



July 2011

To our fellow Washington residents:

July 2011

As the 2011 Fiscal Year turns into FY2012 on July 1 we want to look both back at the year past and forward to what we hope to accomplish over the next 12 months.

We have had 100% turnover on the Select Board since May of 2010. That, coupled with the resignation of Lillian Fox, means that our "institutional memory" is thin. Nevertheless, our Administrative Assistant Jodie Hostetter, as well as Jan Nelson who served as backup (and we hope will stay available as a backup!) while Jodie is on maternity, have been putting together an operational manual. We also have three Board members who appreciate the value of consensus and who can be counted on to put the interests of all of the Town's citizens first.

We made relatively few changes to the Town's appointed positions. Along with the addition of Dan Parnell as our Accounting Officer and Karen Avalle as our Assessor's Consultant (Tim Taylor, who served the Town extremely well for many years, resigned this spring) we are confident that we have a team of skilled and dedicated individuals who share the values of the Select Board.

First, a few updates:

- The new boiler and hot water system is being installed after a cleanout of the crawl space
- The insulation/siding of the Town Hall. Deadline for submission of bids has been extended to July 18.
- Our Highway Superintendent, Dave Fish, was the only bidder for the old metal playground equipment at the Town Hall.
- Head Start will be moving to the Becket-Washington School.

We started several things this past year:

- The monthly newsletter you are reading
- Making all the Town's records electronically available
- A regular review of the Town's Capital Assets to manage, preserve and grow them
- Joint meetings with the Planning Board to review what, if any, changes to our by-laws may be desirable
- How we might increase the generation of "green" energy

In addition, during the upcoming year we hope to:

- Address issues of safety and access at the Town Hall and plan better use of its space
- Thoroughly review our personnel policies and procedures
- Hold regular reviews with the Conservation Commission and our Highway Department

These are our thoughts. Please let us know what yours are. We will be successful to the extent that we know what our constituents are thinking.

One last thing: the Commonwealth provides low- or no-interest loans to homeowners who need to make modifications to accommodate an elderly or disabled person. There is a brochure for the Home Modification Loan Program on the bulletin board at the Town Hall or you can call Susan Giullam at 617-204-3739 or e-mail her at www.mass.gov/mrc/hmpl

Jim Huebner,
Select Board Chair

Shaun Lennon
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case
Select Board

Obituary

Alfred "Al" Huebner, 95, formerly of Washington, passed away June 21, 2011 at the home of his oldest son, Allen, in Randolph NJ after a brief illness.

Al and his high school sweetheart, Cora McMahon of Lodi, NJ eloped in 1938 and spent 71 years together, residing on Blotz Road in Washington for most of their retired life. Cora predeceased Al in 2009. Al was the owner and proprietor of several transportation companies and the captain of Volunteer Fire Company #5 in Garfield NJ during the 1950's. He was an avid gardener and hunter and had the distinction of being Washington's oldest resident for several years before the couple returned to New Jersey.

He is survived by his 5 children: Allen, Karen of Folly Beach SC, Jim of Washington, Tom of Colorado Springs CO, and John of Denville, NJ, as well as his 6 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Services were held on June 27 at the Resurrection Parish in Randolph NJ. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the Fireman's home in Boonton NJ <http://www.njfh.org/>

7:30 on Monday July 11 at the Town Hall Jim Barry, Regional Coordinator, Green Communities Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources will be explaining the Green Communities Program.

We did It!

We met and exceeded the Neighbor to Neighbor Challenge \$750.00 from at least 20 donors was needed to meet the challenge we raised \$800.00 from 24 donors with the match there is \$4,550.00 available to help residents of Washington.

If you need assistance or know someone who does contact the

**Berkshire Community Action Council,
@ 413-445-4503**

If you would like more information on the Neighbor to Neighbor

fund call the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation @ 413-229-0370

or visit

www.berkshiretaconic.org

Rose Borgnis



**JULY 15 @ THE DREAMAWAY...
COME CELEBRATE THE RELEASE OF
SARAH LEE AND JOHNNY S NEW
ALBUM "BRIGHT EXAMPLES"**

**THIS WILL BE A VERY SPECIAL
SHOW.....COME FOR DINNER AND A
GREAT NIGHT OF MUSIC!**

RESERVATIONS 413 623 8725!



