



June 2019  
Volume 1, Issue 9

# THE BECKET BULLETIN

INFORMATION ON TOWN GOVERNMENT ISSUES  
AND ACTIVITIES FOR RESIDENTS OF BECKET

## Becket News

As we move toward the summer season, there are a lot of things happening in Becket. Summer recreation begins in July. The summer camps and other seasonal and year-round businesses are ramping up for the increased seasonal traffic.

The Annual Town Meeting was well attended with excellent discussion on the articles. The Town will close the budget for Fiscal Year 2019 and also work on completing the capital projects approved by the voters. The Annual Town Election occurred on May 18th to vote for members of the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, Board of Health, Planning Board and Cemetery Commission. Welcome to all the new and returning members.

The new and updated Town website is now live. Feel free to check it out at [www.townofbecket.org](http://www.townofbecket.org). ClearGov.com and the Town are working together to provide the Town's financial information online. There is a link on the Town Administrator's page for more information.

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

[http://www.townofbecket.org/Public\\_Documents/index](http://www.townofbecket.org/Public_Documents/index)

William J. Caldwell, Town Administrator

To subscribe to the Town of Becket meeting agendas and public notices, please visit: <http://townofbecket.org/subscriber>

## Inside this issue

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## June Meetings (subject to change)

**1st:** Sherwood Green Road District Prudential and Annual Meeting

**5th:** Board of Health

**5th:** Board of Selectmen

**8th:** Sherwood Forest Lake District

**8th:** Sherwood Forest Lake District Annual Meeting

**11th:** Historical Commission

**12th:** Planning Board

**15th:** Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District

**15th:** Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District Annual Meeting

**18th:** Energy Committee

**19th:** Board of Selectmen

**25th:** Conservation Commission

## THE SELECTMEN'S COLUMN

Well, summer finally did arrive, although only briefly, if the current lower temperatures are any indication. Memorial Day weekend was warm and the Becket Town Parade went off without a hitch. A special thanks to Bill Mulholland and his volunteers. The month of May also saw our Town Meeting and elections. Three candidates ran for the vacant Board of Selectman seat and we would like to welcome Chris Swindlehurst as our newest board member. Chris has lived in Becket most of his life and is raising a family here with his wife Crispina. The BOS is back to full strength of three members after being down to two with the early resignation of Nicole Ledoux at the beginning of 2019.

Welcome back to our second homeowners, camp counselors, campers and visitors who enjoy Becket's scenic vistas, world-renowned cultural attractions and tranquil country lakes. Seasonal beach passes are available at Town Hall along with the Transfer Station stickers. Transfer Station days of operation are Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday during the summer months. Have a safe and fun summer in the Berkshires!

A graphic for Medicare information. It features a Medicare card for Jane Doe, a stethoscope, a blood pressure cuff, a pill bottle, and various pills. The text includes "Questions about Medicare?", "Contact Becket SHINE: 413 623-8934 Ext. 141", and "Free counseling by a trained volunteer." The Medicare card details include: NAME OF BENEFICIARY JANE DOE, MEDICARE CLAIM NUMBER 000-00-0000-Z, SEX FEMALE, IS ENTITLED TO HOSPITAL (PART F) MEDICAL (PART H), EFFECTIVE DATE 01-01-01, and SIGN HERE with an arrow pointing to a line.

**Questions about Medicare?**

**Contact Becket SHINE:**  
**413 623-8934 Ext. 141**

Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone

**Free counseling by  
a trained volunteer.**

A poster for the Hilltown Brouhaha event. It has a yellow, green, and red border. The text includes "Calling all CRAFTERS, ARTISANS & VENDORS", "Join us @ Washington Town Park Saturday, July 13th", "for the 4th Annual", "hilltown brouhaha", "Becket Washington Community Fair", and "To register visit: www.HilltownBrouhaha.org". A blue triangle in the top right corner contains the text "Reserve space by June 1st", "Treasure in the Trunk \$10", and "OR Table \$20". The logo "brought to you by BWCP Becket Washington Community Partnership" is in the bottom right.

Calling all  
**CRAFTERS,  
ARTISANS  
& VENDORS**

Reserve space by June 1<sup>st</sup>  
Treasure in the Trunk **\$10**  
OR  
Table **\$20**

Join us @ Washington Town Park  
**Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>**

for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**hilltown  
brouhaha**

brought to you by  
**BWCP**  
Becket Washington  
Community Partnership

Becket Washington Community Fair

To register visit: [www.HilltownBrouhaha.org](http://www.HilltownBrouhaha.org)

# Becket Broadband

## Informational Sessions and Update

The Broadband Ad Hoc Group will hold two informational sessions this summer to report on the high-speed Internet fiber network (broadband for short) project's status and projected timeline. Residents will have an opportunity to ask questions and voice their concerns.

Starting in June we hope you noticed that work has commenced to install new utility poles wherever replacements are required. This is the first stage of the make-ready process, which will involve moving the existing electric and telephone wires where necessary to accommodate our new fiber. It is impossible to know when the utility companies (Eversource and Verizon) will complete the make-ready work. After this work is completed construction of the network will begin. The final phase will consist of connecting individual homes. We are hoping to have broadband service available in the first quarter of 2021.

