

Local yokel

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West
Stockbridge
December 2018

Happy
Holidays

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Star moss. Photo by Emily Weiland

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Winter Concert

Sunday, December 30, 2018 at 6 pm

West Stockbridge Congregational Church, 45 Main Street, West Stockbridge

Catherine Hudgins, clarinet • Sheila Fiekowsky, violin
Daniel Getz, viola • Deborah DeWolf Emery, piano

Vaughan Williams: *Studies in English Folksong*

Britten: *Lachrymae*, Op. 48a

Schubert: Violin Sonata in A major, D. 574

Bruch: Selections from *Eight Pieces for Clarinet,
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Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes

[Editor's note: This is the text of the official minutes of the meetings, lightly edited for clarity, length, and format. Copies of the official board minutes are available at the West Stockbridge Public Library. Board of Selectmen meetings can be viewed on the town's Spectrum cable local access channel 190. Residents can receive notification by e-mail of town events and meeting agendas by subscribing at <http://weststockbridgema.virtualtownhall.net/subscriber/>].

September 19, 2018

Open Meeting. Quorum present: Bernie Fallon, Chair; Peter Skorput; Doane Perry. Also present: Administrative Assistant Mark Webber. No press present.

Board reviewed and approved weekly warrants, prior meeting minutes.

Halloween Events

Resident Caitlin Graham addressed the board regarding proposed Halloween events. Caitlin proposed that trick or treat take place on October 31 from 4 to 6 p.m. Then a parade would follow starting at the post office and going around the block, over the bridge, down Main Street, and ending at the Congregational Church. A reception and costume judging event would be held at the church from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Fire Chief Peter Skorput would facilitate the parade, and the police department would provide traffic control for safety. All ages are invited to attend the party at the church. Board thanked Caitlin for her organizational efforts and fully supported her proposal.

Tax Title Auction

Bernie Fallon made a motion that he would like to proceed as soon as possible with the planned tax title auction of 16 State Line Road, pending the finalization of accurate costs owed the town. A discussion followed to determine whether or not to place a minimum bid on the property and at what amount. It was decided to place a minimum bid of \$50,000 for the auction. Peter Skorput seconded the motion. Vote taken, 3-0 in favor.

Used and Junk Autos

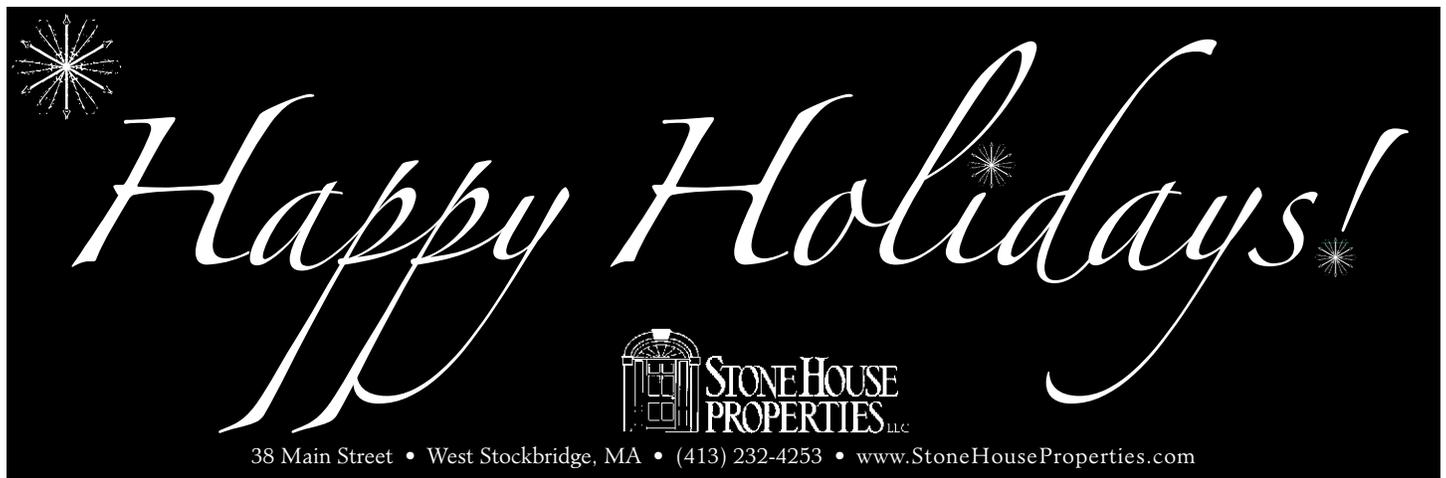
Bernie opened a general discussion on auto Class II and III licenses currently held at 44 Great Barrington Road. Attending were the license holders Ricky Klein and Earl Moffatt along with Alan Becker, the manager of Ricky's licensed operations. Both Ricky and Earl hold Class II and Class III licenses.

Mark Webber stated that the intended purpose of the discussion was to gather information and to adjust the current licenses based on what information was gathered. He further stated that the board is doing a comprehensive review of all town auto licenses issued.

Board and Ricky had a general discussion about the distinctions between Class II (used cars) and Class III (junk cars). Ricky stated that his licensed operation is primarily the reconditioning of salvage cars for resale. To operate as such, a Class III license is required to purchase salvage vehicles, and a Class II is required to sell the refurbished autos as used cars.

