

Local yokel

West Stockbridge

May
2015

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



**TOWN MEETING &
ELECTION INFO**

*Jada Pizzaro holds Netflix, a Soay lamb.
Photo by John Parker.*

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005

Maple Sugaring at Wiseacre Farm

By John Parker

Spring was not yet quite in the air as March drew to a chilly close, but that didn't stop Jon Piasecki and friends from carrying on a New England tradition – making maple syrup. Jon taps about 28 trees and neighborhood kids help to collect the sap. Jon boils the watery sap down to make the syrup: it took 120 gallons of sap to make three gallons of syrup. Jon and his wife Kristin and four teenagers along with a few lucky neighbors and friends get to enjoy the final product.

Jon grew up close to the Canadian border in New York, where sugaring is a big part of their way of life. He says it's a "surge of life after the long cold," coming just when winter really starts to get you down, and he loves getting kids interested in it. The day I stopped by with my four-year-old son Colby, Richard and Abby Tovell were visiting with their children Samantha and Robin and a friend, Jada Pizzaro. We got to meet Midge the pig, chased some sheep, and kept a respectful distance from the beehive. Thanks to Jon and Kristin Piasecki for sharing their farm with us!

All photos by John Parker.



Sampling the syrup



Sap is boiled in the sugar house.



Jada Pizzaro and Samantha Tovell collect the sap.



Jon Piasecki with Samantha Tovell holding Netflix.



The sap from many trees is needed to make syrup.



Jon Piasecki tends the stove.



The children meet Midge the pig.



FY 2016 Budget Highlights

By Mark Webber, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Selectmen



General

- Total Raise and Appropriate Budget for FY 2016: \$4,945,536, an increase of \$123,397, or 2.6%, over FY 2015.
- All things being equal, this reflects an approximate \$0.33 increase in the tax rate from \$11.84 to \$12.17.
- Associated impact on tax bills would be an approximate increase of \$33 per \$100,000 of valuation.
- The Finance Committee (FinCom) has had several meetings. As of their March 20, 2015, quorum meeting, members unanimously approved all items in the draft FY 2016 budget dated March 18, 2015.

Substantial Year-to-Year Line Item Budget Changes

- Town Counsel. Up \$3,000, or 20%. Rent Control Board has added substantially to this cost.
- Town Treasurer. Seeking a \$2,000, or 13%, salary increase due to increased workload. FinCom has approved.
- Town Buildings. Up \$10,800, or 7.5%. Uncertainty of unanticipated repairs and utility costs in the coming year. This budget has been historically underfunded. FinCom has approved.
- Computer / IT services. New line item of \$8,500. These services used to fall under Town Buildings and individual department accounts. It would be better to track this expense under a single heading. FinCom recommended and has approved.
- Education is down \$4,977, or 0.2%, over current year. This year we get a break due to decreased W. Stockbridge enrollment. A welcome change after a \$339,000, or 13%, increase last year.
- Highway Full-time Employee Benefits. Reflective of agreement recently executed with full-time police officer and chief; provides the same sick time, personal days, and buy-back language and will cost \$8,520. This increase has been rolled into the highway salaries line item.
- Health Insurance. Up \$16,596, or 11%, over current year. We are members of the Berkshire Health Group, and all the towns and districts got this increase or a little more. Number of enrollees is unchanged.

Capital Items

- Propose to add \$25,000 to both the Stabilization Fund and the Capital Stabilization Fund. This was not done last year due to budget constraints but was done in two recent prior years.
- Second of 10-year note for new fire truck debt service is \$40,733.
- First of 5-year note for new front-end loader debt service will be \$29,840. FinCom has approved.
- Purchase of used road grader from town of Becket: \$35,000. This would be a free cash transfer. FinCom has approved.
- Purchase of a replacement police cruiser: \$33,000. Trade-in of existing vehicle is estimated at \$7,000 value (bringing the purchase price down from \$40,000).
- Adding a second full-time police officer: \$57,000. FinCom has approved this article.
- Demolition of foreclosed Lawrence property. Estimated at \$12,000. Have solicited quotes. FinCom has approved.
- Purchase of new computer server. Estimated at \$8,000. This may go up or down slightly based on quotes. The current server has been failing for two years and is constantly interrupting. FinCom has approved.

Notes

- Borrowing article for WiredWest / Last Mile is expected to be on the warrant for the annual town meeting. Estimated borrowing will be approximately \$1.9M for a term of 20 years. Subsequent Proposition 2½ vote will be required to secure the borrowing.
- Selectmen would review the FY16 budget on March 23 and March 30.
- Potential borrowing article on purchase of Card Lake Inn parking lot. Figures expected prior to town meeting. Appraiser is still working on it. Nothing has been received yet. Suggest that this be deferred until future meeting, perhaps end of June special town meeting.
- Article to amend rent control bylaws asked for by the group assisting the Tenant's Association in the purchase of the park. Town counsel is reviewing for content and accuracy.
- The FY 2016 budget proposes to use \$139,316 from certified free cash (\$248,439). This would leave a balance of \$109,123, which closes out July 1, 2015.



KAREN ZICK

Candidate for Selectman

Karen is committed to:

- Keeping town costs at a minimum, preserving your hard-earned tax dollars.
- Holding accountable those who receive town salaries.
- Responding to all of your concerns in West Stockbridge. Karen is a good listener.
- Maintaining the safe community atmosphere of West Stockbridge.
- Instituting much needed long-range planning into town governance.

Karen is a first responder with the West Stockbridge Fire Department—she’s at your house when you call 911—and serves on the Board of Registrars.

