



May 2013

MAY 17th

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



ONGOING:

*Washington COA presents: Yoga/Qigong on Friday nights at Town Hall with Heidi Nugent starting April 5th for 6 weeks

• Springside Greenhouse group will have a Mother's
• Day plant sale on May 10th and 11th from 9-4
• at the greenhouse at Springside Park
• 874 North St. Pittsfield.

The Annual Town Election will be held Saturday, May 18, 2013 from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Washington Town Hall, 8 Summit Hill Road. Offices and candidates on the ballot this year are:

Auditor:

Glenn Grogan; running unopposed

Finance Committee:

Peter Borgnis, Incumbent; running unopposed

Finance Committee:

David Weisbrod, Incumbent; running unopposed

Moderator:

no candidates on the ballot

Planning Board:

Lisa Peltier; running unopposed

Select Board:

Shaun Lennon; Incumbent
Michael Burke

Tax Collector:

Belinda Phillips, Incumbent; running unopposed

Please come out and vote!

A message from candidate for Select Board

Michael Burke

I moved to Washington in 1991 and have served on the Finance Committee for the last 3 years. Some of my concerns are over large expenditures without prior planning, high employee turnover, and a lack of concern regarding budget overruns. This is why I am running for a seat on the Select board. If you share some of these same concerns vote for me and together we can make a difference. Remember absentee ballots are available from the town clerk if you are unable to vote on Saturday May 18th between noon and 4:00PM.

Michael Burke

From the Becket Arts Center...

Sense of Place

MCLA student and faculty exhibit at BAC.

Saturday and Sunday, 12 to 4 pm

May 4, 5 and May 11, 12

Collectibles, Art & Antiques

May 18 & 19, 10 am to 4 pm at the arts center

Find special treasures! and visit POTATO gallery store.

Space is available to display and sell all those special things that are wanting a new home. \$25 for both days. Contact Barbara Ginsburg or Sue Margulies at bginsburg45@gmail.com and sue.margulies@gmail.com

Pick up a registration form at BAC until 5/15.

The Voice of the Future

Becket Washington School Student Exhibit

Opens Friday, May 24 from 6:30 - 8 pm

PTO spaghetti dinner and dessert coincides with the exhibit opening. Call 623-8757 for information and buy tickets.

Gallery opening free and open to the public. Dessert reception included with PTO dinner or \$5 at the door in support of school programs.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Cultural Councils of Washington and Becket, local agencies which are supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Yoga at the school on Wednesdays, May 1, 8 & 29. 5:30 to 6:45 pm, \$10.

Becket Arts Center announces **Early Childhood Arts** - visual and music arts

in our School Pre-Kindergarten. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Becket Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

PARENTS and GUARDIANS - Look for your children to bring home the BAC Youth Program flier! Two weeks of great programming available with scholarships to full-time residents. Area children can now have their own BAC memberships for just \$5! so families do not have to join at higher rates. Great opportunities, free give aways and more!

Visit the NEW BAC web site now! It is live and has a full schedule. You can always go to the Athenaeum to view online.

www.becketartscenter.org

To our fellow Washington residents:

May 2013

As we noted last month we are wrestling with a number of issues related to the many home-based businesses in town. A new development has made this a much more immediate issue: Massachusetts requires – and has required for years – that personal property used in the conduct of business (“commercial personal property”) be taxed at the Town’ s tax rate. If you have a home-based business that uses a tractor or a computer or a camera, etc., the value of that tractor or computer or camera is subject to taxation. Many of you have already gotten a letter from our Tax Assessor, Karen Avalle. Everyone with a business must fill out the form that accompanies Karen’ s letter so that the value of any property can be assessed. Please realize that this taxation is not new and that Karen has been directed to do this by MA DOR and that all details are confidential. Now for the good news:

1. There is no liability to individuals or the Town for prior years.
2. There will be a by-law on the Annual Town Meeting warrant on the 11th of May to exempt the first \$10,000 of “commercial personal property” from taxation.

In light of this the Planning Board is considering another business by-law that would:

1. Require all businesses in Town to register with the Town Clerk and pay a modest annual fee. There will be a fee exemption for very small businesses.
2. Impose a substantial fine on anyone not registering to assure equal treatment for everyone.

Our Assessors are also starting in-home assessments which have been overlooked in recent years. The law requires this to be done at least every nine years. You may be contacted for an appointment. Although you cannot be required to allow the Assessors on your property, a refusal risks having your property incorrectly valued and might mean that you would be denied abatement.

We have met with representatives of DOT and the rehabilitation of Washington Mountain Road is once again eligible for federal funds. However, the process is such that it will be four years or more before any work would start. Since this project should have been done 20 years ago the Board will continue to seek immediate funding through multiple channels. Our representatives are supporting us, but the more they hear from citizens who use the road, the better.

E2Sol , the company that had proposed to install solar panels on the roof of the Town Hall and sell us the power at a fixed rate, has rescinded their offer. The Board is considering other options for a “turnkey” deal to provide the Town buildings with renewable energy.

- We continue to pressure CSX for damages from the flooding of Upper Valley Road.
- We expect the auction date for Maplevue to be this month.
- Dalton plans to post a weight limit at the beginning of Kirchener Road at Washington Mountain Road; Hinsdale has not yet confirmed that it will post at Rte 8/Pittsfield Road. The Board is considering unilateral action if Hinsdale does not respond.

We hope everyone got out to vote in the Senate Primary on April 30! We hope to see all of you at the Annual Town Meeting on Saturday May 11 at 7 pm and please remember to vote in the Town Election on Saturday May 18 from noon until 4 pm!

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Shaun Lennon
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case
Select Board

The Emma Bailey Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce this year's recipients of the Emma Bailey Scholarship.

Please join us in congratulating Lane Grogan, Erin Grogan, Devin Gale, Alexandra Keator, Nicholas Dargi, William Moro and Evan Yates.

Congratulations recipients and best wishes in all your future endeavors.



Happy Mothers Day! May 12



Qigong/Yoga Classes - Heidi Nugent 623-8713

This health preservation class blends Qigong/Yoga and Tai Chi to help individuals maintain a better quality of life and well being. Qigong integrates breath, movement, massage and meditation; it is used throughout China by individuals as a way to maintain good health. Yoga also uses movement, breath, and meditation to improve the quality of life individuals are living. If you are looking to reduce stress, improve blood pressure, develop more balance and coordination in life's daily occurrences, or just wanting to feel better, please call me. I have been teaching classes for over 25 years and have traveled to China as part of my educational experiences. **Class time is Friday 2:30 p.m. Please bring a blanket, pillow, and water bottle to classes.**

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
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Ph: 623.5700 / Fax: 623.5707

Bucksteep Manor

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Washington, MA
(413)623.5535

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

Horace Mann Insurance Agency

Po Box 772 Becket Ma. 01223. Phone
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Provide all Personal Lines of Insurance. Provide
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"quality stamp sets, card stock, ink pads, etc -
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dora@justicedora.com
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Call: 413-623-2185
Book your Cooking Show or Book
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and earn FREE and discounted
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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

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