



## July 2016



The Washington Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce this year's scholarship recipients: David Thomas Gonzales accepted at Western New England University, mechanical engineering major; Kacey Hatch, enrolled in Berkshire Community College's Physical Therapist Assistant program; Cassie Kelson, accepted into the Early Childhood Education program at Fitchburg State University; Alexandra Massaro enrolled at Westfield State University, undeclared major; Jaryd Massaro attending the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, preparing for a career in film; Marisa Massaro studying Illustration at Massachusetts College of Art and Design; Tyler Pudlo accepted into the Historic Preservation program at Vassar College and Mareson Yates attending the Montserrat College of Art, preparing for a career in photography. Congratulations to all 2016 graduates!

This year, the fund's 45<sup>th</sup>, eight scholarships were awarded – a record number. A BIG thank you to all who have supported the scholarship bake sales which have enabled the awarding of these scholarships. Another bake sale is scheduled to be held at the town hall during the presidential election on November 8. More information regarding this fundraiser will be featured in future editions of the *TRACKS*. Again, thanks to all who have made it possible to assist our graduating high school seniors this year.

Linda Levernoch on behalf of the Washington Scholarship Committee

### **At last, some progress on the last mile broadband project!**

In May Governor Baker appointed two new officials at the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), with marching orders to get things moving after the last-mile project had been in "pause" mode for several months. Former Pittsfield State Representative Peter Larkin is the new chairman of the MBI Board of Directors, and western Mass. resident Bill Ennen serves as MBI's liaison to the towns.

Washington, along with all 44 unserved town, is now going through an assessment with MBI to determine our readiness to proceed. The Select Board designated WiredWest Delegate Steve Nelson as our Town Liaison to MBI. He met with Bill in early June for an overview of the process. Then MBI assigned a staff engineer for a 3-hour working session with Steve, Select Board Chair Jim Huebner and Finance Committee Chair Kent Lew, who was designated as our alternate Liaison to MBI.

The Washington team is working on the paperwork required by MBI for the assessment. After that process is complete, it is expected that come fall crews contracted and paid for by MBI will begin surveying all 562 utility poles in town to see how fiber cables can be attached to them. This is the first step in building the last mile fiber network. You will finally see people at work along our roads.

How Washington will work with other towns is an issue yet to be resolved with MBI. Cooperating on a regional basis through WiredWest is critical for broadband service to be affordable and sustainable in small towns like ours. But at least the project is underway at last.

Town of Washington Seniors  
Pot Luck Dinner

At the town hall 8 Summit Hill Road

Time: 5:30 pm

Date: July 15, 2016

Please come and enjoy the great food  
and company.

We look forward to seeing you.



Hi!

My name is Ja'Quan, I live in Becket and I have autism. My parents are looking for creative and fun people to do play therapy with me.

Paid and volunteer positions are available.

So far people trained by my parents have taught me to make eye contact, to start using language and to build friendships.

I want you to be my friend, too!

YOU could change my life!

**WHO:** fun loving, open hearted person

**WHAT:** Reading books, coloring, painting, jumping and playing games.

No special skills needed. My parents will train you!

Call Tammy 413.717.2085 or email [tammymerenda@gmail.com](mailto:tammymerenda@gmail.com)

Thanks to the folks who attended the program entitled "the Birds of Washington". This program was supported by a grant from the Washington Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Ed Neumuth

There will be soil testing and answering gardening questions at the Lanesboro mall on Saturday, July 9 from 9-12. Information about the soil testing is on line at [WMMGA.org](http://WMMGA.org) and a donation of \$1. is suggested.

A class on Gardening tips and answering gardening questions by Ron Kujawski, Gardening columnist, will be held Saturday, July 16th at Springside Park, North St. Pittsfield. The class is from 10-12 and is free. More information may be obtained by contacting Jim McCarthy at 637-2940 or [heljim@msn.com](mailto:heljim@msn.com).

**Wild & Scenic Saturdays Center Pond slide show & Paddle**

Sat. July 9<sup>th</sup> All welcome at the Becket Town Hall 10 - 11am. To hear, Weed Warrior, Mercedes Gallagher speak about her hand pulling success story on Center Pond.

Those who wish to register for the paddle will then head to Center Pond from 11 - 2pm. to learn to identify & remove invasive wetlands plants. This is a bring your own boat event however some space is available for those without their own boat. Call Meredyth Babcock with questions & to register 413 623 - 2070

[volunteer@wildscenicwestfieldriver.org](mailto:volunteer@wildscenicwestfieldriver.org)

Most of the Town's current appointees have agreed to serve for FY2017 with the notable exception of Jeff Sawtelle. Jeff has done a great job with the Council on Aging and will continue to help Steve DeLoye who has stepped forward to lead the Council. Steve will also get help from Barbara Keyes, Jane Pytko, Jodi Hostetter and Jan Paxton-Huebner. Thanks to all for their service to our Seniors.

The reconstruction of Washington Mountain Road continues on schedule for completion this summer.

- Thanks again to Carol Lew, Ed Bond and Ed Neumuth for working on the restoration of the Old Common; the site has been restored and the contractor, Baltazar, has offered to install granite posts and chains to mark the parking area which will give it the same look as the Old Town Hall.

The existing abutments to the Middlefield Road bridge were examined and found to be structurally sound so the cost of a replacement span will be significantly reduced.

- DOT still has to accept the analysis before further design work is done.
- Jan Nelson is preparing a MassWorks grant application to pay for the new bridge.

We have received bids for two other projects: the resurfacing of Blotz Road and the replacement of the Cross Place bridge. The Board expects to choose contractors for these projects within the next two weeks and for all the work to be complete by fall. Both projects are fully funded by Chapter 90.

Installation of fiber optic cable in the Town may finally be moving forward. A technical representative from MBI met with Jim Huebner, Steve Nelson, and Kent Lew (who has taken over the role of alternate delegate to WiredWest) to fill out all needed technical and financial forms so that a survey of the Town's utility poles can be taken. MBI will pay for the work and provide over a quarter million dollars towards construction of the network which may begin as early as this fall.

A bid package for the construction of the new Eden Glen culvert and widening of Frost Road should be out soon and we expect the work to be done before winter. An informational meeting to present the planned work and timetable will be scheduled within the next few weeks.

- At the ATM the voters did not approve borrowing authority for the restoration of the dam and the recreational area behind it. Given the prevailing sentiment against dams within the ecological and conservation community outside funding is extremely unlikely.
- On the other hand funding for the dam's removal and restoration of Depot Brook may be found from a variety of sources. The Board has applied to the MA Division of Ecological Conservation for a grant. Please keep in mind that even if such a grant is obtained, the voters - not the Select Board - have the final word on whether to go forward.

For those looking for a swimming hole there is Becket beach which the Town helps Becket to maintain and there is a recreational area maintained by DCR on Washington Mountain Lake on West Branch Road.

We hope everyone's garden survived the unexpected cold and rain. Lettuce know!

Jim Huebner  
Select Board Chair

Tricia Drugmand  
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case  
Select Board



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 8 Summit Hill Rd.  
 Washington, MA 01223

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

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