



February 2020
Volume 2, Issue 5

THE BECKET BULLETIN

INFORMATION ON TOWN GOVERNMENT ISSUES
AND ACTIVITIES FOR RESIDENTS OF BECKET

Becket News

As we move into February, the Town has two major priorities: creating a sound budget and presenting a Town Meeting Warrant in May. The Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen, and I will work diligently over the coming months to create the two documents.

Another important project ongoing in Town is Broadband. We are waiting for the utility providers to complete their portion of the Make Ready process so that adjustments can be made and construction can begin. We hope this happens in a timely fashion. As we know more we will update our Broadband website, www.becketbroadband.org. Additionally, we will schedule information sessions. Finally, I want to again thank the Broadband Ad Hoc Group for their tireless efforts to bring such a needed project to the Town.

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

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

February Meetings (Subject to change)

- 3rd: Broadband Ad Hoc Group
- 5rd: Board of Health
- 5th: Board of Selectmen
- 6th: Finance Committee
- 8th: Sherwood Forest Lake District
- 8th: Sherwood Forest Road Maintenance District
- 11th: Historical Commission
- 12th: Planning Board
- 18th: Energy Committee
- 18th: Democratic Caucus
- 19th: Board of Selectmen
- 22nd: Sherwood Greens Road District Prudential Committee
- 25th: Conservation Commission

THE SELECTMEN'S COLUMN

The winter has been fairly mild with a few exceptions. We're nearly to March and, knock on wood, the snow totals have been lower than usual. It's a big election year and the first national caucus and primaries are this month. In local politics there will be the Annual Town Meeting and Election in May and we will have some warrant items to vote on, so stay tuned. The Becket Broadband Ad Hoc Group has been hard at work and they expect to have our chosen construction company start building our fiber network in early summer 2020. The Board of Selectmen will weigh some important decisions about drop policies and the way we choose to pay back the debt incurred by the municipal fiber loans. We welcome you to the bi-weekly Selectmen's meetings for your voice to be heard on these and other issues. The public input section of the agenda has been moved earlier on the agenda so that we may encourage our residents and second-home owners to share their ideas.

For the Board of Selectmen,
Michael Lavery, Vice-Chair

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.

Message From the Tax Collector

Motor vehicle excise tax bills will be issued during the first week of February. Payments are due 30 days from the issue date.

Becket Broadband

Broadband update – February 2020

Thanks to all the residents who responded to the Broadband survey. The information will be very helpful.

The informational sessions which were scheduled for February will be rescheduled.

The Town has decided that it will join WiredWest. WiredWest will reduce Becket's administrative burden, cost and the risks associated with owning and operating a fiber network. However, the Town will build and own its Network.

Whip City Fiber will be a subcontractor to WiredWest and will operate and maintain our network and provide customer service to subscribers. It is owned and operated by Westfield Gas + Electric, which is providing broadband service to several other towns in Western Massachusetts.

Working with the Board of Selectmen, we expect several important decisions will be made shortly: the construction sequence, what the monthly service will cost and how much the Town will subsidize of the connection cost to residents who subscribe for service during the initial sign-up period.

We will post new information, as it is available on our website:

www.becketbroadband.org

Becket Athenaeum Announcements:

Book Club

Tuesday, February 4

1:30pm

All are welcome to join us at the Athenaeum to discuss No Visible Bruises: What We Don't Know About Domestic Violence Can Kill Us by Rachel Louise Snyder. This book is the Berkshire Community Read as supported by the Berkshire District Attorney's Domestic Violence Task Force. Please join us for tea or coffee and lively conversation with representatives from the Task Force and the Elizabeth Freeman Center.

The author will be speaking at the Colonial on February 6th, 5:30-8pm.

Bright Spot Reading Buddies

Saturday, February 8

10-11:30 am

The Bright Spot Reading Buddy program is all-inclusive. It is designed to help readers on all levels. All students benefit from reading aloud to practice their fluency and further strengthen their confidence in reading. Children read one-on-one to their canine Reading Buddy. The Reading Buddy provides a gentle, non-threatening, comforting listener.

Let us know if you'll be coming!

info@bwlibrary.org or 413-623-5483

Bright Spot Therapy Dogs, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to placing well-trained certified therapy dog teams in meaningful programs that provide comfort and caring through the human-canine bond. Our special volunteers serve in a wide variety of settings including hospitals, nursing homes, schools, libraries and other facilities where therapy dogs are needed.

