



December 2019
Volume 2, Issue 3

THE BECKET BULLETIN

INFORMATION ON TOWN GOVERNMENT ISSUES
AND ACTIVITIES FOR RESIDENTS OF BECKET

Becket News

It is definitely winter. We had our first major snowfall and the Highway Department did a great job cleaning up the nearly two feet of snow. During this season, please be careful on the roads, check on neighbors, and enjoy the holidays.

The Town continues to make significant strides toward achieving Broadband. The bid for the construction phase is in and we look forward to making more progress. Work to build the Hub or the central hub for our Broadband network is taking shape and we will install equipment in the near future. Additionally, you will receive a survey for Broadband as we look to gather information to better plan construction and the network. We encourage everyone to participate. You can find more information on the Broadband project at www.becketbroadband.org. More information will appear later in this Bulletin.

The Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP) is moving forward with meetings to best identify and support the needs of the Town regarding climate change and our resiliency. Check out the Town website for more information and upcoming events.

Download the complete newsletter in PDF form from the Town website:

<https://www.townofbecket.org/about-becket/pages/becket-bulletin>

William J. Caldwell, Town Administrator

To subscribe to the Town of Becket meeting agendas and public notices, please visit: <https://www.townofbecket.org/subscribe>. Scroll down and select Boards and Committees you are interested in getting information from. If you are not receiving emails, subscribe again.

Inside this issue

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December Meetings (Subject to change)

- 4th: Board of Selectmen
- 4th: Finance Committee
- 5th: Board of Health
- 7th: Sherwood Greens Road District Prudential Committee
- 7th: Sherwood Forest Lake District
- 7th: Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District
- 10th: Historical Commission
- 11th: Planning Board
- 16th: Broadband Ad Hoc Group
- 16th: Mini Municipal Vulnerability Plan
- 17th: Energy Committee
- 17th: Conservation Commission
- 18th: Board of Selectmen
- 30th: Broadband Ad Hoc Group

THE SELECTMEN'S COLUMN

Dear Fellow Becket Citizens,

Happy December. For most of us this will be a season to celebrate, hibernate, play in the great outdoors, and generally enjoy each other's company and the comforts of home. While I find myself to be thankful for my family and friends, I also am reminded of those who may not have all that they need. Please be generous during this holiday season with your gifts to the charities you support, your time helping those in need and your kindness to those you encounter throughout your day.

A big thank you to the Highway Department for keeping us plowed out during this most recent snow storm, not sure the official total but I am guessing close to 24"! That is a lot for our first real storm of the season and it is not officially winter yet!

A reminder that the area lakes may not be safe to go on yet and with the large amount of snow on top it may be some time before they freeze solid. Please be careful out there.

Broadband bids have come in and contractors are being vetted. Construction may begin soon! It has been a long wait but will be more than worth it. Thank you to the volunteers on the Broadband Ad Hoc Committee that has been diligently working through all the details.

I am thankful for you all who make Becket such a great place to live.

Happy holidays.

Chris Swindlehurst
Clerk, Board of Selectmen

The U.S. Census Bureau is Hiring in Our Area!

Are you looking for ways to help your community? The U.S. Census Bureau is currently hiring temporary positions for the 2020 Census in our area.

All 2020 Census jobs are temporary. The largest number of positions available are for census takers.

By working for the Census Bureau, you can help reach the goal for the 2020 Census to ensure everyone is counted. Census counts have a huge impact on our community. The 2020 Census data will be used to determine how more than \$675 billion from more than 100 government programs are distributed.

If you're interested, please visit the Census Bureau job site to apply. You'll also be able to see descriptions and frequently asked questions at 2020census.gov/jobs.

Becket Athenaeum Community Movie Afternoons

Saturday, December 14

Saturday, December 21

1:30pm



Becket Broadband

Where We Are Now Throughout town work to install new utility poles is nearing completion. This is part of what is referred to as the make-ready process, which will also involve moving the existing electric and telephone wires on poles as necessary to accommodate our new fiber. The utility companies (Eversource and Verizon) are scheduled to complete the make-ready work this winter.

The town has received bids from three firms for the network construction portion of the project. Next, the Board of Selectmen will award the construction contract to one of the bidders. We anticipate construction will begin in early 2020.

The final phase will consist of connecting individual homes to the network. We are planning to offer residents who contract for service during the early sign-up campaign a subsidy to cover some, if not all, of the cost to connect to the network. In the coming months each homeowner who contracts for service will have an opportunity to review how the connection to the house has been designed as well as to learn about available options and what the estimated cost will be for their individual premises.

We Need Your Input In order to better decide which areas of town should be connected first and what the subsequent order of connections should be, your input is needed. A survey will be included with your next real estate tax bill. Please either complete this paper survey and return it by mail *or* take the online survey by visiting the following website and clicking on the “Complete The Survey” button:

Only one survey per household. Filling out this survey will help with the planning process and ensure that you will be notified when the actual sign-ups begin. Taking the survey does not take the place of signing-up for installation.

