

Local yokel

West Stockbridge

July

2015

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

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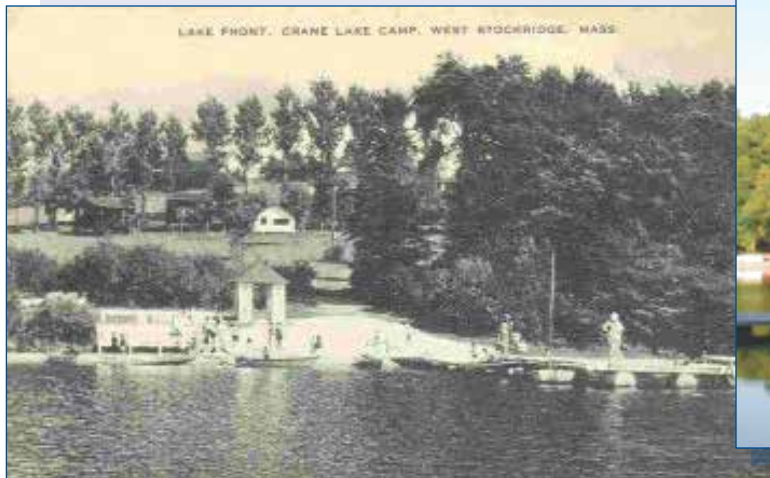


Crane Lake Tourney. Courtesy of URJ / Crane Lake Camp.

Crane Lake Camp: "A Summer That Lasts a Lifetime"

By John Parker

From our perspective across the street, for several weeks now it has seemed like a giant is stirring. Quiescent nearly nine months of the year, our experience is that Crane Lake Camp reawakens sometime in May as facilities and grounds are prepared. The pace quickens in June with the arrival of scores of young counselors and numerous delivery trucks, and then really comes to life in July and August when hundreds of campers and their families descend on the campground. Remarkably, this cycle has been repeated for about 100 years now.



Camp as seen from Crane Lake. Courtesy of URJ / Crane Lake Camp.

Located off State Line Road just uphill from the Village School (now the Town Offices), Crane Lake Camp boasts more than 100 acres with waterfront on Crane Lake. Since 1998, the camp has been owned by the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), an organization that supports Reform Jewish congregations in North America. URJ operates the largest Jewish camping system in the world, with 15 camps throughout North America. Campers at Crane Lake come from synagogues throughout greater New York, the Northeast, New Jersey, the Hudson Valley, and beyond.

From the early 1950s to 1998, Crane Lake Camp was privately owned by Ed Ulanoff, a gym teacher and basketball coach from the Bronx, and his brother Stanley. In the five decades he operated the camp, Ed Ulanoff became known for his boundless energy and caring, generous spirit, influencing generations of young people, many of whom went on to become educators and to marry fellow campers. Before that, the camp had been operated by the Raceman family for about 50 years. URJ purchased the property upon Ulanoff's retirement in 1998.

According to camp director Debby Shriber, URJ has invested millions of dollars in improvements to the facilities in recent years. The camp currently has 32 residential cabins (all with indoor plumbing), a new dining hall, two recreation halls, a health center, staff housing, and an of-



Crane Lake waterfront. Courtesy of URJ / Crane Lake Camp.

ice building. Outdoor recreation facilities include a pool, hockey pavilion, soccer, baseball, hockey and soccer fields, volleyball and tennis courts, ropes course, and of course the lakefront offering swimming, canoeing, sailing, water skiing, and windsurfing.

As the list of facilities suggests, program opportunities are diverse and include athletics, aquatics, the arts, and adventure and nature programs. Jewish educational pursuits

...continued on page 4



At the beach. Courtesy of URJ / Crane Lake Camp.

Board of Selectmen Meeting Summaries

By Doane Perry

May 11, 2015

Turn Park Art Space

Following up on the April 27 special permit public hearing, the selectmen approved a special permit for the Turn Park Art Space.

Other Business

- A special permit public hearing for Bill Williams used machinery sales will be held on May 18, 2015.
- Sand for the beach was discussed.
- Dominic Lucci will make the war memorial monuments ready for Memorial Day.
- The selectmen and Karen Carmean from the Artists' Guild discussed the process for creating a new West Stockbridge flag.
- The Artists' Guild will not need a liquor permit for their Fine Art Show at the 1854 Town Hall in June.

May 18, 2015

Special Permit Public Hearing

The special permit hearing for Bill Williams used machinery sales was continued until June 1 at 7 p.m. because Mark Webber needs time to look into the terms of the special necessity rule. The rule is necessary because a special permit requires a unanimous vote of all three selectmen, and Earl Moffatt recused himself from the hearing because he is an abutter and an employee of Bill Williams.

Bill Williams is seeking a special permit to continue to buy and sell equipment even into retirement. He wants to sell online and plans to do any repairs inside a building.

A neighbor who owns property across the road said he is concerned about devaluation of his property and noise. Peter Skorput said that the special permit belongs to the applicant, not the business, and it is renewed annually at which point the board of selectmen can deny or restrict it.

