

Local yokel

(n.) a country folk living in a quaint neighborhood community

West Stockbridge

April

2015



wishful thinking...



"Wild turkeys." Photo by Doane Perry.

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005

Former Card Lake Inn Renovated as Apartment Building

By Susan Fisher

The former Card Lake Inn has become apartments. Great Barrington resident Alex Sarbib has renovated the building at the corner of Hotel and Main Streets into six apartments and has already rented five of the units. The building at 29 Main Street was built sometime around 1839. For most of its existence it has been a hotel, a bar, and a restaurant. But now, after a four-year gut renovation, Alex Sarbib and his partner Joseph Lopez have reopened 29 Main Street as an apartment building.

Being a landlord is quite a change for Alex. He and his brother are owners of Le Trianon Fine Art and Antiques on Route 7 in Sheffield and Le Trianon Gallery in San Francisco. The brothers inherited their interest in art and antiques from their parents who lived in France and always had a passion for art and the arts. In 1978 they moved to New York and opened a gallery. As the apartment building is a change for Alex, so a gallery was a big change for his father, Jean Henri Sarbib, a noted jazz musician who played piano and bass. Interestingly, Jean Henri's father was a pianist who played for Edith Piaf and Maurice Chevalier, among others.

So what attracted Alex to buy the former Card Lake Inn? It was the location: West Stockbridge. Alex believes that the town represents all that is wonderful about living in the Berkshires—especially its small size and sense of community where people know and care about each other. When the inn came on the market, Alex's business instinct told him that it would be the perfect site for modern apartments.

Although the inside of the building has been totally gutted and rebuilt, the exterior has been left intact but completely repaired and painted. Since the time it was built, the only change to the structure has been enclosing the original porch. And the only change Alex made to the structure itself was to add a third floor in the back; there was already a third floor in the front. And, not visible, it has been very well insulated.

Although the six apartments range in size from 1,150 square feet to 1,600 square feet, each has two bedrooms and one bath, with the exception of the largest one that has one and a half baths. They all have central air conditioning, dishwashers, and washing machines and dryers. The apartments are beautifully finished with wood floors, stainless steel appliances, and granite countertops. A large parking area has been created behind the building. The rents, depending on apartment size, are \$1,100, \$1,250, and \$1,500 plus utilities. So far, five of the six units have been rented on one-year leases, and all the renters are local professionals.

We welcome Alex and his new enterprise to our town!



Apartments at 29 Main Street. Alex Sarbib, co-owner of the renovated apartment building. Kitchen area. Photos by Doane Perry.



In the Center of the Berkshire Hills



Card Lake Hotel - West Stockbridge, Mass.

Bar Scene ca. 1950s. Card Lake Hotel ca. 1920s. Photos courtesy of Bob Salerno.

Board of Selectmen Meeting Summaries

By Doane Perry

February 23, 2015

Berkshire Hills Regional School District Regional Agreement

The Board of Selectmen met with BHRSD superintendent Peter Dillon and School Committee member Andy Potter. Superintendent Dillon said one of the town's biggest and thorniest problems is the poor physical condition of Monument Mountain Regional High School. The failed vote on the renovation plan has created "tough feelings" and mobilized activism for and against the plan. The district proposes updating the regional agreement in two stages: first, cleaning up the agreement that hasn't been done in 25 years, and second, taking a broad look at options such as expanding the district to include Richmond, Lee, Farmington River, and South Berkshire.

The Select Board did not approve the superintendent's request to agree to establish a "regional agreement amendment committee" starting in September 2015. Chair Peter Skorput moved to go ahead, but Earl Moffatt and Karen Zick asked for more time to consider. The superintendent said that any town could stop the agreement, but the selectmen are concerned about representation and control. The bigger town, Great Barrington, has a record of choosing expensive options (Peter Skorput compared the towns' histories in purchasing fire trucks).

The superintendent's proposal was to fund the membership group called the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools (MARS) to update the regional agreement in terms of language, compliance with state law, and the per capita basis, and then to consider expanding the region to include other towns. Great Barrington and Stockbridge Select Boards have approved the proposal. MARS's record includes a suit against the state for school transportation payments. The superintendent commented that the per capita basis is the best he has seen.

Rent Control Board Update

At the last Select Board meeting, Mark Webber reported that Superior Court Judge Agostino ruled against trailer park owner Eric Levesque denying a stay on the order by the West Stockbridge Rent Control Board regarding fair rent for the tenants.


Evie Kerswell represented the tenants, reporting that snow on the park roads was eventually plowed, and the blocked pipes to the septic tank were repaired. Evie said that a purchase and sale process went well, and due diligence is going ahead. Most current tenants are interested in an offer of \$700,000 for the park and other houses with assistance from ROC USA, which helps trailer parks become cooperatives. ROC puts up funds that become a forgivable loan if it fails. The tenants recognize that they face a huge task, including getting an engineer's report on issues and costs and a construction loan.

Charter Cable TV Draft Agreement

Carol Kuller reported that the Cable TV Commission is negotiating a required draft agreement because the current contract has run out. Charter has said it will continue to provide service in West Stockbridge. Although the representative was gracious on the phone, Charter has not produced a responsive contract and has not included on paper any terms that have been discussed.

The context is complex: Charter wants confirmed franchises to hand over to Time Warner. The Comcast-Time Warner merger is under regulatory scrutiny. Karen Zick asked Carol about televising the Board of Selectmen meetings on Charter Cable. Carol said they have asked Charter for it, but there is no equipment for a live feed.