Karen has served two terms on the Select Board as the lone woman, where she was instrumental in creating greater police presence and initiated the resolution of issues at Mill Pond Park. If elected, she will not be required to abstain from important town votes (e.g. Highway Department increases) because she is not a town employee.

Karen is a clinical medical assistant II in cardiology at Fairview Hospital. A wife and mother, Karen is a fifth-generation Berkshire native and has been a deeply engaged resident of West Stockbridge for almost 20 years.

You may reach Karen by phone at home, 232-0137; call or text her cell, (413) 441-8578; e-mail her at kjzick01266@yahoo.com, or see her in person at 30 Albany Road.



CURT WILTON

Candidate for Selectman

My name is Curt Wilton. I am seeking a seat on the Board of Selectman. I live on Moscow Road with my wife Jennifer and three sons Travis, Zachary, and Curt III. Born and raised in West Stockbridge, my roots go back three generations. A long-term vision and a passion to preserve our small town charm is what drives me to run for office.

I have served as your highway superintendent for the past 19 years, a position that by law I can still keep if elected. I also served as your selectman from 2004 to 2010. During those six years many wonderful accomplishments took place.

For the past decade I have been part of the design and development of the Main Street revitalization, a project I am very proud of. I am looking forward to its completion this summer. I was involved in the conversion of the old Village School into the new Town Hall, Library, and Police Department. I was part of the decision to install a solar panel array on the roof of town hall, saving thousands of dollars on energy costs for the town.

One of my proudest moments was to save the old Town Hall from the wrecking ball. Selling that building for one dollar to the Historical Society was a decision that future generations can enjoy.

My passion and commitment are back and I would love to serve you all once again. I kindly ask for your vote on May 11, 2015.

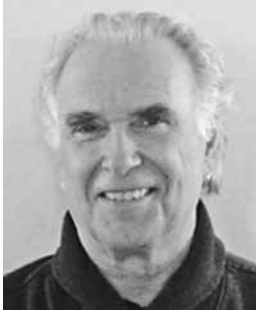


LUCI LEONARD

Candidate for Board of Health

I am Luci Leonard, and it is that time again.

I hope to continue the legacy of our local board of health by continuing to be a resource for our town. I’m a nurse and community health worker with a passion to promote wellness in West Stockbridge. My goals during this term would include public health forums on disease prevention and most importantly environmental protection connecting the dots for residents. I look forward to diversifying our resources and collaborating with local groups to ensure our presence in this community. See you at the polls!



RICHARD SQUAILIA

Candidate for Board of Health

West Stockbridge has been my home since 2003.

Last fall I became interested in the Board of Health and think it is important to run in this election. My experience in health care administration and community-based health programs will complement current board member interests and bring more attention to lagging health inspections and public safety.

I have stood firmly against board actions to coerce our neighbors to hook up to the municipal sewer system. As a result of my inquiries and complaints, town attorneys recognized the board may not have followed procedures in issuing stricter Title 5 letters last year to 61 home owners in the Shaker Mill Pond area. But they are still working to find a way to order mandatory connections.

These board efforts would override detailed state Department of Environmental Protection regulations. The board is considering, and actively discussed in their April meeting, changing Title 5 regulations to mandate inspections every two years for each household in the town at a cost of around \$700 per inspection and force anyone abutting municipal sewer lines to hook up, costing upward of \$6,000 to \$8,000.

We can stop this from happening. Vote yes on Article 14 on May 4 at the town meeting and stop Title 5 abuse. I sponsored Article 14 to stay with fair and comprehensive state regulations. A yes vote will change the town bylaws and send the message that we, as a town, don't need stricter, costly regulation.

We can do better. We are neighbors.

2015 Annual Town Election Warrant May 11, 2015

Polls open at 10 a.m. and close at 7 p.m.

Town Offices Gymnasium, 21 State Line Road

| <u>Elected Office</u> | <u>Term Length</u> | <u>Incumbent</u> | <u>Caucus Nominee</u> |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Moderator (vote for 1) | 1 year | Eugene Dellea | |
| Board of Selectmen (vote for 1) | 3 years | Karen Zick | Curt Wilton |
| Board of Assessors (vote for 1) | 3 years | Susan Negrini | |
| Finance Committee (vote for 2) | 3 years | Gary Schieneman | |
| Finance Committee (vote for 2) | 3 years | William Kie | |
| Planning Board (vote for 1) | 5 years | Dana Bixby | |
| Board of Health (vote for 1) | 3 years | Luci Leonard | Richard Squailia |
| Library Trustees (vote for 1) | 3 years | Sue Coxon | |
| Cemetery Commission (vote for 1) | 3 years | Earl Moffatt | |



**Bill Says:
Crush the Trash.
Save the Cash!**

See Recycling Tips on Page 19

Bill Pixley Remembrance

It is our sad duty to report that Bill Pixley, our friend and loyal contributor to the *Local Yoke!*, passed away on April 24 just before we went to press and as spring was returning to the Berkshires. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends. *We'll miss you, Bill!*
The Editors

Recycling Tip - May

Attention West Stockbridge Gardeners:

Brown Gold Is Ready!

The leaf compost is ready at the Transfer Station. Prepare your soil for planting your garden. It's free, of course; take all you need. Residential use only; no commercial.

The *Local Yoke!* 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@thelocalyoke.org for more information.

Our Future Is with WiredWest

By Steve Sautman, WiredWest Delegate

Over the last few weeks I have had the pleasure of talking to many of you either in person or via e-mail about WiredWest and why our town needs it. Many of you have already signed up. For those of you still on the fence, here are some things to think about.

“I am happy with my DSL from Verizon.”

