

Local yokel

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

West Stockbridge

March

2015



"I'm outta here!"

Photo by John Parker.

Profile Preview:

The New Apartments at 29 Main Street

By Doane Perry

The Card Lake Inn has become apartments for rent. Great Barrington resident Alex Sarbib has renovated the former restaurant, bar, and inn at the corner of Hotel and Main Streets into six apartments and has currently rented five of the six units. Tenant parking is up Hotel Street in back of the apartments. West Stockbridge administrative assistant Mark Webber lives further up Hotel Street and commented that Alex has done a beautiful, high-quality job with the all-new materials renovation. In the next *Local Yokel*, we hope to take you inside.



Photo by Doane Perry.



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Board of Selectmen Meeting Summaries

By Doane Perry

January 26, 2015

WiredWest

The selectmen agreed to a request by WiredWest liaison Steve Sautman to include the letter of support in the sign-up campaign. WiredWest will begin in February. Residents will be able to sign up by mail or at the WiredWest website.

Earl Moffat asked Steve to get WiredWest to add more information to the campaign materials including a history of the planning and negotiation and especially explaining that the WiredWest plan is far superior to what Charter Cable could offer. Steve said he would fine-tune the marketing materials and provide them to the board for review before the campaign begins.

Utility pole hearing

The selectmen approved a request by Anthony Korte to place a utility pole at a new residence at 27 West Alford Road. The pole would enable installation of a transformer. The distance is 2,600 feet with no anchors or support wires. Verizon declined to install the pole.

Rent Control Board Update

Superior Court Judge Agostino ruled against the trailer park owner's request to stay the order by the West Stockbridge Rent Control Board. Town Counsel Patricia Cantor represented the town. The effective date of the decision remains October 2015.

Highway Superintendent Update

Highway Superintendent Curt Wilton reported that the town is not yet over budget for snow plowing this winter. Turnpike bridges have become a concern. The bridge on Moscow Road where people walk looks bad but is safe. The bridge over the Williams River that people do not see is actually worse. There will be a preconstruction conference about the Cobb Road bridge; Maximillian Construction will be the contractor.

The selectmen approved Curt's request to pursue acquisition of a grader from the town of Becket for about \$40,000. The town's 1980 Champion grader is obsolete. Becket is selling its top-notch

1995 four-wheel drive Deere grader, which currently has 7,000 hours of use or about half of its life. The Deere grader's value was about \$400,000 new.

WiredWest letter from Town of Colrain

The board discussed a letter written by the town of Colrain expressing displeasure about the WiredWest plan for the town. The letter argues that the plan will increase taxes \$417 for a property valued at \$300,000. Like West Stockbridge, Colrain approved the commitment letter to WiredWest in 2014. The West Stockbridge selectmen speculated that the cost for Colrain, a spread-out hill town, was more than expected.

Town Offices Use Requests

There was discussion about use of the Community Room by Olivia Bartlett's photography studio because it is for profit. Permission was given to Evie Kerswell of Mill Pond Park to use the Board of Selectmen's room.

Queensboro Package Store

Owner Steve Dixon asked how to deal with the town sweeper that often removes the salt he puts down on his sidewalk. Earl Moffatt suggested conferring with the sweeper operator, whose schedule is irregular. Steve also asked if the nice-looking street lamp that was removed during the downtown improvement project will be returned. The selectmen said no but that streetlights will be needed. Steve said that the two 15-minute parking limit signs should be reinstalled. Earl said that has not been decided.

Other Business:

- A meeting will be held in Lenox on January 28 concerning the Mass DOT Route 41 bridge reconstruction.
- The Berkshire Hills Regional School District superintendent asked to address the board about amending the regional agreement.
- The selectmen agreed to replace the animal control officer's lost barn book so he can complete the annual animal count.

... continued on page 5



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.

The *Local Yokel* Needs You!

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

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

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

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

March History Quiz Question:

The term *Shaker* is attached to many places in our town: a mill, inn, dam, tavern, pond, and gallery. The Shaker Mill itself is an iconic building and one of the most recognizable. The mill is a dominant feature in the earliest drawing of the town by John Barber (1838). A dam has been at that location since the mid-1700s. That location was the central part of the local activity when Elijah Williams first came to town and set up his sawmill and iron forge there.

So how did the name *Shaker* become attached to the mill and other features in town? Did the Shakers actually build the mill and the dam? Did West Stockbridge have a Shaker community, maybe even a suburb of the Hancock community? How did they leave their name everywhere?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)



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February 9, 2015

Earl Moffatt was absent.

Berkshire Hills Regional School District

Superintendent Dillon will address the selectmen on February 23 about amending the regional agreement. The selectmen commented that, due to a long list of failures, Great Barrington has dug its own hole. West Stockbridge will not welcome changing what it pays.