... continued on page 5



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The *Local Yokel* is published monthly. Please send submissions to: the *Local Yokel*, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266 or info@thelocalyokel.org. Copy deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the publication. Editors: John Parker 232-4123, jandlparker49@verizon.net; Vicki Grayson 232-6131, vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com; Susan Fisher 232-4443, suefish12@gmail.com; Anne Lesser 232-8577, anne@annelessercommunications.com. Design: Kim Bradway kim@bloominarts.com.

The *Local Yokel* is supported in part by a grant from the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

April History Quiz Question:


Until the introduction of the steam engine in the mid-1840s, waterpower was the source of energy for most industrial operations and for many farms. Large-scale production of goods was limited to areas with sufficient streams and rivers, and most manufacturing was limited. Production dropped off in the winter as the waterways froze and then resumed with the spring runoffs.

The Williams River was a major source of energy for West Stockbridge, with 11 dams and mill operations from the Shaker Mill Dam to below Williamsville. (Remains of one dam can be seen from the bridge on Route 41 south of Long Pond Road.) Those weren't the only dams in town, however. At least five other areas had industrial operations in town. Where were they, and what did they do?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)



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The Local Yokel Needs You!

Would you enjoy being part of the team that produces this free monthly newsletter serving our community, now in its 10th year of publication?

Do you enjoy writing or photography? We need regular and occasional contributors on subjects of local interest.

Or would you like to lend a hand a few hours each month to help with distribution, mailing, and other projects?

Call John Parker at 232-4123 or e-mail info@thelocalyokel.org for more information.

March 9, 2015

Highway Superintendent Update

Before the selectmen’s meeting, Curt commented about his department’s extensive work freeing up frozen water pipes for town water customers. More than a dozen pipe blockages have occurred, mostly where snow has been plowed off driveways. Depending on access to the pipes, the department’s arsenal of tools includes mechanical and heat-based systems. If they don’t work, outside plumbers charge \$400 to unblock the pipes.

Curt also mentioned that the Highway Department snowplow drivers would be interviewed by Avi Dresner on his Well Talk program on WSBS on Tuesday, March 10.

Curt asked the selectmen to revise the employment contract for Highway Department staff so their benefits (including personal days, sick pay, and longevity) equal those of other town staff. Curt said police employees have better terms in those areas than highway employees do. He asked the selectmen to ensure that revised terms allowing ten sick days and five personal days are funded.

Karen Zick commented that fairness in benefits for all employees is important, coupled with annual performance reviews and oversight by the selectmen. Town employee pay is not equal. Retiring employees should be paid 75% of the value of unused benefits with no rollover allowed. Karen asked for another meeting of the board with all the town employees.

Earl Moffatt commented that the police package resulted from negotiation but agreed with the importance of fairness among departments. He stressed the importance of not allowing rollover of benefits when employees retire: “use it or lose it.” Changes will not be retroactive. He stressed that the selectmen need numbers to review.

Administrative Assistant Mark Webber said implementation will be straightforward and appropriate. In closing, Curt said the Highway Department has been treated fairly by the town and expressed his appreciation.

Village School Use Requests

Requests by both the Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists’ Guild and Youth Soccer were approved. Due to the long winter, the field should be ready by May 1, but should not be used until it is dry, which may be later.

Karen Zick objected to the free use of the town field by groups not working or living in West Stockbridge because the town has had to spend

thousands to repair damage to the field. Unrepaired window damage in the gym has become expensive to fix, since the manufacturer has gone out of business. Paula Farrell of the Parks and Recreation Committee said she would work with the committee to implement the policy of less use by non-West Stockbridge residents and workers.

Town Flag

Karen Carmean of the Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists’ Guild described the process to design a flag for the town that she has developed at the request of the selectmen with input from Joel Hotchkiss, Robert Salerno, the towns of Lenox and Stockbridge, and the office of Representative Pignatelli. The objectives of the process are community building and simplicity.

The selectmen had suggested the community should decide based on input from the artists, the Historical Society, and voters at the town election. The process will include:

- Publicity with colorful flyers in the stores to get participation.
- Consultation with flag makers to achieve the best designs and get the best price.
- The artists deciding on three or four finalists based on input with flag makers, especially on price.
- The public will vote at town elections on the best of the finalists by paper ballot on Monday, May 11.
- The selectmen will confirm the votes but not select the winning design.

Earl Moffatt advised, “Don’t put the town seal on it and don’t include too much stuff.”

The town of Lenox bought three of its flags: one 4 × 6 feet to hang vertically in the State House, one for Town Hall, and one to carry in parades.

Other Business

- Mark Webber is preparing the FY2016 budget review summaries for the board.
- There is an illegally built foundation on Lenox Road that the town now owns as a result of a tax taking. Abutters will be notified it is for sale.
- The selectmen agreed to renew the Household Hazardous Waste Program, which has gone well for many years.

Local yokel	Pick up a copy FREE AS ALWAYS at these locations around town:	Berkshire Bank Charles H. Baldwin & Sons Library No. 6 Depot Public Market Queensboro Wine & Spirits Town Hall Transfer Station	Or you can choose to have the <i>Local Yokel</i> mailed to you for a minimum annual contribution of \$25.
	<i>Outdoor distribution boxes: Baldwin Hardware, The Floor Store, & the Shaker Dam Coffeehouse and Stanmeyer Gallery</i>		

Help Design our Flag!

*West Stockbridge needs a flag
to hang at the Statehouse in
the Great Hall of Flags!
Most towns have one.*



Help us design a flag for West Stockbridge! Make a scale model in color of your original design for the flag. Submit it by email to kcarmean@gmail.com with your name, address and phone number so we can contact you if your design is one of four finalists. Consider the scenic beauty, industry/business, and history of our town.

