

# Local yokel

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

*West Stockbridge*

**October**

*2015*



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005

*Fall arrives with a burst of color in West Stockbridge.  
Photo by Vicki Grayson.*

**THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE  
CHAMBER PLAYERS**

*Harvest Concert*

Sunday, November 1st, 2015 at 2:00 PM

1854 Town Hall, Main Street, West Stockbridge

**Musicians:**

Ronny Feldman Sheila Fiekowsky  
Daniel Getz Catherine Hudgins

**Program:**

**Beethoven** Serenade in D for String Trio, Op. 8.  
**Martinů** Three Madrigals (for violin and viola)  
**Mozart** Quartet in F KV 370 (368b) for oboe and  
String Trio to be performed on clarinet instead of oboe.

**TICKETS \$35** Available Oct. 1st

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PERFORMANCE FOR THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# Board of Selectmen Meeting Summaries

By Doane Perry

August 31, 2015

## Solar Electric Cost Savings

Kirt Mayland, representing Reservoir Road Holdings, LLC, discussed his proposal for an electric power cost-saving program for the town using solar power generation. His objective would be to reduce West Stockbridge's overall National Grid bill by approximately \$11,000 annually. Kirt said there are no physical risks, but that market prices and customer usage could drop. Although the town already has a 64-kilowatt solar power system on the Town Offices roof, Mayland's program would have 10 times that capacity.

Kirt explained, "We do not use transmission lines and for the most part our electricity is used in the general vicinity so the costs of moving it around are eliminated." His firm generates solar power on old industrial lands. Reservoir Road Holdings has purchased and is in the process of constructing power systems on a 50-acre gravel pit on Route 8 and a brownfield site in Housatonic. They are looking at the West Stockbridge truck stop as a potential solar power generation site as well.

## Indonesian Country Fair

Executive producer Iin Purwanti Cox and creative director George Cox of Outpost, a film production company based on Harris Street in West Stockbridge, discussed their plans to hold an Indonesian Country Fair on Saturday, September 26, from noon to 6 p.m., on Harris Street. There will be youth programs and gamelan concerts at 1 and 3 p.m. Earl Moffatt welcomed them and said they need to meet with the Board of Health and notify the merchants. Curt Wilton asked them to inform the Police Department as well.

## Voting Machines

The selectmen voted to discontinue using paper ballots and to begin using a voting machine. The \$2,000 cost of a used machine was paid from three annual budgets of the town clerk.

## Cobb Road Bridge Replacement

Selectman and Highway Department head Curt Wilton reported that the Cobb Road bridge replacement project on Route 41 has fallen behind schedule due to erosion issues. He asked that the selectmen send a letter to the Mass. Department of Transportation asking it to urge the contractor Maxymillian to allocate resources to speed up the work that is scheduled for completion in September 2016.

## Transfer Station Attendant

The selectmen have interviewed two of the four finalists for the attendant position. Earl Moffatt mentioned the transfer station's good record—it is among the top five in the state. Curt Wilton said the station is award-winning because the attendant has been punctual and has dealt well with the public.

## Other Business:

- The selectmen discussed a report from the chief of police that a ticket has been issued for illegal parking at the Astore Restoration of the Freedleyville Marble Quarry.
- The selectmen discussed plans for Don Johnson's Apple Squeeze on October 10.
- Future meetings of the Board of Selectmen were scheduled for September 14 and 28, as well as a special town meeting on October 19.

September 14, 2015

## Lenox Road Paving Bids

The selectmen opened and read the bids from contractors for the paving of Lenox Road from the end of the sewer line to Deer Hill Road. The project was announced at the August 17 Board of Selectmen meeting.

## Upcoming Meetings

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen was set for September 28 and a Special Town Meeting for October 19.\*

## The Floor Store

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# Housatonic Heritage Walk: Williamsville

*By Bob Salerno*

On a picture perfect fall day, thirty people joined Barbara Dowling and Bob Salerno on the West Stockbridge Historical Society's Fifth Annual History Walk celebrating "The Neighborhoods of West Stockbridge." These walks are part of the Housatonic Heritage Walks in Berkshire and Litchfield counties sponsored by the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area. This year's neighborhood was the hamlet of Williamsville. One of the earliest areas to be settled, Williamsville started primarily as an industrial center using the ample waterpower of the Williams River.

The walk started at the iconic Indian sign at the head of Water Street and continued down Water Street looking at the collection of early Greek revival homes built by the three main families to settle the area. The group also saw one of the three remaining one-room schoolhouses (now part of a private residence), the cellar ruins of the Comstock Woolen Mill, and remains of the old millraces (the channels that bring water to and from a water wheel) along the Williams River. Water Street, the quiet main street of the hamlet, still has a number of 18th- and early 19th-century houses with others along Route 41 and up Long Pond Road. In some ways, the hamlet hasn't changed much since its founding in 1766.

At the conclusion of the walk, the group gathered on the patio of Carter and Carol White's historic home on Water Street for a sunny reception.



*Barbara Dowling speaks to the group at the iconic Williamsville Indian sign. In the background is the brick one-room schoolhouse. Photo by Carol Kuller.*



## Cultural Council Grant Deadline Reminder

The West Stockbridge Cultural Council (WSCC) has set an October 15 postmark deadline for local organizations, schools, and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in our community.

For specific guidelines and complete information on the WSCC, contact Marjorie Powell at 232-0222 or [artifact@bcn.net](mailto:artifact@bcn.net). Application forms and information about the local Cultural Council program are available online at [www.mass-culture.org/lcc\\_public.asp](http://www.mass-culture.org/lcc_public.asp) (click on "application process"). Application forms are also available at the West Stockbridge Town Hall and library.

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*West Stockbridge Historical Society Presents*  
**A Benefit Harvest Concert  
with the West Stockbridge Chamber Players  
Plus  
A Talk by Conductor John Oliver and  
Lunch at the Shaker Mill Tavern  
In Celebration of the Ongoing 1854 Town Hall Restoration**

*By Liza Bennett*



*West Stockbridge Chamber Players at the spring 2015 concert. Photo courtesy of Bob Salerno.*



*Conductor John Oliver. Photo courtesy of John Oliver.*

On Sunday, November 1, at 2 p.m. in Vaber Hall, the second-floor performance space in the 1854 Town Hall, the West Stockbridge Chamber Players will perform a benefit concert preceded by a brunch with John Oliver, the founder and long-time director of the Tanglewood Festival Chorus. 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, and Portland Symphony.