Select Board Reorganization

Newly elected selectman Curt Wilton nominated Earl Moffatt to be chair and Peter Skorput to be clerk. Earl was elected chair; Peter was elected clerk. Peter will be chair in Earl's absence.

Town Flag

A member of the Fire Department said he feels that the town seal, which is on fire trucks, fire department flags, and all town stationery, should be

included on the town flag. The Fire Department flag was made by Sentry Uniform in Chicopee on the occasion of the town bicentennial in 1974.

Farmers Market

Bob Thibeault asked about plans to maintain the public rest rooms. Bob said the Farmers Market gets the complaints. Curt Wilton said it is the responsibility of custodian Dominic Lucci. Curt asked members of the Farmers Market to monitor the rest rooms, which are opened at 6:30 a.m. and closed by police Monday through Friday, and to lock the door if the rooms are out of order. Bob said there is a gap in responsibility for maintenance since the problems occur on weekends.

Artists' Guild

Karen Carmean asked permission to put up sandwich board signs and arrows directing visitors to public parking for the art show. Permission was given for the times of the show only and in the manner of the Farmers Market and Historical Society.

Karen asked the selectmen for their pleasure regarding the town flag. She has managed the public process that attracted 29 designs for flags and more than 400 votes for the six finalists at the town election on May 11. The winning design was by Isabelle Soule of Swamp Road. The selectmen agreed with Karen's suggestion of light blue and gold coloring like the firemen's badges. After discussion, the selectmen asked that the town seal be incorporated in the bottom center of the flag design.

Karen estimated aspects of flag pricing: set-up \$30, art \$100, two-sided 4 x 6 feet \$300, individual \$160. The selectmen expect to buy flags for the Massachusetts State House Hall of Flags, the town offices, and the Historical Society.

Karen described the event she plans on June 6 to honor the flag design-submitters. The board of selectmen and children are invited.

June 1, 2015

Special Permit Application

The selectmen unanimously approved the special permit application for sale of used equipment by W.E. Williams.

Berkshire Hills Regional School Committee

The selectmen unanimously approved BHRSD representative Andy Potter's request for participation by West Stockbridge in the district agreement study committee. Andy and the Board of Selectmen will nominate representatives to the committee.

...continued on page 5

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...continued from page 2

and creative spiritual experiences are also an important part of camp life including Shabbat celebrations, Bar and Bat Mitzvah training, Jewish and Israeli culture and history, and community service projects on- and offsite. Guest rabbis, cantors, and educators come to teach, worship, and have fun with the campers. Campers also take trips to various area attractions such as Six Flags and Sturbridge Village, as well as to New York City, Boston, Vermont, and Montreal.

The camp serves children entering grades 3 through 12. Sessions run two weeks in length for first-time campers to the full seven weeks for older youth. Campers entering 11th grade spend a summer in Israel through a program run by the American Federation of Temple Youth. Those entering 12th grade participate in a training program that prepares them to become counselors. Director Shriber reports that a third of campers stay for the whole season, and 91% are repeat campers in an industry where a 70% return rate is considered the standard for a successful camp.

Staffing ranges from a skeleton crew over the winter to some 200 counselors and other staff during the summer including a



Playing Frisbee. Courtesy of URJ / Crane Lake Camp.

contingent from Israel. With approximately 400 campers attending each summer, Ms. Shriber says that the camp is operating at capacity, and there are no plans to increase the number served. Rather, she hopes to continue to improve the facilities: a larger pool and a fieldhouse are on her wish list.

While campers for the most part stay on site, the counselors and other staff enjoy venturing into town, and they are often seen walking and jogging up along the road. Some of their favorite haunts are the Public Market, Shaker Dam Coffeehouse and Six Depot Café, Truc's Orient Express and Rouge. Ms. Shriber says, "We love it here and want to be great neighbors." In addition to supporting local businesses, she notes camp staff members also volunteer at the Community Garden and conduct a food drive to help those who are food insecure in the community.

Ms. Shriber hails from Worcester, Mass., and lives during the off-season in Fort Lee, New Jersey (she resides on-site when



Recreation Hall (then). Photo from weststockbridgetown.com.



Recreation Hall (now). Courtesy of URJ / Crane Lake Camp.

the camp is in operation). She holds a master's degree in social work and has been involved in camping since the age of seven. Drawn by "the magic that happens at camp," she knew from an early age that she wanted to make camping her career and has worked in the field for 19 years—since 2009 with URJ camps. Ms. Shriber speaks affectionately of this "lovely, sweet, wonderful camp" and the "supportive, loving intentional community" it represents.

Crane Lake Camp has been a vital West Stockbridge institution for a century and provided generations of youngsters with the opportunity to embrace new experiences, develop lasting relationships, and take with them wonderful memories of "a summer that lasts a lifetime."



Historical photos above from weststockbridgetown.com.

Planning Board Vacancy

In a joint meeting, the Planning Board and Board of Selectmen unanimously approved the nomination of Abe Hunricks to fill the vacancy on the Planning Board.

