

Local yokel

West Stockbridge
September
2015

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



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Photo by Vicki Grayson.

September So Soon!



Evening is arriving earlier, and there's that slight chill in the air, but the market is not over yet.

As the temperatures cool, September welcomes musicians Robin O'Herin, Ukulele Orchestra, Ryan Hollander, and Moonshine Holler.

September 24 is the date of the Everything Apple Market. Circle the date on your calendars—it's a fun one (and note October 8 as this season's Grand Finale and Spooktacular while you're at it)!

There is still wonderful produce available from our stalwart farmers, and incredible bread, cheese, wines, seasonings, oils, vinegars, baked goods, and prepared foods await your selections. Stock up now for your canners and freezer. You'll be glad you did when the snow falls.



Kyra Hart of Aubry just loves the Market. Photo by Bruce Redlien.



New kid on the block, West Stockbridge's Tom Tenuta of SoMa Catering, grills the best pizza in the Berkshires! Photo by Bruce Redlien.

Wander down to the green for dinner! SoMa is rolling out those amazing pizzas with so fresh local ingredients. Villa Mia serves up her famous meatball subs as well as weekly surprises. Hallock Hill BBQ is smokin'!

And don't forget our artists—gorgeous woodwork, lovely jewelry, beautifully handcrafted soaps and lotions, scrumptious knit goods, lovingly restored and so useful vintage cast-iron cookware, and totally creative fabric art are all just a few steps away!

On September 3, visit the CHP table to find out what health services are available in the Berkshires.

There's always something happening on the green—don't miss it!



John Sanger of Windswept Farm displays his wares. Photo by Bruce Redlien.

Board of Selectmen Meeting Summaries

By Doane Perry

July 20, 2015

Downtown Paving Project

Curt Wilton reported that he is not happy with the paving contractor that had a paver breakdown and left the work site. Curt is meeting with the VP of the company on July 21. The contractor also failed to inform the Police Department in a timely manner about his need for detail officers, who are in scarce supply. Curt said the contractor asked for five officers with only 12 hours of overnight notice, which is unreasonable.

Because paving has to be done during the summer, Curt asked for patience, noting 5,000 vehicles per day use Main Street. The process involves grinding the surface to level and raising all structures such as drains. After paving, there will be temporary yellow marks for parking prior to the permanent lines being painted. No impact on the Farmers Market is anticipated.

Downtown Improvement Project

Mark Webber reported that the improvement project is completed except for two items at the 1854 Town Hall: a cutback for the historically quarried marble and adjusting the depth of the spaces in front from 18 to 12 inches. Mark commented that contractor Caracas has been cooperative and easy to work with. Curt Wilton added that another item coming soon is the Baldwin Hardware parking lot.

Parks and Recreation Department

Roland Dudney discussed plans for repairing and maintaining the tennis court and basketball court. Mark Webber said the department has money for capital improvements that require seeking three competitive bids. Parks and Recreation will solicit bids in collaboration with Curt Wilton. The plan is to fix the cracks ASAP and the Highway Department to cut the shrubbery.

A party at Card Pond, canceled due to weather, has been rescheduled for September 13.

Farmers Market

The town's public restrooms continue to present a problem for the Farmers Market, which receives visitor complaints. Because there are issues with both supplies and maintenance, it was proposed the town handle stocking supplies and the Farmers Market maintain the restrooms, providing accountability and shared responsibility. Curt Wilton will buy and install more single-roll dispensers that are standard in town.

Rouge Liquor License

Mark Webber reported that the amended liquor license for Rouge Restaurant & Bistro was approved on July 14 in record time. The license was revised for the remainder of this year and can be renewed annually.

Other Business:

- The selectmen approved the Josh Billings race using the same route through town as before. The race will be on September 20.
- The selectmen appointed Phillip Gorth as alternate representative to WiredWest.
- The town continues to be in negotiation with Charter Cable about renewal of the license, which expired a year ago. The town is in compliance as long as negotiations are underway.
- Curt Wilton proposed that the pay rate for the town custodian be raised from \$16 to \$18 per hour.
- The selectmen and the Board of Health are in communication about hiring a new Transfer Station attendant.
- Mark Webber said that web manager Bill Biggs is planning to post request forms for use of town facilities on the town website.
- The next Board of Selectmen meeting is July 27.

...continued on page 5

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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

Collector's Notes

Two questions have crossed my desk since the last issue.

The first question involves how water/sewer bills are calculated. The bill is computed in two parts. First is a flat rate of \$35 per billing period for water; then \$0.036 per cubic foot of metered water is added. (A hike to \$0.039 was approved by the Water/Sewer Board and will be implemented soon.) The second sewer portion consists of a flat rate of \$25 plus \$0.06 per cubic foot of metered water.

As an example, if you currently have water and sewer service and used 1,200 cu ft, the water portion of your bill will be $\$35 + 0.036 \times 1,200 = \78.20 . The sewer portion will be $\$25 + 0.06 \times 1,200 = \97.00 for a total bill of \$175.20.

Please note that the last bill you received recorded usage for a four-month rather than the normal three-month billing cycle because of delays in reading the new electronically scanned meters. The next cycle will cover a two-month period.

The second question involves several bills that failed to make their way to their destination. Quarterly bills are mailed at least 30 days prior to their due dates: by June 30, September 30, December 31, and March 30. They typically are due on August 1, November 1, February 1, and May 1.

As your collector, I am legally bound to mail bills by the dates just listed and must file a notarized affidavit to that effect. Massachusetts law states that taxpayers are to expect delivery shortly thereafter. Should you not receive your copy, you are still bound to the due dates and should contact my office to determine the amount due. The law does not waive late charges for mailing snafus or your failure to notify the assessors' office of an address change.

