



April 2017

TOWN of WASHINGTON SENIORS POT LUCK DINNER

At the Town Hall
8 Summit Hill Road
April 21, 2017
Time 5:30PM

Please come and enjoy the pot luck dinner with the COA and have a relaxing evening in the company of your fellow Senior Town residents.

Attention high school seniors. The deadline for submitting your application for the Washington Scholarship is approaching quickly. **Please send your completed application to Linda**

Levernoch by

April 15. If you have any questions concerning the application or need an application, please contact Linda at 623-8309.

Voter Registration Session for Annual Town Meeting and Election

A voter registration session will be held on Thursday, April 20, 2017 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. If you are not already registered to vote in the town of Washington, this will be your last chance to register and be eligible to vote at the Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election.

Absentee Ballots for Annual Town Election

Absentee ballots for the Annual Town Election will be available starting April 10, 2017. If you will not be able to vote in person at the Annual Town Election on Saturday, May 20, 2017, you can request an absentee ballot. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is Friday, May 19, 2017 at 12:00 PM. You have to request the absentee ballot in writing by either completing the absentee ballot application: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleabsentee/absidx.htm> or sending a letter to the Town Clerk (postal or email letters are both accepted). Please allow time for the Town Clerk to receive and process your application/letter and mail you a ballot.

Allison Mikaniewicz, Town Clerk, washingtontownclerk@yahoo.com or 413-623-2185.

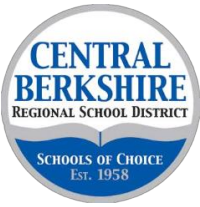
The Becket Athenaeum and Becket Arts Center Announce

Spring Evening Workshops

April 20 from 5:30 – 7:30. Dave Bacon, Becket resident and owner with wife Linda of Canterbury Farm will lead a hands on stone wall construction workshop. Preregistration is required by noon on April 19. Bring work gloves and come dressed appropriately. **NOTE :This workshop will be held at Canterbury Farm on Fred Snow Road in Becket.**

April 27 time tbd Derrick Rodgers, Becket resident and owner of Derrick Rodgers Landscaping, will present a workshop on ornamental horticulture with a focus on local plantings.

May 18 from 6-8:00. **NOTE : new date** October Mountain History and local Trail System Review presented by Alec Gillman, DCR West Regional Interpretive Coordinator. Alec will cover town histories, Whitney estate, formation of the state forest, Old Bill (the moose), CCC, Camp Eagle, etc



CENTRAL BERKSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

254 Hinsdale Road, Dalton, MA 01226 | (413) 684-0322 | www.cbrsd.org

FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR WAHCONAH SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT

An Updated Message from the School Building Committee

The School Building Committee has continued to meet regularly. The focus of the SBC has been on recommending the language of the vote for the feasibility study as well as getting information about the upcoming vote to the constituents of the seven member towns. The language as recommended was agreed to in a vote taken by the CBRSD School Committee on January 26th. The recommendation to School Committee on the language for the feasibility study was determined by considering three main questions:

- **What grade span to study?** *It has been determined the vote will be to study a 9-12 building.*
- **What type of building project to study; renovation or rebuild?** *It has been determined the feasibility study being voted on will look at both options.*
- **Cost of the Feasibility Study?** *The Feasibility Study being voted on is estimated to cost \$850,000 of which a percentage (50-54%) will be reimbursed by MSBA.*

The vote for the Feasibility Study will be done by popular vote, requiring a favorable vote from the majority of voters from all seven towns to pass. The votes will take place in each of the seven towns on **Saturday, April 8, 2017** (see below for locations). The estimated impact of the cost of the Feasibility Study to individual taxpayers can be found on the district website.

For more information including video tours of Wahconah and School Building Committee minutes please visit http://www.cbrsd.org/m_s_b_a_building_project

VOTING LOCATIONS

**SATURDAY
APRIL 8
10AM-4PM**

TOWN OF BECKET | Town Hall, 557 Main Street

TOWN OF CUMMINGTON | Town Hall, 33 Main St

TOWN OF DALTON | Dalton CRA , 400 Main St

TOWN OF HINSDALE | Town Hall, 39 South St

TOWN OF PERU | Peru Community Center, 3 East Main Rd

TOWN OF WASHINGTON | Town Hall, 8 Summit Hill Rd

TOWN OF WINDSOR | Town Hall, 1927 Route 9

The 13th annual Berkshire County Western Mass. Master Gardeners' symposium will be held April 8 at Lenox HS.