Ricky offered the board a copy of his lease agreement with Earl who rents a portion of the property and provided a schematic plan of the property layout and uses. Ricky agreed that the property had gotten cluttered with vehicles, and a plan has been put in place to remove three vehicles for each additional vehicle acquired. Ricky invited the board to conduct a site visit and would welcome any recommendations and reasonable conditions placed on the property including placing a time limit on all vehicles to determine their status. For instance, if a car sits for more than 90 days in the

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The *Local Yokel* is published monthly. Please mail submissions to: *The Local Yokel*, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266, e-mail info@thelocalyokel.org, or visit www.thelocalyokel.org. Copy deadline is the 5th of the month prior to the publication. Editors: John Parker, 394-4368, john.j.parker53@gmail.com; Vicki Grayson, 232-6131, vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com; Susan Fisher, 232-4443, suefish12@gmail.com; Anne Lesser, 232-8577, anne@annelesserscommunications.com; Designer: 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.

Chamber Players Fill Old Town Hall for Harvest Benefit Concert

By Liza Bennett

It was a picture-perfect late fall afternoon on Sunday, November 4, and every seat was taken in the Old Town Hall's Vaber Auditorium to hear the West Stockbridge Chamber Players. West Stockbridge Historical Society's president, Robert Salerno, welcomed the crowd, which included many new faces, announcing that this was the twentieth concert the Chamber Players had given to benefit the Campaign to Restore the Old Town Hall. He also revealed the anonymous sponsor of the concert: Jeff Goodman, who wished to commemorate 50 years of marriage to Andi Goodman, an indispensable member of the Historical Society.



Jeff Goodman, who underwrote the concert in honor of his and Andi's 50th wedding anniversary, with Sheila Fiekowsky (center) and Andi Goodman (at right).

The concert featured Boston Symphony Orchestra members Sheila Fiekowsky, violin; Daniel Getz, viola; Adam Esbensen, cello; Edwin Barker, bass; Richard Ranti, bassoon; and Jason Snider, horn, along with Lisa Crockett, violin; and Catherine Hudgins, clarinet. Designed by Hudgins, the Chamber Players' artistic director, the program opened with Antonin Dvořák's charming *Miniatures*, Op. 75a. Bassoonist Richard Ranti then introduced Bernard Garfield's Quartet for Bassoon, Violin, Viola, and Violoncello, mentioning that Garfield is the model for bassoonists everywhere. As Ranti promised, the piece was full of the smart, snappy, and happy sounds of New York City. Strauss/Hasenöhrl's *Till Eulenspiegel-Einmal Anders!* concluded the first half of the program. Bassist Edwin Barker, who introduced the piece, said this shorter power-packed version of the better known one performed by a large orchestra was just different enough to confuse the musicians, although that was not at all evident in the high-spirited performance that followed.

Catherine Hudgins took the stage after the intermission to thank the audience for its support of the Campaign to Restore the Old Town Hall, which, when completed, will give the Chamber Players a permanent and acoustically lovely home. She said she selected Bruch's Septet in E Flat, Op. posthumous, written when the composer was just 11 years old, to complete the concert because it was so full of love and joy. It was the perfect tribute to the marriage of the Goodmans and the feeling of community these wonderful Chamber Players' concerts generate.

A reception followed the performance downstairs in the Old Town Hall where the audience mingled with the musicians and enjoyed light refreshments.



*Above left: Chamber players (left to right) Sheila Fiekowsky, violin; Lisa Crockett, violin; Adam Esbensen, cello; Edwin Barker, bass; Jason Snider, horn; Richard Ranti, bassoon; Catherine Hudgins, clarinet.
Above right: Pictured here (left to right) are violinists Sheila Fiekowsky and Lisa Crockett, and Daniel Getz, viola.*

All photos by Bob Salerno

same condition, it might be determined to be junk and dealt with accordingly. Ricky added that he is in the process of transferring the property to Alan Becker. Doane Perry stated that he and others have a difficult time exiting Day Farm Rd from the Transfer Station because all the cars are blocking sight lines. Alan offered to better police the property and to keep parked vehicles safely distant from Great Barrington Road.

It was decided that board members will visit the property at their earliest convenience and discuss their findings at a future meeting and amend the existing licenses accordingly. Board thanked both Earl and Ricky for attending the meeting.

Other Business/Discussion/Action Items:

- Mark informed the board that the Transfer Station attendant is on vacation next week and that coverage needs to be provided for next Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Peter Skorput agreed to follow up.
- Town Counsel Katie Klein inquired if the town was going to hold a Special Town Meeting this fall, and if so, she would pressure National Grid to finalize sale documents for the parcel along Moscow Road that Town Meeting had previously approved to purchase.
- Mark noted that the annual audit has been completed and audit reports have been distributed to the town accountant, treasurer, collector, assessors, and Finance Committee. The FinCom has rescheduled its previously scheduled meeting for September 28.

- Mark informed the board that he has spoken with Planning Board chair Dana Bixby and was informed that the Planning Board is nearing completion of a draft marijuana bylaw for review by the selectmen. Board asked that Dana and/or members of the Planning Board attend next week's selectmen's meeting to provide an update.

September 26, 2018

Open Meeting. Quorum present: Bernie Fallon, Chair; Peter Skorput; Doane Perry. Also present: Administrative Assistant Mark Webber. No press present.

Board reviewed and approved previous meeting minutes, vendor warrants, and payroll.