Mill Pond Trailer Park

Representing the tenants, Evie Kerswell reported that trailer park owner Eric Levesque is failing to plow the snow on park roads, which is a safety issue because the packed snow turns to ice that can impede fire trucks.

Evie also reported that the sewer lines from homes to the tank are backing up due to lack of routine maintenance and pumping. There has been no response to calls for help. Mark Webber advised them to call the Department of Environmental Protection.

Evie reported that many of the tenants are interested in purchasing the property and are making a modified offer of \$650,000. They are being assisted by ROC USA, which has helped 17 trailer parks "condo-ize." The tenants recognize that they face a huge task including getting an engineer's report and a construction loan.

Mass Pike Solar Project

The project will be at Interchange 1 by the access road from Route 102. There will be a public hearing about the project that will include a fence and screen between the turnpike and Route 102. There will be a small financial benefit to the town, which will be able to assess the turnpike for personal property tax.

Highway Department

Curt Wilton's request to declare a snow emergency was approved.

Options were discussed for detours around upcoming work on Route 41 in the south part of town, where traffic is estimated at 400 vehicles per day. While Maximillian's bid kept Route 41 open, they suggest closing Route 41 in both directions and detouring over Cobb Road, saving three months of construction time and gaining the town some paving in compensation. The selectmen prefer closing one lane at a time because the Cobb Road detour would slow down fire responders and damage Cobb and Pixley Hill Roads.

Nook and Cranny site

SoMa Catering is moving into the Nook and Cranny site and will start business with catering, followed by four to five tables for breakfast and sandwiches. Future plans include a restaurant connecting both buildings on the property.

Other Business:

- The Golden Knights Tournament will be held in the gym on February 21. Every year the organization picks a different charity. Last year the event raised \$5,000 in donations.
- The chief of police will be on vacation February 16 to 23. Officer Messina will be the officer in charge during the chief's absence.
- Finance Committee will meet February 27 concerning the FY '16 budget. Last year's deficit of \$8,000 for the police car has been added to this budget.
- The Village School solar kiosk will be removed and replaced.
- The selectmen approved a request by the West Stockbridge/Richmond Artists' Group to use the Community Room.
- Joel Hotchkiss and the Artists' Group will collaborate on a community project to design a town flag.



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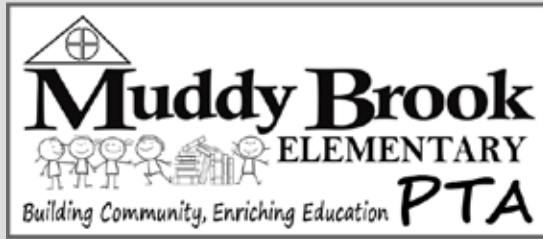
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We are accepting officer nominations for the coming year. Our officer positions have term limits, and there will be many openings for you to get involved, make the PTA what you'd like to see, and help continue the great work that has been done. If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

Next PTA meeting is Wednesday, March 4, check website for updated time, in the MB Library. Please join our conversation about the upcoming Read-a-Thon, Spring Dance, Teacher Appreciation Week, and Mud Day!

March 10 is Family Literacy Night, 5:30–7:30. A fun- and learning-filled evening for the school community to explore reading and writing. This year's theme is circus based and will include lots of students' stories. It will kick off the **PTA's 10-Day Read-a-Thon.** Look for sheets to come home, and start reading!

Join the fun in the library or art studio as a parent or grandparent volunteer! Whether you can come in once a week, or once a year, both Ms. Smith and Ms. Benton are always looking for a little more assistance.

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

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Thank you for your continued support and volunteerism!

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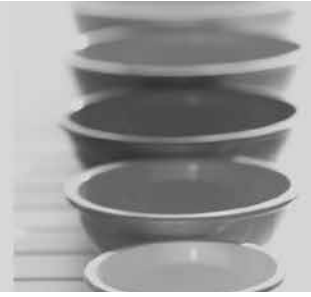
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Mindful Eating: “Bite into a Healthy Lifestyle”

by Rachel Alves, RD, LDN



The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and Registered Dietitians celebrate National Nutrition Month in March. This year's theme is “Bite into a Healthy Lifestyle.” If we adopt a *healthy lifestyle* through a mindful eating plan that includes an appropriate caloric intake, a wide variety of nutrient-dense foods and beverages, and adding or increasing physical activity, these choices can help with weight management, disease prevention or control, and overall well-being and quality of life.

Supporting this campaign means first taking a look at your current lifestyle to see if your behaviors are promoting health. According to the American Heart Association, “A healthy lifestyle may prevent heart disease in nearly 3 out of 4 women.”

