

To our fellow Washington residents:

First, we would like to express our thanks that such a large percentage of you – over 130 Washington residents – took the time to vote on August 21 in the special election. Participation is the foundation of a healthy community. We also want to acknowledge the work of our election committee who donate their time so that the rest of us can exercise our franchise as citizens.

Second, we are committed to open and frequent communication to all Washington residents. We want to thank Lisa Guthrie for taking over Tracts – and for putting this note out! We hope to add a short note once a month or so. We also want to thank Carol & Frank Kennedy for our outstanding website (www.washington-ma.com/). We have asked to have Selectmens minutes and Tracts posted on a regular basis.

Third, let me share with you some of the things going on at the Town Hall:

- We expect to be installing a new boiler, insulation and new siding this fall which will save the Town considerable utility costs. The funding was all provided by grants.
- Some other issues that the Select Board is working on:
 - Making sure our capital assets – buildings, roads, equipment – are well cared for and replaced or repaired on a timely basis
 - High speed internet for all residents
 - Upgrading the doors at the Town Garage to save energy
 - Other energy generation and efficiency measures
- Here's how we want to run our Monday Select Board meetings:
 - Open Forum for residents will be the first agenda item after the review of the previous weeks' minutes and will last at least a half-hour. We want to make sure that any concern of a resident comes first. The Board will also work on the warrants during this time as well to make sure that the people who work on our behalf – the highway department, treasurer, tax collectors, assessors, police chief and custodian – get paid on time, along with our other bills.
 - In addition to addressing any new or immediate issues the Board will work through a published agenda on ongoing issues.
 - Meetings will last no more than two-hours 7-9 pm. We will start and end on time. This helps everyone to use their time more effectively. But please remember that you can contact us anytime. (Jim Huebner at 655-4519 or jimh@mbd.cc).
 - The last 10 minutes of each meeting will be devoted to a review of the meeting and setting the agenda for the following week.

Fourth, we want to acknowledge the long service of three of our residents: Bill Cawley, who served on the Select Board for over 20 years, Dick Grillon who served 24 years as chair and co-chair of the Board, and last but certainly not least, Lillian Fox who served as secretary to the Board for 30 years. Their dedication and contributions cannot be overstated. Thanks to them all.

Finally, we would appreciate any ideas or concerns our residents have on any and all matters: What should the Select Board address?

Thank you,

Jim Huebner,
Select Board Chair

Shawn Lennon
Select Board Clerk

Election Day Bake Sale

The Washington Scholarship Committee is seeking donations of baked goods for its election day bake sale which will be held at the Town Hall on November 2 from 7am-8pm. Those wishing to drop off baked goods may do so either Monday night from 7-9 (leave them in the kitchen refrigerator) or any time November 2. In addition, volunteers are being sought to "man" the bake sale table. If you would be willing to help for an hour or two, please contact Linda Levernoch at 623-8309, evenings.

Watching your weight? Share a delicious snack with your co-workers or neighbors. They will appreciate your thoughtfulness and you'll be contributing to a good cause at the same time!

Be a hero this election day; after you vote, stop by the scholarship food table and help support our young people! See you on the 2nd!

Thanks to your generosity, the Washington Scholarship Committee was able to award five scholarships to members of the Class of 2010:

Cortney R. Bigelow who is attending BCC preparing for a career in veterinary medicine

Britany Breault who is a student at American International College in preparation for a career in education

Ian Carlow who is a freshman at Radford University preparing for a career in criminal justice

Katherine Deloye who is enrolled in the Liberal Studies Program at BCC

Adam Healey who is majoring in Criminal Justice at Fitchburg State University.

Congratulations and best wishes!

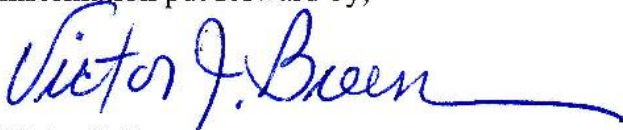
A letter from the Chief...