Maybe you are one of the lucky few in our town that have DSL and at a decent speed, but many of your neighbors are not so fortunate. You might be happy with your DSL service today, but what about tomorrow?

What is the future of DSL? DSL is delivered over existing and aging copper telephone wires. Verizon’s chairman and CEO Lowell MacAdams has said that in “areas that are more rural and more sparsely populated . . . we are going to cut the copper off there.” The DSL equipment is already old and obsolete technology that is no longer manufactured and will not be replaced when it fails. In other words, Verizon will force people to use their more profitable wireless service with data plans.

When DSL goes away, what will you do? Can you even get wireless service at your house? How much more will you have to pay?

“Verizon or Charter will upgrade their services if we just wait.”

Sadly West Stockbridge, like many other rural areas, does not have the customer base to warrant the necessary upgrades to provide better service to us. The large media companies have left us behind and are not looking to invest in our future because we are not sufficiently profitable to them. We are awaiting the FCC’s ruling on the Comcast TWC merger and to see how it will affect Charter. Any improvement in our current services is likely still years away. Regardless, our current cable infrastructure is not built to service high definition (HD), and our town would have to be completely rewired just to be able to get HDTV.

“I don’t think broadband will make a big difference to our town.”

It is already having an effect on our town! Without adequate Internet access (broadband), our neighbors and town suffer. Home values and economic development are depressed. Homes are becoming unsellable and unrentable. Educational opportunities are limited, and the town is unattractive to young families, which reduces our school-age population. West Stockbridge is part of an integrated school system with Stockbridge and Great Barrington, towns that already have broadband service. Students here are at a competitive disadvantage because they do not have access to broadband to work on homework, group projects, or online classes from home. Local businesses miss out on improvements they could get with broadband and the ability to reach more customers. Potential new residents who want to start businesses or work from home will not want to locate to a town that does not offer broadband.

Building a state-of-the-art regional fiberoptic network, accessible and affordable to all, cooperatively owned and locally operated, would fundamentally change the prospects for our communities. A fiberoptic network will create a level playing field so that we can compete with the rest of the world by attracting people to live here, fostering new businesses, and keeping young people in our town.

“What is fiber?”

A fiber-to-the-home network involves the communications signal being delivered over fiberoptic cable to the home or business. Fiber is the fastest known technology, transmitting information at the speed of light and using glass, one of the world’s most stable materials. This technology is the most reliable method to provide vastly higher bandwidth to households and businesses, supporting modern applications, with speeds already over 1000 Mbps.

Fiber means phone, cable television, and very fast Internet over just one line. One strand of fiber has thousands of times more bandwidth capacity than any of the competing technologies like DSL, cable, satellite and wireless, and thus is the only one considered

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... continued from page 7

“future proof.” Fiber has virtually unlimited capacity to meet emerging and future needs like video streaming, video conferencing, remote medical care, file sharing, and cloud computing. Currently the FCC is predicting an order of magnitude increase in bandwidth requirements every two years, based on recent history. Fiberoptic can handle this increase in demand.

“I don’t think I need broadband/fiber.”

Broadband is necessary for much of our day-to-day lives. It impacts regional commerce, education, health and public safety, cultural enrichment, government operations, and aids in countless conveniences and efficiencies in our lives. It is as critical to the future of economic growth as access to a telephone line was. It is more than just for e-mail and YouTube videos!

“I don’t want to pay more taxes. Fiber is too expensive.”

At the 40% sign-up target for customers, WiredWest can cover not only its operating costs, but also pay back the debt authorization principal and interest payments to the town for its investment in fiber. In other words, the fiber network will cost us nothing, other than getting better services at lower prices.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is providing us with a great opportunity. They will pay 33% of our costs. We just have to pass the debt authorization to borrow the rest of the money to build the fiber network in West Stockbridge. These funds have been released and are ready to be spent. If we don’t take advantage of this opportunity, we will be left behind.

“WiredWest is a pipe dream that will never happen.”

It is happening! Egremont, Rowe, Shutesbury, and Wendell have already exceeded their 40% goal! Monterey and Tyringham plus several more towns are within striking distance. The state IT Bond Bill was passed last summer, and the Baker administration has already released the \$40 million funding for this “Fiber-to-the-home” project. Bids for engineering are expected by this summer, and construction will begin within the year. The first parts of the network could be operational within two years of the beginning of construction.

Shall we move ahead or fall behind? WiredWest puts our future back in our hands. It is time to become part of the 21st century.

You can contact Steve Sautman at Sautman@msn.com.

Opening Day
 May 21st

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 E-mail: WSFarmMarket@gmail.com

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 AND ECCENTRIC COLLECTABLES
 THURSDAY - SUNDAY 11:00-5:00

Alert (hand-drawn map area)

Board of Selectmen Meeting Summaries

By Doane Perry

March 23, 2015: Annual Town Caucus

Moderator Eugene Dellea opened the caucus. Gene has been moderator for 48 years and is the longest serving moderator in Massachusetts. The caucus nominated and seconded all nine incumbents for elected office. Curt Wilton was nominated for selectman and will contest the incumbent Karen Zick. Richard Squailia and Marge Powell* were nominated for Board of Health and will contest the incumbent Luci Leonard. All nominees accepted their nominations.

March 23, 2015: Board of Selectmen Meeting

Rent Control Board Hearing

The hearing was postponed at the request of owner Eric Levesque on the grounds that he and the tenants have signed a purchase and sale agreement for the Mill Pond Trailer Park.

FinCom Meeting Update

Mark Webber informed the selectmen that the Finance Committee has met and prepared budget, articles, and an approved draft for the town meeting.

