



October 2019
Volume 2, Issue 1

THE BECKET BULLETIN

INFORMATION ON TOWN GOVERNMENT ISSUES
AND ACTIVITIES FOR RESIDENTS OF BECKET

Becket News

Fall has arrived and the leaves are beginning to change colors. People are out picking apples, leaf-peeping and heading home from their summer adventures.

The Town continues to move forward on the Town Meeting approved projects. We have taken delivery of a new police cruiser, the Town Hall kitchen renovation is nearly complete and the EV charging stations are waiting to be commissioned and set-up.

The Town was pleased to host a legislative breakfast sponsored by the Mass. Municipal Association bringing together local leaders and state officials to discuss issues pertaining to area towns.

A tax title auction will be held on October 26th at noon at the Becket Town Hall to auction off more than 30 properties. The following link will bring you to the list of properties <https://sullivan-auctioneers.com/calendar-detail/?id=12424>

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>

Inside this issue

- Selectmen's Column
- Becket Athenaeum Events
- Community Events, Reminders and Opportunities
- Becket News

October Meetings (Subject to change)

2nd Board of Health
2nd Board of Selectmen
3rd Finance Committee
5th Sherwood Greens Road District Prudential Committee
7th Broadband Ad Hoc Group
8th Historical Commission
9th Planning Board
12th Sherwood Forest Lake District
12th Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District
15th Energy Committee
16th Board of Selectmen
21th Cultural Council
21th Broadband Ad Hoc Group
22th Conservation Commission

THE SELECTMEN'S COLUMN

As I write this column fall has arrived. The trees are turning some very brilliant colors. Enjoy the season before the white stuff flies.

The Board of Selectmen is being kept up to date by the Broadband Ad Hoc Group who are all volunteers and devote an immense amount of time to meetings. We cannot thank them enough for their dedication. The make-ready phase is in full swing and bids for the construction phase will be opened shortly. At the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) in 2016 money was appropriated to purchase the property at 21 Maple St. to be used as an expansion of the adjacent North Becket Village Park and to provide some additional parking for the school and park. At the ATM in 2017 money was appropriated to demolish the house and grade the property and install 6-8 parking spaces. This spring the Parks and Recreation Committee, joined by the Board of Selectmen, attended a hearing before the Conservation Committee. The Conservation Commission would not allow any parking on the parcel at this time citing conservation concerns close to the brook. The parcel has been graded, a fence installed with a pedestrian gate and hydro-seeded. Other parking options are being pursued.

On Saturday, October 26th at noon, at the Town Hall, an auction will be conducted on 36 town owned parcels. Information is available on the town website www.townofbecket.org and at the Town Hall.

A current hot topic is the possibility of a turnpike exit on Algeria Rd. in Otis. MassDOT has promised to listen to all parties and their reasoning behind supporting or opposing this location for an exit. On Thursday, October 10th, MassDot will hold a public meeting at the Blandford Town Hall at 6 P.M.

For the Board of Selectmen,
Bill Elovirta, Chair

Blood Pressure Clinic

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

5-7pm
September 26
October 24
November 21
December 19

at Becket Athenaeum

The poster features a large red heart with a white ECG line running through it. The background is a light blue sky with a mountain range and colorful confetti at the bottom.



MMA Legislative Breakfast

The Town of Becket had the pleasure of hosting one of the season's Legislative Breakfasts at Becket Town Hall on Friday, September 20, 2019. Local elected and appointed officials from various area towns attend to get an update on Chapter 90, school funding, OPEB, HR issues, Broadband and other issues of importance. We want to thank Sen. Adam Hinds for attending the breakfast and giving an update on important issues to him and the towns he represents.

Halloween 2019

Trick or Treat in Becket is
on Thursday, Oct. 31st
from 5 p.m. till 7 p.m.



Upcoming Workshops at the Becket Athenaeum:

**Thursday, October 17
7-8:30pm**

Food and Farming as Climate Change Solutions

with Mark Phillips, an independent researcher and writer focused on ecological sustainability and economic democracy in local and regional food systems.

