

Local Yokel

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

West Stockbridge
December
2015



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005

Photo by John Parker



2nd Annual West Stockbridge Holiday Sale

Friday December 18th, 3-8pm & Saturday December 19th, 10am-4pm



Pottery | Books | Handweaving | Sculptures | Paintings



Music to Sparkle By

While enjoying your Holiday Stroll, be sure to take the time to hear some of the wonderful music that will be made by the following artists:

- The Ukulele Orchestra at Shaker Dam Coffee House
- A Jazz Trio at Don McGrory's Oriental Rugs
- Robin O'Herin at Queensboro Wine & Spirits
- Eric Reinhardt at No. Six Depot
- Moonshine Holler at Hotchkiss Mobiles & Zoftique

Details about all Holiday Stroll events on pages 8 and 9
Made possible by a Grant from the WS Cultural Council

Boundless

By Doane Perry

Bob and Mary Thibeault have the shortest commute to work in West Stockbridge since they live on the top floor of their Shaker Mill Inn. But Karden Rabin, the new owner of Boundless, a bodywork, personal training, and wellness company located upstairs at the Shaker Mill Tavern, has the next shortest commute because he lives in an apartment upstairs at Six Depot Roastery and Café with his wife Gillian. She operates Radiance Yoga in Pittsfield and Yoga Great Barrington.



Karden Rabin, Kelly Clady-Giramma, Elaine Mack

Karden and the other Boundless practitioners invite you to an open house from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, December 10. There will be a presentation of Boundless's services and personnel, along with refreshments and live music.

I recommend coming to the open house. The facilities are beautiful with big rooms, high ceilings, and skylights. The view from the balconies over the rooftops of the Shaker Mill Tavern reminded me of the film *Crouching Tiger*. The tavern used to operate where Boundless is now. Karden's office was the former location of a wet bar. To get to Boundless, enter via the driveway between the Shaker Mill Tavern and Troy's Garage and park behind the tavern. Go up the handsome stairwell adjacent to the tavern's stone patio.

The mission of Boundless and its practitioners is to empower individuals to achieve breakthrough results in health and wellness. Boundless practitioners include Karden Rabin, Kelly Clady-Giramma, and Elaine Mack. They collaborate to provide their clients with innovative and effective pathways to wellness.

Karden says the Boundless practice is free from traditional single solutions. Each session begins with an assessment of the client's needs and goals and weaves

together complementary approaches to achieve satisfying results. The collaboration of Karden, Kelly, and Elaine provides clients access to a team of wellness experts whose combined skills can often deliver faster and more effective results than a single practitioner or business can offer.

Within the first few weeks of Boundless's soft opening, they have experienced satisfying success through their collaborative model. For example, Karden was initially working with a new client on an ankle injury. Their first session

achieved some progress, but the client also complained of sluggish energy and intermittent laryngitis. Knowing that acupuncture is very effective for such issues, Karden referred her to Kelly. After two sessions with Kelly, not only was the client's ankle greatly improved but so was her energy level and voice. Such progress was accomplished via their integrative and collaborative model.

Along with the open house, Boundless is hosting these *free* events for the community:

January 6, 6–7 p.m.: "MELT Away Your Low Back Pain"

January 25, 6:30–8 p.m.: "Healing Food and Herbs for Winter Wellness"

February 11, 6–7:30 p.m.: "Happy Feet: Improve Balance and Strength in Your Body"

February 22, 6:30–8 p.m.: "Natural Ways to Prevent and Treat Breast Cancer"

To learn more and to schedule an appointment, visit their website at bound-less.com, e-mail info@bound-less.com, or call (413) 822-7394.

Photo by Doane Perry.

SEANJOHN LANDSCAPING

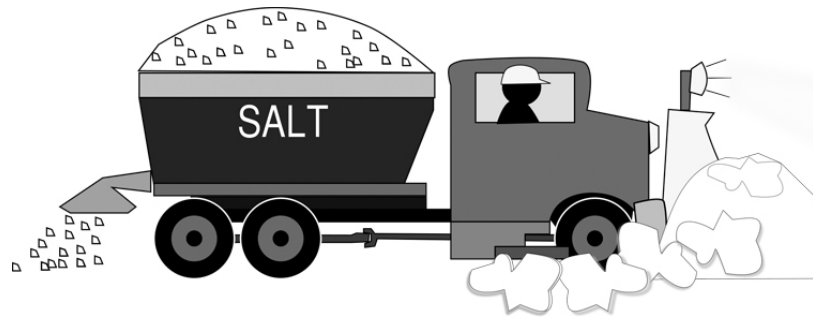


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Winter Parking Ban

The West Stockbridge selectmen announced that the town's winter parking ban took effect November 1, 2015. It covers the hours from midnight to 7 a.m. All town roadways are covered under this parking ban. Violators may be subject to towing at the owner's expense. The ban ends April 30, 2016. The selectmen thank you for your cooperation.



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Board of Selectmen Meeting Summaries

By Doane Perry

Note: Copies of official board minutes may be read at the West Stockbridge Public Library.