The Harvest Concert will feature Sheila Fiekowsky, violin; Daniel Getz, viola; Ronny Feldman, cello; and Catherine Hudgins, clarinet. The program will begin with Ludwig van Beethoven's Serenade in D major for String Trio, Op. 8, followed by Three Madrigals by the Czech composer Bohuslav Martinů, and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Quartet in F major, K.V 370 (368b) (for oboe and string trio to be performed on clarinet instead of oboe).

We are very excited to have John Oliver, the eminent conductor, teacher, and founder of the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, talk to us about his life in music, starting at 11:30, followed by a special Harvest Concert lunch, at the Shaker Mill Tavern, on Route 102 in West Stockbridge.

The Harvest Concert celebrates the completion of the exterior work on the 1854 Town Hall including a handicap-accessible ramp and beautiful new steps and railings—work that was made possible by an important grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, grants from Berkshire Bank and the Feigenbaum Foundation, and your generous donations.

Tickets for the concert only are \$35, available at downtown West Stockbridge businesses with a “Blue Note” in their window. Tickets for the talk with John Oliver, the lunch, and the concert are \$75. Available at 232-4270 or online at [www.weststockbridgehistory.org](http://www.weststockbridgehistory.org). Limited seating—so order today!

*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](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org)*



# The Community Health Association of Richmond and West Stockbridge

## *Flu Clinic Schedule 2015*

The Community Health Association of Richmond and West Stockbridge is offering free flu shots for eligible residents older than 19 years in both communities. For information about influenza, visit the website of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu).

### Community Health Association Office Clinics:

Clinics are starting in October on Mondays and Wednesdays, 9-10 a.m., except major holidays.

### West Stockbridge Clinics

West Stockbridge Town Hall Gym  
Thursday, Oct. 1: 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, Oct. 6: noon-2 p.m.  
Tuesday, Nov. 3: 9-11 a.m. and 5-7 p.m.

### Richmond Clinics

Richmond Town Hall  
Friday, Oct. 2: noon-2 p.m.  
Tuesday, Oct. 13: 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Richmond Congregational Church  
October through December  
Every Thursday: 9-10 a.m. (except major holidays)

Richmond Library  
Tuesday, Oct. 20: 5:30-7:30 p.m.



For more information, contact Director Emilie Jarrett, RN, BSN, at 232-0122 or [Emilie@charws.com](mailto:Emilie@charws.com). Community Health Association of Richmond and West Stockbridge, 21 State Line Rd., PO Box 368, West Stockbridge, MA 01266.

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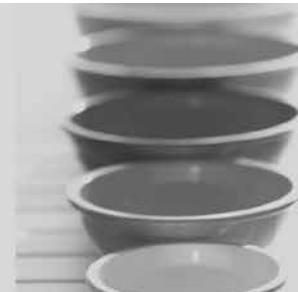


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# Mindful Eating: Winter Squash Is More Than Butternut




by Rachel Alves, RD, LDN



For me, October is the month that starts the autumn season. The temperature is consistently cooler, the days are shorter, and pumpkins line porches and front steps. I crave comforting afghans, cable-knit sweaters, soup, and butternut squash. Well, actually I crave any winter squash because of their beautiful color, nutritious properties, and, most of all, delicious flavors.

Winter squash includes a variety of squashes and pumpkins. They are actually harvested in the fall but are so hardy that they last for most of the winter, hence the “winter squash” name. Their thick skins protect that luscious sweet flesh and make them great storage vegetables. No matter what type you choose, make sure they are blemish and bruise free, have an intact stem, and are heavy for their size for the best texture and flavor.

Winter squash are not only delicious but incredibly satisfying and nutritious. They have rich and unique antioxidant and anti-inflammatory qualities. Their antioxidant power comes from the carotenoid and vitamin C content. New research is being done on winter squash’s cucurbitacin molecules that may help fight inflammation and ultimately cancer. Winter squash is also rich in fiber, potassium, and manganese. Including winter squash in your diet provides many health benefits that may reduce the risk of cardiac and respiratory disease, cancer, and diabetes.

	TEXTURE & TASTE DESCRIPTION	COOKING IDEAS
<b>WINTER SQUASH OR PUMPKIN</b>		
<b>Acorn squash</b> 	Slightly drier but tender flesh with a nutty flavor	Can be roasted, steamed, sautéed, mashed, and stuffed (for a delicious, vegetarian entrée); great for stuffing!
<b>Butternut squash</b> 	Thick, moist, and bright yellow-orange flesh that is the sweetest of all winter squash (smaller ones tend to be the sweetest); to handle more easily, cut the neck from the body and work with each section separately	Roasts and sautés quickly but perfect for soup because it purees to a smooth texture (without leaving any stringiness or fibrous texture behind)
<b>Buttercup squash</b> 	Very creamy, dense texture with orange flesh similar to that of butternut; sweet but not as rich as the butternut	Best roasted or baked and eaten plain

...continued on page 8

<p><b>Delicata squash</b></p> 	<p>Heirloom variety also known as “sweet potato squash” or “peanut squash” with moist, yellow, creamy soft flesh. Tastes earthy with flavors from sweet potato, corn, and butternut squash</p>	<p>Best if steamed or baked; skin is even edible, but can be a little tough</p>
<p><b>Hubbard squash</b></p> 	<p>Sweet, dry yellow-orange flesh; one of the best keeping squash because of its tough skin</p>	<p>Excellent in pies because the thicker flesh holds up well; even sweeter than pumpkins; may require a little longer cooking time; can be cut up and boiled, roasted, or steamed</p>
<p><b>Kabocha squash</b></p> 	<p><i>Kabocha</i> is Japanese for “squash”; deep, mustardy-yellow flesh; rich and sweet taste with the highest sugar content of any squash; dry, starchy texture</p>	<p>Excellent roasted, baked, or stuffed; also makes a delicious “pumpkin” pie</p>
<p><b>Spaghetti squash</b></p> 	<p>Also known as “noodle squash”; mild, nutty flavor; yellowest rind will be the ripest and best to eat, but largest are most flavorful; when cooked the flesh separates into strands (like spaghetti)</p>	<p>Halve, scoop out seeds, and bake or boil until tender; use a fork to “rake out” the spaghetti-like flesh</p>

Other squash you might enjoy include sweet dumpling squash, cheese pumpkins, turban squash, and pie pumpkins.

