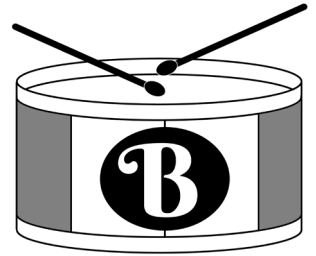


Becket Beat

Keeping neighbors connected Vol. 5, No. 7, August 2026



A Century of Showing Up: The Becket Volunteer Fire Department

By Aaron Beatty

Most of us living in Becket or Washington likely have a story to tell about the Becket Volunteer Fire Department (BVFD) coming to the rescue; they show up when you need them and they've been showing up now for 100 years.

Records dating back to the late 1800s show the appointment of Elmer D. Ballou as Forest Fire Warden, but it wasn't until 1925 that a volunteer fire department was established and P.B. McCormick was named the first fire chief. Today, the BVFD provides fire and emergency services to Becket and neighboring Washington, making its coverage area of more than 85 square miles one of the largest in the state.

A total of twelve fire chiefs have been at the helm of the BVFD over the past 100 years, including current chief Paul A. Mikaniewicz. While much has changed in the world and in the department itself, an ethos of service to the community has remained constant.

This is evident when sitting down to talk with a handful of newer and long-serving BVFD members. While each has their own particular reasons for joining, there's a common thread, captured well by newer member (and daughter of the current fire chief) Olivia Mikaniewicz: "I think you do actually have to care, and want to be dedicated to it, and want to do something for the community."

For former chief and current member Mark Hanford, who has more than 50 years of service on the department, the centennial of the BVFD demonstrates the staying power of a small group of volunteers over time. "We have history, we have traditions, and we try to maintain them. And they were passed on by the chiefs before us, the deputies, and the officers," he states.



BVFD members. Standing (L to R): Chris Eisner, Jessica Giarolo, Everett Massini, Olivia Mikaniewicz; Seated (L to R): Jan Elovirta, Mark Hanford, Ivan Healey.
Photo by Aaron Beatty

**Celebrate 100 Years
of the BVFD!**

**Beer Garden
SAT, AUG 15
5:30-11pm**

North Becket Village Pavilion
\$5/person (under 12 free)

Raffle, food, drinks for sale

Live music by Mostly Blue & D-Rod

Walking around the meeting room in the fire station in North Becket, the importance of tradition and history is palpable. Awards, plaques, photos, and memorabilia accumulated over the years line the walls and shelves — a reminder to honor the past as the department prepares for the future.

In fact, the BVFD is constantly training and learning, making sure they have both the equipment and the knowledge needed to serve the public. As for what keeps a hundred-year-old volunteer department running, the answer isn't equipment, funding, or training alone — it's relationships too. Hanford describes a mutual aid system with neighboring towns: "Any town can ask any other town for assistance within reason, and there'll be no questions, and there'll be no bill." The same goes for Becket's own highway and police departments: "If we have a house fire in the wintertime, water makes ice — we usually don't even have to ask, a town truck shows up and starts sanding. And the police come . . . to take traffic over, help with car accidents, and things like that. They help out a lot."

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August Calendar, P5-6 / A Naughty Weed, P7 / Charcoal City, Warming/Cooling Center, P8 /
Highway & Ambulance Facilities, P9 / BWCP News, P10

Voting Reminders for the 9/1 State Primary

- State Primary voter registration deadline is Sat. August 22nd
- To vote by mail, submit your application (recently mailed to voters) to Town Hall by Tue. August 25th at 5pm
- Early voting for the State Primary is from August 22nd-28th



BVFD, continued from page 1

For Jessica Giarolo, an EMT and 14-year BVFD veteran, being on the department is more than an opportunity for volunteerism. “It becomes a way of life,” she said. “The fire department is not just about you being a firefighter — it touches your whole family.” She described years of late night or overnight calls: “My mom lived just a few houses down, so if I got a call in the middle of the night, she’d come watch my kids so I could go on the call. It takes a village,” she said.

