



## November 2011



John F.X. Keator 1965 – 2011 WASHINGTON John F.X. Keator, 45, of Johnson Hill Road, Washington, formerly of Lenox, died Saturday October 22, 2011 at his home. After an eighteen-month battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease), he passed peacefully surrounded by his wife, Georgette, and daughters, Cassidy and Alex, while watching the Bruins game.

John was especially proud of his annual "Pumpkin Walk," which he generously put on for the community with his wife, daughters, and friends that combined his talent for pumpkin carving with his love of a good bonfire.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of John F.X. Keator are asked to be made to Compassionate Care ALS, PO Box 1052, West Falmouth, MA 02574 or through the ROCHE FUNERAL HOME. Compassionate Care provided outstanding assistance and support to John and his family throughout the past 18 months.

I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the entire community for all the help and dedication to the Pumpkin Walk. I was honored by the tribute to John and all the effort it took to place that pumpkin on top of the Gazebo! A special thank you goes to Tom and Phoebe Wehner, Lisa & Abe Guthrie and family, the students of the Becket Washington School, Craig Willis/White Wolf, Washington Park Committee, Jeri and Ken McCarthy, Washington DPW, Jane Pytko, the Budaj Family, the McIlqualm Family, scouts, the Fire and Police Depts, and countless friends and neighbors. It wouldn't have happened without you. The evening was truly an example of a beautiful community. John was there in spirit smiling.

Georgette Keator



### Update from the St. Andrews Chapel Committee

First we would like to thank all of you who have been donating your returnable bottles and cans, as well as Michelle Lampro for counting and bagging them and John Morrow for handling the actual return, through this effort we have been averaging close to \$50.00 a month. This money and money received from events held at the chapel goes towards the upkeep of the chapel. In 2012 we will be celebrating 35 years since the Town of Washington officially accepted the chapel, saving it from the wrecking ball. Much work has been done over the years to restore and preserve the chapel with the restoration of the stained glass beginning prior to 1997. All of the windows were prioritized as to the need for repairs with those most in need being done first. The chapel has a total of 26 windows. This year we are having 3 windows restored. The next windows to be restored are the 3 over the altar which we have a current cost estimate of \$5,725.00, after that there are 12 smaller windows to be restored, (the current cost estimate to restore these is \$1,265.00 each) and we hope to be able to do one or two of these a year until they are all done. We are currently embarking on a stained glass restoration fund drive and hope to have other fund raisers to help cover the cost of these, and please keep those bottles and cans coming!

The St. Andrews Chapel Committee

To our fellow Washington residents:

November 2011

We are deeply saddened by the passing of John Keator. John was, among many other things, the creator of our annual Pumpkin Walk, which will now be named in his honor. This year's event, with its more than 100 intricately carved pumpkins, treats for the kids and spectacular bonfire was a tribute to John from the many volunteers who carved the pumpkins, prepared the Town Park, directed traffic, drove the wagon ride, served hot chocolate and generally made the evening memorable. The John F. X. Keator Pumpkin Walk is Washington at its best and we know that in John's absence that there are others who will continue this great tradition.

Our Administrative Assistant is looking for a few good digital pictures of the Pumpkin Walk to feature in the upcoming Annual Report. If you would like to submit yours, please email to [washingtonboardofselectmen@gmail.com](mailto:washingtonboardofselectmen@gmail.com) and thanks!

A few updates:

- We received one bid in response to the RFP for the re-use of the former Mapleview Nursing Home. Mr. and Mrs. (Lisa & Timothy) Boyd of Pittsfield propose to use the building as their primary residence and an alternative-medicine health retreat. The Boyds will be making a presentation to the Town at 6:30 pm on Tuesday November 15 at the Town Hall. We hope to see many of you there so bring your questions and concerns.
- Governor Patrick approved \$65mm in supplemental aid to towns and cities; Washington's allotment was \$5776, available to us on October 31. As always, the Select Board and Finance Committee will balance the use these one-time funds among our three priorities: making improvements to the Town's capital base; adding to our reserves; and moderating the tax rate.
- This is the last week for anyone who experienced a loss from Hurricane Irene to apply to FEMA; <http://www.fema.gov/assistance/index.shtm> or phone 800-621-3362.
- Plans are firming up for changes to the Town Hall. First and foremost handicapped access will be improved by the addition of a ramp and railings to the back door. Other things under consideration include using the stage and gymnasium for office space with a floor-to-ceiling divider that will keep the whole gym area available if needed. Any ideas or concerns you may have can be directed to Committee Chair Shaun Lennon or committeewoman Jodi Hostetter.
- We are petitioning the MA Department of Energy (DOER) to allow a change of scope to our original EECB Grant so that we can install new energy efficient doors and windows at the Town Hall with the remaining funds.
- Unfortunately CSX has been less responsive than we had hoped to the flooding on Upper Valley Road. On the next occurrence of flooding we will in all likelihood have to file suit to protect our homeowners.