14 gardening sessions will be available with each participant selecting 3. Lunch and coffee and pastry will be available free. Spring flowers and vegetables will be for sale as well as Bonsai and Pressed flower items. The cost is \$35 through March 28 and starting March 29, the cost is \$45. For more information, contact Marilyn Wiley at marilynwiley8@gmail.com or 413 623 5859. Enjoy a preview of spring.

Parks Committee Meeting

April 5, 2017 at Town Park 6:30 PM and then it moves to the town hall at 7:00.

The Parks Committee has had some members for over 30 years! The Park is in need of a fresh group of interested towns people to introduce new ideas and new energy. Anyone interested is welcome to attend this meeting or contact Ed Bond at edb112@verizon.net.

To our Washington neighbors:

April 2017

Our schools are the most important civic institution binding our communities together. Educating and developing the next generation is our greatest responsibility as citizens. After ten years of petitioning for funds from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Central Berkshire has finally gotten on their list. This means that MSBA will fund more than half of the long overdue and badly needed upgrade of Wahconah.

- The first step is for a majority of the seven towns' voters to approve a Feasibility Study to determine the best way to address the deterioration of Wahconah's systems and its outdated and inadequate facilities. The vote will be held on April 8 at the Washington Town Hall from 10-4. For more information see the flier enclosed in today's TRACKS and go to www.cbrsd.org and take a virtual tour to see the sad shape of the school.
- MSBA will fund more than half of the study. Whatever plans are developed will need to be approved by both the School Committee and the voters.
- The Select Board strongly supports taking advantage of this opportunity and urges that you vote to approve the Feasibility Study.

Thanks to the voters who turned out for the March 20th Special Town Meeting to clean up some overdue bills and close out loans that are no longer needed.

Road & Bridge:

- The culvert at the top of Frost Road has been stabilized for two-way and through traffic; we are investigating the most cost-effective way of fixing it.
- We will be developing a design for the Middlefield Road Bridge and expect to have a new span in place before winter thanks to our Small Bridge grant of \$250,000.
- The Eden Glen project is finally getting underway; details and a construction schedule should be available this month.
- We are concerned that Washington Mountain Road is already showing signs of wear; DOT has not yet signed off on the project and we are documenting the deterioration and communicating both to DOT and the contractor.
- The Summit Hill Road bridge over the CSX tracks will be closed later this month and should reopen August 29. The Board will work with Hinsdale and DOT to ensure that the detour route is and remains acceptable.

It appears that MBI has finally decided to do their job and assist us in getting a high speed internet connection to all of our households. They are releasing funding appropriated over eight years ago. Our course of action now is to use the money to engage a design firm, most likely in coordination with our sister communities in Wired West. Construction will proceed as soon as humanly possible.

Please exercise your most important civic responsibility! Vote:

- To approve the Wahconah Feasibility Study on Saturday April 8 from 10 to 4;
- At the Annual Town Meeting, Wednesday May 10 at 7; and
- For your local representatives in our Town elections Saturday May 20 from 10 to 4.

The calendar says spring. The seed catalogs are here. The snow is almost gone. Summer can't be that far off, can it?

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case
Select Board

Needed: Member for the Planning Board. Meet once monthly on the second Tuesday of the month to discuss Planning board issues and develop and update bylaws.

Contact Marilynwiley8@gmail.com or at 413 623-5859

THE EMMA BAILEY SCHOLARSHIP FUND UPDATE

The Emma Bailey Scholarship Committee wishes to express its sincere thanks to the very generous Washingtonians who responded to the "Dollars for Scholars" appeal in the March issue of TRACKS and have already donated more than \$1200 to replenish the Emma Bailey Scholarship fund. To those of you who meant to donate and haven't gotten to it yet, we thank you in advance. For those of you who haven't decided yet, remember that the scholarships are a long standing tradition and a means to help, albeit in a relatively small way, college-bound students from Washington.

Checks for your tax-deductible donations may be made payable to: The Emma Bailey Scholarship Fund and sent to Washington Town Hall, 8 Summit Hill Road, Washington Ma. 01223



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

www.washington-ma.com

Support Our Local Businesses

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Melissa Spagnuolo-Avalle
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(413) 623.6003
[fb theoldevillagemarket](http://fb.theoldevillagemarket)

Realtor & Notary
Lisa Peltier
500 S. Washington State Rd.
(413) 822-1257

Summit Hill Campground
34 Old Middlefield Rd.
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Great Family Camping
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FREE coffee & donut at the
Becket General Store
no exp. date

Email your TRACKS info by the 25th of the month to:
mrsabeski@mac.com
Please put TRACKS in the subject line.