

# Local yokel

West Stockbridge  
February  
2017

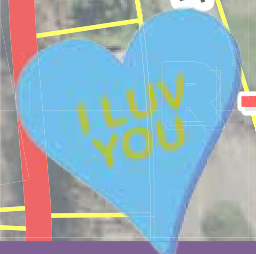
(n.) a country folk living in a quaint neighborhood community

## Inside this issue ...

Planning Board Proposes  
Changes to Village  
Center Zoning

School District Regional  
Agreement Amendment  
Up for Vote at  
Special Town Meeting

It's The Year of  
The Rooster —  
Get Ready to Crow



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Proposed Commercial District Boundary Change Detail.  
Provided by the West Stockbridge Planning Board.

# Planning Board Proposes Changes to Village Center Zoning

By Dana Bixby, Zoning Committee, West Stockbridge Planning Board

The planning board has been working on changes to the zoning bylaws for the village center. A final proposal will be presented for approval at a special town meeting on February 27. In anticipation of that, and as required by the state zoning statute, a formal public hearing about the proposed changes will be held on February 6 at 7:15 p.m. at the Town Offices.

Two key goals have defined our mission and guided our work in considering upgrades and improvements for zoning for the village center. These are to:

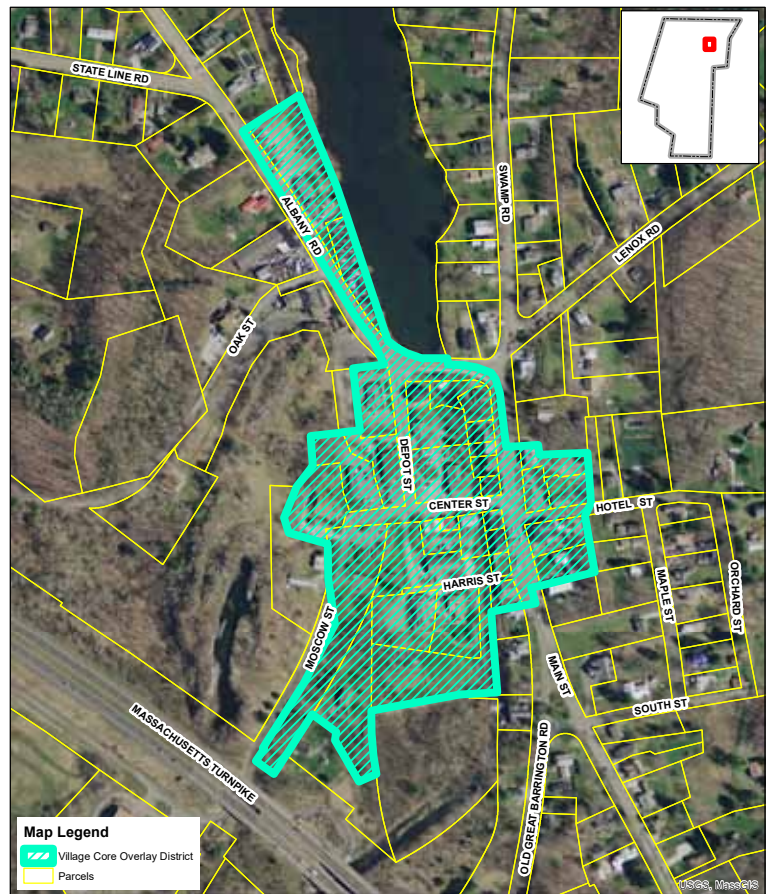
- Reduce the permitting burden
- Provide regulations that better enable the village center to maintain, replicate, and reproduce its inherent character

1/9/2017 **Proposed Commercial District Boundary Change**



*Proposed Commercial District Boundary Change*

11/7/2016 **Proposed Village Core Overlay District**



*Proposed Village Core Overlay District*

*These maps were created by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and provided by the West Stockbridge Planning Board.*

Our current zoning regulations were a product of an era when no one thought about making regulations that actually related to the physical characteristics of the village. As a result, in the village center most lot sizes, frontage, and setbacks, products of the historical development of the village, are nonconforming. The current zoning does not reflect and embody the essential nature of the village center.

These existing regulations have various negative effects, for example:

1. They prevent anyone from building anything new that would follow the historical patterns of the village center in terms of lot size and relationship of building to street.
2. The nonconformities that exist for virtually every property in the village center trigger the need for variances or special permits for most changes to existing buildings. A reduction in this permitting burden is one of the benefits that we hope to realize with these new regulations.

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The proposed zoning changes for the village center are in four areas:

- Change the commercial district boundary to encompass the old Town Hall, Wisdom Lodge, former Card Lake Inn, and an existing mixed-use property adjacent to the former Card Lake Inn.
- Create a Village Center Overlay District (VCOD) zoning district for the core of the village with new dimensional requirements for lot size, frontage, and setbacks within the overlay district. The intent of the changes proposed is to make more of the existing fabric of the village core conforming, and to enable new development to re-create more easily the village fabric as it is.
- Make changes in the table of uses to allow mixed uses because (a) mixed use is of value in the vitality of the village, and (b) that would make existing mixed uses no longer nonconforming.
- Provide improved parking regulations including better mechanisms for shared parking and relief from onsite parking requirements in the VCOD where most of the lots are very small.

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The full text of the proposed changes and maps showing the proposed boundary lines are available for review at the Town Offices.