People of all ages who live or work in West Stockbridge may design the flag. Since the flag will be 4x6 feet, you can make the model 4x6, 8x12 or 2x3 inches. If you don't have a camera or email, the Library at 21 Stateline Road will take a picture and submit it for you. Their hours are Tues. 10-5, Wed. 1-5, Thurs. & Fri. 2-6, and Sat. 10-2.

Designs are due Wed. April 29 to kcarmean@gmail.com who will confirm. Four finalists will be chosen by the Artists' Guild with previous input from the Historical Society, the flag makers and others. The public is invited to vote by paper ballot in a separate box for their favorite design of the four on May 11 during town elections.

**APRIL 29 DESIGNS DUE
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Mon. May 11 Vote for your favorite

**Project of the Richmond-West
Stockbridge Artists' Guild (League)**

Time to Become a Fiber Town

The first step to become a Fiber Town is for at least 40% of the households to sign the WiredWest conditional commitment for service with a refundable deposit of \$49, to be applied to a customer's first month's bill. West Stockbridge was only at 20% of its goal on March 24 (compare Shutesbury at 70%, Egremont at 48%, and Plainfield at 38%). We need 257 more people to sign up. You can sign up online at www.wiredwest.net by clicking on the "Count Me In" box. You can track our progress by clicking on the "Participating Towns" dropdown box and selecting "Check Sign-Up Status."

The second required step is to pass the debt authorization with a two-thirds vote at the *town meeting on May 4*. If the debt authorization vote does not pass, we will lose this onetime opportunity for our community to build and own infrastructure essential for our future at a substantial discount of the actual cost.

West Stockbridge needs to borrow \$1,880,000. The not-to-exceed estimate for the fiber network is \$2,870,000 with \$990,000 contributed from the state. This would only be an increase of \$160 per year for a \$400,000 house (or a tax rate increase of \$0.40 per \$1,000) and would be offset by lower cost of services. The current Verizon Double Plan with Unlimited Phone and DSL (1-3 Mbps) including fees costs \$88.86 per month. With WiredWest, you will get real high-speed Internet (25 Mbps) and full digital phone with no fees for \$74 per month, saving \$178 per year. WiredWest is offering superior speed and services at a lower price. The property tax increase is also tax deductible.

The plan is for WiredWest to reimburse the towns in whole for their interest and principal payments once they start providing services and their revenues cover their operating costs. To ensure the success of WiredWest, they are requiring the minimum take-rate of 40% of the households for each town to be part of the network. At this take-rate level, their business model shows that they can pay back the towns in full and that will bring our property taxes back down.

But there's more to being a Fiber Town than just the services the network offers. The money we spend for these services will stay in the local economy. There will be more professional opportunities here, and our home businesses will be more productive. The value of our property will increase by having high-speed Internet available. Our schools will be able to take full advantage of the Internet to educate our kids when they have high-speed access at home. Our seniors will be able to consult with their doctors without driving to the office or to send an alert when they need help. It will allow us to be part of emerging new services like telemedicine, home security, and the "Internet of things," plus future services we can't even imagine yet.

The more people who sign up, the earlier fiber for West Stockbridge will be built. The more people who sign up, the more successful WiredWest will be, enhancing their ability to reimburse the towns in full.

Sign up for service!
Show up at the town meeting on May 4!

Let's become a Fiber Town!
Steve Sautman
WiredWest Delegate for West Stockbridge
Sautman@msn.com

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Venison Dinner Raises Funds for Veterans' Memorial

By Dom Luchi

My youngest brother Michael, with all of the obstacles he has encountered in life, has awed me many times. When Michael was only nine years old, he lost his dad to a heart attack. Eight years later, he lost his mom to cancer. Michael came to live with my family the day after she passed and went on to complete his high school education at Monument Mountain in 2001.

After school, he worked for me doing construction work until 2002 when he joined the army. He was deployed to Iraq with the 3rd Infantry Air Defense Artillery Division and was part of the first wave in March 2003. He deployed again in 2004 with the 5/7 Cavalry Division and again in 2005. Meanwhile, his wife Christi (whom he met in the army in Iraq) gave birth to their son Angelo and daughter Bella. In 2006, Michael joined the Coast Guard and served in Virginia and Louisiana. He will be stationed in New London, Connecticut, in August of this year.

I think we all lose touch with what veterans like Michael have done and continue to do every day, often taking their service for granted. Since I came to work for the town, I'm reminded when Town Clerk Ronni Barrett is notified by the governor's office to lower the flags at the Town Offices to half staff for a soldier from our state who was killed in action.

As the person responsible for lowering the flag since November 4, 2013, I would say the number of those soldiers is at least 20. So the next time you see that flag at half staff, please give thanks to those men and women who keep us safe and paid the ultimate price.

The memorial in front of the Town Hall currently lists only those who served up through the Vietnam War that ended on May 7, 1975. Except for a few names that had been missed and were added in recent years, the monument does not honor soldiers from then to now.

You can help preserve the memory and honor these people who served through fundraisers, donations, and awareness. We will certainly need help and cash to get the job done. Anyone with suggestions and support is very welcome!

On March 14, the Shaker Mill Tavern hosted a venison dinner to help get this done. We raised just under \$1,300 for a plaque to honor these soldiers, to clean up and replace the shrubs and landscaping that has been neglected for far too long, and to sandblast and paint the cannon located at the corner of Routes 41 and 102 as well as fix up the landscaping there.