Whether or not you use the Unibank online bill payment service available on the town's website (www.weststockbridge-ma.gov) to make your payment, you can still go there and find the amount of your bill simply by using the name on your account if you do not receive your bill.

June Biggs, Collector; Tel.: 232-0300, ext. 302; E-mail: collector@weststockbridge-ma.gov
Office hours: Wednesday: 3-6 p.m.; Thursday and Friday: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.



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September 27th 9am - noon
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July 27, 2015

Massachusetts Broadband Institute

Director of MBI Eric Nakajima described the work ahead to bring fiberoptic communications to the town. He summarized the timeline: a year ago the legislature authorized up to \$50 million, and in February 2015 Governor Baker put \$19 million into the FY2016 plan that enables MBI to get to work. Eric said the work begins with issuing requests for proposals for a pole survey.

Selectman Earl Moffatt asked which poles. Eric said surveying poles will be batched by area and will be a physical survey of mountings on 3,000 poles in West Stockbridge. Next there will be a network design process over six to nine months. Earl asked if there are any holdups on the \$50 million. Eric answered no and said the funds are flowing and MBI is invoicing the money. Eric said there are many co-owned poles—by National Grid, Verizon, and Eversource Energy. Selectman Curt Wilton urged Eric to produce rapid results.

Charter Cable

Carol Kuller asked the selectmen for support for sending an e-mail to Charter. Mark Webber approved sending it as is. Earl said a written correspondence is important even though the town is getting nowhere with Charter. Carol said Charter runs a sloppy process and does not use information provided by the town. There have been five or six drafts of the town's license with Charter. Curt thanked Carol for her work.

Downtown Projects Update

Curt Wilton said two items are still ahead in the sidewalk project: the railings in front of the 1854 Town Hall and the fence around the Baldwin Hardware parking lot.

Curt said he is frustrated with the slow work by the contractor in the paving project. He said leveling of drains, manholes, and catch basins has been done.

Paula Farrell asked about the curb at the beginning of Swamp Road that is causing flat tires and pushing trucks into traffic. Earl said the curb is in the same place as its predecessor but is bigger and higher. There is a 10,000-pound weight limit on Swamp Road.

Regarding the Cobb Road bridge work on Route 41 south, Curt said there have been detours while the bridge is shored up for safety's sake. Although bridge construction has not started yet, completion is still projected in September 2016.

Town Custodian

The selectmen discussed how to bring up concerns regarding the town custodian's tasks. In particular, the issue is whether to contact Custodian Dominic Luchi directly or his employer, the Board of Selectmen and their assistant Mark Webber. Dominic said there is too much indirect telephoning and urged that he be contacted directly.

Curt said Dominic is the town's first Building and Grounds Superintendent and should be contacted directly. Curt commented that he has succeeded in raising the pay for Highway Department employees and wants to do the same for the custodian, who has not had a pay raise.

Net Metering

Net metering means using solar power generated from Cheshire that will save the town \$12,000 per year. Town counsel says a town meeting is required for adoption. Curt asked about any risk. [Mark recommended a solution in a later meeting on August 10.]

Transfer Station Attendant Update

The selectmen favor a full-time attendant because there is more responsibility. Full time means over 19 hours per week, \$18,000 in benefits, and a \$18,000 to \$21,000 annual salary. The selectmen hire the attendant, and the Board of Health supervises.

August 10, 2015

Parks and Recreation Update

Ginna Dudney brought the issue of maintenance of the tennis and basketball courts to the Board of Selectmen. After discussion, the selectmen decided to repair the tennis court this year and the basketball court next year. They unanimously voted to appropriate \$8,261 to pay Piretti Repair and Resurfacing for the tennis court work.

Mary Thibeault reported the good news that the TV show *Living Well with Carmel* will film an episode at the Farmers Market on August 20.

Artist and Merchant Festival October 3 Presentation

President of the Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild Howard Greenhalgh presented a plan for an artists' and merchants' festival on Saturday, October 3, 2015, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. After mentioning the guild's art shows and describing the festival plan, he asked for input from the selectmen on banners, tents, and road signs. Selectman Peter Skorput said the buildings on Main Street are not high enough for a banner. Curt Wilton said traffic control is not necessary, but Howard

...continued on page 7

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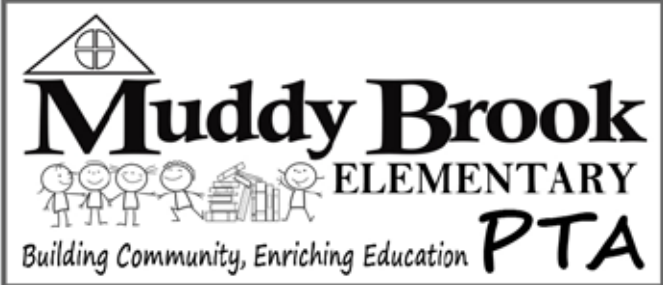
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**The first day of school is
Wednesday, September 2.**

Welcome back to school and welcome to our new officers: **Tiffany Wilding-White, president; Joshua Briggs, Patty Melville, co-vice presidents; Melissa Higgins, treasurer; and Ali Heller, secretary.**

Please join fellow parents and teachers in making this year very special for the students of Muddy Brook. Share your ideas, start something new, get involved, visit muddybrookpta.com, and like us on Facebook!