Zoning Bylaws

Planning Board chair Dana Bixby and Planning Board member Jon Piasecki provided the board with a requested update on the status of zoning bylaw amendments. Dana stated that the Planning Board has been working steadily on both a large-scale solar bylaw and a recreational marijuana bylaw and is investigating a big-box store bylaw.

Both Dana and Jon voiced their displeasure with the board and Mark Webber for what they feel is an effort to undermine and interject themselves in Planning Board activities, particularly by partially drafting a backup marijuana bylaw. Board and Mark explained that no one is interested in circumventing the Plan-

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ning Board's role and that the board's efforts are appreciated. The concern is that the 12-month marijuana moratorium runs out in three months and effectively in two months because of posting and public hearing requirements, and citizens and the board were concerned that there has been nothing to look at to date. Dana assured the board that a draft is nearly complete and that the Planning Board will meet the deadline of an early December Special Town Meeting to present a marijuana bylaw. Dana provided the board with a working draft bylaw. Board thanked Dana and Jon for attending and providing an update.

Other Business/Discussion/Action Items:

- Following a discussion, board amended the minimum bid for the scheduled November 7, 2018, auction of 16 State Line Road from \$50,000 to \$30,000. Board will schedule a site walk-through before the auction date.
- Mark informed the board that the Transfer Station attendant is on vacation this week and that coverage is in place.
- Mark informed the board that he had recent discussions with MA DOT District 1 officials regarding evergreen screening between Stockbridge Road and the Interchange 1 solar field. Mark is optimistic that action will be taken shortly.

October 10, 2018

Open Meeting. Quorum present: Bernie Fallon, Chair; Peter Skorput; Doane Perry. Also present: Administrative Assistant Mark Webber. No press present. Meeting is being broadcast on PEG Channel 190.

Board reviewed and approved previous meeting minutes, weekly warrants.

Vision Committee

Bernie Fallon opened the regular portion of the meeting and welcomed Joe Roy, chair of the Vision Committee. Several Vision Committee members were in attendance. Joe read a presentation outlining the formation, activities, vision statement, and procedural matters. Per request of the Vision Committee, board approved the addition of two members, Dick Schectman and Brian Butterworth, to replace two members who resigned.

Bernie expressed his and the board's enthusiasm with the Vision Committee's efforts and goals. Bernie wishes to promote the

uniqueness of the town and promote inclusion and agreement as the committee's work progresses. Board was encouraged by the committee's efforts, and it was agreed that the committee will provide regular updates at future board meetings. Board thanked Joe and the committee for their work and for attending the meeting.

Used and Junk Autos (Site Visit)

Bernie reported that board members recently conducted a site visit to 44 Great Barrington Road to meet with property owner Ricky Klein to discuss and review the site following a recent board meeting at which the property's Class II and Class III auto licenses were discussed. Bernie reported that the meeting was productive and produced a schematic plan that will be used to designate numbers and locations of Class II and III autos on the property. Once accepted by the board, that layout will be attached to the property's to-be-amended auto licenses. Doane Perry expressed concerns about sight lines for those exiting Day Farm Road. Bernie stated that Ricky will be contacted and asked to inform his tenants to keep parked cars back from the intersection to improve visibility at this dangerous intersection.

National Grid Property Purchase

Board had a general discussion on the National Grid (NG) property along Moscow Road that is in the process of being purchased by the town. Doane expressed concern that NG requires a site environmental report as a condition of the sale. Doane asked if there might be hazardous materials on the site. Peter Skorput responded that the area has been extensively excavated in recent years during the municipal sewer installation including the sewer pump station, sewer mains and laterals, parking lot, and public bathroom foundation. Peter added that the site was a section of the abandoned rail line and that no industrial use ever took place at the site. An environmental report should conclude that there are no issues at the site.

Other Business/Discussion/Action Items:

- In light of recent vandalism and unauthorized persons in the Town Offices, Peter recommended installing security cameras/system in the building. Board agreed. Mark Webber to follow up.
- Board expressed their approval of the recent cutting of several large evergreens rimming Card Pond adjacent to the Interchange 1 on-ramp. Peter noted that increased visibility of the beach area will improve safety and reduce vandalism.

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- Great Barrington Road paving is expected to begin in the next two weeks and will take approximately two weeks to complete.
- Chief of Police Marc Portieri will attend the board's next meeting to provide his routine update.
- Board discussed scheduling a Special Town Meeting for December 10, 2018, to address the following articles: additional appropriation for the purchase of National Grid property along Moscow Road, marijuana zoning bylaw amendment, and transfer of sewer and water retained earnings to the General Fund. Posting of this meeting would be no later than November 26.

October 17, 2018

Open Meeting. Quorum present: Bernie Fallon, Chair; Peter Skorput; Doane Perry. Also present: Administrative Assistant Mark Webber. No press present.

Board reviewed and approved previous meeting minutes, payroll, and vendor warrants.

Police Department Update

Chief of Police Marc Portieri gave the board his monthly update on department activities. Chief stated that Officer Stringer started full-time police academy attendance last week and anticipates a mid-April 2019 graduation. Chief plans to form a new department personnel command structure shortly as follows: chief, sergeant, officer-in-charge, and patrolmen (full and part time). Officer Messina will be named sergeant, and Officer Murphy will become of-

ficer-in-charge. Chief is working on several grant opportunities including speed trailers, canine officer, and communications equipment. Chief and department will be sponsoring its second annual Helping Hands program. Funded through donations to the Police Association and matched with a donation from A-List Chauffeur Service, five needy local families will receive Christmas gifts. Chief notes that the winter parking ban will begin November 1. Bernie Fallon thanked the chief for his report and made particular note of the generosity of A-List Chauffeur Service by assisting in the Helping Hands program.