Prior to the Planning Board's decision at the beginning of the new year to move forward and bring the proposed changes to the annual town meeting, we have held informal meetings to present these ideas to townspeople, explaining the proposed changes and soliciting their input. Those meetings provided us with very helpful comments, and as a result the current proposal that will be presented at the public hearing, and then brought to town meeting includes adjustments such as the following:

1. The new VCOD boundary on the east side of Main Street is extended to incorporate a parcel adjacent to the former Card Lake Inn.
2. In the VCOD if a new use or change of use would result in a parking requirement of seven or fewer spaces, there will be no onsite parking requirement for that new use or change of use. Any parking requirement greater than seven spaces in the VCOD will be subject to the same parking requirements as required elsewhere in the commercial district.
3. We decided to keep the language in the existing zoning that provides latitude for the zoning board of appeals (ZBA) to reduce parking requirements in particular cases via special permit.

The public hearing will be another opportunity for public input and comment. Based on input from the public hearing, the Planning Board can consider further adjustments to the proposed changes before making their final recommendation to the select board for inclusion at the February 27 special town meeting.

We would also like to note that we have done our work with the help of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) and in particular with funding from the "District Local Assistance" grant program.

BRPC has provided research about existing conditions in the town, provided information about what similar towns have done to update their village zoning regulations, and has helped with drafting and review of the proposed zoning bylaw changes.

Zoning regulations are about use and dimension. Over time these regulations result in spatial patterns that are the underlying generators of village character. The changes in zoning proposed for the village center aim to confirm the character of our village center and to enable an essential spatial patterning and character to be the stability through which vitality and energy in our village center can thrive.

## February History Quiz Question:



**West Stockbridge  
Historical Society**  
Incorporated in 1994

Among the early settlers in western Massachusetts were the Congregationalist ministers. They came primarily from the Connecticut River Valley seeking to convert local residents and at the same time secure the land and keep it away from the Dutch traders moving in from the Hudson Valley.

During the colonial period, the Congregational Church was the major force. It controlled the political, economic, and social fabric of the Commonwealth. Church attendance was required. Town taxes paid for the minister, funded the building of the church, and supplied wood for heat and grain to feed the minister's family. Tolerance of other religions, or even no religion, was nonexistent. Any deviation from Congregational beliefs usually got people exiled at best, or more likely their land was confiscated and they were then fined and imprisoned. State law required church membership.

West Stockbridge had a slightly different relationship with the powerful Congregationalist Church. What was that relationship, and how did it evolve?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)

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*Please send your Birthdays & Anniversaries to the Local Yokel.*

*We are happy to include them in the next issue.*



The Local Yokel, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266 or by e-mail to [info@thelocalyokel.org](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org)



# Board of Selectmen Meeting Summaries

By Doane Perry

*Note: Copies of official board minutes are available at the West Stockbridge Public Library. Video recordings of town meetings are broadcast on Charter Cable channel 190 and on the Internet at <http://vimeo.com/channels/weststockbridge>. Residents can be notified by e-mail of town events and meeting agendas by subscribing at <http://weststockbridgema.virtualltownhall.net/subscriber>.*

## Open Meeting: January 9, 2017

### Police Department Update

Since starting work on December 19, Chief Marc Portieri has been introducing himself to people in town and has received a positive reception. Marc said he has been getting speed radar units certified, the same key to work in both cruisers, and training for all officers.

Marc recommended that part-time officer Cameron (Cam) Ford be considered for a position as a full-time officer. Curt Wilton said that he is not against another full-time officer, but the selectmen have not yet discussed it. He observed that it is a big commitment in light of the town's experience of spending money for no result, since one such officer was hurt and another left for another town. Curt is not willing to just take their word for commitment. He added that the town is seeking college-educated and female officers. Peter Skorput said he would want some kind of agreement, noting that some towns are requiring a three- or five-year commitment.

Curt said he has heard lots of positive comments from townspeople about the new chief. Curt cautioned Marc to be careful about complying with part-time salary regulations because there are investigators who will come in.

### Shared Services

The board accepted an invitation from the towns of Sheffield and New Marlboro to send a representative to a meeting on January 23 regarding shared services. The purpose is to discuss shared services in information technology, financial services, highway, conservation, and shared purchasing in equipment and gravel among the three towns of Sheffield, New Marlboro, and West Stockbridge.

The selectmen also discussed meeting with the Richmond Board of Selectmen to explore shared services. Peter said the idea was prompted by issues around the Richmond ambulance and the towns' experience already working together.

### Downtown Zoning Amendments

The Board of Selectmen approved a request by the Planning Board to proceed with a special town meeting proposing amendments to downtown zoning (overlay district and commercial district). Members of the Planning Board commented that the current zoning is over 50 years old and needs improvement, and there have been no changes to the proposal after two hearings.

...continued on page 7



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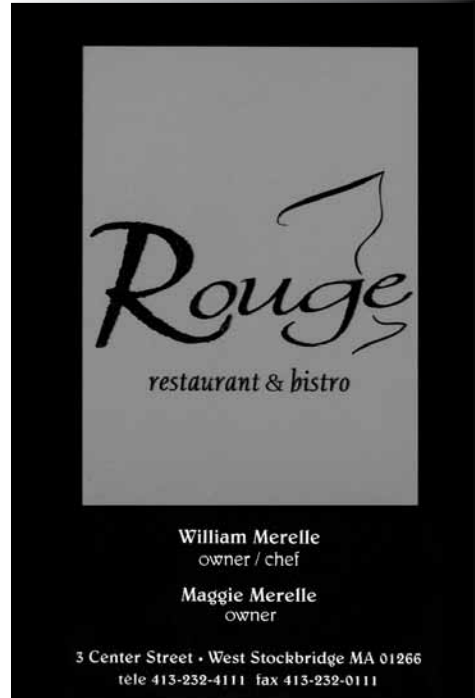
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<b>MARCH</b>	<b>7th &amp; 21st</b>	<b>4th &amp; 18th</b>
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>4th &amp; 18th</b>	<b>1st &amp; 15th</b>

SESSION 1: 4:30-5:15 PM  
SESSION 2: 5:30-6:15 PM

SESSION 1: 9:45-10:30 AM  
SESSION 2: 10:45-11:30 AM

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### Rescheduled Special Town Meeting

Because Stockbridge leaders have decided to hold their special town meeting on the school district along with their regular May town meeting, West Stockbridge, which had been planning to meet on the school issue after Stockbridge considered it in January, now plans to hold a special town meeting on February 27 to consider the Planning Board zoning proposals along with the revised regional school district agreement.