**Thank you for your continued support
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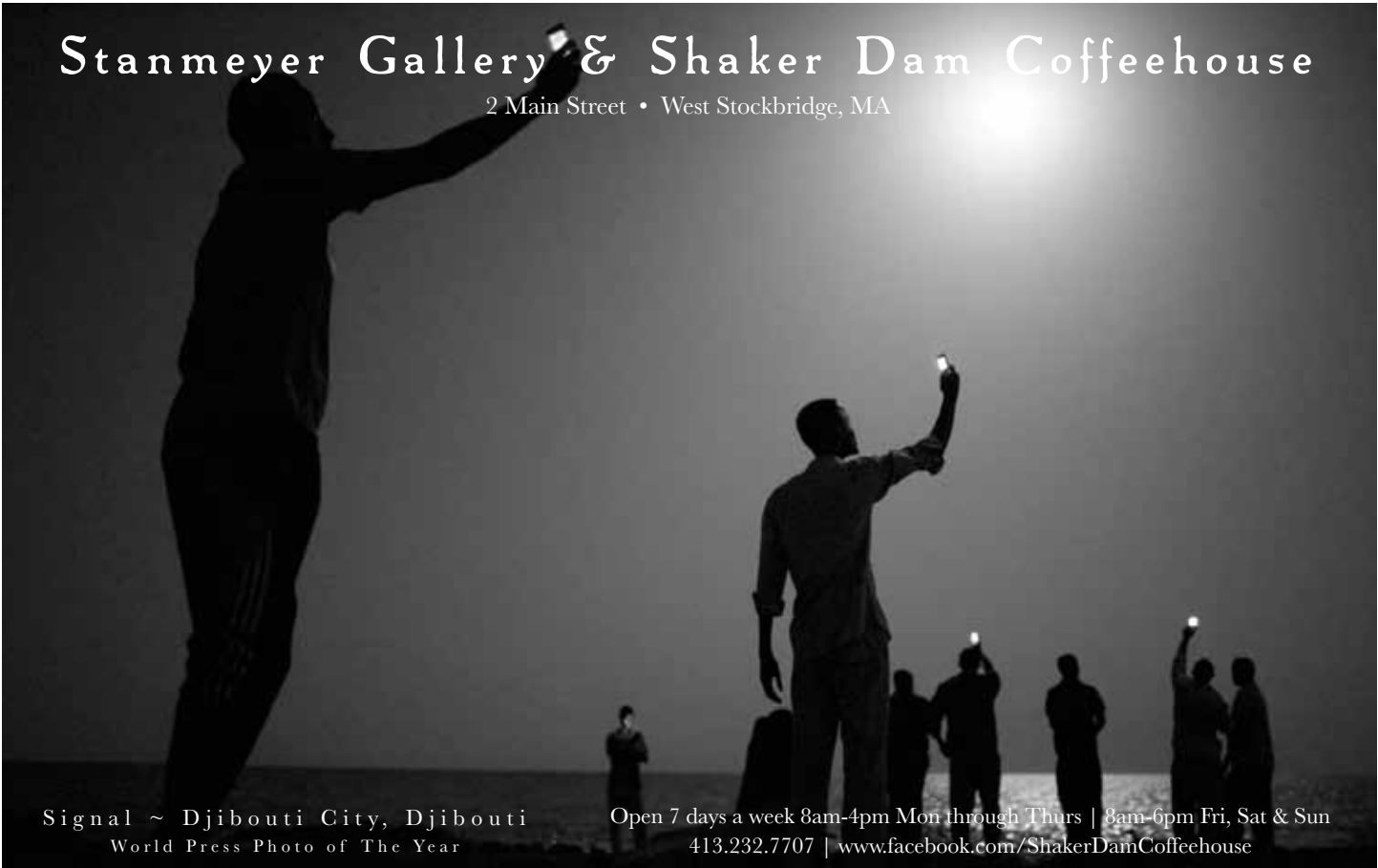
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...continued from page 5

should inform the police by sending them the fact sheet. Earl Moffatt and Peter said the project sounded good, and Curt asked for ongoing communication. They said no permits are necessary, but asked to be notified about signage. They noted that the parking lot next to the 1854 Town Hall is privately owned. The Farmers Market organizers offered their four tents for use by the festival.

Shaker Mill Dam Report

Curt described the Office of Dam Safety report on the inspection of the dam. He said maintenance is needed on slippery elms growing along the riverbanks, on sinkholes, and on the retaining wall downstream on the east side of the river that is pulling away and will be filled in.

Net Metering Presentation on August 24

Mark Webber advised the selectmen on how to best take advantage of the offer that will save the town \$10,000 per year: make a one-year agreement by executive action as permitted and a twenty-year agreement by special town meeting as required. The Board of Selectmen will consider further in meetings on August 17 and 31. Mark said the program has a proven track record and is based on a generating facility in Cheshire.

Transfer Station Update

The selectmen decided to add two hours of operation to the Transfer Station on Saturdays. The new hours will be 10 to 6 on Tuesday and Thursday and 8 to 6 on Saturday. The selectmen discussed adding hours on Sundays but decided against the option due to the cost of snowplowing and because users may just leave trash outside the gate if they get the hours wrong. Mark commented that many of the several hundred second homeowners have private contractors. Peter commented that the West Stockbridge transfer station is very generous compared to other towns where users pay fees. Mark said the recycling program makes \$85,000 annually that covers the cost of transporting the trash away from West Stockbridge. The selectmen agreed unanimously that one full-time attendant will be hired. The selectmen decided to use an executive session on August 17 to evaluate the seven candidates so as to recommend just two. The new schedule of operation will begin when the new attendant is hired.

Administrative Assistant Vacation

Mark Webber will be on vacation from September 6 to 18.

Bike Ride Fund-Raiser Rest Stop

The selectmen approved use of the parking lot and the portable toilets at the new Town Offices on September 7 for 25 people.