RE: Gates to be installed at different locations at town roads.

- The City of Pittsfield Water Department will encompass the cost of the entire project of the insulation of metal gates, which will block three-road location within the Town of Washington. (See maps)
- Keys for the gates will be given to the towns of Becket and Washington by the installers of said gates.
- If need be the gates will be left open one day a year, to keep under the care of ownership, and, for the trespass at will, to the Town of Washington.
- If the gates were in need of opening for other events, the town has such rights to do so for any period of time as the town deem necessary.
- The roads behind said gates will remain to be protected by Local, State, Pittsfield Water Department, and the Pittsfield Police departments.

Should the Select Board have any additional question on this matter, please be in touch with me.

Information put forward by;

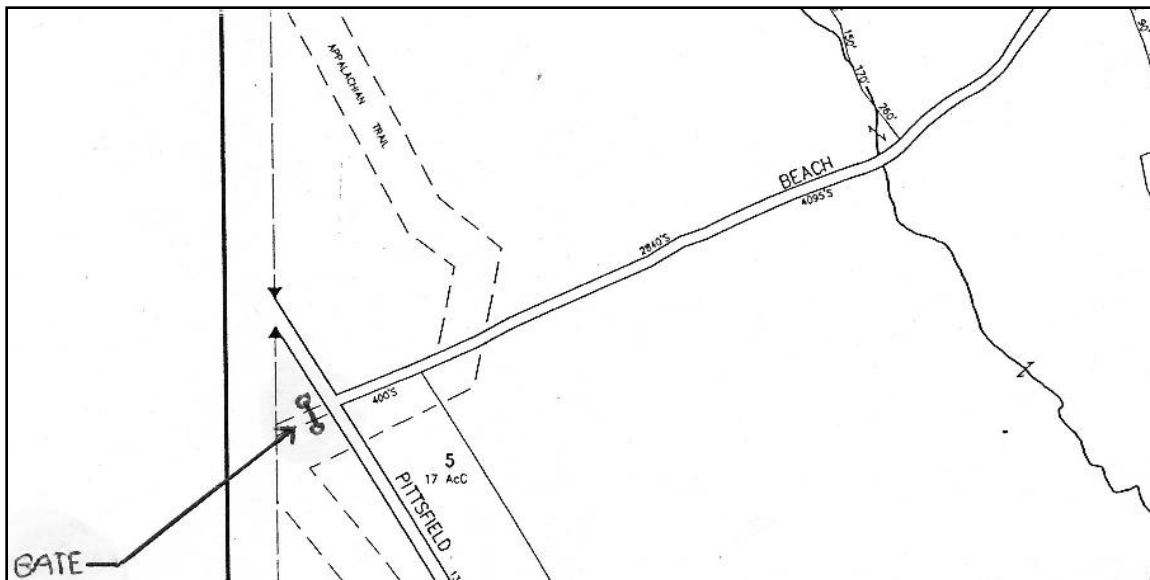
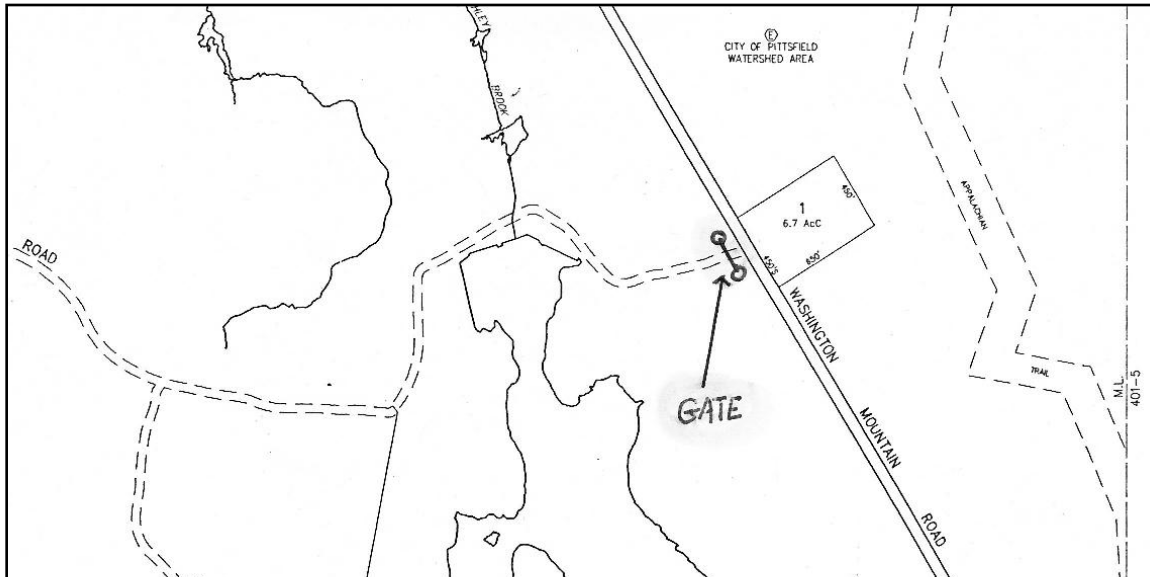
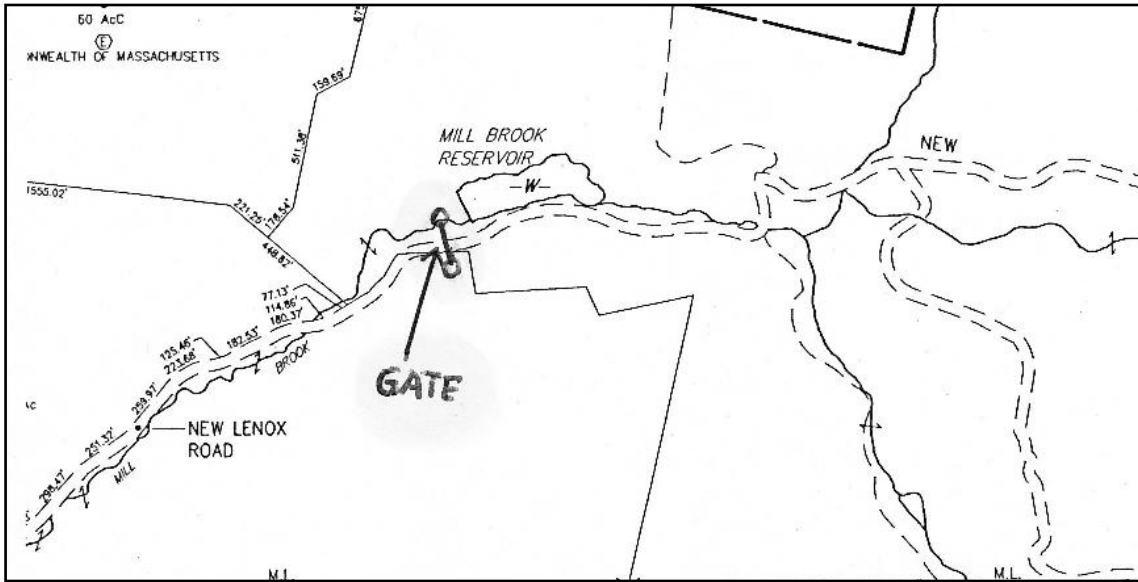


Victor J. Breen

Chief of Police

Washington, Massachusetts

GATE LOCATIONS



About Dana

I live on Washington Mountain Road and am currently a junior at Mount Holyoke College, majoring in Environmental Studies and minoring in English. This semester I am taking an Intro to Journalism class. An assignment in that class, in which we had to cover an event, prompted me to write this piece.

Washington Park Hosts 4th Annual Hilltown Hoot

By Dana Drugmand

These hills certainly were alive with the sound of music on Sunday. From the playful tunes of artist Terry a la Berry to the rock rhythms of the band Xavier, local musicians delivered hearty, folk-style entertainment as neighbors and friends came together at the Washington Town Park for the fourth annual Hilltown Hoot.