An influx of younger firefighters in the past few years has breathed new life into the BVFD. Many of them are children or friends of current members. “I grew up with my dad on the fire department,” said Mikaniewicz.” He always wanted one of his kids to do it with him. I guess I just wanted to do something that would actually help people.” Olivia, Everett Massini, and Ivan Healey — all in their first two years on the department — described a recent surge in interest. “Seeing this room fill up from just like five chairs to almost 20 in the past year is pretty unique and cool,” Massini said. Healey called it “almost like a chain reaction... once one person joins, they’re like, oh, I know that person, this might be something I could do too.”

Jan Elovirta, a ten-year veteran of the BVFD notes that serving on the department is something almost anyone can do, “You’re badly needed, and if you don’t think you can do it, then you’re wrong in thinking that, because there’s something for everyone to do.” Others in the room echoed this sentiment: whatever your skills or ability, there is a place on the BVFD for anyone who wants to make a real difference in their community.



Beer Garden poster, 1968

BVFD Chief Paul Mikaniewicz expressed his gratitude by saying, “The members are what make the fire department; they are dedicated individuals who make leading the department more rewarding. They are from Becket, Washington, and Lee, and sacrifice their time to answer the call. I can’t thank them enough for that. I also would like to thank the towns of Becket and Washington for their support.”

Throughout its history the BVFD and its affiliated association have organized and hosted community events — from square dancing and chicken barbecues to live music to beer gardens — to both raise money and bring folks together. This year, the Firefighter’s Association is marking the BVFD centennial with a Beer Garden on **Saturday, August 15, from 5:30 to 11 p.m.** at the North Becket Village Pavilion. Admission is \$5 per person (kids under 12 free), with a raffle and food and drinks for sale, and live music from Mostly Blue featuring members of Wahconah Regional High School’s Blood Type: Blue and D-Rod (Derrick Rodgers’s band). Come out and celebrate and show your appreciation for the essential and indispensable BVFD.

Note: You can find a detailed account of the department’s history written by Madeline Elovirta in Becket Massachusetts: From Colonial Township to Modern Town 1765-2015 or on the town’s website: www.townofbecket.org/fire-department.



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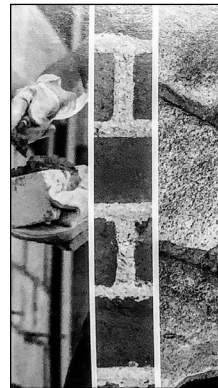
Public Information Meeting

Thursday, August 20th at 6pm
at Town Hall Community Room

To be addressed:

- Planning Board will review the proposed Solar and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) bylaws
- Bylaw Review Committee will review the proposed Short-Term Rental bylaw and present an amendment to their existing procedures
- Still to be determined at this writing is a proposed revision to the Dark Skies bylaw

The meeting is an opportunity to express your opinions about potential articles included in the warrant for the Special Town Meeting scheduled for Saturday, September 19th.



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Becket Marks 250 Years with New Oak on Historic Ground

By Adele Levine

The heat didn't keep them away. On a sweltering late afternoon on July 1, Becket residents gathered at the historic Parade Grounds – once a training ground for the Town's Revolutionary War soldiers – to mark the nation's 250th birthday by planting a young oak tree.

The idea came from Town Administrator Kathe Warden, who opened the ceremony with thanks to the many community members who'd made the day possible. Then she drew a line straight from past to present. "What strikes me most is how this simple ceremony mirrors what happened here 250 years ago," she said. "Back then neighbors came together to build a community. Today, neighbors came together to honor it. The spirit is the same – people stepping up, lending a hand and creating something meaningful for the whole town."

Select Board Chair Bill Elovirta took it from there, calling the young oak a living symbol of the strength, resilience, and hope that have carried the country from its earliest days to the present. "As this tree grows long after all of us are gone," he said, "may it remind future generations of who we were, what we valued, and the care we put into shaping our community and our country." Then the mood shifted from solemn to spirited as campers from Chimney Corners Camp broke into a rousing "This Land Is Your Land," and kept the momentum going with a medley of patriotic favorites.