Mill Pond Trailer Park Update

The situation at the Mill Pond Trailer Park is unclear according to Evie Kerswell who spoke for the tenants. There is a July 29 sale agreement between the current owners, the Gennaris, and the previous owner Eric Levesque. The tenants are not interested at the current price. It may be that the Gennaris get the park and Eric gets the money. But there are outstanding appeals. Earl Moffatt commented that nothing is going to happen overnight.

Evie said, "The water and sewer systems in the park can fail at any time leaving 35 homes without these services." Eric has stopped negotiating with ROC USA that represents the tenants. Earl asked Mark Webber if the town has any leverage. Mark said he has informed the town counsel that the town is owed money.

Downtown Projects Update

Selectman and Highway Chief Curt Wilton said he is satisfied with the paving job. The line painting will be done as an overnight procedure. Curt said that Caracas still has a few things to do on the sidewalks. Mark said the selectmen and the Planning Board will meet to discuss planning,

parking, and zoning matters including 15-minute parking signs. Karen Carmean asked if there isn't room for more parking by the Shaker Barn, but Earl Moffatt said there is not.

The 3 Cross Road Property Disposition

There are no takers for the 0.99 acre plot that has no house, two abutters, and an assessed value of \$87,000. The selectmen established a minimum bid of \$10,000.

Other Business

The selectmen approved use of the Community Room by the Artists' Guild for two critiques on Wednesdays and one meeting on a Wednesday. There was discussion of a conflict with the Friends of the Library for the selectmen's room.

The Artists' Guild received permission for signs for the September show on the day of the show that will take place over six days in Richmond.

August 17, 2015

Kirt Mayland to Discuss Solar Net Metering Project and Agreement

The meeting was postponed until August 31.

Lenox Road Paving

Curt announced that the town will pave the final unpaved segment of Lenox Road this fall. The portion of Lenox Road to be paved extends 6,200 feet from the end of the sewer to Deer Hill Road. The job will require 1,700 tons of 2-inch overlay paving and will cost \$137,000. Some repairs to culverts will be done. Bids from contractors will be opened on September 14. Funding for the paving comes from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under Chapter 90. Curt said that Lenox Road has become a busy road.

*

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West Stockbridge Cultural Council Invites Grant Proposals for 2016

The West Stockbridge Cultural Council (WSCC) has set an October 15, 2015, postmark deadline for local organizations, schools, and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in our community.

The WSCC is part of a statewide network of local cultural councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. In West Stockbridge our priorities are to provide cultural resources for our diverse community from preschoolers to seniors.

These grants can support a variety of cultural projects and activities including performances, lectures, school programs, workshops, and festivals. Subsidies may also be available for school-age children to attend cultural field trips to local museums and other cultural sites. Last year, the WSCC distributed almost \$4,450 in grants.

For specific guidelines and complete information on the WSCC, contact Marjorie Powell at artifact@bcn.net or 232-0222. Application forms and more information about local cultural council programs are available online at 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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September History Quiz Question:

Many major cities and towns had famous painters and subjects associated with them. Think of Florence with Mona Lisa and da Vinci, Arles with van Gogh, or even Stockbridge with Norman Rockwell. West Stockbridge had a prominent local family whose portraits were painted by a major American folk artist in the early and mid-1800s.

Who was this artist? What West Stockbridge family shared his notoriety in the art world?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)



West Stockbridge Historical Society
Incorporated in 1994

West Stockbridge Rocks!

Fine Art Sale and Artists and Merchants Festival

The Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild is having a Fall Fine Art Show and Sale at the Historic 1854 West Stockbridge Town Hall, 9 Main Street, from Thursday, October 1, through Sunday, October 4, and from Thursday, October 8, through Monday, October 12 (Columbus Day Weekend). It is free and open to the public.

In connection with the show, a West Stockbridge Rocks! Festival of Artists and Merchants is planned for Saturday, October 3, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Carolyn Kay Brancato, the guild's secretary, said, "The festival is based on the theme of 'rocks' because West Stockbridge marble from the quarry enabled the town to flourish as it was shipped by train and used to build many historic buildings in Boston as well as throughout Massachusetts." The Artists' Guild is coordinating with the West Stockbridge Historical Society and the Merchants Association as well as individual merchants to create a town-wide event to celebrate West Stockbridge's historic heritage and allow visitors to enjoy the town's visual and culinary arts.

Visitors will come to the 1854 Town Hall to get badges and maps showing all the participating merchants. Banners and signs will herald the event. Prizes for visiting all the merchants on the map will be handed out at a drawing to be held during the reception on Saturday, October 3, from 5 to 7 p.m. Organizers hope this event will engage families and lead them to discover historical as well as scenic October fall leaf overlooks.

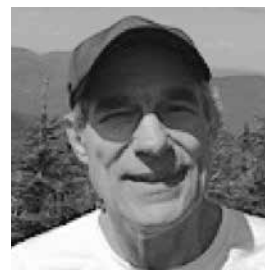
Guild president Howard Greenhalgh told the *Local Yokel*, "We hope that the West Stockbridge Rocks! Festival and the Guild Show will bring people from the broader Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, and Vermont areas into the town to enjoy its richness and beauty, attend our art show, and wander throughout the historic town to visit the unique merchants and galleries."

About the Artists' Guild: The guild encourages the work of fine artists to educate its members and the public about how art can contribute to the quality of life in the Berkshires. Over 50 members work in a wide range of visual media including painting, sculpture, photography, film, pottery, textiles, wood, stained glass, and mixed media. Guild members have frequent "meet the artist" luncheons and hold workshops in drawing and painting in various members' studios and outdoors. Board member Karen Carmean noted, "You may see our artists painting in West Stockbridge, at The Mount, at the Hancock Shaker Village, and at scenic Richmond Land Trust locations throughout the area."

About the art show and sale: For further information, visit the guild's website at www.RWSAG.org or contact Carolyn Brancato at rivergrp@comcast.net.

