



April 2013

April 19th

COA Pot Luck Dinner At 5:30 Movie at 6:30



Western Massachusetts Master Gardeners' Association Berkshire county symposium, Lenox High and Middle School, 197 East St. Lenox, MA.

Pick three classes from twelve offered gardening topics:

Session 1, Critter Control, Redesign your Garden, Invasive Plants, Landscaping with Shrubs,

Section 2, Organic Lawn Care, Container Gardening, Hostas, Growing and Cooking with Herbs,

Section 3, Plants for Butterflies and helpful insects, Community Supported Agriculture, Heirloom Vegetables, Right Plant, Right Place.

Registration includes lunch and breakfast snacks, \$30.

Saturday, April 13. 8:30 a.m.-2:15p.m.

Reservations: Marilynwiley@toast.net or call 413 623 5859.

Registration after March 31, \$35. Includes Book sales from Storey Publishing and Timberlake Press at a discount, plant sale of early vegetables and flowers from Blossoming Acres, Southwick, MA and raffle.

Washington COA presents: **Yoga at Town Hall**

Yoga/Qigong on Friday nights with Heidi Nugent starting April 5th

Gain a greater sense of well being through movement, massage and breathing.

5:30 PM –7:00 PM 6 weeks for seniors age 60 and over \$30.00 payable at the 1st class

For those under age 60 \$60.00 for the 6 weeks payable at the 1st class

All are welcome (do not need to be a Washington resident).

Bring a blanket, pillow and water bottle, if you have a yoga mat bring that as well.

Questions call Heidi at 623-8713

Attention high school seniors:

The Washington Scholarship Committee is accepting applications for 2013 scholarships. Please contact Linda Levernoch 623-8309 for an application.

Special State Primary

With the resignation of Senator John F. Kerry, the State has scheduled a Special State Election to fill the vacancy. The Special State Primary for this election will be held Tuesday, April 30, 2013 from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm, followed by the Election on Tuesday, June 25, 2013.

The last day to register to vote, or change party enrollment, for the Primary is Wednesday, April 10, 2013 from 2:00 - 4:00 PM and 7:00 - 8:00 PM.

- Remember, in a Primary, you must cast a ballot in the party you are registered in. If you are not enrolled in either party, you will have the opportunity to choose either a Republican or Democratic ballot.
- If you are not sure which party you are enrolled in or if you are even registered, please contact the Town Clerk washingtontownclerk@yahoo.com

Absentee ballots for the Primary are now available. If you are not able to vote in person on April 30th, please contact me for an absentee ballot application.

- Deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is noon on Monday, April 29, 2013.
- But please contact me as soon as possible to allow time for mailing the ballot once your application is received.

Voter Registration Session for Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election

The last day to register to vote at the Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election is Monday, April 2, 2013 from 2:00 - 4:00 PM and 7:00 - 8:00 PM.

- If you are not sure if you are registered to vote, please contact the Town Clerk washingtontownclerk@yahoo.com

Absentee ballots for the Annual Town Election will be available starting Monday, April 8, 2013. If you are not able to vote in person on May 18th, please contact me for an absentee ballot application.

- Deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is noon on Friday, May 17, 2013.
- But please contact me as soon as possible to allow time for mailing the ballot once your application is received.

The Becket Athenaeum located on Main Street in North Becket, provides free access to books, music, movies, magazines, video games and cameras, high speed internet access, and after school children's programming. Our funding comes from the towns of Becket and Washington, as well as from a small endowment, grants, and fundraising events. We have been running our operating budget at a deficit for several years due to unexpected building repairs, water system improvements, and upgrades to our catalogue. We are asking for an increase in funding from both the towns of Becket and Washington this year to help us offset these operating cost increases. We are asking the Town of Washington to increase our funding from \$5000 (FY 2013) to \$7500 (FY 2014). Towns of similar population and demographic to Washington fund at the average per capita rate of \$10,642. We presented this information and more to the Selectboard and Finance Committee. We were asked to give a brief overview of our situation during this meeting to the Tracks readers. We appreciate your support.