October 26, 2015 Open Meeting

WiredWest Update

Steve Sautman reported on progress bringing fiberoptic communications to West Stockbridge. With 25 towns participating, WiredWest has reached critical mass. Service will be available in 2018. WiredWest will adopt a new limited liability corporation (LLC) structure. Towns will have delegates proportional to the amount of money put in, with a one town/one vote basis on operations. Towns will commit to 10 years of participation. Steve asked the selectmen for a letter of support. Mark Webber will provide a letter for town counsel to review.

Charter Cable

While WiredWest moves ahead, Charter Cable is developing plans for improvements.

Executive Session [police]

Fire Department

A verbal exchange between Peter Skorput and Dominick Luchi concerning Peter's daughter volunteering on the Fire Department, maintenance of dry hydrants, and operating a fire truck with no sticker became an adversarial attack on Peter's leadership, which Mark Webber said called for an executive session. Curt Wilton and Earl Moffatt ordered an executive session for November 2 that will include a written response from Peter.

Buildings and Grounds Department

Earl reviewed a report from Dominick Luchi describing work completed and remaining to be done. Earl asked Dominick for a report on work to be done, prioritized by cost and importance, to be submitted in December.

Berkshire Electrical Aggregation

Aggregation reducing the cost of electric power 20% will be announced in the *Local Yokel* and on the town's website. Curt noted that the cost of power is a small portion of the total electric bill and commented that other charges allowed such as transmission are outrageous.

Berkshire Hills Regional School District

The board reviewed a letter from the Berkshire Hills Regional School District describing plans for a new regional committee and asking member towns West Stockbridge, Stockbridge, and Great Barrington to provide representatives drawn from the Select Board, Finance Committee, School Committee, and citizens. After Peter and Earl both declined, Curt nominated Mark Webber, and he agreed to serve.

Winter Parking Ban

The selectmen confirmed that on-street parking will be banned in the downtown area overnight starting November 1.

Other Items

- Selectmen approved spending \$4,500 to replace six trees in the downtown area.
- Mark described Historical Society plans to remove stone at the 1854 Town Hall.
- The Artists' Guild was given permission to use the Community Room in the New Town Hall for a public class on November 4.

November 2, 2015

Police Academy Fee

Earl Moffatt signed a form authorizing payment of an enrollment fee for the police academy while questioning contradictory terms in the document, for example, coverage by workers' compensation versus not covered if injured in a test.

Hunting on Town Waterways

The selectmen discussed a call to police about three hunters in kayaks hunting geese on Card Pond. The hunters were gone when police arrived. Card Pond and most town waterways are closed to hunters due to their proximity to homes.

USDA Sewer Project Closeout

The town is finishing up the paperwork and will receive the grant funds after one more inspection by the USDA. The project will go to permanent status in December. The interest rate on the loan is 2.5%.

Farmers Market

The selectmen approved the request by the Farmers Market to use the Card Pond shed for temporary storage.

Executive Session

Because Peter Skorput requested that the normally closed Executive Session be open on this occasion, Earl Moffatt said the selectmen would take Peter's written answers to questions under advisement and scheduled the executive session for November 9 at 7 p.m.

...continued on page 7



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Harvest Concert Yields Bounty of Music and Support for 1854 Town Hall Restoration

By Liza Bennett

The 1854 Town Hall was filled to capacity on Sunday, November 1, when the West Stockbridge Chamber Players once again performed a benefit concert. Led by clarinetist and artistic director Catherine Hudgins, the West Stockbridge Chamber Players are a world-class ensemble made up of Boston- and Berkshire-based musicians that included, for this concert, violinist Sheila Fiekowsky, violist Daniel Getz, cellist Ronny Feldman, and clarinetist Catherine Hudgins. As their brilliant music filled the sunlit second-floor Vaber Hall, it became clear that this first Harvest Concert was aptly named. The soaring notes of Beethoven, Martinů, and Mozart were, indeed, the fruit of many hours of planning, rehearsal, and work—all on behalf of the Restoration Campaign.

The concert was preceded by a very special lunch at the Shaker Mill Tavern with John Oliver, the eminent conductor, teacher, and founder of the Tanglewood Festival Chorus. Recalling his long, illustrious, and obviously very rewarding life in music, he spoke movingly about the many conductors he has worked with and the great collaboration of choral conducting.

The West Stockbridge Historical Society owes a debt of gratitude to the Chamber Players for their generosity and dedication and to John Oliver for his participation in what turned out to be such an inspiring afternoon of music. The society is also grateful to C.C. Cave and Peter Rothstein who underwrote the event. At the reception following the performance, the audience was able to mingle with the musicians who have become, through this remarkable series of concerts, such an important part of our cultural community.



Top: West Stockbridge Chamber Music Players, Cathy Hudgins, Daniel Getz, Ronny Feldman, and Sheila Fiekowsky

Center: John Oliver and Harvest Concert Sponsors Peter Rothstein and C.C. Cave

Bottom: Board Member Jill Pixley and Reception Volunteers Helen Nolan and Karen Zick

Photos courtesy of Carol Kuller.

Community News & Events

Stockbridge Grange Dinner & Council on Aging Luncheon

There will be no Stockbridge Grange dinner or COA luncheon in December. Both programs will resume in January.

St. Patrick's Church Cookie Walk

St. Patrick's Church is holding its 18th Annual Holiday Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 12, 2015, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. in the Parish Center. You will be able to choose from a wide variety of cookies sold by weight. Please visit St. Patrick's for your holiday cookies!

