

Local Yokel

West Stockbridge

June

2015

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



Ruffed grouse photo by Ken Kelly.

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005

West Stockbridge Ponds by Canoe

By Doane Perry and Ken Kelly



West Stockbridge has four beautiful ponds interconnected by flat water streams that are a pleasure to canoe, though paddlers are cautioned that the streams may not be navigable later in the year when water levels drop. But the water level was perfect in late April. After the short carry from the parking lot, Ken Kelly and I put his canoe into Cranberry Pond from the Still Pond access on Route 41 across from the West Stockbridge Cemetery. This is part of the Flat Brook Wildlife Management Area, protected by Mass Wildlife with help from the Berkshire Natural Resources Council.

I took the bow on the way out, though we traded positions for the return trip. We waved to the fellow fishing for smallmouth bass from the shore and paddled to the southwest corner of Cranberry, where we entered the stream leading to Crane Lake. We circled the lake, past Crane Lake Camp and the ominously labeled Bat Cave dry culvert that led under the Mass Turnpike. From Crane Lake, we took another stream east toward Shaker Mill Pond. The high water helped carry us leisurely along past beaver lodges as numerous redwing blackbirds, ducks, and geese greeted our passing with alarm. Beaver slapped their tails on the water to protest our incursion.

At the bridge under Route 41 by the Mill Pond Trailer Park, we had to crawl down into the bottom of the canoe to pass under the bridge. We paddled north to a beaver dam, where we portaged onto the higher waters of Mud Ponds. The Mud Ponds are bordered by the cemeteries up a steep bluff on the west; a few houses with docks and kayaks dot the eastern shore. To the north extend impenetrable marshes, also heavy with bird life.

As we paddled back into Shaker Mill Pond, our progress south to the dam and bridge over the waterfall was blocked by a large tree that had collapsed into the pond from the shore of the Trailer Park. Turning around, we retraced our route, having to push our way upstream by hand on the overhead girders under the Route 41 bridge. The birds called and flew and the beavers slapped at us all over again. The shore fisherman was still working his way around Cranberry Pond. As we loaded the canoe onto the car, we spotted a ruffed grouse rummaging in the leaves just a few yards away, unconcerned about our proximity. Seasoned birders told us later that he was probably so hopped up on testosterone with the breeding season that he couldn't have cared less about us. But it made a terrific finish to a pristine local float trip!

Crane Lake's Bat Cave

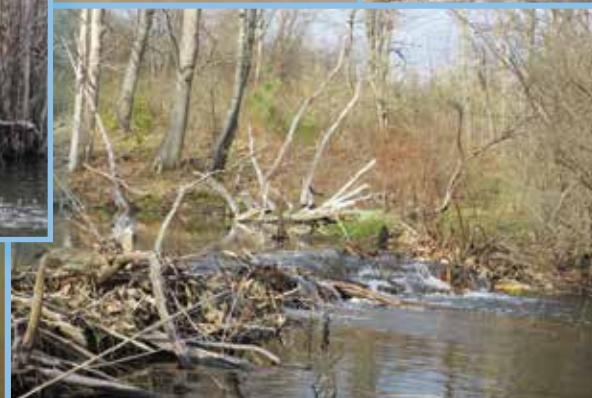


Doane Perry paddling the front



Busy Beavers' Birch Bark Brunch

Beaver Dam separates Shaker Mill Pond from elevated Mud Ponds



Top and background: Paddler's view of Shaker Mill Pond.
All photos by Ken Kelly.

Board of Selectmen Meeting Summaries

By Doane Perry

March 30, 2015

Administrative Assistant Mark Webber reviewed the FY 2016 budget and annual town meeting warrant with the selectmen. Mark also described two ways to propose a warrant: first by the selectmen and second by petition or request.

Responding to a request by resident Richard Squailia, Selectman Peter Skorput proposed a motion about sewer expansion. Karen Zick seconded; Earl Moffatt abstained. The motion passed and is the basis for Article 14 in the May 4 town meeting warrant.

April 13, 2015

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Mark Webber informed the selectmen that no changes had been made to the warrant since their last meeting and that many people have filed absentee ballots this year. The final FY 2016 Annual Town Meeting Warrant was reviewed and approved.

Artists' Guild

Karen Carmean said the guild is planning monthly tours for visitors of artists' studios in West Stockbridge and Richmond. The board approved use of the Community Room for a positive art critique on May 13 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

A special permit public hearing for the Turn Park Art Space museum was scheduled for April 27 at 7 p.m. The engineer and applicant will show how the museum project meets the criteria established by zoning regulations. The restaurant project will be considered at a hearing on May 18.

A special permit public hearing was scheduled for W.E. Williams Paving, which is seeking to buy and sell used construction equipment in a manufacturing zone.

The next board of selectmen meeting will be on April 27, followed by the town meeting on May 4 and the town elections on May 11. The board of selectmen will meet in executive session on April 27 to discuss downtown real estate.

Electrical Aggregation

The selectmen discussed electrical aggregation for town residents. The rate currently charged by Colonial Power is 12 cents; National Grid has lowered its rate to 9 cents. The selectmen said they would review the

options and take action at the next selectmen's meeting. Seeking a longer term stable rate is probably the best option. The other options are to seek better interim rates from all providers or to get power only from National Grid.

Downtown Improvement Project

Caracas Construction has resumed work on replacing the downtown sidewalks on a "chunk-by-chunk" basis. The current chunk between the Center Street bridge and Anderson & Sons Shaker Tree is the trickiest part because what lies below is unknown. Although frost is no longer a problem, there were wooden sidewalks, coal chutes, and slabs of concrete that may hold up buildings. Parts of some buildings go under the sidewalk.

Highway Department

Curt Wilton praised the governor for keeping his promise to provide aid from the state for road projects. The Downtown Improvement Project will receive \$160,000. In FY 2016 the town will receive \$320,000 that Curt wants to use on three projects: paving Route 41 north and south of the Cobb Road bridge replacement (the bridge will take two years), paving Lenox Road from #24 to Deer Hill Road before Tanglewood begins this year, and chip sealing Baker Street on an integrated schedule with the Mass DOT work on Route 102 in the fall of 2015.

Artists' Guild

Karen Carmean thanked Mark Webber for opening the Town Offices on Saturday at 8 a.m. for a crowd of artists who learned how to take photographs of their work. Karen asked for support for guild plans for public tours of artist studios. The guild has launched a group for photographers who will meet at the Shaker Dam Coffeehouse. Earl Moffatt asked how the town flag project is going. Karen said the Council on Aging and the Knitters and More group are providing input and that schools are involved.

Town Sewer

Richard Squailia asked the selectmen to officially establish the status of the letter issued by the Board of Health on August 29, 2014. The town should inform affected residents because of the possible fines and the \$6,000 to \$8,000 cost for connecting to the town sewer, according to Squailia. He said 35 of the 61 affected homeowners have not committed to the connection. The selectmen said connection costs a fee of \$1,200 plus the expense of excavation, plumbing, and usage. Selectman Peter Skorput commented that the situation needs to be clarified.

...continued on page 5

The Berkshire Botanist

Perennial and Home Garden Specialists
"Need a plan? Just ask Dr. Dan!"

Free On-site Consultation
Est 2013, West Stockbridge
dan@theberkshirebotanist.com
(413)232-7959



K.G.COOPER ELECTRICAL

Karl G. Cooper Jr.

New Construction - Renovations -
Service Upgrades - Generators

413-232-0244

P.O. Box 138
West Stockbridge, Ma. 01266
kgcooperelectric@yahoo.com
Ma. Master 12365A

SoMa Catering & Fine Foods

By John Parker

West Stockbridgians who were fond of The Village Oven will be delighted to welcome SoMa Catering & Fine Foods to town. Loretta Tenuta and chef Tom Tenuta opened the restaurant, known for its hand-tossed, wood-fired pizzas, in 2003. Their success led to demand for their catering expertise and they launched SoMa Catering in 2007, until recently based in nearby Richmond. Now they have moved the business into what used to be the Nook & Cranny at 4 Albany Road in West Stockbridge. Editor John Parker recently spoke to Loretta Tenuta to find out more...

JP: How would you describe your business?

LT: We are a full-service catering company, hired by clients to plan menus, organize parties, weddings, milestone events, house parties, galas, and the like, as well as hire staff for those events.

JP: Why did you choose West Stockbridge as the new location for your business?

LT: We live here and want to be a part of the community.

JP: What led to your relocating to the Berkshires in the first place?