The Community Health Association and the West Stockbridge Council on Aging invite you to join us for dinner and two important lecture topics on Thursday, September 24

“Exercise for Maintenance of Muscle Mass and Weight Control for All Ages (from a septuagenarian doctor)” by Laurence Cohen, MD



“What Everyone Should Know About Diabetes” by Candace Lusa, RN, MS, director of the Berkshire Health Systems Diabetes Education Program



Cost: \$10 per person includes a buffet-style dinner

When: Thursday, September 24, 5-7 p.m.

Where: St. Patrick’s Parish Center, Albany Road, West Stockbridge, MA 01266

Reservations are required. Contact John Zick at 232-0137 or Emilie Jarrett at 232-0122 or Emilie@charws.com.

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- CULTURAL JEWS
- MIXED-MARRIAGE JEWS
- MIXED-UP JEWS
- NON-JEWS
- LGBT JEWS
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NEW YEAR

Sun., Sept. 13 Erev Rosh Hashanah 7:30 p.m.
Mon., Sept. 14 Rosh Hashanah 10:00 a.m.
followed by Tashlich
Tues., Sept. 15 Rosh Hashanah 10:00 a.m.

NEW YOU

Tues., Sept. 22 Erev Yom Kippur / Kol Nidre
Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Doors will be closed during chanting of Kol Nidre at 7:30 p.m.
Wed., Sept. 23 Yom Kippur, 10:00 a.m., including Yizkor
Neilah, 5:30 p.m., followed by Break Fast

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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.

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. Community Health Association of Richmond and West Stockbridge, 21 State Line Rd., PO Box 368, West Stockbridge, MA 01266.

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Student volunteer Adam Boscarino assists Scineteller Aubrey at our summer reading program grand finale.

@West Stockbridge Library

Our 2015 Summer Reading Program wrapped up in grand style on August 6 with a return visit from Scinetellers. Student summer volunteer Adam Boscarino bravely stepped up to assist in this year's zany presentation about teachers with super-powers. Five summer readers won books in our weekly raffles, and our two-time champ reader Maddie Mullen scored tickets to the Big E with her impressive list of books! We're already getting excited about next summer's health and wellness reading program, "On Your Mark, Get Set, Read." Ongoing: Our very popular LEGO Challenge days will continue on Thursdays, 2:30-3:30.



If you use a phone, tablet, Kindle Fire, Nook, iPad, or other e-reader, you're in luck. Our library has joined a new state-wide project to ensure that all residents have equal access to digital books through their libraries. Commonwealth e-book Collections (CEC) gives all resident cardholders access to an expanded e-book collection that includes popular fiction, nonfiction, academic resources, and more. Explore the collection at eBooks.masslibsystem.org for information about the resources available.

The CEC is made possible through the Massachusetts Library system in partnership with the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and participating libraries. The project is funded in part by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services,

NEW ADDITIONS

DVDs: *Tangerines*, '71, *Far from the Madding Crowd*, *Salt of the Earth*, *White God*, *The Water Diviner*; *Mockingjay Part One*
 Just for Kids: *Belle and Sebastian*, *Minion Madness*

FICTION

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Box, <i>Badlands</i> | Clifford, <i>Everybody Rise</i> | Perry, <i>Corridors of the Night</i> |
| Bruen, <i>Green Hell</i> | Grafton, <i>X is for . . .</i> | Thor, <i>Code of Conduct</i> |
| | Penny, <i>Nature of the Beast</i> | |

YA Fiction

| | | |
|----------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Cline, <i>Armada</i> | Marvel, <i>The Utopians, X-men, Vol. 7</i> | Westerfeld, <i>Zeroes</i> |
|----------------------|--|---------------------------|

NONFICTION

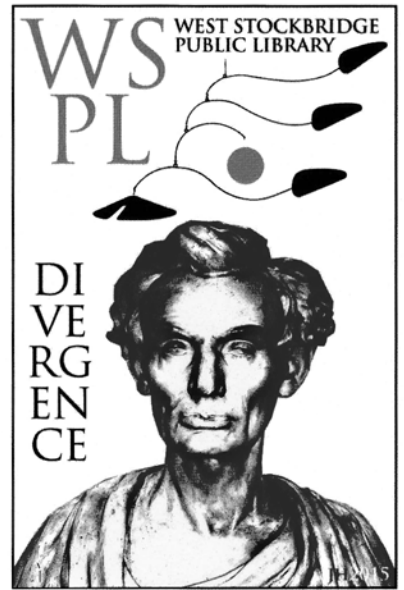
Burrough, *Days of Rage: America's Radical Underground, the FBI, and the Forgotten Days of Revolutionary Violence*
 Cathain, *Loneliest Boy in the World: The Last Child of the Great Blasket Island*
 Harari, *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*

Ongoing

- Looking for a good book like that other one you just finished? Peruse NovelList Select in our online catalog. If you want to find a new author or can't remember all the titles in a series, it's here. You'll also see lots of summaries, Goodreads reviews and ratings, and more.
- Don't forget to set up a CW/MARS online account by going to weststockbridgelibrary.org and clicking on the card catalog picture. Your account allows you to keep track of checkouts, requests, pickup locations, and renewals.
- Library Trustees Board meetings are open to the public. The next meeting is September 10 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



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ANNUAL BOOK SALE



Mia and Ada selecting their purchases.

Thank you to all who donated and purchased books at our 2015 sale. Your generous contributions resulted in our most profitable sale to date! Proceeds from the sale benefit the Friends in our ongoing support of the library.

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The last match
of the season
will be Sunday,
September 20,
at 2 p.m.

Bowler Bob Thibeault tries to hit the wickets (stakes) behind the batsman at the other end of the pitch. Photo by John Parker.