### Fire Services Audits

Mark Webber announced that the town has received the results of an independent audit of the Fire Department as approved at the last town meeting. Curt explained that the audit was the result of allegations by a citizen regarding Peter's leadership of the department. [Editor's note: The Fire Services audit reports are available on the town website, <http://www.weststockbridge-ma.gov/>.]

### Surplus Equipment

Curt announced that three vintage vehicles belonging to the town are going out to bid: a 1985 truck, a 1989 tractor, and a 2008 conversion van. The vehicles can be seen at the Highway Department yard.

### Other Business:

- Upcoming meetings were scheduled as follows: January 15, Board of Selectmen; January 23, Sheffield; January 30, Rent Control Board.
- Curt signed the disclosure forms required because Peter receives two salaries as selectman and fire chief.
- Mark reported that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation has scheduled the next meeting on the Interchange project for February 7 at 6:30 p.m.
- The selectmen approved a building use request for four Thursdays, 4:30 to 6 p.m., in February through April, unless there is a conflict with other users.
- The Office of Dam Inspection has sent the town a reminder of responsibility for inadequate spillway capacity. The selectmen are acknowledging the communication but do not agree, commenting, "In 45 minutes the river would be a brook."
- Curt reported on the status of the retaining wall along the Williams River that broke down by the Shaker Dam Café. The town is seeking a 30-day emergency temporary work permit from the Conservation Commission. Foresight and Maxymillian will be involved in the

...continued on page 9



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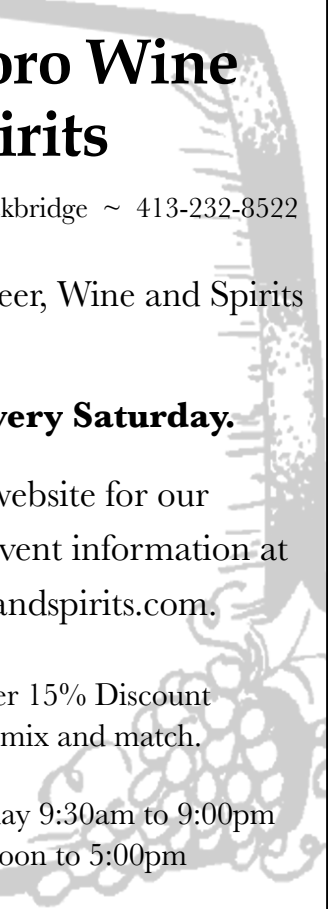
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repairs, which are expected to involve habitat and water issues.

- Peter asked Mark whether there were plans to recreate the Cable Commission. Mark said not yet.

**Public Comment**

- Paula Farrell asked about repairs to the Town Office building's front steps that are giving way. The selectmen said they are asking Facilities Manager Dom Luchi to make repairs.
- Paula asked for more heat in the Community Room. The selectmen said they will provide a space heater.

**Open Meeting: January 16, 2017**

**Berkshire Hills Regional School District Budget**

The Board of Selectmen discussed a letter from BHRSD superintendent Peter Dillon and school committee chair Steve Bannon inviting them to (1) a meeting of the School Committee on Thursday, February 16, 7 p.m., at Monument Valley Regional Middle School, for a presentation of the proposed budget for FY 18, and (2) a joint meeting with representatives from all district town boards on Tuesday, February 28, 6 p.m., in the Stockbridge Select Board meeting room, for each town to hear the perspectives of others at the meeting.

**Fire Services Report**

Curt Wilton announced that there would be no public

discussion of the report at this meeting. The selectmen will read the report and discuss it at another meeting.


**Dirty Properties**

As a result of tax liens, the town now owns several properties that may be "dirty," or contaminated with gas and fuel oil, and consequently are difficult to sell. One of these properties is at 21 Great Barrington Road, just south of Card Lake on Route 41, previously owned by Everett Wamback.

The selectmen discussed what to do with the property. Mark Webber reported town counsel's advice that the town is not responsible for cleanup but does have to disclose what it knows. Curt suggested a public auction with disclosure of what the town knows. Earl Moffatt suggested further investigation and that zoning classification may suggest a use. Peter Skorput commented that the tanks may have been removed.

**Other Business:**

- Mike Skorput asked why the board scheduled a meeting on the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Curt replied that they decided it was necessary because they are unusually busy with meetings about finance, schools, and shared services.
- Karen Carmean's request to use Town Offices rooms for the Artists' Guild was approved. □



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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.

# February Art Calendar

**Art Demonstration and Business Meeting:** Wed., Feb. 1, 4–4:45 p.m.: Using Instagram. 4:45–5:30: Demonstration by Lynn Horvath on paper grounds for painting. 5:30–6:30: Business meeting. Small groups plan. West Stockbridge Town Hall, 21 Stateline Rd. (Rte. 102).

