



December 2012

Holiday Tree Lighting and Caroling

**Sunday, December 16
5:00 PM**

Washington Town Park

Join us for a tree
lighting, hot cocoa and
caroling. Caroling will
be led by Sean and Deb
Connors, Jody Lampro
and friends.

Everyone is welcome

Starting Saturday December 1st There will be Coffee and Bagels at the Town Hall between 8:00 AM and 11:00 AM

This will continue every Saturday morning unless notified otherwise.

Keith Sharp and Frank Kennedy will be hosting this weekly event.

The Select Board welcomed Dr. William Cameron, Superintendent of Schools for the Central Berkshire Regional School District for a discussion of our schools. Becket-Washington is in the top quartile of all schools in the Commonwealth in terms of the kids' MCAS scores and, along with Wahconah, is one of the Districts' two Level 1 schools! Becket-Washington is also an Innovation School working with Columbia University's Teachers College for even greater achievement. Thanks to Principal Leslie Blake-Davis, her staff and the staff at CBRSD for bringing our kids and our community ever higher levels of excellence.

The installation of the new windows and doors at the Town Hall has started and we expect them all to be in before the Holidays. We will get an energy audit done after the installation is complete to see what our savings the new boiler, new lighting and tighter building envelope have brought us.

Thanks to Williams College we will be getting a fair amount of new furniture to replace our mismatched, damaged and worn file cabinets, tables, desks and chairs. We are also hoping to get a fire curtain for the stage.

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Whether you love them or hate them, our venerable folding wooden chairs are going to be refurbished by "volunteers" at the Sheriffs Department and they will be back! And thanks to Ellen Bond for the nice new cushions for them!

The proposal for the Mapleview property is being considered by the Planning Board. If they approve of the plan we will hold a Special Town Meeting to vote on the issue.

We have applied for Federal Grant funding for a new bridge/culvert on Frost Road at Depot Brook.

The Town is also the primary signatory on a Community Innovation Challenge Grant to develop municipal accounting software. Thanks to Dan Parnell and Cathy Briggs for agreeing to work on this. The goal is to have a complete suite of state-supported software for all of our financial functions (tax assessors, tax collectors, accounting and treasury) that would be far less costly than what is available from private businesses.

We are working with Dalton and Hinsdale to restrict truck traffic along Kirchener/Blotz/Pittsfield Rd after the railway bridge on Route 8 in Hinsdale is complete.

The damage claim against CSX to pay for the flood damage caused to Upper Valley Road is still in progress.

We did not get the MassWorks grant to redo Washington Mountain Road but we will continue to pursue other ways of maintaining and upgrading the road.

We still have no indication whether Westfield Wild and Scenic will give us funding for new culverts on Cross Place Road.

There will be no Select Board meeting on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve, and the next Select Board letter will be in the February *Tracks*. We wish everyone a joyous Holiday Season and a healthy, safe and prosperous 2013.

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Shaun Lennon
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case
Select Board

Washington tops goal for supporting high-speed Internet

Congratulations, Washington! We beat our goal of getting 50% of our households to sign Support Cards to help WiredWest bring high-speed Internet to western Mass. In fact, with about 140 households responding, our rate of 58% ranks us in the Top 5 of WiredWest's 42 member towns. **If you haven't signed up yet, you still can.** Send in your Card now, or fill it out online at www.wiredwest.net. Thanks for your support!

Steve Nelson, Washington Delegate to WiredWest Jan Nelson, Alternate Washington Delegate

Help is at hand!

Neighbor-to-Neighbor provides emergency assistance for residents of Becket, Cummington, Dalton, Hinsdale, Peru, Washington and Windsor who are in economic distress. The program makes small grants (generally up to \$500) to help those with overdue utilities, medical bills, short-term housing costs, and transportation problems. Checks are written to the vendor (landlord, utility company, pharmacy or mechanic) on behalf of the community member in need. The funds are not intended for long-term or ongoing assistance, but for strategic intervention to help achieve a measure of stability and avert further crises. Please help make sure that our neighbors in need are aware of this resource.

To apply, please contact any of the following:

Berkshire Community Action Council (BCAC) 413.445.4503 extension 140 or n2ngrant@bcacinc.org

Dalton CRA, 413.684.0260 or apeters@daltoncra.org

Elder Services/Councils on Aging 413.442.6443 or esbc@esbc.org

West Cummington Congregational Church 413-634-2100 or stephenphilbrick@verizon.net

Neighbor to Neighbor is a program of the Central Berkshire Fund, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation (www.berkshiretaconic.org).

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the outstanding success of the Washington Scholarship Fund's bake sale. This once-every-two-year event realized over \$950 for local scholarships—smashing the old record. Every cookie, cake, pie, bread, etc., was sold shortly before the polls closed at 8p.m. Thanks again for this overwhelming response; see you in 2014!

Thanks for getting the word out!



 *The Becket Athenaeum's*
Holly Ball
Saturday, December 1st
Becket Chimney Corners Dining Hall
YMCA Road, Becket, MA

6:30pm
Appetizers

7:30pm
Dinner
Beef Bourguignonne, Mango Chicken, and Pasta with Vodka Sauce
(Vegan and other special diets happily accommodated)

8:30pm
Dancing & live music by Lady Di & The Dukes

PLUS delectable desserts & a goods & services raffle not to be missed!

NOTE: this is a BYOB event

\$50 per person

Reservations* may be made by phone: 623-5483
e-mail: BecketAthenaeum@gmail.com
or in person at the library: 3307 Main Street, Becket

*Reservations required prior to 11/15/2013

100% of profits go toward supporting the Becket Athenaeum's programs.



Holiday Gifts by regional artists, go no further than North Becket Village - Visit POTATO, the Becket Arts Center gallery shop, relocated to the Mullen House galleries for November and December. Saturdays from 11 to 4, November 10th through December 22. Affordable, delightful and locally crafted in western Massachusetts.

Yoga on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:45 at Becket Washington School

Instructor Rima Sala is a certified yoga teacher working with adults of all ages. She teaches in Lenox, Hinsdale and at the Dalton CRA.

November 7, 14, 28 & December 5 & 12; \$50 for 5 sessions or \$15 each.

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Please send your Tracks info by 28th of the month to:

mrsabeski@mac.com & put TRACKS in the subject, or if you do not have email, call Lisa at 623.5088