



## **September 2012**

### **103rd Annual Washington Sons and Daughters Reunion**

The annual Sons and Daughters Reunion will be held on Sunday, September 9, 2012 at the Old Washington Town Hall on Washington Mountain Road. The meeting of the Sons and Daughters will begin at 12:00 PM followed by a buffet lunch (provided by Sons and Daughters Committee - NO potluck luncheon this year), games and activities for the children and musical entertainment. The Historical Commission will also have a display set-up.

As we do every year, there will be a baking contest. The category for this year is Pies and Dessert Bars. Please do not use whipped cream on your baked items. We will supply whipped cream for you to use. Anyone, of any age, is welcome to submit an entry for the contest. The contest submissions will be our desserts for the event. Bring along a copy of the recipe and we will publish the recipes in a future issue of Tracks. We are also looking for a few people to be judges.

Entertainment will be provided by  
**Kenneth Nonken & Eric Hooben (guitar duet)**  
**Old School Jazz, Blues, and Folk.**



**Saturday, September 15th Noon - 8PM - Washington Town Park**

**Performances By:**

**Xavier • Bobby Sweet • Guthrie Family Celebrating Woody's 100th**  
**The Faculty • Modest Me**  
**• WRHS Band led by Brian Rabuse • Dana Welts & the Modern World**  
**Terry a la Berry & Friends**

**100% proceeds go directly to the schools of Central Berkshire!**  
**[www.hilltownhoot.com](http://www.hilltownhoot.com)**

**Discount Tickets available at:**

**Becket Country Store, Becket General Store, Hinsdale Trading Company, Dalton General,  
Sweet Peas, Dalton CRA, Wood Bros. & Mad Macs**

This movie has a R rating for violence and language

September 21, 2012

COA Dinner at 5:30 Movie at 6:30



At first glance,

The Book of Eli appears to be just another violent post-apocalyptic film from Hollywood

But beyond the bloody scenes and foul language, audiences will discover a compelling story filled with more biblical references and Christian thought than any other major motion picture in recent years.

The Christian Broadcasting Network

A post-apocalyptic tale, in which a lone man fights his way across America in order to protect a sacred book that holds the secrets to saving humankind.

This movie has a R rating for violence and language

## King Ward Coach Lines Berkshire Seniors Club

King Ward Coach Lines has announced their new Berkshire Seniors Club intending to make affordable trips available to seniors throughout Berkshire County. There is no cost to join. Brochures are available at the Town Hall, on the Town's web site ([www.Washington-ma.com](http://www.Washington-ma.com)) or call King Ward for more info 800-639-4805

**Don't Wait Until It's Too Late!**

**Medicare's Open Enrollment Period  
October 15 - December 7**

Medicare plans change every year!  
This is the time to decide on your coverage for 2013.

**SHINE Can Help!**

SHINE counselors provide free Medicare counseling.

**Call Elder Services at (413)499-0524 for a SHINE appointment now!**  
~ Or ~

You can 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.

~ Or ~

For assistance from a Medicare customer service representative

24 hours/day, 7 days/week, call 1-800-MEDICARE.

To our fellow Washington residents: September 2012

We may have a volunteer to take the now-vacant position of Town Auditor! We ask all of our residents to please consider volunteering either for a vacant position or to provide whatever help they can. We are a very small town with many of the same obligations as larger communities. A large part of keeping our tax rate down is the willingness of many volunteers to step up and help. And bear in mind that even some of our paid staff operates on a semi-volunteer basis. Any help is appreciated!

Over the past month:

- The Town has a new attorney-reviewed Personnel Policy. And thanks to Jan Nelson we secured a grant from the MIIA (Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association) that paid for the work!

- Since there were no responders to our second RFP for Maplevue we are pursuing grant funding to demolish the building. The property could then be sold as a residential building lot and returned to the tax rolls. If anyone has a better idea or any helpful suggestion – let us know!

- The bid opening to replace the windows and doors at the Town Hall will be at the Select Board meeting 9/10. We will also have a Special Town Meeting that night. One of the warrant items will be borrowing authority to pay for the installation of the new doors and windows.

- Although we need the borrowing authority to proceed, we expect that at least some of the funding can be taken from the Town's Free Cash once our FY12 books are closed.

- The Sheriff's Department was ready to supply us help to spruce up the exterior of the Town Hall but we have run into an issue – the current exterior paint is lead-based. We are working to find a way to safely remove it so that the work can proceed.

- We have placed a claim with CSX to pay for the restoration of the damage caused to Upper Valley Road by the periodic flooding from the spring of 2011 through early summer this year.

- We have applied for a Mass Infrastructure Grant to resurface Washington Mountain Road. Thanks to both Becket and Dalton for providing letters of support!