LT: We got hitched and wanted to start a family in Berkshire County and get away from the hectic life of the city.



JP: What are a few of your specialties?

LT: It all depends on the client. We customize all our menus items and do just about anything. We just did a 50th birthday party with a Russian flair in Larchmont, NY, for a Russian client. Last summer we did a huge wedding for 200 plus, with all local foods at the Hancock Shaker Village Round Barn. Our mobile Wood Fired Pizza Oven has been a big hit. We take that to the West Stockbridge and Great Barrington Farmers Markets, and clients hire us to do birthday parties, bar/bat mitzvahs, rehearsal dinners.

JP: What plans do you have for your new location?

LT: This is where we do production for all our catering jobs. The new location will have prepared foods in the cases for lunch and dinner as well breakfast items, morning pastries, quiche, sandwiches, coffee, espresso, and cappuccino. Customers can eat here or take home foods and warm them up.

JP: I understand you're already up and running with the catering. When do you plan to start retail operations? Will you have some kind of public opening event? Will the retail side be seasonal or year-round?

LT: We hope to open the first week of June. It will be announced though through social media and a press release.

JP: What will your hours be, and when do they take effect?

LT: As soon as the doors open to the public, our hours will be Monday through Saturday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

JP: What is your involvement with the "farm to table" movement?

LT: We have always been supporters of local agriculture and producers. Back in Boston we belonged to the Chef's Collaborative where everyone exchanged and supported this "farm to table" movement, cooking seasonally and sustainably. However, we avoid marketing ourselves as such. We buy quality ingredients whether they are locally produced or domestic.

JP: How many people work for SoMa? Will you be hiring additional help at your new location?

LT: As of now, we have 5-6 employees plus Tom and myself, then add another 20 to 30 catering staff. We plan to hire another 6-7 people for the retail store.

JP: Tell me about your mobile pizza oven—how does that work?

LT: Just call or e-mail to inquire about any event. Since we have only one mobile oven and are committed to two farmers markets for the next 20 weeks, we usually book out the oven on Fridays or Sundays when it is not in use.

We wish Loretta and Tom a long and successful stay in West Stockbridge. For more information about SoMa Catering & Fine Foods, call 232-0007, or visit their website, www.SoMaCatering.com, and on Facebook, www.facebook.com/SoMaCatering.



*New location at 4 Albany Road.
Photo by John Parker.
All others courtesy of SoMa Catering.*



...continued from page 3

Other Business

- Peter Skorput said the town will treat the pond for weeds since it is getting swampier.
- The selectmen discussed how to assist the family whose home burned down in the trailer park.
- Richard Squailia is videotaping board of selectmen meetings, making them available on YouTube under "West Stockbridge Selectmen." He is also videotaping Board of Health meetings for YouTube.
- Peter Skorput asked the *Local Yokel* to encourage townspeople to volunteer on the West Stockbridge Cable TV Committee.

April 27, 2015

Public Hearing: Turn Park Art Space

A public hearing was held to consider a special permit application by Turn Park Art Space for a museum and restaurant off Moscow Road.



The applicants presented plans for a \$3 million outdoor sculpture park and café on the 14-acre site of an abandoned limestone quarry near downtown West Stockbridge on Moscow Road. Representatives of the owners have applied for a special permit for a nonprofit museum and café. The selectmen will announce their decision on May 11 at 7 p.m. Attendees expressed enthusiasm for the project and praised the owners' local focus. Turn Park will offer world-class art in the only year-round sculpture park in the county accessible on foot from downtown restaurants and stores.

The *Berkshire Eagle* reported on October 13, 2013, that the property was sold to Newton residents Igor Gomberg and his wife, Ekaterina Brezgunova, for \$275,000 by Flavio Lichtenthal and his wife, Lisa Landry, owners of Six Depot Street Coffee Roastery and Café. The *Eagle* report said Gomberg owns a geological surveying company in Russia and his wife is a screenwriter there. They are friends with Russian sculptor Nikolai Silis, whose work will be displayed.

The Turn Park sculpture park museum is in a commercial district and will include uses allowed by zoning regulation. From a 40-space parking lot on Moscow Road, visitors will enter the Gatehouse for tickets that will also house a café. Handicapped-accessible paths will lead uphill to an indoor gallery and amphitheater and to the top of the ledge where Precipice House will offer views of the Mass Pike and the Berkshire hills.

The project received a variance and waiver to locate parking in November 2014, an easement from northerly neighbors, and an endorsement

from the West Stockbridge Conservation Commission. There are five required findings for the special permit: (1) use in compliance with town bylaws, (2) essential and desirable, (3) not detrimental, (4) will not create undue traffic, and (5) will not overload the public water and sewer system.

The presenters' lawyer asserted that the project is in compliance with town zoning bylaws for parking, restaurants, and galleries. The project is essential and desirable since it is complementary to existing programs, and it is for a diverse audience and family friendly. The project is not detrimental because it is convenient to downtown, has few abutting residents, minimal impact, and will be quiet with open hours ending by dusk. Special events such as small weddings will have no amplified music after 10 p.m. Steven Mack, president of Foresight Land Services, who also designed the downtown improvement project, estimated that the Turn Park will create 9 trips per hour during regular operations and up to 60 trips per hour during special events. The Gombergs have offered to install a sidewalk extension to promote pedestrian safety. Presenters said the town has reviewed the project's impact on public water and sewer systems and also for access by emergency vehicles.

The presenters' architect, Grigori Fatayev, principal at AF Architecture, said the project aims to use the natural landscape, unique quarry site, and outcropping look to create outdoor rooms shaped to echo the land. There will be 16 pieces of art initially, and the collection will grow. Beyond the gatehouse, the gallery will tower over the Shaker Mill Tavern parking, and Precipice House will provide a pavilion at the tip of the site and a view of the turnpike and Berkshire Hills over the cliff. There will be down lights on poles mostly over the parking and scattered around the rest of the site.

Steve Mack presented infrastructure plans that feature low-impact approaches to the old quarry site and include level, sloping, cliff, wetland, and underwater topography. The project design has received permits from the Department of Environmental Protection and the Conservation Commission. With 40 spaces planned versus the 30 spaces required, the parking will have grass and bridge grating to improve groundwater infiltration and drainage. A green roof and significant landscaping will reduce storm water runoff. Signage on Moscow Road will indicate that it is not a through street.

In response to comments and questions, presenters said:

- Seating in the café/restaurant will be for a maximum of 28 persons.
- The parking maximum could be 60 per hour for a small wedding.
- For a gallery function there could be a maximum of 180 people.
- Besides 40 parking spaces, the project has an easement on additional parking behind the Shaker Mill Tavern off Oak Street, and Hotchkiss Mobiles offered to share their parking lot.
- The "restaurant" is a zoning term and will actually be a small café.
- Delivery trucks will be small vehicles with no parking along Moscow Road.
- During construction, access will be from Oak Street via grass on gravel ways.
- In addition to sculptures, there will be rotating inside art exhibits.
- Walking access will be ticketed with discounts for locals.
- The park will open at 9 or 10 a.m.
- The gatehouse and paths from Moscow Road will open first in about a year. The gallery will open in two to three years.
- They will focus on hiring local people.
- The owners' sculpture collection is of nonconformist Soviet art from the 1960s to 1980s.
- In the future there will be a broader collection of other art.
- The museum will sell postcards but not art.

At the close of the hearing, Earl Moffatt made a motion to take the application under consideration. The selectmen will announce their decision on May 11 at 7 p.m.

...continued on page 6

...continued from page 5

Transfer Station

Following the death of Transfer Station manager Bill Pixley, the selectmen made plans for hiring his replacement. They are preparing a job description and advertising. The pay is \$14.62 per hour. There was concern that interim managers were getting paid at time and a half based on their regular jobs. The selectmen also affirmed that all dropped-off items belong to the town. There have been cases where items were removed from the metals container.

Downtown Project Update

Progress on the downtown renovation project is good. The next challenging segment will be the four-way intersection between the post office and Rouge restaurant. There will be historically quarried marble installations in front of the 1854 Town Hall and at each end of town.

Parks and Recreation Committee

For Card Pond, plans were made including goose ropes and beach cleaning. Two swan decoys have been purchased. The fire department is providing a defibrillator. Weed control is planned. No dogs are allowed in the beach area. Curt Wilton will provide a doggy bag dispenser.

At the town playing field, the basketball court will be provided with new rims and nets. Historically, "dads" led by Andrew Fudge did field renovation work. The town has received an estimate of \$35,000 for field renovation. The selectmen want to remove the tunnel at the skate park. They said the best way forward is to write grants for the work.

