

Local yokel

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

West
Stockbridge

**August
2020**



*An unexpected visitor to downtown
West Stockbridge. Photo by John Parker*

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005

West Stockbridge Historical Society in the Time of Covid-19

By Bob Salerno, WSHS President



Restored railroad baggage cart. Photo by Bob Salerno

This past spring, the Historical Society had planned a full slate of activities: jazz and Chamber Players concerts, history talks, a possible yoga class, and even a benefit reception. We were hopeful about our cultural grant application and eager to move forward with the building renovation after the winter. Things were looking good. Then the virus hit . . .

We were forced to postpone and reschedule all our events due to the shutdown. We couldn't use Vaber Hall or the first floor, and our outdoor space is too small and oddly configured to have meaningful events. Activities are at a standstill until the pandemic eases and the state rules permit indoor gatherings, and, most importantly, people feel confident to venture out again. But our members are creative.

We just hosted our first restoration benefit concert with our West Stockbridge Chamber Players in the amphitheater and Great Lawn at TurnPark. On Friday, August 14, at 5 p.m., we will sponsor an

online talk, "Backyard Birds, Then and Now," with our new partners, Mass. Audubon/Berkshire Sanctuaries (Pleasant Valley). We hope to make this a regular quarterly feature. Our jazz committee is working on different options for our rescheduled concerts like use of outdoor space and the possibility of a "drive-in movie" type arrangement. There is a new video of Vern Tower speaking about quarrying and showing some of the techniques used to wrest marble and limestone out of the ground. The virus has made everyone think differently about many parts of life we took for granted.

On the building renovation front, we have been moving forward. As reported before, we received the \$80,000 matching grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. This project is to replace the 1914 roof and repair the windows and doors that, in turn, will set us up to install air conditioning and allow building use year round. Just before the pandemic hit, we had an energy audit by a firm working with National Grid. We recently learned that National Grid will pay the full costs to furnish the building with energy-efficient bulbs and fixtures. This means that the ugly fluorescent bulbs in Vaber Hall that make everyone look green are going!

Looking forward, we moved the old railroad baggage cart to the rear of the building (pictured here). It was given to us by Westbridge Associates (Gordon Rose family) when we first started the Old Town Hall restoration, and Don Johnson had been kind enough to store it in his barn. When we fix up the rear space, it will be the platform for refreshments at intermissions and receptions when our events are safely back in our building. Every time we look at it, we are hopeful that won't be too long from now.

The pandemic has had an impact on our Historical Society, not only financially but socially. We miss the community and interaction with all our members and guests. We know we will all get through this together and look forward to the time when we can all gather and enjoy our programs and, most importantly, each other's company.

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Select Board Meeting Minutes

[Editor's note: At the town administrator's request, the Select Board minutes here are reprinted verbatim with no editing of text. Official board minutes are available at the West Stockbridge Public Library and on the town website, <https://www.weststockbridge-ma.gov/>. Select Board meetings may be viewed on Spectrum cable local access channel 190. Residents can receive e-mail notification of town events and meeting agendas by subscribing at <http://weststockbridgema.virtualltownhall.net/subscriber>].

Select Board Meeting Minutes June 16, 2020 Remote Access by Free Conference Call.com

10:05 AM: Open Meeting
Quorum present: Select Board Members: Bernie Fallon, Chair; Eric Shimelonis, Member, and Town Administrator Marie Ryan.
Review and act on previous meeting minutes.

Agenda Items/Action/Discussion Items: Meeting Opened at 10:05 AM

Vote/Discussion approval of DOR 1/12th Budget Plan:

Bernie explained that this plan has been requested by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. He then asked Marie to explain. Marie stated that due to COVID-19 and all towns having to postpone and move their town meetings to a later date, in case of any type of emergency, natural or COVID-19 related, the State DOR is asking that each town prepare, approve and submit a "1/12th Budget" to the DOR just in case we do not end up being able to complete our town meeting prior to July 1. This will allow us to be able to pay bills and out payroll if we are not able to get town meeting completed by July 1.

Eric said it made sense, and Bernie agreed. Bernie made the motion to approve the 1/12th Budget Plan that Elaine had prepared, Eric seconded and all were in favor.

Bernie made a motion to adjourn, Eric seconded, the Select Board adjourned at 10:08 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Y. Ryan
Marie Y. Ryan

Select Board Meeting Minutes June 24, 2020 21 State Line Road, Town Hall

6:00 PM: Open Meeting
Quorum present: Select Board Members: Bernie Fallon, Chair; Eric Shimelonis, Member, Town Administrator Marie Ryan, and Police Chief Marc Portieri.
Review and act on previous meeting minutes.

Agenda Items/Action/Discussion Items: Meeting Opened at 6 PM

Vote/Discussion approval of Rouge Restaurant for Temporary Outdoor Dining:

Bernie began by stating that the State and the ABCC have released a new permission for Temporary Additional Outdoor Dining in the state due to the Pandemic. He then asked Police Chief Marc Portieri to explain any concerns that he would have with the plan that Maggie Merrell from Rouge has presented to the Board for approval.

Chief Portieri began by asking where are all the cars going to park if the restaurant uses all the parking spots. Jeremy Kenny, Rouge Manager, stated that they could use the two municipal parking lots as well as Baldwin's Hardware parking lot. Jeremy also explained that they would not use any of the road just the parking spots directly in front of the restaurant. They would create barriers all the way around the spots for safety, the tables will all be separated at a safe distance as well. The conversation ensued back and forth in regards to closing the whole road or possibly one lane, but Marc Portieri stated he would prefer the road to stay open.

Chief Portieri also said that he would require a police officer on patrol there always during the time that they are open for safety. Maggie had concerns that the Officer would be intrusive and standing over the customers but the Chief stated they would just be around the area and

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- Take care of your emotional health,
- Call 2-1-1 and choose the “CALL2TALK” option.
- Samaritans is continuing operations 24/7, as always. During this unprecedented time, it can feel overwhelming to receive constant messages about COVID-19. Call or text their 24/7 helpline any time at 877-870-4673.
- The Disaster Distress Helpline, 1-800-985-5990, is a 24/7, 365-day-a-year, national hotline dedicated to providing immediate crisis counseling for people who are experiencing emotional distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster including disease outbreaks like COVID-19. This toll-free, multilingual, and confidential crisis support service is available to all residents in the United States and its territories.

Source: *West Stockbridge town website*, <https://www.weststockbridge-ma.gov/home/urgent-alerts/covid-19-massachusetts-command-center-update-july-21-2020>.