So what exactly is a “healthy lifestyle”? A healthy lifestyle consists of no smoking, low stress, adequate sleep, no more than one alcoholic beverage per day, good nutrition with appropriate calories, and at least 2½ hours of moderate exercise per week. Piece of cake, right?

Hopefully if you haven't already, you are in the process of quitting smoking. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, smoking affects every organ and can cause cancer almost anywhere in the body. With that said, stress is part of everyone's life. Try stress reduction techniques such as positive self-talk, deep breathing and meditation, slowing down and being in the moment, reaching out for support, laughing a lot, and exercising. Adequate sleep is very individual, but good pillows and mattress, keeping a regular sleep ritual, and keeping the room between 65 and 72 degrees can help. I think you understand the one alcoholic drink per day. Let's break down good nutrition with appropriate calories and regular exercise.

- **Step 1: Know How Many Calories You Need to Lose or Maintain Weight:** Many websites can help: myfitnesspal.com, caloriecontrol.org, and choosemyplate.gov. Usually you input your age, gender, height and weight, and exercise level, and it will tell you how many calories you need to consume. Let's use me as an example: I'm a 47-year-old woman, 5'3", 120 pounds, and I get 30 to 60 minutes of moderate exercise most days. I need to consume between 1800 and 2000 calories per day.
- **Step 2: Track Your Calories to Stay Within Your Daily Limit:** Using these same websites, keep a food diary to track how much you are consuming and when you have met your limit. (Hopefully you will not be like me when I was trying to lose weight. On my first day of tracking, I met my limit by 3 p.m.!) The only way to ensure your input is correct is to measure your portions. Get out your measuring spoons and cups and use them! You may be astonished at how small an actual ½ cup of rice or pasta truly is! FYI, I still measure my morning creamer, nut butter for my one piece of toast, and nuts or granola for the 6 to 8 ounces of yogurt that I generally eat for lunch. Being more strict during the day allows me to liberalize at dinner; however, if I do not pay attention, the pounds creep back on.
- **Step 3: Make Every Calorie Count by Getting Good Nutrition:** Eat minimally processed foods; eat fish more and limit red meat; choose whole-grain bread, pasta, and cereal; eat richly colored fruits and vegetables that are higher in nutrients; choose lower fat, calcium-rich dairy or nondairy; limit added salt and sugar; use healthy fats such as olive and canola oils, avocado, salmon, and almonds, walnuts, and flaxseeds; eat a salad every day. Choosemyplate.gov also helps you *eat right with MyPlate*: fill half your plate with vegetables and fruit, a quarter of your plate with lean protein, and the other quarter with a whole grain. You can also include a lower fat dairy or nondairy choice.
- **Step 4: Now That You're Eating Right, Move More:** The goal for adults is 2½ hours of moderate exercise (brisk walking, jogging, and aerobic dance) per week and 60 minutes per day for children and teens. Moderate exercise feels fairly hard; your breathing quickens but you are able to talk. You usually start to sweat after about 10 minutes. The websites mentioned earlier also help you track your physical activity and usually allow more calories for increased exercise!

My philosophy as a dietitian and someone who loves to eat is that everything fits, but within moderation, just like the old adage. Happy National Nutrition Month, and good luck!

Artists of West Stockbridge and Richmond Area: March Events

By Karen Carmean

Museum Visit to Clark and Williams Art: Sunday, March 1

Join us to visit a new exhibit at the Clark on machine art modernism. Forty prints from the Daniel Cowin collection capture the tumultuous aesthetic and political climate of the years surrounding World Wars I and II. There is a lecture at 3 p.m. Entrance to the Clark is free on the first Sundays of the month from October to May. At Williams Art Museum there is an exhibit of 26 plates of the prodigious architect Frank Lloyd Wright's early work, published in a luxurious portfolio of 100 plates in Berlin in 1910. Many of us saw Wright's local work at the Lichtenstein Center last summer. There is also the exhibit "Three Centuries of American Art." RSVP kcarmean@gmail.com to coordinate travel, lunch, and your priorities.

Positive Critique Session: Wednesday, March 4, 4:30–5:30 p.m.

Artists are invited to bring work in progress or work you would like to get feedback and suggestions on from others. The public is invited. We will be supportive and empowering in our suggestions. We know we can learn a lot from different points of view and experience. Community Room, WS Town Hall, 21 Stateline Road (Rte. 102)

Meeting of Artists of West Stockbridge and Richmond Area, March 4, 6–9 p.m.

Help us determine a new name! This one is too long! All those who have paid \$40 for membership may vote, but the meeting is open to the interested public. We will work on the April 11 workshop, "How to Take Pictures for the Web, Facebook, and Visual Social Media," our exhibit in June at the 1854 Town Hall on Main Street, West Stockbridge, and our September exhibit in Richmond. What are your ideas, interests, and passions? What would you like to propose? Which artists would you like to meet? Hear plans for our new website. WS Town Hall, 21 Stateline Road (Rte. 102); RSVP kcarmean@gmail.com



Photo by Doane Perry.