Most winter squash require the seeds be removed before cooking, but you can roast some of the larger squashes whole, let cool slightly, halve, remove the seeds, and scoop out the flesh for use in your recipes that call for squash puree. Kabocha, buttercup, and delicata squash can be halved, rubbed with oil, and roasted cut side down until tender. Once cooled slightly, seeds and flesh can be removed, and it’s ready to eat.

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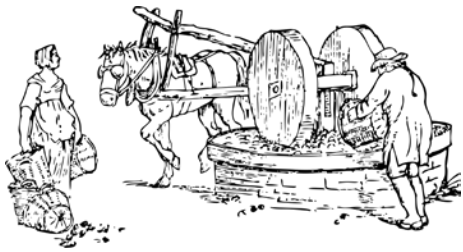
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## **Apple Pressing at the Johnson Barn**

**170 Great Barrington Road (Rte. 41),  
West Stockbridge**

**Saturday, October 10, Starting at Noon**

We will be pressing fresh cider, so bring a container and take some home. Food will be available off the grill. Enjoy the farm animal exhibit provided by Springstube Farm, great music by our local band Zydeco Hillbillies, tractor wagon rides for kids (accompanied by adults), and displays of restored farm equipment at the barn. Your donations and all other proceeds go to support the Community Health Association.



*Letty Cottin Pogrebin (center) recently spoke at the 1854 Town Hall about her novel, **Single Jewish Male Seeking Soul Mate**. The program was hosted by Jennifer Browdy (left), founder of the **Berkshire Festival of Women Writers**, and Anastasia Stanmeyer, editor of **Berkshire Magazine**. Photo by Lynnette Najimy, Beansprout Productions.*

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Saudi Arabia, published in National Geographic ~ July 2014

# Friends of the West Stockbridge Library: Celebrating Their First 40 Years

By Liza Bennett

You've got a friend—actually, a lot of friends—at the library. For the last four decades, the West Stockbridge Library has been continuously supported and enriched by several town residents, a group that's grown and evolved over the years since its original formation in 1975 on the eve of the town's bicentennial celebration.

Suzanne Hatch, the first chair of the Friends of the Library, remembers visiting the library in 1974 when it was in the Old Town Hall and finding it "small and gray with many old books filling the shelves." Along with Betty Angelini, Edna Garnett, Melissa Miller, and others, Suzanne started a membership drive to enlist support for renovating and expanding the library while preserving the town's many historical artifacts. A steering committee was formed and an architect hired to design plans for the expansion.



*Interior view of the library in 2006 when it was housed in the 1854 Town Hall.*

In time for the bicentennial celebration of 1976, and through the help of many volunteers, the interior of the library was painted and the rooms completely refurbished with new lighting fixtures, a new rug, and new drapes. A "Heritage Room" was inaugurated with an exhibit case, displaying the town's historic weights and measures that dated back to 1848. Honoring the work of the Friends of the Library and the community's efforts, Joseph Kennedy III paid a visit to the newly renovated rooms during the bicentennial celebration.

In 1977, the Friends of the Library launched the first of their speaker series, along with activities for children. These programs—which bring awareness of the library, promote reading, and enrich the community—have expanded over the decades and now include monthly art exhibits in the library, book readings and signings by local authors, programs by local business and cultural leaders, day passes to 20 cultural, historical, and nature destinations, and subscriptions to regional newspapers.

The Friends of the Library have also served in times of need—such as in 1982 when budget cuts threatened to close down the West Stockbridge Library altogether. To raise funds and stave off the closure, the Friends mounted a book and bake sale and sponsored a benefit concert at the Congregational Church that included longtime West Stockbridge residents Ronny Feldman, a cellist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and his wife Elizabeth Morse, a harpist.

Between 2004 and 2007, in conjunction with local historians and town residents, the Friends of the Library produced eight West Stockbridge historical DVDs pertaining to marble quarries, history of trains in West Stockbridge, early religions, Prohibition, and other subjects. The DVDs are available for purchase at the library.

Books and reading remain at the heart of the Friends' mission, however, and over the years they have contributed funds for the purchase of hundreds of children's books and adult audiobooks. Their annual book sale recirculates gently used books into the hands of eager readers—and allows the Friends to help fund new additions to the library.

Come celebrate the first 40 years of the Friends of the West Stockbridge Library in the Old Town Hall on Friday, November 13, from 7 to 9 p.m. The evening will include a history of the Friends, a display of photos and memorabilia, and a return performance by Ronny Feldman and Elizabeth Morse who helped save the library from closing in 1982. Refreshments will be served.

*Photos courtesy of Friends of the Library.*



*"Beardless Draped Lincoln" by sculptor Leonard W. Volk, purchased for the West Stockbridge Library in 1903.*

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# October Art Events

Fine Art Show & Sale Oct 1-12 Th-Sat 11-7, Sun & Mon 11-4 1854 Town Hall, 9 Main St. West Stockbridge [www.rwsag.org](http://www.rwsag.org)

Plein Air Sessions: Richmond Land Trust, BNRC and Private gardens. Tues.-Wed. 10-12. West Stockbridge on Thursdays. 9:30-12:30 lunch RSVP [kcarmean@gmail.com](mailto:kcarmean@gmail.com)

Plein Air Session at the Mount. Fridays Oct. 9:30 – 12:30 pm then lunch discussion. RSVP: by 5pm Thurs. [kcarmean@gmail.com](mailto:kcarmean@gmail.com)

West Stockbridge Rocks! Artists & Merchants Sat. Oct. 3 10-7pm [www.rwsag.org](http://www.rwsag.org)

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

Plein Air Sessions Hancock Shaker Village Mondays Oct 5, 12, 19, 26: 10-1 and lunch discussion. Fee. RSVP: [kcarmean@gmail.com](mailto:kcarmean@gmail.com)

Lightroom: Organizing your photos & computer Wed Oct 7 6-8 WS Town Hall, 21 Stateline Rd. RSVP: [David@edgmaster.com](mailto:David@edgmaster.com)

Art Studio Tours: Sat Oct 10: 11-5pm West Stockbridge & Richmond. [www.rwsag.org](http://www.rwsag.org) and [karenjandrews@gmail.com](mailto:karenjandrews@gmail.com)

Meet the Artist: Palma Fleck marble sculptor. Wed Oct. 14 12:15-1:30 Six Depot, West Stockbridge RSVP: [kcarmean@gmail.com](mailto:kcarmean@gmail.com)