Update on COVID-19 in the Berkshires

“COVID-19 spread across Berkshires has slowed. Let’s make inroads to stop it, health chiefs say.” This was the encouraging headline in the *Berkshire Eagle* on Sunday, July 26, 2020. The graphic accompanying the article, showing the results of testing in our area by town, shows that in the preceding two weeks, 44 people in West Stockbridge were tested for the virus, and none were positive.

But importantly, the article emphasizes that “while the trend is positive, the virus isn’t gone. . . . Now is not the time to rip off the masks and declare victory, doctors and published health experts say. . . . The future looks good only when we continue to wear masks, social distance, and wash our hands.” That’s good advice!

You have ideas. We need you!

There’s a lot happening in West Stockbridge, and we’re hoping that you’ll join in!

As we adopt the Community Preservation Act, become a Massachusetts Green Community, and organize our first Master Plan process in decades, we need your involvement. There are many opportunities for your voice to make a real difference.

Please reach out to us with your interest at selectboard@weststockbridge-ma.gov, or call the Town Administrator at (413) 232-0300 x319.

Together, we’ll work toward a brighter future for our beloved town!

From your Select Board: Roger Kavanagh, Kathleen Keresey, and Eric Shimelonis

up and down the street not just in one spot watching. The Chief said that the restaurant would have to cover the cost of a detail police but then decided he could pay someone for a ½ shift out of his budget and the Town can try to recoup the money from the COVID-19 Relief Funds that the towns can receive.

Chief Portieri also asked if the tables, chairs and barriers would remain set up in the parking spots all the time. He is concerned about vandalism and how the DPW would like that. Jeremy stated that the barriers are extremely heavy and it would be a burden and very difficult for the stuff to be removed each night plus they have no place to store it all in between shifts.

Bernie brought up a discussion about if the street could just be closed and asked Chief Portieri if that would be an issue. The Chief said not really but that each time if happens you have to contact Dispatch in regards to all possible 911 calls for re-routing vehicles. The Chief stated that his main point is that if the road is closed or not, they have to have a Police Officer on duty there for safety. As far as the equipment staying in the spots all the time, the Chief expressed his concern about other businesses thinking it isn't fair to them and may create an issue in Town. He then asked Maggie if they own those pots and she responded yes, so the Chief said well, you can do what you want then with the spots but be aware you may have vandalism.

Bernie asked about lighting when it gets dark and Jeremy said that there are the streets lights near the public bathroom as well as Baldwins and that they will have lights around the barriers as well as the umbrellas on the tables.

Chief Portieri said he is Ok with the plan as long as they communicate with him when they will be open so he can schedule an Officer to be present during those hours and that he would do a walk through with them prior to opening to make sure everything is safe.

Bernie made a motion to approve the Temporary Outdoor Dining request, Eric seconded and all were in favor. Marie then mentioned to Maggie that they need to be in constant communication with the Police Chief.

Miscellaneous:

Bernie asked if there were any other issues to discuss. Marie made note that this was Bernie's last meeting as a Select Board member and thanked him for his service and said she would miss him. Eric agreed and thanked Bernie as well.

Bernie open for citizen speak time and no one spoke.



Bernie made a motion to adjourn, Eric seconded, the Select Board adjourned at 6:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan
Marie Y. Ryan

**Select Board Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2020
21 State Line Road, Town Hall**

6:00 PM: Open Meeting

Quorum present: Select Board Members: Eric Shimelonis, Roger Kavanagh and Kathleen Keresey, Town Administrator Marie Ryan, Police Chief Marc Portieri and Police Sergeant Rosario Messina.

Signed warrants.

Review and act on previous meeting minutes.

Meeting Opened at 6 PM

Town Administrator Marie Ryan opened the meeting. Eric began by welcoming his new Board members and all the citizen who had joined the meeting through Zoom. He stated that the Town is trying to allow as much participation in meetings as we can and that we will try to get better as we go along.

Marie then welcomed the new Board members as well. She then asked for a nomination for a Chair. Eric then explained that he has had a tough first year as a Select Board member and he feels it will be in the best interest of the Town to have some new voices and ideas. He wanted to nominate a person whom he believes is a strong voice and someone who the Board would greatly benefit from having as a chair. He then nominated Roger to be the new Chair, Kathleen seconded and all were in favor. Then Marie asked for a nomination for a Clerk of the Board and Eric nominated Kathleen, Roger seconded and all were in favor. Marie then asked for a nomination for the Secretary of the Board and Roger nominated Eric, Kathleen seconded and all were in favor.

Agenda Items/Action/Discussion Items:

Discussion – Chris May and Building Permit Fee:

Chris May explained to the Board that the homeowner had plans designed and then COVID-19 hit and the homeowners are health care workers and got extremely busy. They were able to get a quote on their plans but the numbers came in too high for their budget. In the meantime, Chris had submitted the plans and had gotten the building permit and paid the fee. Once the homeowners decided they just could not get this done right now due to COVID-19 and the high estimate, Chris contacted Brian DuVal, Building Inspector and asked about getting the permit fee back. Chris stated that Brian told him there are no refunds and that was the policy. Chris is looking to ask the Board for a solution that is fair to the homeowners.

Marie then stated that she spoke with Brian about this and Brian sent her an e-mail response which she read out loud which was:

“If they wish to keep that permit active they can. The code allows a permit to be open for 2 years. Work is required to begin in 6 months of receiving it, but with a written request it could be extended another 6 months.

They cannot transfer the fee to another project.”

Chris felt this was a great solution and he will write a letter to Brian to extend the permit for the additional 6 months and that way the

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Important Information on Vote by Mail in 2020

VOTE BY MAIL IN MASSACHUSETTS (Absentee and Early Voting)

A new law allows any voter in Massachusetts to cast their ballot by mail in the fall. The new legislation is intended to allow voters to safely exercise their right to vote without risking illness as the coronavirus pandemic remains a threat heading into election season. But if you are used to voting in person, you might have questions about how all this will work, especially given that the next statewide election—where voters will weigh in on several primary races—is just around the corner, on September 1. Here’s what you need to know about vote-by-mail.



Can I still vote in person?

Yes. Universal vote-by-mail does not mean mandatory vote-by-mail. It simply means any voter can now vote absentee if they want. The bill also aims to give voters plenty of options to avoid crowds at polling places on Election Day including early voting periods for both the primary and general elections. The early voting period for the primary is August 22 to August 28. The early voting period for the general election is October 17 to October 30. Additionally, new social distancing requirements will be in place to ensure enough space between people at polling places.

If I wish to vote by mail, how does it work?

Every registered voter in the Commonwealth—about 4.6 million people—will be mailed an application to request a ballot for both the September 1 state primary and the November 3 general election. Applications for the September 1 primary already have been mailed out by Secretary of State William Galvin’s office, and many voters have begun receiving them. You can also download the application at the town website, <https://www.weststockbridge-ma.gov/home/news/important-information-vote-mail-2020>.