First Friday Art Walk: Friday, March 6, 5–8 p.m.

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

Films on Art

Please let us know of any films about artists and art you would like to see. We have found at least one a month at the Little Cinema at the Berkshire Museum with the help of curator Nannina Stearn, who is now moving on. We wish her well! We are hoping to watch an excellent video interview with John Stanmeyer. Last month we watched the shorts nominated for the Oscars.

Drawing and Painting Sessions: TBD, probably Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday evenings in late March

Join us for drawing and painting, usually with a live model. Cost: \$15 for the model. We have held a number of successful sessions using different media and at different levels of experience. Artists appreciate the positive and supportive atmosphere, the opportunity to learn from each other, and the quiet meditative sense and focus of attention we share. Sessions are held in a private location. RSVP kcarmean@gmail.com

**Meet the Artist: John Clarke. Wednesday, March 18,
Gallery Six Depot, West Stockbridge**

Join us for an informal discussion over lunch with John Clarke, who works in oil, chalk, pastel, colored pencil, and is drawn to symbolic shapes. He is also a composer, poet, photographer, and musician. You will have a chance to ask him questions. RSVP kcarmean@gmail.com

**Workshop: "How to Take Pictures for the Web, Facebook, and
Visual Social Media," Saturday, April 11, 9:30–5 p.m.**

Save the date! Photographers will teach us how to take the best pictures for our new website and for social media. We are looking for people who know about Pinterest, Instagram, and so on, to teach small sessions of 15 to 30 minutes. Open to the public. Members will be able to have their work photographed for the website and Facebook.



Photo by Doane Perry.

MEET THE ARTIST

John Clarke

*John Clarke:
Artist, Composer, Poet,
Writer, Musician,
Photographer and
New Father!*



WED. MARCH 18 12:15

Six Depot
West Stockbridge MA

RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Artists of West Stockbridge and
Richmond

Discussion over lunch on John Clarke's Exhibit at Six Depot

Wednesday, March 18 12:15pm

Join us for an informal discussion over lunch with John Clarke in the Gallery at Six Depot, West Stockbridge. John is an artist, composer, photographer, poet, musician formerly of the band Bell Engine, and writer of short stories. As an artist he works in oil, chalk, pastel, colored pencil, and finds himself drawn to symbolic shapes. You will have a chance to ask him questions. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Calendar of Local Art Events

Sun., 3/1

Visit to Clark and Williams art museums

Wed., 3/4

Positive Critique, WS Town Hall,
4:30–5:30 p.m.

Wed., 3/4

Meeting of group to choose name and make
plans, WS Town Hall, 6–9 p.m.

Fri., 3/6

First Friday Art Walk, 5–8 p.m. Meet 5–6 p.m.
at Bagels 'Too, 166 North St., Pittsfield

Wed., 3/18

Meet the Artist: John Clarke. 12:15–1:30 p.m.
over lunch, Six Depot, West Stockbridge

3/20–5/3

Fourth Annual Juried Photography
Exhibition, Sohn Fine Art Gallery,
69 Church St., Lenox

Sat., 4/11

Workshop: "How to Take Pictures for the
Web, Facebook, and Visual Social Media"

Spring begins this month, and after one of the most challenging winters in memory, the West Stockbridge Farmers Market Committee is hard at work to prepare for the biggest and best market season yet!

Vendors are lining up; musicians are tuning up; and plans for monthly or more special markets are well under way.

But the committee needs help! Placing and removing weekly signs. Distributing posters. Correspondence. Setting up. Breaking down. Animal husbandry. Advertising. Marketing. Hands-on help at the market each week. Fresh ideas to make the market shine!

You needn't commit for the full season or even for weeks at a time. But if several people would come forward and offer some time just a few days all summer, the WSFM has a chance to reach the goals set for this season.

Is it worth a few hours of your time?

Anyone interested in helping out at the Farmers Market can call (917) 209-0926, e-mail WSFarmMarket@gmail.com, or just stop by the Committee Table on or after May 21.



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West Stockbridge Parks & Recreation Update

By Ginna Dudney

Hard to believe that it's time to think about summer! But think about it you must!

This summer, Parks & Rec will host a kick-off party to open Card Pond on Sunday, June 28, from noon to 3 p.m. There'll be hot dogs, games, face painting, volleyball, music, and more! Be sure to mark the date and join in the fun!