Positive Critique: Wed. Oct 14-6pm Bring 2-3 pieces of your art. WS Town Hall, 21 Stateline Rd. WS. RSVP: [kcarmean@gmail.com](mailto:kcarmean@gmail.com)

Meet the Artist: Kay Lerner, painter. Friday Oct. 16 and Ilene Spiewak, painter. Wed Oct. 21 12:15-1:30 Six Depot, West Stockbridge RSVP: [kcarmean@gmail.com](mailto:kcarmean@gmail.com)

Business Meeting. Wed. Oct. 21 5:30-9. WS Town Hall 21 Stateline Rd. Rt. 102 WS. [rivergrp@comcast.net](http://rivergrp@comcast.net)

Photo Gathering: Fri Oct 23 4-5:30 Bring 3-5 new photos on a thumb drive. Stanmeyer Gallery, 2 Main St. RSVP: [David@edgmaster.com](mailto:David@edgmaster.com)

Richmond-West Stockbridge  
Artists' Guild [www.rwsag.org](http://www.rwsag.org)



**Ilene Spiewak:**

*Painter,  
Art Therapist,  
Teacher and  
MFA Student at the  
Pennsylvania Academy  
of the Fine Arts*

**WED. OCT. 21  
12:15-1:30 P.M.  
SIX DEPOT  
WEST STOCKBRIDGE**

## Discussion of Ilene Spiewak's work over lunch

“My work as a painter involves making images from a near non-representational position moving toward abstraction. While working on 2 or 3 canvases at a time, I consider what is in front of me as well as what I invent. My body of work has a sense of excitement and energy achieved through layers of color that build on one another. I draw basic compositional elements to create forms and shapes on the canvas which may be painted out or enhanced with bold lines and washes of strong color combinations.

I am inspired by the very essence of color and form in nature. I love to paint still-life, figures, and landscapes. My most recent study involves combining acrylic paint with other media, including oil paint, oil stick, oil pastel, and caran d'ache in one composition. My quest is to explore the possibilities as well as the limitations of using these mediums together.” I am “drawn to Matisse, Diebenkorn, Viennese painters in the 1900's, German Expressionists, and Canadian landscape painters such as Emily Carr.” You may ask Ilene questions.  
RSVP: [kcarmean@gmail.com](mailto:kcarmean@gmail.com)

# Parks & Recreation: Hello, Autumn!

By Ginna Dudney



*Cricketeers travel in style. New residents Jan and Gunnar Gudmundson take off after a rousing game on the Town Hall playing fields. Photo by Roland Dudney.*

The 2015 Card Pond party was rained out—twice!—first in June, then in September. It seems we are taking up the mantle of the Farmers Market when it comes to weather. But the tug-of-war with the geese was valiantly fought, and the beached swans seemed to have a positive effect on keeping them away. Next year, with more experience on what and what not to do with swans, the effect should be even more successful.

The final cricket game of the season was played on the Town Hall fields on Sunday, September 20. There was not a huge turnout, but the folks who joined in had a lot of fun on a gorgeous afternoon.

The tennis court has been resurfaced, and the basketball court is next, come spring. Both will be subject to maintenance contracts. When the new fencing is in place, hopes are high for some new perennials.

The playground project marches on! Generous and interested users and their parents submitted a few more wonderful ideas. The suggestion box is still open at the library, so if you have any thoughts about the playground, be sure to drop in a note or call (917) 209-0926. All suggestions are welcome, and any help would be *greatly* appreciated.

The Spooktacular, that fun-filled event in conjunction with the Farmers Market, will take place on October 8. Children are invited to help

build the scarecrows that will decorate the village. There's a box in the Town Hall

across from the library for the collection of old clothes to dress the scarecrows.

This year's Halloween celebration will be bigger and better than ever! Kickoff begins on Halloween Day with a party and costume contest from 3 to 5 p.m. Judging will be in various age groups, and prizes will be distributed. Village merchants will be open for trick or treaters from 4 to 6 p.m. when the parade begins. Participants will line up at Sandy Klempner's Home store and follow the fire trucks around the village—a police escort will be on hand—ending up at the 1854 Town Hall where refreshments will be served, a Halloween movie will be screened, and Tom Tenuta of SoMa will be serving up his delicious pizzas and other goodies.

Parks & Recreation will meet twice this month, October 13 and October 27, at 5:30 p.m. in the Work Room of the Town Hall. Drop by to share your thoughts. It's your village—be a part of it!

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## What Do Best Dressed Scarecrows Wear?

It's up to you!

Please drop unused clothing in the bin in the storeroom at the Town Hall, opposite the library.

Then watch them reappear around the village on scarecrows built by children at the Spooktacular on October 8.



Co-sponsored by WS Parks & Recreation and the Farmers Market

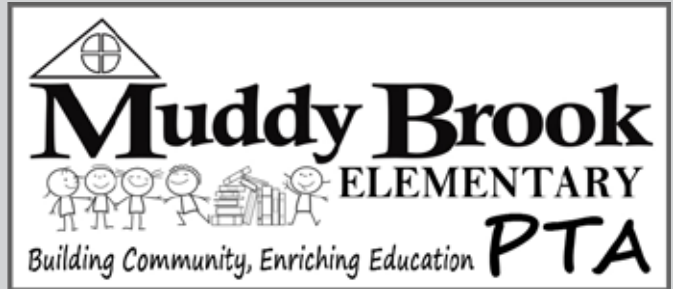


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## We are accepting donations for our annual fundraiser: **Muddy Brook Online Auction**

Business owners and individuals are invited to donate tax-deductible items—services, gift certificates, classes, food, clothing, artwork, home furnishings, and more. This is our largest fundraiser of the year with the money generated directly supporting wonderful enrichment opportunities for our students including class field trips and a variety of music, theater, movement, creative writing, science, and nature programs, as well as community-building events for families. This is a wonderful opportunity to show the families of our community that you support the efforts of the PTA in enriching the educational experiences of our children. Please contact Rebecca Gold, our auction co-chair, at (413) 528-1611 or [rebec.gold@gmail.com](mailto:rebec.gold@gmail.com) by October 31.

The **Kindergarten Potluck** is Wednesday, October 7, 5–6 p.m., a family event presented by the Muddy Brook PTA. Enjoy dinner with your child's new classmates and families, and meet the kindergarten teachers. If you can, please bring a dish to share or volunteer to help to set up.