**SURVEY RESPONSES ARE
IMPORTANT TO DETERMINE WHO
GETS SERVICE FIRST.**
Only one survey per household.

www.becketbroadband.org

If you have any questions about the survey or Becket Broadband in general, feel free to call Bob Gross at 413-623-8934 x100 or email him at mlpmanager@townofbecket.org.

Town of Becket
Annual Town Report (Calendar Year 2019)
Cover Photo Contest

Photographers of all ages and abilities are invited to join the fun!

Contest Rules:

1. Take a photo of your favorite outdoor view of Becket for a chance for it to appear on the cover of our 2019 Annual Town Report.
2. You may submit one photograph.
3. Photos must be taken within the Town of Becket.
4. For submission, please include: · JPEG format · Photographer's name and e-mail · Detailed location of subject matter · Please indicate in your e-mail that you grant the Town of Becket a royalty-free, nonexclusive right to display the photograph on the cover of the Becket 2019 Annual Town Report.
5. All photos must be submitted to the Board of Selectmen c/o Beverly Gilbert via adminasst@townofbecket.org
6. The Board of Selectmen will vote on the winning photograph. We will credit the photographer who is selected by listing the photographer's name in the photograph's caption on the inside portion of the Town Report cover.

Good luck & Enjoy!!

Upcoming at the Becket Athenaeum:

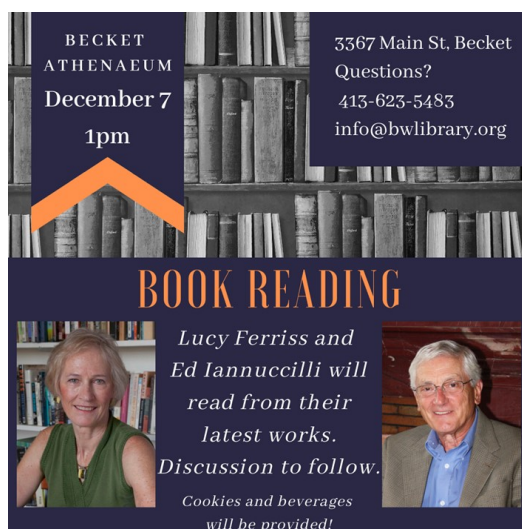
Athenaeum Book Club

All are welcome to join us at the Athenaeum on **Tuesday, December 3rd at 1:30pm** to discuss Rules of Civility by Amor Towles.

We meet at 1:30pm on the first Tuesday of the month to discuss the book over tea/coffee and make our next selection.

Regular attendance is anywhere between 6 and 16 people. We generally wrap up by 2:45 or 3pm. We read fiction and non-fiction.

Book Reading Event



BECKET
ATHENAEUM
December 7
1pm

3367 Main St, Becket
Questions?
413-623-5483
info@bwlibrary.org

BOOK READING

Lucy Ferriss and
Ed Iannuccilli will
read from their
latest works.
Discussion to follow.
Cookies and beverages
will be provided!

Community Game Night

Thursday, December 12th

6-8pm

Join us adults* for a fun evening of board games!

If you have a favorite, please bring it along to share/teach to fellow gamers.

Games the Athenaeum owns include: Monopoly, Code Names, The All American History Trivia Game, Sorry, Chess, Quiddler (word game), SET, and many more.

Any questions, please call 623-5483.

*older children (13+) welcome with an adult.

Upcoming at the Becket Athenaeum:

AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM HAS SPACE FOR A FEW MORE STUDENTS:



**EAT, DRINK AND LEARN
GEOGRAPHY
FROM OTHER CULTURES**

COME WITH US FOR:
AN EDUCATIONAL "JOURNEY" THROUGH
LATIN AMERICA AS WE COOK, LISTEN TO
MUSIC, WATCH DANCE, AND EXPLORE
THE LANDSCAPES OF THIS REGION!

**FREE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
GRADES 4-8
FRIDAYS, 3-5PM
AT THE BECKET ATHENAEUM**
(WITH ONCE MONTHLY SESSIONS
AT THE BERKSHIRE OUTDOOR CENTER
AND OTHER FIELD TRIPS)

CALL 623-5483 OR EMAIL [JODI@BWLlibrary.ORG](mailto:jodi@bwllibrary.org) FOR
MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD.
CLASS BEGINS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4TH
SPACE FOR A FEW MORE CHILDREN THIS FALL!

Pre-School



Program

Did you ever think that some things are too hard to
do at home with your kids?

We will give you fun, easy, and not too messy ways to practice STEAM at home with
your child/children. Join Wendy Provencher for an hour of great fun! This is an
opportunity to inspire your kids to engineer, create, design, explore, and build!

Tuesdays*

1-2pm at the Athenaeum

FREE

No registration required.

*The program does not meet on the first Tuesday of the month
or during school vacations.