Lifeguards will again be on duty this summer every day from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., unless otherwise noted, beginning June 28 and continuing through Labor Day. Swimming lessons will be available twice a week (Thursday and Friday) taught by a Red Cross certified swimming instructor. Anyone interested should sign up using the coupon below. First come, first serve. Lessons will start at \$5 each, twice a week for 9 weeks. Registration is required, and payment must be received in advance.

Preliminary plans for the October 9 Spooktacular, in conjunction with the Farmers Market, are also in the works. At present, there are openings to help build scarecrows, bash piñatas, and entertain kids in general.

Also, Halloween itself is on the distant horizon. It falls on a Saturday this year, and plans at present include re-creating last year's successful parade at dusk and a SoMa feast at the Old Town Hall as well as the possible inclusion of a Halloween Happening & Costume Contest at the Congregational Church beforehand.

If you are interested in participating in any or all of the events, call (917) 209-0926 or e-mail WSPandR@gmail.com.

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.



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@West Stockbridge Library

We thank the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, for sponsoring last month's hands-on workshop by award-winning artist Greg Maichack. A group of enthusiastic artists created original pieces based on Monet's *The Regatta at Argenteuil*.

Did you know you can access a wealth of informative articles via the Research Databases tab on our library website? Thanks to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and the Massachusetts Library System, you can get current articles on culinary arts, gardening and horticulture, even research materials for children and teens. Try the *Books and Authors* tab. It's jam-packed with answers to the question, "What do I read next?"



Artist Greg Maichack led a hands-on pastel workshop. Photos courtesy of the West Stockbridge Library.

Previews of Coming Attractions

The library celebrates National Library Week, April 12–18, with our second annual Open House, Saturday, April 18. Also, the 2015 Summer Reading Program, "Every Hero Has a Story," will run July 8 to August 6. Stay tuned for more information.

NEW ADDITIONS

DVDs: *Best of Me, St. Vincent, Downton Abbey Season 5, Foxcatcher, The Green Prince, The Homesman, The Judge*

FICTION

Box, <i>Endangered</i>	Diamant, <i>Boston Girl</i>	Rock, <i>Circles of Time, Future Arrived</i>
Coben, <i>The Stranger</i>	Phillips, <i>The Lost Child</i>	Tyler, <i>Spool of Blue Thread</i>
Dekker, <i>A.D. 30</i>	Robb, <i>Obsession in Death</i>	Woods, <i>Insatiable Appetites</i>

For Young Readers

Barron, *The Wisdom of Merlin* Chin, *Year of the Sheep*

NONFICTION

Connor, *Seed Libraries: And Other Means of Keeping Seeds in the Hands of the People*
 Gawande, *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Happens in the End*
 Hobbs, *Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace: A Brilliant Young Man Who Left Newark for the Ivy League*

Ongoing

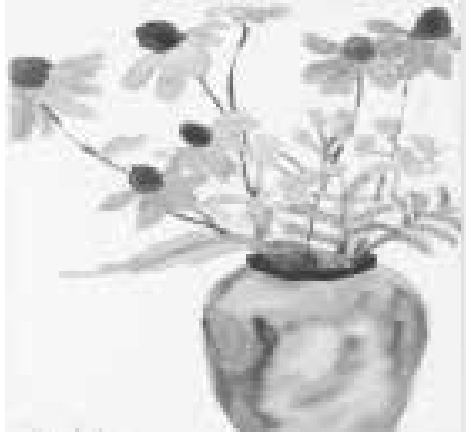
- Call or stop at the library to sign up for computer introductory or Windows 8 classes taught by Bill Biggs. Please indicate your availability.
- Don't forget to set up a CW/MARS online account by going to weststockbridgelibrary.org and clicking on the card catalog picture. Your account allows you to keep track of checkouts, requests, pickup locations, renewals, and more.
- Board meetings of the library trustees are open to the public and take place the third Thursday of the month. Next meeting: March 19, 2015, 4:30 p.m., 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.
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Art at the West Stockbridge Library
March/April Artist
DIANA FELBER PAINTING



“I hope to leave a wake of beauty behind me. This is my personal mission statement. I paint with plants in my garden, paints on paper and canvas, or food in the kitchen. I simply have to make things, create new combinations, or repeat someone else’s, in my own interpretation.

Inspiration comes from many sources: certainly the plant world and nature. Colors alone can move me and make me want to combine them in new ways.

In these flower paintings, I painted what I saw and love. I’m hoping they please the viewer too.”