Thank you for your continued support.  
Please "like" us on Facebook, and  
visit [muddybrookpta.com](http://muddybrookpta.com).

## October History Quiz Question:

West Stockbridge has about 40 miles of town roads, even more if you include the unpaved roads. (We also have a large number of private dirt roads, state highways, and an interstate highway.) Many date back to early Mohican paths for hunting grounds and access to fishing along the rivers. Some were colonial-era trading roads between Boston, Hartford, the Hudson River towns, and Albany. These configurations were altered with the development of the Mass Pike in the 1950s.

What is our shortest town road, where did it originally go, and where did it get its name?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)



**West Stockbridge  
Historical Society**  
Incorporated in 1994

## @West Stockbridge Library

Yes, the days are getting shorter, the nights cooler, but there are many reasons to agree with our Berkshire neighbor, William Cullen Bryant, who observed, "Autumn is the year's last, loveliest smile."

There are many reasons to stop at the library this month. We've stocked up on fall and Halloween books for our younger patrons. Readers ages 10 and younger are invited to work on a Halloween craft at our kids' table. LEGO Club meets Thursdays, 2:30-3:30, with a raffle for kids' tickets to LEGO LAND, Somerville (thank you, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners [MBLC]).

Our fantastic student summer volunteers not only toiled laboriously on a variety of library tasks, putting in over 75 hours, they also reviewed and rated their favorite reads for high schoolers. Go to our website for Darby's and Emily's book reviews.

Are you or is somebody you know print disabled due to a visual or physical disability? One excellent resource is Choice Magazine Listening (CML), which produces a free bimonthly recorded magazine of the best articles, short stories, and more for anyone who is blind, visually impaired, physically handicapped, or dyslexic. The recordings are available through computer download or CDs and cassettes by mail. Call (516) 883-8280 or (888) 724-6423 to subscribe, or visit [www.choicemagazinelistening.org](http://www.choicemagazinelistening.org). Also, the Worcester Talking Book Library funded by the MBLC provides free services to state residents of any age who are unable to read print materials due to a visual or physical disability and meet eligibility guidelines. Call (800) 762-0085 for more information.

Reminder: If you use a phone, tablet, Kindle Fire, Nook, iPad, or other e-reader, you're in luck. Our library has joined the Commonwealth e-book Collections (CEC), a new statewide project giving resident cardholders access to an expanded e-book collection through their libraries. Learn more at [eBooks.masslibsystem.org](http://eBooks.masslibsystem.org).

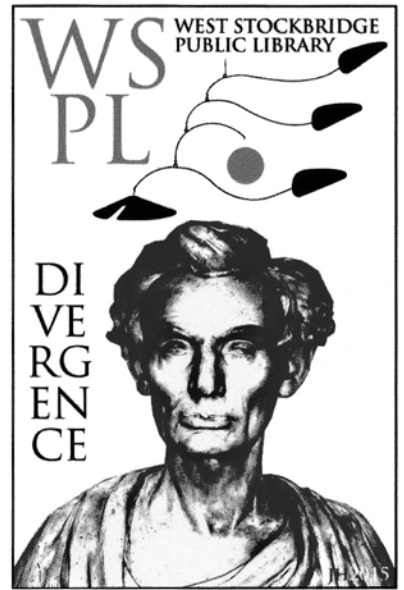
\*\*\*\*\*

### Ongoing

- If you want to find a new author or can't remember all the titles in a series, take a look at NoveList Select in our online catalog. You'll find summaries, Goodreads reviews and ratings, and more.
- Set up a CW/MARS online account by going to [weststockbridgelibrary.org](http://weststockbridgelibrary.org) and clicking on the card catalog picture. Your account allows you to keep track of checkouts, requests, pickup locations, renewals, and more.
- Try out our Windows 10 computer just installed by Bill Biggs.
- Board meetings of the library trustees are open to the public. The next meeting is October 8, 4:30 in the Community Room.

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

*Lee Appelbaum and Jodi Magner*



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**SAVE THE DATE**

**Friday, November 13, 7-9 p.m.**

**1975-2015**

*Forty-year celebration of  
the establishment of  
the Friends of the  
West Stockbridge Library*

**Program includes a history of the  
Friends of the Library, photos and  
memorabilia on display, and musical  
selections featuring  
Ronny Feldman, cellist, and Elizabeth  
Morse, harpist**

**Refreshments**

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# WiredWest Update

**The Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) has received \$19M to start work on the regional fiberoptic network for broadband Internet.** Eric Nakajima, the director of MBI, attended the West Stockbridge Board of Selectmen meeting in July. He confirmed that the Baker Administration has released the first appropriation of \$19M to MBI for the 2016 fiscal year, ending in July 2016. These funds have enabled MBI to draft and issue a Request for Quotes from companies to perform the telephone pole survey. MBI has also drafted a Request for Proposal outlining the scope and requirements for the design and engineering work. This work includes establishing the wiring routings of the network based on the telephone pole survey data, a necessary step in designing the network's layout. MBI expects to have selected the required subcontractors by the end of 2015. Following subcontractor selection the planning work is estimated to take approximately nine months to complete. WiredWest will be working with MBI throughout the design and engineering process with the goal of minimizing construction costs and maximizing the future operating efficiency of the network. **Although the project construction timeline is subject to future changes, expected timing for service availability is currently estimated to be mid-2018.**

**Critical mass of customers in participating towns ensures efficient operating scale of future network while additional towns still have the opportunity to join the WiredWest cooperative.** Of the 31 Western Massachusetts communities that qualify for WiredWest's services, 15 of these have reached their 40% sign-up target including West Stockbridge. Another nine towns have achieved 75% of their target, and four of these are above 95% (Blandford, Cummington, Heath, and New Marlborough). In addition to West Stockbridge, 25 towns have now passed their debt authorization and Prop 2-1/2 debt exclusion votes. There has been overwhelming support to bring broadband Internet service of up to 1000 Mbps to the underserved towns of Western MA. This will provide all WiredWest customers with an Internet connection that is among the fastest available in the United States. WiredWest will also be offering digital phone and high-definition TV. WiredWest has received national coverage by the *Wall Street Journal* and other news outlets in recognition of their monumental achievement in garnering support from the towns as a regional network cooperative.