If you decide to vote by mail, simply fill out the application and mail it to your city or town clerk’s office. No postage is required. For the primary, voters who are not enrolled in a political party will be asked to select which party’s primary they wish to vote in.

Once the application is accepted, the clerk’s office will send you a ballot and an affidavit you’ll need to sign that states you’re following all applicable laws and regulations. You can pick your candidates and then return the forms to the clerk’s office. You can track your ballot using this tool on the Secretary of State’s website: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/wheredoivotema/track/trackmyballot.aspx>.

What are the deadlines?

Voters must submit their applications to get a ballot to their city or town clerk by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, August 26, for the state primary election and 5 p.m. on Wednesday, October 28, for the general election.

As for when voters must mail in their ballots, the deadlines are slightly different for the primary and the general election.

All ballots must arrive at the voter’s local election office, whether by mail or hand-delivered, by 8 p.m. on September 1 (Election Day) to be counted. “It doesn’t matter when it’s postmarked,” said Debra O’Malley, a spokesperson for Secretary of State William Galvin.

But for the November general election, if you are mailing the ballot from within the United States, it must be postmarked by November 3 (Election Day), and received by 5 p.m. on November 6.

O’Malley advises voters to return their ballots as early as they can. If you wait until Election Day to mail out your ballot, “you’re taking a risk that it won’t reach your election office on November 6,” she said.

Source: Town of West Stockbridge website <https://www.weststockbridge-ma.gov/home/news/important-information-vote-mail-2020>

homeowners will not lose their permit fee. Chris thanked everyone. The Board had no further comments.

Funding Sources – Kathleen Kersey:

Kathleen mentioned to the Board that there is a grant she would like the Town to apply for, it is the Shared Streets and Spaces. She explained what it is. Marie told the Board that she had already submitted a general submission in regards to biking, walkability and sidewalk improvement through this grant.

Eric congratulated the Town on approving the Community Preservation Act and said that he was informed that it was the highest positive number of votes so far for any town that has accepted this Act. Eric also mentioned that the Town is on track to getting a \$125,000 grant through Green Communities. He said that most of the work has been completed to qualify and he is working on the final items needed to submit the application to being accepted as a Green Community. He said these funds can offset the costs of many projects in Town including items such as possibly boilers, of which we need a new one at the DPW/Fire Department currently.

Roger and Kathleen want to look further into the Shared Streets and Spaces Grant and submit a to get something more specific submitted.

Kathleen then noted that these new types of committees/groups (Master Plan, CPA, Shared Streets and Spaces) will need input from the community as to what types of projects they want in town and she suggested that the Board look into ways of reaching out to get input and involvement from the community. The Board decided that they will also discuss this at the next meeting as well.

Police Department Update - Police Chief Marc Portieri:

Marc told the Board that they have had 4000 calls so far this calendar year. Last year they had 6800 in total for the year, so this is a high

number which attributes to COVID-19. Kathleen asked what type of calls they are and Marc responded that they are residents afraid someone is breaking into their house and 11 of them were Section 12 (mental issues). He feels that COVID-19 has a lot to do with the increased calls due to people losing their jobs, less money, depression, etc.

Marc then informed the board that Police Officer Brandon Messina will be attending the Full Time Academy in September as long as COVID-19 does not cause a delay. He said that currently Brandon is working full time because he got a 290-day waiver for him to be full time and has 290 days to attend the academy. Roger asked if Brandon will stay after we pay for the academy and Marc assured Roger that Brandon will be staying here.

The Chief told the Board that when COVID=19 hit, he started with a 24/7 coverage in the Department but now has cut back to 24-hour shifts on only 4-5 days per week. He said he switches which days each week so no one knows exactly when there is full coverage. He felt this was necessary for residents' safety with the break-ins. He also said that they are also giving out more citations. The Department gave out up to 45 in the past two weeks. Roger was expressed his concern about giving out too many tickets, he did not want it to be like Egremont where people are afraid. Marc stated that he has also implemented 4-hour shifts on Main Street. He said that they are trying to mostly give warnings and trying to educate people who are speeding through town and making illegal U-turns. They are trying to be the best at community policing and connect with the residents instead of causing them more hardship with tickets that have a fine attached to them.

The Chief let the Board know that the new cruiser will be in place by the end of the month. Roger asked how he is getting this so fast and

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August History Quiz Question:

The Native Americans who settled in our area were known by many names given to them by the Europeans. The common name was the Stockbridge Indians or the Mohicans. (The proper name now is the Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohicans.) The tribe was pushed into our area from the west in the 1600s by conflict with the Mohawks and Dutch-English traders, and then from the east after the King Phillips War. They settled in the Stockbridge/West Stockbridge area and hunted and farmed.

Native Americans were targets for "Christian conversion" by the Puritan settlers and questionable land grabs by everyone else. By the 1770s, the tribe was decimated by disease and poverty, their way of life diminished or destroyed by the European settlers. They relocated to New York State to be with the Oneida tribe.

Although Stockbridge was formed as an Indian mission and has a long history with the tribe, West Stockbridge also shared a part of that story. What was our relationship to the tribe, and how did it figure in the tribe's history?

(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.



**West Stockbridge
Historical Society**
Incorporated in 1994



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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.

Marc explained that the place where he gets the vehicles asked him if he would be needing one when COVID-19 hit, and Marc said he was putting in for a new one at Town Meeting so the dealer bought as many as he could back in the beginning of March and included one for West Stockbridge. Marc stated that since he had one for us already, we did not have wait long once it was approved at Town Meeting.

Eric asked Marc about policing people who are not wearing masks in areas like around 6 Depot. Marc stated that they cannot do anything to people who live together and/or are more than 6 feet away from each other. The law is if you are more than 6 feet apart you do not need to wear the masks outside. Marc stated that they try to enforce this and encourage and educate people to wear the masks and some put it on and others just ignore us. He said they do the best they can to get people to be safe.

Kathleen expressed her concern about the traffic and the trucks j breaking coming down State Line Road hill and asked if Police presence would help with that, suggesting maybe after a bunch of ticketed fines they may drive slower. Marc stated that he has recently spoken with the owners of the frequent truckers (Gary O'Brien and Daley Trucking) and asked them to tell their drivers to try no to do that and slow down in that area. He said we will see if it helps.

Kathleen asked which days are the Police doing the 4-hour shifts on Main Street and Marc responded they are out there mostly on Saturday and Sundays either 11 AM- 3 PM or 10 AM – 2 PM.