**iPad Painting and Demonstration with Anne Auberjonois:** Session I for beginners Feb. 8. Session II (if you have done session I) Feb. 22. Wednesdays, 10–1 p.m., Stockbridge. Bring your lunch.

**Plan Art 'Round Town:** Thurs., Feb. 9, 12–2 p.m. Stanmeyer Gallery and Shaker Dam Coffeehouse, 2 Main St., West Stockbridge.

**Positive Critique:** Thurs. Feb. 9, 4–6 p.m. Bring 2-3 pieces of your art. West Stockbridge Town Hall.

**Meet the Artist: Anne Pasko, Mixed Media Artist:** Fri., Feb. 10, 12:15–1:30 p.m. Good Purpose Gallery, Lee.

**Berkshire College Students** for fellowships and March 3-25 show. Apply by Feb. 10 to [Baafellowship2017.artcall.org](http://Baafellowship2017.artcall.org).

**Submit Art to Berkshire Museum for 10" x 10" benefit show:** Sat., Feb. 11 & Sun., Feb. 12, 1–4 p.m., or Mon., Feb. 13, 6–8 p.m. Pre-registration: <http://berkshireartassociation.org/?p=2237>. Party: Feb. 23, 6 p.m. \$25 ARTIX drawn at 7 p.m. for original art.

**How to Write an Inspiring Artist's Statement:** Wed., Feb. 15, 3:30–5 p.m. Ilene Spiewak. West Stockbridge.

**Artist-to-Artist Open Studio:** Wed., Feb. 15, 6–9 p.m. West Stockbridge Town Hall. Work, chat, experiment. Host: Aly Benton. Limit: first 20.

**Meet the Artist: Hildy Pincus Kronen, Photographer:** Thurs., Feb. 16, 12:15–1:30 p.m. Six Depot, West Stockbridge.

**Tea with the Masters:** Fri., Feb. 17, 12–2 p.m. at Stanmeyer Gallery and Shaker Dam Coffeehouse, West Stockbridge.

**Life Painting Sessions:** Tues., Feb. 21 and 28, 10–1 p.m. Sessions for beginners to experts with a live model. \$15 RSVP: [wgpolk@aol.com](mailto:wgpolk@aol.com). A Friday Feb. 17 model program is full. Narrative figure painting. RSVP: [ach022050@gmail.com](mailto:ach022050@gmail.com).

**Art Book Gathering:** Fri., Feb. 24, 3–5 p.m. Share a favorite book: artist, process. Shaker Mill Books, Depot St., West Stockbridge.

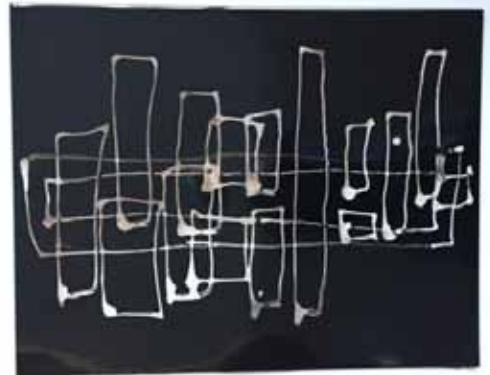
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*Birgit Blyth*



*Joan Rooks*



*Adrian Holmes*

*Marilyn Orner Cromwell*



# School District

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## Regional Agreement Amendment Up for Vote

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### at Special Town Meeting

*By John Parker*

At a special town meeting on February 27, West Stockbridge residents will vote on a proposed amendment to the Berkshire Hills Regional School District (BHRSD) Regional Agreement that, among other things, will change how debt for future capital projects is assessed.

In his January 22 letter to the *Berkshire Edge* (<http://theberkshireedge.com/bhrsd-finance-revision-needs-public-support-at-special-town-meetings/>), BHRSD superintendent Peter Dillon explained that the district was formed in 1965 through the creation of a regional agreement that was updated in 1977, 1979, and 1990. In 2016, a committee was formed with citizens from the three member towns to review and update the agreement.

The committee is chaired by Bill Fields, Mark Sprague, and Lou Oggiani. West Stockbridge representatives are (at large) Alan Thiel, Henry Baldwin, and Lou Oggiani; (School Committee) Kristen Piasecki; and (Selectmen and Finance) Curt Wilton and Andrew Krouss.

The committee focused on three main areas:

- Removing inaccurate or outdated language
- Complying with state laws, regulations, and practices, and
- Reworking the assessment formula for capital projects.

The committee proposed changing how debt for future capital projects is assessed. Currently, capital projects are assessed based on October 1 student enrollment. Each town pays its share based on its percentage of students. The revised formula is based on equalized valuation. Each town's assessed value would become the basis for each town's allocation for capital projects. Operating budgets would continue to be assessed as they are now based on October 1 student enrollment.

After meeting for more than a year and working with the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the committee unanimously approved a revised agreement, sent it to the School Committee that also approved it, and to the state for review and feedback. The revised agreement can be found at the district's website, <http://www.bhrsd.org/bhrsd-proposed-regional-agreement/>.

In his letter, Superintendent Dillon urged residents to reach out to Regional Agreement Amendment Committee members or to him if they have questions and to attend the special town meeting. Dr. Dillon can be reached at (413) 298-4017, ext. 19, or by e-mail: [peter.dillon@bhrsd.org](mailto:peter.dillon@bhrsd.org).



Thank You,  
West Stockbridge!