**WiredWest is planning on restructuring itself into a cooperative limited liability corporation (LLC) that will include as its members the towns that have achieved all participation milestones.** This corporate restructuring is an important step in the transition from the exploratory to the execution phase of the

fiberoptic network project. Towns that have passed their required votes and have reached their sign-up targets will be part of this new LLC with ownership rights proportionate to the capital they contribute to build out the network. The new WiredWest LLC will enter into contracts with the towns authorizing it to act on their behalf as agent in project planning and execution with MBI. WiredWest and MBI will also have a contract outlining their respective responsibilities and working relationship in regard to the oversight of the design and construction phases of the project. Most importantly, this contract will provide governance protections relating to the flow of funds between the towns, WiredWest, MBI, and the state. To secure the most cost-effective financing for the towns, WiredWest is currently in discussions with bond counsel and financial institutions on how best to consolidate financing for the towns to issue bonds as a multi-town package.

**I would also like to introduce Phillip Gorth, who has volunteered to be our alternate delegate to WiredWest.** Phillip has been a member of the West Stockbridge community since 2001. He currently divides his time between New York City and his family's home at 19 West Alford Road. The family's home provides a convenient gathering point for his parents, two younger sisters, and a recently arrived nephew, all of whom live throughout the Northeast. Phillip enjoys spending time with his family in the Berkshires whenever possible.

While in West Stockbridge, Phillip relies heavily on the Internet for both productive (data-intensive investment research) and less productive activities (streaming Netflix biographical documentaries). He believes strongly in the value proposition that WiredWest's cooperative, community-led approach creates for residents in providing this critical technology infrastructure. Phillip is looking forward to contributing his time and knowledge both to the success of WiredWest's near-term infrastructure build-out plans as well as the long-term financial strength of the cooperative.

Phillip's professional experience for the last decade has been in financial services where he has worked as an investment professional in both private equity and special situations investment management in New York City. Phillip received a BA in law, jurisprudence, and social thought from Amherst College in 2004 and an MBA from Columbia University in 2012 where he was a member of the Value Investing Program.

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



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](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org). Copy deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the publication. Editors: John Parker 854-7350, [john.parker49@verizon.net](mailto:john.parker49@verizon.net); Vicki Grayson 232-6131, [vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com](mailto:vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com); Susan Fisher 232-4443, [suefish12@gmail.com](mailto:suefish12@gmail.com); Anne Lesser 232-8577, [anne@annelessercommunications.com](mailto:anne@annelessercommunications.com). Design: Kim Bradway [kim@bloominarts.com](mailto: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.





# Recipe Corner

by Lynn Ryan

## FRUIT-GLAZED PORK CHOPS

Yield: 4 servings

This is the time of year I pull out the Crock-Pot and it stays on the counter until spring. I love this old recipe, and I hope you do too!

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| ½ tsp. fresh or dried thyme                       | 1 apple, unpeeled and sliced       |
| ¼ tsp. salt                                       | ¼ cup sliced green onions          |
| ¼ tsp. ground pepper                              | ¼ cup dried tart cherries          |
| 4 boneless pork loin chops, around 3 oz., trimmed | ¼ cup dried apricots, sliced       |
| Olive oil nonstick cooking spray                  | ½ cup green grapes, sliced in half |
| 1½ cups unsweetened apple juice                   | 2 Tbsp. water                      |
|   | 2 tsp. cornstarch                  |

1. Combine thyme, salt, and pepper in a small bowl. Rub onto both sides of the chops. Spray a large skillet with the cooking spray. Heat over medium-high heat. Brown both sides of the pork. Transfer to the Crock-Pot.
2. Add the apple juice, apple slices, green onions, cherries, apricots, and grapes to the same skillet. Simmer uncovered, 2 to 3 minutes or until the onions and fruit are tender. Stir the water into the cornstarch in a small bowl until smooth; stir into the skillet and bring to a boil; stir and cook until thickened. Spoon over the pork chops in the Crock-Pot.
3. Cover and cook on low 3½ to 4 hours or until the pork chops are tender. To serve, spoon the fruit mixture and cooking liquid over the pork chops.

Enjoy!

Lynn Ryan 232-7758 E-mail: [waxonwheels2655@yahoo.com](mailto:waxonwheels2655@yahoo.com) Web: [www.partylite.biz/waxonwheels](http://www.partylite.biz/waxonwheels)

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## Community News & Events

### Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, October 11, the Stockbridge Grange will serve a stuffed breast of chicken dinner in the Grange Hall on Church Street from 1 to 2 p.m. Cost for adults is \$12; \$6 for children under 12. Takeout is available; please call (413) 298-3185.

### Council on Aging

The next COA potluck luncheon will be held at noon on Tuesday, October 13, in the Community Room at the Town Hall. If you are interested in participating in our Fall Foliage Trip on Tuesday, October 6, with dinner following at Zia Maria's in Canaan, CT (at your expense), please call Paula at 232-4394 by October 1.

### Zumba Classes

Zumba dance fitness classes at West Stockbridge Town Hall have begun on Mondays and Thursdays from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. Get your groove on with calorie-burning dance routines set to irresistible international dance rhythms. Just \$5 per class. Following Zumba, you have the option to stay for a half an hour of Pilates and weight training for an additional \$3. Call Kim Conley at (817) 233-1539 for more information.

### Halloween Costume Party

The West Stockbridge Congregational Church, 45 Main Street, is sponsoring a free Halloween Costume Party at the church on Saturday, October 31, between 3 and 5 p.m. This event is part of the town's Halloween celebration that includes a parade. The church's costume party will have a contest with prizes that will be judged in stages: 3:30-4:00, ages 1 and younger, then ages 2-6; 4:00-4:30, ages 7 and 8, then ages 9 and 10.

### Annual Harvest Dinner

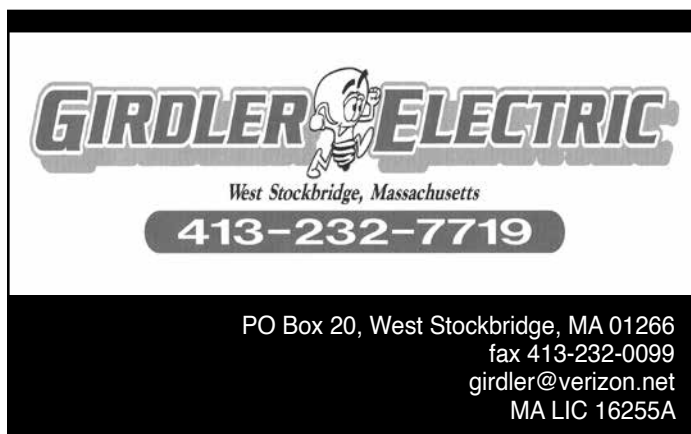
The Annual Harvest Dinner at the West Stockbridge Congregational Church, 45 Main Street, will be held in the *newly renovated* social hall on Sunday, November 8. Seatings will be at 4:30 and 6 p.m. There will be great raffle prizes plus a 50/50 drawing.