The West Stockbridge Library
Town Hall/21 State Line Road



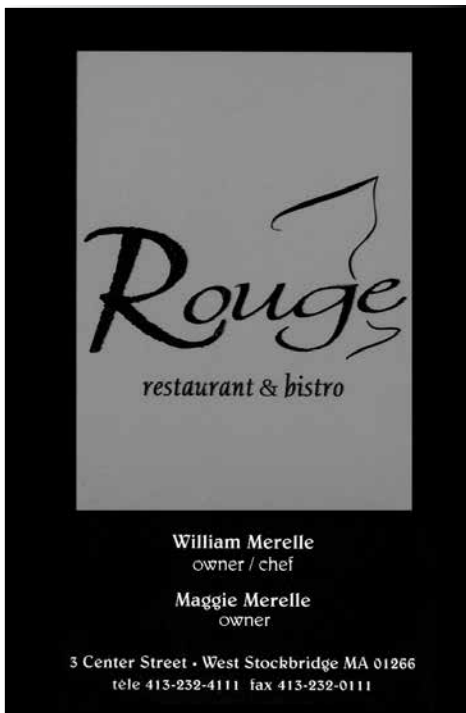
The Friends of the Library thank all who contributed to us
through the *Local Yokel’s* Santa’s Wish List.
Your generosity and support are much appreciated.

WiredWest Sign-up Letters Are Coming

WiredWest letters are being mailed to your home this month. The mailer includes information about WiredWest, the cooperative of 31 western Massachusetts member towns, including West Stockbridge, that was formed to build and operate a regional state-of-the-art fiberoptic network bringing Internet, phone, HDTV, and more to every home and business that signs up. The mailer also includes information on services and pricing for broadband Internet service starting at 25 mbps, digital phone, and HDTV. We need at least 40% of the households to sign a conditional commitment for service with a refundable deposit to ensure that our part of the network build will be financially viable. You can also find more information and sign up online at www.wiredwest.net.

In my excitement of moving forward with broadband, I was a bit optimistic of the timing of the letter in my update article last month. I apologize for any confusion it may have caused. I am glad to see the great interest.

Steve Sautman
WiredWest Delegate
Sautman@msn.com



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owner / chef

Maggie Merelle
owner

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

Recycling Tip - March

“YES or NO?”

Stop in at the transfer station office and pick up the latest detailed information from the Springfield Municipal Recycling Facility (MRF) of what can and cannot go in the recycling containers. Keep this list handy at home when you are sorting items for recycling.

Also, be sure to check out the MRF website (www.springfieldmrf.org) to view a fascinating video of just what happens when your recycling reaches the facility.



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STORE HOURS: Friday - Monday 11-5 (Sunday 12-4)



Thank You, West Stockbridge!

Update to Santa's Wish List Donations

Additional Wish List donations were received since we published the results in the February issue.

In our December 2014 issue, the "Local Yokel" included an appeal for donations to eight West Stockbridge organizations. The total received was \$7,075 (up from \$6,115 last year). We thank all those who gave so generously to these important community groups that work very hard to make West Stockbridge such a special place to live.

Here are the totals by organization:

Community Health Association	\$465	WS Beautification	\$825
Friends of the Library	\$995	WS Farmers Market	\$640
Local Yokel	\$1,325	WS Fire and Rescue Services	\$1,885
Pet Partners of the Tri-State		WS Historical Society	\$775
Berkshires (new this year)	\$165	TOTAL GIVING	\$7,075

2 Main Street, West Stockbridge, MA
Stanmeyer Gallery & Shaker Dam Coffeehouse

Fleeing Terror, Finding Refuge ~ John Stanmeyer's latest story for *National Geographic* magazine, published in this month's issue.

Join us in the gallery for a series of presentations throughout the month of March as John shares the making of his 14th story for the world-renowned publication, part IV of the Out of Eden Walk project. Visit our Facebook page or call the gallery for schedule.

Open 7 days a week 8am-4pm Mon through Thurs | 8am-6pm Fri, Sat & Sun
 413.232.7707 | www.facebook.com/ShakerDamCoffeehouse

Mohammad Magelk, 23, uses scissors to cut the front lawn, a grassy spot in front of his tent he created with seeds collected while working as a gardener. From Idlib, Syria, he has lived in this tent at a refugee center in eastern Turkey for over two years.

Eastern Turkey, published in *National Geographic* ~ March 2015

Community News & Events

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, March 8, the Stockbridge Grange will serve a corned beef and cabbage 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. If the weather is bad, call first to see if the dinner has been postponed one week.

Council on Aging

The COA monthly potluck luncheon will be held at noon on Tuesday, March 10, in the Community Room at the Town Hall. Hope to see you there!

St. Patrick's Day Potluck Supper

St. Patrick's Church will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a special Mass at 2 p.m. followed by a Potluck Supper at 3 p.m. at the Parish Center. All are welcome.

