

Local Yokel

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

West Stockbridge

August

2015



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005

*West Stockbridge Beautification container planting
near Hotchkiss Mobiles. Photo by John Parker.*

Downtown Improvement: The Plan (Finally) Becomes Reality

By John Parker

Downtown West Stockbridge is receiving a dramatic facelift through the Downtown Improvement Project, now nearing completion. The project was set in motion a year ago, the result of several years of funding applications by the town administrator and selectmen, and financed with a \$1 million grant from the MassWorks Infrastructure Program.

The plan (described in the April 2014 issue of the *Local Yokel*) was developed by Foresight Design Services, represented by Steve Mack. The scope of the project extends from the turnoff to Route 41 and the turnpike entrance at the east end of the village to the end of Main Street near the Shaker Mill Pond Bridge, with additional work on Center and Depot Streets.

The project was divided into seven discrete segments, so elements could be included or excluded depending on bids and available funds. As it happened, one segment had to be pulled out to stay within budget: the intersection where Center, Depot, Harris, and Moscow roads come together will not get the enhanced paver treatment to match the intersection of Main and Center.

The successful (and only) bidder on the project was Caracas of Ludlow, a fortunate outcome for the town because the contractor was accommodating, pleasant to deal with, and understanding of merchants' needs. Indeed, the downtown merchants were so pleased that a thank you party was held for the workers on their last day.

Existing sidewalks—many in bad shape—were replaced with durable pavers and asphalt with granite curbs. Diagonal parking will remain on Main Street, but two handicapped parallel parking spots were added in front of the 1854 Town Hall. Work there was planned to coincide with renovation of the building that included excavation for foundation work. Once the sidewalk work was completed on July 10, road paving (funded separately through the town's annual budget process) began on Main, Center, and Depot Streets and is expected to take several weeks.



Sidewalk before & after from Baldwin's to Rouge. Photos by Jackie Moffatt and Maggie Merrelle.

That will complete the project for now, but the town is likely not done with improvements to the downtown area. As we reported last April, members of the Planning Board emphasized that the work now drawing to a close should be thought of as “the first step” in a comprehensive plan to unite Main Street with Center Street up to the Post Office and out Depot Street to the Shaker Mill Tavern and Inn. The ultimate goal is an attractive and cohesive town center with walking paths that loop through the village and connect businesses.

Thanks to Susan Fisher and Anne Lesser who wrote the article in our April 2014 issue, and Doane Perry, who researched the history of the project.



Pavers enhance intersection of Main and Center Streets (left)

Main & Center Streets intersection under construction. (above top)

Out with the old, in with the new! (above center)

The first sidewalk pavers are installed. (right)

Bottom photos by Joe Roy, Jr.



Thank You Caracas!

On July 10, town merchants hosted a thank-you lunch and dessert party for the Caracas workers who made the Downtown Improvement project such a success. The inspired idea came from Jackie Moffatt and Marjorie Powell who organized the event with generous support from businesses and individuals. The luncheon was much appreciated by the workers, who said that no one had ever done anything like this for them before.



*Merchants provided lunch and dessert to Caracas workers on their last day.
Photo by Joe Roy, Jr.*

A comment from the Town Facebook page:

There is no kinder, more giving, more enlightened village I've been to as this family wrapped around a hamlet known as West Stockbridge. Thank you, Jackie and Marjorie, for such continued outpouring of giving though your selfless act of bringing thanks to those who made this town even more enchanting. And to everyone else who equally gave of their time and support. Will meander along our loveliest of sidewalks tomorrow to offer our commitment to the greater potential...

John Stanmeyer

Collector's Notes

The first-quarter real estate and personal property bills for FY2016 were mailed on June 29, 2015, and were due in the collector's office on August 1, 2015. Late fees begin to accrue on August 2. These bills do not contain valuation information, which will appear on the December mailing when the tax rate for FY16 is set.

Please remember to notify both my office and the assessors' office if your mailing address changes.

June Biggs, Collector
Tel.: 232-0300, ext. 302
E-mail: collector@weststockbridge-ma.gov
Office hours: Wednesday: 3–6 p.m.;
Thursday and Friday: 10 a.m.–2 p.m.;
Saturday: 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 Mary Claire Lin
- 11 Collin Parker
- 15 Sarah Biggs and Clifford Dorn III wedding
- 17 Jenni Roy Hallock
- 24 Joe Roy, Jr.
- 25 Jeanne Kangas
- 31 Caitlyn "Red" Alpert

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

The Community Health Association and the West Stockbridge Council on Aging invite you to join us for dinner and two important lecture topics on Thursday, September 24

“Exercise for Maintenance of Muscle Mass and Weight Control for All Ages (from a septuagenarian doctor)” by Laurence Cohen, MD

“What Everyone Should Know About Diabetes” by Candace Lusa, RN, MS, director of the Berkshire Health Systems Diabetes Education Program

Cost: \$10 per person includes a buffet-style dinner

When: Thursday, September 24, 5-7 p.m.

Where: St. Patrick’s Parish Center, Albany Road, West Stockbridge, MA 01266

Reservations are required. Contact John Zick at 232-0137 or Emilie Jarrett at 232-0122 or Emilie@charws.com.



Please send your Birthdays & Anniversaries to the Local Yokel. We are happy to include them in the next issue.