Sewer and Water Request

Richard Squailia asked the selectmen to waive the \$1,200 fee for hooking up to the sewer and to refund fees that have already been paid. He also asked for a property tax credit. Selectman Earl Moffatt characterized the request as "out of line" and said the request should be made to the Sewer and Water Commission. Squailia replied that he was informing

the selectmen of the request he is bringing to the commission. Peter Skorput said the selectmen would take the request under consideration, but the selectmen cannot approve a credit.

Other Business:

- The selectmen approved the following applications for use of town facilities and spaces:
 - Bluestone Morris Dance group to use the park in front of Stone House on July 26.
 - Simon Joan's Club to use the gym for high school age youth
 - Police basketball to use the gym on Fridays
 - Alcoholics Anonymous to use the Community Room 6-8 pm on Thursdays
 - Artists' Guild rescinded their application for a one day liquor permit for an event at the 1854 Town Hall; no action taken.
- The Farmers Market will open May 21. Bathrooms with changing tables will be ready. Bob Thibeault requested signage similar to last year.
- In response to a report by a resident that the Council's messaging system is full, the selectmen said they would get the message changed.
- Peter Skorput said there should be a portable toilet for the soccer program.
- Peter Skorput said that there is money available for a swap shop program at the Transfer Station.

Executive Session

The board entered executive session for consideration of the purchase or value of real property.

Rental Housing Wanted

Mature, responsible, quiet, nonsmoking professional seeking year-round rental housing in West Stockbridge or environs before September 1. Budget is about \$800-\$900/month including heat. Please call (413) 854-7350 or e-mail info@thelocalyokel.org.



Advertise here, just \$3.00 for first ten words and 10 cents for each additional word

Send ads to *The Local Yokel* at P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266, or info@thelocalyokel.org



Preparing the finest Vietnamese cuisine in the Berkshires for more than 30 years! Experience our heritage and hospitality in the comfort of our warm and inviting dining room, or take home. We also have an extensive vegetarian menu.



3 Harris Street West Stockbridge 413.232.4204



Seek your own treasures among our collection of imported hand-crafted Vietnamese lacquer, lanterns, tableware, silk clothing, accessories and antique pottery in our retail shop "Out of Vietnam."



In Touch printing

Just what you were looking for!

Customized local print-solutions with a personal touch.

413-442-1202

info@intouchprinting.com

www.intouchprinting.com



Annual Town Meeting and Election Wrap-Up

By John Parker



Results were compiled from accounts in the Berkshire Eagle, Local Yokel, and town website.

West Stockbridge held its annual town meeting on May 4. The issue of broadband Internet access resulted in the highest turnout in years, with 269 of the town's registered voters, or 23%, participating. Last year, only 75 voters attended. On the warrant was a measure allowing the town to borrow \$1.9 million for bonds to fund West Stockbridge's share of the cost for construction, installation, and startup of a high-speed broadband network serving all parts of town—the "last mile" in broadband parlance.

The issue sparked lively debate, with several speakers either opposed or questioning the financing and other details of the plan. However, others spoke in favor, citing the unwillingness of commercial providers to invest in the necessary infrastructure to bring high-speed Internet to a relatively low populated rural area. Several spoke of the need for broadband to support home-based businesses, doctors and other professionals, and educational uses. After lengthy debate the vote was called, and the broadband measure was approved by unanimous voice vote. Voters would still have to approve a Proposition 2½ override to pay for the bonds at the annual town election.

One other issue drew extended, and sometimes heated, discussion at the annual town meeting: an article proposed by a resident seeking to prevent the town's Board of Health from adopting or applying more stringent regulations than already required by state law, in effect "coercing" abutting homeowners into connecting to the municipal sewer system. The article failed to pass in a relatively close vote. All other articles passed, including the town's \$4.9 million spending plan for FY 2016, an increase of 2.6% over current year spending.

In the town election on May 11, voters approved by a wide margin the Proposition 2½ override allowing the town to pay for bonds for the broadband network. Incumbent selectman Karen Zick lost to highway superintendent and former selectman Curt Wilton by a margin of 38 votes. In the only other contested race, challenger Richard Squailia came up short in a race for a seat on the Board of Health, losing to incumbent Luci Leonard 309 to 169. Eugene Dellea, the longest serving moderator in the state, was elected to another year in that post. Susan Negrini was elected to a three-year term on the Board of Assessors, and Gary Schieneman and William Kie were both elected to three-year terms on the Finance Committee. In the other uncontested races, Dana Bixby was reelected to the Planning Board for five years, Sue Coxon was elected library trustee for three years, and Earl Moffatt was elected to the Cemetery Commission for a term of three years.



Kevin Holden Inc.

Tree Trimming & Removal

Richmond, MA (413) 698-2696
www.khtree.com

A Little About Us: Established in 1976, we have been in the art and science of tree care for over 36 years.

Using state-of-the-art equipment we provide safety for our employees. We offer a wide range of tree care services and our meticulous work on clients' property ensures a beautiful and safe landscape every time.

- Stump Removal
- Land Clearing
- Cabling & Bracing
- Crane Rental
- Tree Removal
- Tree Pruning
- Tree & Shrub Fertilization
- Storm Damage Clean-up

All Types of Tree Work Insured



Member International Society
(New England Chapter)

ISA Certified Arborist

NE 6430A



Queensboro Wine & Spirits

26 Main Street ~ West Stockbridge ~ 413-232-8522

Offering the finest in Beer, Wine and Spirits

Wine tastings every Saturday.

Please visit our website for our current specials and event information at queensborowineandspirits.com.

Don't forget we offer 15% Discount on a case of wine, mix and match.

Monday through Saturday 9:30am to 9:00pm
Open Sundays Noon to 5:00pm

On Our Way to Fiber Town!

By Steve Sautman, Wired West Delegate

First, I want to thank all of you who have supported our efforts in bringing WiredWest to West Stockbridge.

On May 4 we had an amazing turnout at our annual town meeting. I thank you all for giving me the opportunity to explain the debt authorization, what it means, and asking me tough questions for clarification. West Stockbridge is authorizing the town to borrow up to \$1,917,000 to build our portion of the fiberoptic network. The state and Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) built the “middle mile” that brought fiber to the town centers, and now WiredWest will be able to complete the “last mile” that will bring affordable fiber to any home and business that wants it.

The tax implications will not hit all at once. WiredWest will use the state’s money allocated to each WiredWest town first. Then, like a construction loan, they will borrow only what is needed as they build out the remaining infrastructure. As WiredWest starts to provide services and generate revenue, money will be reimbursed to the towns for what was borrowed to build the network. WiredWest estimates that at an average of 40% of the people in each town using their services, they will have enough revenue to pay back the towns’ debts. I was heartened to see Article 11 pass overwhelmingly. On the following Monday, the townspeople again voted in favor of excluding the borrowing debt from the town’s tax levy (so-called Proposition 2½ exclusion).

So what is left for us to do? As I type this, we need just 13 more people to sign up for WiredWest! Once we hit that 40% target, we become part of the detailed engineering study that WiredWest will use to begin the build-out. I would encourage you to please sign up. It will be more affordable to get in during this initial build-out.

Signing up is easy. 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. Remember, it is best to sign up for service now to have your home or business included in the detailed engineering study to be performed by the MBI starting this summer. They will be designing the fiber network, laying out the wiring routing, and surveying the poles. The current plan is then to start 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 with some towns coming up earlier.

I want to thank the volunteers for helping out and to everyone for making this happen. You can reach me at Sautman@msn.com.

[At press time, we only need three more backers to reach the goal. We are at 99%.]

Community News & Events

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, June 14, the Stockbridge Grange will serve a stuffed breast of chicken dinner in the Grange Hall on Church Street from 1 to 2 p.m. Cost for adults is \$12; \$6 for children under 12. Takeout is available; please call (413) 298-3185.

Council on Aging

The COA monthly potluck luncheon will be held at noon on Tuesday, June 9, in the Community Room at the Town Hall. During lunch, we will be discussing dates for a summer picnic and a possible trip to the Mac-Haydn Theatre to see a play and then dinner in Chatham. Hope to see you there!

Democratic Caucus to Elect Delegates

The West Stockbridge Democratic Town Committee is holding a caucus to elect delegates to the state convention in September. The caucus will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2015, 10:15 a.m. in the Community Room at the Town Offices. All registered Democrats in West Stockbridge are invited. For more information call Sheila A. Murray, Caucus Chairperson, at 232-4283 or email sheilaam@hotmail.com.