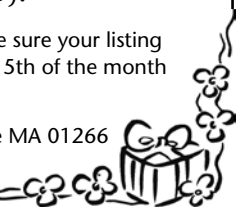
Send your notices for Community News & Events to the Local Yokel, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266, or by e-mail to info@thelocalyokel.org.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 3/9 Susan Fisher & Gary Schizengman's
30th Anniversary
- 3/20 Parker Lockenwitz
- 3/25 Jan Lang
- 3/30 Dick Moffatt (born 1919)
- Happy belated birthday wishes
to Sarah Biggs (Feb. 15)!

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

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



Donor Roll Call ~ March

- Alison & Marshall Ash
Hillary & Jay Cohen
Mike & Liz DiGrigoli
Paul & Louise Faggioni
Lea & David Finck
Nancy & Walter Howell
John & Ruby Korte
Bill Loeb
Nanci McConnell
John & Marcia Miner
Edmund & Elizabeth Parnes
Irving & Sharon Picard
Cathy & John Render
Judith & Ernst Rosenberger
Phyllis Weiss
Donald Young, in memory of Rascal the cat
Anonymous: 2

Thanks to everyone who has donated to WSLY.
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(See response form on page 21.)

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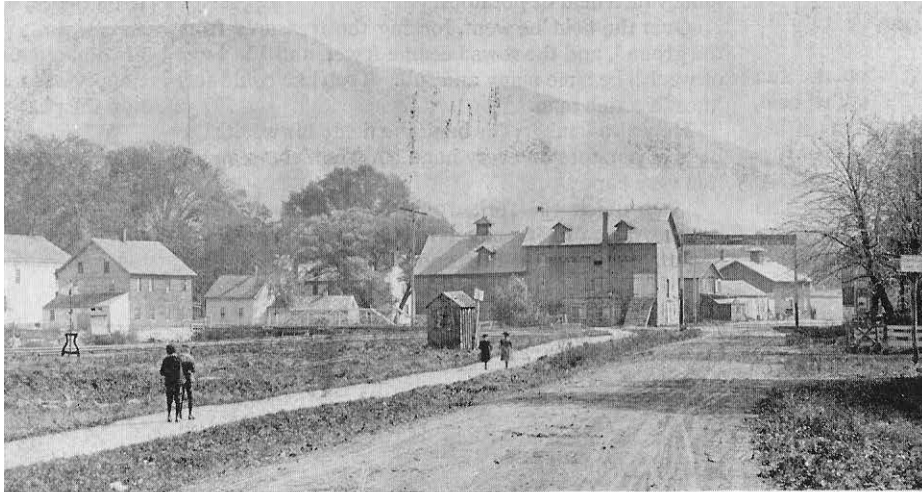
Please send your Birthdays & Anniversaries to the Local Yokel.

We are happy to include them in the next issue.

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



West Stockbridge History Quiz Answer:



SHAKER MILLS, WEST STOCKBRIDGE

Shakers, formally the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing, had their beginnings in England as a branch of the Quaker religion. They immigrated in the late 1700s, settled in the Albany area, in Watervliet, and built a major community in New Lebanon, with other local satellite communities in Hancock, Tyringham, and Enfield, Connecticut. There were Shaker communities from Maine to Kentucky.

A dam and commercial operation have been on that site since the mid-1700s including Elijah Williams's operation when he came to town in

1763. The original mill building was constructed some time after 1805 when E.W. Thayer bought the property (the original building has been modified and added onto). In 1830, the property and mill were sold to the Tyringham Shaker community that was at the height of their membership and prosperity.

No record exists of Shakers ever living, or having a community, in West Stockbridge. Also there is no record of Shakers actually operating the mill. Other names appear in the town census as mill workers, but with no identification of which mill (there were many). The Shakers likely leased out the mill to non-Shakers to operate it and collected rent as an investment.

The Tyringham community was the smallest and the most profitable in our area. Investments like the West Stockbridge mill probably contributed to its economic success. The community was closed and folded into the Hancock community in 1875 due to a lack of membership. The diary of Elder Daemon of Tyringham cites the sale of the mill and water rights in 1851, yet other sources cite the property being sold in 1867 to Isaac Rees and Lawrence Moffat.

The Shaker relationship to West Stockbridge poses a number of questions:

- Why did they own a property so far away from their community: four hours by horseback?
- Did they use it to grind their own grain as well? There were many other closer mills in Tyringham, Lee, and Stockbridge.
- What did the area look like before the dam was built and the Shaker Mill Pond created? Maybe it was just like other sections of the Williams River.
- When did the Shaker Mill Pond get its name, instead of just Mill Pond?

All of these are intriguing questions to be further researched, but in the meantime we have the Shaker name attached to our most prominent features.

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.