The State has been very helpful and increased their funding to offset a significant increase in make-ready costs. Hopefully, this will allow us 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 Internet via our network.

As the project moves along, 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 any available options and what the estimated cost will be.

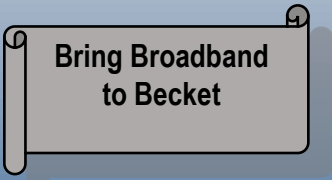
### Attend One of Two Sessions

**When:** ♦ Saturday, July 20 at 10am ♦ Tuesday, August 6 at 4pm

**Where:** Town Hall Community Room, 557 Main Street, Becket MA 01223

**RSVP:** Bev Gilbert (413) 623-8934 ext. 100 or [adminasst@townofbecket.org](mailto:adminasst@townofbecket.org)

Please let us know which session you will attend. *Walk-ins welcome.*



Bring Broadband  
to Becket

June 18<sup>th</sup> 6pm to 8pm

Evening presentation with Jim Straub of Mass. Lakes and Ponds DCR. Join your friends and neighbors as we learn to identify invasive aquatic plants.

Learn new strategies to keep them out of our beautiful lakes and ponds.  
Town Hall Becket MA. (Registration helpful but not mandatory)

Mark your calendars and sign up for upcoming  
Center Pond Weed Project trainings and events

[email:volunteer@wildscenicwestfieldriver.org](mailto:volunteer@wildscenicwestfieldriver.org) or call 413 623-2070

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GAME NIGHT at the ATHENAEUM

THURSDAY, JUNE 13<sup>TH</sup>, 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!

Refreshments will be served!

\*older children, grades 5+, may come with an adult

# Becket Athenaeum News

## ATHENAEUM SUMMER HOURS BEGIN JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup>

**Tuesday:** 1-7pm

**Wednesday:** 10am-2pm

**Thursday:** 1-7pm

**Saturday:** 10am-4pm

## ATHENAEUM BOOK CLUB

All are welcome to join us at the Athenaeum on ***Tuesday, June 4th at 1:30pm***, we will discuss *The House at the Edge of Night* by Catherine Banner.

Tuesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1:30pm, we will discuss *Gertrude and Claudius* by John Updike.

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.



## SUMMER STORY TIME at the ATHENAEUM

Beginning Saturday, July 6, 10-11am, we will have a weekly story time for children ages 0-7. We have local students from Becket Washington School volunteering to read a book each week to the children with a fun craft after the story.

Please call 413-623-5483 to pre-register so that we can have enough supplies for the children planning to participate!

THIS IS A **FREE** PROGRAM!





## **2019 Becket Summer Parks Program July 1-August 15**

**Free program at the Becket Center Park Monday -Thursday 10-3 Ages 6-12**

Crafts, sports, lunch, swimming, fun, fun, fun!

Call town hall for early registration 623-8934 and then fill out forms on your first day at camp. Bring lunch, plenty of water, and a warm sweat-shirt. On beach day bring a towel and wear a swimsuit.

No camp on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Parents/guardians will be required to sign their child/children in and out daily. Please drop off and pick up at 10 and 3 precisely.



Free swimming lessons for everyone. July 2-August 17

Our goal is to teach everyone young and old to swim. Register at the beach at 10:00 on the week of July 1-5. Lessons will start the following week at the time the lifeguard assigns. Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. You are welcome to attend both the park program and swim lessons. Parents must transport. All vehicles must have a 2019 \$5.00 beach sticker.

Questions: Call Becket town Hall 623-8934 x100 or Rita Furlong 623-5146

Programs sponsored by the Becket Parks and Recreation Committee.



## **Zoning Board of Appeals Seeks New Members**

The Zoning Board of Appeals is searching for two new members. This Board meets as needed on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm at Becket Town Hall. The Zoning Board of Appeals reviews land use issues that pertain to Becket zoning ordinance. In 2018, the Board met three times. If you would like more information, please contact Jessica at [zba@townofbecket.org](mailto:zba@townofbecket.org)



**SHINE**

**Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone.**

**Turning 65?**

**Need help selecting the best insurance plan?**

**Need assistance in applying for the best state aid plan?**

**SHINE volunteers are well trained and can offer free, unbiased assistance in selecting the best medical and drug plans.**

**Call 413 623-8934 ext. 141**

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

Board of Health ..... 1st Wednesday, 10 a.m.  
Board of Selectmen: ..... 1st and 3rd Wednesday, 7 p.m.  
Conservation Commission..... 4th Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.  
Energy Committee ..... 3rd Tuesday, 4:00pm  
Finance Committee ..... 1st or 2nd Wednesday, evening  
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:  
[http://townofbecket.org/Public\\_Documents/BecketMA\\_Calendar/?formid=158](http://townofbecket.org/Public_Documents/BecketMA_Calendar/?formid=158)

**TOWN OF BECKET**

**557 Main Street  
Becket, MA 01223**

**Phone: (413) 623-8934**