BHRSD School Committee Update

Mark Webber reported that Superintendent Dillon informed him that Great Barrington wants to adopt a new formula for assessment of the towns for the school budget based on assessed property value rather than on student head count. If adopted, the budget affected would be FY 2017.

Charter Cable TV License Update

The selectmen agreed to delay sending a new draft proposal to Charter Cable since the town's cable representative Carol Kuller is away.

Village School Use Request

The selectmen approved a request by the Farmers Market to put on a "Sip to Summer" event on May 9.

Highway Department / Sewer Connections

Curt Wilton reported he is getting design plans for pumping the Highway Department septic tank in the parking lot up to the town sewer system along the road. The contractor preparing the plans is the one who addressed the problems with the Mill Pond Trailer Park system during the winter. Karen Zick asked Curt if the Town Hall is hooked up to the sewer. Curt replied that the Town Hall is hooked up to the sewer, but the pipe is frozen and blocked.

Employee Benefits Policy

Mark Webber reported he has followed up on the agreement made at the last selectmen's meeting to pursue a uniform town employee benefits policy by drafting the policy along with a department review schedule. The selectmen agreed to discuss it at the selectmen's meeting on March 30. In response to a question from Karen Zick, Mark said that 20 hours is considered full time in Massachusetts.

WiredWest Report

Steve Sautman reported that a mailing has been sent to residents. So far, 63 people have signed up, leaving 261 to go. The sign-up campaign is at 19% of its goal.**

*Editor's note: Marge Powell withdrew her candidacy after the caucus.

**At press time, the sign-up campaign was at 81% of its goal.

May History Quiz Question:

The quarrying/mining industry in West Stockbridge was based on three minerals: iron, limestone, and marble. Extracting and shipping them was the largest industrial activity in town. In many ways, it was the major reason for the town's existence. West Stockbridge marble was perhaps the most famous and written about in the descriptions of the town in the 1800s. The marble industry motivated entrepreneurs to construct an early rail line to Hudson to export the marble and that spurred the growth of the town center. Numerous descriptions state that West Stockbridge marble was used in many civic and other buildings in Philadelphia, Boston, and New York.

How long did the marble business last, and where was this stone extracted?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)



**West Stockbridge
Historical Society**
Incorporated in 1994



*Spring Dinner and Lecture
to Honor
Richmond's 250th Anniversary*

“Who Are the Most Vulnerable?” The History of Community Health and the Movement Toward Wellness

Presented by Richmond residents Gloria Morse and Deborah August, MD

When: Thursday, May 21, 5-7 p.m.

Where: Richmond Congregational Church, State Road, Richmond

Cost: \$10 per person; includes a buffet-style dinner provided by The Marketplace at Guido's

Reservations are required; contact Emilie Jarrett: 232-0122 or Emilie@charws.com



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Botanist's Corner

By Dan Lewis

Spring has sprung! It is officially time to come out of hibernation for gardeners and nature lovers alike. In anticipation of the summertime, it could help to plant some mosquito-repelling plants in your garden. These include bee balm, mint (be careful it doesn't take over), catmint (the most effective), lemon thyme, basil, or lemon verbena. Of course there is always the annual citronella plant, although it must be replanted every year. The perennials just mentioned only require a weed-free area with part shade to full sun to come back year after year.

As for the garden, remember, the last average frost date is May 15, so if you do decide to plant vulnerable seedlings, have a sheet of clear plastic to cover them in an emergency (use supports to avoid damaging the plants). It is perfectly OK to plant most seeds in the ground starting May 1. That's it for now. Until next time, enjoy the botany that surrounds us!



Photo courtesy of Dan Lewis.

Community Garden Update

For our second season, we plan to increase the diversity and amount of the produce donated to the people of West Stockbridge. We are grateful to the village for allowing us to continue our project and excited to grow both our volunteer base and our reach. We provide no-cost produce for any household on federal, state, or local assistance. Personal plots are also available for a small donation to the food bank project.

As of press time, we have tilled most of the plot as well as planted lettuce and beets. Join us for the second annual groundbreaking gala on Saturday, May 9, at 6 p.m. at the garden site (between the two cemeteries on Route 41 north of town just before the Richmond line).

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@West Stockbridge Library

We thank Joel Hotchkiss for our distinctive new library logo. The design highlights our famous “Beardless Draped Lincoln” by sculptor Leonard W. Volk, as well as the many mobiles that create our library’s unique style. Joel has been designing and creating contemporary kinetic art and hanging mobiles since 1976. His art mobiles have been sold in museum stores including the Guggenheim Museum, the SFMOMA, and Chicago Art Institute. Check out his “sculpture in air” online or, better yet, stop in his shop downtown, next to the Post Office.

Our National Library Week 2015 Open House was again a big success with visitors stopping in for a slice of delicious cake from Chef William Merelle at Rouge and to browse our paperback sale. Thanks also to Ginna Dudney for assembling our West Stockbridge “Main Street” goodies raffle basket.

Our many local museums, gardens, and historic houses are gearing up for another great summer. Thanks to our Friends of the Library, we offer day passes to over 15 localities. New this year is a pass for two adults to Steepletop, home of Pulitzer-Prize-winning poet Edna St. Vincent Millay. Pick up a brochure of our pass program and requirements at the library.

FYI: Our summer reading program is all about heroes and stories. We’re featuring a series of professional storytellers, welcoming back our favorite Sciencetellers, and including some canine pals. Stay tuned for more info. Also, we’re looking for students entering grades 7–10 to help in the library this summer. Jobs include assisting library patrons, creating displays, shelving books, and helping with the summer reading program and weekly LEGO Club. Pick up an application at the library.