Lara Tupper Book Release Party & Reading

Saturday, February 8

1pm

Lara Tupper will read from her just-released novel Off Island.

Discussion to follow.

Cookies and beverages will be provided.

"Pure color!" wrote Paul Gauguin to his wife, Mette, from the South Seas. "Everything must be sacrificed to it." In Off Island, novelist Lara Tupper imagines Gauguin—chasing new light, new color—ran away to a new island, a rugged outpost off the coast of Maine.

Off Island captures the lure of the unknown and the pull of the familiar, and questions what it means to be loyal to one's art, one's family, and one's home.

Census 2020 Information Session

Tuesday, February 11

6pm

Library staff and members of the Berkshire County Complete Count Committee will bring you up to date and answer questions regarding this important effort in our county. You'll learn about the importance of the Census in our region, what to expect during the complete count process, and how to fill out the short Census form.

Refreshments will be served. Come on down and bring a friend or two!

Upcoming at the Becket Athenaeum:

Movie Night for Adults

Friday, February 14

7pm

Harriet

Join us adults* for a fun movie night!

Bring your own beverage (alcohol if you like) and we'll provide light snacks and popcorn.

If you know in advance that you'll be coming, please let us know so that we can plan food. Even if you decide at the last minute, we'd love to have you!

info@bwlibrary.org

413-623-5483

*older children, 13+, may come with an adult

Rated PG-13 for thematic content throughout, violent material and language including racial epithets.

Community Movie Afternoons

Saturday, February 15

1:30pm

Arctic Dogs

Saturday, February 29, 1:30pm

The Addams Family

Come for a fun community gathering of friends and neighbors enjoying movies together.

Popcorn will be served!

Blood Pressure Clinic

Thursday, February 20

4:30-6:30pm

Join local Registered Nurses David and Lisa Rosier for this free monthly clinic.

They will provide Blood Pressure readings and enable attendees to keep a log. They will support healthy readings by addressing any medication questions or concerns as well as providing education on diet and exercise and making follow-up recommendations.

No appointments necessary. Just stop in between 4:30 and 6:30pm on these third Thursdays!

David Rosier RN, BSN

Manager of the Cath Lab/EP

Berkshire Medical Center

Lisa Rosier RN, MSN, NE-BC

Administrative Director

Berkshire Medical Center

Upcoming at the Becket Athenaeum:

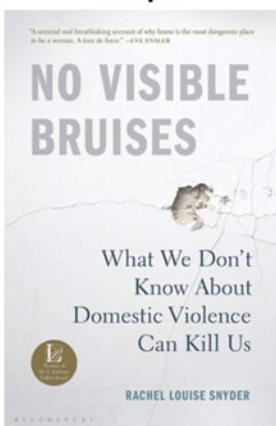
Becket Athenaeum



**Tuesday, February 4
1:30pm**

This book is the Berkshire One Book/One Community Read and is supported by the Berkshire District Attorney's Domestic Violence Task Force.

Please join us for tea or coffee and lively conversation with representatives from the Task Force and the Elizabeth Freeman Center.



BRIGHT SPOT READING BUDDIES

**Saturday, February 8
10-11:30 am**

Practice reading aloud to Toby!



BECKET ATHENAEUM 3367 MAIN ST, BECKET

BECKET
ATHENAEUM
February 8
1pm

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

BOOK RELEASE PARTY

WITH A READING
BY AUTHOR

**LARA
TUPPER**

from her just-released
novel: *Off Island*

COMMUNITY MOVIE AFTERNOON

FREE! **SATURDAYS**
1:30PM
AT BECKET ATHENAEUM

FEBRUARY 15

FEBRUARY 29

MOVIE NIGHT FOR ADULTS

FRIDAYS
7PM
AT BECKET ATHENAEUM

FEBRUARY 14

FREE!

BYOB

Becket Athenaeum

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC

with
Lisa Rosier, RN, MSN, NE-BC

**THIRD
THURSDAYS**
4:30-6:30 PM
FEBRUARY 20

Town Hall will be
closed February
17, 2020 in
observance of
Presidents' Day

Building Inspector Office Hours:

Monday and Wednesday
10:30am-4:30PM

On Call and Inspections:

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
9:30am-4:30pm

**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