



December 2015



**TREE LIGHTING**  
at the TOWN PARK on  
December 19, 2015  
6:00 PM

≠ CAROLING ≠  
≠ Hot Cocoa ≠  
≠ COOKIES ≠

Inclement weather date  
December 20, 2015

Contact Jodi Hostetter at [jlhstetter@gmail.com](mailto:jlhstetter@gmail.com)

## Becket Washington School PTO News



**Box Tops for Education** are a great fundraiser for schools. They are found on many products that we purchase and use every day. The Becket Washington School PTO would like to ask you to save the box tops you find on the products you purchase. If you don't have a student in the school that you can send box tops in with, we have set up collection spots in Becket and Washington. Just drop them in the specially-marked cans or boxes that you'll find at the following locations:

- Washington Town Hall
- Washington Transfer Station
- Becket General store
- Becket Country store
- Becket Athenaeum
- Becket Town Hall

Look for these symbols on many of the products you probably already purchase:



The Becket Washington school PTO fundraising efforts help support the wonderful school, teachers, curriculum and extra-curricular activities we have for our elementary school students. Thank you for your support!

### **Barnes & Noble Book Fair to benefit Becket Washington School**

**Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>  
Barnes & Noble - Pittsfield**

**Use code 11756467 at the checkout to benefit the Becket Washington School.  
Our school will earn 20% of all sales on Saturday and Sunday  
when our special voucher code is presented to any cashier at checkout.**

**The money raised will allow the school to purchase additional books for our Level Book Room.  
This in-school resource assures that all of our students have books available at their reading level.**

**Special events in-store on Saturday from noon to 6:00 PM will include:**

- **Author Ty Allen Jackson**
- **Performance by the Becket Washington School chorus**
- **Children's story readings**

**Come see us there!**

**Visit [BN.com/bookfairs](http://BN.com/bookfairs) to support us online.**

**Just enter code 11756467 at checkout.**

**Online orders can use the code 12/12/15 - 12/18/15**

To our Washington neighbors:

December 2015

Last month our Town Hall was visited by both of our state legislators. Both have been great friends to the Town, especially in supporting us to get badly needed road and bridge repairs.

- Senator Ben Downing met with residents on November 16. Topics included the Summit Hill/CSX bridge, reducing the costs of both engineering and regulations for bridge and culvert replacement, the need to reverse the Berkshires' population drain, and the need to consolidate the county's schools.
- Representative Smitty Pignatelli was a surprise – and very welcome – visitor to our November 9 Select Board meeting. He asked us to join with all the other municipalities of his District in the Community Compact program created by the Governor and the Board voted to do so.
- A common theme from these meetings is the need for regionalization, a way to share costs and services in a way that preserves the character of the Town. Our participation in the Berkshire Public Health Alliance and Dan Parnell's work on common municipal accounting software each bring functional and fiscal benefits to the Town. We will continue to engage with our sister municipalities on the school committee, the Metropolitan Planning Organization, the Pipeline Working Group, and any other way we can to save the Town money while improving services and infrastructure.

At the Seven Town Advisory Meeting last week we were given an update on Cummington's request to leave the District after the closing of Berkshire Trails. Our voters may be asked to approve the request at our Annual Town Meeting Warrant next May. We were also updated on the County Education Task Force that is exploring ways to address declining school populations, rising costs and program reductions in all Berkshire schools. This is an important initiative in which Selectman Mike Case has taken a very active role.

Update on infrastructure:

- The voters passed the debt exclusion for funding high speed internet service by a 3 to 1 margin. Next step is for us to sign an operating agreement with WiredWest. We will keep up the pressure to see that our residents are connected as soon as possible.
- Thanks to Selectman Lennon for soliciting a second round of furniture donations from Williams College.
- There will be a public hearing on the Summit Hill/CSX bridge at 6 pm on Monday December 14 at the Town Hall. The project should be complete by summer.
- The saga over the Cross Place culvert continues; we still do not have an approved plan from the engineer we hired. They are now saying the project can be done over the winter. In any case we have stopped paying them; the only question is whether we will seek recovery of what was already paid.

Becket is exploring solar electric for all its residents and invited us to join. We'll keep you posted.

This year's Pumpkin Walk was truly memorable – and not just for the record crowd! Thanks to all the volunteers who made it happen.

Enjoy Christmas and the New Year. The Select Board will not meet on December 28 or January 4.

Jim Huebner  
Select Board Chair

Shaun Lennon  
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case  
Select Board

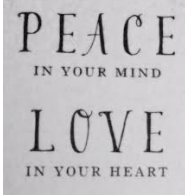
### **The 2015 John FX Keator Pumpkin Walk**

This year's Pumpkin Walk was a great success. Everyone stepped up and all the volunteers did their magic in a seamless effort with only one meeting. We had about 600 guests who had a great, safe and fun night full of treats. I am proud to say that the community we have here once again showed their best effort to continue with John's legacy "The Pumpkin Walk", and did you see the carving of "Donald Trump" by Georgette – AWESOME!

A great big thank you to everyone for their generous donations and selfless volunteering that put smiles on the children's faces and made for a wonderful Halloween night at the Washington Town Park.

Sincerely,

Ed Bond  
Town of Washington  
Park Commissioner



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

[www.washington-ma.com](http://www.washington-ma.com)

## 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

### **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)

### **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)

### **Summit Hill Campground**

34 Old Middlefield Rd.  
Washington, Ma. 01223  
413-623-5761  
Great Family Camping  
Tents,R.V.s Motor Homes  
Full Hook Ups  
Pet Friendly  
Seasonals Welcomed  
Events scheduled May through sept

### **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

**Email your TRACKS info by the 25th of the month to:**

**[mrsabeski@mac.com](mailto:mrsabeski@mac.com)**

**Please put TRACKS in the subject line.**