One snow storm in October? Not that rare. Two? Dropping over two feet of snow? Ouch! Once again, as with Irene, the Town seems not to have had any major problems thanks in part to the efforts of our road crew, including our newest highway department member, Mark Newton of Schulze Road. Welcome aboard Mark.

Jim Huebner,  
Select Board Chair

Shaun Lennon  
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case  
Select Board

The Administrative Assistant to the Board of Selectmen will be holding winter hours at the Town Hall on Monday and Friday 9:30 am through 11:00 am, with the exception of holidays and snow days.

"Thanks to Always Growing and White Wolf Trucking and Excavating for helping out the Town during the October snow storm!"

**Yoga at the Becket Washington School** - Wednesday evenings, 7:30-9pm with certified instructor and area resident, Rima Sala.  
Moderate level class using fluid breathing techniques. Gain strength and flexibility. \$10. Sponsored by the Becket Arts Center

#### COA Invite

All seniors (age 60 and over), their guests and anyone who might be interested in volunteering to help with COA events are invited to Sunday Brunch, November 20th 11:00AM-01:00PM

At the Washington Town Hall

Seniors donation *optional*

Guests \$14.25ea catered by Becket General

The results of the survey will be discussed along with plans for the future of the Washington COA

RSVP by November 12th to Bev Wiley @ 623-5254 or by e-mail to [washingtoncoa@gmail.com](mailto:washingtoncoa@gmail.com)

If you need a ride let us know when you RSVP so we can arrange it.

#### Becket Federated Church Christmas Bazaar

The Becket Federated Church will hold its 5<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Bazaar on December 3, 2011 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Parish House.

This year's bazaar will be bigger and better than ever, featuring hand crafted ornaments, decorated artificial Christmas trees, live kissing balls and wreaths.

A light lunch will be offered featuring several homemade soups, chili and sandwiches.

The Straw Draw will be fun for the whole family. Come one, come all—it's the one bazaar that you do not want to miss!

#### CRAFTER'S WANTED

The Becket Federated Church is holding its 5<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Bazaar December 3, 2011 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The charge for a table is \$25.00.

Please contact Mary Peltier for further details at 413-623-8844.

The Becket Athenaeum is proud to serve as the town of Washington's public library, and we are excited that more and more Washington residents are making use of the many resources the library offers. We invite you to stop in, help yourself to a cup of tea, check out our books, movies, music, video games, magazines, use our computers, and chat with your neighbors. We are also looking for Washington residents interested in serving on our board of trustees. If you're interested in finding out what it means to be an Athenaeum trustee, or already love the library and want to be considered for the board, call, e-mail, or come in and let us know. We look forward to seeing you at the Athenaeum!

The Becket Athenaeum – Becket and Washington's community library -- will hold its annual Holly Ball this year on Saturday, December 3, 2011, at 6pm at the Becket -Chimney Corners YMCA Outdoor Center Lodge. This year's event will include hors d'oeuvres, buffet dinner, dessert and coffee, and is BYOB. The cost is \$45 per person. In addition to dinner there will be music, raffles and a Yankee swap. For tickets – which must be purchased in advance – or more details, please call the Athenaeum at 623.5483.

## Reminder:

On November 12th Boy Scouts will be scouting for food. They will have tables at both the Washington and Becket Transfer Stations to collect nonperishable food items that will be donated to the Food Pantry.



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

## Support Our Local Businesses

### The Becket General

30 Washington Street  
Becket, MA 01223  
Heather Anello, NEW 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)

### Pampered Chef Consultant

Allison Mikaniewicz  
1214 Lovers Lane, Washington  
[apadfamilly@yahoo.com](mailto:apadfamilly@yahoo.com)  
Call: 413-623-2185  
Book your Cooking Show or Book Party  
today  
and earn FREE and discounted kitchen  
ware

### Your Way Computer

Frank Kennedy  
1153 Washington Mt. Road  
Washington, MA 01223  
Call: 623.5180 / Fax: 623.2018  
E-Mail:  
[carolandfrankr@carolandfrank.com](mailto:carolandfrankr@carolandfrank.com)  
By appointment only

Please send your Tracks info by 28th of the month to:  
[mrsabeski@mac.com](mailto:mrsabeski@mac.com) or if you do not have email, call Lisa at 623.5088