Broque Tonini, an enthusiastic young man, approached me to volunteer his time and effort. His energy and eagerness is inspiring! I'm hoping with a lot of coffee, some Advil—okay, a lot of Advil—I'll almost be able to keep up with him. Thank you, Broque! I will provide updates on the project through the *Local Yokel* as we go forward.

Special thanks to these volunteers:

- ❖ Chef Gordon for his help and dealing with us in the kitchen while prepping the Tavern food
- ❖ Papa John Korte for his time preparing the polenta
- ❖ Don Schiffer who cut the venison, skewered it, and made meatballs, stew, and chili with me
- ❖ Nick Race for keeping the kitchen and dishes in order and keeping food restocked
- ❖ Dominick, Nicole, and Michelle for keeping the dining room square, and Dennis for all of his hard work! Also the venison donations by Jim Dellea and Bob Spence were a huge help.

Thanks to the participants for their donations:

Fran Arigoni	Eugene Dellea	Tyler Kern	Ryan Malumphy	Grace Tenney
Danny Armstrong	Jim Dellea	Steve Kimple	John McCauliff	Jeanette Tenney
John Bazonski	Liz Digrigoli	Dennis Lamke	Earl Moffatt	Mark Viola
Jaimie Boyer	Mike Digrigoli	Dick Lavalette	Jackie Moffatt	Mark Webber
Joy Boyer	Kristi Farina	Paul Lavalette	Bob Navin	Curt Wilton
Mike Buffoni	Mike Farina	Poncho Lavalette	Peter Niventi	Travis Wilton
John Cadorette	Adrianna Hamilton	Ann Lockenwitz	Jerry O'Neil	Brian Zanconato
Jim Curley	Amanda Hamilton	Phil Lockenwitz	Bob Osterhout	Plus two folks from
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Student Journalists Explore West Stockbridge

By Julie Serkosky,

UConn Assistant Professor-in-Residence

Six University of Connecticut journalism students have been exploring West Stockbridge over the last several weeks, wrapping up conducting interviews and collecting local color for a project that will feature articles, photos, and video focusing on the town, its people, and residents' efforts to save the Old Town Hall.

The students—Kaitlyn Carroll, Melissa Collins, Ryan King, Maura Murphy, Cristobal Ortega-Berger, and Alyssa Rametta—are working under the direction of UConn faculty members Maureen Croteau, Steven Smith, and Julie Serkosky as they interview several West Stockbridge Historical Society members and many residents to pull together this exciting profile.

The package is designed to bring to life the town's past and describe its present and future against the backdrop of work to save and renovate the historic 1854 Town Hall building. Residents may have spotted members of the group conducting interviews at Town Hall and touring businesses in the downtown area.

This multimedia project is expected to be completed by May when the UConn Journalism Department will post the work online.

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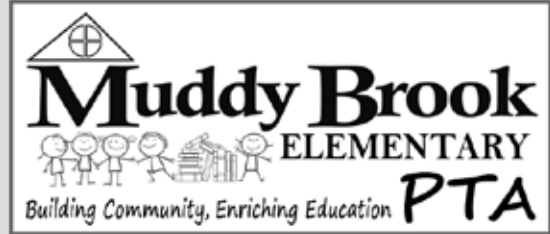
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Meeting: Wednesday April 15, 2015 @ 6:00pm

Come share your thoughts and visions for our PTA for the upcoming year!

- ~ Have an idea to improve the PTA?
- ~ Do you have suggestions or a new direction you would like to see the PTA take?
- ~ Are there changes you would like to see or programs you would like to see added/taken away in the coming year(s)?

We are always welcoming new ideas (and of course new members!!) Please consider coming to openly discuss the course of the next year or two for our Muddy Brook PTA.

The Muddy Brook PTA is accepting officer nominations for the coming year. The officer positions have term limits, and there will be many openings for you to get involved, make the PTA what you'd like to see, and help continue the great work that has been done. If you are interested, please see a current officer or e-mail us.

Friday, April 10, is our Spring Family Dance— DJ dancing under the big top, photo booth, delicious treats, and family fun await you!

Mud Day is just around the corner! Volunteers are needed to plan for classroom activities, food sales, and event coordination. Please contact Heather Boyko at hsboyko@gmail.com or (413) 896-6496. The event is rain or shine Saturday, May 16.

Visit Muddybrookpta.com, send us an e-mail at muddybrookpta@gmail.com, and be sure to "like" us on Facebook!

Give just 3 Hours of your time this year!

Thank you for your continued support and volunteerism!

The Historical Society Hits a Triple

By Bob Salerno

While everyone was shoveling snow, clearing ice dams, and spreading sand and salt everyday, the Historical Society had a sunny and momentous few days. Within a span of 10 days, we received word that we had been awarded three grants.

The first was a \$40,000 matching grant from the Cultural Facilities Fund that is jointly administered by the prestigious Massachusetts Cultural Council and MassDevelopment. While we have to raise the matching funds, this grant is important in more ways than one.

In addition to the dollars, the grant places the Society (and West Stockbridge) in the company of major cultural institutions around the state. The Clark Art Institute expansion, the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA), the Mahaiwe, Tanglewood, Barrington Stage Company, the Norman Rockwell Museum, and The Mount have all been recipients of these grants. We are honored to be in such company.

Just a few days earlier, we had received word of a \$2,500 grant from the Berkshire Bank. Berkshire Bank is an important part of our community and was our first Life Business Member. Our local branch has been a continuing supporter of the Society's efforts to restore the Town Hall. Take a minute to tell Cindy Polidoro how much we appreciate the grant the next time you are in the bank.