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.

June History Quiz Question:

The area south and west of the post office and Hotchkiss Mobiles is being developed into our own outdoor sculpture park, Turn Park. The centerpiece of the area is a former limestone quarry complete with a large dramatic stone face and pond below. There are also other, smaller, features on the property related to the 19th-century mineral industries, but the former quarry is the major feature.

But back in the mid-1800s, the quarry was not the main attraction in the area. In many maps and descriptions, the quarry was barely mentioned. What was the major industrial area in the downtown?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)



**West Stockbridge
Historical Society**
Incorporated in 1994



Join the Fun!

The market continues to grow! This year we're beyond pleased to have our loyal founding vendors returning as well as a new group of faces with an equally exciting array of products. If you haven't already, do stop by to welcome them all. There's a lot going on.

Our stellar growers—Coldfax Farm, Taft Farm, and Windswept Farm—are back with the freshest and most delicious produce the Berkshires can provide. Salads never tasted as wonderful as they do when served from one of Aubry's lovingly hand-crafted wooden bowls or prepared on one of JK Furniture's unique and practical cutting boards. Art in the kitchen is good!

Newly returned home to West Stockbridge, SoMa is at the oven, continuing to turn out the best pizzas ever. Amelia of Skyview Farm is grilling her sausages while offering her wonderful selection of meats. New to our market this year is Villa Mia from Sandisfield. Mia will be offering homemade pasta sauces, egg noodles, delicious packets of spinach and feta in phyllo, specialty prepared meals, European cookies and desserts, and more.

Amanda of Tortured Orchard will also be stopping by on occasion. Her popular marinades, salads, soups, and more are always a welcome treat. Do be sure to visit Pittsfield Rye for their incredible selection of tasty and healthy breads—some new ones this year!

Award-winning Hosta Hill is on hand with amazing krauts and kimchi. They're a perfect match for Cricket Creek's out-of-this-world cheeses and meats as are Lakonia Greek Products' olives and infused olive oils. Furnace Brook Winery and Graham Farmhouse will pair your menu items with the perfect wine.

To season it all just right, pay a visit to Rolling Rock Farm where Tony Carlotto, another newcomer, has that perfect finishing salt or pepper to enhance your meals. And don't forget the grand finale! Berkshire's Own Fudge is available as are Carolyn's Scottish Shortbreads. Add some Villa Mia outstanding desserts and it's a meal to remember.

To brighten your garden or patio, JW Ryan Landscaping is bringing decorative trees and plants as well as hanging baskets. First timer Julia Leminx of Windy Ridge Farm has lovely seedlings and plants, but she'll only be attending very early in the season, so be sure to check out her tent. The Berkshire Botanist is also back on occasion (when they're not tending the community garden) with an expanded product line.

To brighten your outfits, The Queen Bead (aka Jill's Jewelry) will pop in now and then to display what's new and trendy and fun to wear. And, to brighten your mood, Dancing Bare Soap returns with delicious, organic, and effective creams and soaps and wonderful things.

June is awash with musical talent as well. We welcome DuoEamon on June 4, ever popular Linda Worcester on June 11, Moonshine Holler on June 18, and versatile Ryan Hollander on June 25—all in part sponsored by the West Stockbridge Cultural Council.

So head for the green on Thursday afternoons: pick up healthy local foods, listen to wonderful music, visit with your neighbors, and take home dinner! Enjoy summer as it should be—don't miss it!

Left: Rooster Returns, photo by Roland Dudney.

Right from top down: Farmers Market Open, photo by Terri Jo Dixon; Taft Farms, Hosta Hill, JK Furniture, Berkshire Botanist, photos by Ginna Dudney.



Botanist's Corner

By Dan Lewis

Greetings Botanophiles!

Now we are cooking with gas! With the higher temperatures, sun angles, and in our case rain compared to May, June is when we can set the stage for a wonderful harvest. First tip this month concerns mulching. Mulch really is anything that kills weeds by blocking light and preferably allows rain to percolate through. For a free mulch option, try grass clippings between your rows. Just make sure that you pile it at least 10 inches deep.

Another good tip is for overgrown tomato transplants—you know, the type that are a foot tall coming out of tiny six-packs. Just bury the lower three quarters of the stem sideways about 4 inches deep, leaving only the top above the soil. The plant will root all along the stem and send up side shoots that can triple your yield (this strategy works best with indeterminate varieties).

Finally, be sure to check your wetland areas for purple loosestrife (pretty purple spike flower, colonizes wet areas very quickly). It is a major invasive plant and should be controlled. That's all for now. Until next time, enjoy the plants!



Community gardeners get ready to plant.
Photo by Margarite Garbre.

Community Garden Update

We plan to begin distribution of greens and a small selection of herbs and veggies this month. We are primarily beginning to activate volunteers and seek new households in the village that qualify for free produce, which just means that one member of the household receives federal, state, or local assistance of any kind or is older than 70.

Interested potential volunteers (who receive free produce as they work during harvest time) and anyone who qualifies for distribution who is not on our list from last year should contact our volunteer coordinator Meg Lewis at gervais.meg2@gmail.com or 232-7959. We are really planning big things. Come join us and learn while you help your neighbor. Also we had a cool gala to kick things off last month. Check out the fun-loving volunteers!

SECOND NATURE GARDENS
DESIGN/INSTALL/SUSTAIN

ADAM WEINBERG
MASS CERT HORTICULTURIST

STONEWALLS, PATIOS, PATHS
FRUIT TREE PRUNING, VEGGIE GARDENS

RICHMOND, MA
413-441-7836
SECONDNATUREGARDENS.ORG
ADAM@SECONDNATUREGARDENS.ORG

Hoffman Pottery
works that dance with energy

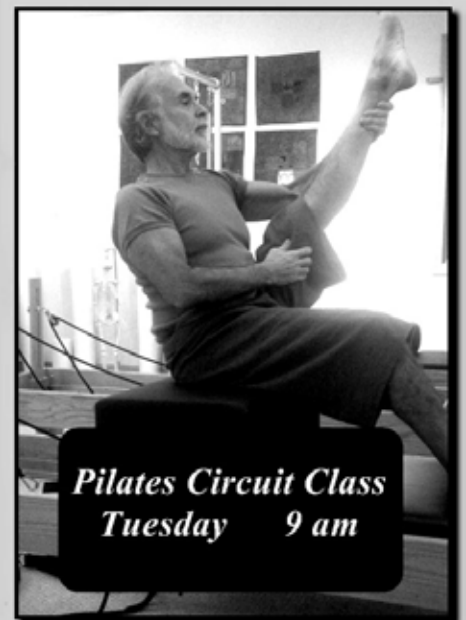
103 Great Barrington Rd/Rt 41 • West Stockbridge, MA 01266
413.232.4646 • www.EHoffmanPottery.com

Begins June 2

*Class starts with a
Mat warm up then
focus on a variety of
equipment*

- ~ Reformer
- ~ Tower
- ~ Springboard
- ~ Jump Board
- ~ Circles
- ~ Chair

*Small class size is
a great way to do
Pilates equipment
work and deepen
your Pilates routine.*



Pilates Circuit Class
Tuesday 9 am

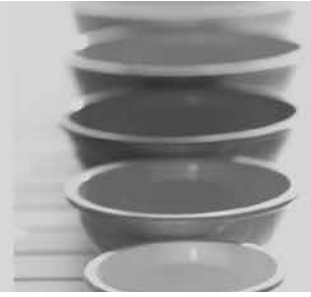
16 Albany Road
West Stockbridge, MA
413.212.9641

Bella
Grazia
Pilates



Mindful Eating: Summer Time Means Fruits and Veggie Time!

by Rachel Alves, RD, LDN



We all know that fruit and vegetables are good for us because they are loaded with antioxidants, vitamins and minerals, and fiber. They also can lower the risk of heart disease and even some kinds of cancer. And they can help with intestinal ailments as well as blood pressure control. Happily most fruit and vegetables are also naturally low in fat and calories!

But despite their benefits, most of us are not consuming adequate amounts in our daily diets. What used to be the CDC “5-a-Day” recommendation has been replaced with the “More Matters” campaign for fruit and vegetable intake. Recent dietary guidelines suggest the goal should be to eat between 5 and 13 *servings* of fruit and vegetables per day, depending on your caloric intake. A serving of fruit or vegetables is one medium piece, ½ cup cooked or 1 cup raw, 2 cups leafy greens or salad, or ¼ to ½ cup dried fruit. According to a Harvard-based study, those who “consumed on average 8 or more servings a day of fruit and vegetables were 30% less likely to have a heart attack or stroke.” That sounds good to me.