Collector's Notes

Motor vehicle excise taxes for fiscal year 2015 and a few for fiscal 2014 were mailed on February 10, 2015. These bills are due on March 19. Be sure to include the current bill number and tax year if paying through a bill-pay service. Interest and late charges accrue quickly on excise, and nonpayment can jeopardize your right to register a vehicle or renew a license.

June Biggs, Collector

Tel.: 232-0300, ext. 302

E-mail: collector@weststockbridge-ma.gov

Office hours: Wednesday: 3–6 p.m.; Thursday and Friday: 10 a.m.–2 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

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Recipe Corner

by Lynn Ryan

The World's Best Green Apple Salsa

1 lemon
1 lime
3 oz. honey
2 Granny Smith apples
1 white onion or Vidalia
1 poblano or jalapeño pepper
3 oz. fresh cilantro

Squeeze as much juice as possible from the lemon and lime into a bowl. Add the honey and mix until blended. Set aside. Peel, core, and dice the apples very small. Add the finished dice to the juice/honey as you go along so the apple bits don't turn brown. Peel and dice the onion to the same size as the apples and add to the mix. Remove the stem and seed the pepper. Dice the same size as the apples and onion. Finely chop the cilantro. Mix everything until well blended.

If all goes well, it should have an eerie green color suitable for St. Patrick's Day and awesome for the March madness parties coming up. Serve with chips or over fish or pork. Make lots of copies of this recipe when you serve it because everyone will want this!

Irish Grilled Cheese

(Comfort Food for Sure!)

Mash 4 Tbsp. softened butter with 2 Tbsp. each chopped parsley, scallions, and chives. Spread the mixture on 4 slices of white bread. Top each slice with Irish cheddar cheese and bread-and-butter pickles. Cover with 4 more bread slices. Spread plain butter on the outside of the sandwiches, and fry in a skillet until golden brown on both sides. Spread the remaining herb butter on the warm sandwiches. Slice into quarters, and then press the cut sides into more chopped herbs.

My mom used to make these on Saturday nights with creamy tomato soup after a day of skiing. Fond memories and sooooooo good! Enjoy!

Peace on your hand and health to all who shake it! Happy St. Patrick's Day!

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

Local Yoke! Directory of Advertisers:

A huge thank you to everyone who has advertised in the *Local Yoke!* during 2014! We could not publish every month without your participation. To all of our readers: please support our local businesses.

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K.G. Cooper Electrical 232-0244

FITNESS & HEALTH

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Community Health Programs/The Children's
Attic Consignment Sale 528-0457
The Fieldhouse, Canaan, NY (518) 288-8342

FOOD/BEVERAGE SALES

Meadow Farm Market 394-4308
Queensboro Wine & Spirits 232-8522
The Scoop of Lenox (at Charles H. Baldwin)
637-9192

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Second Nature Garden Design 441-7836
The Berkshire Botanist 232-7595

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Andrea Harrington at Lazan, Glover, Puciloski
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Shaker Mill Inn 232-4600

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Matt Merritt

OUTDOOR SERVICES

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Kevin Holden Tree Services 698-2696
Meadow Farm Market: Outdoor Equipment Sales/Repair
Service 243-0777

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In Touch Printing 442-1202

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Shaker Dam Coffeehouse & Stanmeyer Gallery
232-7707
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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	<i>Bill Pixley</i>	232-0307		Tues., Thurs., & Sat. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Tree Warden	<i>James Hallock</i>	232-4322		
Veterans Agency	<i>Laurie Hills</i>	528-1580		
Zoning Board of Appeals	<i>C. Randolph Thunfors</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	

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

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!

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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4



March 2014 Calendar of Events		Date	Event	Time	Location
		3/2	Planning Board	7 p.m.	Town Offices
3/4	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room		
3/4	Purim begins at sundown				
3/4	Muddy Brook PTA meeting	6:30 p.m.	Muddy Brook Library		
3/8	Daylight Savings Time begins (set clocks ahead)				
3/8	Grange Dinner	1-2 p.m.	Grange Hall, Church St., Stockbridge		
3/9	American Legion	7 p.m.	Town Offices		
3/9	Board of Selectmen	7 p.m.	Town Offices		
3/10	Parks & Recreation Committee	5:30 p.m.	Town Offices		
3/10	COA Potluck Luncheon	12:00 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room		
3/11	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room		
3/11	Friends of the Library meeting	3:30 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room		
3/15	*** Deadline for the Next Local Yokel ***		send to info@thelocalyokel.org		
3/17	St. Patrick's Day				
3/17	St. Patrick's Day Celebration	Mass at 2 p.m., Potluck at 3 p.m.	Parish Center		
3/18	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room		
3/19	Library Trustee meeting	4:30 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room		
3/20	First Day of Spring!				
3/23	Board of Selectmen	7 p.m.	Town Offices		
3/25	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room		
3/29	Palm Sunday				