The Central Berkshire Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant is
funded by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

Becket Athenaeum

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC

with

David ROSIER, RN, BSN
Lisa Rosier, RN, MSN, NE-BC



**5-7PM
NOVEMBER 21
DECEMBER 19**



TOWN OF BECKET

557 Main Street, Becket, MA 01223-3252

TOWN HALL – (413) 623-8934

FAX – (413) 623-6036

Town of Becket Job Posting Part-Time Clerk of Committees

The Town of Becket seeks applicants for the part-time (no more than 19 hours per week) non-benefitted position of Clerk of Committees to work with the Board of Health and Zoning Board of Appeals. Attendance at night meetings is required and the Clerk will maintain regular office hours. During interview, Candidates may discuss their preference for office hours. Qualifications include: Office experience, strong customer service skills, and a willingness to learn. See full job description/info. on www.townofbecket.org. Beginning pay rate: \$16.39.

The Town of Becket is an EO/Affirmative Action Employer. Apply by Dec. 27th.

Please submit a letter of interest and resume to:

William Caldwell, Town Administrator
557 Main Street
Becket, MA 01223

Or

administrator@townofbecket.org
with the subject: Clerk of Committees

How will Becket be affected by our changing climate?

Becket has received a grant from the state to work on a plan for anticipating and preventing changes to our lovely rural town which may happen due to the changing climate. How might increasing rainfall or severe storms affect our streams, rivers and lakes? Will warming temperatures impact our forests and wildlife? What can we do to lessen the changes? Are there natural solutions to these problems, such as planting resistant foliage to decrease erosion? These are the kinds of questions the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant will be addressing. For the process to work well we need lots of input from Becket residents. We want you to share your knowledge and ideas. There will be an opportunity for you to learn more about the MVP process and share your concerns and ideas for responding to the climate threats at a **meeting in Town Hall on Monday December 16 from 6:30 to 8:00** . The chair of the MVP committee, **Meredyth Babcock**, will explain what is being done and share the results of a few other communities' efforts. The Becket Democratic Town Committee is organizing this meeting. Refreshments will be provided. If you are going to attend please notify Shelley Chanler at shelleychanler@gmail.com or call Maria Walington at 413-344-3023 so that we can be prepared for the crowd. Since we are expecting a gathering of Becket residents, Mark Sebastino has asked for a few minutes at the start of this meeting to talk about serving as a census worker for next year's census. If you are interested in the MVP project but can't attend the December 16th session you could go to the December 10th session at the Becket Athenaeum 7 - 8:30. Please call them at 413-623-5483 to let them know you are coming.

***THE ELDER SERVICES
FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM CAN HELP. . .***

- . . . if you are caring for someone 60 years of age or older.
- . . . if you are caring for someone under the age of 60 who has a physical disability, developmental disability or mental illness.
- . . . if you are a grandparent raising grandchildren.

Services include:

Education

***Information and Resources
Support – Individual and Group***

The Gallagher Alzheimer's Resource Center

The Elder Services Family
Caregiver Support Program
provides services
to caregivers throughout
Berkshire County.

For further information contact:



1-413-499-0524
1-800-544-5242

Elder Services and its programs
are funded, in part, by the
Massachusetts
Executive Office of Elder Affairs.

Phone: 1-800-AGE-INFO
www.800ageinfo.com

Paul Mikaniewicz
Fire Chief
Becket and Washington Fire Departments

Season's Greetings. As the holidays are now upon us and so is the heating season, I want to share a few friendly safety reminders.

- All heating equipment should be serviced and kept in good working condition.
- Keep direct vent appliance outlets clear from snow and debris.
- Chimneys from wood burning equipment need to be cleaned.
- Properly dispose of ashes from wood burning equipment.
- Do not run generators or other fuel burning CO producing equipment indoors.
- Keep a safe distance from combustibles if using a space heater and only plug it directly into wall outlets.
- Limit use of extension cords.
- Make sure smoke alarms/detectors and CO detectors are in proper working condition.
- Have a fire extinguisher available and in working order.
- Keep live trees watered and away from heat sources.
- Make sure your house number is visible for emergency responders.
- Keep access to your house clear for emergency responders.
- Be watchful of neighbors in need.
- Dial 911 for emergencies, don't wait until it's too late.

Happy Holidays and safe travels.

Questions or concerns, contact: firechief@townofbecket.org or 413-623-2185

Town of Becket – Parking Ban

Every Year November 15 through April 15

From November 15th through April 15th, there will be no parking on town roads or streets between 11:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m. Vehicles in violation of this ban will be ticketed and, if interfering with snow removal, will be towed at the owner's expense.

The Town Hall will be closed:

Town Hall will be closed on
Wednesday, Dec. 25th and
Wednesday, Jan. 1st
for the Christmas and New
Year's Holidays.

**REGULARLY SCHEDULED TOWN OF BECKET
COMMITTEE AND BOARD MONTHLY MEETINGS:**

Board of Health 1st Wednesday, 5:00 p.m.
Board of Selectmen: 1st and 3rd Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Conservation Commission 4th Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.
Energy Committee 3rd Tuesday, 4:00p.m.
Finance Committee 1st Thursday 5:30p.m.
Historical Commission 2nd Tuesday, 3 p.m.
Planning Board: 2nd Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals 1st Tuesday, 7 p.m. as needed

For the most updated schedule, please see the calendar section of the town website:
www.townofbecket.org

TOWN OF BECKET

557 Main Street
Becket, MA 01223

Phone: (413) 623-8934