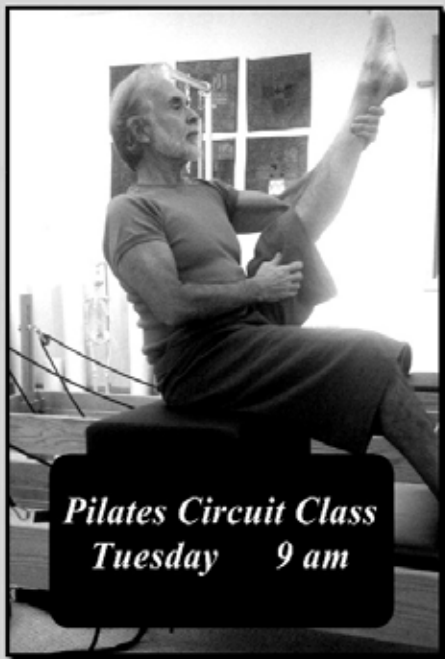
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Board of Selectmen Meeting Summaries

By Doane Perry

June 29, 2015

Public Hearing

The selectmen unanimously approved the request by owner William Merelle for Rouge Restaurant & Bistro to move four tables currently inside the restaurant outside on the new sidewalk seasonally from June 15 to September 15. The tables will be separated from the street by a rope. Permission will be renewable annually.

Special Town Meeting

The selectmen suspended the regular open meeting and convened a Special Town Meeting. Because there were not 25 people present to comprise a quorum, a "round-up" of phone calling and borrowing voters from the Planning Board meeting in the next room took place. Joe Roy served as moderator.

This Special Town Meeting is referred to as the "bookkeeping meeting," since the agenda is transferring the budgets of many town department budgets from fiscal year 2015 to fiscal year 2016. The five articles (see the warrant on the town website) were all approved.

Bob Salerno invited the selectmen to a dedication of the new sidewalks in front of the Historical Society's 1854 Town Hall.

Downtown Improvement Project Update

Continuing the regular open meeting, Mark Webber said the project is winding down, and June 30 was the deadline for finishing. An anticipated \$50,000 surplus will be used to extend the sidewalk along Main Street another 500 feet east to the beginning of the state highway line. This sidewalk will have granite curbs and an asphalt surface that could be replaced with pavers in the future. Several issues resulted in additional expenses including the package store foundation, the Old Town Hall, and a drain across from Berkshire Bank.

Downtown Paving Project Update

Curt Wilton said that the plan is to redo the sidewalks first, followed by paving the street. The old paving will be ground up and reused in the new paving. There will be traffic delays for two to three weeks following the July 13 start date.

Annual Town Officer Appointments

The selectmen approved the appointments for town officers in 2015-16. There are 72 officers and 100 volunteers. The Board of Selectmen thanked all the volunteers.

Because former Town Counsel Pat Cantor has retired from her law firm, the selectmen voted to send her thanks for her hard work on behalf of the town. Pat was particularly helpful in the case of the Mill Pond Trailer Park. That case has been handed off to new town counsel Joel Bard. The court date was not announced.

Mark Webber also reported that Joel Bard had received a request from former Selectman Karen Zick asking for an opinion, which Joel did not pursue.

End-of-Year Letter from Town Accountant

The town accountant advised the board that there is an issue involving two employees who are paid by the week but actually work 52 weeks plus 3 days. In the past they have been paid an extra week, which was made up or adjusted in the following year. With advice from Bob Salerno, a standard procedure is being adopted.

Transfer Station Manager

Peter Skorput reported that, although the Board of Health supervises the Transfer Station, only the Board of Selectmen can hire a new attendant. The town has a list of applicants and is using the old job description.

Tree Warden

The tree warden reported that he is being harassed by a woman who lives on West Alford Road and believes that a white pine on the opposite side of the street is the town's responsibility. The tree is not hazardous.

Other Business:

- There was discussion about how to maintain the public restrooms during the Farmers Market and weekends.
- The board approved a request by cricket players for use of the Town Offices field on July 26, August 27, and September 20.
- Bill Pixley's family expressed appreciation to the people in town for their flowers and well wishes after Bill's death. He was the attendant who managed the town Transfer Station.
- The board discussed meeting time options. They agreed to adjust the schedule as needed, noting that September to June is busy and spring is busiest. The next meetings are July 20 and 27. *

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Calling All Artists! Art Exhibit Planned for September

By Linda Morse

The blossoming local art community has a new bloom to offer in the Richmond-West Stockbridge Art Exhibit, slated for September 11–20 at the Congregational Church on State Road in Richmond. This is an encore of last year’s successful show that exhibited works of 36 local artists and was attended by over 400 visitors.

This year’s show furthers the effort to encourage community spirit, artistic inspiration, and enjoyment of the arts. According to guild member and show organizer Helen Febbo, “Artists try to capture the essence of what they see, and we want to provide them with an opportunity to exhibit those results.”

Participants are invited to enter two works of art and, depending on available space, one or both will be exhibited. This is a non-juried show, and there are no entry fees. A catalog with artists’ biographies, contact information, and prices will be available at the exhibit; all sales will be handled by the artists. Last year, there was an interesting mix of media, from watercolors and oils to sculpture and fine woodworking. Artists are also asked to donate small works (maximum 12 inches) for a silent auction, with proceeds going toward art supplies for the schools in both towns.