Campers Singing "America the Beautiful" & "This Land is Your Land," photo by Art Alpert

Finally, Elovirta and Select Board member Chris Swindlehurst put spade to soil, planting the oak that will one day tower over the same ground where soldiers once drilled. A reading of the plaque beside it closed the ceremony, words meant to outlast everyone sitting there: "OAK TREE OF LIBERTY. In recognition of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. May this tree stand for generations as a symbol of strength, endurance and freedom of our nation. 1776 - 2026."

Stop by the Parade Grounds (corner of Route 8 and YMCA Road) and see Becket's newest historical monument taking root.



Selectmen Bill Elovirta and Chris Swindlehurst planting the tree, photo by Art Alpert

New Little Free Library Opens in Town Center Park

By Adele Levine

Need a new summer read but can't make it to the library? Good news: there's a new option in town!

A new Little Free Library, sponsored by the Becket Athenaeum, has opened in the pavilion at Town Center Park, stocked with books for readers of all ages. The little wooden cabinet is already drawing curious visitors — and it's just getting started.

The project came together thanks to the generosity of the Route 8 Pub, which donated the cabinet, and the Parks and Recreation Committee, which installed it.

For anyone unfamiliar with the concept, Little Free Libraries are part of a national movement that puts free books in public spaces for neighbors to share. The idea is simple. Take a book or leave a book, no library card required. It runs entirely on the honor system, and it's open to everyone in the community, year-round.

Ellen Manley, Athenaeum Director, says "the project is one small way to extend our services beyond the walls of the Athenaeum itself. We hope the Little Free Library will make accessing books that much easier for folks in our community – whether you're looking for a book on a day the library is closed or Town Center Park is somewhere you drive by each day. We figure the more books, in more places, the better."

Many Little Free Libraries seem to keep themselves well-stocked naturally with the take one and leave one format. In this case, the Athenaeum will keep an eye on the space and refill as needed. Next time you're at the park, take a peek inside. Your next favorite book might be waiting on the shelf.



Photo by Adele Levine

Community Calendar August 2026

Full listing & details: www.BecketBeat.org/Community-Calendar

see page 6
for more >>



BECKET ARTS CENTER

Thursdays: Yoga with Rima Sala / 9:30-10:30am / \$15 per class (disc. for members)
Fridays: Creative Modern Dance with Louise / 10:30am-11:30pm / \$15 per class (disc. for members)
Saturday, August 1: Sashiko Mending Workshop / 12-4pm / \$80 (disc. for members)
Saturday, August 8: Music Brings Communities Together: Rounders Revival / 5-7pm / Free - donations welcome (new location: North Becket Park)
Thursday, August 13: B.U. Tanglewood Performance / 5-6:30pm / Free (donations welcome)
Saturday, August 15: Framing Workshop / 1-4pm / \$50 (disc. for members)
Sunday, August 16: Summer Celebration of the Arts / 4-7pm / Live music, open bar, food / \$120
Wednesday, August 19: Plein Air in Becket / 10am-1pm / \$10 (free for members) pre-registration required
Wednesday, August 19: W.I.P. Wednesday - A reading of Michael Hammond's Uncle Vance - sharing of works in progress / 7-8:30pm / Free
Saturday, August 22: Music Brings Communities Together: Kilashandra / 5-7pm / Free - donations welcome (new location: North Becket Park)
Thursday, August 27: Jeremy Yudkin presents: Understanding Beethoven's Ninth Symphony / 6-7:30pm / \$10 (disc. for members)
Friday, August 28: The Other Dance Concert in Becket / 7-8:30pm / \$20 (disc. for members)

