

## December 2010

To our fellow Washington residents:

We are pleased to announce that Dan Parnell of Tyne Road in Becket has accepted the appointment of Town Accounting Officer. Dan brings many years of experience from the private sector and is eager to learn the ins and outs of municipal accounting. Sandy Brazee, who had held the Accounting Officer job, can now concentrate on her duties as Town Treasurer.

Some updates:

- The Request for Bid on the new doors at the Town Garage was posted; any bids received will be opened on 12/6. A number of contractors appear to be interested.
- The Request for Bid on the new boiler, insulation and siding for the Town Hall is still in preparation by Berkshire Regional Planning.
- The Phase I assessment of the nursing home courtesy of Berkshire Regional Planning's Brownfields Program has been completed. The Maplevue Reuse Committee will be meeting soon to review the results and decide the next steps for this property.
- On October 18 Steve Nelson of Cross Place Road, the Town's representative to WiredWest, recapped the Massachusetts Broadband Institute's plans for providing broadband to the "middle mile". Steve also outlined WiredWest's objective of creating a cooperative consisting of Western Mass towns electing to create a "municipal light plant". Steve provided a recommended Warrant Article which must be passed in two separate town meetings. The first such vote should be on January 17 when we plan to have a Special Town Meeting. This vote must be by paper ballot and at least two third of those present must approve. More details will be forthcoming. Interested residents can also go to [www.Wired-West.net](http://www.Wired-West.net)

Alas, we must apologize and set the record straight. Our Historical Society has informed the Board that Washington NH has the distinction of being the first town incorporated as Washington on December 9 1776 - four months earlier than us. Interestingly our towns have quite a bit in common in government, demographics and geography. We can't help but speculate that New England's versions of Washington (including Washington ME pop. 1345, Washington CT pop. 3600, and Washington VT pop. 1047) would seem a lot more familiar to our Founding Father than his city on the Potomac.

We hope everyone had a safe and happy Thanksgiving Holiday. We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Jim Huebner,  
Select Board Chair

Shawn Lennon  
Select Board Clerk

The Transfer Station will be closed on December 25th. Transfer Station attendant Keith Sharp is considering changing the Transfer Station hours and is looking for input from residence. If you have any comments, concerns or suggestions, please do not hesitate to stop by and talk with Keith.

## Birding Around Town

Certainly, one of the most enjoyable aspects of living in Washington is the constant opportunity to enjoy the natural world close at hand. With its large area and diverse habitats, our town is particularly rich in bird life. Over the past three decades or so, I've spent many enjoyable hours in the fields and forest searching with eyes and ears for hummingbirds, bald eagles and everything in between. In fact, reviewing my field notes, I see that I've been privileged to have seen 190 species of birds in town to date, many annually, some just once, and in most years with modest effort it's fairly easy to see well over 100 species (my best year is 141). With the onset of colder weather and the departure of most of the birds that actually nest here in Washington (approximately 100 species) it might not seem like the best time to be starting what I hope with enough positive feedback, might be a regular column for the tracks. Actually though, winter offers an opportunity to observe some species that summer farther north of us and come south to visit Washington to "winter over" where food is more accessible and the climate milder than their breeding grounds. It's also a great opportunity to observe birds close at hand, from a warm spot inside as they come to feeding stations now that the risk of attracting bears has diminished. By putting out a variety of seed and suet and keeping it stocked, you can receive hours of enjoyment and get comfortable identifying the dozen or more species that are pretty regular feeder birds.

I hope to expand a bit on this column noting some of the avian highlights of particular seasons and to hopefully heighten awareness of some of the bird happenings around town as well as scheduling occasional walks to check out some of the more reliably productive areas. One of the things I most enjoy is sharing this experience with beginners and seasoned birders alike, kids and adults, anyone is welcome. After all, besides getting out for a bit of exercise, sharpening your eyes and ears as well as memory, perhaps the most justifiable reason to spend time birding is that it's fun - plain and simple. So dust off those binoculars, practice using them and find a field guide that you like (you're welcome to check with me if you'd like for a bit of advice before going out and buying anything) set out a few bird feeders and enjoy some winter entertainment. Who knows, if you catch the bug, we might cross paths out there to share sightings.

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WASHINGTON  
PLANNING BOARD  
TOWN OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01223

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Board will hold a public hearing  
On Tuesday, December 14, 2010 at 7:00 PM

At the Washington Town Hall, Summit Hill Rd, Washington, MA 01223

On the proposal for a Small Wind Energy Systems by-law and

On the proposal for Special Permit Criteria by-law

Proposals may be viewed at the Office of the Town Clerk, Washington Town Hall, Summit Rd. Washington,  
MA 01223



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

Election Day Bake Sale Raises a Lot of Dough! — Thank you for making this year's scholarship bake sale the most successful to date. During the course of the event, the tables were filled with every type of goody one could imagine: cookies, pies, cakes, breads, brownies, muffins and more. Sales were brisk throughout the day and the last items were sold shortly before the polls closed at 8pm.

When all was said and done, \$801 was raised for local scholarships!

Thanks to everyone for helping to make this year's fundraiser such a huge success. We should be proud of the fact that we live in a community which comes together to support its young people so generously.

Linda Levernoch, Chair  
Washington Scholarship Committee

Bucksteep Manor \* 885 Washington Mt. Rd. \* Washington, Ma.

Cozy Country Inn with Warm Hospitality \* Public Welcome

Holiday Open House \* Saturday, Dec. 11, 2010 \* 3:00 - 7:00

Under New Management - Doreen Jewell-Manager Maureen Brennan-Caterer

Come join us for an afternoon of Holiday Cheer! \*Complimentary Hors d 'oeuvres\* \*Cash Bar\* \*Manor

Tours\* \*Music\* \*Come say hello to Judge Rudy \*

Coming Soon: Friday and Saturday Dinners \* Tavern Pub Fare