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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...continued from page 5

November 9, 2015 Meeting

Continuation of Executive Session on November 2

The selectmen closed the executive session that was continued from November 2.

Open Meeting

Earl Moffatt clarified that the questions to Fire Chief Peter Skorput go back two meetings and asked Curt Wilton to read aloud the 29 questions and answers.

Some of the questions concerned Peter's appointment as fire chief in 2013 and the validity of the appointment because he was a selectman at that time. Peter said he did not vote. When a citizen asked from the floor why the selectmen cannot affirm Peter's election, Earl replied that it was not on the agenda. Mark Webber commented that if there was a procedural mistake, the chief would continue.

Other questions concerned documentation. Following the question-and-answer review, Earl asked Peter to provide documentation that Earl said the town receives from the Highway Department. The documentation requested includes member roster and attendance, list of equipment, drill

log, hydrant tests, call response log, mutual aid report, and meeting minutes. Peter said that he has never gotten requests for documentation before and that Earl is trying to make him look like a fool. Curt commented that logs and documentation are concrete records that back up the questions and answers.

Given the opportunity to speak, Dominick Luchi apologized for swearing in a previous meeting. Citizens in attendance asked about the purpose of the requests, whether there are "axes to grind," and they suggested mediation to resolve the disputes. Mark noted that mediation works if both parties desire it, and he wondered if it could succeed with two "headstrong" employees.

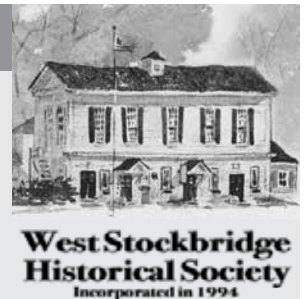
Curt recalled being at odds with Dominick over approving driveways when Dominick was a developer in 2004, but now they are able to cooperate. He said the ethics board may say that the town should appoint Peter the fire chief, and the Board of Selectmen will do so. A citizen shouted that the town should be able to trust Peter after 23 years of service. Earl commented that trust is not the issue and adjourned the meeting. An executive session was scheduled for November 23. *

December History Quiz Question:

The parking lot between the 1854 Town Hall and Hotel Street/Card Lake Inn is an interesting piece of property, more than just an empty lot on Main Street. If you look closely when you walk in the lot, you can see outlines of foundation stones. Along the Main Street side with the new sidewalks are large Norway maple trees that don't look like they have been there long. The rear of the lot has a retaining wall that seems to be made of limestone and fieldstone from around the area.

It appears that the space has had another, more important life in the town center beyond that of a parking lot. What would that be?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)



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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 Sparkles

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4TH
3:00 – 7:00 PM

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CAROLING

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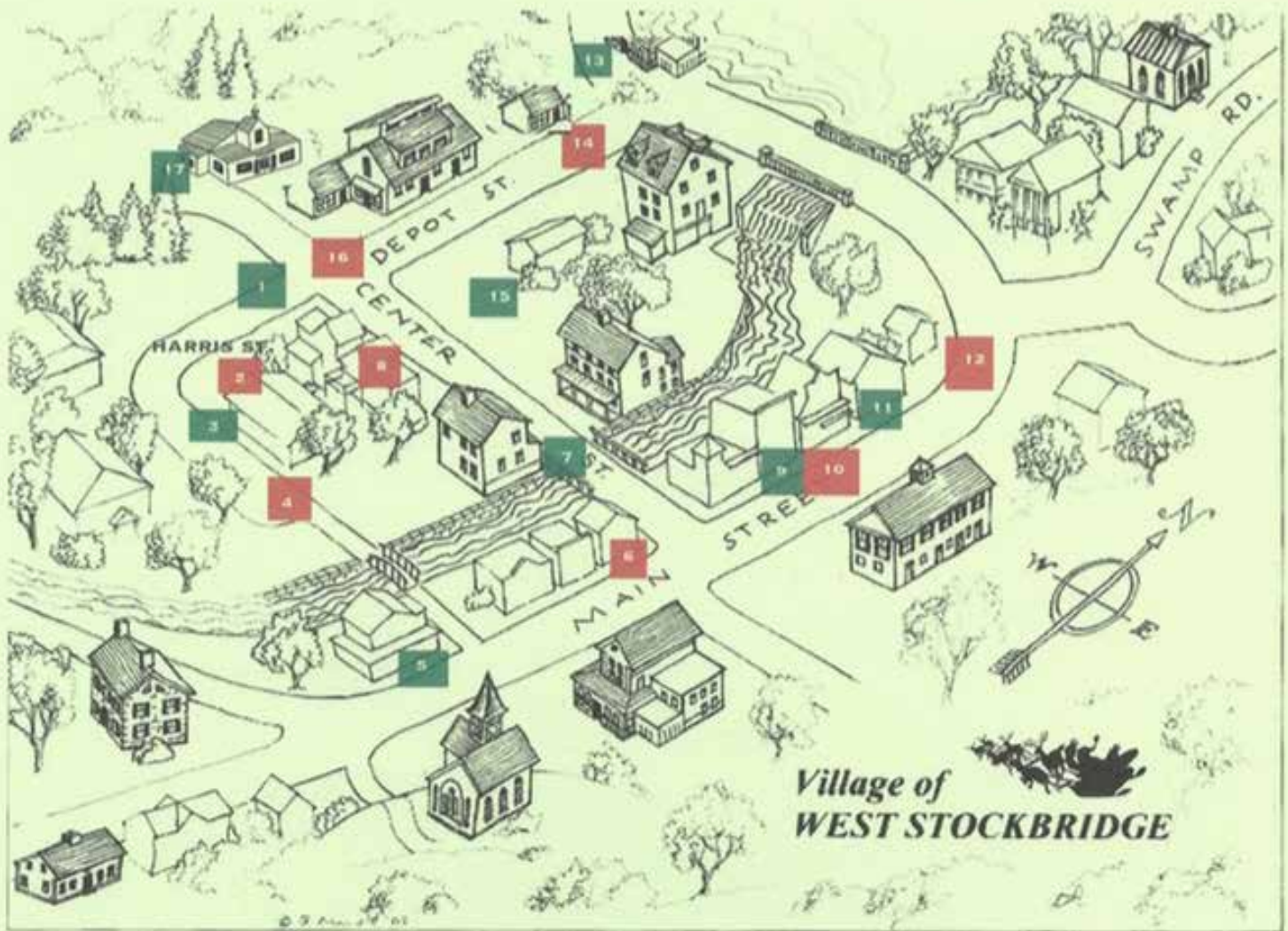
Robin O'Herin at Queensboro Wine & Spirits