The third grant of \$5,000 to the Vaber Fund came from the Feigenbaum Foundation, established by the late Drs. Armand and Donald Feigenbaum. They were noted experts in total quality management and known for their philanthropy. The foundation was established with deep respect and love for the Berkshires. Its notable contributions include those for the Feigenbaum Center for Science and Innovation on the MCLA campus in North Adams, the Berkshire Theatre Group, and the Berkshire Museum.

The grants we have received support the next phase of the 1854 Town Hall renovation. The work, to be started this spring, will focus on supporting the front foundation wall and replacing rotted cellar supports and floor joists. While this isn't very sexy or visible work, it is essential for structural integrity and sets the base for the handicap-accessible front sidewalks. This additional funding will also help us do more extensive work in the crawl space including waterproofing the dirt floor.

This triple hit came about because of the hard work of our members. The granting organizations were impressed with the tremendous support of the people of our town, the Historical Society's contribution to the revitalization of our town's center, the programs we have presented, and our remarkable list of members and contributors. There's much more to do, but this is a big step forward for the Historical Society.

We're ready for spring!

Please send your Birthdays & Anniversaries to the Local Yokel.

We are happy to include them in the next issue.

The Local Yokel, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266 or by e-mail to info@thelocalyokel.org





@West Stockbridge Library

Please join us! The West Stockbridge Public Library celebrates its second annual National Library Week Open House, Saturday, April 18, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This year's theme is "Unlimited Possibilities @ Your Library." National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries across the country. Library patrons and community members are invited to stop by for refreshments, a "remainders" sale, raffle, and more. We again thank our friends at Rouge Restaurant & Bistro for "book" goodies. The first ten visitors receive a "Define Our Library" tote bag.

Summer pass preview: Steepletop, home of famed poet Edna St. Vincent Millay, opens May 1 for an expanded season of activities and events. According to director Martha Raftery, Steepletop, located in Austerlitz, NY, plans to offer admission passes for CW/MARS cardholders. Interested in volunteering at the gardens or historic house? Contact Raftery at (518) 392-3362 for more information. FYI: Millay's is the oldest active charge account on the books at Baldwin Hardware.

Vacation week LEGO-Fest: We'll hold LEGO Club all week, Tuesday through Friday, 3-4 p.m., during school vacation week. Stop in and get creative!

NEW ADDITIONS

DVDs: *Birdman*, *Disappearance of Eleanor Rigby*, *The Drop*, *Good Ol' Freda*, *My Old Lady*, *Theory of Everything*, *Whiplash*, *The Americans*, season 1

Just for Kids: *Big Hero 6*, *Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb*

FICTION:

Carter, *Stranger Vine*

Franklin, *Siege Winter*

Perry, *Angel Court Affair*

Repino, *Mort(e)*

Sandford, *Gathering Prey*

Simsion, *The Rosie Effect*

NONFICTION:

Christin, *Robert Moses: The Master Builder of New York City*

Cohen, *The Girl from Human Street: Ghosts of Memory in a Jewish Family*

Larson, *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania*

* * * * *

Ongoing

- Call or stop at the library to sign up for computer introductory or Windows 8 classes taught by Bill Biggs. Please indicate your availability.
- Don't forget to set up a CW/MARS online account by going to weststockbridgelibrary.org and clicking on the card catalog picture. Your account allows you to keep track of checkouts, requests, pick up locations, renewals, and more.
- Meetings of the library trustees are open to the public. Next meeting: April 23, 2015, 4:30 p.m., in the Community Room.

As always, we welcome suggestions on just about anything to improve our library.

Lee Appelbaum and Jodi Magner



WEST STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY HOURS
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Birthdays & Anniversaries

4/22 Anne Mikolajczyk

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? To be sure your listing gets in the *Local Yokel*, please send it in by the 15th of the month before the desired issue each year.

The *Local Yokel*, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge MA 01266
or by e-mail to info@thelocalyokel.org



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Recycling Tip - April

Test your recycling savvy with our Recycling QUIZ

The following items are RECYCLABLE (True or False):

- | | |
|---|------------|
| • 1. Plastic cups | True/False |
| • 2. Paperback books | True/False |
| • 3. Aluminum foil | True/False |
| • 4. Light bulbs | True/False |
| • 5. Phonebooks | True/False |
| • 6. Clear clamshell containers | True/False |
| • 7. Empty aerosol cans | True/False |
| • 8. CDs | True/False |
| • 9. Gift tissue paper | True/False |
| • 10. Black plastic and trays | True/False |
| • 11. Labels and caps on bottles | True/False |
| • 12. Plastic utensils | True/False |
| • 13. Paper with paper clips or staples | True/False |
| • 14. Plastic bags | True/False |
| • 15. Plastic garden plant pots | True/False |

• Check your answers using the key below...

• True: 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13 False: 1, 4, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15

• For more information, visit www.springfieldmrf.org.

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Saudi Arabia, published in National Geographic ~ July 2014

Community News & Events

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, April 12, the Stockbridge Grange will serve a roast pork dinner in the Grange Hall on Church Street from 1 to 2 p.m. Cost for adults is \$12; \$6 for children under 12. Takeout is available; please call (413) 298-3185.

Council on Aging

The COA monthly potluck luncheon will be held at noon on Tuesday, April 14, in the Community Room at the Town Hall. Hope to see you there!

Send your notices for Community News & Events to the Local Yoke!, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266, or by e-mail to info@thelocalyokel.org.

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Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild: April Events

By Karen Carmean

Workshop: How to Participate in a Critique Session

Wednesday, April 1, 4:30–5:45 p.m.