“This year’s exhibit is coming together very quickly as we have last year’s experience to draw upon as well as our June show,” said Howard Greenhalgh, president of the Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists’ Guild. “I encourage interested artists to obtain an entry form soon.” Entries are available now through August 31, which is the nonnegotiable deadline for filing. To fill out an entry form, go to <http://rwsag.edgmaster.com/september.php>.

For further information, contact David Edgecomb at david@edgmaster.com or Carolyn Brancato at rivergrp@comcast.net. To learn more about sponsorship opportunities, call Linda Morse at (413) 698-2915.



Ron Piazza and Helen Febbo installed a painting last year. Photo by Doane Perry.

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Mindful Eating: Don't Mind the Myths: Corn *Is* Good for You!

by Rachel Alves, RD, LDN



It wouldn't be summer without those beautiful golden cobs of corn right off the grill at our barbecues and filling our picnic baskets. Corn is delicious and versatile, but many myths persist about whether or not it is truly healthy for us. We wonder how something so sweet and scrumptious could actually be good for us. When referring to the vegetable corn, according to the American Dietetic Association, these myths are merely misconceptions.

Myth 1: Corn Is an Unhealthy Vegetable

Quite the contrary, corn *is* a healthy vegetable. It just happens to be a starchy vegetable, more like a carbohydrate. Carbohydrates have gotten such a bad rap in the past, and corn did too. Carbohydrates fuel the brain and are a definitely needed nutrient in our diets. It's more about the portions of carbohydrates that need attention, not the nutrient itself.

Myth 2: Our Body Cannot Digest Corn, Which Is Bad

Corn is high in insoluble fiber. It moves through the digestive tract still intact, which then helps other "movements" through the digestive tract. How can that be bad? With so many people dealing with sluggish bowels or constipation issues, consuming high-fiber foods like corn sounds like a perfect solution.

Myth 3: Corn Doesn't Contain Any Healthy Nutrients

Although corn may not be a powerhouse of nutrients, it does contain some B vitamins, iron, vitamin C, magnesium, and potassium as well as some important antioxidants, lutein, and zeaxanthin, which are important to maintain good eye health. Corn also supports digestive health because it provides a very good supply of fiber (3–5 grams per cup).

Myth 4: All the Corn in Grocery Stores Is Genetically Modified

Most sweet corn found in supermarkets is not genetically modified. However, field corn grown for use in making oil and high fructose corn syrup, virtually inedible for humans, usually is. Yes, Monsanto is making and selling genetically modified sweet corn seeds, but many grassroots organizations are testing to make sure the sweet corn we buy is not genetically modified.

One group, Friends of the Earth, "tested 71 samples of sweet corn (fresh, frozen, and canned) from eight areas around the United States to find that only 2.4 percent of the samples had been genetically engineered." The confusion is in the wording. *Genetic modification* is either through human manipulation or as a result of traditional breeding methods such as "selective breeding or crossbreeding between plants within the *same species*."

In contrast, genetically *engineered* foods are foods that have had their DNA changed by human manipulation, sometimes by "inserting genes from *unrelated species*." The effect usually presents a more desirable trait to the organism (bigger, bug resistant, etc.). Genetic engineering is an *artificial* change that would not happen normally. When in doubt about sweet corn, go for the organic version. Genetic engineering is prohibited in all organic products.

Myth 5: Corn Is Too High in Sugar to Be Healthy

Believe it or not, bananas have more sugar than corn, yet we still eat them! One cup of sweet yellow corn has about 9 grams of sugar; a banana has closer to 15 grams. And an ear of corn has about the same number of calories as in an apple. Of course if you have diabetes and are counting carbohydrates, one cup of sweet yellow corn has about 27 grams. Corn is high in fiber, which may help to control blood sugars, but corn should be eaten in moderation and with a protein source and nonstarchy vegetables to help balance the nutrients.

Ignore those myths. Be sure that at your next picnic or barbecue, you don't pass on the corn. Savor it, but don't smother it with butter and salt. Enjoy the pure, delicious flavor it offers along with plenty of nutrition.

Botanist's Corner

By Dan Lewis

August is a spectacular month for the plant enthusiast—the perennials are finally catching up to the annuals, the bee balm and black-eyed Susans playing off the annuals that have nearly petered out to the hostas and astilbes that are in full bloom. Oh and the produce! If you can't find it locally in August, it can't be grown here!

It's a nice time of year for a walk through the woods, where you may find a wild rose or two. They can be distinguished by their ephemeral blossoms and smaller, less glossy leaves. Otherwise just remember to leave the trails as you found them, and enjoy the dense forest canopy that blocks out up to 93% of photosynthetically active radiation (light).

Lastly, any plant lover should always have some root tone (rooting hormone, indole butyric acid) for propagating via cuttings. Just place a cutting of any herbaceous plant in a glass of water with rooting hormone and watch the show. Most plants take about one to two weeks to root, and then they can be planted in soil.

That's all for now. Enjoy the plants that surround us!



Community Garden Update

The garden is on the verge of bursting, thanks to the seedlings from Clark's Nursery and Colfax Farms! We will be distributing fresh veggies to all eligible households in West Stockbridge over the coming month into October. Please contact us if you know of anyone who should be on our distribution list or if you would like to help out. Call Meg or Dan at 232-7959 to find out more. We have a monster harvest of nearly every vegetable you could think of. Come up to the site between the two cemeteries and see what we've been up to.