NEW ADDITIONS:

DVDs: *Interstellar*, *Unbroken*, *Vikings Season 2*, *The Americans season 2*, *Foxcatcher*, *Wild*

Just for Kids: *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*; *Big Hero 6*; *Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb*

FICTION:

Archer, *Mightier Than the Sword*

Carey, *Amnesia*

Iles, *Bone Tree* (LP)

Price, *The Whites*

Quick, *Garden of Lies*

Weir, *The Martian*

FOR YOUNG READERS

Hillenbrand, *Unbroken* (YA edition)

AUDIOBOOK: *The Martian*

NONFICTION

Cadbury, *Princes at War: The Bitter Battle Inside Britain’s Royal Family*

Davis, *Crucible of Command: Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee*

Dwyer, *American Warlord: A True Story*

McKenna, *Sheer Madness: From Federal Prosecutor to Federal Prisoner*

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.
- Library Trustees Board meetings are open to the public. The next meeting is May 22, 2015, at 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.

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Art at the West Stockbridge Library
May / June

*Images of Africa:
A Photographic Exhibit*

Botswana, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe



A 1,000-year-old baobab tree. Photo by Sandra Flannery.

May: Birds and Animals
June: People and Places

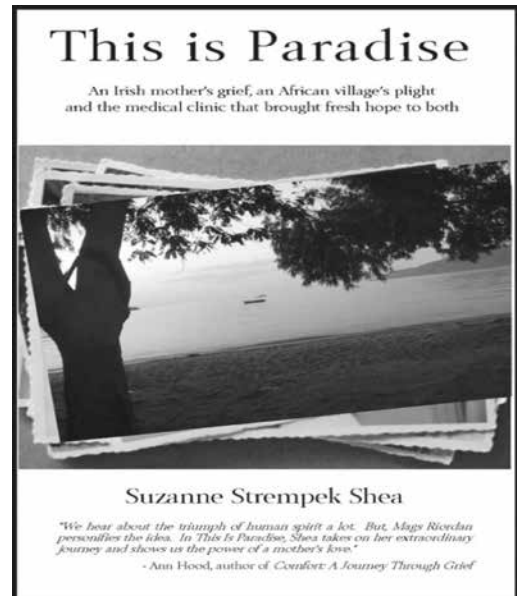
Local residents Jerri Buehler, Sandra Flannery, Gloria Friedman, and Andi Goodman will display photographs taken on their 2013 safari to southern Africa. The exhibit highlights the varied wildlife, vistas, and people they encountered.

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



The Friends of the West Stockbridge Library
present

Suzanne Strempek Shea



“An Irish mother’s grief, an African village’s plight, and the medical clinic that brought fresh hope to both”

Suzanne is the author of six novels including *Make a Wish But Not for Money* and five works of nonfiction. She has been featured on NBC’s *Today*, National Public Radio, and Voice of America, and in *USA Today* and the *Washington Post*. Her freelance work has appeared in the *Boston Globe*, *Irish Times*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *ESPN the Magazine*, *Yankee*, and *Bark*.

Suzanne teaches at the University of Southern Maine’s Stonecoast MFA in creative writing program and is the writer in residence at Bay Path University in Longmeadow, Massachusetts.

Friday, May 15, 7–9 p.m.

West Stockbridge Library
Town Hall/21 State Line Road

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 5/9 Bill Biggs
- 5/12 Kerry and Andrew Osten (3rd anniversary)
- 5/12 Lisa Parker
- 5/18 Andrew Osten
- 5/21 Roland Dudnzy (75th birthday)
- 5/28 Melissa Sward
- 5/31 Kerry Biggs Osten

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

On May 11, Vote for Your Favorite Town Flag Design!

Last month's issue of the *Local Yokel* included an invitation from the Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild to help design a town flag to hang at the Statehouse in the Great Hall of Flags. The deadline for designs was April 29.

The Artists' Guild will choose four finalists with input from the Historical Society, the flag makers, and others. The public is invited to vote for their favorite design by paper ballot in a separate box on May 11 during town elections.



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

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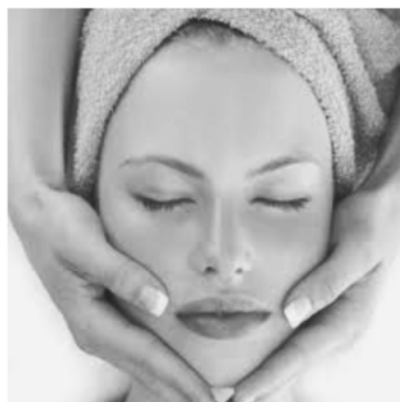
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West Stockbridge, MA

Parks & Recreation News

By Ginna Dudney

Fun things are heading your way as summer fast approaches!

Strategies are in place to outsmart the geese at Card Pond, and a celebration to open it will be held on June 28 from noon until 3 p.m. Hot dogs, music, games, and more! See full details in next month's *Local Yoke!*

Swimming lessons will again be offered at the Pond. 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.

A lifeguard will be on duty daily at the pond from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. beginning on June 28 through Labor Day.