Community Room, Town Offices, 21 State Line Road (Rte. 102)

The workshop focuses on two-dimensional art such as paintings in any medium (e.g., oil, acrylic, watercolor). Ilene Spiewak and Carolyn Brancato will lead the discussion. Examples of various styles of art will be projected to illustrate the presentation. We will review the language of art: key elements of composition, design, color, line, and use of light and dark. We will also discuss how to provide useful critiques to artists and participate in critiques. Contact ibsbjb@aol.com or rivergrp@comcast.net. RSVP rivergrp@comcast.net so you will have handouts.

Business Meeting & Networking

Wednesday, April 1, 6–9 p.m.

Community Room, Town Offices, 21 State Line Road (Rte. 102)

Help plan our June exhibit in the 1854 Town Hall (agenda forthcoming). Meeting: 6–8 p.m.; networking: 8–9 p.m.

First Friday Art Walk

Friday, April 3, 5–8 p.m.

Downtown Pittsfield, North and South Streets

Join us to explore and see the work of dozens of artists including some of our members. You may join a group of us from 5 to 6 p.m. at Bagels Too, 166 North Street, Pittsfield. Light refreshments are served in many locations. The work changes monthly! See www.FirstFridayArtsWalk.com

West Stockbridge Residents: Design our Flag

Designs Due by April 29

Help us design a flag for West Stockbridge! Make a color scale model of your original design for the flag. We are one of a few towns that have no flag. Submit by e-mail to kcarmean@gmail.com with your complete contact information. Consider the scenic beauty, industry/business, and history of our town.

People of all ages who live or work in West Stockbridge may submit a design for the flag. Since the flag will be 4 × 6 feet, you can make the model 4 × 6, 8 × 12, or 2 × 3 inches. If you don't have a camera or e-mail, the library at 21 Stateline Road will take a picture and submit it for you (see library hours in this issue).

Four finalists will be chosen by the Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists Guild with input from the Historical Society, the flag makers, and others. The public is invited to vote for their favorite design during town elections on May 11.



Hall of Flags. Photo by John Tlumacki, Boston Globe staff. www.bostonglobe.com



Meet the Artist: Leslie Klein

Wednesday, April 8, 12:15–1:30 p.m.

Six Depot, West Stockbridge

Join us for an informal discussion over lunch. Leslie is a clay artist and sculptor whose work has been commissioned and collected by various organizations and private clients including creating the sculpture for the Boston Freedom Award. Her contemporary artifacts express the ancient quality of clay: often created for ceremony, ritual, and in tribute to nature. She will bring some samples of her clay work. She is Founder of Clay Forms in West Stockbridge, faculty artist for Community Access to the Arts in Great Barrington, and freelance writer of op-ed, feature articles, and poetry. See www.lesliekleinstudio.com. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com.

Workshop: Demonstration: How to Take Pictures of Your Art

Two sessions: Saturday, April 11, 9:30–12:30 and 1:30–5:30

Town Offices, 21 State Line Road (Rte. 102)

At this workshop, you will learn how to set up equipment including camera and lights. We will provide you with recommended materials and references. You also will learn how social media can be useful to visual artists and how to sign up and use Facebook and Twitter. Limited enrollment. For more information or to RSVP for morning or afternoon session, contact kcarmean@gmail.com.

Drawing and Painting Sessions

Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, 6–9 p.m.

Join us for drawing and painting, usually with a live model (cost approximately \$15). We have held a number of successful sessions using different media and at different levels of experience. Artists appreciate the positive and supportive atmosphere, the opportunity to learn from each other, and the quiet meditative sense of focus of attention we share. Some are interested in just watercolor painting and drawing; let us know if you are interested in a session without oil or acrylics used. Our sessions are in a private location. RSVP riversidegrp@gmail.com if you wish to participate so you can be notified of any changes due to weather or other circumstances.

Meet the Artist and Gallery Visit: Diana Felber

Saturday, April 25, noon–2 p.m.

Warren Street Gallery, 510 Warren Street, Hudson

Join artist Diana Felber at 510 Warren Street Gallery in Hudson to look at her oil and watercolor paintings. We will gather for an informal discussion over lunch at one of the fabulous restaurants in Hudson. RSVP kcarmean@gmail.com so we can drive together.

CALL FOR ARTISTS

Join our Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild for \$40 for the year to be able to show your work at our June exhibit in the 1854 Town Hall in West Stockbridge for the first two weeks of June and in Richmond in September for two weeks. E-mail: rivergrp@comcast.net.

DEMONSTRATION FOR VISUAL ARTISTS

Demonstration: How to Take Pictures of Your Art

*As a result of participation:
you will:
See how to take high resolution photos,
Know what equipment to get,
Get materials for further study,
Be able to sign up for some social media like Facebook and Twitter*



As a result of this demonstration, participants will walk away with prepared materials on how to take photographs of their work. You will be able to observe a demonstration on how to set up equipment including camera and lights, so that you could take pictures of your artwork. We will provide you with recommended materials and references.

You will learn how some social media could be useful to visual artists, how to sign up and begin to use Facebook and Twitter. Members will be able to have their work photographed for the website and Facebook and will assist the photographers and the demonstration. Participation in this demonstration is limited; please reserve your space now. Indicate if you wish the morning or afternoon session. Email: kcarmean@gmail.com

**SAT. APRIL 11
TWO SESSIONS:
9:30-12:30 OR
1:30-4:30**

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RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Richmond-West
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West Stockbridge History Quiz Answer:

The earliest dam (ca. 1766) that powered a sawmill was on Flat Brook running through Canaan/State Line. Another early operation was the stream off the Taconic ridge (Harvey Mountain) called Bailey Brook. A corn mill functioned there until 1798. Also in that area, on Baldwin Brook, was a sawmill run by Jonathon Rawson. These were limited operations because of the size of the streams.