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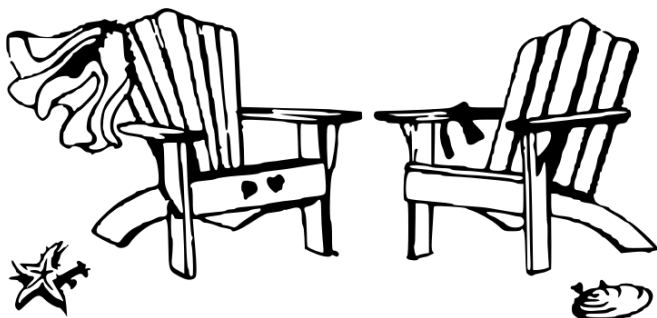
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Parks & Recreation: The Saga Continues

By Ginna Dudney

Card Pond

West Stockbridge's Battle of the Beach Geese rages on with the tide turning in the village's favor thanks to the stalwart efforts of lifeguards James Dalrymple and Anthony Voudren as well as longtime (and only!) volunteer Nora Calauth. The white swans added this year also appear to be acting as a deterrent.

Swimming lessons are available weekly on Thursdays and Friday at 3 p.m. Lifeguards are on duty every day from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. until September 13. It's swim at your own risk whenever a lifeguard is not on duty.

The Opening Day Party, which was canceled due to inclement weather, will be reinvented as a Season Wrap Party on September 13 at noon. Hot dogs, hamburgers, sodas, and treats will be offered. There will be games and contests and music sponsored by the WS Cultural Council.

Basketball and Tennis Court Repairs

The new basketball backboard has been hung (thank you, Select Board), and bids are currently being collected to repair and resurface both the basketball and tennis courts. The selectmen have also agreed to order the necessary pruning at the tennis court fences and have requested fence estimates at the curb separating the basketball court area from the parking lot.



Current playground behind the Town Offices. The committee is seeking input from community members on a new playground. Photo by John Parker.

Playground: What Are *Your* Ideas?

Plans for the new playground continue, although the requests for parental recommendations have so far generated little response. The committee welcomes any thoughts or concerns from the community. There is a suggestion box at the library, or interested parties can call (917) 209-0926. Community members are also invited to send photos of playground equipment or designs they—especially like or dislike—along with their comments to wsparksandrec@gmail.com.

As always, the committee would greatly appreciate input from the community. It's your village—be a part of it!

West Stockbridge Parks & Recreation 2015 Swimming Lessons

Child's name: _____ Child's age: _____

Parent's name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell: _____

Payment: Full season 2 lessons per week/9 weeks _____ \$90.00

Half-season 4 weeks/2 lessons per week _____ \$45.00

Daily, space permitting _____ \$7.50

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THANK YOU.....

Dear West Stockbridge Fire Department, EMTs, and Police Department,

Monday, July 6, was a horrific time for us with Paul having had a heart attack. Your quick response to our call for help has changed our lives forever.

Paul and I humbly thank each and every one of you for your role in saving his life. We know that you have to be extremely dedicated and knowledgeable to do what you do and to be called literally at a moment's notice any time of the day or night to help your fellow community members in such a selfless manner.

Thank you never seems to be enough, but please know that the gratitude will be life long.

Sincerely,
Paul and Louise Faggioni and family

August History Quiz Question:

This summer we saw a major beautification of our town center with new sidewalks, crosswalks, front entrance to the 1854 Town Hall, and repaving of Main, Depot, and Center Streets. In spite of some inconvenience, the process was not as disruptive as some of our sister towns have experienced, and the town center has never looked better. We all should be proud.

So here's the question: How long ago was it when West Stockbridge first got sidewalks, and when was Main Street paved?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)



**West Stockbridge
Historical Society**
Incorporated in 1994

Cricket Returns to West Stockbridge



Bowler Gulam "Rocky" Ghouse hurls the ball.

Cricket is the world's second most popular sport, played by 120 million people in many countries. Find out what it's all about! The West Stockbridge Parks & Recreation Committee is hosting a series of cricket games at the Town Hall playing field throughout the summer and into the fall.

The remaining dates are:

- Saturday, August 22
- Sunday, September 20

Game time is 2 p.m. Tea and goodies will be served. (Photos by John Parker.)



Batsman Stuart Kuller defends the wicket.

Exterior Work Nears Completion on 1854 Town Hall

By Zina Greene and Liza Bennett

If you've driven down Main Street lately, you've seen that the 1854 Town Hall is transformed. Thanks to the generosity of so many supporters, the exterior work on the building, including a handicapped-accessible ramp and beautiful new steps, is nearly complete.

We have all invested a lot of time, money, and energy into restoring this historic building, and we hope you're as proud as we are of the results. As with many construction projects, however, unexpected problems arise or—as in this case—uncovered. When the construction crew unearthed the rubble foundation, they found that the wooden sills had rotted from water damage over the decades. You might have seen the crew working on these repairs—supporting the foundation, replacing the sills, and installing new flashing. This cost \$15,000 above our original budget.

We hope you will consider helping us make up the difference. Your contribution, whether it is \$10, \$100, or \$1,000, will enable us to make up this \$15,000 shortfall. This building has once again become the centerpiece of our wonderful community and is helping to spark the renaissance transforming our town center. Thank you so much for your support—and thank you in advance for making a difference to the future of West Stockbridge.



The exterior of the building is almost there—and you can make the difference! Photos courtesy of Bob Salerno.

YES, I WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Enclosed is \$ _____ for the restoration of the 1854 Town Hall.