Plans are underway to revamp the playground at the Town Hall. We would appreciate your input. 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 *you* 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

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

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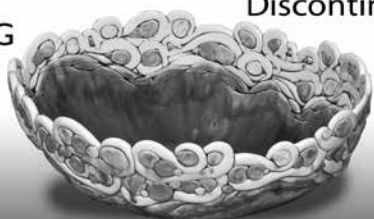
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Cultural Council Hears Community Input

By Marjorie Powell


A group of local citizens participated in an energetic meeting sponsored by the West Stockbridge Cultural Council to collect ideas for future cultural events and activities that would take place in town. Here are some of the ideas discussed:

- Movie night: Outdoors/Indoors
- Photography workshop
- Town picnic or tailgate picnic at Town Hall with music
- Musical events with local musicians at various local venues
- Local storytelling
- Community play (e.g., Scrooge or similar at holiday time) or pantomime
- Poetry slam
- Outdoor wildlife (birds of prey demonstration)
- Readings by local authors
- Cricket and croquet on the Town Hall lawn
- Outdoor air painting class
- Artist studio tour
- Venues: Town Hall, 1854 Town Hall, St. Patrick's Church, Congregational Church, 6 Depot, Shaker Mill Books, Library, Stanmeyer Gallery, outdoor spaces in downtown.
- Creating the West Stockbridge town flag to be displayed in the State House in Boston. This effort is being spearheaded by the newly created Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild.

The Cultural Council emphasized that local groups as well as individual artists, musicians, and so on, are free to apply for grants to do specific projects that would benefit our citizens, for example teaching a photography workshop for teens or a painting class for kids (or adults). Also town departments and merchants can organize and manage cultural events that the Cultural Council will support and promote.

There was a positive discussion about a possible West Stockbridge Town Weekend to be held in September to include a variety of events, perhaps kicking off with live music on Thursday night at the Farmers Market, continuing on to Friday evening, Saturday, and possibly Sunday as well. This could involve a number of merchants' events along with Cultural Council venues in our town center.

As always the Cultural Council welcomes ideas from all West Stockbridge citizens, municipal departments, and merchants for cultural activities that benefit our local population. Even if your idea isn't completely thought through, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Chair Marjorie Powell at artifact@bcn.net.



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May Art Events

Meet the Artist: Ben Evans. Ceramist. Friday May 1 12:15-1:30pm Six Depot, West Stockbridge. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

First Friday Art Walk: Friday May 1 5-8 p.m. North and South Streets, Pittsfield. Meet at Bagels Too 166 North Street, Pittsfield 5-6 p.m. www.FirstFridayArtsWalk.com

Business Meeting & Networking Wednesday May 6 6-9 p.m. Community Room, West Stockbridge New Town Hall, 21 State Line Road (Rte. 102) RSVP: rivergrp@comcast.net

Meet the Artist: Susan Merrill, painter. Wed. May 13 12:15-1:30 p.m. Hancock Shaker Village café, 1843 West Housatonic St. Pittsfield MA. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Positive Critique Wed. May 13 4-6pm and Thursday May 21 5:30-7:30 pm: Bring your art. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Photo Gathering Friday May 15 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: Thurs. May 14 1-4 pm and Sat. May 16 10-1 p.m. (rain date Sun. May 17 1-4 p.m. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com for location and to reserve a spot.

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

**Richmond-West
Stockbridge Artists' Guild**

Phone: 555-555-5555



Focus on Diana Felber:

In March and April West Stockbridge resident Diana Felber had an art show at our Library. In April she had a one woman show in Hudson at the 510 Warren Street Gallery. Her garden is in Country Gardens magazine this month and next as one of "15 of our All-Time Favorite Gardens." You will be able to see more of her work at the **Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild show at the West Stockbridge 1854 Historic Town Hall June 4-7 and 11-14**. In her own words this is how she did it:

"All my life I have wanted to be an artist. And I tried tried tried. First it was clay, in my mid- thirties. Then, when I turned 50, I happened to be in my then Clay studio, at IS183, where outside my room, a drawing class was going on. Never thought I could draw! Only 3D work could I do, with my hands. But somehow I was 'drawn' in (pun intended) and lo & behold I too could make three dimensions Appear on Paper! From then on I pursued my voice in 2D art work. I studied with Mark Milloff at BCC. He is unfortunately no longer teaching here, but those years lit me up."

I was in a constant state of excitement about making Art! It was perhaps 5-6 years, at the most. Then MM left the Berkshires for RISD! (Rhode Island School of Design), where he truly belonged. I was bereft for years. I tried other local teachers, searching for that excitement again, also different media. There are many lovely watercolor teachers here in the Berkshires. So, I became a watercolor painter. Tried for those big oil effects in watercolor, but they rarely came. Then I saw Gerhard Richter paintings. They really excited me! How does he do that? Didn't look too hard, actually... And I started putting oil paint to paper, which had a pleasing effect for me. Not the grandeur of a Richter, but something that excited me, nonetheless. Now I paint in oils or watercolor, depending on the image at hand that I'm wanting to try to create. It's all a crap shoot. Never know what might happen. Please enjoy!" -**Diana Felber**

Come join us doing art or enjoying art! Call for Artists: rivergrp@comcast.net

**THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE
CHAMBER PLAYERS ANNUAL**

Spring Concert

Friday, May 22, 2015 at 6:00 PM

1854 Town Hall, Main Street, West Stockbridge

Musicians:

Lisa Crockett Daniel Getz
Sheila Fiekowsky Catherine Hudgins
Ronny Feldman Elizabeth Morse
Linda Tote

Program:

**Ravel • Arriaga • Francaix
Debussy**

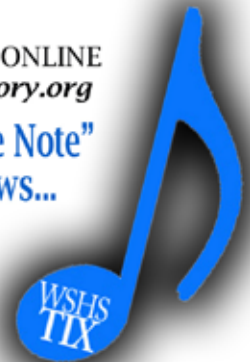
TICKETS \$35

Available May 4th

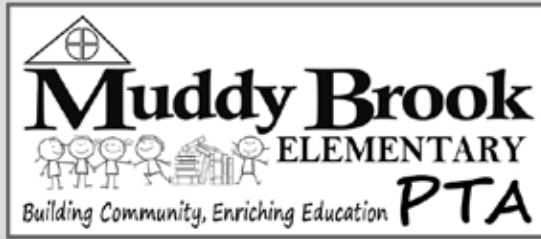
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Mud Day 2015! Saturday, May 16, 11-3
at Muddy Brook Elementary School, rain or shine

Mud Day is a celebration of the Berkshire landscape, our literal common ground. It is about bringing the classroom outdoors in playful, festive, and creative ways, brought to you by the Muddy Brook PTA. A variety of local conservation and education organizations will be participating.