Summertime offers an enormous and delicious variety of fruit and vegetables. Seasonal produce includes apricots, beets, bell peppers, berries, cabbage, cherries, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, fennel, lettuces, melons, mushrooms, peaches and nectarines, plums, summer squash, and tomatoes. Summer means farmers markets, roadside stands, grilling, and eating al fresco, offering us the perfect opportunity for adding more fruit and vegetables to our daily menus.

Think simple! Consider flavors and pairings like tomatoes, balsamic vinegar, olive oil and fresh basil; cucumber and fresh dill; peaches and apricots with a sprinkling of fresh basil; and melon wrapped in prosciutto with a drizzling of honey. Be creative and add thinly sliced raw asparagus to salads; enjoy raw sweet corn as the star ingredient of summertime salads; sprinkle a little chopped lavender over fresh berries in the evening for a “relaxing” and healthy dessert; and toss thinly sliced raw fennel with orange zest, orange segments, a little splash of apple cider or champagne vinegar, and a drizzle of olive oil for a refreshing side dish.

The possibilities are endless. Here’s a recipe adapted from Guido’s Kitchen to inspire you:

Raw Corn and Asparagus Salad (Serves 4)

A colorful, summery vegetable dish that’s full of flavor, accented with tarragon

Ingredients

3 ears of corn (1 ear = ½ cup kernels)
½ lb. medium asparagus, washed and tougher ends trimmed
½ pint cherry or grape tomatoes, halved
¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil
3 tablespoons champagne vinegar
¼ cup fresh tarragon, basil, or Italian flat-leaf parsley
1 just ripe avocado, cut into ½-inch chunks
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Instructions

Remove corn kernels from the ears (do not cut too deeply into the cob; you only want to remove the kernels, not the milk). Thinly slice the asparagus on the diagonal and add to the corn; then add the tomatoes. In a jar with a tight-fitting lid, mix the olive oil, vinegar, and herbs. Shake vigorously to blend. Add the avocado to the corn mixture, toss gently with dressing, and season with salt and pepper to taste. Can be made ahead and chilled to let flavors marry, but the salad is best served at room temperature.

Happy summer eating!

JUNE ART SHOW: 1854 TOWN HALL, JUNE 4-14
THURSDAYS-SATURDAYS 10-6, SUNDAYS 12-4

June Fine Art Show

EVENTS in JUNE:

June Fine Art Show 1854 Town Hall, 9 Main St. West Stockbridge Thursdays—Saturdays 10-6pm and Sundays 12-4 pm

Receptions for Fine Art Show. Saturdays 4-6 pm 1854 Town Hall, West Stockbridge

Meet the Artist: Ilene Spiewak painter. Wed. June 10 12:15-1:30 p.m. Six Depot West Stockbridge RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Paint Out/ Photo Out. 1854 Town Hall, 9 Main Street, West Stockbridge, June 12 & 13 Meet at 9 am RSVP: rivergrp@comcast.net

Positive Critique Wed. June 17 4-6pm Bring your art. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Photo Gathering Friday June 19 4-5:30 p.m. Bring 3-5 new photos on a thumb drive. Stanmeyer Gallery, 2 Main Street, West Stockbridge. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Plein Air Session: June 3 1-4; June 12 & 13 Richmond Land Trust ; Mon. June 15 10-1pm Hancock Shaker Village; June 27 10-1weekly. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com for location, to reserve a spot or change.

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

Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild
www.RWSAG.org

The Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild invites you to join us for our

June Fine Art Show

West Stockbridge 1854 Historic Town Hall, 9 Main Street, West Stockbridge

Fine Artists from the Berkshires exhibit recent paintings, sculpture, photography and mixed-media art.

June 4-7 and June 11-14

Thursday — 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Friday — 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Saturday — 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Reception — 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Sunday — 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM



Silent auction of fine art to benefit the 1854 Historical Society Town Hall

Friday and Saturday June 12-13th BERKSHIRES PAINT OUT/PHOTO OUT

Join us! Everyone is welcome! All artists – all media – and photographers – young and old, students, seniors. Get creative – come and paint or photograph the scenic village of West Stockbridge and the gorgeous Richmond Land Trust area beyond. Sign up at rivergrp@comcast.net.

Come at 9 am Friday and/or Saturday to the show and get a map of beautiful painting areas. Return with your paintings, drawings, photographs for a display and reception. Saturday June 13th from 4 to 6 pm..

The Richmond-West Stockbridge

Artists' Guild



Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild

Info@RWSAG.org

Stumped!

"A cricketer's life is a life of splendid freedom, healthy effort, endless variety and delightful good fellowship." — W. G. Grace (from AZQuotes)

According to the rules of cricket, a batsman can be declared out when the wicketkeeper puts down his wicket while he is out of his crease and not attempting a run. If he is attempting a run, however, that would be a runout.

Of course...!

The terminology of the game of cricket, often called the greatest game of all, is unfathomable at best to the uninitiated. But it is a game easily understood and easily played with a few simple guidelines. It is also a whole lot of fun!

Accordingly, the West Stockbridge Parks & Recreation Committee is hosting a series of cricket games throughout the summer and into the fall. The tentative dates are Saturday, June 27; Sunday, July 26; Saturday, August 22; and Sunday, September 20. Game time is 2 p.m. Location is the playing field at the Town Hall. Tea and goodies will be served.

So mark your calendars, and join the fun while doing something out of the ordinary. And, as always, ladies are invited to wear hats!



Photo by The Guardian.

Bark Mulch Topsoil Compost

413-243-4111

Meadow Farm LLC
PO Box 393
1125 Meadow Street
South Lee, Ma 01260

Compost Facility Accepting Yard & Wood Waste

SHAKER MILL INN

West STOCKBRIDGE, MA

A FAMILY & PET
FRIENDLY INN

PHONE: 413.232.4600

INFO@SHAKERMILLINN.COM
WWW.SHAKERMILLINN.COM

BOB & MARY THIBEAULT
KEEPERS OF THE INN



GIRDLER ELECTRIC

West Stockbridge, Massachusetts

413-232-7719

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

@West Stockbridge Library



West Stockbridge Library

Summer Reading Program for readers up to grade 6 JULY 1–AUG. 7

- “Every Hero Has a Story” kicks off July 1, 11 a.m., with minstrel storyteller Mary Jo Maichack in an interactive family program especially for children ages 4 and older. “The Itsy Bitsy Spider-Man: A Heroic Climb” features songs, folktales, dance, and drama. Maichack has been nominated for a Massachusetts Cultural Council Gold Star Program award and won two national awards for her storytelling CDs. Learn more at www.MaryJoMaichack.com. This program is supported by the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.
- But here’s more! We’re thrilled to host storyteller Lauren Losaw of The Bookloft Wednesday afternoons, July 8 and 22, 2 p.m. Her visits are courtesy of a James Patterson grant to independent bookstores. The Bookloft was selected as one of 55 bookstores across the country to receive a grant from Patterson to promote children’s literacy, among other goals. Losaw, a bookseller as well as a former children’s librarian, will tell stories, talk about what’s new in kids’ books, and have some surprise giveaways. We thank The Bookloft’s Eric Wilska for supporting our summer program.
- Our program concludes with an encore presentation by 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 this hilarious new adventure, things, just like in science, aren’t always quite what they seem.
- Readers can register, pick up reading records, enter our weekly raffle, and get an event calendar at the library. We welcome children of all abilities; all programs are free of charge.



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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The library will be closed Saturday, July 4, Independence Day.

NEW ADDITIONS

DVDs: *Restrepo*, *Still Alice*, *Selma*,
Mr. Turner, *American Sniper*

FICTION

Atkinson, *God in Ruins*
Baldacci, *Memory Man (also LP)*
Hart, *Don’t Go Home*
Hillerman, *Rock with Wings (LP)*
Kerr, *The Lady from Zagreb*
Lescroat, *Fall*
Sandford, *Gathering Prey*
Smiley, *Early Warning*

FOR YOUNG READERS

Duris, *B Is for Berkshires*
Hillenbrand, *Unbroken (YA edition)*

NONFICTION

Ashwell, *Shabby Chic: Sumptuous Setting and Other Lovely Things*
Kimball, *Trail Running in Western Massachusetts*
Manning, *When Books Went to War: The Stories That Helped Us Win World War II*
McCullough, *Wright Brothers*
Shea, *This Is Paradise: An Irish Mother’s Grief, an African Village’s Plight*

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. The next meeting is June 22, 2015, 4:30 p.m. in the community room.

