



January 2020  
Volume 2, Issue 4

# THE BECKET BULLETIN

INFORMATION ON TOWN GOVERNMENT ISSUES  
AND ACTIVITIES FOR RESIDENTS OF BECKET

## Becket News

Happy New Year! 2019 is complete and 2020 is here. The Town has many projects to work on perhaps most importantly Broadband construction. I know many of you have been anxiously waiting for years, to see us get to this point, but hopefully in the coming months you will see crews beginning to construct the network.

The Town has also received several grants in the last couple months: a grant from MIIA, our insurer, to purchase a new speed radar trailer; a grant from the Department of Energy Resources to examine how we more effectively use our vehicles; and more than \$90,000 from the Department of Housing and Community Development to assist in creating Becket's first affordable housing unit.

The Town will apply for a new Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for housing rehabilitation this spring (More information to follow).

As we head into the new year, the fiscal year 2021 budget process begins. The Town has several priorities and changing staff due to retirements and shifting positions. The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee will continue involvement in the budget process culminating in budget and capital items presented at Town Meeting.

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

## January Meetings (Subject to change)

**2nd: Finance Committee**

**4th: Sherwood Greens  
Road District Prudential  
Committee**

**8th: Board of Selectmen**

**8th: Planning Board**

**11th: Sherwood Forest  
Lake District**

**11th: Sherwood Forest  
Road Maintenance District**

**13th: Broadband Ad Hoc  
Group**

**21st: Energy Committee**

**22nd: Board of Selectmen**

**27th: Broadband Ad Hoc  
Group**

**28th: Conservation  
Commission**

## **THE SELECTMEN'S COLUMN**

As we start another year, I want to wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2020. It appears that 2020 will be a very busy year.

The 2020 Federal Census will kick off shortly. It is very important that all people be counted because the census plays a very important part on redistricting for legislators. The census also is vital to Becket's receiving federal and state grants. So, please make sure you are counted.

The Board of Selectmen will be faced with making some important decisions on Broadband as we now start the actual construction phase. The Board of Selectmen expresses special "thank you" to our MLP Manager Bob Gross and his Ad-hoc Group for all the volunteer hours they have spent to bring Becket broadband.

The Board will also be working closely with the Town Administrator and Finance Committee to present to the Annual Town Meeting a fair FY2021 budget. Fortunately, Becket is well below our levy limit but we are facing some serious expenses. How do we pay for the new Wahconah Regional High School? Do we incorporate the payment into the yearly budget or do we debt exclude it? We are waiting to see if we will need more money to cover broadband. We are still facing the heating/air conditioning problems at the Town Hall and several department heads have asked for expensive capital items.

As we go into 2020 your Board of Selectmen will work with you, the taxpayer, to make good decisions for Becket.

For the Board of Selectmen,  
Bill Elovirta, 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](https://2020census.gov/jobs).

### **Message From the Tax Collector**

Real Estate, Personal Property, and District Tax Bills for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4th quarters of fiscal year 2020 have been mailed. The quarterly payments are due in the Collector's Office by 02/03/2020 and 05/01/2020 respectively.

2020 Beach Permits are now on sale in the Tax Collector's Office. The permit format has changed for 2020. All households can still purchase up to two permits but they are no longer stickers affixed and assigned to designated vehicles. The permits are now in the form of a plastic card (credit card size) that will need to be displayed to the gate attendant as you enter Mecum Way and left visible on the dashboard of your locked vehicle while it is parked in the beach parking lot.

# Becket Broadband

## Broadband update – January 2020

The Make-Ready process in preparation of our Town's high-speed Internet fiber network is about to be completed. The Town has selected a contractor to build the network and expects to sign a contract shortly. We anticipate that construction will begin in February or March, depending on the weather.

The Town's network plan has been divided into 10 geographical regions (FSAs—for Fiber Service Areas). After the network build is complete within an FSA we will begin to connect premises in that FSA even as construction continues in other FSAs. **PLEASE BE SURE TO COMPLETE THE ONLINE SURVEY AT [www.becketbroadband.org](http://www.becketbroadband.org) OR THE PAPER VERSION THAT WAS MAILED.** One survey per address, please. Your responses will be used to help determine the sequence in which FSAs will be completed.