Tax Title Auction

Bernie opened a discussion on 16 State Line Road, slated to go to auction on November 7. He reviewed the property history and the events that have led to the town auctioning the property, including tax-taking action, Land Court award to the town, and the town's many efforts to work out payment plans with Zanconato family members (former property owners) that have not been successful. Bernie stated that the board is tasked with representing the town's best interest but wishes to be as fair as possible to the Zanconatos. Brian Zanconato, present at tonight's meeting, stated that he has obtained funding and is prepared to pay off all property-associated costs due the town including back taxes, interest, legal expenses, and water and sewer fees. Brian stated that the funds are in his attorney's possession, and once a final figure is generated by the town, the full amount will be paid. Mark Webber stated that the treasurer

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and collector will be able to provide that figure tomorrow. That figure will be furnished to Brian's lawyer. Brian stated that a check will be issued right away. Mark noted that it will take a minimum of 30 days to vacate the Land Court judgment and get all the paperwork in order. Peter made a motion to accept full payment for the property and to vacate the Land Court judgment against 16 State Line Road. Bernie seconded the motion. Vote taken, 3-0 in favor.

Other Business/Discussion/Action Items:

- Board had a general discussion regarding the Planning Board's work on zoning bylaw updates and a timeline to allow for public hearing(s) on same and getting everything done in time for a December 10 tentative Special Town Meeting. The consensus is that the Planning Board is working steadily and will have everything set in plenty of time.
- Peter asked Mark to assist in obtaining prices for the town meeting approved repairs at the fire station. Peter has had difficulty with contractors getting back to him with quotes, and the roof is leaking in areas and getting worse.
- Board signed paperwork to allow a state-sponsored agricultural restriction on a portion of the Springstube farmland on West Center Road.

October 24, 2018

Open Meeting. Quorum present: Bernie Fallon, Chair; Peter Skorput; Doane Perry. Also present: Administrative Assistant Mark Webber. No press present.

Board reviewed and approved previous meeting minutes, vendor warrants, and payroll.

Tax Title Auction

Bernie Fallon discussed 16 State Line Road auction status. Auction scheduled for November 7 was cancelled because the most

recent party of interest has secured funds to pay off all liens against the property. Payment is expected via his attorney on October 25. Bernie stated that the unregistered vehicles and equipment parked on the property need to be removed before the town will execute a deed back to Mr. Zanconato. Board agreed.

Used and Junk Autos

Board had a general discussion about all unregistered vehicles in town. Peter suggested that warning letters first be sent to all residents who are in violation of the town's junk car bylaw. If they don't comply within a reasonable period, they would receive a ticket and would need to appear in Southern Berkshire District Court for resolution. Board agreed. Mark Webber will contact the chief of police to instruct his officers to compile a comprehensive list over the next 30 days and submit that to the board for action.

Youth Services Project

Resident Adam Boscarino, a student at Monument Mountain Regional, addressed the board regarding a youth services project associated with iBerkshire Youth Leadership. Adam is seeking board permission to coordinate a 5k walk/run fundraiser to benefit a town of West Stockbridge community project. He suggested that funds raised could go to supplement funds already approved for a planned upgrade to the Village School playground. Board applauded Adam's initiative and suggested that once he gets a little further along with his plans that he contact the chief of police and discuss any safety and traffic concerns and then return to the board with a more formal proposal.

Fire Siren

Bernie opened a discussion on the need and operation of the siren at the fire station. He wondered if it's still a necessity and that other surrounding towns have discontinued use of theirs. Peter responded, in his capacity as fire chief, that discontinuing the siren except in the case of backup, natural disaster, or other emergency

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December History Quiz Question:



West Stockbridge Historical Society
Incorporated in 1994

The United States was founded as a secular nation, with religion a private affair not to be mixed with politics or government. During the early years of the country, it is estimated that only 1 in 10 Americans belonged to a church or attended regularly. But Massachusetts was different in that local taxes supported the Congregational Church. Other denominations had to obtain a formal exemption from the tax. This policy officially ended in 1833.

Secularism changed in the 1820s with the Second Great Awakening, a Protestant religious movement that swept the country. A reaction to rationalism, the Enlightenment, and the growing power of industrialization in society, it became a major force in the country. While the Great Awakening spurred an increase in traditional congregations and attendance, its revivals and camp meetings fathered new religions and practices. By the 1850s when the Great Awakening fervor abated, church membership had risen to 8 of 10 citizens.

West Stockbridge was not isolated or immune to this movement. How were the townspeople affected, and how did they participate in it in a major way?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)

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.

has been under consideration. He suggested that its use be discontinued as a trial to see how things work out. Peter added that his volunteers rely on pagers and cell phone notifications to respond to calls as a rule.

Other Business/Discussion/Action Items:

- Mark informed the board that the owner of 32 Main Street expressed an interest in obtaining a liquor license for their property as part of opening a new restaurant. He noted that if and when an application is filled out, he will bring it to the board. The board would then schedule the required public hearing. Following that, if the application is approved, it would be sent to the state Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC) for their review and approval/denial.
- Board signed the November 6, 2018, general election ballot that will be posted at the town's five designated posting locations.

November 7, 2018

Open Meeting. Quorum present: Bernie Fallon, Chair; Peter Skorpor; Doane Perry. Also present: Administrative Assistant Mark Webber. No press present.