Ukulele Orchestra at Shaker Dam Coffee House

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WEST STOCKBRIDGE SPARKLES - DECEMBER 4, 2015

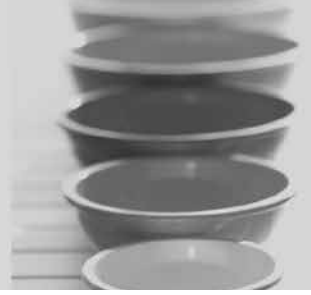
- 1 TREE LIGHTING @ 6:00 PM**
- 2 SANTA'S SLEIGH**
- 3 SOMA OVEN - PIZZAS, PLUS**
- 4 HOLIDAY FARMERS MARKET (MERRITT BLDG.) - PREPARED FOODS, UNIQUE GIFTS**
- 5 SANDY KLEMPNER @HOME - TEMPTING TIDBITS & SALE**
- 6 QUEENSBORO WINE & SPIRITS - MUSIC & WINE TASTING**
- 7 BALDWIN'S EXTRACTS - CIDER, COOKIES & GOOD CHEER**
- 8 ROUGE - DINING**
- 9 EQUATOR & DONALD MCGRORY ORIENTAL RUGS - MUSIC, WINE & CHEESE**
- 10 THE FLOOR STORE - WINE & CHEESE**
- 11 PUBLIC MARKET - REFRESHMENTS**
- 12 SHAKER DAM COFFEEHOUSE - MUSIC & HOLIDAY CHEER**
- 13 SOMA CATERING - CIDER & COOKIES**
- 14 SHAKER MILL TAVERN - SEASONAL BEER & TREATS**
- 15 SHAKER MILL BOOKS - FUN, SUPRISSES**
- 16 NO.6 DEPOT - OPEN & ROCKIN**
- 17 HOTCHKISS MOBILES GALLERY & ZOFTIQUE - MUSIC, WINE & NIBBLES**

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Mindful Eating: Holiday Baking Makeover

by Rachel Alves, RD, LDN



The holiday season is upon us along with our holiday baking rituals. We bake our traditional family recipes that are usually laden with calories. Although holiday baking is an invaluable tradition, too many holiday baked goodies can bring on unwanted weight gain and encourage unhealthy eating behaviors that linger into the new year.

People usually only gain about two pounds over the holidays, which seems inconsequential. But most of us never lose this added weight. In five years that's an added ten pounds that can have health consequences like an increased risk of type 2 diabetes and heart disease. Understanding the science behind baking may help you find ways to cut calories and still make satisfying desserts.

- *Sugar* acts as a tenderizer by keeping the proteins in flour from joining to form gluten that can toughen your dough. Sugar also caramelizes, adding extra flavor. To keep dough soft and moist, use honey or brown sugar. Substitution: For every 1 tsp. of sugar, use ¼ tsp. of honey.
- *Butter* makes cookies spread so they become thinner and crispier. Cutting the fat/butter makes a chewier, fudgier texture. Substitutions in cookies are not recommended. Tip: Pick one or two of your favorite holiday cookies and limit your sampling during the season. Give them as gifts instead!
- *Egg whites* give loft and leaven; egg yolks emulsify and add creamy texture. Yolks are naturally rich in lecithin that helps emulsification. Substitution: To cut fat completely, use two egg whites for every egg in a recipe. Tip: Don't even think of excluding egg yolks in a custard if you want it to be creamy!
- All-purpose flour (AP) is refined wheat flour. Gluten, the sticky, stretchy protein formed when water is mixed with wheat flour, gives structure to baked goods. Whole grain flour offers a more complex flavor and heartier texture. Substitution: Only ¾ cup of whole grain flour equals 1 cup of AP. Tip 1: Half the amount of flour in a recipe can be whole grain, but add about 2 Tbsp. more liquid than the recipe calls for. Whole grain dough will be stickier. Tip 2: When using whole grain flour in cookies, cut the butter by 20%.
- *Fat* tenderizes the dough and allows browning. Substitution: Try healthy oils (olive and canola) for butter; you will need a smaller amount than butter:

Butter	Oil
⅓ cup	¼ cup
½ cup	¼ cup + 1 Tbsp.
⅔ cup	½ cup + 1 Tbsp.
1 cup	¾ cup

Holiday Recipe Makeover: Pumpkin Pie Cake

Just like pumpkin pie, only better and healthier! It has subtle spice flavors and velvety cream cheese frosting. Top with pecans for a nice crunch.