The event, a fundraiser for local schools, is a day of family fun with live music and vendors selling everything from tie-dye tee-shirts to hotdogs and hamburgers. The website hilltownhoot.com describes it as "like barn raising with a soundtrack." It is all about community. Local residents volunteer to organize the event, and local folks come out to enjoy the day and support the area schools.

With under 700 residents, the town of Washington, MA doesn't generate much buzz. There is no post office in town, no restaurants or shops, but there is a town park. It is a community space filled with soccer and baseball fields, a basketball court, bike path, gazebo and playground equipment. Adjacent to the park is the town dump, where locals drop by on Wednesdays and Saturdays to deposit their trash and make small talk with neighbors. The park is the center of community life in small town Washington, though it is empty most days of the year. People are busy working as contractors or volunteering in local schools, yet they still manage to give some of their time to serve their town, whether as members of the park committee or as an organizer of a community event. The park hosts several such events throughout the year, such as the Halloween Pumpkin Walk, a town tradition in which people come down to walk along the bike path and view the hundred or so pumpkins carved in resemblance of celebrities and other recognizable figures. Then there's the Park Cleanup Day, a "get-your-hands-dirty" gathering of locals pitching in to collectively make this a space for all to enjoy.

Washington resident John Keator is best known around town for organizing the Pumpkin Walk. He was recently diagnosed with ALS, yet this didn't stop him from coming out and volunteering at the Hoot. He helped out at the tie-dye station. When not selling the shirts, he could be found motoring around on his scooter, talking to various folks and appearing in very high spirits.

Michael Moro is a local plumber, but he was not at the event to sell bathroom fixtures. He had a tent set up to promote two novels he has written. Passerby could get information about the books and buy them right from the man who wrote them.

Lisa Guthrie and her husband Abe, son of musician Arlo Guthrie, were in charge of the Hoot this year. Lisa said that putting an event like this together is "crazy," but she is grateful to have her husband helping. "He is a musician so he organizes the music part of it," she explained. The biggest challenge, according to Lisa, is getting the word out there. "The first year we were just raising money for the Becket-Washington School, so flyers were sent home with the kids. This year all the schools in the district are involved." Event organizers put up three billboards, two in Pittsfield and one in Hinsdale, both neighboring towns, to further advertise the Hoot.

Lisa Guthrie and other members of the Becket-Washington PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) started the Hoot in 2007. They were growing tired of the same old fundraisers selling gift wrap and candy and wanted to do something different. "We thought a community day with music and food would be a good option," said Guthrie. They organized the first Hoot in only three weeks, yet still managed to attract around 300 people and raise over \$3,000. The event started small, with a bake sale and a few vendors the first year. It has grown every year since.

This year the fundraising expanded to include all of the six schools in the Central Berkshire Regional School District. When attendees paid admission, \$25 for families, \$15 for individuals and \$5 for students, they could choose which school or schools they wanted their money to go towards. All of the proceeds from the event go to supporting the children and the schools. "It's 100 percent volunteer and every dollar raised goes directly to the cause," said Abe Guthrie, one of the event organizers.

According to Lisa Guthrie, the event this year raised \$3,000, which will be split up and allocated to all of the schools in the district. She estimates that over 400 people attended, making it one of the most successful Hoots thus far. The attendance was certainly an improvement from last year when it rained all day and only 100 people came out.

Starting at noon, Terry a la Berry & Friends opened the series of musical performances. His set of children's songs included "She'll Be Coming Round the Mountain," as well as tunes about mashed potatoes and pirates. Terry a la Berry was followed by the Becket-Washington School Band.

