



APRIL 2018

Our Police Chief of almost 20 years, Victor Breen, died suddenly last month. Chief Breen, as he liked to be called, served the Town in so many ways. We can list all of his "official" positions: Police Chief, School Bus Driver, Community Response Coordinator, Constable, Emergency Manager, Dog Officer, Animal Inspector, Field Driver and Pound Keeper, but the list does not really get at what Victor did for all of us. Victor made all of us his responsibility and kept watch over all of us. We miss his dedication, his counsel and great sense of humor. Most of all we will miss his very presence.

-The Select Board

"A REMINDER" to the Town of Washington High school Seniors. All applications for the Emma Bailey scholarship must be received by April 20, 2018 at the Town Hall if you wish to be considered for the scholarship. The application is available at the following link:

<http://www.washington-ma.com/emmabailey.html>

Thank You, The Emma Bailey Committee

WASHINGTON DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS - FUND DRIVE 2018

Dear Washington Residents: We would like to invite you to again help our college bound high school seniors to succeed in their first year of college by making a donation to "THE EMMA BAILEY SCHOLARSHIP FUND".

YES, I want to support the fund by donating: NAME _____

\$10.00 \$20.00 \$30.00 \$50.00 \$____(other)

Make checks payable to :**The Emma Bailey Scholarship Fund**

Send to: **Washington Town Hall 8 Summit Hill Road Washington, MA 01223**

Donations are Tax Deductible

Thank You for Your Support

Absentee Ballots for Annual Town Election

Absentee ballots for the Annual Town Election are available. If you will not be able to vote in person at the Annual Town Election on Saturday, May 19, 2018, you can request an absentee ballot. The deadline to request an absentee ballot is Friday, May 18, 2018 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/e/e/e/eabsentee/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.

There are a few weeks during April and May that I will be out of town. If you complete a request for an absentee ballot please allow a few days for me to respond and get the ballot sent out.

TOWN of WASHINGTON
SENIORS
POT LUCK DINNER
At the Town Hall
8 Summit Hill Road
April 20, 2018
Time 5:30 PM

Please come and enjoy a
relaxing evening in the
company of your fellow Senior
Town residents.

Berkshire Lakeside Lodge on Greenwater Pond, 3949 Jacob's Ladder Road in Becket, is looking for seasonal help. Phone, office and cleaning, one weekday and one weekend day. Call 413-243-9907 to inquire or schedule an interview.

FY19 Budget Preview Meeting, April 28, 10-noon

In an effort to increase communication and transparency, this year we will experiment with holding a Budget Preview meeting in advance of the Annual Town Meeting. The preview session will take place on Saturday, April 28, from 10 a.m. until noon, at the Town Hall. Finance Committee chair, Kent Lew, will be on hand to walk us through the proposed FY19 budget and talk about town finances in a forum that will, hopefully, be more conducive to questions and answers than our typical ATM.

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 need an application or have any questions, please contact Linda at 623-8309.

The 14th annual Berkshire county garden symposium will be held at Lenox High and Middle school on April 7th with classes starting at 8:45. Obtain more information on the fifteen classes in three groups from Chris Stodden at wrselect@aol.com or 413 443 2910 or from the WMMGA.org the registration fee is \$40. Through March 31 and \$45 after March 31. There will be a sale of early vegetables and flowers, a garden glove sale, a used garden books sale and booths from gardening and environmental groups as well as a raffle of garden items donated by local gardening and landscape vendors.

To our Washington neighbors:

April 2018

As we said in last month's Tracks this year's Annual Town Meeting (ATM) – mark your calendars for Wednesday May 9 starting at 7 pm at the Town Hall - will have a number of warrant items in addition to the budget. Here is a summary:

- First, vote to adopt the Stretch Code - 780 CMR 115. AA - to require all new residential construction and new commercial or industrial construction to minimize life-cycle energy costs; This will add Washington to the other 216 municipalities that are “Green Communities” and get the Town a grant of \$125,000 which we will use to put solar panels on a repaired and insulated Town Hall roof.
- Second, vote on a proposed revision of the Central Berkshire Regional School District charter; we don't have all the details yet but this is being presented as housekeeping and updating. Details will be available at the May 5 info session.
- Third, vote on a by-law to defer any action on Marijuana commercial activity until the end of 2018. Many other municipalities are proposing this. There is a public hearing scheduled for 7 pm on April 10th at the Town Hall if you are interested.
- Fourth, vote to exempt residents who have farm assets from excise taxes on their animals and equipment under MGL Chapter 59 Section 8A.
- Fifth, vote to allow the Town Treasurer, with the concurrence of the Select Board to sell town-owned property in Virginia Lakes Estates and return revenue to the Town.
- All five items will be reviewed during the informational session for warrant questions on Saturday May 5 from 10-12 at the Town Hall.

This will be a challenging year for the budget; DOR has slashed our PILOT funding by over \$30,000; our schools assessment is increasing by over \$30,000 and the debt service on the new small plow truck (\$20,000) is kicking in. We will have all of the details at the informational session for finances/budget items on Saturday April 28 from 10-12 at the Town Hall.

Still pending:

- Nothing new on Dalton's proposed heavy truck ban on Washington Mountain Road.
- We should soon have grant-funded designs for both the Middlefield Road bridge over Coles Brook and the deep culvert on upper Frost Road.

Other news:

- We have signed agreements with Eversource and Verizon to attach our broadband network to their poles; next step is our system design and cost estimate.
- Pittsfield's City Council will soon consider the long-promised transfer of five acres on Washington Mountain Road to us.
- We have applied for grant funding for the construction of the deep culvert on Frost.

We hope that many of you will take advantage of the two informational sessions on the ATM at The Town Hall (Saturday April 28 and Saturday May 5 from 10-12 am) but whether or not you do, please make sure to come to the Town Hall and vote at the ATM on the evening of Wednesday May 9 and in the Annual Town Elections on Saturday May 19 from 12-4 pm. Democracy only works when citizens participate! Exercise your right to vote! If you are not yet registered, you can do so 2-4 and 7-8 pm on Thursday April 19 at the Town Hall.

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand
Select Board Clerk

Dick Grillon
Select Board



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

www.washington-ma.com

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fb 3235 main street

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Tents, R.V.s Motor Homes
Full Hook Ups
Pet Friendly
Seasonals Welcomed
Events scheduled May through Sept





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.

TOWN OF WASHINGTON APRIL 2018 COUNCIL ON AGING

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Happy Easter April Fools Day				10AM FALLS PREVENTION CLASS	10AM TAI-CHI/ QI-GONG CLASS 	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
				10AM FALLS PREVENTION CLASS	10AM TAI-CHI/ QI-GONG CLASS 	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
				10AM FALLS PREVENTION CLASS	10AM TAI-CHI/ QI-GONG CLASS 5:30PM POT LUCK DINNER 	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
				10AM FALLS PREVENTION CLASS	10AM TAI-CHI/ QI-GONG CLASS 	
Earth Day	30					
29						