## Santa's Wish List Donations

In our December issue, we included an appeal for donations to nine West Stockbridge organizations. The total received was \$8,460 (up from \$7,345 last year). We thank all those who gave so generously to these important community groups that work very hard to make West Stockbridge such a special place to live. Here are the totals by organization:

Community Health Association . . . . .	\$760
Friends of the Library . . . . .	\$1,065
Local Yokel . . . . .	\$1,820
Pet Partners of the Tri-State Berkshires . . . . .	\$290
WS Beautification . . . . .	\$825
WS Community Garden . . . . .	\$270
WS Farmers Market . . . . .	\$800
WS Fire & Rescue . . . . .	\$2,080
WS Historical Society . . . . .	\$550
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# Cultural Council Announces Grants for 2017

*By Lorrin Krouss*

The West Stockbridge Cultural Council completed its granting process for FY 2017. After a careful review of the 29 submitted applications, it was determined that funding would be provided for 18 applicants, with awards provided for 19 projects. All of the selected projects and/or programs satisfied the Massachusetts Cultural Council definition of Arts, Humanities, or Interpretive Sciences.

We are pleased to advise that these organizations are receiving funding:

- Berkshire Bach Society: music/free student tickets
- Berkshire Children's Chorus: scholarship program
- Berkshire Lyric Theatre Inc.: concerts and education program
- Berkshire Playwrights Lab: new staged readings
- Berkshire Pulse: tuition assistance
- Berkshire South Regional Community Center: Berkshire Ukulele Band and Berkshire Sings!
- Berkshire Theatre Group: BTG Plays! school residency program
- Flying Cloud Institute: using art to master science and girls' science club at BHRSD
- Friends of the West Stockbridge Library: annual passes to area cultural attractions
- Greenagers, Inc.: environmental education and stewardship
- Nutshell Playhouse: theater
- Peter Dillon: W.E.B. Du Bois educational series
- SculptureNow: sculpture, culture, and nature
- Shakespeare & Company: Fall Festival of Shakespeare
- The Local Yoke!*: local news support
- WAM Theatre: Women's Theatre Group season 8
- West Stockbridge Chamber Players
- West Stockbridge Farmers Market: music and entertainment
- West Stockbridge Historical Society Concert

Current members of the Cultural Council are Marjorie Powell (chair), Ellen Greer, Scott Sawyer, Lorrin Krouss, and Curtis Thierling. Comments and suggestions from our West Stockbridge neighbors are always welcome and appreciated.

For more information about the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the local grant process, go to [www.massculturalcouncil.org](http://www.massculturalcouncil.org) and click on Local Cultural Councils, the Applicants.



# WEST STOCKBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

21 State Line Rd | West Stockbridge, MA 01266 | In the new Town Hall  
weststockbridgelibrary.org | 413-232-0300 ext. 308

TUESDAY 10am-5pm | WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY 2-6pm | SATURDAY 10am-2pm

Welcome to the Year of the Rooster!

If you were born in 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, or 2017, you are a Rooster. People born in the Year of the Rooster are said to be courageous, talkative, and confident. You also have a reputation for being a flashy dresser and are low on energy in the evening. You enjoy learning and are not afraid to work. Our younger readers are invited to stop in for Chinese New Year books and crafts (and LEGOs) all month and during school winter vacation.

- \* If you missed local author Ruth Bass’s book signing of her latest book, *A Silver Moon for Rose*, last month at the Richmond Library, we’ve just stocked up on all the books in her trilogy including *Sarah’s Daughter* and *Rose*. The series chronicles the life of Rose Hibbard, a 19th-century New England farm girl.

### NEW ADULT FICTION

- Conway, *Agent Runner*
- Ellis, *The Butcher’s Hook*
- Hiaasen, *Razor Girl*
- Hoag, *Bitter Season*
- McVeigh, *Leopard at the Door*
- Perry, *The Old Man*
- Woods, *Below the Belt*

### NONFICTION

- Colier, *The Power of Off*
- Friedman, *Thank you for Being Late: An Optimist’s Guide to Thriving in the Age of Accelerations*
- Hochschild, *Strangers in Their Own Land*
- Taubes, *The Case Against Sugar.*

DVDs: *Denial, Girl on the Train, Homeland (season 5), Man Called Ove, Snowden*

### Just for Kids

- Deedy, *The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet*
- Rey, *Curious George and the Dragon Dance*

\*\*\*\*\*

### Ongoing

- Set up a CW/MARS online account by going to weststockbridgelibrary.org and clicking on the card catalog picture. Your personal account allows you to keep track of checkouts, requests, overdues and fees, pickup locations, renewals, and more. Can’t find it in our C/WMARS network? Click on the Commonwealth Catalog to borrow any item statewide.
- If you use an e-reader, explore the new statewide Commonwealth e-book Collections (CEC) at eBooks.masslibsystem.org.
- Library Trustees Board meetings take place on the third Tuesdays of the month. All are open to the public. Next meeting is Feb. 14, 4:30, in the Community Room.
- A reminder that day passes to our year-round attractions are available at the library. Thanks to the Friends of the Library and the West Stockbridge Cultural Council for their support.

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

Lee Appelbaum and Jodi Magner

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KEEPERS OF THE INN



*The Friends of the West Stockbridge Library would like to thank all those who contributed to the Friends over the giving season.*

*We would also like to remind you about our passes to cultural venues, available year round. Avoid the summer rush and visit some of our wonderful local cultural resources this winter!*



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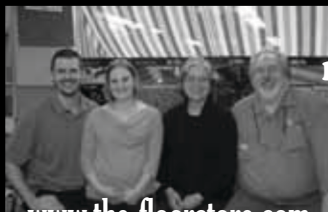
## Winter Parking Ban

No overnight parking along town roads  
November 1 through April 30  
from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.