Downtown Deliveries

Steve Dixon of Queensboro Package Store, Tim Walsh of the Public Market, the chief of police, and Highway Department Superintendent Curt Wilton discussed the situation and solutions to parking and traffic on a short-term and long-term basis.

Transfer Station

Transfer station attendant applications were taken under advisement. The selectmen discussed the history of governance of the transfer station and plan to transfer responsibility to the Board of Health. The board unanimously approved designation of Board of Health members and the Board of Health agent as special municipal employees to eliminate the conflict of interest for employees working public and private jobs. This designation is used for several other town boards.

Town Flag

Larry Tonini presented a petition signed by more than 30 residents to (1) establish a replica of the two-sided medallion struck in 1974 for the town bicentennial as the official town flag, and (2) pass the flag designed by the Artists' Guild based on designs submitted by citizens and selected by voters to the Historical Society because the 1854 Town Hall is included in that flag design. Selectman Earl Moffatt said the petition will be put to a vote at the special town meeting on June 29.

June 15, 2015

Special Town Meeting

The town flag petition was removed from the warrant for the special town meeting on June 29 pending further discussion.

Curt Wilton, Multiple Positions, and the Ethics Commission

Curt Wilton resigned from the Board of Selectmen, and then explained why he thought he should be reinstated. According to Massachusetts law, officials of small towns can hold more than one position as regular and special municipal employees. Curt serves as highway superintendent, water and sewer official, and selectman. Curt said he faced the same circumstances when he ran for selectman in 2007, and he satisfied the Eth-

ics Commission with a letter of disclosure. Earl Moffatt said that Curt's papers appeared to be in order and moved to approve Curt's request to be a special municipal employee in his position as highway superintendent. Peter Skorput seconded the motion, and the selectmen signed the papers for Curt to rejoin the Board of Selectmen.

Public Hearing

A public hearing will be held on June 29 at 6:30 p.m. for a liquor license alteration of premises request by Rouge on Center Street. The request is to move three tables from inside the building to outside on the newly installed sidewalk. Rouge plans to serve liquor outside the building at the tables. The town will notify abutters.

Downtown Paving

The selectmen approved a motion to award the paving bid to Del Signore Co. of Troy, New York. The town will use FY 2016 highway construction funds to fill the gap between the \$150,000 funds from Mass Highway and the contractor bid of \$187,000 by Del Signore. The project includes replacing manholes, line painting, and tree replacement. Sealing the concrete pad in front of the package store took 21 days because it had to dry. During the course of the project the price of asphalt has gone down.

Transfer Station

The selectmen approved transferring responsibility for operation of the transfer station from the Board of Selectmen to the Board of Health.

Other Business

- Card Pond: The harvester will cut the weeds, and Paula Farrell received approval for a picnic.
- Massachusetts Broadband Institute: The selectmen reviewed the allocation of funds between MBI and WiredWest.
- Requests to use town facilities: The selectmen approved use of the Community Room by the Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild for two positive critique sessions and a business meeting, and they approved use of the Town Offices for a talk about Edna St. Vincent Millay.
- Selectmen removed the town flag petition from the special town meeting warrant so that the design can receive further public input and discussion.

Video Recordings of Town Meetings Now Available

Video recordings of town meetings are now available on the Internet and Charter Cable channel 3.

For the past several months, town resident Richard Squailia has been voluntarily recording Board of Selectmen meetings as well as the Board of Health and Water and Sewer Commission meetings.

Recorded meetings have been sought for many years, but the lack of funds seemed to be an obstacle. Recently, Richard found out that Community Television in the Southern Berkshires (CTSB) in Lee provides equipment, training, and resources that allow anyone to make high-quality videos. CTSB is funded through the towns of Lee, Lenox, Stockbridge, Great Barrington, and Sheffield.

Since that time he has provided the Cable Commission with DVDs for the local channel as well as establishing an Internet presence. These videos are also televised on Time Warner Cable channel 18.

To see West Stockbridge meetings on the Internet, go to vimeo.com/channels/weststockbridge.



Parks & Recreation News

Card Pond opened officially, albeit a little waterlogged, on June 28! Since weather forced the cancellation of the pond party, plans are underway to reschedule at the end of the season. Notices will be in future *Local Yokels* and on bulletin boards around the village.

Lifeguards are now on duty from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. every day until Labor Day. The pond will be available for swimming, of course, outside of lifeguard hours, but do remember that it is swim-at-your-own-risk whenever a lifeguard is not present.

Swimming lessons are being offered again this year. There are sign-up sheets at the library and around town, or you can check with one of the lifeguards.

A new backboard for the basketball court was delivered several weeks ago. It will replace the broken one any day now. A group of concerned parents have banded together to restore the playing fields and will make every effort to ensure that they stay in good condition for the season. The selectmen have committed to having the tennis courts repaired as well. Hopefully, that will be done before too much of the summer is over.

Plans to revamp and replace the playground have stagnated a bit as the committee waits for input from parents and residents about the kind of playground that would best serve the village. There's a suggestion box in the library, or anyone interested can call (917) 209-0926.