Board reviewed and approved previous meeting minutes as presented, and signed payroll and vendor warrants.

Zoning Bylaws and Special Town Meeting

Board had a general discussion about scheduling for the upcoming Planning Board public hearing on town zoning bylaw amendments and the Special Town Meeting that would follow to act on those amendments along with a few housekeeping warrant articles. The Planning Board has published notice of their public hearing to open at 7:15 p.m. on November 21, 2018. However, noting that the hearing would be held the evening before Thanksgiving, the Planning Board is expected to open and continue the hearing until November 28 to provide more opportunity for interested parties to attend. The selectmen would then schedule a Special Town Meeting for either December 10 or 13. Board will determine the Special Town Meeting date at their meeting of November 14.

Used and Junk Autos

Board discussed enforcement of the town's junk car bylaw. Bernie Fallon noted that the bylaw has not been vigorously enforced in several years and doing so is a natural progression from the board's recent review and amendments to the town's licensed used and junk car dealers. Mark Webber reported that the chief of police has been given a directive to have his patrolmen compile a list of all unlicensed vehicles along with owners' names and addresses and return that list to the board within 30 days. Board agreed that once the list is presented, letters will be sent to those in violation of the bylaw and given a yet to be determined period to remove the vehicles. Failure to comply will result in a violation ticket that requires the violators to appear in Southern Berkshire District Court.

It was agreed that Troy's Garage will be invited to the board's next meeting to get an update on their required and agreed to removal of vehicles per their amended used car license.

Swap Shop Update

Transfer Station attendant Wayne Cooper gave a brief update on the newly constructed Swap Shop. The Highway Department has completed the construction of a handicapped ramp, along with paving and a retaining wall. In response to a question from Bernie, Wayne stated that he encourages donations from those taking items from the Swap Shop. Those donations are then given to the West Stockbridge Police Department to assist in their annual holiday gift-giving event. Wayne added that donations are not required, and patrons are not pressured to do so.

Other Business/Discussion/Action Items:

- Mark informed the board that Town Counsel Katie Klein is continuing discussions with her counterpart at National Grid (NG) seeking to close a deal on the town purchase of the NG parcel along Moscow Road. We still do not have a final estimate for potential additional inspection and closing costs.
- Mark informed the board that he has been in touch with the commercial appraisal firm hired by the town to perform an appraisal on the Card Lake parking lot. The firm apologized for the delay and said that we can expect the appraisal in another week. □



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Friends of the Library Scrapbook Corner

1. Ronald Race applied and got a \$84,000 grant from whom in 2010 for the West Stockbridge Fire Department?
2. Who was the woman who served on the town Select Board in 2010?
3. Michael Kirchner served on which two boards in 2009?
4. Jeff Stevens was Monument Mountain Regional High School music director and started what band that continues to this day?

Answers: 1. Department of Homeland Security; 2. Karen Zick; 3. Berkshire Hill Regional School Committee and West Stockbridge Board of Selectmen; 4. The Jazz Ensemble



Fire Department Log

By Peter Skorput, Fire Chief

OCTOBER 2018

Date	Time	Nature of Call
10/11	1:21 p.m.	False alarm
10/12	2:32 a.m.	Medical alarm
10/20	8:36 p.m.	Auto alarm
10/24	1:15 p.m.	Medical
10/26	9:10 a.m.	Medical
10/28	12:13 a.m.	Medical

I would like to thank everyone who contributed and attended the fundraiser for firefighter Bill Filiault. It was a great success.

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When you are making out your gift lists, we hope you will consider a donation to one or more of these great organizations: Community Health Association, Friends of the West Stockbridge Library, Pet Partners of the Tri-State Berkshires, West Stockbridge Beautification, West Stockbridge Farmers Market, West Stockbridge Fire and Rescue Services, West Stockbridge Historical Society, and, of course, the *Local Yokel*.

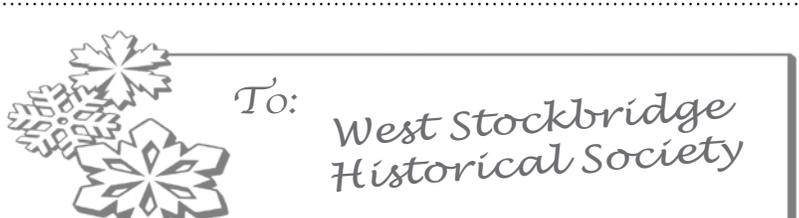
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The WSLY Editors



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*Seasons
 greetings*

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Celebrate the Visual Arts in December 2018

December Art Calendar

Members' Potluck. Sun Dec. 2, 4-7pm in Pittsfield near Richmond line. Bring main dish, hors d'oeuvres or dessert for ten and what YOU want to drink. Partners welcome. In Pittsfield near Richmond. RSVP: BerkshireArtists@gmail.com

Figure Painting, Open Studio Tuesdays in December 4, 11 and 18. 1-4pm but not Dec. 25 or Jan. 1. IS 183, Stockbridge. \$20 members, \$25 nonmembers. Bring your supplies. RSVP 413-298-5252x100.