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August Is For Appreciation

This year, Massachusetts Farmers Market week will be held in conjunction with National Farmers Market Week, August 2-8. It's a time to celebrate the incredible bounty we enjoy and the ease with which it's available, thanks to the wonderful vendors at our Farmers Market!

On Thursday, August 6, do pay a visit to the market to show your appreciation and support to the hard-working and hardy neighbors who are participating in our market this year and make it all possible:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Ali Herrmann | Hertzfeld Studios | SoMa Catering |
| Aubry | Hosta Hill | Taft Farms |
| Berkshire's Own Fudge | JK Custom Furniture | That Pan Guy |
| Caroline's Scottish Shortbread | J.W. Ryan Landscaping | The Berkshire Botanist |
| Cheebee Bags | Lakonia Greek Products | The Queen Bead |
| Colfax Farm | Liz Olney | Therapeutic Massage by Linda Morrison |
| Cricket Creek Farm | Otavalo Textiles by Pam Barish | Villa Mia |
| Dancing Bare Soap | Pittsfield Garden Tour | West Stockbridge Congregational Church |
| Furnace Brook Winery/Hilltop Orchards | Pittsfield Rye & Specialty Breads | West Stockbridge Friends of the Library |
| Graham Farmhouse | Rolling Rock Farm | Windswept Farm |
| Hallock Hill BBQ | Sky View Farm | Windy Ridge Farm |

August 6 (and every Thursday thereafter until October 8) is your opportunity to thank the vendors who have so enriched the community life of West Stockbridge. Don't miss it!



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Pride in Our Town

By Richard Squailia

The Farmers Market in West Stockbridge has become a haven for those who appreciate the finest that summer has to offer. Every Thursday from 3 to 7 p.m., people gather to buy and sell goods but also to sit and enjoy a few minutes or hours relaxing in small town ease.

This past Thursday I sat down on a bench between Lucas and Doane listening to Don McGrory play the blues. Accompanied by Dave Gavin playing the harmonica, he wove a spell that drove out any sense of time. I was moving into the suspended space of summers long past where children played simple games and adults stood around talking about the weather and local politics.

Looking around I saw John and his family working the BBQ pit, Tom and his family at the wood-fired oven, Liz laughing surrounded by her bracelets, and other friends I haven't met yet. My bag was filled with produce from Molly and jars from Maddie. Not one person was lost in text messages or the Internet!

Earlier that day I had taken a bicycle ride around the proposed site for the Art Sculpture Park off Moscow Road. Vern and John were moving slabs of rock from our local quarry building an amphitheater while Nick captured it on his camera—history in the making.

I am very proud to call West Stockbridge my home.

The whole town made that day possible. The Planning Board approved the park project, the Board of Health reviewed vendor permits, the Highway Department improved the streets and sidewalks with money secured by the selectmen and town administrator, and the town custodian made sure the public buildings were clean and ready for visitors.

The folks who organize and coordinate the Farmers Market are business owners and private citizens doing great work for our town. The market is open in the summer, but they work nearly year round planning, marketing, and coordinating with local government to make sure it all gets done.

West Stockbridge businesses bring visitors from distances short and long to eat and drink and shop. Like the flowers of our town, they are nurtured and fed by the network of conscientious citizens who give of their talents, time, and treasure to keep it all operating.

This is the work of our small town. And all of it is made possible by folks working together, trying to make things a bit better.

We are doing better. We are neighbors.

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WiredWest: Moving Forward

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) has received \$19M to start work on the regional fiberoptic network for broadband Internet. The Baker administration has released the first appropriation of \$19M to MBI. MBI is in the process of hiring their project and technical managers to oversee the project's engineering design and construction work. Although MBI has been working closely with WiredWest in reviewing and validating their cost estimates and business plan over the last 12 months, an execution plan with detailed cost estimates and financial projections is now being prepared. MBI will begin the detailed engineering design work this summer for the regional fiber network, laying out the wiring routings and surveying the telephone poles. WiredWest will be working with MBI on the design to minimize construction costs and future operating costs. The current plan calls for pole "make-ready" work to be completed in the spring of 2016 followed soon thereafter by installation of the fiberoptic cables. Although the project construction timeline is subject to future changes, expected timing for service availability is mid-2017 through mid-2018.

Critical mass has also been achieved by the WiredWest towns in order for MBI to start their detailed design planning for the fiber network. Of the 32 Western Massachusetts communities that qualify for WiredWest's services, 15 of these have reached their 40% sign-up target including West Stockbridge. Another nine towns have achieved 75% of their target. In addition to West Stockbridge, 22 towns have now passed their debt authorization and Prop 2-1/2 debt exclusion votes. There has been overwhelming support to bring broadband Internet service of up to 1,000 Mbps to the underserved towns of Western MA. This will provide all WiredWest customers with an Internet connection that is among the fastest available in the United States. WiredWest will also be offering digital phone and high-definition TV. WiredWest is in discussion with bond counsel and financial institutions on how best to consolidate financing for the towns to issue bonds as a multi-town package.


You can still register and sign up for WiredWest. If you haven't already done so, I encourage you to sign up through WiredWest's website today. By registering your interest, you will ensure that your household will be included in the infrastructure design and build-out plans. No matter what your family's long-term plans, connecting to the WiredWest fiberoptic network is a critical step in protecting the future value of one of your most important assets: your home. You can sign up online at www.wiredwest.net by clicking on the "Count Me In" box to register for the conditional commitment for service with a refundable deposit of \$49. You can also download the registration form to mail in with a check. This deposit will be applied to your first monthly bill.