Up-to-date info at: becketartscenter.org/calendar

BECKET ATHENAEUM

Tuesdays: Baby & Toddler Playgroup and Caregiver Connection / 10-11am / Free
Wednesdays: One-on-One Tech Support / 2:30-4:30pm / By appointment: bwlibrary.org/techhelp / Free
Saturdays: Storytime with Stay & Play / 10:30am-12pm / Free / Stay after Storytime for snacks and a chance for kids to play and caregivers to connect!
2nd & 4th Saturdays: One-on-One Tech Support / 1-3pm / By appointment: bwlibrary.org/techhelp / Free
Tuesday, June 23 to Saturday, August 22: Summer Reading: Plant a Seed, Read / Free
Tuesday, August 4: Book Club: *An Unfinished Love Story* by Doris Kearns Goodwin / 1:30pm / Free
Monday, August 10: Cookbook Club: *The League of Kitchens Cookbook* by Lisa Kyung Gross / 6-7:30pm / Free
Tuesday, August 11: Creative Movement with Laurel Lenski during Baby & Toddler Playgroup / 10-11am / Free
Thursday, August 13: Local Author Poetry+Prose: Reading and Discussion with David Giannini & Mark Farrington / 4pm / Free
Thursday, August 20: Game Night / 6-8pm / Free
Tuesday, August 25: Movie Night for Adults / 6:30-9:30pm, movie starts at 7pm / Free
Tuesday, September 1: Book Club: *Hum* by Helen Phillips / 1:30pm / Free
Saturday, September 5 & Sunday, September 6: Book & Bake Sale Fundraiser / 10am-4pm / By donation (cash or check)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15 - 5:30-11PM

Becket Volunteer Fire Department's Centennial Celebration

Becket Beer Garden

\$5/person (under 12 free)

North Becket Village Pavilion

Food, drinks, and live music



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Community Calendar August 2026

see page 5
<< for more



Full listing & details: www.BecketBeat.org/Community-Calendar

TOWN GOVERNMENT

Wednesday, August 5, 19: Select Board / 6pm
Wednesday, August 12: Planning Board / 5pm
Tuesday, August 11: Historical Commission / 3pm
Tuesday, August 11: Finance Committee / 3pm
Tuesday, August 18: Municipal Buildings Advisory Committee / 9am
Tuesday, August 18: Energy Committee / 5pm
Wednesday, August 19: Bylaw Review Comm / 3pm
Thursday, August 20: Public Info Meeting / 6pm
Tuesday, August 25: Conservation Commission / 6pm

Up-to-date info: www.townofbecket.org/calendar

Saturday, August 22: Deadline to register to vote in State primary (vote-by-mail applications due Aug. 25)

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Mondays: Osteo Yoga for Seniors / Washington Town Hall / 11am / Free
Tuesdays: Yoga for Seniors w/ Rima Sala / Washington Town Hall / 9am / Free
Tuesdays: Chair Yoga / Becket Town Hall / 10:30am / Free
Tuesdays & Thursdays: Becket Senior Group / Becket Town Hall / 11am-2pm / Lunch and Bingo / \$3
Wednesdays: Yoga / Becket Town Hall / 9am / \$3
Thursdays: Osteo/Chair Yoga for Seniors / Becket Town Hall / 10:45am / Free
Fridays: Senior Fitness Class / Becket Town Hall Community Room / 9-10am / Free
Saturdays, August 1, 15: Food Pantry / Becket Federated Church / 9-11am
Thursday, August 13: Digital Equity Class @ Washington Town Hall: Digital Coupons / 4pm / FREE
Thursday, August 27: Digital Equity Class @ Washington Town Hall: Getting Started with VENMO / 4pm / FREE

Live and local music events:

www.route8pub.com
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www.facebook.com/PapaBobsentertainmenthall



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A Naughty Weed

By Susan Neul

A more stunning specimen than Japanese Knotweed cannot perhaps be found to grace a carefully curated landscape. Its arching bamboo-like branches, its widely spaced huge ovate leaves and its thousands of tiny wispy white flowers provide a magnificent backdrop to any garden.

At least that's what botanist Philipp Franz von Siebold thought in the early 1800s when he encountered this ancient plant in Japan where it had been thriving for 150 million years on the slopes of volcanoes. Siebold admired the plant so much he brought cuttings to England for cultivation and sale around the European continent and North America. Knotweed was even awarded a gold medal by the Agricultural and Horticultural Society in Utrecht.