Dinners will be served family style: turkey with stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, peas, squash, cranberry sauce, bread and butter, apple crisp, and coffee, tea, or apple cider. Cost: Adults, \$15; \$8 for children 6-10, and children 5 and younger are free. Takeout dinners will be available. For tickets or reservations, please call 232-4256.

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](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org).



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

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

10/25 Mary Alpert

10/25 Rozann Kraus  
and  
Daniel Epstein  
45th anniversary

10/28 Isabella Viola

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

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## West Stockbridge History Quiz Answer:

Travel along Route 102, west out of the town center toward State Line, past the former truck stop, under the turnpike bridge, and just down the road on the left is Van Shak Road. The road, shorter than many driveways in town, is a remnant of a much longer path that originally went from Cross Road, across the railroad tracks and wetlands, and then connected with what is now Woodruff Road.

The more interesting feature about Van Shak Road is its name. It was likely named after Henry Van Schaak, who owned the property that included the road in the late 1700s. Henry was a Dutch trader and entrepreneur from Kinderhook, served as postmaster in Albany prior to the Revolution, and was "exiled" to western New England in a dispute about the Stamp Act and patriot loyalty. Ever the entrepreneur, he applied to sell the stamps mandated by the unpopular Stamp Act. Not a good career move.

After the war, he thrived in Pittsfield and built a significant mansion there that became the main building of the Pittsfield Country Club on Route 7. Henry speculated in land around Berkshire and Columbia counties. The parcel on Route 102 was probably one of his ventures. He later moved back to Kinderhook and died there in 1833. A variation of his name lives on in West Stockbridge with this stub of a road.

Photo: Van Shak Road. 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](mailto:info@weststockbridgehistory.org) or call 232-4270.

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# Another Season's Finale

Only two markets left this season—October 1 and October 8. Indulge in the accessibility of fresh and local produce and products while you can!

Amazing breads, perfect vegetables, tree-ripened fruit, delicious cheeses, baked goods, prepared foods, seasonings, and locally grown meat are at your fingertips. Use them now or prep them for your freezer and enjoy the bounty of the Berkshires all winter long.

There's still time to purchase lovely handcrafted items made locally as well. Beautiful ceramics, unique jewelry, one-of-a-kind knitted items, and beautiful and useful wood cutting boards, bowls, and utensils are all on offer. Bring them home and enjoy the spirit of the market until next season.

And don't forget, there's still time to savor the wonderful SoMa wood-fired pizzas and Villa Mia's weekly temptations. Definitely difficult to resist!

So mark your calendars and get ready to celebrate on October 8 when the Fourth Annual Spook-tacular will be in full swing—scarecrow building, pumpkin painting, hayride, games, outdoor movie, treats, piñata bashing, and more fun for the whole family, with shopping possibilities to boot. Don't miss it!



Photo by Robin Schmitt.

## 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.

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Board of Health	<i>John Olander</i>	232-0300	ext. 314	Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m., or by appt.
Board of Selectmen	<i>Earl B. Moffatt, Peter Skorput, Curt G. Wilton</i>			
Administrative Assistant	<i>Mark Webber</i>	232-0300	ext. 319	Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Building Inspector	<i>Brian Duval</i>	232-0300	ext. 313	Tues. 4–7 p.m.
Conservation Commission	<i>Jennifer Kujawski, Lori Rose</i>	232-0300	ext. 338	Leave Message for Inquiries
Council on Aging	<i>John Zick</i>	232-0300	ext. 340	Leave Message for Inquiries
Emergency Management	<i>Louis Oggiani</i>	528-2175		
Fire Department	<i>Peter Skorput</i>	232-4200 (non-emergency)		Mon. 6:30–9 p.m.
Highway Department	<i>Curt G. Wilton</i>	232-0305		Leave Message for Inquiries
Library	<i>Lee Appelbaum</i>	232-0300	ext. 308	Tues. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Wed. 1–5 p.m.; Thurs. & Fri. 2–6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.– 2 p.m.; closed Sun. & Mon.
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Sewer & Water Commission	<i>Michael Buffoni</i>	232-0309		
Town Accountant	<i>Elaine Markham</i>	232-0300	ext. 317	Leave Message for Inquiries
Town Clerk	<i>Ronni Barrett</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	Tues. & Thurs. 1:30–4 p.m.
Town Collector	<i>June A. Biggs</i>	232-0300	ext. 302	Wed. 3–6 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri. 10 a.m.–2 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
Town Historian	<i>Robert Salerno</i>	232-4465		
Town Treasurer	<i>Karen Williams</i>	232-0300	ext. 316	Thurs. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Transfer Station		232-0307		Tues., Thurs., & Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Tree Warden	<i>James Hallock</i>	232-4322		
Veterans Agency	<i>Laurie Hills</i>	528-1580		
Zoning Board of Appeals	<i>C. Randolph Thunfors</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	