Discussion of total road closure on Center Street- Rouge Restaurant: Maggie Merrell, owner of Rouge, stated she is requesting permission for Center Street to be closed during her business hours Wednesdays through Sundays at 5 PM until close to enable her restaurant to have outdoor dining without worrying about the safety of her staff and the patrons.

Roger stated that he was at the last meeting and thought that this was already decided on that one lane would be closed and everyone seemed to be good with that. He then asked Maggie what has changed since then. Maggie said that she has gone to Lenox and Great Barrington where they have outdoor dining with one lane of traffic going through and she feels it does not work. She said the cars are loud and a distraction from an enjoyable meal. She feels it is not successful to have traffic driving by while dining outdoors. She stated she also feels that closing the road would be beneficial for all, such as Truc and 6 Depot as well. Jeremy Kenny (Manager at Rouge) stated that this situation is changing daily and they are just trying to find a way to make it work and keep the business going. He said the logistics need to be safe and functional for everyone. He and Maggie really want and request full access to the street blocked for everyone's safety. Roger asked if Maggie had spoken with the Police Chief and DPW Director. Maggie said yes and that is why she was on the agenda to get permission to have the road closed.

Eric said he really wants to help the local businesses any way the can. He is in full support of doing what action the Board feels comfortable with to help. Kathleen asked the Police Chief where the disconnect is on this issue. Marc said he feels it is not a huge challenge to do this. He said they need to block off each end but that he is comfortable as long as they have two Police Officers, one at each end for safety. Kathleen asked if this was a statute or law and Marc responded no but it is for public safety to make sure nothing happens with cars still trying to drive down the street. He also had a concern for the Farmers' Market on Thursdays as well as in an emergency for ambulances that may need to go down Moscow Road because they would need to drive around the block to get to it. Marc had another concern and that was the tables remaining

set up in the parking spots all the time. He feels this will not work for the businesses during the day because it takes away those spots for customers during the day on that street. Jeremy and Maggie said they could put the tables up on the sidewalks during the day.

Roger asked if it was essential for two Officers to be present and Marc said that is how he felt, yes. Maggie asked if the cost of the Officers is their cost and Marc said yes. He stated that the Town does not have it in their budget and it is not a guarantee if they paid it and then submitted it to the COVID-19 Relief Fund if they would get that money back so it has to be on the Rouge to pay.

Kathleen stated she really wanted to resolve this issue tonight and Eric agreed. Roger wanted to come to a conclusion that everyone would agree upon as well. There was some discussion in regards to putting a large Town vehicle at one end and only needing an Officer at the other end. Marc then got DPW Director Curt Wilton on the phone to talk with the Board. Eric then asked Curt of the possibility of using a Town truck to block one end or some other type of barrier. Curt stated that he has several types of barriers and that Maggie should come see him and they can see what would work for this. Maggie agreed to see Curt. Eric then specifically stated that this is on Rouge to get the barriers and set up and take down. He did not think Town staff should be doing this. The Board agreed with that.

Eric stated that is seemed this was the decision reached by all:

- Maggie meets with Curt for Barriers to be used
- Rouge is responsible for the labor for set and take down of the barriers
- Tables and chairs are to be removed for use of parking spots during the day
- There will be one Police Officer on patrol during hours of operation to wander as needed

Maggie had a concern if someone is in the parking spots when they are trying to set up. There was some discussion about possibly putting signs up so no cars ark there after a certain time. Jeremy and Maggie stated that this is all new information and that they would have to sit down and figure out how it will all work out.

Marc and Roger stated that they need to get out the word that the street will be closed during those times so that the residents are informed. The discussion included notices in the Local Yobel and for Rouge to help in getting the word out.

Police Sergeant Rosario Messina also mentioned his concern that people may still want to walk down the sidewalk. This could cause an issue since the sidewalk will have tables and staff working on the sidewalk. Rosario just wanted Rouge to be aware so they could help in preventing this from happening for safety reasons.

There was no further discussion and the Board felt confident in closing the road and for Rouge to work with the Police Chief and Curt Wilton on this.

Select Board Speak Time:

Eric stated discussed the tissues in the past year with Fire Chief Peter Skorput and the fact that he is on Administrative Leave currently. He said that he has filed a disclosure form in the Town Clerk's office in regards to the executive session that will be held this evening. Eric also said the he will recuse himself from this executive session and allow the new Board members to continue with working on this issue. He official stated that he is recusing himself from the executive session.

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The Foundry Announces Summer Program Plans

By John Parker



The Foundry's patio area will be used to present summer programs. Photo by John Parker

Amy Brentano, owner of The Foundry, a new visual and performing arts space in downtown West Stockbridge, has announced summer programming to be held on their Patio Bar. Events in August and September include the following:

- **Emerging Artist Series:** Thursdays at 5 p.m. This series celebrates and supports new work. Performances start at 5 p.m. The bar will open at 4 p.m. There is no cover charge, but audiences are encouraged to support the artists through their Venmo accounts made publicly available on The Foundry's website and social media.
- **Movie Night:** Fridays at 8:40 p.m. This ticketed series is an opportunity to bring dinner and enjoy a movie and your own gift bag of movie snacks in the great outdoors for \$10. Schedule: 8/14, *Night of the Living Dead*; 8/21, *Buster Keaton*; 8/28, *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*; 9/4, *Reefer Madness*; 9/11, *Metropolis*.
- **Patio Productions Series:** This ticketed series will bring established artists who are either new to The Foundry or were scheduled to perform and postponed due to COVID-19. Schedule: 8/1, *The Fremonts*; 8/7 & 8/8: *Charming Disaster*; 8/15, *Uncle Stash*.

Schedule: 8/1, *The Fremonts*; 8/7 & 8/8: *Charming Disaster*; 8/15, *Uncle Stash*.

All ticketed performances are by online pre-sales only. No tickets will be sold at the door as a safety precaution. Social distancing policies will be in effect through the 2020 season.

For more information about the programs and ticketing, visit thefoundryws.com.

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Kathleen asked Marie about opening of the public restrooms and Marie said currently there is no date for that. Marie explained that it is all a Board of Health call and that she will have Earl Moffatt, Board of Health Agent attend the next meeting and give updates. Kathleen also asked about funds to possibly put out picnic tables around Town for people to purchase take out food and then be able to sit and enjoy their meals. Marie said she would ask Elaine, Town Accountant about that as well.

Kathleen asked about the next steps for the CPA. Marie explained the next steps are to create and approve a Town Bylaw to establish a committee so the funds can be used. Marie said this can be done at a Special Town Meeting in the future. Eric stated that there may be a need for a Special Town Meeting for some items involved for the Fire Department as well.

