



**TOWN OF BECKET**  
**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**  
557 Main Street, Becket, MA 01223-3252  
TOWN HALL – (413) 623-8934 Ext. 113  
FAX – (413) 623-6036

April 3, 2020

Dear Community,

I am hoping that we have turned the corner and are heading toward decent weather. COVID-19 has become the focal point of our lives. Due to this, I am not publishing a full Becket Bulletin. With the number of tests and the number of positive cases increasing daily we need to make sure that we are following state and national guidance, advisories, and orders.

The most significant way to stop the spread of the virus is to follow the instructions of federal, state, and local authorities. Social distancing, regular handwashing, staying home as much as possible are just some of the important steps to reducing the risk to yourself and others.

The federal government has provided guidance on how to slow the spread. Governor Baker has implemented and extended until May 4, 2020 a stay at home advisory. Non-essential businesses and schools will follow suit and remain closed. We welcome back our second homeowners, but remind them to follow the travel advisories to self-isolate for 14 days upon arrival. More information can be found at [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov).

Locally, we have closed the Town Hall and other Town-owned buildings to the public. Staff are working to keep the local government functioning. Many are working remotely. The list of department phone extensions and emails are listed on the town website [www.townofbecket.org](http://www.townofbecket.org). Additionally, the Town has closed the parks and playgrounds. You may go for a walk or run. Practice social distancing, avoid congregating in groups and stay home if you feel sick.

This is a particularly difficult time for our local businesses. Small business loans are available through the state and federal government and more information can be found at [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov). If you have an opportunity to support our local businesses, please consider doing so. Additionally, there are many people in need in the community. The Becket Food Pantry, located next to the Federated Church, is accepting donations to help those in need. Please contact Bill Mulholland at (413) 770-1897 to coordinate a donation or if you are in need of food.

Every ten years since 1790 a census has been completed in the United States; 2020 is no different. April 1<sup>st</sup> is marked as Census Day. Please be sure to fill out your census either on paper, over the phone, or online. Every person matters and everyone, particularly in Berkshire County, needs to make sure they are counted.

Here is a note from Board of Selectmen Chair Bill Elovirta:

Presently the entire world is dealing with the COVID-19 Pandemic. Berkshire County is listed as a hotspot. We are all praying that this crisis will pass quickly. Please follow all guidelines that you have all seen, read, and heard to protect yourselves and others.

Because of COVID-19 the Becket Caucus has been cancelled. The Annual Town Meeting has been rescheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm with the Annual Elections to follow on June 13<sup>th</sup> from 12:00pm to 4:00pm. Please watch the town website for further details on voting, attending meetings etc.

It is with a heavy heart that I inform you of the passing on March 28<sup>th</sup> of Richard E. Furlong, 77. Richard had retired as the Becket Town Administrator after fifteen years. Richard was my school classmate and lifelong friend; he will be missed by many.

For the Board of Selectmen  
Bill Elovirta, Chairman

On Wednesday night, the Board of Selectmen voted to allow sales of bag stickers at the transfer station for the duration of the emergency. They will be sold in \$5 increments. Only checks will be accepted. You may also buy stickers online on the Town's website or at the local stores.

In closing, please follow the guidelines as outlined by federal, state and local officials. Support local businesses, support each other and stay safe and healthy. We are in this together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Caldwell".

William J. Caldwell  
Town Administrator