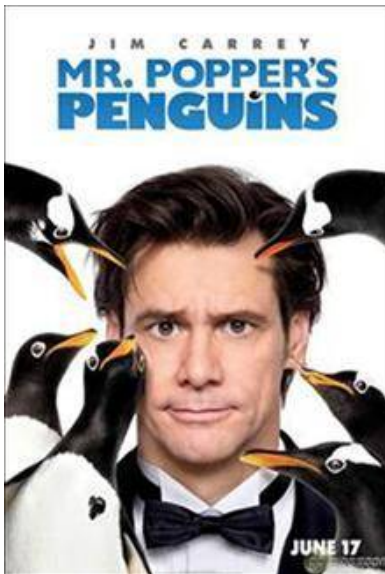


March 2012

Did you Know? March was named for the Roman God "Mars"



It's Movie time again

March 16th a date **not to forget**

First ever combination

Pot luck dinner and a movie.

Dinner is at 5:30

Movie At approximately 6:30

Synopsis

Thomas Popper has spent his entire life working to become the #1 real estate mogul in New York City. He has sacrificed everything...friends, family, and even his own happiness. But on the brink of the biggest deal of his career, he receives a gift - a mysterious crate from Antarctica - from his long missing father. What's inside the crate marks the end of Popper's comfortable and well-ordered existence, and the beginning of his new life as caretaker, landlord and parent figure to six unforgettable penguins, each with a distinct personality.

Everyone is Welcome

Sponsored by the Washington Council On Aging

Western Massachusetts Master Gardeners' Association Berkshire county symposium, St. Mary's Elementary School, Orchard St., Lee, MA. Pick three classes from twelve offered gardening topics:

Session 1, Unusual Annuals, Native Plants, Living Roofs, Flower Arranging,

Session 2, Growing Blueberries, Building a Garden Trellis, Heirloom Vegetable Gardening, Container Gardening,

Session 3, Vertical Gardening, Renovating the Older Landscape, Raising Beautiful Roses, Water Gardening.

Registration including lunch, \$30. Saturday, March 24. 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Reservations: Marilynwiley@toast.net or call 623 5859.



To our fellow Washington residents:

March 2012

Our long-term Treasurer, Sandy Brazee, has announced her retirement. She was a mainstay of our Town's administration for over fourteen years and will be sorely missed.

- In addition to looking for a replacement for Sandy, the Select Board will use this transition as an opportunity to review, document and – as needed – revise our financial procedures.

Some updates:

- Thanks to Ed Bond, Jodi Hostetter and Jan Nelson, we now have a separate office for our Treasurer. Our Accountant, Dan Parnell will stay in the office he and Sandy used while our new, yet-to-be-identified Treasurer will occupy the new office.
- Again thanks to Ed we have secured office panels, a bookcase and filing cabinets from Berkshire Regional Planning free of charge. Ed is using the panels to partition the old Select Board office into conference space and an office for our Administrative Assistant.
- Bids for the hydraulic study of the Eden Glen area are due on March 26. We plan to use this study to apply for grant funds to improve drainage in the area and widen the Frost Road Bridge.
- We are making one last effort to use the remaining EECB Grant for something other than spray insulation over the exterior of the Town Hall. We have requested that we use the money to place additional insulation over the existing membrane roof and add a new membrane. This would both greatly reduce heat loss – more so than the exterior insulation – and extend the life of the roof by the warranty period of the new membrane – typically 20 years.
- Early this year the Select Board made notification to the owners of two nuisance properties in town and we are pleased to note that MA DCAM (Capital Management), the owner of the property on Summit Hill Road, has removed decrepit outbuildings, secured the main building, and filled in a hazardous hole. As of this writing we have not yet gotten a response on the second property, which may mean we will have to take the owner to court.

As we noted last month we have invited Jim Barry from the MA department of Energy back to address any questions our citizens may have about becoming a Green Community. Jim will present at 7 pm on Wednesday March 21. Please make an effort to attend since we will be asking for a sense of the community vote regarding making Washington a Green Community at our Annual Town meeting in May.

An even more important date: we urge everyone to get out and vote in the March 6 primary elections. The strength of democracy rests on the participation of the citizenry and exercising the right to vote is the least each of us should do.

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Shaun Lennon
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case
Select Board

VOTE!

Don't forget to vote in the Presidential Primary on Tuesday, March 6, 2012.
The polls are open at the Town Hall from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.

If you need an absentee ballot application, contact me by Monday,
March 5, 2012 at 12:00 noon.

Allison Mikaniewicz, Town Clerk 413-623-2185

February 25, 2012

Media Contact: 256-847-2316

LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH AGENTS ATTENDS HOMELAND SECURITY TRAINING

Board of Health Agents Valerie Nickerson-Bird, Erin Kirchner, and Jack Conboy recently completed Pandemic Planning and Preparedness training offered by the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), in Anniston, Ala. The CDP is operated by the United State Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and is the only federally-chartered Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) training facility in the nation.

Valerie Nickerson-Bird with 17 years in the Public Health field is the Health Agent for the Towns of Peru, Washington, Tolland and the alternate in Otis. Jack Conboy has 24 years of experience and is the Health Inspector in the Town of Otis. Erin Kirchner has 8 years in the Public Health field. Erin is the Health Agent for the Town of Chester, the Health Director for the Foothills Health District, and a Board of Selectman/Health in the Town of Windsor.

The Pandemic Planning and Preparedness training provides students with the knowledge and skills to effectively plan and prepare for a pandemic. Successful completion of the course enables students to understand the steps for developing an effective planning and preparedness program and development of a pandemic annex.

The CDP develops and delivers advanced training for emergency response providers, emergency managers, and other government officials from state, local, and tribal governments. The CDP offers more than 50 training courses focusing on incident management, mass casualty response, and emergency response to a catastrophic natural disaster or terrorist act. Training at the CDP campus is federally funded at no cost to state, local, and tribal emergency response professionals or their agency.

Resident training at the CDP includes healthcare and public health courses at the Noble Training Facility, the nation's only hospital dedicated to training healthcare professionals in disaster preparedness and response.

A number of resident training courses culminate at the CDP's Chemical, Ordnance, Biological and Radiological Training Facility (COBRA). The COBRA is the nation's only facility featuring civilian training exercises in a true toxic environment using chemical agents. The advanced hands-on training enables responders to effectively prevent, respond to, and recover from real-world incidents involving acts of terrorism and other hazardous materials.

Responders participating in CDP training gain critical skills and confidence to respond effectively to local incidents or potential WMD events.

FEMA's mission is to support its citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

I wanted to thank Rose Borgnis, Carol Kennedy and Frank Kennedy for the Council on Aging's movie night. It was a good idea and you did a great job. The picture was excellent and the sound system was fantastic. You were very thoughtful providing snacks, coffee and popcorn. I hope you continue with movie night as I had a wonderful time sitting on a blanket with my four year old daughter Cote having a snack picnic while watching The Incredibles. I'm looking forward to next movie night.

Sincerely, Jodi Hostetter

Jim Barry from the MA department of Energy will address any questions our citizens may have about becoming a Green Community at 7 pm on Wednesday March 21. Please make an effort to attend since we will be asking for a sense of the community vote regarding making Washington a Green Community at our Annual Town meeting in May.



Washington Tracks
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Saturday 11am-4pm
Sunday 11am-4pm

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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