Eric asked the Board if they would like to hold an extra meeting next week to go over a few things and all agreed. The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 15 at 6 PM.

Kathleen asked Marie to purchase the Selectmen's Handbook for the Board. She also asked Marie is Earl could give the Board more information about the E. coli issue in Williams River and Alford Brook. Marie said she will have Earl attend the next meeting to go over any questions the Board may have. Kathleen asked Marie about having an Open Meeting Law class for the Boards and Marie said she already contacted Town Council and they are willing to do it and Marie will get some available dates and get back to the Board on that.

Citizen Speak Time:

Frank Landenberger asked the Board if the Town needs to spend the money up front when using grant money or, do we just get the money and then spend it. Eric explained that the Town just gets the money then can spend it right away. There is no need to have the money up front.

Joe Roy, Jr. thanked everyone for having the meeting set up on Zoom and he really appreciated being able to watch and participate.

Roger then stated the following:

THE BOARD WILL CONVENE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION and Not to Return to Open Session, Executive Session, under MGL C. 30A, Sec 21 (a), 2 (conduct strategy session in preparations for negotiations with non-union personnel) and not to return to open session.

Roll Call Vote Chair's Declaration: I declare, under MGL. c.30A, (2) that the purpose of the executive session will be to discuss strategy in preparations for negotiations with non-union personnel of the Town and Not to Return to Open Session at the conclusion of the executive session.

Roll Call Vote: Roll Call Vote to enter into Executive Session.

Kathleen – Yes

Roger – Yes

Open Meeting ended at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan

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First-Flower Farm Bouquet. Photo by Robin Schmitt

A Mid-Season Update from the West Stockbridge Farmers Market

By Robin Schmitt

It's hard to believe that we are halfway through the market season! We do miss our pre-COVID Thursday afternoons on The Green when we had music and everyone could hang out. And we know you miss it too. We miss seeing your faces but happy to see you wearing masks!

We are adjusting to the new model and hope you are too. The first few weeks were a work in progress, tweaking here and there to make it as safe as we could. We thank you for *your* part in helping to keep it safe by respecting the safety guidelines. With more and more shoppers coming each week, we just want to remind you that we do have a limited capacity, so we ask that you please shop one person per household and leave children home if possible to help move things along. We also ask that you leave your dogs home; only service dogs are allowed at this time. (You can read more about our safety guidelines on our website.)

Another bit of news is that we now offering SNAP MARKET MARCH! First-Flower Farm & Colfax Farm currently accept SNAP payments, and several other vendors have applications pending, as does the WFSM. Through Berkshire Grown's collaboration with Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, grants have been received to assist those in need, which has been a great help to so many people. Berkshire Grown is a constant source of help to Berkshire farmers and farmers markets and does so much to promote food security here in the Berkshires. We are forever grateful to them for all their help.

Now, let's celebrate National Farmers Market Week (August 2–8) by thanking our fabulous farmers. They work hard every day to bring us the most nutrient-rich foods—with the shortest supply chain—literally from the farmer's hands to you! Local produce is allowed to ripen naturally and is fresher, better tasting, and more nutritious. Right now there is such a variety of produce ready to harvest. And so much more is available including organic meat, eggs, cheese, baked goods, fudge, maple syrup, and phenomenal cut flowers. (For more information on what's available from our vendors each week, go to our website and sign up for our weekly e-newsletter.)

You vote every time you shop, and each time you shop at the market you vote to support local food, local farmers, your community, and your local economy. Not to mention it is good for the environment, and you get to shop outdoors! So thank you for your support! We hope you are all staying safe and healthy and look forward to seeing you on Thursday afternoons, 3 to 6 p.m. And if you have any free time, we could always use another volunteer to help out at the market.

WFSM, celebrating its 9th season, is located on The Foundry Green, Harris Street, and will run every Thursday through October 1. For more information, please see our website and follow us on Facebook and Instagram. WestStockbridgeFarmersMarket.org.



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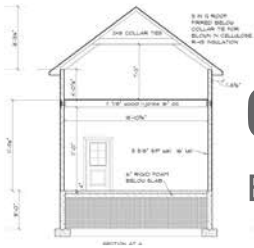
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On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky

Online Help

Here I am, hunkered down away from the pandemic in the safety of my own home and not venturing out very much, other than masked trips to the Public Market (great iced coffee!) or grocery shopping or Baldwin's Hardware for that little gizmo I thought I had. Like many of you, I now interact with the outside world mainly through the Internet, the "interweb," as a confirmed OK Boomer friend of mine calls it.

As a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Vision Committee, I'm used to zooming to the meetings. And I zoom regularly with other folks I used to see in person. So when Anne forwarded me the link for the *Washington Post* column "Home-Front," I was not surprised to learn that home maintenance is a subject for Internet help.

Jura Koncius, a regular columnist, recently did a Q&A with Andrew Wynn, director of Hippo Home Care, an outfit that contracts vetted professionals for house maintenance projects in the DC area. Then I saw an article in the *New York Times* (online, of course) in their "Right at Home" column called "Telemedicine for Home Repairs." And there's hellodwelling.com that offers "affordable, virtual home maintenance service" for whatever's broken at your house. How about HomeServe Telefix? The idea is that help is out there and available online!

Need a plumber? Painter? Carpenter? Electrician? Call one of the outfits in this apparently burgeoning field, and they either line up someone to come to your house or they offer online instruction so that *you* can fix whatever! Interesting idea. And maybe people feel safer having an online live chat about their home maintenance issues than having a possibly contagious stranger in their house.

Another source of help is found in the *amazing* wealth of YouTube videos. I just typed in "YouTube/home maintenance" and up popped hundreds of links to videos showing me how to install a kitchen sink, tile a shower, put in an air conditioner, patch drywall, or *whatever* you need. Some of the links are to commercial companies that pitch their services. But many of these how-to videos are done by amateurs and professionals who just want to help (I'm a pretty accomplished woodworker and builder, but I still love to watch woodworking and construction videos for inspiration and information about new techniques, tools, and materials.)

And there's always good old Google. Just type in "How do I fix my broken garbage disposal?" and there's a panoply of great solutions. (By the way, as an experiment, I also just typed in "How do I fix my broken heart?" and up came a huge number of sites as well. Fortunately, I don't need help in this arena!) It's a whole new world out there. Or in here, assuming you have a decent interweb connection.

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



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

FLU CLINIC SCHEDULE 2020

Flu clinics will start on September 28. Safety precautions will be in place due to the pandemic. Please remember to wear a short-sleeve shirt and face covering.

The Community Health Association is offering free flu shots for Richmond and West Stockbridge eligible residents who are age 19 and older. For information about influenza, visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's website: www.cdc.gov/flu.