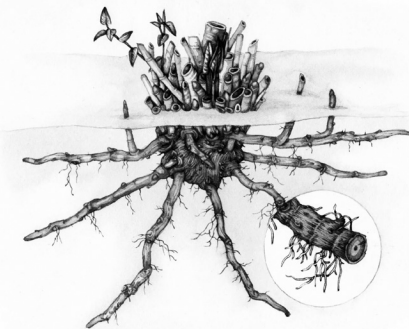


Japanese Knotweed; Image source: W. Carter

Little did landscapers know that once out of its native habitat, this plant would exercise hegemony and that the battle to contain it would be a very long and arduous one. Knotweed spreads by extending its underground rhizomes in a spoke-like pattern where they take up soil space and nutrients. The aggressive rhizomes combined with knotweed's large leaves, which densely shade the soil, quickly crowd out other plants. Knotweed loves moist soil and recently disturbed ground so is often found along verges and ponds.

Removing the flowers before they seed can help a little to control the spread of knotweed, but it is more effective to kill the plant altogether. Digging out the rhizomes has proved to be futile as even a smidgeon left behind can regrow.

Carefully injecting glyphosate or triclopyr into the plant stem or spraying the leaves in late summer can successfully kill knotweed, but most homeowners prefer to go the organic route. The usual organic techniques – continual cutting down and/ or smothering with heavy black plastic – can have some success, but it can take up to five years for the roots to finally give up the ghost. In addition, these techniques are both labor intensive and necessitate careful disposal procedures. Recent observations suggest that knotweed's reaction to the sudden loss of its photosynthesis ability is to speed up its rhizome growth. The roots sometimes can travel up to 60 feet to escape the plastic shroud, where they happily resprout – a phenomenon which means the battle never ends.



The plant has become such a scourge around Center Pond in Becket that two residents researching eradication techniques discovered the Karro Frost starvation method (named for its founder), which is used by the Westfield Wild and Scenic River organization to control the huge stands of knotweed found along the river.

A Massachusetts conservation botanist, Karro Frost's research focused on attempting to stop the rapid rhizome growth following clearcutting. He discovered that the roots do not go into overdrive if they are permitted some limited access to photosynthesis by allowing two leaves to stay on the plant rather than a total denuding. Even with keeping two leaves, the photosynthesis is reduced enough to eventually starve the roots.

For more information:

https://ipm.cahn.uconn.edu/invasive_plants_japanese_knotweed/

Image source: www.envirometuk.com

A How-To sheet on the Karro Frost method for dealing with Japanese Knotweed can be found on the Becket Beat online version of this article.

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Charcoal City: A Becket Name That Endures

By Adele Levine

Many long-time Becket residents can still rattle off the local names that once dotted our town, named for a family, a geographic feature, or an occupation rooted in a particular spot. “Charcoal City” was one of the best.

Native Becket resident Keith Tremblay remembers the name from his school days in the 1960s at Becket Consolidated School, where several of his classmates lived. Charcoal City ran along Bonny Rigg Hill Road, south of where Quarry and Algeria Roads meet.

As its name implies, the area once hummed with a thriving 19th-century charcoal industry. In the traditional method, workers stacked large quantities of hardwood into a cone, sealed it with earth, leaves, or ash, and set it smoldering slowly with barely a breath of oxygen until it transformed into charcoal. By the late 1800s, towering brick kilns had taken over the job, circular giants standing 30-feet high and 30-feet across, each burning through 80 cords of wood at a time. Feeding that appetite meant clearing roughly 330 acres of forest every single year. In the end one cord of wood burned down to about 30 bushels of charcoal.



Beehive Kiln, source: Western MA Hilltown Hikers



Keith Tremblay, photo by Judy Tremblay

That charcoal stoked local iron furnaces and later powered the granite industry, including the Becket Quarry. But by the early 1900s, the hardwoods that fed the kilns had been decimated, and cheaper mineral coal was easy to come by. The industry had enjoyed a long run, but by 1920 the kilns stood in ruins. Even the bricks didn’t survive. They were hauled away, along with the soil beneath them, to serve as fill for the Massachusetts Turnpike.

Local history holds that Becket charcoal was so prized that during the boom years of the 1880s, it was hauled over mountain roads to Chester by heavy horse-drawn wagons and later by steam-powered freight trains, after a rail spur linked Chester to the Becket Quarry. From there, it rode by rail to major cities, and, so the story goes, even overseas.