A larger "industrial park" was on Seekonk/Alford Brook with stone and gristmills, a sawmill, and a bark mill. That brook was later dammed to form the private recreation area of the Alford Brook Club in 1925.

Cone's Brook had the biggest operation outside of Williamsville. And four stone mills, two turning shops, and a sawmill were all powered by water flowing from Richmond Furnace.

The life of these small dams and mills was done by the mid-1800s as steam and charcoal/coal provided more flexible, powerful, and reliable energy sources. Most of the dams and foundations have been washed away or are barely discernable rock structures. But if you look hard and with some imagination, you can make out where they might have been.

Many thanks to Bernard Drew and his impressive work, *18th and 19th Century Waterpowered Industry in the Upper Housatonic River Valley* (available at Shaker Mill Books on Depot Street).

When friends, neighbors, or relatives move, downsize, or just clean house, *please* ask them to think of the West Stockbridge Historical Society before they discard any old books, pictures, postcards, letters, or memorabilia of the Town of West Stockbridge. E-mail info@weststockbridgehistory.org or call 232-4270.

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Recipe Corner

by Lynn Ryan

ASPARAGUS ROLL-UPS

Serves 12

Asparagus is one of our first spring vegetables. It's so tender and flavorful, so this recipe is perfect for Easter, brunch, or a bridal shower. Kids also love to help make these. It's easy and fun for them.

6 slices bacon
24 spears fresh asparagus
1 8-oz. package cream cheese, softened
2 Tbsp. finely chopped chives
12 slices white bread, crusts removed
2 Tbsp. butter, melted
6 Tbsp. grated Parmesan cheese

Preheat the oven to 400°F. Grease a rimmed baking sheet.

Cook the bacon until browned and crisp. Drain on a plate lined with paper towels.

Place asparagus spears into a large skillet and pour in about 1 inch of water. Place over medium heat, cover the skillet, and simmer until light green and slightly tender, about 5 minutes. Remove, drain, and set aside.

Combine the cream cheese, chives, and bacon and mix well. Flatten each slice of bread with a rolling pin. Spread the cream cheese mixture evenly over each slice.

Center 2 asparagus spears on a bread slice, and then roll the slice around the asparagus into a cylinder. Place the rolls seam side down onto the prepared baking sheet. Repeat with the rest.

Brush each roll with the melted butter and sprinkle each with about ½ tsp. parmesan (or more if you like cheese).

Bake until lightly golden brown and hot, about 10–12 minutes.

Note: These roll-ups are also very good at room temperature if you can't serve them right away. Enjoy!

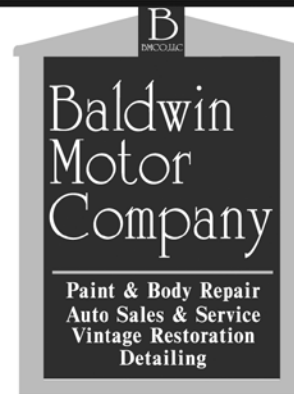
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With increased printing and postage costs, we need your help more than ever. To get the latest town news, please contribute to the *Local Yokel*. For your donation of at least \$25.00 per year we will mail each issue to you (unless you prefer otherwise). The *Local Yokel* will continue to be available free at selected locations as long as possible, but we hope you will contribute anything you can. The West Stockbridge Local Yokel, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization, and all contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

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Assessors Office	<i>Mary Stodden</i>	232-0300	ext. 303	Tues. 1–5 p.m.; Thurs. 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Board of Health	<i>John Olander</i>	232-0300	ext. 314	Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m., or by appt.
Board of Selectmen	<i>Earl B. Moffatt, Peter Skorput, Karen Zick</i>			
Administrative Assistant	<i>Mark Webber</i>	232-0300	ext. 319	Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Building Inspector	<i>Brian Duval</i>	232-0300	ext. 313	Tues. 4–7 p.m.
Conservation Commission	<i>Jennifer Kujawski, Lori Rose</i>	232-0300	ext. 338	Leave Message for Inquiries
Council on Aging	<i>John Zick</i>	232-0300	ext. 340	Leave Message for Inquiries
Emergency Management	<i>Louis Oggiani</i>	528-2175		
Fire Department	<i>Peter Skorput</i>	232-4200 (non-emergency)		Mon. 6:30–9 p.m.
Highway Department	<i>Curt G. Wilton</i>	232-0305		Leave Message for Inquiries
Library	<i>Lee Appelbaum</i>	232-0300	ext. 308	Tues. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Wed. 1–5 p.m.; Thurs. & Fri. 2–6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.– 2 p.m.; closed Sun. & Mon.
Police Department	<i>Tom Rubino</i>	232-8500 (non-emergency)	24 hours, 7 days/week	
Post Office	<i>Colleen A. Wich</i>	232-8544		Lobby: 7 a.m.–7 p.m.; 7 days/week; Window: Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.–12 noon
Seasonal Lifeguard		232-0315		
Sewer & Water Commission	<i>Michael Buffoni</i>	232-0309		
Town Accountant	<i>Elaine Markham</i>	232-0300	ext. 317	Leave Message for Inquiries
Town Clerk	<i>Ronni Barrett</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	Tues. & Thurs. 1:30–4 p.m.
Town Collector	<i>June A. Biggs</i>	232-0300	ext. 302	Wed. 3–6 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri. 10 a.m.–2 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
Town Historian	<i>Robert Salerno</i>	232-4465		
Town Treasurer	<i>Karen Williams</i>	232-0300	ext. 316	Thurs. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Transfer Station	<i>Bill Pixley</i>	232-0307		Tues., Thurs., & Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Tree Warden	<i>James Hallock</i>	232-4322		
Veterans Agency	<i>Laurie Hills</i>	528-1580		
Zoning Board of Appeals	<i>C. Randolph Thunfors</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	