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



WEST STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY HOURS

TUES. 10–5 p.m. WED. 1–5 p.m. THURS. & FRI. 2–6 p.m. SAT. 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

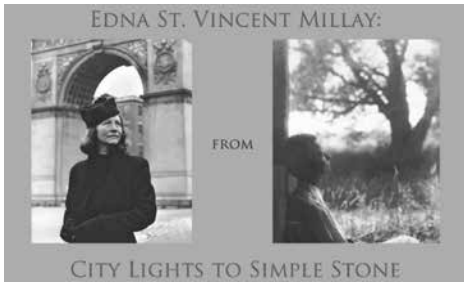
413-232-0300 ext. 308 weststockbridgelibrary@gmail.com weststockbridgelibrary.org



The Friends of the West Stockbridge Library
present

**Edna St. Vincent Millay:
From City Lights to Simple Stone**

Holly Peppe, Millay's literary executor, and Mark O'Berski, vice president of the Millay Society, will present an illustrated talk about Millay's life and career from her early days in the village to her country life at Steepletop in Austerlitz, NY, where her house and gardens are now open for visitors. Millay's personal connection to the town of West Stockbridge and the Berkshires will be explored. Dr. Peppe, who edited the Penguin's and Harper's editions of Millay's poems, will share stories about her friendship with the poet's sister and include selected readings.



Friday, June 19, 7-9 p.m.

The West Stockbridge Library, Town Hall,
21 State Line Road/Route 102

ART AT THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY – JUNE

IMAGES OF AFRICA – A PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBIT

PEOPLE AND PLACES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA



VICTORIA FALLS/ZIMBABWE – PHOTO BY GLORIA FRIEDMAN

PEOPLE – CHEFS/CRAFTSMEN/GUIDES/SCHOOL CHILDREN

PLACES – CAPETOWN/JOHANNESBURG/STELLENBOSCH WINE AREA/VICTORIA FALLS AND
OTHER LOCATIONS

If you missed the birds and animals May exhibit, there is a poster on view in the children's
area through June.

THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY

TOWN HALL/21 STATE LINE ROAD/ROUTE 102



**ANNUAL
BOOK SALE**
Save the dates!

Saturday, August 1, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Sunday, August 2, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Now accepting Book/CDs/DVD donations
Good and saleable condition only
No magazines or textbooks

Donations accepted through
Wednesday, July 22

Rick Houldsworth
Carpenter/Builder 232-4307
Small jobs welcome • Over 25 years of experience

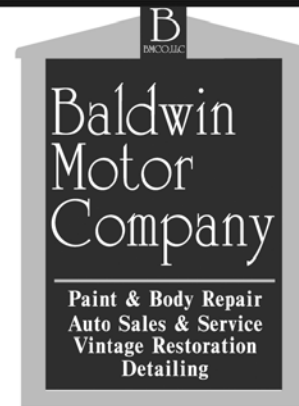
BALDWIN HARDWARE
Depot Street
West Stockbridge, MA 01266

Henry Baldwin (413) 232-7757

Donor Roll Call ~ June

Andrew & Laurie Alpert
Peter Anderson
Hal & Jill Gaffin
Marion & Whitney Gerard
Rose Girdler
Ron Hanft
Dorothy Hotchkiss & Frances Toolin
Robin Lazarow & Jeanne Kangas
Malcolm & BJ Salter
Victoria Street
Theresa Terry
West Stockbridge Grange
Carol & Carter White
Sean & Kathryn Wilson
Anonymous: 7

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 23.)



Earl Moffatt • Ed Lorette

- ✓ All Service & Maintenance
- ✓ Tire Sales, Mounting, and Balancing
- ✓ Brakes, Shocks, Exhaust, Etc.
- ✓ Rebuilding and Machine Work
- ✓ Ask about our \$29.95 Oil Change Special
- ✓ Towing Service

44 Great Barrington Road, West Stockbridge, MA 01266

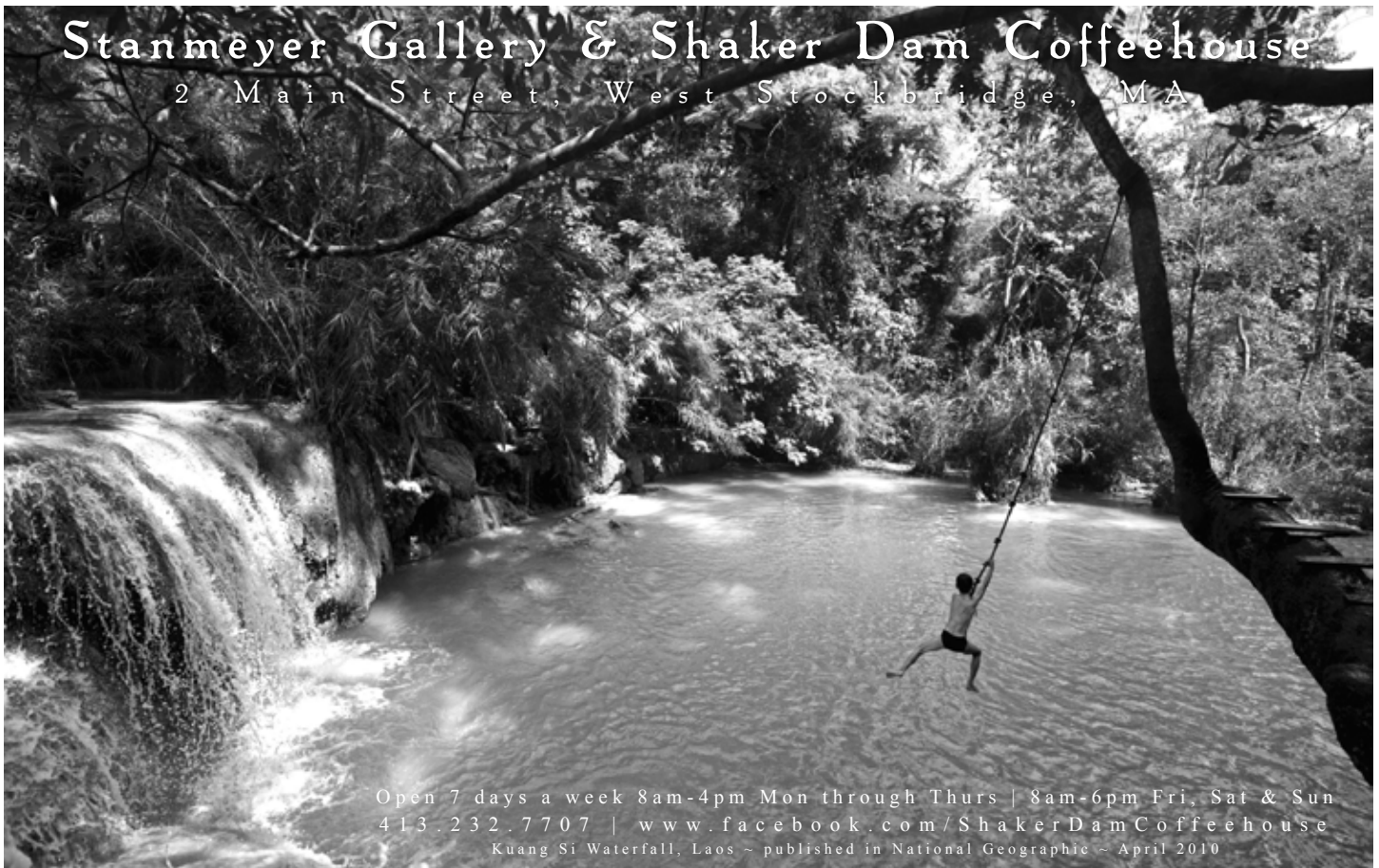
413-232-4455

Fax 413-232-4655

QUALITY SERVICE SINCE 1978

Stanmeyer Gallery & Shaker Dam Coffeehouse

2 Main Street, West Stockbridge, MA



Open 7 days a week 8am-4pm Mon through Thurs | 8am-6pm Fri, Sat & Sun
413.232.7707 | www.facebook.com/ShakerDamCoffeehouse
Kuang Si Waterfall, Laos ~ published in National Geographic ~ April 2010



Sold Out Chamber Players Concert Kicks Off Summer Season



by Liza Bennett

Bob Salerno, president of the West Stockbridge Historical Society, welcomed a capacity audience on Friday, May 22, to the fifth annual Memorial Day Concert in Vaber Hall, the second-floor performance space in the 1854 Town Hall. He thanked the many people and organizations, including the West Stockbridge Chamber Players, who have already given so much to help restore the building.