Art seminars and Business Meeting. Wed. Dec. 5, 4:00pm. Still Life Watercolor demonstration Keith Emerling. 5-6:00. Guild Meeting Community Room Town Hall, 21 Stateline Road (Route 102) West Stockbridge (WS) Based on our survey, we plan video courses in Drawing and a short course in Multi-media in December or January and encaustic in January. Please contact kcarmean@gmail.com if you are interested

First Fridays Artswalk Friday December 7, 5-8 p.m. Pittsfield, North and South Streets. www.firstfridaysartswalk.com

Shaker Mill Inn Art Exhibit Reception: Sun. Dec. 9. 4-6:30pm. Storm date is Tues. Dec. 11. More than 50 works by local artists. A rare chance to see the works and some of the nine beautiful rooms. Light refreshments served. Artists bring a plate of hors d'oeuvres, 2 Oak St. near 7 Albany Rd. (Rt. 41 and 102) West Stockbridge.

Positive Critique. Dec. 13, 4-6pm. Bring 2-3 pieces of your art. WS Town Hall. RSVP required and reading

Photo Explorers. Join Carole Quinn on Fri. Dec. 14 at 8:30 am. at Six Depot, W.S. Explore West Stockbridge together.

Meet the Artist: Bruce Shickmarter, Watercolor and Gouache Painter, Fri. Dec 14, 12:15-1:30, Shaker Dam Coffeehouse, 2 Main Street in West Stockbridge. Buy a coffee, tea or pastry at the Coffeehouse. Bring/bring in lunch.

Artist to Artist Open Studio. Wed. Dec. 19, 6-9pm. Bring art you want to finish, get advice, try out a new process or technique. Informal chance to do art together for fun! WS Town Hall, 21 Stateline Road. Rt. 102. You must rsvp. AleandraBenton.art@gmail.com

Art Book Gathering Friday, Dec. 28, 2-4 p.m. Share a favorite book: artist, process. Host: Mark Mellinger. Shaker Dam Books, West Stockbridge.

Guild of Berkshire Artists
 RSVP: BerkshireArtists.org
BerkshireArtists@gmail.com See Facebook

Recent Works



Amy Butterworth



Buzz Donovan



Barbara Shea Tracy



Lou Coco



Keith Emerling

OPEN HOUSE: Shaker Mill Inn

More than 60
 Paintings and
 Photographs

by Local Artists

Sun. Dec. 9

4 - 6:30 pm

Shaker Mill Inn

2 Oak Street

West Stockbridge



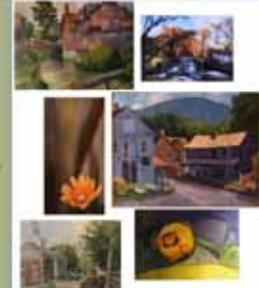
The Photo of Work

Light Refreshments

Shaker Mill Inn

Guild of Berkshire Artists

www.BerkshireArtists.org



Join us for a rare opportunity to see some of the nine rooms decorated with art by local artists and enjoy light refreshments at the Shaker Mill Inn. See Photos of Work on Facebook. "Berkshire List of Art: Shaker Mill Inn" This exhibit features and other artists will be added. Registration works by artists on the show. Includes: Frank Jay Job, Carole Auerbach, Jane Anderson, Mark Reilly, Amy Prommer, Adam Ichter, and David Eggen. You may see the work, background information and contact the artist on the Facebook page. "Berkshire List of Art: Shaker Mill Inn" by EAP and for more information contact berkshirelist@gmail.com



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On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky

Here's the next episode of our excellent adventure (i.e., building a smaller, much more energy-efficient house for our so-called golden years, which are more likely our recycled aluminum years). Also, a shout out of gratitude to the many people who are making this venture a reality seems appropriate at this time of year.

Our first snowfall of the season was on November 16. By that date we had the shell up with the roof trusses placed and the sheathing installed (thanks to Bob Olinski of Casa Construction, as well as my own splendid crew), temporary electric (thanks to Henry's Electric), interior partitions framed, windows installed and flashed, all the exterior doors except for the front door (on back order), our plumbing rough-in completed and inspected, and some of our heating ventilation air conditioning (HVAC) system started (thanks to Gennari Plumbing & Heating). In addition, there's been a lot of earth moving (thanks to Williams Excavating) including stone retaining walls, roughed-in driveway, and the start of our septic system. They have also helped us envision some exciting ideas for the finished landscaping come spring.



The house began to take shape after a huge crane lifted the trusses into place. Photo by Mike Wilser

The weather has been a constant worry. It was a very rainy fall, and the snow in mid-November has slowed down the schedule for the shingling, exterior trim, and the start of the electric rough-in. It occurs to me that as long as people are allowed to do roofing, building, and farming, there's *no need* for legalized gambling. Those of you who've had your own house built or remodeled understand the anxiety the weather can cause. But we didn't experience the flooding or wildfires that others around the country have had to endure, so I'll stop whining and remain grateful.

I've been plugging away pretty much daily doing as much of the carpentry as possible, as well as trying to keep things coordinated between various subcontractors and suppliers (special thanks to everyone at Dresser-Hull in Lee—the box of homemade brownies we made for them were gratefully received). Anne has been in charge of the accounting for the whole project. We are paying the bills with disbursements from our construction loan (thanks to Greylock Federal Credit Union).

As the year comes to a close, I want to thank my loyal readers—both of you!—for encouraging me to keep this report going. Best wishes to *everyone* for a joyous holiday season. I trust I will have lots more progress to describe next time.

Questions and comments can be sent to info@localyokel.org.