The day was not just about music. Ozzie's, a local steak and egg restaurant in Hinsdale, sold food from their catering trailer. The menu was simple, consisting of hotdogs, hamburgers, fries and the like. For those seeking additional food options there was a bake sale offering cupcakes, brownies, pies, cookies and other sweet treats. Vendors set up under tents selling aprons, handcrafted jewelry, CDs of the performers, tie-dye shirts, cotton candy, hair wraps and airbrush tattoos. Many of the children frolicked around in the bounce house. Some kids lined up, eager to take a brief ride atop the chestnut pony Mo. Others spent the day literally hanging out on the playground equipment.

However, the gazebo, where the musicians performed, was the center of the event. The afternoon rolled on with performances by the Hilltown Zydeco String Band, which played some familiar songs such as Bob Marley's "Three Little Birds." Next on stage was a faculty band that included Superintendent of Schools Jim Stankiewicz, Asst. Superintendent Rob Putnam and his brother Peter, and Mark Franklin and Brian Rabuse from Wahconah Regional High School. This group rocked out with "Purple Haze" by Jimi Hendrix.

The Guthrie family had a strong presence throughout the event. From Lisa organizing the whole thing, to her husband, father-in-law and son each taking their turn on stage, the Guthrie involvement illustrated the day's focus on family. Krishna Guthrie, son of Lisa and Abe, performed a few of his original songs on guitar. His aunt Annie Guthrie followed, though she wasn't scheduled to play.

Poor Becket Rebels was the next band to take the stage. This group consists of members Derrick Rodgers, Dan Esko, Eric Esko and Luke Bates. They were followed by the Dooley Austin Band, a country group led by Washington resident and recording artist Bobby Sweet.

The next performer was also not on the schedule, but was the highlight of the day. Arlo Guthrie treated the crowd to four songs, including "City of New Orleans" and "Coming into Los Angeles." A lot of the remaining people gathered in front of the gazebo to listen to Arlo, who was joined on stage by his son Abe as well as Bobby Sweet.

Abe Guthrie and his band Xavier closed the show with a lively set of songs. The sun was beginning to set and the vendors had dismantled their tents, but at 7pm the music was still going strong.

Washington resident and Park committee member Cynthia Grippaldi helped organize the first Hoot, a name that was suggested by one of her children. It plays off an event hosted by the Guthrie Center called a "hoot n' nanny," and therefore this community day fundraiser came to be called the Hilltown Hoot.

What distinguished this year's event from those in years past was the inclusion of all schools in the Central Berkshire Regional School District. "We were very excited to be able to include all of the schools in the Central Berkshire Regional School District this year," Lisa Guthrie said. "Now that we have reached that goal, we look forward to working together and growing this event to the point where it has a large impact, reducing the need for traditional fundraising. We love the idea of the schools and community coming together for a day of good music, food and fun!"

The sense of community created by this event was on full display, from my neighbors up the street who were selling canned food from their garden to my father, a local contractor, who volunteered the whole day as a parking attendant. This community spirit was one of the main things local residents said they enjoyed most about the Hoot. "I enjoy the music. I enjoy the community bond. It's a feel-good event," said Grippaldi. Arlo Guthrie added "I get to see all my neighbors in one place, at one time."



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED...

...for fall clean up at the Washington Town Park. Please come down on Saturday, October 30th from 9:00-11:00AM to help out. We will be picking up the picnic tables, emptying garbages, bringing the pumpkins from the Pumpkin Walk to the Transfer Station and planting over 1,000 bulbs donated by Jim Nanery - who bought a piece of property in Washington to build a house. If you have tools for bulb planting, please bring them with you.

If you have any questions please call RJ Peltier @ 623.5911

- Hope to see you there! ☺

To submit info to the Washington Tracks, please email Lisa Guthrie @
mrsabeski@mac.com - if you don't have email, call 623.5088



Pumpkin Walk

The 12th Annual Washington Pumpkin Walk will be held on

Friday October 29th

from 6:30 to 10:00 at the Washington Town Park.

Trick or Treating around the Walk will be from 6:30 to 7:30.

Bon Fire, Hay Rides, Refreshments and of course LOTS of Pumpkins.

Anyone wishing to help out can contact John or Georgette Keator at 623-0088.