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Monday, September 28, 5–7 p.m.

Monday; October 5, noon–2 p.m.

Every Thursday, starting October 1, 10–11 a.m.

WEST STOCKBRIDGE TOWN OFFICES GYM, 21 State Line Rd., West Stockbridge

Tuesday, September 29, 5–7 p.m.

Tuesday, October 6, noon–2 p.m.

Every Monday and Wednesday, starting September 30, 9–10 a.m.

No clinic on Monday, October 12, due to the holiday

For more information, contact Emilie Jarrett, RN, BSN.

Tel.: 232-0122; e-mail: Emilie@charws.com

21 State Line Rd., P.O. Box 368, West Stockbridge, MA 01266 Tel.: 232-0122; Fax: 232.0199;
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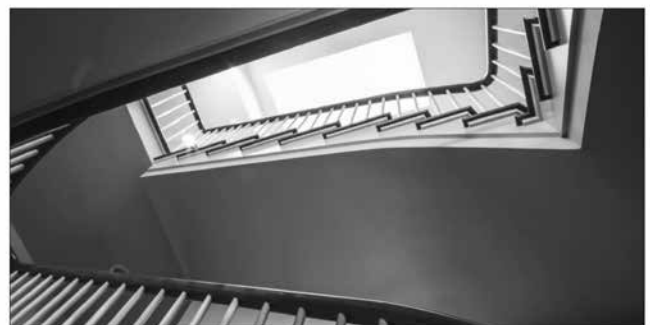


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"We Remember When . . ."

Growing Up in West Stockbridge in the 1950s

A Series of Recollections by John Bormolini and Friends

Treasured Memories

By Bob Romeo

Growing up in West Stockbridge was not only a wonderful experience; in my view, looking back, it was a lottery win!

I was not your typical West Stockbridge-ite. I was born in town but moved away when I was in first grade. I spent most summers and many weekends each year with my grandparents Julie and Rose Delmolino in West Stockbridge. I moved back to town in 1958 and graduated from Williams High School in 1960.

After moving back, I never left the Berkshires, living in West Stockbridge and then moving to Lenox. I have always been proud of my West Stockbridge roots and being a part of my grandparents' family. They were responsible for passing their work ethic on to me. I am eternally grateful for their perseverance and guidance that have seen me through the best of times and the not so best times.

I always held a job after returning to West Stockbridge because I needed to fend for myself. From the time I was able to get a driver's license, I wanted to be a police officer. Vinny Fruet, West Stockbridge police chief in the late 1950s and '60s, became my mentor and helped me become a police officer in Lenox. He could have given up on me, but fortunately, he didn't. On

several occasions after I got my driver's license and a car, I did some really stupid adolescent things. Chief Fruet made me earn back my license on a couple of occasions. He instilled in me his personal qualities that have never left me all these years.



1958 four-door Ford. From Motor Trend magazine, 2001

As we began the most memorable journey of our lives at Williams High School, we also evolved from playing Kick the Can and other kids' games to a new chapter in life. In my case, as for many of my West Stockbridge buddies, two magnetic forces descended upon us: cars and girls (for me, in that order).

I was always interested in cars, especially in September when the upcoming year's new model cars were introduced. Auto dealers kept the new cars under lock and key until the scheduled date of its debut. Especially vivid in my recollection was when the 1958

model cars were due to be revealed. Several of us waited anxiously in the showroom at Troy's Garage, then a Ford dealership in town, for the moment when owners Alio and Aldo Delmolino unveiled the new 1958 Ford. What an exciting moment! The 1958 Ford was the first to have double headlights, double taillights, *and* a 300-HP engine. Wow! History was being made, and we were sitting in the front row living it! We re-lived the experience for months.

Several months later, a Williams High School alumnus purchased a white 1958 four-door, four-on-the-floor 300-HP Ford. Somehow it became known when this custom-ordered car was to arrive at Troy's Garage. That drew a welcoming committee to witness the car being unloaded from the truck and the moment when the new owner got in and burned rubber up Albany Road. He instantly became our hero, and that white '58 Ford became the subject of incessant conversations. We were all transformed into car geeks speculating as to how fast this car could go in "the quarter" and how many "gears of rubber" it would deliver.

The owner and his girlfriend, who were five or six years older than us, would often cruise around downtown. In those days your girlfriend always sat really close to you, and when that white Ford passed over the Shaker Mill Bridge where we were hanging out, he would burn a little rubber or do a speed shift "chirp" for our benefit. That not only thrilled us, it fueled his hero status and raised this question: How he could he shift the gears so fast with her sitting so close?

...continued on page 17

Grist from the Mill

by Kelt Wilska

Musings on Books and Writing

Pulp Nonfiction

The history of paper is an endlessly fascinating wormhole that can doom a short-form journalist to overstuffing. For example, “We begin in Eastern China, AD 206 . . .” Fortunately, as Berkshire residents, we guard (unknowingly to many) a small but important piece of this global papermaking story within our green forests and winding rivers.

Our story began in 1799 when Zenas Crane traveled to the Berkshires from eastern Massachusetts, whose milling market had become saturated. His ideal business location? The small town of Dalton, nestled along the (then) pristine Housatonic River. At this time, paper was made by pressing a watery pulp out of rags—that is, a blend of used textiles like cotton and linen. Mind you, this was before the advent of papermaking machines, so each piece of paper was painstakingly molded and dried by hand. Of course, Crane enjoyed bountiful success with his mill, adapting to new technologies and setting a national model for successful papermaking. In 1879, the Crane Company acquired its first contract to produce U.S. currency paper. To this day, Crane Currency still produces paper for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing out of its mills in Dalton.

Shortly after Zenas’s pioneering entrepreneurship, many more aspiring Berkshire papermakers followed suit, with mills popping up all over the county, especially along the Housatonic. While Dalton can claim the first mill, it is Lee that can claim the most. With 25 mills in operation by 1857, Lee for a time produced more paper than any other town in the United States. And in Curtisville (modern-day Interlaken/Stockbridge), it was the immigrant Pagenstecher brothers who invented the first commercially successful wood pulp paper, using Berkshire poplar. Wood pulp is still the industry standard to this day.

Alas, industries wax and industries wane. Lee is now only home to one mill, and papermaking has largely fallen out of the collective conscience of Berkshire residents. While limited local wood supply and increased competition from heavily forested regions have severely shrunk the influence of Berkshire papermaking, some companies do continue to thrive in specialty paper, from Crane to Hazen (Rising Paper) in Housatonic and Onyx in Lee. They continue our county’s great heritage of literary engineering once described in local author Herman Melville’s short story “Tartarus of Maids” after a visit to a Berkshire mill, as “a miracle of inscrutable intricacy.”