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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Botanist's Corner

By Dan Lewis

Greetings Fellow Botanophiles!

Happy July to all! It's tomato time, so get your homemade sauce recipes ready and also remember that excess tomatoes can be frozen using the following procedure: Blanch: Drop tomatoes into boiling water for 60 to 90 seconds, and using a slotted spoon transfer immediately into a bowl of ice water to cool. Prepare tomatoes: Remove stems and core tomatoes. Transfer into storage bags. Seal and store in the freezer. Blanching inactivates the enzymes in the cell wall that causes mushiness during freezing as they can work at up to minus 40 degrees to loosen the cell wall matrix.

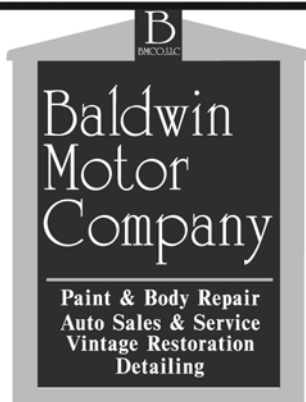
July is an ideal time to fertilize your annuals and perennials, organic or not. It is best to apply fertilizer when plants are growing vigorously or flowering (when they need it the most) and also after a good rain. Finally, take a moment to appreciate the native beauty as the wildflower season hits full stride. Asters deserve special mention as plants that can carpet a whole field in beauty. Until next time, enjoy the plants around us!

Dan Lewis, PhD Botany and general plant lover

Community Garden Update

Things are starting to shape up at the community garden. Some new volunteers, a new mulching strategy, and the weather have combined to get us on track to beat last year's distribution records. We are steamrolling from planting to distribution and are still looking for anyone in the village who qualifies to receive the free produce. We aim to feed the people who need it and educate anyone who wants to learn to grow. Call Meg or Dan at 232-7959 to inquire about either.

We also request that anyone who has excess grass clippings call to arrange for us to pick them up so we can mulch the garden to prevent weeds and increase our productivity. Finally, space is available for rental with proceeds going to the food bank plot. We have 16' x 16' plots available for a \$40 donation.



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We Made It – West Stockbridge Is a Fiber Town!

West Stockbridge reached the threshold target of 40% of the households signing up with WiredWest for future broadband Internet service plus digital phone and high-definition TV. In May the residents of West Stockbridge passed both the debt authorization and Prop 2½ exclusion votes that allows the town to borrow the required amount to pay for our share of building the regional fiberoptic network. Since we have now met all of the requirements, West Stockbridge will be included as part of the WiredWest regional network.

You can still register and sign up for WiredWest. I encourage you to sign up now so your house will be included in the initial design and build-out. Who knows how the Internet will change over the next few years? You might want broadband service by the time WiredWest becomes operational. The registration deposit is even refundable. Most likely there will be an additional installation fee to connect to your house later. 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 that will be applied to your first monthly bill. You can also download the form to mail in with a check.

Critical mass has also been achieved by the WiredWest towns in order for the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) to start their project work on the fiber network. Not only West Stockbridge, but 19 towns have now passed their debt authorization and Prop 2½ debt exclusion votes as required. Another five towns will be voting on theirs over the next month. Towns have authorized over \$30 million with more than \$10 million more coming from the state. Eleven towns have reached their sign-up targets, and another 10 towns were close at mid-June. Over 6,200 people have signed up for broadband Internet service with WiredWest.

Our hard work is done, but it is just beginning for MBI. Although MBI has been working closely with WiredWest in reviewing and validating their cost estimates and business plan, now their real work will start. 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. The current plan is then to start is the pole make-ready work in the spring of 2016 followed by installing the fiberoptic cables. **The expected timing for service is to start around mid-2017 through mid-2018.** It is a sizable project that will take two to three years to complete.

It has been quite a journey over the last five years just to get this far. It started with a grassroots effort by people wanting to have real high-speed Internet access in the underserved towns of western Massachusetts. Volunteers from these towns created the idea of a cooperative to build a regional fiberoptic network to bring broadband Internet services to interested towns. This idea became WiredWest with 32 towns joining. In West Stockbridge, this effort was spearheaded by Patricia Soldati and Jackie Del Rossi who wanted to have voters vote for the creation of a Municipal Lighting Plant to be part of the coop and getting everyone to sign pledge cards. The hardest part then was the waiting for the state legislature to do its part and secure funding to support this effort. Last August Gov. Deval Patrick signed the bill authorizing funding of \$50 million for the MBI to bring high-speed Internet to underserved homes and businesses in western Massachusetts. Unfortunately, that bill only provided about a third of the funding required to build the regional fiber network. As a result, WiredWest launched their sign-up campaign and debt authorization articles in order for the towns to approve the borrowing of the additional money required. Thankfully, we have now passed and approved the additional funding for West Stockbridge, and we are in as a Fiber Town.

Patricia Soldati commented, “Personally, I’m thrilled with the results. Residents should be strongly thanked for stepping up to broadband.”