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. This concert featured seven outstanding musicians, including, along with Ms. Hudgins

on clarinet, Sheila Fiekowsky and Lisa Crockett on violin, Ronny Feldman on cello, Daniel Getz on viola, Elizabeth Morse on harp, and Linda Toote on flute.



The West Stockbridge Chamber Players are [left to right]: Linda Toote, Catherine Hudgins, Lisa Crockett, Sheila Fiekowsky, Daniel Getz, Ronny Feldman, and Elizabeth Morse. Photo by Doane Perry.

The concert started with Maurice Ravel's short Basque-inspired *Pièce en forme de Habanera*, followed by the String Quartet No. 2 in A major by Juan Crisóstomo Arriaga. Cellist Ronny Feldman, in introducing the Arriaga piece, made note of its elegance, ethnic harmonies, and the opportunities it offers for improvisation. "In fact," he said, "the only thing it seems to be lacking is a cello solo."

The String Trio by Jean Francaix led off the second half of the program, with violinist Sheila Fiekowsky first commenting that the piece is something of "a romp—fun and surprising, and the last movement actually sounds a little like a square dance." Linda Toote, who performed Claude Debussy's haunting *Syrinx*, mentioned that the piece can tempt musicians to overly broad interpretations, although

her performance seemed a model of fidelity to Debussy's intentions. The concert concluded, as it began, with Ravel—the beautiful Introduction and Allegro with a magnificent performance by Elizabeth Morse on the harp.

After a raffle drawing for a gift basket filled with contributions from the town's many generous merchants, the audience reassembled downstairs for refreshments and the opportunity to mingle and talk with the musicians.

The concert was generously underwritten by Richard Ziter, MD, and a grant from the West Stockbridge and Richmond Cultural Councils, local agencies supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

EXPERT REPAIR

DONALD McGRORY
ORIENTAL RUGS

22 MAIN ST. ROUTE 102 & 41
WEST STOCKBRIDGE, MA 01266
413-232-4100

ALWAYS BUYING OLD RUGS

HAND WASHING

APPRAISALS

EQUATOR Nord
20 MAIN STREET
WEST STOCKBRIDGE
MA. 01266 413-232-4100
ROBINLGREESON@GMAIL.COM

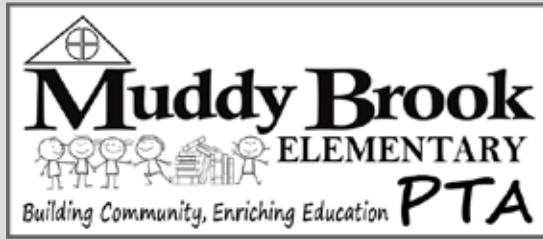
Alert

OLD AMERICAN INDIAN
JEWELRY, RUGS, TEXTILES,
VINTAGE CLOTHES, FOLK ART,
AND ECCENTRIC COLLECTABLES
THURSDAY - SUNDAY 11:00-5:00



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

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



Welcome and thank you to our slate of PTA officers for 2015-16:

- Co-Vice Presidents: Glen Chamberlain and Joshua Briggs
- Treasurer: Melissa Higgins
- Secretary: Ali Heller

Please join our June 10 PTA meeting at 6:30 p.m. to vote on our officer positions.

There is no letter 'i' in "Team," but we sure are glad there is a 'u' in our "Volunteers." Thank you to all who shared the volunteer load this year!

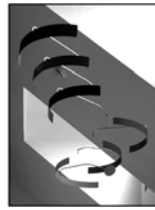
Enjoy a wonderful summer, and we'll see you next fall!

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

Give just **3 Hours** of your time this year!

Thank you for your continued support and volunteerism!

You have a beautiful home...
give it a beautiful mobile.



Your home is a gallery filled with expressions of life. The visual presence and motion of a mobile is like a companion sharing your journey.

Come in and discover the art of mobiles and join in the movement.

Hotchkiss MOBILES Gallery

Mobiles by Joel Hotchkiss. Large, medium and small mobiles. Commissions.

8 Center Street West Stockbridge, MA 413-232-0200 • Daily: 10-5 • Sun: 10-4 • www.artmobiles.com



WEPAVE.COM

W.E. Williams Paving

for all of your

Paving and

Excavating needs.

(413) 232-7003

Surfacing the Tri-State area since 1948

"That looks great on you!"



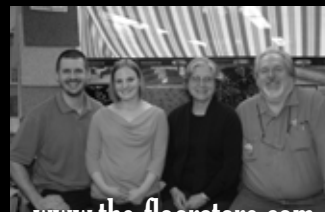
Sandra Hotchkiss offers you her unique selection of designer clothes... and personal attention. The compliments are free!



Women's Clothing (Petite to Plus) Jewelry • Accessories
Next to Hotchkiss Gallery

8 Center Street West Stockbridge, MA 413-232-0200 • Daily: 10-5 • Sun: 10-4 • www.artmobiles.com

The Floor Store



Come get floored by the floor store! We have a wide selection of carpet, tile, hardwood, bamboo, vinyl, tile, and so much more!

www.the-floorstore.com

232-7175

We have been flooring people since 1983!

12 Main Street West Stockbridge, MA

Parks & Recreation News: Celebrate!

By Ginna Dudney

Mark your calendars to celebrate the opening of Card Pond with a party on Sunday, June 28. The fun begins at noon with games, hot dogs, cold drinks, hamburgers, volleyball, and more! Or bring a picnic. Live music will be played courtesy of the Cultural Council.

A lifeguard will be on duty at the pond from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the day of the party, June 28, and daily thereafter through Labor Day.

Swimming lessons are again being offered. Sign-up sheets are available at the library and around town. Or use the coupon here. Reserve your space now before the classes fill up!

Elsewhere in the village, the basketball backboards at the Town Hall are now functioning; the playing fields are being restored after a horrific winter; and the tennis courts are being repaired.

Plans to revamp the playground at the Town Hall continue. Parents' input is actively being sought. There's a suggestion box in the library to collect all thoughts and ideas for new and improved structures. Help the committee plan the playground *your* children and grandchildren want!

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

Make check payable to Town of West Stockbridge

Mail coupon and payment to WS Parks & Rec, P.O. Box 148, West Stockbridge, MA 01266



Rouge
restaurant & bistro

William Merelle
owner / chef

Maggie Merelle
owner

3 Center Street - West Stockbridge MA 01266
tele 413-232-4111 fax 413-232-0111



MEADOW FARM EQUIPMENT

We carry all of your landscaping and garden supplies

- SNOW BLOWERS
- SNOW PLOWS & SANDERS
- CHAIN SAWS
- GENERATORS
- TRACTORS
- LAWN MOWERS
- HYDRAULIC HOSES
- POWER EQUIPMENT
- MULCH, TOPSOIL
- COMPOST, FERTILIZER
- GRASS SEED
- Ice melt, bulk salt, and sand/salt

Open Sat. 8-2; Closed Sundays

We also do repairs on your equipment!

413-243-0777

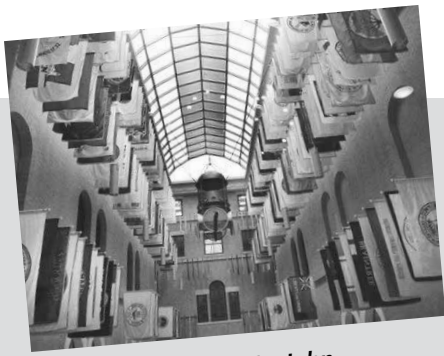
Route 102, 1160 Pleasant St. South Lee, MA

FULL SERVICE DEALER

Meyer GENERAC

Simplicity RedMax

ECHO SNAPPER



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

Town Flag Design Contest

The votes are in! Come see the wonderful designs entered into the contest on display at the Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild Fine Art Show, to be held June 4–7 and June 11–14, at the 1854 Town Hall, 9 Main Street, West Stockbridge. The show will be open Thursday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m., with a reception each Saturday from 4 to 6 p.m.