The *Local Yokel* Needs You!

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

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

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

Call John Parker at (413) 854-7350 or e-mail info@thelocalyokel.org for more information.

Parks & Recreation Improvements for You


The West Stockbridge Board of Selectmen has signed off on tennis court resurfacing to be done this fall. A new net will be installed in the spring.

The basketball court will also be repaired and resurfaced in the spring with a new fence at the curb separating the basketball court from the parking lot. Quotes for the fence work are being collected now. New sand will be delivered to the beach at Card Pond. Look for a "Build Your Own Beach Party" early in the season.



Be sure to attend the Card Pond Wrap Party from noon to 3 p.m. on Sunday, September 13, at the pond for hot dogs, hamburgers, sodas, treats, games, music underwritten by the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, and much more. See summer out in style!

Planning for the playground continues. Interested users and their parents have submitted wonderful suggestions. Ideas include a tall tower with a twisty tube slide, hang glider structure, a web tower, monkey bars, seesaws, and lots of swings. Anyone with additional ideas can fill out a suggestion slip at the library or call (917) 209-0926. All ideas are welcome, and any help would be greatly appreciated.

There'll be two Parks & Recreation Tuesday meetings this month—September 8 and September 22—at 5:30 p.m. in the Work Room of the Town Hall. Stop by to contribute your input!

NAME: Sueal
 CHILD'S AGE: 11
 IDEAS: Make a web tower 

NAME: Madi
 CHILD'S AGE: eleven
 IDEAS:
 • lots of monkeybars
 • see-saws
 • lots of swings

NAME: Adam
 CHILD'S AGE: 13
 IDEAS:
 • A tall tower with big twisty slides coming down. This type of slide is not a slide that is made of tubes that spin.
 Ex.  tubes spin bringing you down you hang on to. Ex. 

Donor Roll Call ~ September

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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

9/2 Jenni & Jim Hallock,
 anniversary
 9/4 JP Mikolajczyk
 9/11 Mary McGuane
 9/20 Connor & Chloe Seward

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




Get Ready: The Scarecrows Are Coming!

The Spooktacular is Thursday, October 8. It's the grand finale of the Farmers Market this season, 3–7 p.m.

Start saving your old clothes to build a scarecrow to decorate the village. Bring them on the day, or drop them in the designated box in the storage room opposite the library at the Town Hall.

The more clothes collected, the more scarecrows can be built. Be a part of it!



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Recipe Corner

by Lynn Ryan

Crispy Eggplant, Tomato, and Provolone Stacks with Basil

Yield: About 5 servings

We can't get enough of those wonderful ripe tomatoes right now along with the fresh out-of-the-garden eggplants and basil, so here's a recipe that's *amazing!*

- | | |
|---|---|
| ½ cup all-purpose flour | 1 tsp. lemon zest |
| 1 tsp. salt | ¼–½ tsp. fresh garlic, minced |
| ½ tsp. fresh ground pepper | 2 large eggplants cut into 20 (½-inch-thick) slices |
| 2 large eggs, beaten | Vegetable oil |
| 2 Tbsp. cold water | Parchment paper |
| 2½ cups of panko (Japanese breadcrumbs) | 10 provolone cheese slices |
| ½ cup finely grated parmesan cheese | 10 tomato slices |
| 2 tsp. dried Italian seasoning | |
| 1 cup loosely packed fresh basil leaves | |

Preheat the oven to 400°F. Stir together the flour and salt and pepper in a medium bowl. Whisk together the eggs and cold water in a second bowl. Stir together the panko and parmesan, Italian seasoning, basil, lemon zest, and minced garlic in a third bowl.

Dredge each eggplant slice in the flour mixture, then dip in the egg mixture and dredge in the panko mixture.

Pour the oil ¾ of an inch deep in a large skillet. Fry the eggplant slices, in two or three batches, in hot oil over medium-high heat 2–3 minutes on each side or until browned. Drain on a wire rack over paper towels or another pan.

Place 10 eggplant slices in a single layer on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Top each one with a slice of provolone cheese.

Bake for 3–5 minutes or until the cheese is melted. Top each stack with a tomato slice and one basil leaf. Add desired amount of salt and pepper, and finish with the remaining eggplant slices.

Note: I like them as is, but you can add cooked bacon or prosciutto just before baking for a more savory flavor. EAT, EAT, EAT those yummy tomatoes while they last, and ENJOY!

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

Support the *Local Yokel* Using AmazonSmile

By Vicki Grayson

You can now help the West Stockbridge *Local Yokel* using AmazonSmile. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the cost of your eligible purchase to the *Local Yokel* or to any 501(c)(3) charitable organization that has registered with the foundation.

Here's how it works:

- * Use smile.amazon.com to place orders (instead of amazon.com).
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- * Because the AmazonSmile Foundation makes the donations, they are not tax deductible by you.

More detailed information about the program is available at smile.amazon.com. We greatly appreciate the wonderful support the *Local Yokel* receives from our community and hope that you will participate in this new way.

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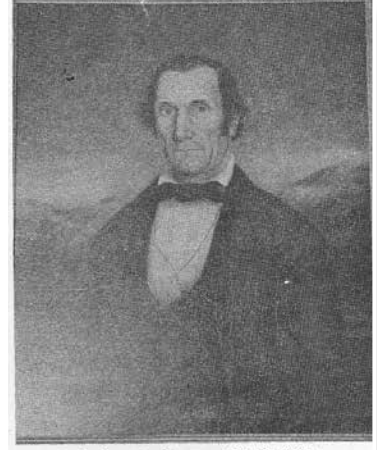
West Stockbridge History Quiz Answer:

In the early 1800s, photography was in its infancy. There were no cell phone pictures, selfies, or family snapshots. Formal portrait paintings were the only way the affluent could retain a memory of the family. To fulfill that need, many itinerant folk artists traveled around painting the father and mother and possibly a child or two for those who could afford it.

