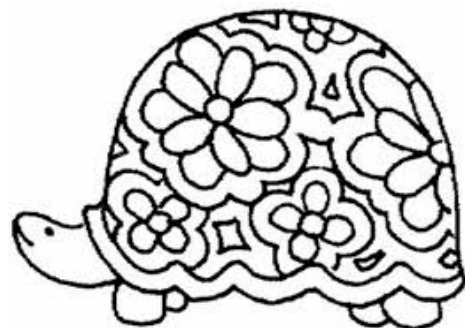
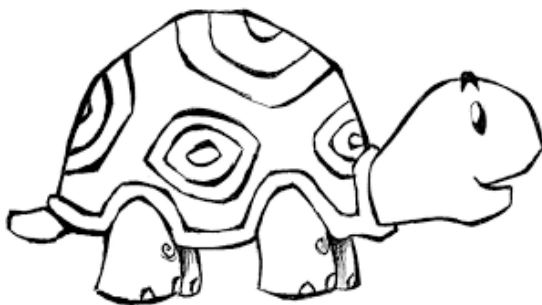
Enjoy the Summer!

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case
Select Board

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S
CORNER





Washington Tracks
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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.