Charcoal City, the industry, eventually shut down, but Charcoal City, the neighborhood lived on, home to some of Tremblay’s old classmates. For Tremblay, the name never lost its pull. Years later, when he launched a barbecue catering business, there was really only one name that would do: Charcoal City Barbecue. “When I started my catering business, I cooked with wood and charcoal,” Tremblay recalls. “I wanted a great name and remembered that part of town.”

The kilns are long gone, and the industry that gave the area its name has faded from most people’s memory, but the name itself refuses to fade. The Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has officially designated Charcoal City an archaic neighborhood of Becket—a small but permanent piece of local history, and there it will always remain.

Special thanks to Faith Bailey, head of circulation at the Becket Athenaeum for her guiding the BB to relevant sources, including Becket, MA: From Colonial Township to Modern Town 1765-2015 and A Bicentennial History of Becket, Berkshire County, MA

Becket Establishes a Warming/Cooling Center

By Kathy Dickinson

For some folks in our region, excessive summer heat and extremely cold winters present a real challenge. To meet that challenge, a Warming/Cooling Center has been established in the Community Room of Becket Town Hall.

Recognizing the difficulties presented by extraordinary weather patterns, a team of volunteers from Becket Washington Friends and Neighbors has been working with Town Administrator Kathe Warden to make this important resource a reality. About a dozen volunteers are lined up to take rotating shifts as necessary to welcome folks in need of relief **if temperatures justify**. The following protocols have been established:

- An alert will be published via the Town communication system **if forecasts and input from FEMA or the State justify** opening the center; this will be based on the predicted heat index, often referred to as “feels-like” temperatures. Summer hours for cooling will be noon until 6pm.
- Folks seeking relief will need to sign-in when they arrive, so there is a record of how many people are assisted by this resource.
- No pets will be allowed.

Improvements to Highway Department and Ambulance Facilities Expected to Require Long Lead Times and Significant Expense to Taxpayers

By Marcia Parnell

Work to date by the Municipal Buildings Advisory Committee indicates that the proposed replacement of the Highway Department Facility at 47 Lyman Street and improvements to the Ambulance station at 629 Jacobs Ladder Road (Route 20) will likely cost taxpayers a combined total of at least \$10 to \$12 million and take three to five years to fully complete.

Shortcomings noted by both Town officials and employees at the Becket Highway and Ambulance facilities were the catalyst for the creation of the Municipal Building Advisory Committee (MBAC) – initially formed as an ad hoc committee and designated a permanent committee in July 2025. The group of volunteers, Tim Gooding, Mark Hanford, Jan Elovirta, John Verity and chair Jeff Wilkinson, were suited to the initiative given their combined multiple decades of experience in construction management, engineering, real estate, architecture and fire safety. Despite the time requirements and complexity of the work, Wilkinson said, “We’re all happy to be working on something that’s important to the Town.”

The Committee’s initial work consisted of a needs assessment of all Town buildings. From that analysis, replacing the Highway Department garage became their first priority. It resides in a floodplain, which was identified as a critical issue in the Town’s Municipal Vulnerability Program plan (for more info on the state’s MVP go to <https://www.mass.gov/municipal-vulnerability-preparedness-mvp-program>); there is no indoor storage, so the equipment is subject to the elements and increased wear and tear; and the parking lot is small. The Ambulance facility is the next priority. The building does not accommodate sleep space for the two-person full-time staff and the quick-response-vehicle is housed outdoors.

For a new Highway Department facility, the requirements are a centralized location for better logistics and efficiency, and at least five acres of property. While the ideal property has not yet been located or acquired, the Committee sought and received voter approval at the May 9th Annual Town Meeting to proceed with a feasibility study at a potential cost of up to \$75,000.

The study specifications call for a review of up to three potential properties proposed by the MBAC with a recommendation for the best option, creation of a floor plan, specifications sufficient to determine a rough price estimate, and enough detail overall to put the work out to bid to qualified firms for detailed architectural plans.

Requests-to-bid for the feasibility study were submitted to five firms with experience in municipal and public works facilities. Two responded, submitted proposals and were interviewed by the Committee resulting in the selection of Helene Karl Architects of Groton, MA. Work on the study has yet to begin.