I only took over being our town’s delegate to WiredWest last year, and we could not have done it without everyone working together. I want to thank the board of selectmen and the Finance Committee members for their time and continued support, and the volunteers (Anne, Thom, Frank, Andrew, Mike, Joe, Ben, Bill, Karen, and Phillip) for getting the word out and making it happen.

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

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



July History Quiz Question:

West Stockbridge has a fine post office, a strong brick building built in the 1960s. It is one place in town where you are guaranteed to meet someone you know while receiving friendly and helpful service. The building was dedicated in 1976 and was the last in a line of four other locations in the town center including the Old Town Hall.

Our post office has earned a unique, and possibly infamous, place in Berkshire County history and quite possibly postal history. What is it that set us apart from the other town post offices in Western Massachusetts?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)



**West Stockbridge
Historical Society**
Incorporated in 1994

**A dedication
to our new
foundation
and sidewalk!**



**Open House
at the 1854 Town Hall
Sat. July 25th
From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**



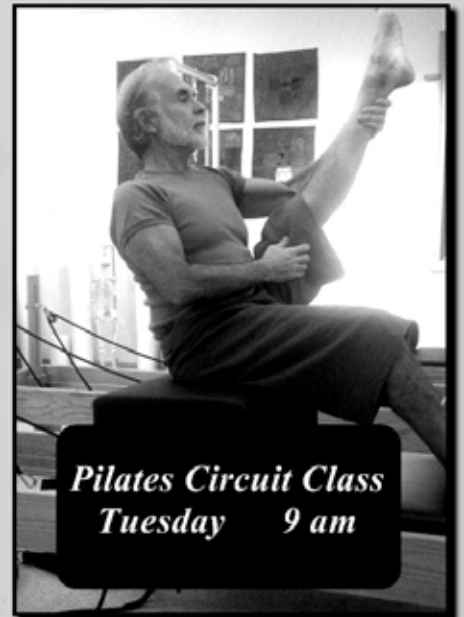
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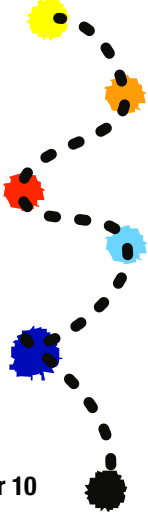
West Stockbridge Artists Guild invites you: **Art Studio Tours**

Join us for a tour of the studios of local artists! Be inspired! See the tools and techniques artists use. You will gain understanding of the dedication local artists have to their work. You will have the opportunity to ask them questions. You will be able to buy some of their work.

Tour is free to the public, Different art studios will participate each time. Some studios are rarely open. Artists are members of our group living and working nearby. You will receive a map and instructions in reply to your reservation a couple of days before each tour. To reserve and get map for driving, email kcarmean@gmail.com.

Saturdays 11 AM - 5 AM

June 27, July 25, August 29 and October 10



Info@RWSAG.org



Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild

The Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild

MEET THE ARTIST

Freya Segal

Freya Segal:

*Faces and Portraits in
Watercolor and Mixed
Media.*

*"Faces are reflections of
the human condition."*



Join us at for an informal discussion over lunch with Freya Segal at Six Depot Roastery & Café, West Stockbridge.

**THURSDAY
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West Stockbridge MA

RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Richmond-West Stockbridge
Artists Guild

www.rwsag.org

Living now in the Berkshires, Freya has always had a profound love of the visual arts. Her formal training began while living in Memphis Tennessee, where she studied at the University of Memphis and the Memphis Art Academy.

"The art she creates is done in watercolors and mixed media, a process that enables her to view the subjects as landscape: fluid, changing, colorful, difficult and challenging. Her experience as a Mental Health Counselor has led to an understanding of how the face reflects experiences and emotions. Portraits and faces are reflections of the human condition. She wishes for her paintings to give the impression that they are unfinished, but that they have begun to capture the soul of the individual."

You will have a chance to ask Freya more questions. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com.

Cricket Returns to West Stockbridge

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. Tentative dates are:

- Saturday, June 27
- Sunday, July 26
- Saturday, August 22
- Sunday, September 20

Game time is 2 p.m. Tea and goodies will be served.



**Batsman Roland Dudney faces the bowler.
Photo by John Parker.**

Faith Libardi forwarded us this photo, taken by a friend, Smitty, of a snapping turtle using the crosswalk at the Shaker Mill bridge. The turtle was likely returning to the water after laying her eggs. Thanks, Faith!

[Editor's note: Handling a large snapping turtle is not recommended, but if you find a smaller turtle in the road and are inclined to help, please be sure to deliver it to the road-side in the direction it was heading. Turtles have a strong sense of direction and are quite stubborn about reaching their destination. Thanks to Ginna Dudney for suggesting we pass along this advice.]



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

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

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

@West Stockbridge Library

➔ Note: The library will be closed Saturday, July 4, Independence Day.



Sign up for our summer reading program (July 1–Aug. 7) for readers up to grade 6. Get a reading log and turn it in by August 15 for a pair of tickets to the Big E.