West Stockbridge, Massachusetts



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## West Stockbridge History Quiz Answer:

The rural towns in the western districts weren't under the control of the church hierarchy quite as much as the Connecticut Valley or eastern cities. Remote geography and the need to develop a "wild and howling place" eased some of the dogmatic requirements. For West Stockbridge, located next to the Dutch New York patroonships and actively trading with a more worldly population from Hudson, Albany, and New York, the townspeople were somewhat more tolerant.

By the 1770s, West Center residents were meeting in various homes and taverns in West Center. The trip over the hill to the Stockbridge Mission to spend a six hours in services on Sunday must have been rough, even more so during harvesttime or winter. By 1774, we received our charter from the General Court and our town formally split with the other Stockbridge. The reasoning was to keep our own church tithing and formally organize our own congregation—Congregationalist, of course. Our first church meetinghouse was finally built in 1789 on the site of the West Center Chapel.

Just four years later, though, the Baptist Society of West Stockbridge was officially chartered. It actually shared the meetinghouse until 1794 when the Congregationalist Church gave the Baptists a piece of land on their own property to build their own meetinghouse. This was a major step forward in tolerance from the days of Roger Williams and banishment to Rhode Island. (Stones from that foundation might still be found in the woods.) This wouldn't have happened in the other Stockbridge, which was much more dogmatic.

As people from outside settled here, other religions were formally organized in West Stockbridge. Scotch immigrants from the British clearances supported the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1834. Irish immigrants from the famine and British deportations brought in Catholicism in the 1850s. Probably the most famous was the Mormon revivals of 1839. A group of 30 organized a branch of this new religion in 1840, out of which came Daniel Spencer, one of the early leaders of the church.

The formal recognition by Massachusetts of the Congregational Church as a state church ended in 1780, but the official state funding of selected religions didn't end until 1833.

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.



*First Congregational church built in 1789 on the site of the West Center Chapel. Photo courtesy of Bob Salerno.*



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## Community Garden

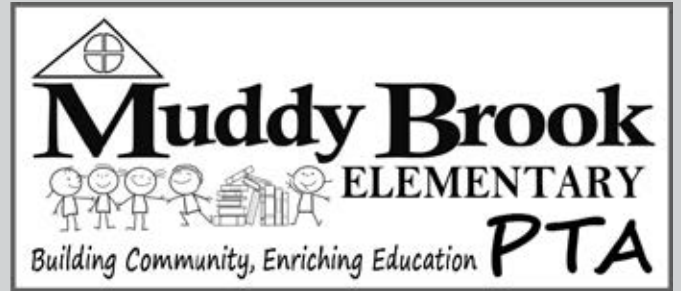
We are so thankful for all of the donations for the community garden. With this money we will be able to rent a tractor, for a much needed retilling, along with the various seeds and transplants needed to make the season flourish. Our *Local Yokel* wish list grand total was \$270!

Our donors:

Alison and Marshall Ash  
Jeri and Dan Buehler  
Bob and Irma Gal  
John and Ada Masiero  
Gary Schieneman and Susan Fisher  
Molly and Chris Vreeland  
William and Jeannie Zox

Thank you for your support!

Dan and Megan Lewis



### New Mascot

The students at Muddy Brook Elementary held a formal election and voted the **coyote** as the school mascot. The new mascot design will appear on the school's Spirit Wear to be sold soon. Stay tuned for more information in the next few months.

### Rewards for Muddy Brook

Clip and save **Box Tops Coupons** from more than 330 participating products including Avery, Cheerios, Cascadian Farms, Betty Crocker, Juicy Juice, Hefty, Kleenex, Ziploc, and more. Each coupon is worth 10 cents when redeemed. Mail Box Tops to Muddy Brook Regional Elementary School PTA, 318 Monument Valley Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

### Show Your School Spirit!

February's theme is HERITAGE. Do you have a tradition based on your heritage that you can wear to school and share with your classmates? Every Friday in February is Heritage Day.

Visit our website, [www.muddybrook.com](http://www.muddybrook.com), for more information on upcoming events, and remember to like us on Facebook!

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**The West Stockbridge Farmers Market Committee  
would like to thank these friends who supported the market in 2016:**

Catherine America  
Alison & Marshall Ash  
Jerri & Dan Buehler  
Amy & Brian Butterworth  
Ray Dorazio  
Paula Farrell & Digger Lockenwitz  
Beth & Rich Fentin  
Susan Fisher & Gary Schieneman  
Irma & Bob Gal  
Vicki Grayson and Alan Thiel  
Elaine Hoffman

Nancy & Walter Howell  
Carol & Stuart Kuller  
Lear & Raquel Levin  
Madeline & Martin Litz  
Ada & John Masiero  
Jaylyn Olivo & Dale Flecker  
Carol & Marvin Schwartzbard  
Peter Thorne  
Karen & Jerry Waxberg  
West Stockbridge Grange  
Jeannie & William Zox

And a very special thank you to the West Stockbridge Congregational Church committee that hosted a very successful fundraiser for the market and to the Merritt Family for the kind use of their green!

Your generosity has kept the market operating and is greatly appreciated!

## **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) 298-1052 or e-mail [info@thelocalyokel.org](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org) for more information.



## It's The Year Of The Rooster—Get Ready To Crow!

The Chinese Year of the Rooster began on January 28, and the West Stockbridge Farmers Market is preparing to celebrate its sixth season and its beloved mascot.

In addition to the wonderful produce and products always offered at the market, expect a strong rooster theme this year with rooster games, rooster trivia, rooster lore, and maybe even rooster visitors.

Ideas? Get in touch: [WSFarmMarket@gmail.com](mailto:WSFarmMarket@gmail.com). If not, prepare to join in and have fun.