Official Town Government Website: weststockbridge-ma.gov • Community and Business Website: weststockbridgetown.com

**THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE
CHAMBER PLAYERS ANNUAL**

Spring Concert

Friday, May 22, 2015 at 6:00 PM

1854 Town Hall, Main Street, West Stockbridge

Musicians:

Lisa Crockett Catherine Hudgins
Sheila Fiekowsky Kazuko Matsusaka
Ronny Feldman Elizabeth Morse
Linda Toote

Program:

Ravel: Pièce en forme de Habanera
Arriaga: String Quartet No. 2 in A major
Francaix: String Trio
Debussy: Syrinx
Ravel: Introduction and Allegro

TICKETS \$35 Available May 4th

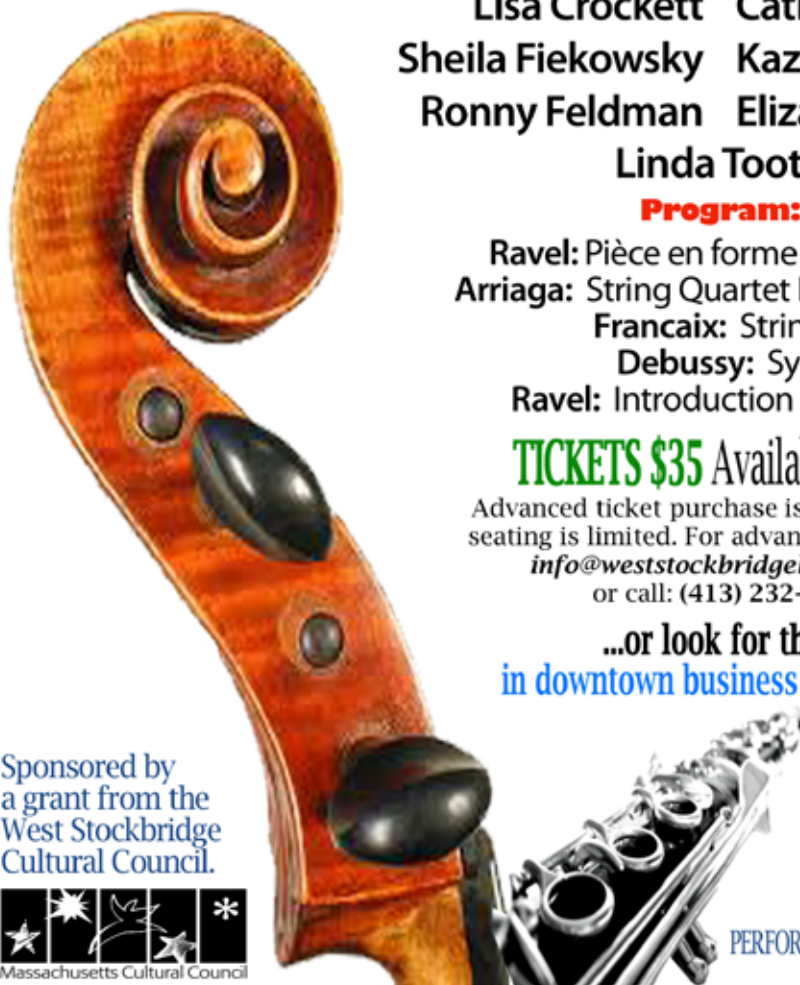
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Note: Tickets available to West Stockbridge Historical Society members beginning April 24 and to the general public starting May 4 at local town merchants. Due to popular demand, reservations *must* be paid in advance by check at least one week prior to the concert (WSHS, P.O. Box 266, West Stockbridge, MA 01266) or by major credit card through PayPal on our website (www.weststockbridgehistory.org). Payment accepted at the door only if tickets are still available.

West Stockbridge
Local Yokel
 P.O. Box 238
 West Stockbridge, MA
 01266

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2



April 2015 Calendar of Events	4/1	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
	4/3	Good Friday		
	4/3	Passover begins at sundown		
	4/5	Easter		
	4/6	Planning Board	7 p.m.	Town Offices
	4/6	Board of Selectmen	7 p.m.	Town Offices
	4/8	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
	4/12	Grange Dinner	1-2 p.m.	Grange Hall, Church St., Stockbridge
	4/13	American Legion	7 p.m.	Town Offices
	4/14	COA Potluck Luncheon	noon	Town Offices Community Room
	4/14	Friends of the Library meeting	3:30 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
	4/14	Parks & Recreation Committee	5:30 p.m.	Work Room at Town Offices
	4/15	*** Deadline for the Next Local Yokel ***		send to info@thelocalyokel.org
	4/15	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
	4/15	Muddy Brook PTA meeting	6-8 p.m.	Muddy Brook Library
	4/18	National Library Week Open House	11 a.m.-1 p.m.	Library
	4/20	Board of Selectmen	7 p.m.	Town Offices
	4/22	Earth Day		
	4/22	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
	4/23	Library Trustees meeting	4:30 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
4/24	Arbor Day			
4/29	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room	