Steve Sautman, West Stockbridge Delegate for WiredWest, Sautman@msn.com



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August Art Events

Plein Air Sessions Hancock Shaker Village
Mondays Aug. 3,10,17,21,31: 10-1 and lunch
discussion. Fee required. Bring everything
you need. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Plein Air Sessions: Richmond Land Trust
and BNRC areas. Tues.-Thurs. Aug. 4-6.
9:30-12:30 then lunch discussion. RSVP for
locations. kcarmean@gmail.com

Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists Guild
Business Meeting. Review our fall shows
Wed. Aug. 5 5:30-9. WS Town Hall 21 State-
line Rd. Rt. 102 WS. rivergrp@comcast.net

Plein Air Session at the Mount. Fridays Aug.
7,14,21,28: 9:30– 12:30 pm then lunch discus-
sion. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com by 5pm
Thursday the night before to get the parking
instructions, location. Entrance fee required.

Painting and Drawing Sessions: Weekly for
beginners to experts with a live model: \$15.
RSVP: riversidegrp@gmail.com

First Friday Art Walk: Friday Aug. 7: 5-8
p.m. North and South Streets, Pittsfield.
www.FirstFridayArtsWalk.com

Meet the Artist: Helga Kaiser painter. Tues.
Aug. 11: 12:15-1:30 Stockbridge. Potluck &
for address RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Positive Critique: Wed. Aug. 12 4-6pm Bring
your art 2-3 pieces .WS Town Hall, 21 State-
line Rd. WS. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Meet the Artist: Carolyn Newberger, Tues.
Aug. 18: 12:15-1:30 Lenox. Potluck & for
address RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Photo Gathering: Friday Aug. 21: 4-5:30
Bring 3-5 new photos on a thumb drive. Stan-
meyer Gallery, 2 Main Street, West Stock-
bridge. kcarmean@gmail.com

Art Studio Tours: Sat. 6/27, 7/25, 8/29 &
10/10: 11-5pm West Stockbridge & Rich-
mond. See techniques, tools, and buy art. For
map & info: kcarmean@gmail.com

Enter September Art Exhibit before Aug. 31.
<http://rwsag.edgmaster.com/september.php>
Questions: rivergrp@comcast.net

Richmond- West Stockbridge
Artists Guild
www.rwsag.org



Join us for a Plein Air Session!

Come paint, sketch, or take photographs, and open your eyes to the natural beauty around us.

We plan to explore the natural beauty of the Berkshires at least once a week during the summer and early fall. Some of the sites require entrance fees, so RSVP early so you can plan ahead and find the best way to take advantage of the Berkshires. Among the places we plan to enjoy are Hancock Shaker Village, The Mount, a number of Berkshire Natural Resources locations and Richmond Land Trust locations. Open to artists who are beginners to experts. Free to members. Bring everything you need to do art. Join us mornings Monday and Friday and the first week of August followed by discussion of our work and inspirations over lunch.

RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com to get the location, parking instructions, location instructions and entrance fee requirements for some. Please reserve by 5 pm the day before. You will be notified in case of inclement weather or other reason at least an hour before the beginning of the session. We will let you know by Facebook post or email of any changes.

West Stockbridge History Quiz Answer:

The exact year when sidewalks were installed in the town is hard to pin down. We do know from early pictures, however, that there were no paved walkways in the early 1900s when the picture at right was taken of the Town Hall and barbershop next door. Across the street, where Queensboro Wine and Spirits now stands, was even worse, a bare dirt pathway (photo below). However, when the town celebrated its bicentennial in 1924, photos show portions of paved sidewalks (photo below right). This one is in front of Card Lake Inn before the front porch was enclosed.



Kniffen Block, where Queensboro Wine & Spirits now stands.

Based on the town annual reports, it appears that we didn't have hard-surfaced roads until the early 1930s when federal and state governments funded the first "paving" in the town center. This money was part of the Depression Works Progress Administration (WPA) stimulus, and it allowed us to hire our first highway superintendent in 1935. The so-called paving was a hot asphalt mixture that cracked in the winter and developed potholes in the summer, but it was much better than a hard dirt road—progress! Photos courtesy of Bob Salerno.

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.



Town Hall and barbershop ca. 1910

Paved roads are another story. Road maintenance has been the challenge of town management since the beginning, and their condition was only made worse with the advent of the automobile. The roads were hard-packed dirt with gravel and road oil to keep the dust down.



Sidewalk in front of Card Lake Inn during bicentennial parade ca 1924.

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Recipe Corner

by Lynn Ryan

Blueberry and Corn Succotash

Yield: 4 servings

Blueberries are in season right now, and we're beginning to see our delicious sweet New England corn at the market, so here's a great recipe to enjoy both in one dish.

- 1½ cups frozen baby lima beans
- 3 slices center-cut bacon, chopped
- 1 cup red onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp. fresh thyme
- 1½ cups fresh off the cob corn, steamed or better yet, roasted (soak the corn in the husks in water for about 15 minutes to half an hour; then place on a medium-hot grill and turn until corn is golden brown and smells nutty) about 10–15 minutes.
- 1 package blueberries or 6 oz. of your own fresh picked
- 1 Tbsp. unsalted butter
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ⅛ tsp. ground black pepper

Cook the lima beans as directed and set aside. Heat a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add the bacon and stir occasionally until starting to brown, about 3–4 minutes. Add the onions, garlic, and thyme; cook to soften for about 2 minutes. Stir in the cooked corn and heat about 3 minutes. Add the lima beans and cook until warmed through.