Don't miss "The Itsy Bitsy Spider–Man: A Heroic Climb," Wednesday, July 1, 11 a.m. Songs and folktales with award–winning minstrel storyteller Mary Jo Maichack.

An interactive family program for children ages 4 and up.

Supported by the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

AND MORE:

- ❖ Storyteller Lauren Losaw of The Bookloft, Wednesday afternoons, July 8 and 22, 2 p.m., courtesy of a James Patterson grant to independent bookstores. Losaw, a former children's librarian, will tell stories, share what's new in kids' books, and offer some surprise giveaways.
- ❖ Science Tellers, August 6, 2 p.m. In this original collection of slightly twisted tales, all the teachers at school are suspected to have superpowers! But in a hilarious new adventure, things, just like in science, aren't always quite what they seem.
- ❖ LEGO challenge: Thursdays and Fridays, 3–4 p.m.
- ❖ Weekly raffle and giveaways!



Help wanted: Students entering grades 7–10 are needed to help in the library this summer. Jobs include assisting library patrons, creating displays, shelving books, and helping with the summer reading program and weekly LEGO Club. Pick up an application at the library.

NEW ADDITIONS

DVDs: *Orange Is the New Black*, season 2; *Fifty Shades of Gray*; *House of Cards*, season 3

FICTION

Coulter, *Nemesis*
 DeMille, *Quiet End*
 Finder, *The Fixer*
 Lee, *Go Set a Watchman* (also LP)
 Shepard, *Book of Aron*
 Taylor, *The Cavendon Women* (LP)

FOR YOUNG READERS

Watkins, *Rude Cakes*

NONFICTION

MacGregor, *A History of the World in 100 Objects*
 Shaara, *The Fateful Lightning: A Novel of the Civil War*

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



WEST STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY HOURS

TUES. 10–5 p.m. WED. 1–5 p.m. THURS. & FRI. 2–6 p.m. SAT. 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
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Saturday, August 1, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Sunday, August 2, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Summer Gift Basket Raffle:
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**The West Stockbridge Library
Town Hall Community Room
21 State Line Road/Route 102**

Proceeds from the sale benefit the Friends in their ongoing support of the library.

ART AT THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY JULY/AUGUST ARTIST

GARY SCHIENEMAN
PASTELS/OIL PAINTINGS/WATERCOLORS



A longtime West Stockbridge resident and past library exhibitor, Gary will be displaying his latest pastels, oil paintings, and watercolors at the library through August.

A self-taught artist, Gary's interest in art evolved during his residence in Paris. He has had several juried exhibits in the Berkshires most recently with the Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild show at the West Stockbridge Historical Society.

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Art, Culture, History, and Nature Day passes available at the West Stockbridge Library

Historic Properties

Arrowhead
Bidwell House
Chesterwood
Colonel Ashley House
Hancock Shaker Village
Mission House
Naumkeag
Shaker Museum/Mount Lebanon
Steepletop
The Mount (copay required)
Ventfort Hall

Museums

Berkshire Museum
Clark Art Institute
Frelinghuysen Morris House and Studio
Mass MoCA
Norman Rockwell Museum (discounted admission)

Natural Areas and Gardens

Bartholomew's Cobble
Berkshire Botanical Garden
MA Department of Parks & Recreation
(Free parking at Massachusetts state parks in the Berkshires)
The Folly at Field Farm

Passes are obtainable during library hours. Admission information for each venue is available at the library.

Passes must be returned to the library.

Please call 232-0300, ext 308, to reserve your pass.

Passes are provided by the
Friends of the West Stockbridge Library,
the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and
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Friends of the West Stockbridge Library

Cultural Passes

Featured Venues for July

Steepletop

440 East Hill Road, Austerlitz, NY 12017
www.millay.org (518) 392-3362

Visitors to Steepletop, the historic home of the poet Edna St. Vincent Millay, can see the gardens, walk the Poetry Trail created by the Friends of the Millay Society, visit the gallery in the new Visitors' Center at Tamarack Cottage, and view a film about life at Steepletop when Millay and then her sister, Norma, lived here. The gift shop offers Millay memorabilia and books for purchase.

Open May 1 to November 1, 2015
Tours Friday through Monday (reservations required)

Arrowhead

780 Holmes Road, Pittsfield, MA 01201
www.mobydick.org (413) 442-1793

Explore the historic home and grounds of Herman Melville's Arrowhead. Starting at the barn, then into the house, ending in Melville's study, where inspired by the views of Mount Greylock he wrote his masterpiece, *Moby-Dick*. There are also self-guided tours of the property that include the farm and a nature trail. The grounds and nature trail are open year round during daylight hours. The museum gift shop offers a wide variety of books, cards, and gifts related to Melville and to county history.

Open Memorial Day weekend to
Columbus Day weekend
Tours are approximately 45 minutes long, beginning at 10 a.m., and then every hour on the hour. The last tour begins at 4 p.m.