SAVE THE DATE!!!

Sunday, September 18, 2011

Noon - 7PM

Live Music, Vendors, Food & Fun

at the Washington Town Park

Raising money for the schools of Central Berkshire

Becket Washington • Berkshire Trail • Craneville • Kittredge • Nessacus •

Wahconah

hilltownhoot@gmail.com • www.hilltownhoot.com

FREE Young Peoples' Art classes at the BECKET ARTS CENTER and YEAR-Round Programs.

The Becket Arts Center announces Fall through Spring programs this year - please join us in making our community the Heart of the Arts in western Massachusetts - be on the look out for more information about classes and WILD WINTER WHATNOT"S, an anyone can hang or present one artwork with no jury, no fee, no censorship, all ages, all ART.

This year there is a great line-up of Workshops beginning July 5th, the Free Marty Lasker Lecture Series starts Monday evening at 7:30, July 11, Gallery Receptions continue throughout the season with a Fiber Arts show opening Saturday, July 9, 3-5pm . The Becket Arts Center's mission is to promote the arts in rural western Massachusetts through exhibits, performance and instruction which allow for imaginative creativity to flourish. If you haven't been to the center, located next door to the Becket Washington Library in Seminary Hall, 7 Brooker Hill Road and Rte 8, Main Street, in Historic North Becket Village, in a while, or ever, stop by - there are changes happening all the time and you are part of them!

EVEN BETTER: Most of this summer's young peoples' programs will be FREE to Becket & Washington residents - First up:

Two FREE Visual Arts classes once a week for 3 weeks in July
Tuesdays, July 5, 12, & 19 (9:30am-12:30pm)
Go Figure (ages 8-13-Joan Davidson); I Love Art (ages 5-7)-Abby Dubow

Placements will be taken on a first come basis, so call the Becket Arts Center now to register for our FREE Visual Arts Classes for young peoples ages 5 through 13. Contact Paul at 413/623-5249 or e-mail office@becketartscenter.org. These Programs are supported by the Local Cultural Commissions of the Towns of Becket and Washington. Every student at Becket Washington Elementary School was in the first Gallery Exhibit upstairs which had those who saw it amazed at what the children created! Each student went home with a catalog and flier for the Young Peoples Programs.

Other programs coming up are a multi-generational "Clay Work Basics" for children and a guardian which starts Thursday, July 14 from 1:15 to 4:15pm and followed by the popular "Families Dance Together at the Pillow" at 5pm. We have scholarships available for "Camp Imagination" - mornings August 1 - 5, "Shakespeare in Becket" for all ages is Saturday, August 6, and "Marmalade Production's Big Puppet Day" Tuesday, Aug. 9, 9:30-4.

Go Figure: From Me to Power Figures:

Students use found, natural and art materials to create figures that represent themselves, their dreams and their power. Figures will be inspired by examining superheroes and figures constructed in other cultures. Exhibitions at the Becket Arts Center and reproductions of artist's work, drawing from observation, student writing and individual and group reflection will be the basis for personal imagery.

I Love Art:

Every child can be creative and produce artwork that they can be proud of. This class offers the opportunity to explore a wide variety of materials while learning about famous artists. Children will experiment with paint, oil pastel, collage, and construction.



Support Our Local Businesses

The Becket General

30 Washington Street
Becket, MA 01223

Al & Tracy Lussier, Owners
Coffee bar, Deli, Sandwiches & Pizza
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Bucksteep Manor

Casual fun atmosphere
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(413)623.5535

The Bucksteep Pub will be open with light fare
Friday 11am-4pm
Saturday 11am-4pm
Sunday 11am-4pm

Justice of the Peace

Dorothy Filanowska
(413) 446-6921 / dora@justicedora.com
<http://www.justicedora.com>

Horace Mann Insurance Agency

Po Box 772 Becket Ma. 01223. Phone 413)
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E-Mail: carolandfranksr@carolandfrank.com

By appointment only

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