- Town Counsel has affirmed that the Select Board can place a weight limitation of 10,000 pounds on any road we deem vulnerable to excessive wear and tear. For both safety and maintenance considerations we plan to do so for Blotz Road, preferably with the concurrence of Dalton and Hinsdale. We are in contact with both towns and will not impose any limit without hearing from them and allowing a period of public comment.

- At this time we have no update on:

- The FEMA/MEMA grant application to restructure/rebuild the Depot Brook culvert/bridge/dam area; or

- The Westfield Wild and Scenic grant for a new culvert on Cross Place Road;

We hope to see many of you at the annual Sons & Daughters Reunion at the Old Town Hall on Sunday September 9 and at the Hilltown Hoot at the Town Park Saturday September 15. These two events showcase all that is best in our community. Please plan to attend our Special Town Meeting on Monday September 10 at 8:00, and don't forget to vote in the Tuesday September 6 primary. Democracy thrives on participation!

Jim Huebner,  
Select Board Chair

Shaun Lennon  
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case  
Select Board

## **GOLD FILLINGS IN YOUR TEETH**

Did you know that if a Dentist pulls a tooth  
which has a gold filling in it – the Dentist saves  
the tooth and sells tooth for the gold? Submitted by Carol Kennedy

## Fuel Assistance

Fuel assistance is a federally funded program to assist low income households with their heating bills. This program runs November 1<sup>st</sup> – April 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE FUEL ASSISTANCE?

Any low-income household whose gross yearly income falls at or below the income guidelines may be eligible. Homeowners and tenants can both be eligible to receive fuel assistance. All heating types are included in the fuel assistance program, even some households who have heat included in their rent.

### DO I GET A DISCOUNT ON MY HEATING BILL?

If you are eligible for fuel assistance you may be eligible for a discount from your utility companies. Gas and Electric companies offer discounts. Verizon offers a lifeline discount on basic service.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DISCOUNT INCLUDE:

1. The account must be in the name of the person listed as head of household on the fuel assistance application.
2. Your gross yearly household income must fall with 60% of the poverty level. (see guideline)
3. Fuel assistance will automatically notify the utilities if you are found to be eligible for the discount.

\*Incoming guidelines are subject to change.

### INCOME GUIDELINES

Fuel Assistance Income Limits

Winter 2011-2012

Household size Gross annual income

1	\$31,218	2	\$40,824	3	\$50,429	4	\$60,035	5	\$69,641	6	\$79,246	7	\$81,047	8	\$82,848
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### HOW DO I APPLY FOR THE PROGRAM?

Based on the income guidelines listed above, if you believe you may be eligible for fuel assistance and if you live in a town covered by our service area call our main office at 413-445-4503 to make an appointment.

### WHAT DOCUMENTS WILL I NEED TO PROVIDE TO APPLY FOR FUEL ASSISTANCE?

- Photo ID for Head of Household
- Social Security cards for all household members
- Proof of income for every household member over the age of 18 for the 30 days prior to your appointment date.
  - Wages (4 consecutive weeks)
  - Social Security (verification of gross amount from the source)
  - Pension (verification of gross amount from the source)
  - EAEDC-TANF (Award letter)
  - Self-Employment (Most current \*Certified tax return)
  - Rental Income (Most current \*Certified tax return)
  - Child Support (court order, DOR print out, or notarized letter from ex-spouse)
  - Unemployment (4 consecutive weeks)
- Lease/Full name address and phone number of Landlord
- Mortgage statement/Tax bill, Home Owners Insurance
- Current Gas and Electric bills

\*If taxes are self-prepared an IRS tax transcript is needed and can be obtained by calling 1-800-829-1040

### HOW WILL I KNOW IF I AM ELIGIBLE AND FOR HOW MUCH?

Once your application has been received you can call our automated phone system at 1-866-216-6200 to check the status of your application, eligibility, and any payments made to your heating account. You will need to know your social security number to access your information. The automated system is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week. You will not be able to speak with a representative from this number.

## "Death with Dignity"

The Massachusetts "Death with Dignity" Initiative, also known as Question 2, will appear on the November 6, 2012 general election ballot. On Thursday September 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM Peggy Bradford will be at the Washington Town Hall to speak on this ballot question. Peggy has her B. A. From Our Lady of the Elms College, has worked with elders in nursing centers as a Recreational Director and as a Pastoral minister. After her short presentation (20-30 minutes) she will take questions. The speaker is being provided by the Educational Alliance on Doctor Prescribed Suicide through the Washington COA.

