

# Local yokel

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

West  
Stockbridge

**June  
2020**

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005



**Town Meeting & Election Information Inside**

*Snapping turtle. Photo by Emily Weiland*



# COVID-19 Updated Assistance and Information for Residents

## Town of West Stockbridge

This is a reminder to continue with social distancing. The town has closed use of all playground equipment to help avoid contact and the spread of the coronavirus.

A food pantry is now available at the Town Offices including diapers and toilet paper. Please go to the police station, and they can assist you in getting what you need at any time of day.

Animal food will remain at the Transfer Station for now during normal business hours. Please see Wayne for assistance.

Here is a state website link for current updates on the health crisis:

<https://www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-the-outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

Here is a link to resources for food assistance:

<https://theberkshiredge.com/where-to-find-meals-food-and-fresh-produce-in-the-berkshires-now>

Please stay safe and healthy. If you need any assistance that we can provide, please contact the Police Department at (413) 232-8500. An officer will reach out and offer help.

## BHRSD Creates COVID-19 Hotline for Families, Students, and Staff

Berkshire Hills Regional School District (BHRSD) has created a hotline for families, students, and staff from the BHRSD community who are in need of support during the COVID-19 pandemic. The hotline will be accessible to families, students, and staff via e-mail (FamilySupport@bhrsd.org) Mondays through Fridays during regular business hours (8 a.m. to 3 p.m.). If you or your family member is already connected to a member of the BHRSD clinical services team, please reach out directly to that individual for support; do not engage in the hotline. Response time will vary depending on daily incoming calls and triage.

If this is an emergency or you have an immediate medical or behavioral health need, or have called before or after hours, please use the following list of community support providers:

- Brien Center 24-hour crisis hotline: 1-800-252-0227
- Berkshire Medical Center Crisis Unit: 413-499-0412 or 1-800-252-0227
- Elizabeth Freeman Center: 413-429-8190
- BHRSD COVID-19 Community Hotline: 1-855-BMC-LINK (1-855-262-5465)
- Berkshire County Regional Housing: 413-499-1630
- Department of Children and Families: 413-236-1800
- The Brien Center: 413-499-0412
- Mass211 has set up a line to support residents throughout the ongoing response to COVID-19. Massachusetts residents can call 2-1-1 at any time for real-time COVID-19 information, resources, and referrals in multiple languages. Massachusetts Department of Public Health: <http://bit.ly/COVID211>
- Great Barrington Police: 413-528-0306
- Stockbridge Police: 413-298-4179
- West Stockbridge Police: 413-232-8500

## COVID-19 Resource Guide for Small Business Owners and Residents

In an effort to provide support and resources to our small business community and residents, the town has a guide titled “A Resource Kit for Small Businesses and Residents in the Era of COVID-19.”

This guide is a simple, straightforward list of resources from every level of government with the appropriate links to each organization. It includes information on refundable payroll tax credits, debt relief, bridge loans, and information on ways to protect yourself, your employees, and your customers, as well as other general best practice suggestions during this COVID-19 outbreak.

Visit the town’s website home page (<https://www.weststockbridge-ma.gov>) for a link to the resource guide.

### *Community Health Association of Richmond & West Stockbridge*

#### Coronavirus Health Information Resources

Berkshire Health Systems has established a toll-free hotline for questions regarding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). It is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., 7 days a week. Call 855-bmc-link, or 855-262-5465.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health also provides daily updates on Massachusetts-specific information and resources at [www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus](http://www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also has helpful information at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>.

# 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**  
**April 22, 2020**  
**Remote Access by Free Conference Call.com**

6:00 PM: 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 6:00 PM**

**Vote/Discussion renewal of agreement with Colonial Power Group:**

Bernie asked Marie to explain what this was about. Marie stated that this is an agreement the Town has with Colonial Group to assist in purchasing group rate electricity along with most of all of the other Berkshire County Towns to get the best rates.

Bernie a motion to renew the Town's consulting agreement with Colonial Power Group for municipal aggregation. Eric seconded the motion, no further discussion, all were in favor.

**Vote/Discussion renewal of Community Compact Agreement:**

Bernie explained that this Community Compact Agreement was first completed in 2015. This agreement helps to unlock state funding and allows the Town to be eligible for grants while working with Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.

Bernie made a motion for the Town to renew its Community Compact Agreement by using best practices for continuous improvement.

Eric did not second, he explained that as of today, he got more information on making the motion for this renewal. The motion failed.

Eric made a new motion to renew the Town's Community Compact agreement:

1. For Sustainable Development and Land Protection by using Best Practice: Complete a Master or Open Space & Recreation Plan to guide land conservation & development decisions including zoning & land acquisition
2. For Housing by using Best Practice: Amend Zoning By-Laws to allow for increased density and housing opportunities in a manner that is consistent with neighborhood character and supportive of aging in community.