Pre-registration is required for this FREE workshop.
Please contact us by noon on Saturday, October 12th.
Email: info@bwlibrary.org or call 623-5483

**Tuesday, October 22
6:30-8:30pm**

A Taste of Safe Conversations

With 2-Hour Workshop for Couples with Ani Nadler Grosser, LICSW

Talking is among the most dangerous things people do!
And listening is the most infrequent!
Safe Conversations helps people talk without criticizing, listen without judgement, and connect beyond their differences.

Pre-registration is required for this FREE workshop.
Please contact us by noon on Saturday, October 19th.
Email: info@bwlibrary.org or call 623-5483

**Tuesday, November 19
6-8pm**

Simple Berry Basket Weaving with Lee Myers

Come enjoy conversation and learning a new skill as we work with Lee to make our own berry basket with 3/4" reed supplies. Materials are provided.

Pre-registration required for this FREE class – limited space in this workshop.
Please contact us by 5pm on Thursday, November 12.
Email: info@bwlibrary.org or call 623-5483



**Seasonal Flu
Clinic
BECKET TOWN HALL
October 10th 1:00 –
4:00**

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2 FREE After School Programs at the Athenaeum for Becket & Washington Students

ACE TUTORING PROGRAM:

- Grades 2-8 students
- Meets Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, through the school year to help students meet their academic goals.
- BWS students are met at the school by Athenaeum staff and walk back together. Middle school will be dropped off by the bus or their guardian by 3:15.
- Has paid staff, teen interns, and community volunteers working with 10-12 students. The aim is 1 to 2 students per tutor.
- Helps students with homework, studying for tests, and with their school projects, in addition to having supplemental educational and craft projects for when their individual work is complete for the day.
- The ACE and BWS staff work together to make sure students are getting the best team support possible as they work toward their academic goals.
- Starts Tuesday, September 10th, and there is space for a few more students.

If your child is in need of assistance with their school work, please return a completed application (available on our website and at the library).

FRIDAY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM:

Friday Enrichment (FE) is shifting focus for the 2019-20 school year as Sarah Reedy is unable to return to lead the program. We will break the year down to 3 segments: Fall, Winter, Spring.

Program description for the fall:

- Begins Friday, September 27th
- Grades 4-8
- Will focus on the geography and culture of one region/country for the fall.
- Will include music, crafts, regional foods & cooking, maps, and other activities that come from the selected region.
- We will transport to the Berkshire Outdoor Center once monthly in October and November for team-building and supplemental activities.
- There will be 1 field trip this fall, with one or two more later in the school year.
- FE does not meet on any Friday that precedes a Monday vacation day, nor on half-day school release.

If you would like to apply for either program, or have questions, please call 413-623-5483 to speak with Jodi.

Tax Collector's Message

2nd Quarter Real Estate, District, and Personal Property Tax Bills are due by Friday November 1st. Set up a username and password using our on line bill pay system and schedule your payment now so it won't be late. There's no charge if you make the payment from your checking account. Have your bill handy and go to www.townofbecket.org and click on Online Bill Pay. Remember, the tax year for the current quarter is 2020!

Becket Broadband update

The utility companies are continuing and forging ahead with the MakeReady phase of the project. Weather permitting, we hope the work will be completed by the end of the year. The Town is preparing to solicit bids for the construction phase of the project. We hope to select a contractor in November and commence construction as soon as the MakeReady phase is complete. The Broadband Ad Hoc Group will schedule an Informational Session during the winter to update homeowners on the project and answer any questions and concerns. In the meantime, anyone with questions may contact us via email mlpmanager@townofbecket.org or phone 413-623-8934 X100.

*Submitted by Bob Gross, Municipal Light Plant Manager -
Broadband Ad Hoc Group Member*

Becket Arts Center

The Becket Arts Center is conducting a survey of the citizens of Becket and Washington, to ascertain their hopes and ideas for future Arts Center programs. Please click on the link below and take a few moments to answer the questions that

will appear. Your responses will be completely anonymous and very helpful.

Best wishes from your Becket Arts Center

<https://becketartscenter.typeform.com/to/yFwggc>



Questions about Medicare?

Contact Becket SHINE:
413 623-8934 Ext. 141

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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

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Becket, MA 01223**

Phone: (413) 623-8934