All community members are invited to enjoy the day sharing student work, learning from environmental groups, listening to live music, and of course playing in the mud! Fabulous t-shirts and food are available for purchase.

"Some of our best learning is messy," said Superintendent Peter Dillon. He added, "Mud Day has become a great tradition that captures the best of student, parent, community, and educator collaboration."

Volunteers are needed! Help a little or a lot; all is appreciated. Please contact Heather Boyko at hsboyko@gmail.com or (413) 896-6496.

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

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Community News & Events

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, May 17, the Stockbridge Grange will serve a baked ham 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.

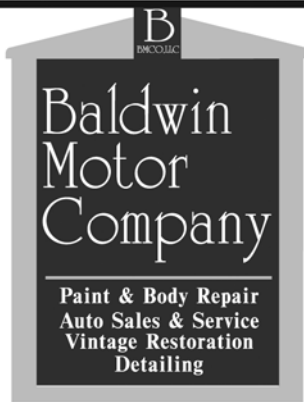
Council on Aging

The COA monthly potluck luncheon will be held at noon on Tuesday, May 12, in the Community Room at the Town Hall. Hope to see you there!

Planning Board Vacancy

The West Stockbridge Planning Board has a vacancy. Please contact Clerk Sarah Thorne at sarahkthorne@gmail.com if you are interested in becoming a Planning Board member.

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



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(See response form on page 21.)



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Chamber Players Memorial Day Concert Launches Next Phase of 1854 Town Hall Restoration

by Liza Bennett

On Friday, May 22, at 6 p.m. in Vaber Hall, the second-floor performance space in the 1854 Town Hall, the West Stockbridge Chamber Players will perform what is bound to be another sold-out benefit concert. Led by clarinetist and artistic director Catherine Hudgins, the West Stockbridge Chamber Players are a world-class ensemble made up of Boston- and Berkshire-based musicians who regularly perform with the Boston Symphony, Boston Pops, Spoleto Festival, and Portland Symphony, and who teach at the Tanglewood Music Center. The May concert will feature seven outstanding musicians including, along with Catherine 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 Chamber Players performing at the 2014 Spring Concert. Photo by Doane Perry.

Maurice Ravel's short Basque-inspired *Pièce en forme de Habanera* will begin the concert, followed by the String Quartet No. 2 in A major by Juan Crisóstomo Arriaga, the child prodigy known as the "Spanish Mozart." The String Trio by Jean Francaix, who was influenced by Ravel, will lead off the second half of the program, followed by Claude Debussy's *Syrinx*, the first solo piece written for the Böhm flute that inspired countless other solo flute compositions. The concert will conclude, as it began, with Ravel, who was commissioned by the Érard harp-making company to promote their instrument, resulting in the beautiful Introduction and Allegro.

The event will not only kick off the beginning of the summer season, but will also signal the start of the next phase of restoration of our historic Town Hall. The work, which will focus on the building's foundation, is made possible by a recent \$40,000 matching grant awarded to the West Stockbridge Historical Society by the Cultural Facilities Fund, administered jointly by the prestigious Massachusetts Cultural Council and MassDevelopment. It is a great honor to receive the grant—just as it is a great honor to have the West Stockbridge Chamber Players take the stage in our first public effort to raise funds for this next important phase of the restoration campaign.

The concert is generously underwritten by Richard Ziter, MD, and dedicated to Larry Vaber, as well as a grant from the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

The \$35 tickets are available at downtown West Stockbridge businesses with a "Blue Note" in their window or online at www.weststockbridgehistory.org. Seating is limited, so order today!

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

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



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West Stockbridge History Quiz Answer:

The earliest mention of marble quarrying was in Reverend Field's 1829 *History of the County of Berkshire, Massachusetts*. He noted that the first marble quarry started in 1760 but wasn't successful until 1790. That quarry, located on the west side of the Williams River, was known as the "Old Quarry," later the Boynton Quarry, and then Freedley Quarry, after its various owners in the early 1800s. The Astore family presently owns it and is working to restore it for educational purposes.

Many other quarries also opened in the early 1800s along the Williams River south of town and a few smaller ones on Lenox and Swamp Roads north of town. They produced limestone, not marble.



The Freedley quarry was the main source of quality export marble until 1867. Then in April of that year, a tragic accident occurred. A large overhang collapsed killing five men. The foreman, Thomas Richardson, and four Irish immigrants, Patrick Tidings, Thomas Deganan, Michael Kennedy, and John Quinn, were crushed. After that, the quarry stopped producing marble, and the remaining stone was used to make lime. It was sold in 1897 and by the 1920s stopped production completely.

Marble quarrying lasted about a hundred years in West Stockbridge, but limestone and iron were larger businesses. They were more profitable, easier to extract, and had a larger impact on our town.

Photo courtesy of Bob Salerno.