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"We Remember When . . ." ...continued from page 15

As I look back on those days, I thank God, my grandparents, and the community of West Stockbridge, "my hometown," for giving me the opportunity of growing up in the kind of innocence and unquestioned safety that seems to be missing today.

These days I come to West Stockbridge, just "over the hill" from Lenox, quite often. Each time I cross the Shaker Mill Bridge, I flash back to the times when we hung out there in the 1950s. I always drive by the house where my grandparents lived and I grew up after returning to West Stockbridge in 1958, and I am always moved.

My best to all,

Bob Romeo

John Bormolini is a West Stockbridge "ex-pat," now residing in Leavenworth, Kansas. Readers who would like to share their stories of 1950s West Stockbridge are invited to e-mail John at johnbormo@aol.com

Community News & Events

Due to the coronavirus health emergency, many meetings and events are being cancelled or postponed. We are including all information available to us up until publication, but with the likelihood of changes, readers should check with the office, department, or organization for the latest information.

Community Health Association

Blood pressure clinics have started up again. Weekly clinics offered by the Community Health Association are by appointment only: 9 to 10 a.m. every Wednesday and Thursday, at the Town Offices, 21 State Line Road, West Stockbridge. Info: Emilie Jarrett, RN, 232-0122 or Emilie@charws.com.

Flu clinics will start on September 28. CHA is offering free flu shots for Richmond and West Stockbridge eligible residents over the age of 19. See schedule and details elsewhere in this issue.

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

The dinners at the Grange have been suspended indefinitely due to the health crisis.

Council on Aging

There will be no COA luncheon for August. The Tap House at Shaker Mill offers a free community lunch every Sunday from 11:30 to 12:30 for those who want or need a meal. Just come inside the restaurant wearing your mask and make your choice from the brown bag. They will be happy to provide your lunch in short order.

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.

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Scrapbook August 2020:

TEST YOUR TRIVIA KNOWLEDGE!

1. Friends of the West Stockbridge Library presents what event every year during the summer?
2. Gladys Montgomery was founding editor of what? She is a specialist in what?
3. What changed in the summer rental properties in West Stockbridge in 2011?
4. During an emergency, what location serves as an evacuation shelter in West Stockbridge?

Answers: 1. Their annual book sale. Just a note: They provide the funds for the scrapbooks and materials where these questions come from. 2. Berkshire Living Home, and she specializes in historic and architecturally distinctive homes. 3. Renters stayed weeks instead of months in a tighter market. 4. The Town Offices on Stateline Road.

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Hello to everyone from all of us here at WSPL. We miss our regular library visitors very much. We want to invite everyone who needs a library account to get in touch with us to set that up. We are currently offering books and DVDs for pickup in the library vestibule off the parking lot. Please contact us if we can help you find anything to read or watch. Some good news: The statewide delivery system has started up again, so you can arrange to pick up books from other libraries.

Here is our list of new books for you to read!

NEW ADULT FICTION

- Alvarez, *Afterlife*
- Bennett, *Vanishing Half*
- Grisham, *Camino Winds*
- Hilderbrand, *28 Summers*
- Lawhon, *Code Name Hélène*
- Maden, *Tom Clancy Firing Point*
- Majumdar, *Burning*
- Mandel, *Glass Hotel*
- O'Connor, *Murder in an Irish Cottage*
- Silva, *Order*

NEW ADULT NONFICTION

- Carrey, *Memoirs and Misinformation*
- Coates, *Between the World and Me*
- Greenspan, *Atomic Spy: The Dark Lives of Klaus Fuch*
- Harper, *Beauty in Breaking: A Memoir*
- Lepore, *These Truths: A History of the United States*
- Nestor, *Breath: The New Science of a Lost Art*



CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT BOOKS

These titles are the 2020 Massachusetts Children's Book Award nominees, with grade level. They are our summer reading suggestions! For questions about MCBA, please e-mail mcba.reading@gmail.com.

- Alexander, K. (2015). *The Crossover* (grade 6)
- Barnhill, K. (2016). *The Girl Who Drank The Moon* (grade 6)
- Behar, R. (2017). *Lucky Broken Girl* (grade 4)
- Bowen, F. (2018). *Lucky Enough* (grade 4)
- Cartaya, P. (2017). *The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora* (grade 6)
- Craft, J. (2019). *New Kid* (grade 5)
- Cuevas, M. (2017). *The Care And Feeding of a Pet Black Hole* (grade 4)
- Gemeinhart, D. (2016). *Scar Island* (grade 6+)
- Giff, P. (2016). *Jubilee* (grade 4)
- Glaser, K. (2017). *The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street* (grade 4)
- Graff, L. (2017) *The Great Treehouse War* (grade 5)
- Gratz, A. (2017) *Ban This Book* (grade 4)
- Holt, K.A. (2015) *House Arrest* (grade 6+)
- Jennings, K. (2015) *Ancient Egypt* (grade 6)
- Kanefield, T. (2017) *Alexander Hamilton* (grade 6+)
- Korman, G. (2017) *Restart* (grade 6+)
- Krishnaswami, U. (2012) *Book Uncle and Me* (grade 4)
- MacLachlan, P. (2016) *The Poet's Dog* (grade 4)
- McAnulty, S. (2018) *The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl* (grade 5)
- Mincks, M. (2018) *Payback on Poplar Lane* (grade 4)
- Pincus, G. (2017) *The Homework Strike* (grade 5)
- Plourde, L. (2016) *Maxi's Secrets: (Or What You Can Learn from a Dog)* (grade 4)
- Shabazz, I. (2018) *Betty Before X* (grade 5)
- Vernon, U. (2015) *Harriet the Invincible* (grade 4)
- Wolk, L. (2017) *Beyond the Bright Sea* (grade 6)

ALSO!

- Campoy, *Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood*
- Clarke, *Patchwork Bike*
- Hesse, *They Went Left*
- Rachel Alter, Vicky Cooper, Brad Havill



Colby Parker enjoyed "scootering" around town to read the Story Walk pages. Photo by John Parker

History Quiz Answer:

During the early 1700s, the Stockbridge relationship with the Native Americans centered on religious conversion. The town was founded to focus on integration of the natives into European society with the mission and school. But our early settlers in West Center were primarily interested in farming and developing the land. They came to West Center from Connecticut and settled on the land without concern for ownership or title. Conversion was not their goal.

