



November 2012

Last call to support high-speed Internet for Washington

WiredWest is wrapping up our Support Card campaign to help bring broadband to western Mass. So far over 100 households in Washington have signed on. That's a response rate of over 40%, which ranks 7th best among all 42 WiredWest member towns. Let's keep up the good work, and beat our goal of 50%. If you haven't done it yet, don't let your neighbors down. Take a minute to mail it today, or fill it out online at www.wiredwest.net. Thanks for your support!

Steve Nelson

Washington Delegate to WiredWest

Jan Nelson

Alternate Washington Delegate to WiredWest

Reminder: The Washington Scholarship Committee will hold its traditional Election Day bake sale at the Town Hall starting at 7am. Baked goods can be brought to the town hall either Monday evening, between 7 and 8, (leave in the kitchen refrigerator) or anytime on the 6th. Together we can make this fundraiser a huge success!

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.

***** IMPORTANT REMINDER *****

Medicare Open Enrollment ends on December 7th!

Every year, Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage (managed care) plans may change their formularies (list of drugs covered), premiums, co-pays, and deductibles. It's important to review your options EVERY year to make sure you have the plan that works best for you.

Some Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage plans are leaving and some new ones are entering. ***If you are a member of a plan that is leaving, you need to make certain that you have a new plan for January 2013.***

Trained SHINE (Serving Health Information Needs of Elders) volunteers offer free, confidential counseling on all aspects of health insurance to anyone on Medicare. Call Elder Services of Berkshire County (413)499-0524 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.

For assistance from a Medicare customer service representative 24 hours/day, 7 days/week, call 1-800-MEDICARE.

November 16th

COA Pot Luck Dinner (50 years old and up) and movie

Dinner at 5:30 Movie at 6:30



The Illusionist is a 2006 American period drama film written and directed by Neil Burger and starring Edward Norton, Paul Giamatti, and Jessica Biel. It is based loosely on Steven Millhauser's short story, "Eisenheim the Illusionist". The film tells the story of Eisenheim, a magician in fin de siècle Vienna, who uses his abilities to secure the love of a woman far above his social standing.

The Becket Arts Center (BAC) is working on a plan to improve its programs and services. We are very interested in knowing your thoughts and opinions about how we can better meet your needs. To access the survey type the following into your web-browser:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Washington_Tracks

If you prefer a paper copy, please visit the Becket Washington Library and fill in a copy there! All responses will be completely anonymous, processed and reported to us in the aggregate by Maren Brown Associates. All open-ended responses will be provided to the Becket Arts Center verbatim. The survey will be open until Tuesday, November 13, 2012. Please contact Maren Brown if you have any questions about this survey at maren@marenbrown.com or Paul Campbell at the Becket Arts Center, 623.6635. Thank you for your participation! Your response is very important to us.

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.



Jackie Guthrie
July 25, 1944 - Oct. 14, 2012

Dear Friends,

This morning Jackie left her body surrounded by her family and a few friends. She called us to her about 3 this morning to let us know she couldn't fight any longer. She was at peace with the life and dreams we shared together for almost 45 years. We stayed at her bedside through the morning until about 11:45 when she gently breathed her last breath. She will remain in our hearts and memories as she does for many of you. Thank you for your prayers and notes... With Love, adg

To our fellow Washington residents: November 2012

We hope that many of you were able to participate in The John F. X. Keator Memorial Pumpkin Walk last Friday. We had great weather, an almost-full moon, an impressive bonfire, plenty of food and warming drinks, hay rides, candy for the trick-or-treaters and, of course, dozens and dozens of beautifully carved pumpkins! This event is Washington at its best, supported by so many volunteers that calling it a community effort is an understatement. Thanks to all who made it happen – you make us proud to live in Washington!

Steve and Jan Nelson are working to bring high-speed internet to every resident through the Wired West initiative. If you have not yet filled out your Wired West support form – either on-line or one that was mailed to you – please try to do so soon.

The removal of lead paint and repainting of the exterior of the Town Hall is complete and we have awarded the contract for replacing the doors and windows.

- We are still expecting that at least some of the funding can be taken from the Town's Free Cash once our FY12 books are closed.

We have received a proposal for the purchase of the Maplevue property and its conversion into a small suite of offices plus some storage. We are hopeful that we will soon be returning the property to the tax rolls!

MASS DOT has placed a weight restriction on a culvert in Dalton along Kirchner Road (the continuation of our Blotz Rd/ Hinsdale's Pittsfield Rd. We are still working with Dalton and Hinsdale to coordinate efforts to restrict truck traffic.

The design work for a new bridge and culvert on Frost Road at Depot Brook is complete. We will be putting in a FEMA/ MEMA grant application for construction this month.

We also expect to put in our claim against CSX to pay for the flood damage caused to Upper Valley Road this month.

Our highway crew has done a great job of leveling and chip sealing many of our paved roads. We are still waiting to hear if:

- We have gotten state funding for repaving Washington Mountain Road

- Westfield Wild and Scenic will give us funding for new culverts on Cross Place Road.

The Town contracted for Public Health Nursing services with the Berkshire Public Health Alliance and we are pleased to announce that there will be flu clinic from 3 to 6 pm on Election Day (Tuesday 11/6). The clinic will offer advice and literature on avoiding the flu and how to care for it if you or a loved one are unfortunate enough to get it. If you have not yet gotten a flu shot, you can get one free at the clinic – just bring your insurance card if you have one. (BPHA will bill the insurance company IF you have coverage, but the shot is free to you regardless!) BPHA will also be putting on a program next spring to help us understand and prepare for the upsurge in mosquito-borne illnesses.

Please remember to exercise your most fundamental right and responsibility and VOTE on November 6! Polls are open from 7am to 8pm. And if you need a flu shot or would like to meet our Public Health Nurses plan your trip to the Town Hall between 3 and 6.

Jim Huebner (The full Select Board was unable to discuss this letter in open meeting
Select Board Chair because of the Hurricane so I am the sole signatory.)

The Historical Committee gave Washington cups filled with goodies to people in our town who turned 80 years old this year.

Barbara & Ralph Simmons
Jan Nelson
Gail Ellis



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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