One of the most prolific and important folk artists was Ammi Phillips (1785–1865). Born in northeast Connecticut, he lived in Dutchess County and died in Interlaken. During his career, he painted portraits on both sides of the New York/Massachusetts border (including West Stockbridge). Phillips was one of the most significant American folk artists, with pieces in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of American Folk Art, and the Berkshire Museum. His portraits regularly sell at auction for over \$100,000, and his *Girl in a Red Dress* sold for \$1.2 million.



Caroline Williams Barnes (1811-1900)



Seth Austin Barnes (1808-1891)

The West Stockbridge connection was the Barnes family of Williamsville. This family dates back to 1777 when Timothy Barnes bought one of the first lots from James Kusk from the Mohican tribe.

Timothy and his descendants were major settlers in the Williamsville and Pixley Hill areas, with multiple homes and industrial enterprises. Barnes family members lived in Williamsville up to the 20th century.

Timothy's descendants, Elisha and Seth, and Seth's wife, Caroline, were painted by Phillips. They were obviously more affluent than others in the neighborhood to be able to afford a portrait. Elisha's portrait is in the Berkshire Museum; Seth and Caroline are in a private collection. (Other portraits of the Barnes family are in the Stockbridge Library collection, but they cannot be attributed to Phillips.) There is no recent appraisal of their worth, but they could certainly be in the big-dollar range. At this time, we know of no other Ammi Phillips's painting of West Stockbridge folk.

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

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Alert!

**Berkshire Festival of Women Writers
Letty Cottin Pogrebin: A Reading
Sunday, September 20, 3–5 p.m.**



Letty Cottin Pogrebin (photo: Mike Lovett)

On September 20 at 3 p.m., a special event of the Berkshire Festival of Women Writers (BFWW) will take place at the West Stockbridge Historical Society's 1854 Town Hall. Letty Cottin Pogrebin, co-founder of Ms. magazine, journalist, and author, will read from her new novel, *Single Jewish Male Seeking Soul Mate*. In the novel, a son promises his mother on her deathbed that he will marry someone who is Jewish; when he falls for an African American woman who may be his soul mate, the love story is complicated by legacies and modern tensions of Jewish American and African American history and what happens when the heart runs counter to politics, history, and the weight of tradition.

The event is hosted by Berkshire Magazine editor Anastasia Stanmeyer and BFWW founder Jennifer Browdy and will be followed by a reception at the Shaker Dam Coffeehouse & Stanmeyer Gallery.

Tickets are \$15 with proceeds to benefit the Berkshire Festival of Women Writers. To purchase tickets, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/letty-cottin-pogrebin-reading-tickets-17203789999>.

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Community News & Events

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, September 13, the Stockbridge Grange will serve a roast pork 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 on Tuesday, September 8, in the Community Room at Town Hall at noon.

West Stockbridge Congregational Church

On Saturday, September 12, there will be a chicken BBQ dinner on the church lawn from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Special musical guest Maryann Palermo will perform. The cost is \$15 for half a BBQ chicken, baked beans, cole slaw, corn on the cob, roll, beverage, and dessert; \$5 for children includes a hot dog, half an ear of corn, chips, beverage, and dessert. Takeout orders are provided.

On Saturday, September 19, the church will have a bake sale in front of Baldwin's Extracts from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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



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 854-7350, john.parker49@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.

Every issue costs us about \$1,000 to print and distribute!
 Please help us keep the Local Yokel coming!

With increased printing and postage costs, we need your help more than ever. To get the latest town news, please contribute to the *Local Yokel*. For your donation of at least \$25.00 per year we will mail each issue to you (unless you prefer otherwise). The *Local Yokel* will continue to be available free at selected locations as long as possible, but we hope you will contribute anything you can. The West Stockbridge Local Yokel, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization, and all contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Yes!

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| 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, Curt G. Wilton</i> | | | |
| Administrative Assistant | <i>Mark Webber</i> | 232-0300 | ext. 319 | Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. |
| Building Inspector | <i>Brian Duval</i> | 232-0300 | ext. 313 | Tues. 4–7 p.m. |
| Conservation Commission | <i>Jennifer Kujawski, Lori Rose</i> | 232-0300 | ext. 338 | Leave Message for Inquiries |
| Council on Aging | <i>John Zick</i> | 232-0300 | ext. 340 | Leave Message for Inquiries |
| Emergency Management | <i>Louis Oggiani</i> | 528-2175 | | |
| Fire Department | <i>Peter Skorput</i> | 232-4200 (non-emergency) | | Mon. 6:30–9 p.m. |
| Highway Department | <i>Curt G. Wilton</i> | 232-0305 | | Leave Message for Inquiries |
| Library | <i>Lee Appelbaum</i> | 232-0300 | ext. 308 | Tues. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Wed. 1–5 p.m.; Thurs. & Fri. 2–6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.– 2 p.m.; closed Sun. & Mon. |
| Police Department | <i>Tom Rubino</i> | 232-8500 (non-emergency) | 24 hours, 7 days/week | |
| Post Office | <i>Colleen A. Wich</i> | 232-8544 | | Lobby: 7 a.m.–7 p.m.; 7 days/week; Window: Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.–12 noon |
| Seasonal Lifeguard | | 232-0315 | | |
| Sewer & Water Commission | <i>Michael Buffoni</i> | 232-0309 | | |
| Town Accountant | <i>Elaine Markham</i> | 232-0300 | ext. 317 | Leave Message for Inquiries |
| Town Clerk | <i>Ronni Barrett</i> | 232-0300 | ext. 300 | Tues. & Thurs. 1:30–4 p.m. |
| Town Collector | <i>June A. Biggs</i> | 232-0300 | ext. 302 | Wed. 3–6 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri. 10 a.m.–2 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.–1 p.m. |
| Town Historian | <i>Robert Salerno</i> | 232-4465 | | |
| Town Treasurer | <i>Karen Williams</i> | 232-0300 | ext. 316 | Thurs. 9 a.m.–4 p.m. |
| Transfer Station | | 232-0307 | | Tues., Thurs., & Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m. |
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Official Town Government Website: weststockbridge-ma.gov • Community and Business Website: weststockbridgetown.com

