



March 2020
Volume 2, Issue 6

THE BECKET BULLETIN

INFORMATION ON TOWN GOVERNMENT ISSUES
AND ACTIVITIES FOR RESIDENTS OF BECKET

Becket News

I think we are all hoping for Spring. We have seen some glimpses of it during this relatively mild winter.

The Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee and I are working on putting together a budget and Annual Town Meeting warrant that supports Town services. Becket currently ranks 323 of 351 for the lowest single family tax bills averaging \$2,600. A new expense is funding the new Wahconah Regional High School which will be on the warrant and the election ballot. We hope that voters approve this as a debt exclusion to maintain funding stability for future fiscal years.

The Broadband project continues to move forward. The Broadband Ad Hoc Group appreciates the responses to the survey and are using the data to help perform necessary tasks before constructions starts.

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

March Meetings (Subject to change)

5th Finance Committee
7th Sherwood Greens Road
District Prudential Committee
10th Historical Commission
11th Community Preservation
Committee
11th Planning Board
14th Center Pond Restoration
& Protection District
14th Sherwood Forest Lake
District
14th Sherwood Forest Road
Maintenance District
16th Broadband Ad Hoc
Group
18th Board of Selectmen
24th Conservation Commis-
sion
30th Broadband Ad Hoc
Group
31th Energy Committee

THE SELECTMEN'S COLUMN

Spring is in the air, it is 50 degrees and sunny as I write this. There are only two more Mondays until Spring arrives! All of us who have lived in Becket for more than a few years know that the official start of spring does not necessarily mean warm weather and flowers popping up, but here is hoping! With warmer weather comes muddy roads. Please help our Highway Department by avoiding travel on dirt roads until they have had a chance to dry.

As Michael expressed in last month's column, the Board of Selectmen welcomes public input and participation at our meetings.

I have attended a few of the Energy Committee meetings and there are exciting things happening with alternative energy and energy efficiency in town owned buildings.

Thank you to all the hard working people who volunteer their time and talents to Becket's various boards and committees, I am always impressed with the depth and breadth of their knowledge.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christopher Swindlehurst, Clerk

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

The first commitment of motor vehicle excise tax bills for 2020 was issued in February. Just a reminder that they are due in the Collector's Office by Monday, March 16th.

Becket Broadband

Becket Broadband—March Update

Again, many thanks to everyone who responded to our survey.

No later than next Wednesday, 3/11/20, we will post on our website www.becketbroadband.org pricing and general service information about the High-Speed Internet project.

If you have not yet given us your email address, please sign up on our website to ensure that you get all of our updates.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us. Our website, www.becketbroadband.org, makes it easy to send us an email and gives the phone number if you prefer to call.

Becket Athenaeum Announcements:

Book Club

Tuesday, March 4

1:30pm

All are welcome to join us for tea or coffee and lively discussion of The Wangs vs. the World by Jade Change.

Movie Night for Adults

Friday, 7pm

March 6

The Good Liar

Rated R for some strong violence, and for language, and brief nudity.

March 20

A Star is Born (2018)

Rated R for language throughout, some sexuality/nudity and substance abuse.

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 at the discretion of their guardian

Bright Spot Reading Buddies

Saturday, March 7, 21, April 4, 18

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.

Upcoming at the Becket Athenaeum:

Lara Tupper Book Release Party & Reading

Saturday, March 7

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.

Pre-School STEAM Program

Tuesday, March 10, 17, 24

1pm

Free

Join Wendy Provencher for an hour of great fun! No registration required.

Colorectal Cancer Information Session with Lisa Rosier, RN, MSN, NE-BC

Saturday, March 14

10am-12pm

Free

Join local Registered Nurse Lisa Rosier to learn about colorectal cancer statistics, signs & symptoms, screening recommendations, and available tests.

Pre-registration is appreciated.

info@bwlibrary.org

413-623-5483

Equity & Diversity Community Conversation

Wednesday, March 25

6-7:30pm

Staff members of the Becket Athenaeum, Central Berkshire Regional School District and Multicultural Bridge are holding an evening of conversation regarding equity and diversity.

As a school district and a community, we are committed to exploring these topics, and one avenue is through community events. Please join us as we engage in meaningful conversations sparked by some brief videos on a variety of topics related to equity and diversity.

Refreshments will be served.

Please call 413-623-5483 for more information (or email: info@bwlibrary.org.)

You are welcome to register ahead to help us plan refreshments, but this event does not require pre-registration.

Community Movie Afternoon

Saturday, March 28

1:30pm

Frozen II

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

Popcorn will be served!

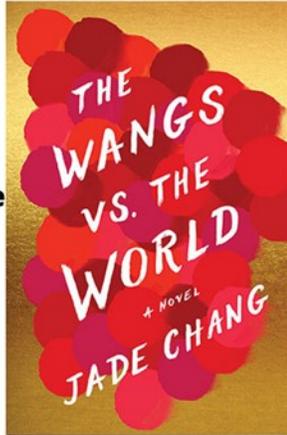
Upcoming at the Becket Athenaeum:

Becket Athenaeum



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

**Please join us
for tea or coffee
and lively
conversation!**



MOVIE NIGHT FOR ADULTS

**FRIDAY 7PM
AT BECKET ATHENAEUM**

MARCH 6

MARCH 20



Rated R

Rated R

*older children, 13+, may come with an adult at the discretion of their guardian

FREE!

3367 Main St. Becket
info@bwlibrary.org

BYOB

BRIGHT SPOT READING BUDDIES

Practice reading aloud to Toby!

**Saturdays:
March 7, 21
April 4, 18**

10-11:30 am



BECKET ATHENAEUM 3367 MAIN ST, BECKET

BECKET
ATHENAEUM

Rescheduled
March 7
1pm

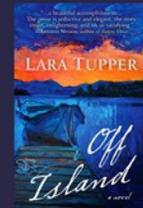
3367 Main St. Becket
Questions?
413-623-5485
info@bwlibrary.org

BOOK RELEASE PARTY

WITH A READING
BY AUTHOR

LARA
TUPPER

from her just-released
novel: *Off Island*



BECKET ATHENAEUM 3367 MAIN ST, BECKET

Equity & Diversity Community Conversation

Pre-registration is appreciated
for purposes of planning
refreshments, but not required.
info@bwlibrary.org
413-623-5483



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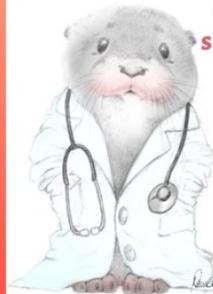
MARCH IS
Colorectal Cancer
Awareness Month

with

Lisa Rosier, RN, MSN, NE-BC

**SATURDAY, MARCH 14
10AM-12PM**

Join local Registered Nurse
Lisa Rosier to learn
about colorectal cancer
statistics, signs &
symptoms, screening
recommendations, and
available tests.



Pre-registration is appreciated.
info@bwlibrary.org
413-623-5483

Mobile Health unit is coming to Becket. March 10, 2020 from 10:00am to 12:30pm in the Town Hall parking lot. Walk-ins welcome.

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

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Becket, MA 01223

Phone: (413) 623-8934