Remove from the heat and stir in the blueberries, butter, salt and pepper, stirring until the butter is melted. Serve warm. Enjoy!

Lynn Ryan 232-7758 E-mail: waxonwheels2655@yahoo.com Web: www.partylite.biz/waxonwheels

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AND ECCENTRIC COLLECTABLES
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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.

@West Stockbridge Library



Storyteller Mary Jo Maichack with young actors.
Photo courtesy of Lee Appelbaum.

We started off our annual summer reading program with a bang last month with storyteller/minstrel Mary Jo Maichack. An enthusiastic group sang, danced, and acted in a play. Mary Jo even taught us “Itsy Bitsy Spider” in Spanish. LEGO Club visitors also created buildings, vehicles, and more, and Lauren Losaw of Shaker Mill Books visited to read some great children’s books.

Our program wraps up with **Science Tellers, August 6, at 2 p.m.** In this collection of slightly twisted tales, all the teachers at school are suspected to have superpowers!

But things, just like in science, aren’t always quite what they seem.

Have you met our student volunteers? Those energetic students you’ve seen have been instrumental in the smooth operation of the library this summer. We thank Adam Boscarino, Emily Hunter, and Darby Taylor who’ve been helping with programs, organizing collections, and completing myriad other tasks.

Attention readers: Have you noticed something different in the online catalog? Our library group recently added a terrific new feature, NoveList Select, to the online catalog you are already using to find or request a book. What’s so great about it? If you want to find a new author similar to a favorite or can’t remember all the titles in a series, it’s here. You’ll find suggestions for other titles and authors, lots of summaries and reviews, Goodreads reviews and ratings, and more. (Thank you, C/W MARS, for adding new ways to find that next great read.)

NEW ADDITIONS

DVDs: *Kingsman*, *Kumiko the Treasure Hunter*, *I’ll See You in My Dreams*, *Woman in Gold*, *Pitch Perfect 2*, *Slow West*
Just for Kids: *Paddington*

FICTION

Dave, <i>Eight Hundred Grapes</i>	Pitloe, <i>The Daylight Marriage</i> (LP)
Enright, <i>The Green Road</i>	Silva, <i>The English Spy</i>
Ford, <i>Life from Scratch</i>	Winslow, <i>The Cartel</i>
Hannah, <i>The Nightingale</i>	Woods, <i>Naked Greed</i>

Get your sci-fi on with the masters of the genre: Clines, *Fold*; Stephenson, *Seveneves*

NEW BOOKS ON CD

Hart, *Don’t Go Home*
Leon, *Falling in Love*
McCall Smith, *Emma, A Retelling*
McCoy, *Mapmaker’s Children*
Mezrich, *Seven Wonders*

NONFICTION

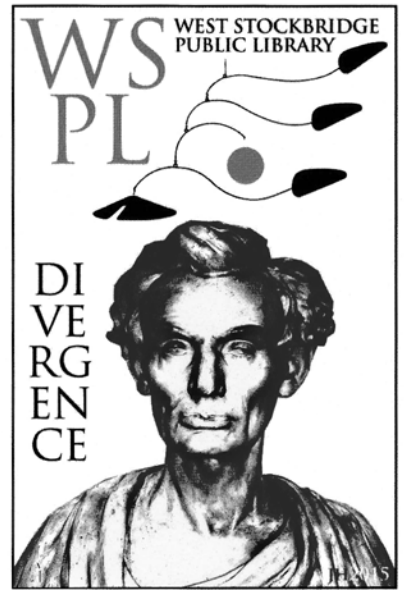
Kim, *Under the Same Sky: From Starvation in North Korea to Salvation in America*
Krakauer, *Missoula: Rape and the Justice System in a College Town*
Mezrich, *Once Upon a Time in Russia: The Rise of the Oligarchs*

For young readers and long car trips!
New classics CDs including *Wind in the Willows*, *Secret Garden*, and *Black Beauty*

Ongoing

- 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.
- Library Trustees board meetings are open to the public. After the summer recess, meetings resume in the fall. Date to be announced.

As always, we welcome suggestions on just about anything to improve our library. *Lee Appelbaum and Jodi Magner*



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FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY Millay Society Steepletop Program



Mark O'Berski and Dr. Holly Peppe



Edna St. Vincent Millay

An SRO crowd attended the Millay Society's Steepletop program on Friday, June 19. Dr. Holly Peppe, Millay's literary executor (and former singer at Miss Ruby's Caf ), presented an entertaining and informative discussion about her dedication to Edna St. Vincent Millay's life and poetry, her challenging relationship with Edna's sister Norma, and a summary of Edna's life that included selected readings of her poetry.

Edna St. Vincent Millay is considered one of the best known and most respected poets of the 20th century. She was born in 1892 in Rockland, Maine. Known to her family as "Vincent," she was named after St. Vincent Hospital in New York City, where her uncle had received care. She studied piano and theater and spoke six languages. Upon her 1917 graduation from Vassar College, she moved to Greenwich Village in New York City. She was awarded a Pulitzer Prize in 1923 for her book *The Ballad of the Harp-Weaver*. "Renescence," written in 1912, is one of her most well-known poems. In 1923 she married Eugen Boissevain, a Dutch businessman who supported her feminist views and subsequently managed her career.