## Help Us Bring Broadband To Washington

WiredWest is a cooperative of 40 western Mass. towns, including Washington, working to build a fiber network to bring you high-speed, reasonably-priced Internet and other digital services. But to make it happen, we need your support. We're mailing a "Support Card" to everyone in our towns, so that you can sign up to show your interest in getting service. It's not a contract, but it will help us get financing to build the network. Watch for it in the mail, or better yet, go to our website now and fill it out at [www.wiredwest.net](http://www.wiredwest.net).

Steve Nelson

Washington Delegate to WiredWest

Jan Nelson

Alternate Washington Delegate to WiredWest

**Becket Arts Center** received a Massachusetts Cultural Council Capital Funds Feasibility Study matching grant for \$15,000. Part of this grant is for BAC to work with the local cultural facilities of North Becket Village in the creation of what is hoped to be the "Smallest Cultural District in western Massachusetts with the biggest Heart." Anyone who would like to participate in an upcoming survey about this, please come to the Autumnal Equinox Community Celebration on Sunday, September 23 - celebrate the cultural riches that the Becket Arts Center, the Becket Washington Library and the Mullen House Education Center & Becket Land Trust bring to community.

12:00 p.m. Potluck; appetizers at the Library, main course at the Arts Center.

1:30 p.m. Music by Common Thread: warm & magical folk harmonies with guitar, fiddle and three great voices.

3:00 p.m. Raffle pull for the BAC Schoolhouse Quilt: buy tickets now 1/\$5, 3/\$10, 10/\$30 with Dessert and coffee at the Mullen House.

ART QUILTS Artist Receptions on Friday, September 7 from 5-7 p.m. Shows open through September 23.

**"Insights into the Building of our Community"** - Friday through Sunday, 12 to 4 pm.

Saturday, Sept. 8, 2 pm: Rob Gordon - New England architecture and a short walking tour of historic Becket Village highlights.

Saturday, Sept. 15 - cancelled - go to the Hilltown Hoot!!

Saturday, Sept. 22, 2 pm: Charles Francis - Through Time

**Rug-hooking for beginners** Saturdays, Sept. 8 & 15, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**YOGA** at Becket Washington School - Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:45 starting Sept. 17. \$50 for 5 sessions or \$12 individually - Drop in, no sign up required.

There will also be a parent / child after school movement class - more information coming

Call the arts center at 623.6635 for details and registration.

[www.becketartscenter.org](http://www.becketartscenter.org)

Washington Tracks  
Town Hall  
8 Summit Hill Rd.  
Washington, MA 01223



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Please send your Tracks info by 28th of the month to:  
[mrsabeski@mac.com](mailto:mrsabeski@mac.com) or if you do not have email, call Lisa at 623.5088

## Support Our Local Businesses

### The Becket General

30 Washington Street  
Becket, MA 01223  
Heather Anello, owner  
Coffee bar, Deli, Sandwiches & Pizza  
Beer, Wine, Groceries & Dairy Products  
Ph: 623.5700 / Fax: 623.5707

### Bucksteep Manor

Casual fun atmosphere  
885 Washington Mt. Rd  
Washington, MA  
(413)623.5535

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

### Horace Mann Insurance Agency

Po Box 772 Becket Ma. 01223. Phone  
413)623-2112.  
Fax 413)623-5551.  
Provide all Personal Lines of Insurance. Provide  
Financial and retirement products too.

### Independent Stampin' Up! Demonstrator

Sue Paquette  
623.5918  
"quality stamp sets, card stock, ink pads, etc -  
I offer creative & fun parties for you and your  
friends in your home or mine.

### Justice of the Peace

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

### Mark Newton's Full Service Pet and Home Care, also light ground maintenance, minor home repair & snow plowing

Pet sitting in your home: Dogs,  
Cats, Horses, and so much  
more Passionate, Reliable, and  
Caring.  
413 623-2254 or email:  
[markspetcare@gmail.com](mailto:markspetcare@gmail.com)

### Pampered Chef Consultant

Allison Mikaniewicz  
1214 Lovers Lane, Washington  
[apadfamily@yahoo.com](mailto:apadfamily@yahoo.com)  
Call: 413-623-2185  
Book your Cooking Show or Book  
Party today  
and earn FREE and discounted  
kitchen ware

### Your Way Computer

Frank Kennedy  
1153 Washington Mt. Road  
Washington, MA 01223  
Call: 623.5180 / Fax: 623.2018  
E-Mail:  
[carolandfranksr@carolandfrank.com](mailto:carolandfranksr@carolandfrank.com)  
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](http://www.hilltownsvetclinic.com)

Please send your Tracks info by 28th of the month to:  
[mrsabeski@mac.com](mailto:mrsabeski@mac.com) or if you do not have email, call Lisa at 623.5088