



"The Groundhog tests have come back. I'm afraid you only have six weeks to live."

February 2015



## WiredWest "Fiber Town" Campaign Launching in Washington!

Construction of a "last-mile" broadband fiber network will begin this summer by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, which is providing \$40 million toward the project. The network will be owned and operated by the municipal cooperative WiredWest, of which Washington is a member, and will provide very high-speed internet access plus digital phone and TV to people in western Mass. For Washington to become a "Fiber Town" on the network, we must take three steps: (1) our Select Board must pass a resolution of intent to participate in the project; (2) 40% of our households must sign up for service and make a small deposit; and (3) a 2/3 vote in town meeting must authorize borrowing our town's share of the construction funds. Our Selectmen did their part and passed the resolution, so Washington is one of 33 towns moving forward on this critical project. Watch your mail for a letter from the Selectmen with more information. We need you to do your part: sign up for service, then show up for the annual town meeting in May. Let's make Washington a Fiber Town!

Steve Nelson, Town of Washington Delegate and Legal/Governance Chair, WiredWest

### Senior Pot Luck Dinner

Friday, February 20, 2015 5:30 pm - "Happy Valentines to our Seniors"

Western Massachusetts Master Gardeners' Association Berkshire county symposium, Lenox High and Middle School, 197 East St. Lenox, MA. Pick three classes from fifteen offered gardening topics: Registration includes lunch and breakfast snacks, \$30. Saturday, April 11. 8:30 a.m.-2:15 p.m. Reservations: Marilynwiley8@gmail.com, call 413 623 5859 or go to WMMGA.org. Registration after March 31, \$40. 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.

Contact [Marilynwiley@toast.net](mailto:Marilynwiley@toast.net) or 413 623 5859

Reminder:

Dog licenses are available - 2014 licenses expire March 31st.

# Open burning season is January 15- April 30

## Regulations

- Can only burn brush-4 inches or less in diameter.
- No grass, hay, leaves, stumps, tires, construction debris or any hazardous material.
- Must at least 75 feet from dwelling.
- Must have means to extinguish fire close by.
- Must be attended at all times.
- Burn time is from 10a.m. - 4p.m.

### **No exceptions to above stated regulations.**

The Fire Department/Fire Chief can refuse or cancel a permit at any time.

(Example: Violation of permit regulations, or change in weather conditions.)

Complaints about smoke, soot or ash deposits occurring in neighboring property are grounds for revocation of a permit.

**Call on the day** you would like to burn (phone # for Washington Fire Chief 413-623-2185). If no answer you must leave a contact name, address of burn location and a phone number so you can be contacted immediately if there is a change.

DEP determined air quality is a factor in issuing permits

**2015 Open Burn Season:** Be safe and use common sense.

### **Becket Athenaeum**

Here is the schedule and activity plan for the Story Craft Program for the preschool crowd for early 2015. **We have moved this program to Tuesdays to accommodate attendee schedules**

This group meets here at the Athenaeum on the following **Tuesday** mornings from 10:30 - noon.

2/3 - Monkeys

2/10 - Dr. Seuss

2/17 - Eric Carle

2/24 - Mo Willems

To our fellow Washington residents:

February 2015

We are still looking for qualified residents to serve on the Board of Health and as Tax Collector.

Thanks to Representative Pignatelli and Senator Downing for meeting with us at DOT District 1 on January 6 to convince DOT that the bridge that spans the CSX tracks on Summit Hill Road needs to be made passable by emergency vehicles, oil trucks and our snow plows! For the present there is a six ton vehicle limit.

- We have also reached out to CSX to see what they can do to help.
- The Middlefield Select Board also attended to protest the length of time it was taking to approve the temporary bridge we secured for Middlefield Road. DOT approved it, although for a very low weight limit, just before the meeting; the bridge is now open.

Engineering work for permanent bridges on Middlefield Road and Cross Place Road is proceeding. Once we have construction estimates for those two structures and the Town's supplement to the \$788,350 grant from FEMA for Eden Glen, we will be making a proposal for borrowing authority at a Special Town Meeting.

- We still have not heard from any of you regarding the preservation or removal of the Eden Glen Dam. Please let us know!

The new owners of Bucksteep have proposed activities that, according to the Planning Board, fall outside of both anything done by the Saccos and our zoning laws. The Select Board has also heard allegations that events have been held despite an explicit ban and in contravention of public health standards. The Board is continuing to investigate.

Watch your mail for our letter about the WiredWest project to bring high-speed internet to all of Washington's households. When you receive it, please respond to the enclosed information. This is our chance to get far better internet service, plus digital telephone and television. And having high-speed internet in our town will boost the value and saleability of your home!

The agreement we have entered into with Hampshire Council of Government for lower-cost electricity is moving forward. Anyone interested in going through the rather lengthy document will find it posted on the Town's website.

Annual Town Reports for 2010 and 2011 are (finally!) available at the Town Hall and on our website. We expect that 2012, 2013 and 2014 Annual Town Reports will be available as soon as we are able to close the 2014 books with MA DOR.

- This is the last Fiscal Year on the old accounting software. Our Town Accountant, Dan Parnell, has been working on a new software suite for all Commonwealth communities thanks to a CIC (Community Innovation Challenge) grant. Whatever our user's fee will be in the future it will be far lower than anything available through the private sector.

Belated thanks to our Council on Aging for the great job done decorating the Town Hall – as they do every year!

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

[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

### **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)

### **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)

### **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

### **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

Please email your TRACKS info by the 25th of the  
month to:  
[mrsabeski@mac.com](mailto:mrsabeski@mac.com)  
Put TRACKS in the subject line.