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Community News & Events

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

No public dinners will be served at the Stockbridge Grange during the months of July and August. The dinners will resume in September.

Council on Aging

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

Congregational Church Bake Sale

The West Stockbridge Congregational Church will hold a bake sale in front of Baldwin's Extracts on July 18 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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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July Art Events

Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists Guild Business Meeting. Review our June show and plan the next show. West Stockbridge Town Hall. 21 Stateline Rd. Wed. July 1 6–9 rivergrp@comccast.net

Plein Air Session at the Mount. Fridays July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31. 9:30– 12:30 pm followed by lunch. You must RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com by 5pm Thursday the night before to get the parking instructions, location. Entrance fee required; we recommend at least \$40 for the annual fee.

First Friday Art Walk: Friday July 3 5-8 p.m. North and South Streets, Pittsfield. Meet at Bagels Too 166 North Street, Pittsfield 5p.m. to join walking tour! www.FirstFridayArtsWalk.com

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

Plein Air Sessions: Wed. July 8 1-4 pm Mon. July 20 Hancock Shaker Village. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com for location and to reserve a spot. Bring everything you need.

Positive Critique: Wed. July 15 4-6pm Bring your art 2-4 pieces. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Photo Gathering: Friday July 17 4-5:30 p.m. Bring 3-5 new photos on a thumb drive. Stanmeyer Gallery, 2 Main Street, West Stockbridge. kcarmean@gmail.com

Meet the Artist: Freya Segal, painter. Thurs. July 23 12:15-1:30 p.m. Six Depot West Stockbridge RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

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

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. Bring everything you need to do art.

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 text of any changes.

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Saudi Arabia, published in National Geographic ~ July 2014

Thanks...

There is no way I could personally thank all of the wonderful people who attended Bill's service on Saturday, May 2, at the West Stockbridge Village Cemetery. Please know how much your presence was appreciated.

-Jill Pixley



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(See response form on page 21.)

Collector's Note

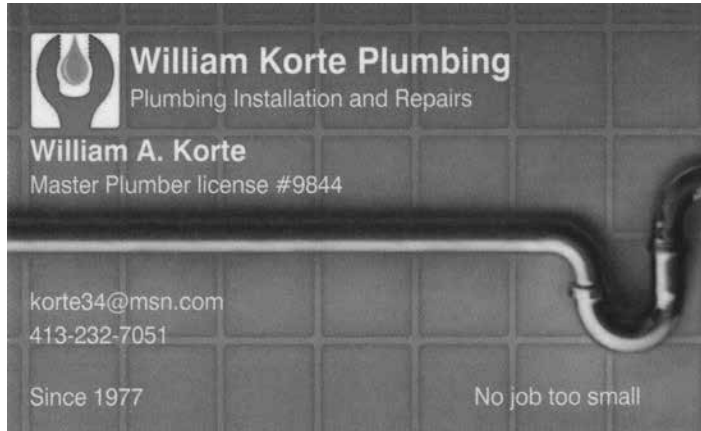
First-quarter 2016 preliminary real estate and personal property bills due August 1 were mailed at the end of June. These bills do not contain information on valuations and are based on the 2015 taxes you paid. Remember that *timely* payment (i.e., received by August 1) avoids late charges.

June Biggs, Collector

Tel.: 232-0300, ext. 302

E-mail: collector@weststockbridge-ma.gov

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Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 7/1 Gary Schiengman
- 7/1 Anne Lesser and Thom Lipiecky anniversary
- 7/3 Kate O'Brien
- 7/4 Steve & Melissa Seward anniversary
- 7/24 Joe & Anne Roy anniversary
- 7/27 Colby Parker
- 7/30 Gianna Pietrafesa
- 7/31 Violet McGuane

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.

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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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West Stockbridge History Quiz Answer:

The West Stockbridge village center post office is the sixth oldest in Berkshire County, after Stockbridge, Sheffield, Pittsfield, Great Barrington, and Lanesborough. It has been continuously operating since 1804, but that's not its real claim to fame.

In the late 1800s, the post office moved from the Town Hall to the small building next door that also housed a barbershop. (It's now the adjacent parking lot.) In 1905, the *Boston Sunday Globe* reported that the West Stockbridge post office had the distinction of being robbed no less than six times in eight years (1897-1905), or seven times if you count the robbery in 1888. Looking at the *Postal History of Berkshire County 1790-1981*, no other post office in the county has such a dubious honor. (Peru lost 600 pennies, and Stockbridge had two robberies in the nineteenth century.)

The preferred method of robbery was to break into the building at night or on weekends, dynamite the safe, grab the stamps and money, and then head across the border to New York State. There was no mention of anyone being caught. Dynamite was readily available with the many lime quarries and iron mines around, and the town had no police department. Postal regulations required the postmistress (Miss Lina A. Moore) to pay for the replacement safe and building repairs.

Things have quieted down since then. The new post office has bars on the inside windows, we have a police department, dynamite isn't as plentiful, and Colleen doesn't have to pay for a new safe.

Many thanks to Ginna Dudney for forwarding the *Boston Sunday Globe* article.

