



April 2012

Community Gardens –Interested?

The COA is trying to determine how much interest there is in Town for a community garden. If there is enough interest we will move forward with raised beds, for a community garden behind the Town Hall (some beds to be 24” tall for access from a wheelchair or chair) – open to everyone with preference given to seniors. If you are interested, the sooner you let us know the sooner we can get started! Just call Carol or Frank Kennedy @ 413-623-5180 or e-mail Rose Borgnis at washingtoncoa@gmail.com

1. The Board of Selectmen has granted the Becket Fire Department's request to use the Mapleview property for training exercises so do not be alarmed if you see fire and rescue vehicles there.
2. The Parks Commission Annual Spring Clean Up is scheduled for June 3rd starting at 9:00AM. Volunteers are welcome and greatly needed.
3. Crews will be working on Tuesday's and Thursday's from 8:30 AM through 11:30 AM at the Town Hall on some much needed renovations and cleaning.

Starting April 10th There will be computer lessons at the Washington Town Hall.

First priority will be for Washington seniors (60 and older).

Classes will start at 10:00 AM.

Because this is a pilot program those seeking a seat will need to bring their own laptops.

There will be four available laptops, assigned on a first come bases.

The fee will be \$5.00 and the class will be 1 1/2 to 2 hours.

Please call Frank Kennedy at 623-5180 to reserve your seat.

If all goes well the next class will be April 24th at 6:30 PM.

The Movie of the month will be “Hugo” Starting after the dinner at 6:30 PM Friday the 20th.

Storyline

Hugo is an orphan boy living in the walls of a train station in 1930s Paris. He learned to fix clocks and other gadgets from his father and uncle which he puts to use keeping the train station clocks running. The only thing that he has left that connects him to his dead father is an automaton (mechanical man) that doesn't work without a special key which Hugo needs to find to unlock the secret he believes it contains. On his adventures, he meets with a shopkeeper, George Melies, who works in the train station and his adventure-seeking god-daughter. Hugo finds that they have a surprising connection to his father and the automaton, and he discovers it unlocks some memories the old man has buried inside regarding his past

The film stars Asa Butterfield, Chloë Grace Moretz, Ben Kingsley, Sacha Baron Cohen, Ray Winstone, Emily Mortimer, Jude Law and Christopher Lee.

Run time 2 HR.

What: FREE Playgroup for Children 0-5 sponsored by CHP Family Services

Date: 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month (for March: the 7th and 21st)

Time: 9:30 am - 11:30 am

Place: Becket Town Hall Community Room (downstairs)

Details:

CHP is excited to introduce this new playgroup! The fun will include a spacious play area, crafts and even a clothing exchange! For more information, contact: 413-644-0104 x1159.

To arrange to have your WIC checks delivered to playgroup, please contact the WIC offices ahead of time at: 413-528-0457.

This project has been supported by a grant from **Central Berkshire Fund**, a fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

Need help with prescription drug costs?

Prescription Advantage may be your answer!

Prescription Advantage is a state-run program which helps many seniors pay for their prescription drugs. There is no charge for joining Prescription Advantage, if you have an annual income at or less than \$33,510 for a single person and \$45,390 for a married couple. (*There is no asset limit!*)

Who can join?

If you are a Massachusetts resident, eligible for Medicare, and are:

- 65 years or older with an annual income at or less than \$55,850 for a single person or \$75,650 for a married couple

OR...

- under 65 years and disabled, with an annual income at or less than \$21,000 for a single person or \$28,444 for a married couple.

If you are **not** eligible for Medicare, you can also join and there is *no income limit*.

How can Prescription Advantage help you?

- If you have Medicare, Prescription Advantage helps pay for your prescriptions when you reach the Medicare Part D coverage gap (donut hole).
- If you are unhappy with your current Part D or Medicare Advantage plan, Prescription Advantage allows you to switch your plan **now**, instead of waiting for Open Enrollment in October.
- If you are NOT currently enrolled but you need a Part D or Medicare Advantage plan **now**, joining Prescription Advantage allows you to enroll right away.