During the French and Indian War, the Stockbridge Mohicans served the British army in the west and on Lake Champlain. When they returned, they found the Massachusetts legislature had decided to buy all the land south of Pittsfield from the tribe for 1,000 pounds and then sell it to settlers. This helped finance the war in part, and members of the tribe continued to sell the land to pay down so-called debts incurred. The Europeans were actively pushing the Mohicans off their land, ignoring claims and using the courts against them. The tribe was sinking into poverty.

Steven West, the minister sent in the 1770s to convert the Indians, was a strict Calvinist. He preached separate services for the tribe and a school for their children but supported integrating them into European society. Due to West's efforts, members of the tribe became part of the town. Indians were allowed to vote, hold office, attend schools, and participate in local activities, but this change did not sit well with the Europeans.

Enter Elijah Williams, dubbed the founder of West Stockbridge. He led a faction in favor of separation of the Europeans from the Indians, essentially segregating the Indians. In 1763, he managed to pack a town meeting, get himself elected to town council (and engineered a vote to construct a new road that favored his interests). Over the next 10 years, he and others actively pushed for "separation," essentially freezing the tribe out of the church, society, and local governance.

By 1774, the families in West Center had petitioned the General Court to separate from the other Stockbridge and form Queensborough, now West Stockbridge. Indians were not allowed to vote, hold office, or attend church. Those who still held property in West Stockbridge had no voice in their government but were required to pay taxes to support the church, the local minister, and schooling for the European children. It was truly taxation without representation.

By 1780, what remained of the Mohican tribe in the area had moved west to be with the Oneida in New Stockbridge, New York. Some came back, but that's another story.

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Birthdays & Anniversaries

8/11 Collin Parker
8/17 Jenni Roy Hallock
8/19 Ahli Epstein-Santoyo
8/24 Joe Roy, Jr.
8/25 Jeanne Kangas
8/31 Caitlyn (Red) Alpert

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,
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Every issue costs us about \$1,300 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.

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thelocalyokel.org

Town Government Boards and Commissions, Phone Directory, and Office Hours Town Offices Main Number 413-232-0300 • Fax 232-7195

Animal Control	<i>Brian Hoskeer</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.
Select Board	<i>Roger Kavanagh, Kathleen Kersey, Eric Shimelonis</i>	232-0300	ext. 319	Mon.–Thurs. 7 a.m.–3 p.m. Fri. 7 a.m.–11 a.m.
Town Administrator	<i>Marie Ryan</i>			
Building Inspector	<i>Brian Duval</i>	232-0300	ext. 313	Leave Message for Inquiries
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>Steve Traver, Acting Chief</i>	911 or 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>	911 or 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

Stand Up! Be Counted!



Did You Know?

Census data is confidential.

- Your personal information is protected by law and is never released to any other local, state, or federal agencies (Title 13 of the U.S. Code).

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William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts 2020 Census Liaison

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Birds of the Berkshires: Then and now



From natural history to ecosystems changes we will take a birds eye view of Berkshire County throughout the years.

Virtual Slide Show and Lecture

**Friday, August 14th
at 5-6pm**

For registration, please go to:
www.weststockbridgehistory.org

Presenter: Zach Adams has been studying birds since his childhood when he fell in love with the sounds of wood ducks and redwing blackbirds in the marshes. He has worked as an educator and program leader, since the age of 16 and with Mass Audubon as a Teacher Naturalist since 2018. Zach guides programs in birding, hiking, tracking, canoeing, and all things nature. He is extremely passionate about ornithology and the opportunity to share his love for birds with everyone around him.



West Stockbridge
Historical Society

Mass Audubon
Berkshire Wildlife Sanctuaries

August Art Calendar

Guild of Berkshire Artists | BerkshireArtists.org | gobasocial@gmail.com

2020

TUESDAYS, Demonstration, 1:30-2:30 p.m.
Watch an artist demonstrate various mediums and techniques each week via Zoom. Details on how to watch are posted on our homepage and events page.

TUESDAYS, Art Together, 2:30pm-4:30 p.m.
Members can join Karen Carmean and other Guild of Berkshire Artists making Art Together online using the Zoom platform, every Tuesday afternoon 2:30-4:30pm. Details on how to watch are posted on our homepage and events page.

FRIDAYS, Art Together, 2-5pm. Members can join Eva Schuster and other Guild of Berkshire Artists making Art Together online using the Zoom platform, every Friday afternoon 2-5pm. Details on how to watch are posted on our homepage and events page.

FRIDAYS, Meet the Artist: Zoom Edition. 5-6pm. Join a different artist each week to gain an insight into their processes and art. Every Friday evening at 5pm. Featured artists and details on how to watch are posted on our homepage and events page.

August 23, Berkshire Photo Gathering, Sunday August 23, 2-4 p.m. Online. See webpage for more information.
<http://berkshirephotogathering.com/online-meetings>

Due to physical distancing, the Guild of Berkshire Artists has suspended most in person events until further notice.

New events may be added as opportunity arises, please check online for the most up to date information and access instructions.



Wall Panko



Margie Skaggs

Some work from Art Together



Keith Emwling



Jill Costaris



Janna Graves

Art in the Time
of Pandemic
an Online Art Show

www.berkshireartists.org/june-pandemic-show

Will remain available online as we post the next online show.

25% of all sales to go towards a food supply or medical non-profit.

Our next online show, "Summer Celebration" will be posted in August.
Stay tuned as details become available.



Do you enjoy writing or photography?

The *Local Yokel* needs regular and occasional contributors.

Please call John Parker at (413) 394-4368, e-mail info@thelocalyokel.org, or visit www.thelocalyokel.org for more information.



West Stockbridge
Local Yokel
 P.O. Box 238
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 01266

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August 2020

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					



August 2020 Calendar of Events

Due to the coronavirus health emergency, many meetings and events are being canceled, postponed, or held online. We are including all information available to us up until publication, but with the likelihood of changes, readers should check with the office, department, or organization for latest information.

8/6	Farmers Market	3-6 p.m.	The Foundry Green, Harris Street
8/10	Parks & Recreation Committee meeting	5:30 p.m.	See agenda on town website for details
8/12	Select Board meeting	6 p.m.	See agenda on town website for details
8/13	Farmers Market	3-6 p.m.	The Foundry Green, Harris Street
8/15	*** Deadline for the next Local Yokel ***		Send to info@thelocalyokel.org
8/18	Vision Committee meeting	6:30 p.m.	See agenda on town website for details
8/20	Farmers Market	3-6 p.m.	The Foundry Green, Harris Street
8/26	Deadline for vote by mail applications for Sept. 1 state primary election	5 p.m.	Mail completed application to town clerk. See inside: Important Information on vote by mail
8/26	Select Board meeting	6 p.m.	See agenda on town website for details
8/27	Farmers Market	3-6 p.m.	The Foundry Green, Harris Street