Scott Wilton

*Restoration & Conservation
Fine Furniture & Interiors*

*Restore & revitalize old finishes
Repairs, re-gluing, veneers, replacements
varnishes, shellacs, Japan colors*

*P.O. Box 338
West Stockbridge, MA 01266 (413) 232-4349*



William Korte Plumbing

Plumbing Installation and Repairs

William A. Korte

Master Plumber license #9844

korte34@msn.com

413-232-7051

Since 1977

No job too small



JLH Outdoor Services

Tree and Brush Removal

Cabling

Pruning

Land Clearing

Storm Damage Cleanup

Driveway Repair & Drainage

Plowing

Stone Walls & Patios

Prompt, Professional, Reliable and Fully Insured

Jim Hallock & Jenni Roy Hallock

P.O. Box 364 West Stockbridge

413-329-2332 / 232-4322

West Stockbridge History Quiz Answer:

The area west of the post office, bordered by Moscow Road and Oak Street and home of the new sculpture park, Turn Park, was a major industrial area. The quarry was the least intrusive of the industries there. By 1876, the town had two active lime kilns and a major iron blast furnace, all working 24/7. The smoke pollution over the village center must have been impressive (think pre-EPA).

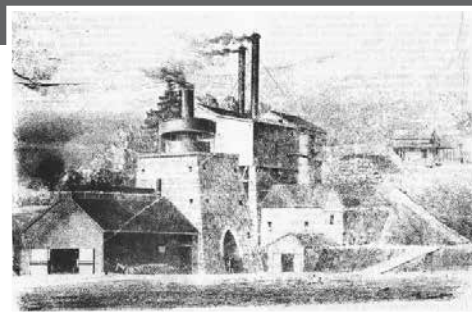
The two lime kilns were on the northern section of the property, near the Shaker Mill Tavern. Using charcoal or coal, lime kilns heated the limestone extracted from the many quarries in the area to produce lime for construction and farming. The product was then shipped out via the rail line running directly in front of the property through State Line and points east and west.

The larger operations were the two blast furnaces for smelting iron ore near the southern end of the property. The original furnace was founded in 1853 by Stephen Gay and C.T. Webster. It was most likely on the land underneath the current Mass Pike. Using wood from the hills around town to make charcoal, the blast furnace smelted iron from the surrounding open pit mines primarily to make pig iron.

The second blast furnace is shown on a map directly next to the post office property, likely on the Hotchkiss Mobiles site. It was also owned by Gay and Webster, later Gay and Woodruff, and others, and finally known as the Pomeroy Iron Furnace Number 1. This furnace burned in 1872, was rebuilt, and ran until 1881. It was the larger of the two and produced 200 tons of pig iron a week at its peak.

The smoke and air quality in town with these kilns and blast furnaces running must have been oppressive, akin to Charles Dickens's London. It was the peak of our industrial activity and declined after the financial panics of the 1880s and 1890s and with the more efficient competition from Pittsburgh and Ohio steel industries. We don't miss them.

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.



Gay & Woodruff's Blast Furnace No 1, West Stockbridge, Mass. Courtesy of Bob Salerno.

Est. 1888
Charles H. Baldwin & Sons

Manufacturers of

Baldwin's Pure Vanilla Extract

Flavoring Extracts, Spices, Baking Supplies,
Maple Table Syrup, Serious, Mushy & Hilarious
Greeting Cards, Retro Toys, Candy
& So Much More!

Gobble,
Gobble

"Take
a photo
in our
old-time
photo
booth!"



Not just a store. . .
It's an experience!

**1 Center Street
West Stockbridge
Massachusetts**

**MONDAY - SATURDAY 9-5
SUNDAY SEASONAL
413-232-7785**

www.baldwinextracts.com

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 6/3 Zia McGuane
- 6/10 Peter B. McMahon
- 6/13 John Ellis
- 6/15 Frank McMahon
- 6/22 Michael McMahon
- 6/24 Doane Perry
- 6/26 Mary Agnes McMahon
- 6/27 Leo Mikolajczyk

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

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

A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE



38 Main Street
West Stockbridge, MA 01266
(413) 232-4253

www.StoneHouseProperties.com



WEST STOCKBRIDGE • \$209,000

Town Government Boards and Commissions, Phone Directory, and Office Hours 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, Karen Zick</i>			
Administrative Assistant	<i>Mark Webber</i>	232-0300	ext. 319	Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Building Inspector	<i>Brian Duval</i>	232-0300	ext. 313	Tues. 4–7 p.m.
Conservation Commission	<i>Jennifer Kujawski, Lori Rose</i>	232-0300	ext. 338	Leave Message for Inquiries
Council on Aging	<i>John Zick</i>	232-0300	ext. 340	Leave Message for Inquiries
Emergency Management	<i>Louis Oggiani</i>	528-2175		
Fire Department	<i>Peter Skorput</i>	232-4200 (non-emergency)		Mon. 6:30–9 p.m.
Highway Department	<i>Curt G. Wilton</i>	232-0305		Leave Message for Inquiries
Library	<i>Lee Appelbaum</i>	232-0300	ext. 308	Tues. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Wed. 1–5 p.m.; Thurs. & Fri. 2–6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.– 2 p.m.; closed Sun. & Mon.
Police Department	<i>Tom Rubino</i>	232-8500 (non-emergency)	24 hours, 7 days/week	
Post Office	<i>Colleen A. Wich</i>	232-8544		Lobby: 7 a.m.–7 p.m.; 7 days/week; Window: Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.–12 noon
Seasonal Lifeguard		232-0315		
Sewer & Water Commission	<i>Michael Buffoni</i>	232-0309		
Town Accountant	<i>Elaine Markham</i>	232-0300	ext. 317	Leave Message for Inquiries
Town Clerk	<i>Ronni Barrett</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	Tues. & Thurs. 1:30–4 p.m.
Town Collector	<i>June A. Biggs</i>	232-0300	ext. 302	Wed. 3–6 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri. 10 a.m.–2 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
Town Historian	<i>Robert Salerno</i>	232-4465		
Town Treasurer	<i>Karen Williams</i>	232-0300	ext. 316	Thurs. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Transfer Station		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

WEST STOCKBRIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES NEW RECRUITS

Shown here at the Memorial Day ceremonies (from left to right) are volunteer firefighters Rich Girdler, Andrew Zick, and Randy Murray. These three friends, among others who are considering joining, have recently volunteered to do more for their community. They will spend months training, being outfitted with personal protective gear, and learning department procedures before being asked to assist at a fire or accident scene. The department welcomes them and would welcome even more community-spirited volunteers. *Photo by John Parker.*



Town Beautification Appreciates Your Support!

The weather is already very summery, and the flowers are blooming . . .

Thanks to your continued generous support, our bridges, Visitor's Center, post office, and flower bed near the turnpike entering town are colorfully adorned! We would like especially to thank in advance our loyal volunteers, Serena Merrill, and this year the Davis family, for helping out with months of arduous watering.

Please help replenish our funds by sending your donation to West Stockbridge Beautification, c/o Lisa Parker, 49 State Line Road, West Stockbridge, MA 01266. Contact: 232-4123.

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)

City State Zip



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

Please mail this form with your check to:
WSLY
P.O. Box 238
West Stockbridge, MA 01266

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

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

**The Local Yokel
 Needs You!**

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

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

June 2015 Calendar of Events			
6/1	Board of Selectmen	7 p.m.	Town Offices
6/1	Planning Board	7 p.m.	Town Offices
6/3	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
6/4	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
6/9	COA Potluck Luncheon	noon	Town Offices Community Room
6/9	Parks & Recreation Commission	5:30 p.m.	Town Offices Work Room
6/9	American Legion	7 p.m.	Town Offices
6/10	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
6/10	Friends of the Library meeting	3:30 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
6/10	Muddy Brook PTA meeting	6:30 p.m.	Muddy Brook Library
6/11	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
6/13	Democratic Caucus	10:15 a.m.	Town Offices Community Room
6/14	Grange Dinner	1-2 p.m.	Grange Hall, Church St., Stockbridge
6/15	*** Deadline for the Next Local Yokel ***		send to info@thelocalyokel.org
6/15	Board of Selectmen	7 p.m.	Town Offices
6/15	Planning Board	7 p.m.	Town Offices
6/17	Ramadan begins at sundown		
6/17	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
6/18	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
6/14	Flag Day		
6/21	Father's Day		
6/21	First Day of Summer!		
6/22	Library Trustees meeting	4:30 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
6/24	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
6/25	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
6/28	Card Pond Opening Party	noon-3 p.m.	Card Pond
6/29	Board of Selectmen	7 p.m.	Town Offices