Call Prescription Advantage today for an application form. You can reach Prescription Advantage at 1-800-AGE-INFO (1-800-243-4636), then press or say 2.

Also, help is available from the SHINE program. Trained SHINE volunteers offer free, confidential counseling on all aspects of health insurance to anyone on Medicare. You can reach a SHINE counselor by telephone. 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.

Attention high school seniors... The deadline for submitting your application for the Washington Scholarship is April 10. If you need an application or have questions, please contact Linda Levernoch 623-8309.

To our fellow Washington residents:

April 2012

We want to welcome our replacement for Sandy. Our new Treasurer's name is Catherine Briggs. Cathy brings a wealth of experience in finance and accounting, and we look forward to working with her.

A lot of changes are happening at the Town Hall:

- The building will be cleaned and painted, along with other improvements thanks to community service "volunteers" from the Sheriff's department. Selectman Shaun Lennon was the driving force for us to get this very welcome help.
- Thanks to Dick Spencer for helping secure additional file cabinets from General Dynamics.
- The Select Board is now holding its weekly meeting in the auditorium. This gives us a lot more space so please come and join us.
- Thanks to Ed Bond we now have a separate office for our Administrative Assistant, located where the Select Board used to hold its meetings. The rest of the old Select Board office will be used for a conference room and file storage for our various boards and commissions.

On the energy conservation front:

- MA Department of Energy (DOER) turned down our request to use the remaining EECB Grant funds for a new membrane roof on the Town Hall. The Board has authorized a reworking of the bid package for the exterior insulation by excluding the north (window) wall from the bid. We expect that this will lower the costs to within the remaining Grant funds while preserving the façade of the building – and, of course, lower our heat bills.
- CTC Technologies – who install large solar panel arrays to generate electricity - has proposed that the Town buy part of their output credits in the form of an electric bill 10% below WMECO rates. We are exploring that and have asked CTC to look at the 40 acres of town property behind the Town Park as a potential site for solar generation.
- Jim Barry of DOER returned to Town last week and re-presented the case for us to become a Green Community. The upside is that we would be eligible for grant funds, but the downside is that a separate inspection for energy efficiency would be required for any construction.
 - Grant funding could help us replace the old drafty doors and windows at the Town Hall.
 - Additionally the Board is exploring whether the grant money could be used to refund the cost of the inspection and provide seed money to residents wishing to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.
 - We will be voting whether or not to make Washington a Green Community at our Annual Town meeting in May. Look for a pro- and con- article in *Tracks*.

What a March! Some of our neighbors are already planting! Here's hoping that when the weather returns to more usual cooler temperatures and the clouds gather that there won't be much snow in them...

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Shaun Lennon
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case
Select Board

Voter Registration Session

A voter registration session will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2012 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm and 7:00 - 8:00 pm at the Washington Town Hall, 8 Summit Hill Road. If you are a Washington resident and are not currently registered to vote in town, this will be the last date that you can register and be eligible to vote at the Annual Town Meeting and Election.

Absentee Ballots for the Annual Town Election

The Annual Town Election will be held on Saturday, May 19, 2012 from 12:00 - 4:00 pm at the Washington Town Hall, 8 Summit Hill Road. If you will not be able to vote in person on this day, please contact the Town Clerk for an absentee ballot application. The deadline to request an absentee ballot application is Friday, May 18, 2012 at 12:00 pm.

Note from the Sons & Daughters Committee

During a recent cleaning spree at the Town Hall, the original donation box for the Sons & Daughters was found in a closet. The new donation box, made last year by Michele and Will Beemer at Heartwood School, will be donated to the Washington Council on Aging.

Town Clerk Office Closings

The Town Clerk will not hold office hours on Monday, April 23, 2012 or Monday, May 7, 2012.

Tax Collector Closed

Monday, April 9, 2012

Address Service
Requested



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By appointment only

Hilltowns Veterinary Clinic

Dr. Sharon Lynch, MVB
133 South Washington State Rd
Washington, MA 01223
Phone: (413)623-5329
www.hilltownsvetclinic.com

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