**Opening day is May 18—save the date!**



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## Donor Roll Call ~ February

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Richard Brophy  
Amy & Brian Butterworth  
Friends of the West Stockbridge Library  
Walter & Nancy Howell  
Steven Knott  
Carol & Stuart Kuller  
Cecelia & Thomas Meade  
Susan & Sam Menahem  
Steve & Erika Sautman  
Donald Young  
William & Jeannie Zox  
Anonymous: 3

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

2/11 Anne Lesser  
2/22 JoAnne Ellis

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](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org)



Advertise here, just \$3.00 for first ten words  
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# 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. Please check with your employer, or former employer if retired, for matching gift programs.

**Yes!** I want to support the *Local Yokel*.

Enclosed is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
made payable to WSLY.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (as you want it to appear in acknowledgments)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address (location you would like the *Local Yokel* and/or bumper sticker sent)

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City

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State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip



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**Check any that apply:**

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**Please mail this form with your check to:**

**WSLY**

**P.O. Box 238**

**West Stockbridge, MA 01266**

## Community News & Events

### Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, February 12, the Stockbridge Grange will hold 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; call (413) 298-3185. In case of stormy weather, please call first to see if it has been canceled.

### Council on Aging Luncheon

The Council on Aging will hold its potluck luncheon at noon on Tuesday, February 14, in the Community Room at the Town Offices.

### West Stockbridge Congregational Church

Pastor Shawn Bracebridge of the West Stockbridge Congregational Church UCC has accepted a new ministry in southern Vermont as of January 2. Replacing him for the next four months will be former pastor Belle Fox-Martin. The church's regular worship services remain at 10 a.m. on Sundays.

The church will host its pasta dinner on Friday, February 10, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. in the social hall. The Richmond/West Stockbridge Artists' Guild will hold an art exhibit displaying works of various artists available for purchase. Cost for dinner is \$10 per person and \$12 for a gluten-free option. The meal will be served buffet style including homemade meatballs, sauce, salad bar, beverage, and dessert. It's first come, first served, no advance ticket sales, and continuous seating. All net proceeds will benefit the West Stockbridge Historical Society.

*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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## Town Government Boards and Commissions, Phone Directory, and Office Hours

Town Hall Main Number 413-232-0300 • Fax 232-7195

Animal Control	<i>John W. Springstube</i>	232-0300	ext. 335	As Needed
Assessors Office	<i>Mary Stodden</i>	232-0300	ext. 303	Tues. 1–5 p.m.; Thurs. 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Board of Health	<i>John Olander</i>	232-0300	ext. 314	Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m., or by appt.
Board of Selectmen	<i>Earl B. Moffatt, Peter Skorput, 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	Sat. 10 a.m.–1 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., Thurs., and Fri. 2–6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.–2 p.m.; closed Sun. & Mon.
Police Department	<i>Marc Portieri</i>	232-8500 (non-emergency)	24 hours, 7 days/week	
Post Office	<i>Colleen A. Wich</i>	232-8544		Lobby: 7 a.m.–7 p.m.; 7 days/week; Window: Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.–12 noon
Seasonal Lifeguard		232-0315		
Sewer & Water Commission	<i>Michael Buffoni</i>	232-0309		
Town Accountant	<i>Elaine Markham</i>	232-0300	ext. 317	Leave Message for Inquiries
Town Clerk	<i>Ronni Barrett</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	Tues. & Thurs. 1:30–4 p.m.
Town Collector	<i>June A. Biggs</i>	232-0300	ext. 302	Wed. 3–6 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri. 10 a.m.–2 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
Town Historian	<i>Robert Salerno</i>	232-4465		
Town Treasurer	<i>Karen Williams</i>	232-0300	ext. 316	Thurs. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Transfer Station	<i>Edward McGrath</i>	232-0307		Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m.–6 p.m. and Sat. 8 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)

Meet the Artist

## Hildy Pincus Kronen

*Hildy Pincus Kronen:*

Photographer

"Style resembling movie stills from an Alfred Hitchcock thriller"

"Intimacy between the viewer and her subject"



Join Hildy Pincus Kronen on Thurs., Feb. 16, at Six Depot, West Stockbridge, from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. for an informal discussion over lunch. You will be able to ask her questions. RSVP: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090544a5a72ca7fa7-meet-or-if-necessary-kcarmean@gmail.com>.

Throughout the past three decades, Hildy Pincus Kronen has created a photographic style resembling movie stills from an Alfred Hitchcock thriller. Like him, her images can be unsettling. Her spare enigmatic photographs are usually expressed compositionally by placing a lone figure in the frame with an emphasis on the play of light and dark. Her portraits, she says, "would not be described as 'portraits' in your traditional sense. Many times the frame cuts off the identity of the person, creating the sense that the individual could be anyone."

Working with both film and digitally, Kronen is best known for her hand coloring. Through her special sensibility and spare use of color on black-and-white photographs, she has come up with her own unique seductive reality. Kronen maintains an openness when beginning a photo shoot, bringing a depth of meaning to her photographs based on her connection to her subject. With her keen eye for composition, she meticulously places and develops a rapport between herself and the model allowing for their vulnerability to surface, thus creating a level of intimacy between the viewer and her subject.

Kronen earned an MA in anthropology from Hunter College. She got her first camera at age 25, changing the direction of her future. As a young photographer in Brooklyn Heights, she began her studies in photography at the School of Visual Arts, NYC, and continued at the International Center for Photography, NYC. In the 1970s and 1980s, she was highly influenced by photographers Duane Michaels, Sean Kernan, David Chalk, Charles Gatewood, and Bruce Gilden, who helped form her vision. Her work has been published in *Photographers Forum Magazine*, *Today's Photographer Magazine*, *Time & Life Photography Annual*, and *Woman Self-Portraits* (edited by Joyce Tennyson Cohen).