Recipe adapted from *Cooking Light* / Serves 16 (serving size: 1 slice)

Cake:

- 2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour to prepare cake pans
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup whole wheat pastry flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup packed brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup plus 2 Tbsp. olive or canola
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup egg substitute
- 2 large eggs at room temperature
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 15-oz can unsweetened pumpkin (not pumpkin pie filling)



Frosting:

- 2 Tbsp. butter, softened
- 1 8-oz package low-fat cream cheese
- Zest of one orange plus 2 tsp. freshly squeezed orange juice
- 3 cups powdered sugar
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup pecans, toasted and chopped
- Orange slices for garnish (optional)

Preheat oven to 350° and coat two 8-inch-round cake pans with cooking spray. Dust pans evenly with 2 Tbsp. flour.

In a medium bowl, whisk together flours, baking powder, baking soda, pumpkin pie spice, and salt. Set aside. Combine granulated sugar, brown sugar, and oil in a mixer with the paddle attachment. Beat at medium speed until well blended (about 2 minutes). Add egg substitute, eggs, and vanilla extract. Beat until well blended. Add pumpkin and beat until blended.

With the mixer on low, add flour mixture into pumpkin mixture, beating just until blended. Spoon batter into prepared pans. Bake for 30 minutes or until a wooden pick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool in pans for 10 minutes on a wire rack. Remove cake from pans and let cool completely on rack.

For frosting: In a medium bowl, beat butter, cream cheese, and orange zest at medium speed until creamy. Gradually add powdered sugar, beating until blended (do not overbeat). Add orange juice and stir until blended.

To assemble: Place one cake layer on a serving plate. Spread 1 cup frosting over layer, and top with remaining cake layer. Spread remaining frosting over top of cake. Sprinkle with pecans and garnish with orange slices, if using.

@West Stockbridge Library

Seasons greetings to all of our library community! The library will be closed Thursday, Dec. 24, Christmas Day, and Saturday, Dec. 26; also Thursday, New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, New Year's Day, and Saturday, Jan 2.

- Holiday fun: Don't forget to bring your "all-dressed-up-for-the-holidays" hedgehog to the library by Dec. 18 to enter our Book Art Contest. Themes include Hanukkah, Christmas, winter solstice, Kwanzaa, New Year, or "you-name-it." Prizes for the most festive entries.
- During school vacation week, young readers are invited to stop in to play a board game, craft a winter penguin, or build something creative with our LEGO sets.



Wintering-in-Florida hedgehog with Oreo eyes and cookie fins!

WANTED: A few good books for Yupik students in Alaska. David Zick, son of West Stockbridge neighbors John and Karen, teaches grades 7–12 at Savoonga School, just above the Arctic Circle. He reports no library on the island and only a handful of books at the school. We are promoting a book drive to help fill the shelves at the school. Just drop off suitable books (preferably light-weight paperbacks) at the library and we'll mail them at our discount rate. Thank you for helping make a real difference in the lives of our distant neighbors.

Print-disabled persons can take advantage of two great free resources: (1) Choice Magazine Listening (CML) (1-516-883-8280 or 1-888-724-6423) or www.choicemagazinelisting.org, and (2) the Worcester Talking Book Library (1-800-762-0085) funded by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners that provides free services to residents who meet eligibility guidelines.

NEW ADDITIONS

**Traveling over the holidays? Check out this list of new audiobooks:

de Bernières, *The Dust That Falls from Dreams*
 Dick, *The Man in the High Castle*
 Iggulden, *Wars of the Roses: Margaret of Anjou*
 Martin, *A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms*
 McCall Smith, *The Novel Habits of Happiness*
 Palmer, *Secrets of State*
 Rosenberg, *The Girl from Krakow*
 Taylor, *The Shore*
 Walters, *Mrs. Sinclair's Suitcase*

FICTION
 Baldacci, *Guilty* (also in LP)
 Connelly, *The Crossing*
 Crais, *The Promise*
 Ferrante, *My Brilliant Friend, Book One*
 Grisham, *Rogue Lawyer*
 Gregory, *Taming of the Queen*
 McCall Smith, *The Woman Who Walked in Sunshine*

Just for Kids:
 Kinney, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Old School*

**Just for Kids:
 Fitzgerald, *Under the Egg*
 Guinn, *The Autobiography of Santa Claus*
 Stevenson, *Treasure Island*
 Stroud, *The Screaming Staircase*

NONFICTION
 Brotherton, *Suspicious Minds: Why We Believe Conspiracy Theories*
 Kotlikoff, *Get What's Yours: The Secrets to Maxing Out Your Social Security*

DVDs: *Cop Car, Southpaw, Tomorrowland, Max, Above and Beyond, Jurassic Park*

Ongoing

- You can set up a CW/MARS online account. Visit weststockbridgelibrary.org and click on the card catalog picture. Your account allows you to keep track of checkouts, requests, pickup locations, renewals, and more.
- Try out our Windows 10 computer just installed by Bill Biggs.
- If you use an e-reader, explore Commonwealth e-book Collections (CEC), a statewide project giving cardholders access to e-books through their libraries. Learn more at eBooks.masslibsystem.org.
- Library Trustees board meetings are open to the public. Next meeting: Dec. 17, 4:30 in the Community Room.