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***Yoga on Wednesdays at Becket Washington School**, 5:30 p.m. every week (except vacation) \$10 per session or \$45 for series of 5 in a row. New series April 3 through May. Moderate level class with Rima Sala. Pay at the door.

***Art in the Studio** - painter Wednesday Nelena Sorokin leads a small group of painters, any medium, in her studio on Brooker Hill Road, Becket. Email her at wnsart@gmail.com for information, fees, dates and times.

***Sunday, April 25**, visit our earliest opening ever from 2-4pm, students in the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Arts Management conceived, produced and curated exhibit "Like no other: Sense of place" at the Becket Arts Center. Visual arts, performance and music by students and faculty of MCLA.

For information call Paul at BAC, 623-6635.
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To our fellow Washington residents: April 2013

We want to acknowledge those of you who took the time to come to the Special Town meeting. Democracy thrives on participation! During the meeting we eliminated the need to borrow for the completion of our new windows and doors at the Town Hall and voted for funding to fix the crumbling outer wall of the gymnasium. With the furniture donated by Williams College (thanks to Shaun Lennon) and a number of smaller cosmetic and functional improvements (thanks to Ed Bond) we are just about finished with the planned improvements to your Town Hall. To complete our drive for energy efficiency and control costs the Select Board plans to go forward with E2Sol's proposal to install solar panels on the roof of the Town Hall and provide all of the electrical needs of the Town Hall and Town Garage at \$0.132 per kilowatt hour for the next 25 years.

We have many home-based businesses in town. As a Board we must support them but also preserve the quality of life for everyone. During our Capital Assets Meeting with the Finance Committee, Planning Board, and Zoning Board of Appeals, a number of issues came up. The Planning Board is going to be considering several by-law changes – which have to be approved by the voters at a Town Meeting. If you have any concerns or ideas in these areas, please bring them to the Planning Board. The issues:

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Do we want to register all businesses in town? Do we want to charge a permitting fee? Should the fee be different for large and small?

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Retail business – except for agricultural products – is not permitted under our current by-laws; should we keep it that way?

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Should we distinguish between smaller and larger businesses? How do we define them? Do we want limitations on the number of employees or vehicles?

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Can a non-owner occupied property be used for business purposes?

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“Grandfathered businesses” (those in place before our current by-law was enacted): what are they and how large can they become before they exceed their variance? How can these be transferred from their current owners?

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Do we want building size or use limitations for either private use or business purposes?

The Select Board sent a letter to Secretary of Transportation Davey requesting \$2 million for the rehabilitation of Washington Mountain Road. We also met with Secretary Davey to further our cause. Our State Rep, Smitty Pignatelli, also spoke to Secretary Davey on our behalf and we have had past support for fixing the road from our State Senator, Ben Downing. We urge all of our residents to contact our elected officials and ask them to support this funding. Contact: Rep.Smitty@mahouse.gov; www.senatordowning.com/Share; and <http://neal.house.gov/> for our US Congressman, Richard Neal. Your Board will do everything possible to see that we get the road fixed, but the more our officials hear from citizens, the better our chances!

Other issues:

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We have not yet heard back from CSX regarding the damage claim for the flooding of Upper Valley Road that we submitted.

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We plan to set an auction date for Maplevue this month.

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Dalton plans to post a weight limit on Kirchner Road at its intersection with Washington Mountain Road; Hinsdale has not yet confirmed that it will post limits at Route 8 and Pittsfield Road.

Spring is finally here! We can see it clearly beneath all the snow...Get you seeds started!

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Shaun Lennon
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case
Select Board

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

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Support Our Local Businesses

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Heather Anello, owner
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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
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"quality stamp sets, card stock, ink pads, etc -
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<http://www.justicedora.com>

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413 623-2254 or email:
markspetcare@gmail.com

Pampered Chef Consultant

Allison Mikaniewicz
1214 Lovers Lane, Washington
apadfamilly@yahoo.com
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Book your Cooking Show or Book
Party today
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kitchen ware

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Frank Kennedy
1153 Washington Mt. Road
Washington, MA 01223
Call: 623.5180 / Fax: 623.2018
E-Mail:
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

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