Ambulance improvements are also being addressed today. Wilkinson says the Select Board has asked the Committee to assess two options: an addition to the existing Ambulance building and an addition to the Fire Department building, both of which must adequately house all of the equipment and two-person staff. But with no budget at this time to engage professionals to help consider best options, the Committee is doing its own research to determine rough costs for both pre-fabricated and new-building for either site.

Wilkinson estimates that the new Highway Department project could cost \$10 million – possibly more – and take two to three years before it’s shovel ready. He estimates the Ambulance facility project will run about \$1 to \$1.5 million but likely be completed sooner because of its smaller scope.

Given that it’s still very early in the overall new-build process, how was Wilkinson able to provide an estimate? Despite all their collective experience, the group lacked municipal building experience. Wilkinson says they’ve been educated in “the many and strict state requirements as well as the high cost and extensive time such projects take.” There will be more opportunity for residents to learn and share as the project moves forward – and voter approval will be required of the projects’ costs once they are fully determined.

To find out more and stay up to date on progress, MBAC meetings are held monthly – check the Town website, where agendas and minutes are also posted.

More information: www.townofbecket.org/municipal-buildings-advisory-committee

- Children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Registrants are responsible for their own drinks, snacks, and meds (water is available).
- If there is a major energy outage during a hot or cold spell, capacity is limited to about 60 people.
- Operations are limited to daytime hours.

This program is up and running. If you haven't already, go to the Town web site and opt in to TextMyGov to receive alerts and updates.

Washington Town Park's Free Music in the Park Sundays in August, 4-6pm

8/2: Bobby Sweet
and the BSweet Band

8/9: Rev Tor Band

8/16: The Sirens

8/23: The Juckets

8/30: Krishna Guthrie Band

FREE Senior Fitness Class Becket Town Hall Community Room Fridays, through Sept. 4 / 9-10am

- Build strength and bone density
- Increase flexibility and mobility
- Improve your balance and posture

Sponsored by the Becket chapter of the MA Councils on Aging. Attendees should bring own water bottle and free weights

BECKET WASHINGTON COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP (BWCP) NEWS

A Full August of Arts and Community in Becket

The Becket Arts Center presents a packed August schedule of movement, music, workshops and performances. Weekly offerings include Thursday morning Yoga with Rima Sala and Friday Creative Modern Dance with Louise Heit.

Special events begin August 1 with a Sashiko Mending Workshop, followed by free outdoor concerts at North Becket Park featuring Rounders Revival on August 8 and Kilashandra on August 22. Additional highlights include a free B.U. Tanglewood performance on August 13, a Framing Workshop on August 15 and the Summer Celebration of the Arts on August 16, with live music, food and an open bar.

On August 19, participants can enjoy Plein Air in Becket during the day and W.I.P. Wednesday that evening. The month concludes with Understanding Beethoven's Ninth Symphony on August 27 and The Other Dance Concert in Becket on August 28.

Costs vary, and discounts are available for members. Visit becketartscenter.org/calendar for details.

Movement for Littles, Local Writers, and One More Book+Bake Sale Weekend at the Athenaeum

If you've spent some time reading this summer, it's not too late to come on in and grab a Summer Reading BINGO board and get in on the fun (for all ages!). If you're already on board, bring it into the library with completed BINGO rows to redeem mini prizes and the grand prize of a gifted book of your choice when you complete the whole board. For families or caregivers with little ones, local dancer and teacher Laurel Lenski will offer a special Creative Movement class during Baby/Toddler playgroup on Tuesday 8/11 at 10am. Perfect for little ones 2-5 years old but adaptable to siblings and/or babies with caregivers as well. On 8/13 at 4pm, local poet David Giannini and Great Barrington native and novelist Mark Farrington will share a program of poetry and prose as each writer reads from their newest works and discusses their process. Drop-in colonial era crafts continue throughout August and then we finish out the summer with our final Book and Bake Sale Fundraiser on 9/5 and 9/6 from 10am-4pm. By making a purchase, you are helping the library continue to do what we do and we deeply appreciate it!



Becket Beat

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The Becket Beat is published monthly (combined Jan/Feb issue). Articles may not be reprinted without obtaining author permission from the Becket Beat.

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