Millay's connection to the Berkshires and West Stockbridge evolved upon her 1925 purchase of Steepletop, a 700-acre farm in Austerlitz, NY. The property was purchased for \$9,000 from Bonnie Garnett Benson's great-grandfather's estate.

Millay was one of the first charge account customers at Baldwin's Hardware, and the account is still open and used by the Millay Society. She was also a customer of the Public Market where she frequently used their telephone because there was no phone service in her area.

Mark O'Berski, vice president of the Millay Society, presented a before-and-after display of recent improvements made to the Steepletop buildings and property. A National Historic Landmark, the house contains the poet's original furnishings including her clothes. Millay died on October 19, 1950, and is buried on the Steepletop grounds.

Day passes to Steepletop are available at the library. (Photos courtesy of the Edna St. Vincent Millay Society at Steepletop.)

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Sunday, August 2, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

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Community News & Events

Congregational Church Bake Sale

The West Stockbridge Congregational Church will hold a bake sale in front of Baldwin's Extracts on August 15 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

No public dinner will be served at the Stockbridge Grange during the month of August. The dinners will resume in September.

Council on Aging

The COA will not meet in August for their potluck luncheon. The luncheons will resume in September.

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

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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, Curt G. Wilton</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		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



Are you enjoying the plantings around town? Town Beautification Needs Your Support!

Thanks to your continued generous support, our bridges, Visitors' Center, post office, and the flower bed near the turnpike entering town are colorfully adorned! Please help replenish our funds by sending your donation to West Stockbridge Beautification, c/o Lisa Parker, 49 State Line Road, West Stockbridge, MA 01266. Contact: 232-4123. Photos by John Parker.

MEET THE ARTIST

Helga S. Orthofer

Helga S. Orthofer:
Still Life Painter



Join us for an informal discussion over lunch with

Helga S. Orthofer. "I discovered the Berkshires in the 1980s, re-stored an 1830 Federal brick house and designed and supervised the building of a studio, creating an ideal artistic workspace for myself."

"I work in oil, watercolor and pastel. For me all my paintings are portraits of my subjects—still lives in the broadest sense of the term. Having one of my paintings of a fire hydrant in a portrait show perfectly sums up my art."

"Here in the Berkshires, I draw inspiration from the rich history I see in the buildings, objects and nature. From the European culture I was raised in, to my experiences in vibrant Manhattan, it has all come together for me through my art I now create in my studio in Stockbridge."

RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com for location and what you plan to bring.

Tuesday
August 11
12:15—1:30

RSVP: Kcarmean@gmail.com
Location is in Stockbridge.
Bring a potluck to share.

Richmond- West Stockbridge
Artists Guild

www.rwsag.org

MEET THE ARTIST:

Carolyn Newberger

Carolyn Newberger:

Watercolor,
Mixed Media

A Practice of Drawing
from Life.

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Watercolor Artist Magazine,
Danforth Museum
Cambridge Art Association



Join us for an informal discussion over lunch Tuesday

August 18 with Carolyn Newberger. "I came to art after a long career in psychology, dedicated to the wellbeing of children and families. Two years in the Peace Corps in Africa from 1967-1969, the diversity of my own extended family, the preciousness of the people I have served in my career, and a life in music have all found their ways into my art. Perhaps not surprising, people especially, find their way into my art."

"My work focuses on watercolor paintings, mixed media and collage, and a practice of drawing from life. I draw nearly every day, often in darkened concert halls. There the challenge is to keep a receptive ear and a loose hand in order to capture both performer and sound, with their rhythm, flow, and intensity. Although based in realism, paintings, and especially the processes of deconstruction and reconstruction of collage, make visible the fragments of experience from which we construct our narratives of a whole. These images carry the viewer beyond representation into layers of meaning, ambiguity, and imagination."

RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com for location and what you plan to bring to potluck.

Tuesday
August 18
12:15 - 1:30

RSVP:
kcarmean@gmail.com
Location in Lenox
Bring potluck to share

Richmond-West Stockbridge
Artists Guild

www.rwsag.org

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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

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

August 2015 Calendar of Events

8/1-2	Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale	10 a.m.–3 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
8/5	Knitters & More	2–4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
8/6	Farmers Market	3–7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
8/10	Planning Board	7 p.m.	Town Offices
8/10	Board of Selectmen	7 p.m.	Town Offices
8/11	Parks & Recreation Committee meeting	5:30 p.m.	Town Offices
8/11	American Legion	7 p.m.	Town Offices
8/12	Knitters & More	2–4 p.m.	Town Offices
8/12	Friends of the Library meeting	3:30 p.m.	Town Offices Board Room
8/13	Farmers Market	3–7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
8/15	*** Deadline for the Next Local Yokel ***		send to info@thelocalyokel.org
8/15	Congregational Church Bake Sale	9:30 a.m.–1 p.m.	In front of Baldwin’s Extracts
8/19	Knitters & More	2–4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
8/20	Farmers Market	3–7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
8/22	Cricket Game	2 p.m.	Playing Field at Town Offices
8/24	Board of Selectmen	7 p.m.	Town Offices
8/26	Knitters & More	2–4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
8/27	Farmers Market	3–7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street