The Becket Broadband Ad Hoc Group has scheduled two information sessions at Town Hall: Saturday, Feb. 15, at 9am and Thursday, Feb. 20, at 7pm. We hope to see you there.

**SURVEY RESPONSES ARE  
IMPORTANT TO DETERMINE WHO  
GETS SERVICE FIRST.  
Only one survey per household.**

Town of Becket  
Annual Town Report (Calendar Year 2019)  
**Cover Photo Contest**

Photographers of all ages and abilities are invited to join the fun!

Contest Rules:

1. Take a photo of your favorite outdoor view of Becket for a chance for it to appear on the cover of our 2019 Annual Town Report.
2. You may submit one photograph.
3. Photos must be taken within the Town of Becket.
4. For submission, please include: · JPEG format · Photographer's name and e-mail · Detailed location of subject matter · Please indicate in your e-mail that you grant the Town of Becket a royalty-free, nonexclusive right to display the photograph on the cover of the Becket 2019 Annual Town Report.
5. All photos must be submitted to the Board of Selectmen c/o Beverly Gilbert via [adminasst@townofbecket.org](mailto:adminasst@townofbecket.org)
6. The Board of Selectmen will vote on the winning photograph. We will credit the photographer who is selected by listing the photographer's name in the photograph's caption on the inside portion of the Town Report cover.
7. Deadline to submit is January 17, 2020

Good luck & Enjoy!!

## Becket Athenaeum Announcements:

Many of our patron accounts expired at the end of 2019. In order to gain access to our catalog, including Libby and Overdrive, you will need to update your contact information by calling, emailing, or stopping in.

413-623-5483

[info@bwlibrary.org](mailto:info@bwlibrary.org)

Our after-school students have made a donation box for non-perishable foods that we will drop off with the food pantry each month. Their needs are pasta sauce, cereal, jelly, jam, low-salt items, tea, coffee, fresh produce in season, and cash. With cash, the pantry volunteers purchase cheese, eggs, and meat.

### CENSUS 2020 ASSISTANCE CENTER INFORMATION:

The Athenaeum will be an official 2020 United States Census fill-out site. We will have community informational events scheduled soon, so keep an eye out in the next few Becket Bulletins, on the library website:

[www.becketathenaeum.org](http://www.becketathenaeum.org), Facebook, and our library newsletters.

**MOVIE NIGHT FOR ADULTS**  
FRIDAYS  
7PM  
AT BECKET ATHENAEUM

JANUARY 17 JANUARY 31

**FREE! BYOB**

Join us adults\* for a fun movie night!

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

Let us know if you'll be coming:

[info@bwlibrary.org](mailto:info@bwlibrary.org)

413-623-5483

Even if you decide at the last minute, we'd love to have you!

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

### Athenaeum Book Club

All are welcome to join us at the Athenaeum on **Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm** 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.

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 read fiction and non-fiction.

BECKET  
ATHENAEUM  
February 8  
1pm

3367 Main St. Becket  
Questions?  
413-623-5483  
[info@bwlibrary.org](mailto:info@bwlibrary.org)

**BOOK RELEASE PARTY**  
WITH A READING  
BY AUTHOR  
**LARA TUPPER**  
from her just-released novel:  
*Off Island*  
Discussion to follow.

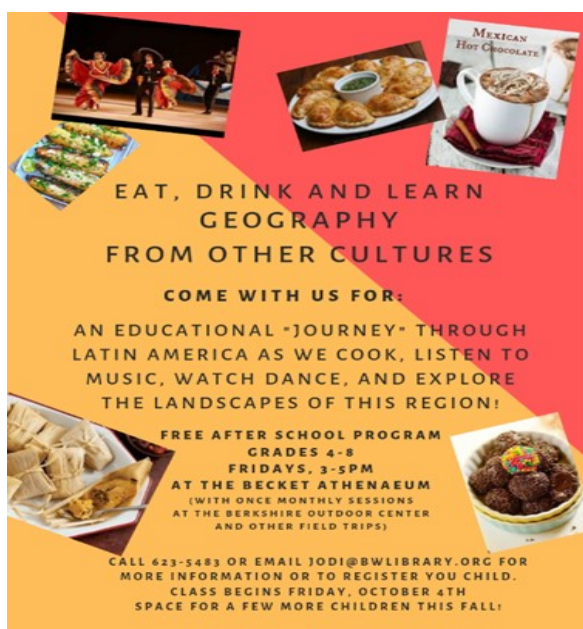
"Pure color!" wrote Paul Gauguin to his wife, Mette, from the South Seas. "Everything must be sacrificed to it." In *Off Island*, novelist Lara Tupper imagines Gauguin—chasing new light, new color—ran away to a new island, a rugged outpost off the coast of Maine.