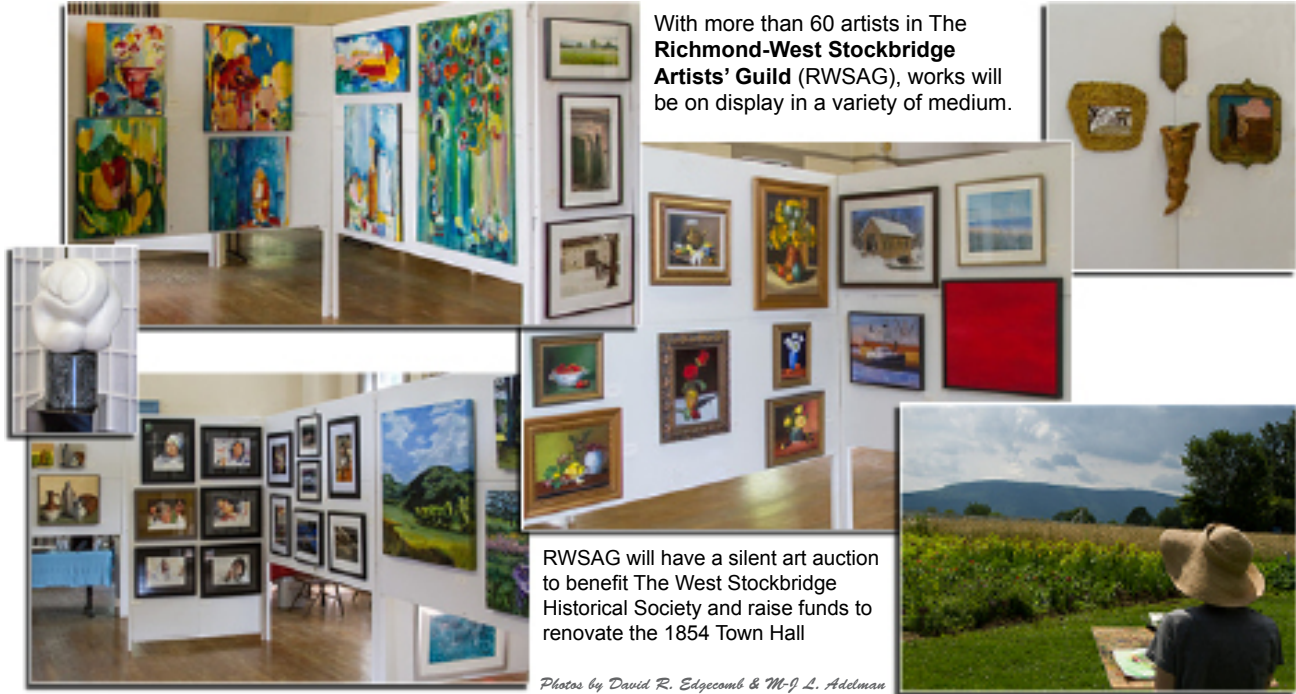
Official Town Government Website: [weststockbridge-ma.gov](http://weststockbridge-ma.gov) • Community and Business Website: [weststockbridgetown.com](http://weststockbridgetown.com)

# RWSAG's Fine Art Show & Sale

October 1 - 4 and 8 - 12, 2015

Thursdays - Saturdays 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. ... Sundays & Monday (Columbus Day) 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

1854 Town Hall, 9 Main Street, West Stockbridge



With more than 60 artists in The Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild (RWSAG), works will be on display in a variety of medium.

RWSAG will have a silent art auction to benefit The West Stockbridge Historical Society and raise funds to renovate the 1854 Town Hall

*Photos by David R. Edgcomb & M-J L. Adelman*

## West Stockbridge Rocks! ... An Artists and Merchants Festival

Saturday, October 3, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Join our Artists and Merchants for a Gem of a Day

Help us celebrate our town's historic significance as a supplier of marble, limestone, iron and other "rocks" for the significant buildings in Boston (the State House) and throughout the Northeast while enjoying West Stockbridge's visual and culinary arts:

- Visit **The 1854 Historical Society** "West Stockbridge Through the Years" display while attending the RWSAG Show & Sale
- Watch silk screening demo at **No. Six Depot Roastery & Café**
- Learn how kinetic mobiles are made at **Hotchkiss Mobiles**
- See amazing fired clay "works that dance with energy" at **Hoffman Pottery**
- Meet **Gina Hayams**, author of "The Tanglewood Picnic," at **Charles H. Baldwin & Sons**
- Visit National Geographic photographer **John Stanmeyer's Gallery** at the **Shaker Dam Coffeehouse**
- See the virtual reality exhibit of the proposed Sculpture Park at **Turn Park Art Space**, then, marvel at Turn Park's **Ampitheatre** being constructed from locally salvaged marble
- Enjoy wine and beer tasting at **Queensboro Wine & Spirits**
- Sip lemonade in the lovely Rock Garden at **Shaker Mill Inn** ... dine at one of our fine restaurants: **Vietnamese TRUC Orient, Rouge, Shaker Mill Tavern, No. Six Depot, SoMa or The Public Market**

### Hub of the Festival

Come to the 1854 Town Hall and pick up your badges, town map and list of planned activities.

A drawing will be held during the RWSAG Reception at the Town Hall, 5 to 7 p.m., to give out prizes for people who visited each of the merchants on the festival map.

[www.RWSAG.org](http://www.RWSAG.org)

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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

### The Local Yokel Needs You!

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

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

October 2015 Calendar of Events	Date	Event	Time	Location
	10/1	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
	10/1-4	Fine Art Show & Sale	Thu-Sat 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m.-4 p.m.	1854 Town Hall
	10/3	West Stockbridge Rocks	10 a.m.-7 p.m.	
	10/5	Board of Selectmen	7 p.m.	Town Offices
	10/7	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
	10/8	Farmers Market & Spooktacular	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
		Scarecrow-making	4-6 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
	10/8	Library Trustees	4:30 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
	10/8-11	Fine Art Show & Sale	Thu-Sat 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sun & Mon 11 a.m.-4 p.m.	1854 Town Hall
	10/10	Apple Pressing	12 noon	Johnson Barn, 170 Great Barrington Road
	10/11	Grange Dinner	1-2 p.m.	Stockbridge Grange
	10/12	Columbus Day		
	10/13	COA Potluck Luncheon	12 noon	Town Offices Community Room
	10/13	Parks & Recreation Committee meeting	5:30 p.m.	Town Offices
	10/13	American Legion	7 p.m.	Town Offices
	10/14	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
	10/14	Friends of the Library meeting	3:30 p.m.	Town Offices Board Room
	10/15	*** Deadline for the Next Local Yokel ***		send to <a href="mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org">info@thelocalyokel.org</a>
	10/16	Writing Fire: Readings by Berkshire Festival of Women Writers	6:30 p.m.	1854 Town Hall
	10/19	Special Town Meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
	10/19	Planning Board Meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
	10/21	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
	10/26	Board of Selectmen	7 p.m.	Town Offices
	10/27	Parks & Recreation Committee meeting	5:30 p.m.	Town Offices
	10/28	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
	10/31	Halloween events:		
		Party & Costume Contest	3-5 p.m.	West Stockbridge Congregational Church
		Trick or Treating	4-6 p.m.	Throughout the Village and at Participating Merchants
		Parade	6 p.m.	Starts at Sandy Klempner's @Home
		Refreshments, movie screening	after Parade	1854 Town Hall