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

—Lee Appelbaum and Jodi Magner



**FRIENDS OF THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY
40TH ANNIVERSARY**



An enthusiastic crowd of over 50 people joined the Friends of the Library in celebrating their 40th anniversary on Friday, November 13, at the 1854 Town Hall.

Speakers included Bob Salerno, town historian and president of the West Stockbridge Historical Society on the history of the library; Suzanne Hatch, one of the founders of the Friends, a former trustee, and a current member of the Friends, who described the founding of the organization; and Barbara Dowling, library trustee, who discussed today's library and the future of libraries.

The highlight of the evening was a musical program presented by Ronny Feldman and Elizabeth Morse. They played selected works by J.S. Bach, Claude Debussy, Lou Harrison, John Williams, and Maurice Ravel. In 1982, when the library was facing closure due to financial difficulties, Elizabeth and Ronny joined with other concerned community members in organizing a benefit concert at the Congregational Church that helped raise funds to maintain the library. Their delightful encore performance was very much appreciated and applauded by all attendees.

Friends' organizations are composed of volunteers and vary in number of members depending on the size of the community, from as few as 12 in West Stockbridge to hundreds of members in many cities. Their primary mission is to provide support and promotion of local public libraries. The Massachusetts Friends of the Library lists 73 statewide Friends' websites.

We welcome new members! A signup sheet is available at the library.



Above: Ronny Feldman and Elizabeth Morse gave an "encore" performance.

Left: Cake by Ginna Dudney and Madeline Litz.

Photos by Doane Perry.

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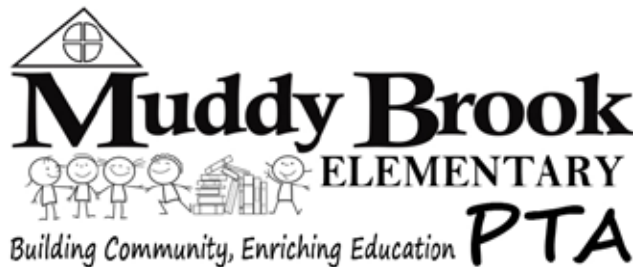
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washes, and everything in between. Please visit
www.biddingforgood.com/mbpta to see what you
might win. A huge, heartfelt *thank you* to all of the
families and businesses who donated to our annual
online auction! We couldn't have done it without you
and our numerous bidders. Thank you for enriching
our students' experiences at Muddy Brook. Bidding
closes Sunday, December 6.

**AFTER-SCHOOL HOLIDAY GIFT AND CRAFTING
WORKSHOPS** December 9 for grades K-2 and
December 16 for grades 3-4. At these gift-making
workshops, each child can make up to four gifts to
give to family or friends. Plus parents get an hour of
child care while students craft. Workshops are held
at Muddy Brook and cost \$8 per student, \$7 for
siblings. RSVP at muddybrookpta@gmail.com. See
muddybrookpta.com for details.

Thank you for your continued support.
Please "like" us on Facebook, and
visit muddybrookpta.com.



West Stockbridge, Massachusetts

413-232-7719

PO Box 20, West Stockbridge, MA 01266
fax 413-232-0099
girdler@verizon.net
MA LIC 16255A

Santa's Wish List

Dear Readers,

It's that time of year again, and we are making our sixth annual Santa's Wish List appeal. When you are making out your gift lists, we hope you will consider a donation to one or more of the following: Community Health Association, Friends of the West Stockbridge Library, Pet Partners of the Tri-State Berkshires, West Stockbridge Beautification, West Stockbridge Community Garden, West Stockbridge Farmers Market, West Stockbridge Fire and Rescue Services, West Stockbridge Historical Society, and, of course, the Local Yokel.

Without your help, none of these organizations could do the wonderful things they do to make our town such a special place to live. Your donations are very much appreciated, and gifts of even a few dollars add up and make a real difference.

