



February 2012



The Becket Athenaeum - Becket-Washington's Community Library

Happy
Groundhog Day!



We are pleased to announce our new Volunteer Dollar Program. In exchange for volunteer work at the library, parents, guardians, relatives, or friends of children who live in Becket or Washington can earn credits at Berkshire Organics. Berkshire Organics delivers produce and other nutritious goods to your door!

So, participants in the program come in and help out their local library, build up credits, and children get nutritious and delicious food delivered right to their doorstep!

Parents, guardians, or sponsors of children (age 1-18) who live in Becket or Washington are invited to apply. Preference goes to those sponsoring child/ren who qualify for subsidized school lunches. The application process is friendly, simple, and confidential—please feel free to call, e-mail, or stop in with questions.

The St Andrews Chapel Committee would like to thank the following Supporters for their donation to the stained glass restoration fund drive:

Joseph and Gregory Dorval

Lillian Fox

Terry Robbins and Dorothy Filanowska

Eric Beube and David Zucker

Roger Peltier Jr.

Lois Neumann

David and Carol Weissbrod

Matthew Lawrence and Nancy Campbell

Peter Matson and Susan Colgan

If you would like to donate, please send your donation to:

The Saint Andrews Chapel Committee
8 Summit Hill Rd
Washington MA 01223

To our fellow Washington residents:

February 2012

We continue to move things forward on a number of issues:

- Dave Christopolis, the Hilltown CDC's Executive Director, visited the 1/30 Select Board meeting to discuss ideas for the reuse of the Mapleview property. Hilltown CDC has a track record of securing grant funds to turn similar properties into senior housing and other community-centered uses. We also discussed securing grants to fund the removal of several nuisance properties around town.
- Some concerns have been expressed about certifying the Town as a Green Community. The first issue is the added building costs from adopting stricter construction standards for energy conservation. The second is loss of local control over what can and can't be constructed in Town. We plan to invite Jim Barry back to address these and any other questions our citizens may have. We plan to have a vote on becoming a Green Community at our Annual Town meeting and will let you know when the informational session is scheduled.
- The Select Board has voted to go forward with a hydraulic study of the Eden Glen area. This would outline the cost-benefit from improving the drainage in the area and widening the Frost Road Bridge. After the study is complete we will apply for a Hazard Mitigation Grant from FEMA/MEMA which might also include the cost of the study itself. We will put voter approval for this on the next Special Town Meeting (not yet scheduled) agenda.
- We are still deciding whether to go forward to use grant funding to spray insulation over the exterior of the Town Hall. It would dramatically change the look of the building and the reduction in heat loss less than what we would get from replacement windows and doors. Just because we have state/federal money does not mean we have to spend it if the project no longer makes sense.
- Other improvements to the Town Hall - creating an Administrative Assistant's Office, a new office for our Treasurer and conference space – are proceeding.
- With the winter finally upon us Upper Valley Road has been dry. We will continue to hold CSX responsible and involve them at the first sign of any drainage problems. Superintendent Fish may have found a cost-effective way of replacing one or more of the damaged culverts along the road and is preparing a proposal for other upgrades to be paid by CSX.
- We have engaged an attorney to review and revise our personnel policies to protect both our employees and the Town from misuse.

We recommend to any of our Seniors who are not already on the mailing list for the **Berkshire Senior** to subscribe (call 499-0524 – 499-9764 for the hearing impaired - or e-mail esbc@esbc.org). The publication has much useful information about available services such as tax preparation help, property tax relief, meals-on-wheels and \$2 luncheons in neighboring towns. (Becket Town Hall 11 am Tuesdays and Thursdays 623-8934; Hinsdale Town Hall 11:30 am Wednesdays and Fridays 655-2310).

So far the Winter has been relatively mild. On the bright side heating bills are lower – although oil is skyrocketing – on the downside our skiers, snow mobilers (or is it snow machiners now?) and snowshoers have limited opportunities. Stay safe, stay warm and let us know your thoughts.

Jim Huebner
Select Board Chair

Shaun Lennon
Select Board Clerk

Mike Case
Select Board



February is National Dental Health Month!
Submitted by Fred Davis of Hilltown Veterinary Clinic



February is National Dental Health Month and Hilltowns Veterinary Clinic is helping pet owners provide dental care for their pets by offering a 15% discount off of all dental cleanings performed in the month of February, as well as discounted dental health related treats or items. Patients will also receive a complimentary dental home care kit which includes a toothbrush and toothpaste. Space is limited and filling up fast, so call us now at (413)623-5329 to schedule your appointment.

According to the American Veterinary Dental Society, dental disease affects an alarming 80% of dogs and 70% of cats before the age of 3!! The most common signs of dental disease in our pets are yellowing or browning of the teeth and foul smelling breath. Other signs to look for include excessive drooling, reddening around the gums, or a sudden change in eating or drinking habits. If left untreated, dental disease can be the precursor to other more serious ailments such as oral infection, diabetes, and diseases affecting the kidney or heart. The best way to prevent dental disease is to become more aware of it!

MOVIE PRESENTATION AT THE TOWN HALL
THE INCREDIBLES
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH AT 2:00
VOLUNTARY DONATION FOR THE MOVIE
SPONSORED BY THE WASHINGTON COA

MOVIE FLYER and DISCRIPTION



Need Girl Scout Cookies?
You can order them through Cathy Defoe
623.5642 or Allison Mikaniewicz 623.2185
through the month of February.

Washington Tracks
8 Summit Hill Rd.
Town Hall
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
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Ph: 623.5700 / Fax: 623.5707

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(413)623.5535

The Bucksteep Pub will be open with light fare
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carolandfrankr@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 or if you do not have email, call Lisa at 623.5088