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Winter Parking Ban



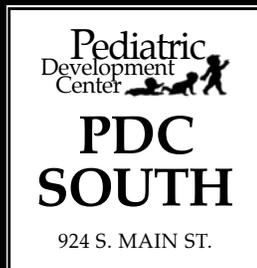
The "Winter Parking Ban" is in effect from November 1, 2018 to April 30, 2019 between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. for all streets in West Stockbridge. Violations of this ban may result in a \$25 fine for parking in prohibited areas, or a \$50 fine for impeding snow removal. In addition, if the vehicle is impeding snow removal, it may be towed at the owner's expense.

The Municipal parking lot across from the Public Market and the parking area on Moscow Road where the public bathrooms are may be used for overnight off street parking. However, vehicles in those lots must be moved by 8:00 a.m. to allow the Department of Public Works to manage snow and ice removal.

Persons having questions about off street parking or the Winter off-street parking ban can call Mark Webber, Town Administrator at 413-232-0300 Extension 319.

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Please send your Birthdays & Anniversaries to the Local Yoke!
We are happy to include them in the next issue.

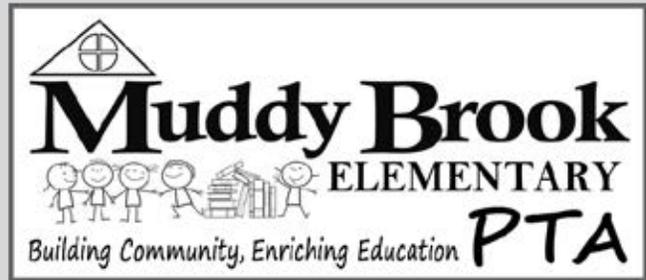


The Local Yoke, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266, e-mail to info@thelocalyoke.org, or visit www.thelocalyoke.org

Where are these doors in your town?

Visit our website for past issues, plus information about how to support your West Stockbridge community newsletter, submit material for publication, advertise, contact us, and answers to September's *Local Yokel* cover question!

thelocalyokel.org



DECEMBER EVENTS:

Family Learning Lab: Join us on Thursday, December 6, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Muddy Brook Community Room for our first Family Learning Lab! Mr. Lee, Mrs. Minkler, Mrs. Auger, and Mrs. Way will be talking to us and modeling activities that show how Muddy Brook supports all types of learners.

Toy Drive: If you'd like to donate toys for the holidays for families in need, please e-mail the PTA at muddybrookpta@gmail.com.

Rewards for Muddy Brook: Clip and save Box Tops coupons from more than 330 participating products including Annie's, Nature Valley, Cheerios, Cascadian Farms, Ziploc, Lysol, and more. Each coupon is worth 10 cents when redeemed. Last year we earned over \$2,000 in Box Tops alone, and we're hoping to exceed that this year! Mail Box Tops to Muddy Brook Regional Elementary School PTA, 318 Monument Valley Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

Please join fellow parents and teachers in making this year very special for the students of Muddy Brook.

Like us on Facebook for other upcoming events:
<https://www.facebook.com/muddybrookelempto/>

Thank you for your continued support!

Community News & Events

Community Health Association

Blood pressure clinics are held Mondays and Wednesdays, 9–10 a.m., at the CHA office at the West Stockbridge Town Offices. For more information, contact Emilie Jarrett, RN, at 232-0122.

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

There will no Grange dinner in December. Regular meals start up again in January.

Council on Aging Potluck

There will be no potluck luncheon in December. See you again in January!

St. Patrick's Church Holiday Cookie Walk

St. Patrick's Church is holding its 21st Annual Holiday Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 15, 9–11 a.m., in the church Parish Center. You will be able to choose from a wide variety of cookies that will be sold by weight. Please visit St. Patrick's for your holiday cookies!

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



Did you know...?

An occasional feature with tidbits of information that readers may find useful. Readers are also invited to send items for consideration via our website, www.thelocalyokel.org.

Sadly, we have two notable departures from our West Stockbridge business community to report:

- Equator Antiques, 20 Main Street, is moving in January to Hudson, NY (meanwhile, a 30% off everything sale is underway).
- Diana Felber Gallery, 6 Harris Street, will be closing its doors December 30, with a 40% off everything sale until then.

On a happier note, according to the minutes of the October 24 Board of Selectmen's meeting, interest has been expressed in applying for a liquor license in connection with the opening of a new restaurant at 32 Main Street. *Stay tuned!*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 12/1 Steve Seward
- 12/20 Susan Fisher
- 12/20 Robin Lazarow
- 12/28 Karen & Jerry Waxberg, 50th anniversary
- 12/30 Mark McGuane

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, e-mail info@thelocalyokel.org, or visit www.thelocalyokel.org



Donor Roll Call December

- William & Janet Gorth
- Robin Lazarow & Jeanne Kangas
- Bill Loeb
- Emilie Schmidt
- Stockbridge Grange
- Ellen & Leonard Tabs
- Nancy & Louis Trionfo

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.)



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History Quiz Answer:

During the Great Awakening, West Stockbridge was the scene of at least two major revivals in 1821 and 1827, as well as many other smaller meetings. Numerous attempts were made to convert residents to the new movements. Elijah Slosson, a member of one of the early families who lived in West Center, was a cousin of Mother Ann Lee, who became the leader of the Shakers. She visited often and converted his son Eliphet and his new bride at their wedding feast.

Our most famous contributor to the religious movement was Daniel Spencer. Local chair of the school board and a successful merchant, Daniel and other residents converted to Mormonism when an itinerant preacher came to town in 1839. They left in 1841 for Nauvoo, Illinois, and later trekked to Salt Lake City. Spencer had a colorful life before and after his conversion. He became a major figure in the Mormon Church as well as mayor of Salt Lake, and we have visitors to town every year researching his birthplace.