To make a donation, just use the gift tag at the right, fill out your name and the donation amount on the reverse side, and send it with your check(s) to:

WSLY
P. O. Box 238
West Stockbridge, MA 01266

Thanks for your support, and we wish you the happiest of holidays! The WSLY Editors



To: Community Health Association

To: Friends of the West Stockbridge Library

To: Pet Partners of the Tri-State Berkshires

To: The Local Yokel

To: West Stockbridge Beautification

To: West Stockbridge Community Garden

To: West Stockbridge Farmers Market

To: West Stockbridge Fire and Rescue Services

To: West Stockbridge Historical Society

Community Health Association

Friends of the West Stockbridge Library

Pet Partners of the Tri-State Berkshires

The Local Yokel

West Stockbridge Beautification

Community Garden

West Stockbridge Farmers Market

West Stockbridge Fire and Rescue Services

West Stockbridge Historical Society

Community Health Association, please accept this gift of

\$ _____

From: _____

(Please make check payable to the Community Health Association)

Friends of the West Stockbridge Library, please accept this gift of

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Pet Partners of the Tri-State Berkshires, please accept this gift of

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(Please make check payable to Pet Partners of the Tri-State Berkshires)

The Local Yokel, please accept this gift of

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(Please make check payable to the West Stockbridge *Local Yokel*)

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West Stockbridge Historical Society, please accept this gift of

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From: _____

(Please make check payable to the West Stockbridge Historical Society)



Recipe Corner

by Lynn Ryan

CRANBERRY SHORTBREAD COOKIES

YIELD: ABOUT 3 DOZEN

These cookies are melt-in-your-mouth, buttery delicious treats! My friends and family love to get these at Christmas. They're wonderful for something different at cookie swaps or served at a Christmas brunch. I even entered this recipe on the *Today Show's* Cookie Swap Contest. I'll let you know in next month's issue if I won. Wish me luck!

2 sticks (half pound) butter, softened
½ cup sugar
1 egg yolk
1½ tsp. Baldwin's (of course) vanilla extract
¼ tsp. salt
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup dried cranberries
1 cup white chocolate chips
½ cup chopped pecans or walnuts

Preheat the oven to 400°. Coat two baking sheets with cooking spray (I recommend organic olive oil cooking spray).

In a large bowl or mixer, cream the butter and sugar. Beat in the egg yolk, vanilla, and salt. Add the flour and mix well. Stir in the dried cranberries, white chocolate chips, and nuts. Drop by small teaspoons onto the baking sheets. You want them to be bite size.

Bake for 10 to 12 minutes or until lightly browned on the bottom.

Enjoy! Happy Hanukkah and Merry Christmas to all!

Warmly, Lynn

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

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December Art Calendar

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

riversidegrp@gmail.com.

Business Meeting. Wed. Dec. 2, 5-7 pm. West Stockbridge Town Hall 21 Stateline Rd. Rt. 102. Needs assessment. rivergrp@comcast.net

First Friday Art Walk: Friday Dec. 4, 5-8 p.m. North and South Streets, Pittsfield.

www.FirstFridayArtsWalk.com

Clark Art Museum, Sun. Dec. 6. 10 am-5pm First Sundays free admission. Field Trip. To carpool with others, see our FaceBook page or

kcarmean@gmail.com

Meet the Artist: Karen Andrews, Photographer and Watercolorist Wed. Dec. 9, 12:15-1:30 pm. Six Depot, West Stockbridge

RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Positive Critique: Thurs. Dec. 10 4-6pm Bring 2-3 pieces of your art. Led by Carol Kelly. West Stockbridge Town Hall, 21 Stateline Rd. Rt. 41, West Stockbridge. For required reading and RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Meet the Artist: Shawn Fields, Artist of Oil Painting and Drawing. Wed. Dec. 16, 12:15-1:30 pm. Six Depot, West Stockbridge. RSVP:

kcarmean@gmail.com

Member Potluck Fri. Dec. 18. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com We also plan film showings and book gatherings.

Holiday Sale Fri. Dec. 18, 3-8 and Sat. Dec. 19, 10-4pm 1854 Town Hall.

RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Richmond-West
Artists' Guild
www.rwsag.org



Join us for a Discussion of Karen Andrews' work over lunch Wed. Dec. 9 12:15-1:30

"I consider myself to be a Magical Realist artist who shifts between a love of color and a fascination with gesture. I tend to use a variety of two-dimensional mediums with equal ease: color photography, watercolor, drawing and combinations thereof. I often start by selecting a theme, such as dance, machinery or something in nature and explore it from many aspects. I am most interested in what might be considered ordinary objects or scenes, but which to me are moments of intense seeing, offering a window into the deeper, invisible underpinnings of this world. I am drawn to light and to the eidetic world—as in Rorschach inkblots. What excites me is the evidence of implied movement, whether in dance, wind, or brushstrokes. I keep returning to similar themes, revisiting them with new eyes and a deeper understanding. My seeing and my recording of what I observe has become a visual journaling of my journey into greater depth of feeling, connection and spiritual growth."

A photographer and watercolorist from West Stockbridge, MA, Karen Andrews has shown her work in one-woman and group exhibitions throughout the Berkshires, New England and internationally. Originally from New Haven, CT, Andrews received her B.A. in Art History and Studio Art from Oberlin College in 1979. Her work has been included in corporate and institutional collections such as the American Embassy in Taiwan, the DeCordova Museum, and Hartford Hospital. <http://www.innervision-studio.com>. You will have a chance to ask Karen Andrews questions. To join us at Six Depot, West Stockbridge, Wed. Dec. 9, 12:15: **RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com**

West Stockbridge History Quiz Answer:

The parking lot was the site of a number of important 19th-century buildings in the town center. The first was an early inn and hotel, the West Stockbridge Railroad House (later shortened to the West Stockbridge House). Daniel Campbell built it in the 1840s when the arrival of the railroad spurred local speculation. The West Stockbridge House was a large four-story building that dominated the street. Looking at the old maps and photos of the building, it is hard to imagine such a large building in that space. It also had a carriage house in the back that became the current Masonic Lodge.