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



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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	
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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



See What's New!

July at the Farmers Market has a lot in store for you!

To begin with, there will be two special event markets this month. Visit the Red, White, & Blue Market on July 2. Be sure to join the fun and relish the day. Wear the colors and receive a free raffle ticket! Enjoy complimentary watermelon! It's the beginning of "serious summer" and should be celebrated accordingly. As a special treat, the **Congregational Church Ladies** will return with their perfect-for-the-day root beer floats. Stop by their tent—it may be your only opportunity this summer to savor one of their addictive concoctions.

July 30 is The Berry Best Market! Chock full of those luscious berries of summer, it will be the place to collect the recipes and the fixings for those treats you dream about all winter.

Linda Worster, Robin O'Herin, and West Stockbridge's own Don McGrory are on track to entertain you, and Jim Moore debuts with his amazing classic country repertoire. Not to be missed, all! So grab a pizza from **SoMa** or a sausage from **Sky View Farm** and sit back, enjoy the perfect summer dining experience, and relax.



As you've probably noticed, new faces have been, and will continue to be, cropping up since the inception of the season. **JW Ryan Landscaping** has gorgeous bushes, baskets, seedlings, trees, and the secrets on how to make them thrive; **Villa Mia** offers wondrous pastries, bagels, sauces, noodles, and more; **Rolling Rock Farm** presents a vast array of seasoned salts and peppers that make every foodie swoon; Julia of **Windy Ridge Farm** offered incredible vegetable and herb plants and starts earlier in the season and we hope will return with more of her lovely product and sage advice; **Cricket Creek** of the sensational cheeses also presents fine meats and fresh eggs; **Lakonia Greek Products** tempts with olives, oils, dressings, marinades, and more that will transport you to the shores of the Mediterranean; and **That Pan Guy** sells and restores the perfect cast-iron cookware you can use to prepare all your goodies. There are even more wonderful



Peter Cohen of Berkshire's Own Fudge displays his wares! Photo by Robin Schmitt.

Take a garden home! Photo of J.W. Ryan Landscaping of Pittsfield by Robin Schmitt.

people getting on board within the next few weeks. **Liz Olney** will be on hand with her unique line of leather jewelry, wallets, and handbags. There are some surprises to come—every week is different!

And our founding vendors, who hold it all together, have returned. **Taft Farms**, **Windswept Farm**, and **Coldfax Farm** continue to provide the finest produce around. **Pittsfield Rye** offers an amazing array of breads, rolls and buns, old favorites, and some new additions this year. Award-winning **Hosta Hill** showcases delicious krauts, kimchi, and tempeh as well as, new this year, probiotic beverages that are both beneficial *and* tasty. **Hilltop Orchard/Furnace Brook Winery** suggests the perfect local wines and ciders to quench summer thirsts in addition to lovely fruit, jams, pickles, and more. **Caroline's Scottish Shortbread** and **Berkshire's Own Fudge** suggest some great ways to round out a summer picnic or meal. **Graham Farmhouse** provides an array of wines and mead to complement your summer meals. **JK Furniture** never disappoints with their handcrafted cutting boards that should be art. **Dancing Bare Soap** continues with their own lovely line of facial and body products as well as an exciting new product you really should try. **Aubry** will be back with their exquisite bowls and wooden utensils as well as glorious garlic just out of the ground. **The Berkshire Botanist** will return on occasion (Community Garden permitting) with an expanded array of their lovely planters and plants. **The Queen Bead** will also stop by to offer what's new and trendy and fun to wear.

So be sure to visit the green on Thursday afternoons! Select healthy local foods! Listen to wonderful music! Visit with neighbors! Take home dinner! And much, much more!

It's a special place to be—don't miss it!



Liz Olney offers a colorful array of unusual jewelry! Photo by Robin Schmitt.

Help Your Pet Neighbors

The Farmers Market is accepting donations of desperately needed pet food for distribution by the good folks at Pet Partners, the local organization formed to help families going through rough times keep their beloved pets at home.

Just bring your donations to the Committee Table, and get a free raffle ticket as a thank you for your kindness. *Your furry neighbors need you!*

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	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



July 2015 Calendar of Events	7/1	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
	7/2	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
	7/4	Independence Day		
	7/8	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
	7/8	Friends of the Library meeting	3:30 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
	7/9	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
	7/13	American Legion	7 p.m.	Town Offices
	7/15	*** Deadline for the Next Local Yokel ***		send to info@thelocalyokel.org
	7/13	Board of Selectmen	7 p.m.	Town Offices
	7/14	Parks & Recreation Commission meeting	5:50 p.m.	Town Offices
	7/15	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
	7/16	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
	7/22	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
	7/23	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
	7/25	1854 Town Hall Open House/Sidewalk Dedication	11 a.m.-1 p.m.	1854 Town Hall
7/26	Cricket Game	2 p.m.	Playing Field at Town Offices	
7/27	Board of Selectmen	7 p.m.	Town Offices	
7/29	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room	
7/30	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street	