*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.



# Upcoming at the Becket Athenaeum:

AFTER-SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM HAS SPACE FOR A FEW MORE STUDENTS:



**EAT, DRINK AND LEARN  
GEOGRAPHY  
FROM OTHER CULTURES**

**COME WITH US FOR:**

AN EDUCATIONAL "JOURNEY" THROUGH  
LATIN AMERICA AS WE COOK, LISTEN TO  
MUSIC, WATCH DANCE, AND EXPLORE  
THE LANDSCAPES OF THIS REGION!

**FREE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM  
GRADES 4-8  
FRIDAYS, 3-5PM  
AT THE BECKET ATHENAEUM**  
(WITH ONCE MONTHLY SESSIONS  
AT THE BERKSHIRE OUTDOOR CENTER  
AND OTHER FIELD TRIPS)

CALL 623-5483 OR EMAIL [JODI@BWLlibrary.ORG](mailto:jodi@bwllibrary.org) FOR  
MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD.  
CLASS BEGINS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4TH  
SPACE FOR A FEW MORE CHILDREN THIS FALL!



**COMMUNITY MOVIE  
AFTERNOON**

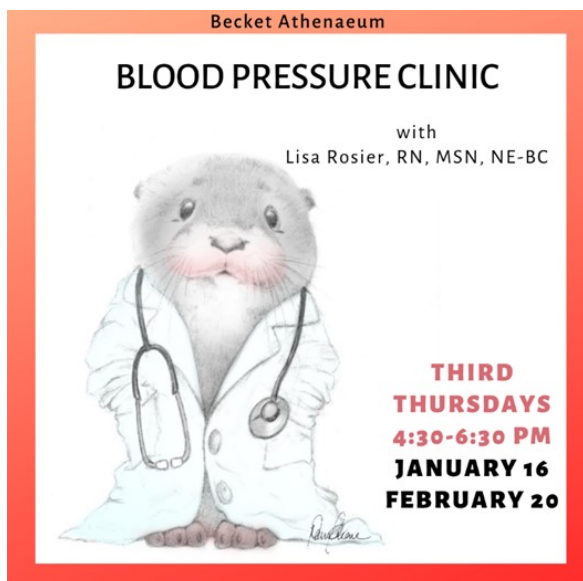
**SATURDAYS  
1:30PM**

**JANUARY 11** **JANUARY 25**

**FREE!**

FROM THE STUDIO THAT BROUGHT YOU  
**ABOMINABLE**  
NOW HAS A MAGIC ALL ITS OWN  
PLEASE IN CINEMAS OCTOBER 11

ANGELINA JOLIE  
Disney **MALEFICENT**  
MISTRESS OF EVIL



Becket Athenaeum

**BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC**

with  
Lisa Rosier, RN, MSN, NE-BC

**THIRD  
THURSDAYS  
4:30-6:30 PM  
JANUARY 16  
FEBRUARY 20**

## Pre-School



## Program

Did you ever think that some things are too hard to  
do at home with your kids?

We will give you fun, easy, and not too messy ways to practice STEAM at home with  
your child/children. Join Wendy Provencher for an hour of great fun! This is an  
opportunity to inspire your kids to engineer, create, design, explore, and build!

**Tuesdays\***

**1-2pm at the Athenaeum**

**FREE**

**No registration required.**

\*The program does not meet on the first Tuesday of the month  
or during school vacations.

The Central Berkshire Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Grant is  
funded by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

Town Hall will be closed January 20 in  
observance of Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Day

**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](http://www.townofbecket.org)

**TOWN OF BECKET**

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Becket, MA 01223

Phone: (413) 623-8934