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

RSVP:  
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090544a5a72ca7fa7-meet-or-if-necessary-kcarmean@gmail.com>

Thurs., Feb. 16,

12:15–1:30 p.m.

Six Depot,  
West Stockbridge

Meet the Artist

## Anne Pasko: Multimedia

Anne Pasko  
Multimedia

"Uncertainty and search for new techniques and exciting combinations of color . . . keeps me burning with passion to 'do art.'"



Friday, February 10,  
12:15–1:30 p.m.

Good Purpose  
Gallery,  
Main Street, Lee

RSVP:  
[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090544A5A72CA7FA7-meet-or-kcarmean@gmail.com](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090544A5A72CA7FA7-meet-or-kcarmean@gmail.com)

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

Join Anne Pasko on Friday, Feb. 10, 2017, at Good Purpose Gallery on Main Street in Lee from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. for an informal discussion over lunch. You will be able to ask her questions. RSVP: [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090544A5A72CA7FA7-meet-or-if-necessary-kcarmean@gmail.com](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090544A5A72CA7FA7-meet-or-if-necessary-kcarmean@gmail.com).

"My work crosses a broad range from serene to wild—from monochromatic paper collage to vivid and highly textured mixed media paintings with found objects and acrylics. My pieces may encompass the symbolism of women's spirituality or my love of the earth and our natural environment or the lore and magic of a place like Monhegan Island, Maine.

"I enjoy working and experimenting with textures and new techniques. It is the uncertainty and search for new techniques and exciting combinations of color that keeps me burning with passion to "do art." I am frequently asked how I come up with some of the images and pairings of materials. The answer is always that these are not from a clear, conscious place but rather something that bubbles up out of the subconscious, a remembering of an ancient symbol, or an image seen or felt in a dream. My art often expresses that which I am unable to verbalize.

"My goal is not to recreate a scene or an apple, but rather to capture the mood or feeling of a time and/or place. I've come to realize that when the Muse stings me I am powerless to concentrate on anything else until I have exhausted whatever theme she is tickling me with. It might be a color combination, a song lyric or the title of a book, or something less specific, a feeling that just has to be explored with different kinds of materials. I am grateful for every one of her little, and sometimes not so gentle, stings."

Join us!

## Artist-to-Artist Open Studio

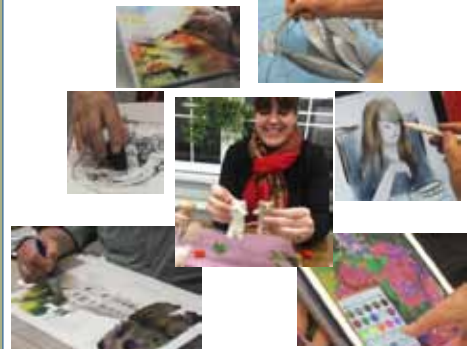
Artist-to-Artist  
Open Studio

Wed., Feb. 15 and  
March 15  
6–9 p.m.

Community Room,  
West Stockbridge Town  
Hall, 21 Stateline Road (Rte.  
102), West Stockbridge, MA

RSVP:  
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090544a5a72ca7fa7-artist>  
Or, if necessary,  
[kcarmean@gmail.com](mailto:kcarmean@gmail.com)

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



Photos by Myron Schiffer

Looking for a chance to start a new painting or finish one that's been waiting for you to complete? Looking to take or review photos with others? Looking to

- work on pieces with other artists?
- chat about art?
- watch others work and join in?
- experiment with a new media like the iPad painting above?

This is your chance to encourage your creativity. These sessions are free and open to the public. Bring your own art supplies including drop cloths. Bring photos or still-lives to inspire!

Mark your calendars! Please RSVP to save your place. Each session will be open to the first 20 people, free of charge. Stay for an hour or all three. The sessions are inspired by an idea that Alexandra Benton proposed last year and Karen Farkas heard about in another area with lots of artists. If they are successful we would like to continue to have them on the second or third Wednesday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. Painting is limited to the area with the linoleum flooring with drop cloths.

**Come join the fun!** RSVP to save a spot: [kcarmean@gmail.com](mailto:kcarmean@gmail.com)

We plan more Artist-to-Artist Open Studio Nights on third Wednesdays except second Wednesdays in February and April.

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MONDAY - SATURDAY 9-5  
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West Stockbridge  
**Local Yokel**  
 P.O. Box 238  
 West Stockbridge, MA  
 01266

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



**February 2017 Calendar of Events**

2/1	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
2/2	Groundhog Day		
2/2	Board of Health	6:30 p.m.	Town Offices
2/6	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
2/6	Planning Board public hearing	7:15 p.m.	Town Offices
2/8	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
2/10	Pasta Dinner	4:40-7 p.m.	W. Stockbridge Congregational Church
2/12	Grange Dinner	1-2 p.m.	Grange Hall, Church St., Stockbridge
2/13	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
2/14	Valentine's Day		
2/14	COA Potluck Luncheon	12 noon	Town Offices Community Room
2/14	American Legion	7 p.m.	Town Offices
2/14	Parks & Recreation Committee meeting	5:30 p.m.	Town Offices Board Work Room
2/15	*** Deadline for the next Local Yokel ***		send to <a href="mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org">info@thelocalyokel.org</a>
2/15	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
2/20	President's Day		
2/20	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
2/21	Library Trustees meeting	4:30 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
2/22	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
2/27	Special Town Meeting	6 p.m.	Town Offices