September Art Events

Plein Air Sessions: Richmond Land Trust, BNRC and Private gardens. Tues.-Wed. West Stockbridge Thursdays. Sept. 1-30. 9:30-12:30 then lunch discussion. RSVP for locations. kcarmean@gmail.com

Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild Business Meeting. Review our fall shows Wed. Sept. 2 5:30-9. WS Town Hall 21 State-line Rd. Rt. 102 WS. riversidegrp@comcast.net

Plein Air Session at the Mount. Fridays Sept. 4,11,18,25: 9:30- 12:30 pm then lunch discussion. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com by 5pm Thursday the night before to get the parking instructions, location. Entrance fee required.

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

Fine Art Exhibit September 11-20 Richmond Congregational Church. www.rwsag.org

Plein Air Sessions Hancock Shaker Village Mondays Sept. 14,21,28: 10-1 and lunch discussion. Fee required. Bring everything you need. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

First Friday Art Walk: Friday Sept. 4 5-8 p.m. North and South Streets, Pittsfield. www.FirstFridayArtsWalk.com

Positive Critique: Wed. Sept. 9 4-6pm Bring your art 2-3 pieces .WS Town Hall, 21 State-line Rd. WS. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Meet the Artist: Kay Lerner painter. Wed. Sept.16: 12:15-1:30 Six Depot, West Stockbridge RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Photo Gathering: Friday Sept. 18: 4-5:30 Bring 3-5 new photos on a thumb drive. Stanmeyer Gallery, 2 Main Street, West Stockbridge. RSVP: David@edgemaster.com

Art Studio Tours: Sat. 10/10: 11-5pm West Stockbridge & Richmond. www.rwsag.org and karenjandrews@gmail.com

Enter October Art Exhibit which is Oct. 2-12

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

Richmond-West Stockbridge

Fine Art Exhibit

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Show Hours

Sat & Sun, Sept. 12 & 13: 11-3

Fri, Sept. 18: 3-7

Sat & Sun, Sept. 19 & 20: 11-3

Artist entry form and info: www.RWSAG.org



Richmond Congregational Church
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Richmond
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Council



The Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild
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| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 |



September 2015 Calendar of Events

| | | | |
|------|---|---------------------|--|
| 9/2 | First day of school | | |
| 9/2 | Knitters & More | 2-4 p.m. | Town Offices Community Room |
| 9/3 | Farmers Market | 3-7 p.m. | Merritt Green on Harris Street |
| 9/3 | Conservation Committee meeting | 7 p.m. | Town Offices |
| 9/8 | Parks & Recreation Committee meeting | 5:30 p.m. | Town Offices |
| 9/8 | American Legion | 7 p.m. | Town Offices |
| 9/9 | COA lunch | 12 noon | Town Offices Community Room |
| 9/9 | Knitters & More | 2-4 p.m. | Town Offices Community Room |
| 9/9 | Friends of the Library meeting | 3:30 p.m. | Town Offices Board Room |
| 9/10 | Farmers Market | 3-7 p.m. | Merritt Green on Harris Street |
| 9/10 | Library Trustees board meeting | 4:30 p.m. | Town Offices Community Room |
| 9/10 | Planning Board | 7 p.m. | Town Offices |
| 9/11 | Patriot's Day | | |
| 9/11 | Artists' Guild Fine Art Show opening | 5-7 p.m. | Richmond Congregational Church |
| 9/12 | Congregational Church BBQ | 4:30-6:30 p.m. | Church lawn |
| 9/13 | Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown | | |
| 9/13 | Parks & Recreation pond party | noon-3 p.m. | Card Pond |
| 9/14 | Board of Selectmen | 7 p.m. | Town Offices |
| 9/15 | *** Deadline for the Next Local Yokel *** | | send to info@thelocalyokel.org |
| 9/16 | Knitters & More | 2-4 p.m. | Town Offices Community Room |
| 9/17 | Farmers Market | 3-7 p.m. | Merritt Green on Harris Street |
| 9/19 | Congregational Church bake sale | 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. | Front of Baldwin's Extracts |
| 9/19 | Historical Society: Housatonic Heritage Walk | 10:30-1:30 | Williamsville |
| 9/20 | Cricket Match | 2 p.m. | Playing field at Town Offices |
| 9/20 | Historical Society: Festival of Women Writers | 3-5 p.m. | 1854 Town Hall |
| 9/22 | Parks & Recreation Committee meeting | 5:30 p.m. | Town Offices |
| 9/22 | Yom Kippur begins at sundown | | |
| 9/23 | Knitters & More | 2-4 p.m. | Town Offices |
| 9/24 | Farmers Market | 3-7 p.m. | Merritt Green on Harris Street |
| 9/24 | CHA dinner & lecture | 5-7 p.m. | St. Patrick's Parish Center |
| 9/28 | Board of Selectmen | 7 p.m. | Town Offices |
| 9/28 | Planning Board | 7 p.m. | Town Offices |
| 9/30 | Knitters & More | 2-4 p.m. | Town Offices |