



December 2011



To our fellow Washington residents:

December 2011

Some updates:

- The bid for the re-use of the former Mapleview Nursing Home was withdrawn by the Boyds. We apologize to anyone who did not see the cancellation notice for their presentation, but their withdrawal came too late to stop the announcement in last month's *Tracks*. We plan to rebid the property with only a few small modifications to the bid package, but with a longer time horizon for responses. We know of at least two residents who have expressed interest and we had a number of attendees to the site visit, so we are still hopeful that the property can be brought back to usefulness and the tax rolls. If you can think of anyone who might be interested, please let them know or let us know and we will be glad to follow up.
- Thanks to Ed Bond for fixing up an access ramp and better lighting in the rear of the Town Hall. Selectman Shaun Lennon is negotiating with Taconic Voc-Tech to have students fabricate railings for the ramp and for our utility room.
- Steve Nelson gave us an update on high speed internet access for the Town. Mass Broadband is committed to having our Town Hall connected by mid-2013 and Wired West – the consortium we joined - will be working to bring the “last mile” of access to everyone as soon as possible after that.
- The MA Department of Energy (DOER) denied our request for a change of scope to our original EECB Grant which means that any new energy efficient doors or windows at the Town Hall would require using our own funds or finding other grant money from, e.g. the Green Communities program when and if we get certified. We are taking another look at using the remaining EECBG funds for spray insulation/stucco over the Town Hall's bricks instead of rigid insulation/siding to see if we can get a bid within the funding amount.
- Thanks to Rose Borgnis for revitalizing the Council on Aging with a well-attended kick-off brunch on November 16. We expect that additional events will be forthcoming. Carol and Frank Kennedy have volunteered for the COA; anyone else interested please contact Rose or the Select Board.
- The dialog with CSX continues, now at least at a higher level thanks to the help from State Senator Downing's office. The good news is that Upper Valley Road has been dry so we have not yet needed to resort to filing suit, but we have told the railroad that we expect some positive and long-term response to protect our homeowners.

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. As a Town we have a lot to be thankful for: the natural beauty of our physical environment, certainly, but more so the incredible amount of volunteer effort that goes into making Washington work for all of us. Best wishes to all for a safe and healthy holiday season.

See you in the New Year.

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Shaun Lennon
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case
Select Board

News from the COA

Our November brunch was well attended with Heather Anello owner of The Becket General putting on quite a feast for all those who were there. The results of the survey were discussed along with the resources we have available to meet the needs of our community's population of seniors (age 60 and above).

Our next function will be the annual Holiday dinner which will be at Bucksteep Manor on December 17th for the entrée there is a choice of Chicken Almondine with Hollandaise sauce or Baked stuffed sole with a lobster champagne sauce, both will be served with salad, baked potato, fresh vegetable medley, apple crisp with vanilla ice cream and coffee or tea for \$5.00pp. Please call Carol at (413) 623-5180 or e-mail washingtoncoa@gmail.com by December 10th with you meal choice.

Save the date - Friday January 20th at 5:30PM we are planning to have a pot luck dinner more details in the next issue of Tracks.

From Elder Services Regarding Medicare:

The 2011 Medicare Open Enrollment period ended on December 7, but there are still *a few changes you can make, if you qualify.*

Trained SHINE (**S**erving **H**ealth **I**nformation **N**eeds of **E**lders) volunteers can help you! They offer free, confidential counseling on all aspects of health insurance to anyone on Medicare. Call Elder Services of Berkshire County at (413) and ask for a SHINE appointment. You can also call 1-800-AGE-INFO (1-800-243-4636), then press or say 3. Once you get the SHINE answering machine, leave your name and number. A volunteer will call you back, as soon as possible.



The St Andrews Chapel Committee would like to thank the following Supporters for their donations to the Stained Glass Restoration Fund Drive:

Marilyn Wiley

Debra Megas and Mark Schnopp

John Morrow

Rudy and Kay Sacco

If you would like to donate please send your donation to:

The St. Andrews Chapel Committee

8 Summit Hill Rd

Washington MA 01223

The Chapel Committee

Rose Borgnis

Kinzer Davis

Doreen Jewell

Cindy Taylor

The Town website: washington-ma.com has a new feature called "Down Memory Lane".

If someone has Old Photographs relating to the Town of Washington that they would like to see put on this site, please email them to carolandfranksr@carolandfrank.com with a short commentary. Photo's can be mailed to:

Frank Kennedy
1153 Washington Mtn Road
Washington, MA 01223

Or you can drop them off here at our home. All photos will be returned except those that were e-mailed.

Thank You
Frank Kennedy

Becket Federated Church Christmas Bazaar

The Becket Federated Church will hold it's 5th annual Christmas Bazaar on **December 3, 2011** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Parish House.

This year's bazaar will be bigger and better than ever, featuring hand crafted ornaments, decorated artificial Christmas trees, live kissing balls and wreaths.

A light lunch will be offered featuring several homemade soups, chili and sandwiches.

The Straw Draw will be fun for the whole family. Come one, come all—it's the one bazaar that you do not want to miss!

WASHINGTON CULTURAL COUNCIL NOTICE

Any Organization who has an approved FY 2011 Grant who has Fulfilled their obligation and hasn't sent in their request for funds; must mail their request with a Postmark Date of no later than December 15, 2011.

Thank You, Carol Kennedy, Treasurer, WCC





Washington Tracks
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Town Hall
Washington, MA 01223

Support Our Local Businesses

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Full business directory

Please send your Tracks info by 28th of the month to:
mrsabeski@mac.com or if you do not have email, call Lisa at 623.5088