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



Recipe Corner

by Lynn Ryan

BARBECUED CHINESE CHICKEN LETTUCE WRAPS

2 cups fresh shitake mushrooms
1½ pounds thin-cut chicken breast or tenders
2 Tbsp. vegetable or peanut oil
3 cloves garlic, chopped
1 inch ginger root, finely grated or chopped
1 orange, zested
½ red bell pepper, diced small
1 6–8 oz. can sliced water chestnuts, drained and chopped
3 scallions, chopped
3 Tbsp. hoisin (Chinese barbeque sauce)—find it in the Asian food aisle of the supermarket
Coarse salt and pepper
½ large head of iceberg lettuce, core removed, head quartered
Wedges of navel orange for garnish

1. Slice the mushrooms and chop the chicken into small pieces or shred it. Preheat a large skillet or wok to medium high or high.
2. Add the oil to the hot pan. Add the chicken and sear by stir frying for a minute or two. Add the mushrooms and cook another minute or two. Add salt and pepper to season, then garlic and ginger. Cook a minute more.
3. Grate zest into the pan, and add the bell peppers, chopped water chestnuts, and scallions. Cook another minute, continuing to stir fry. Add the hoisin sauce and toss to coat the mixture evenly.
4. Transfer the hot chopped chicken mixture to a serving platter and pile the quartered wedges of crisp lettuce alongside. Add the wedged oranges to the platter to garnish.

To eat, pile spoonfuls into the lettuce leaves, wrapping lettuce around filling and squeeze an orange wedge over it.

Make sure you have plenty of napkins on hand, or use a knife and fork. I had these at a friend's recently and wow, were they a hit—enjoy!

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Collector's Notes

Fourth-quarter real estate and personal property tax bills for FY2015 were mailed the last week of March and are due May 1, 2015. Interest begins accruing on unpaid bills on May 2.

To ensure your payment arrives on time, please note the following:

- Mail a few days before the due date (all local mail routes through Hartford, and a misdirected letter is still late; postmarks do not count)
- Remit payments to P.O. Box 365, West Stockbridge, MA 01266 (misaddressing payments can result in late charges)
- If you deliver payments to the Town Offices when the office is closed, place it in the drop box beside the collector's window
- You may pay online using your checking account or debit or credit card (these payments are time-stamped electronically).

Excise tax bills were due March 19, 2015. Late notices contain a \$10 fine along with interest. Partial payments will not be accepted. Fees will continue to be added until all charges are paid in full.

June Biggs, Collector

Tel.: 232-0300, ext. 302; E-mail: collector@weststockbridge-ma.gov

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Thursday and Friday: 10 a.m.–2 p.m.;

Saturday: 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Local Yokel Classifieds:

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.

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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




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Syrian Refugees in Eastern Turkey, published in National Geographic ~ December 2014



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| 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



The West Stockbridge Farmers Market last May.
Photo courtesy of Ginna Dudney.



At Long Last!

Finally, on May 21 at 3 p.m. the West Stockbridge Farmers Market opens for its fourth season!

Come join the fun! Get reacquainted with your market favorites, and welcome a wonderful array of new faces with exciting produce and products.

Be entertained by the finest local musicians! Enjoy the Berkshires' best pizza at SoMa's wood-fired oven! Take a chance! Play a game! Surprises every week!

This will be the biggest and best season yet. Visit with your neighbors, shop the freshest and finest Berkshire fare, and be a part of it all!

Don't miss it!

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 |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |



| May 2015 Calendar of Events | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 5/4 | Annual Town Meeting | 7 p.m. | Town Offices Gymnasium |
| 5/6 | Knitters & More | 2-4 p.m. | Town Offices Community Room |
| 5/9 | Farmers Market "Sip Into Summer" Wine Tasting | 7 p.m. | Town Offices |
| 5/10 | Mother's Day | | |
| 5/11 | Annual Town Election | 10 a.m.-7 p.m. | Town Offices Gymnasium |
| 5/11 | American Legion | 7 p.m. | Town Offices |
| 5/12 | COA Potluck Luncheon | noon | Town Offices Community Room |
| 5/13 | Knitters & More | 2-4 p.m. | Town Offices Community Room |
| 5/13 | Friends of the Library meeting | 3:30 p.m. | Town Offices Community Room |
| 5/15 | *** Deadline for the Next Local Yokel *** | | send to info@thelocalyokel.org |
| 5/15 | Suzanne Strempek Shea "This Is Paradise" lecture | 7-9 p.m. | West Stockbridge Library |
| 5/16 | Mud Day | 11 a.m.-3 p.m. | Muddy Brook Elementary |
| 5/17 | Grange Dinner | 1-2 p.m. | Grange Hall, Church St., Stockbridge |
| 5/18 | Board of Selectmen | 7 p.m. | Town Offices |
| 5/18 | Planning Board | 7 p.m. | Town Offices |
| 5/20 | Knitters & More | 2-4 p.m. | Town Offices Community Room |
| 5/21 | West Stockbridge Farmers Market Opens | 3-7 p.m. | Merritt Green on Harris Street |
| 5/21 | CHA Spring Dinner & Lecture | 5-7 p.m. | Richmond Congregational Church |
| 5/22 | Library Trustees meeting | 4:30 p.m. | Town Offices Community Room |
| 5/22 | Chamber Players Spring Concert | 6 p.m. | 1854 Town Hall, Main Street |
| 5/23 | Shavuot (begins at sundown) | | |
| 5/25 | Memorial Day | | |
| 5/27 | Knitters & More | 2-4 p.m. | Town Offices Community Room |
| 5/27 | West Stockbridge Farmers Market | 3-7 p.m. | Merritt Green on Harris Street |