During the Great Awakening, traditional religions developed as well. The Methodist congregation split off from the Richmond parish and built their church on Swamp Road that later became the Grange building. The Baptist congregation originally formed in 1780, died out in the early 1800s, then re-formed in 1847. They met in private homes and later relocated in Glendale.

One of the more interesting stories is about a religious fanatic named Reed in the 1830s. He tried to hold a special ceremony on West Stockbridge Mountain that included sacrificing a pig. The pig escaped, as did his assistant who feared he might be the stand-in for the ceremony. Reed's preaching didn't seem to be successful in town, and there is no record of him after that.



Methodist camp meeting (1819 engraving).
Courtesy of Bob Salerno

Exhibit

OPEN HOUSE: Shaker Mill Inn

More than 60
Paintings and
Photographs

by Local Artists

Sun. Dec. 9

4 – 6:30 pm
Light Refreshments
Storm date Tues. Dec. 9

Shaker Mill Inn
2 Oak Street
West Stockbridge



See Photos of Work
On Facebook "Berkshire Local
Art: Shaker Mill Inn"

Guild of Berkshire Artists
www.BerkshireArtists.org



Join us for a rare opportunity to see some of the nine rooms decorated with art by local artists and enjoy light refreshments at the Shaker Mill Inn. See Photos of Work on Facebook "Berkshire Local Art: Shaker Mill Inn." This exhibit rotates and other artists will be added. Representative works by artists in the show, clockwise from top left Carolyn Newberger, Anne Auberjonois, Walt Pasko, Amy Pressman, Adrian Holmes, and David Edgecomb. You may see the work, background information and contact the artist on the Facebook page "Berkshire Local Art: Shaker Mill Inn." To RSVP and for more information contact BerkshireArtists@gmail.com. Check website if stormy.

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

Town Offices 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>Earl Moffatt</i>	232-0300	ext. 314	Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m., or by appt.
Board of Selectmen	<i>Bernie Fallon, Peter Skorput, Doane Perry</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>Rachel Alter</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>Wayne Cooper</i>	232-0307		Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m.–6 p.m. and Sat. 8 a.m.–6 p.m.
Tree Warden	<i>Andrew Fudge</i>	232-4322		
Veterans Agency	<i>Laurie Hills</i>	528-1580		
Zoning Board of Appeals	<i>C. Randolph Thunfors</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	

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

Wayne's World: The New Swap Shop

By Bernie Fallon

Wayne Cooper said to me one day, "I want our transfer station to be the best in the state." Now that's enthusiasm! And he meant it. One of the by-products of Wayne's positive energy is our new Swap Shop.

Last month, West Stockbridge architect John Fülöp asked me to write an article about Wayne's contributions. He said, "The Swap Shop never would have happened without Wayne." Wayne immediately deferred, saying the contribution comes from everywhere. It's a community shed, a team effort.

Wayne started rattling off names. Mary (O'Brien) Stoddard donated lumber. The Korte family via John Buratto donated nails and screws. Steve McMahon donated a cabinet. John Fülöp donated sturdy wall shelving (that Wayne bolted to the walls). Curt Wilton and his team prepared the foundation, the blacktop, and handicapped entrance. The Floor Store gave carpet remnants for the entrance. The Select Board gave the green light on the project. Mark Webber found just the right shed and ordered it.

Wayne said the townspeople have shown overwhelmingly that they want this Swap Shop. It not only provides an example of recycling and reduced waste, but it shows sharing and caring among neighbors.



Consistent with the environmental theme, Wayne walked me over to the shed and turned on the lights. He said, "See how it is powered?" He's got the electricity in the shed powered by a *solar panel* donated by Wayne himself. Wayne said he wanted to donate to a town that has been good to him. Not everyone knows that Wayne had a terrible fire about eight years ago that took out his entire house. Wayne wanted to thank the Fire Department and the townspeople in general for their support.

The sharing, caring, and thoughtfulness takes a turn back toward Wayne. On my visit to the dump, my friend Ruth brought Wayne a coffee (Paul Faggioni is another who does this). My mother brings him homemade muffins. Many others bring him cookies, and even a pie!

As much as Wayne wanted to give credit to others, the Swap Shop project would not have happened without him pulling everything together and taking responsibility. To be the "best in the state," a required ingredient is enthusiasm. He has that energy in spades. Thank you, Wayne. And by the way, he takes his coffee black and apparently has a sweet tooth!

All photos are by Bernie Fallon.



West Stockbridge
Local Yokel
 P.O. Box 238
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 01266

thelocalyokel.org



December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

December 2018 Calendar of Events

12/2	Hanukkah (begins at sundown)		
12/5	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
12/5	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
12/6	Board of Health meeting	6:30 p.m.	Town Offices
12/11	American Legion meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
12/12	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
12/15	*** Deadline for the next Local Yokel ***		send to info@thelocalyokel.org
12/15	St. Patrick's Holiday Cookie Walk	9-11 a.m.	Church Parish Center
12/19	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
12/19	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
12/21	First Day of Winter		
12/24	Christmas Eve		
12/25	Christmas Day		
12/26	Kwanzaa begins		
12/30	Chamber Players' Winter Concert	6 p.m.	W.S. Congregational Church
12/31	New Year's Eve		