In the 1870s, William Jones owned the US Hotel across the street (later called the Card Lake Inn). It seems the US Hotel was too close to the school and Congregational Church to be allowed to have a bar, so Jones bought the West Stockbridge House.

The building served primarily as an hotel/inn through the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It also housed a funeral home during that time. Sometime before 1920, Richard Battistoni, an Italian immigrant who arrived in 1911, opened a furniture store on the ground floor and lived with his family upstairs. The block became known as the Battistoni block and was one of the most prominent features on Main Street. In 1938, the building burned to the ground in one of the most dramatic fires in town. Since then, the land has served as a parking lot, still privately owned. The Battistoni family moved to Pittsfield and reopened a furniture store on East Street.

The Battistoni building was not the only building on the lot, but that's for another history question.

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.



Battestoni Store, cs. 1924

Birthdays & Anniversaries

12/1	Steve Seward
12/20	Susan Fisher
12/20	Robin Lazarow

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



Donor Roll Call ~ December

Janet Barrett
Norma Comstock
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Nancy & Louis Trionfo

Thanks to everyone who has donated to WSLY.
We couldn't do it without your support!
Keep the *Local Yokel* coming. Please send your gift today!
(See response form on page 21.)

Collector's Notes

FY16 third-quarter tax bills should be on their way to your door by the end of December. This bill contains the 2016 valuation for your real estate.

Please take a moment or two to verify the information on the bill relating to valuation, acreage, property classification, and exemptions. And be sure to read the *back* of the bill! It clearly outlines the procedure and timeline to seek correction of faulty data and request for an abatement if you question your valuation.

The abatement request forms are available online at the town's website (www.weststockbridge-ma.gov) and in both my office and the assessors' office.

Anyone with delinquent prior year tax and/or delinquent water/sewer charges will also find these bills included in this mailing. All past due bills accrue interest at 14% and will result in those properties being placed in tax title if the accounts are not settled promptly.

If your most recent water/sewer bill contained an insert, either your water meter has not been upgraded *or*, when it was upgraded, the new unit was not activated. Please contact the number on the insert to have the situation rectified. If issues are not resolved before the next cycle, a \$200 water charge and a \$200 sewer charge will be assessed for each meter.

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.

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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 854-7350, john.parker49@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.

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Every issue costs us about \$1,000 to print and distribute!
Please help us keep the Local Yokel coming!

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.

Yes!

I want to support the *Local Yokel*.

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____
made payable to WSLY.

Name (as you want it to appear in acknowledgments)

Address (location you would like the *Local Yokel* and/or bumper sticker sent)

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Donate \$35 or more and get a YKL Bumper Sticker

No Thanks, please don't send me a sticker

Check any that apply:

- I would like my contribution to remain anonymous.
- Thanks, but don't mail the *Local Yokel* to me. Save the postage; I'll pick it up myself.

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Town Hall Main Number 413-232-0300 • Fax 232-7195				
Animal Control	<i>John W. Springstube</i>	232-0300	ext. 335	As Needed
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	<i>Edward McGrath</i>	232-0307		Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m.–6 p.m. and Sat. 8 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

Winter Concert

Wednesday, December 30, 2015 at 6:00PM

West Stockbridge Congregational Church, 45 Main St., West Stockbridge

Catherine Hudgins, clarinet Daniel Getz, viola

Vytas Baksys, piano William Rounds, cello

Schumann: *Fantasiestücke*, Op. 73

Viola and Piano

Mozart: Trio in Eb Major, K. 498 (*Kegelstatt*)

Clarinet, Viola, and Piano

Brahms: Trio in A minor, Op. 114

Clarinet, Piano, and Cello

TICKETS \$35 Available Dec. 1st*

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www.weststockbridgehistory.org

Or call 413-232-4270

...or look for the "Blue Note"

in downtown business windows...

*West Stockbridge residents 18 years of age and younger are invited to attend the concert for free (advance reservations required).

A reception will follow the concert next door to the church!

Sponsored by a grant from the West Stockbridge Cultural Council.



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	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	31	1	2

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

Call John Parker at (413) 854-7350 or e-mail info@thelocalyokel.org

December 2015 Calendar of Events

12/2	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
12/4	West Stockbridge Sparkles	3-7 p.m.	Downtown
12/6	Hanukkah (begins at sundown)		
12/8	Parks & Recreation Committee meeting	5:30 p.m.	Town Offices Work Room
12/8	American Legion	7 p.m.	Town Offices
12/9	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
12/9	Friends of the Library meeting	3:30 p.m.	Town Offices Board Room
12/12	St. Patrick's Church Cookie Walk	9-11:30 a.m.	Parish Center
12/14	Planning Board	7 p.m.	Town Offices
12/15	*** Deadline for the Next Local Yokel ***		send to info@thelocalyokel.org
12/16	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
12/22	First Day of Winter		
12/23	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
12/25	Christmas Day		
12/28	Planning Board	7 p.m.	Town Offices
12/30	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
12/30	W.S. Chamber Players Winter Concert	6 p.m.	W.S. Congregational Church

HAPPY NEW YEAR!