Bernie seconded the motion, there was no further discussion and all were in favor.

**Vote/Discussion of Annual Town Caucus, Annual Town Meeting and Annual Town Election Dates:**

Marie explained that she had discuss setting the dates for these events with Town Council and that if for some reason they need to be rescheduled again that it can be done. She also stated that there will be social distancing kept in mind as well as the safety of the poll workers and the voters by having masks and gloves available at the polls. The Caucus will also have chairs 6 feet apart as well. The Town Election will also be shortened by 2 hours to allow less time for poll workers to be exposed.

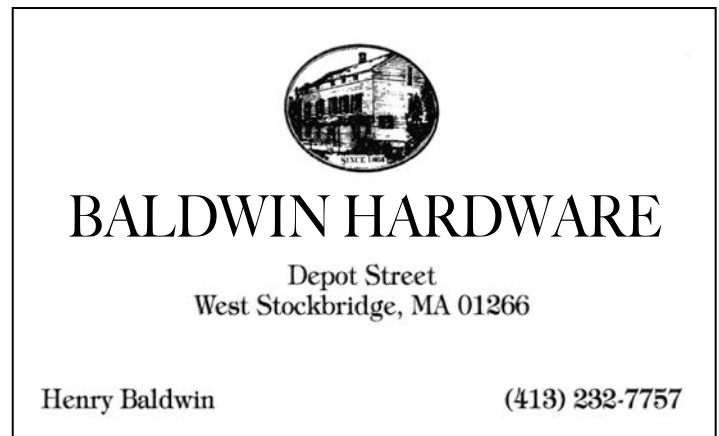
Bernie made the motion to schedule the Town Caucus for May 21st, 2020, the Annual Town Meeting for Monday, June 22, 2020 and the Annual Town Election for Monday, June 29 with reduced hours of 11 AM until 6 PM.

Eric seconded the motion, there was no further discussion and all were in favor.

Bernie made a motion to adjourn, Eric seconded, the Select Board adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie Y. Ryan*  
Marie Y. Ryan



# Annual Town Meeting and Town Election: How to Participate

**Annual Town Meeting** will be held on Monday, June 22, at 7 p.m. Please come with your masks and gloves. Social distancing will also be in place to conduct a safe meeting. As a reminder, you may not vote by absentee for town meeting articles. Only-in person voting is allowed.

**Annual Town Election** will be held on Monday, June 29, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. You may go to the polls and vote in person, and we will do our best to have safety protocols in place. Or you may apply for an early ballot, or if applicable, an absentee ballot. Both forms are available on the town's website, <https://www.weststockbridge-ma.gov/home/news/annual-town-meeting-and-town-election-information>. Whichever form is applicable, print it, fill it in, sign it, and return it to the town clerk's office at PO Box 525, West Stockbridge, MA 01266. The town clerk will then mail you the ballot, which you will then fill out, mail back, and your ballot will be cast.



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# Annual Town Budget & Warrant Highlights FY 2021

To the Townspeople of West Stockbridge:

The budget, as proposed below, reflects many expenses that are out of the town's control. Along with the insurance expense, the largest impact that we will feel is from the school budget. Our town has been playing catch-up with many repairs that have been needed for years, such as cemetery maintenance, parks and recreation, and the library. Along with that, certain employee salaries come with increased responsibility, making a positive investment in our future.

*Bernie Fallon, Select Board Chair*

## Proposed Budget Highlights:

- General Government: \$547,898; increase of \$42,223 (+8.3%)
- Public Safety Departments: \$480,530; increase of \$45,318 (+10.4%)
- Education:
  - BHRSD operating assessment: \$3,170,825; increase of \$183,975
  - BHRSD capital assessment: \$90,796; decrease of \$19,817
- Culture & Recreation: \$65,770; increase of \$13,026 (+24.7%)
- Public Works & Facilities: \$707,878; increase of \$52,722 (+8.0%)
- Human Services: \$70,420; increase of \$300 (+0.4%)
- Unclassified Expenses: \$356,244; increase of \$11,034 (+3.2%)
- Debt & Interest: \$357,496; increase of \$51,310 (+16.8%)

## Proposed Warrant Special Articles:

- Article 11: Seeks voter approval to accept MGL Chapter 40, Section 57, allowing the suspension or denial of licenses or permits if taxes are not paid.
- Article 12: Accept Silver Mine Lane as a Town Road.
- Article 13: Approve the renumbering and revision of the bylaws as set forth in the Final Draft of the Code of the Town of West Stockbridge, dated January 2020.
- Article 14: Approve the renumbering and revision of the zoning bylaws as set forth in the Final Draft of the Code of the Town of West Stockbridge, dated January 2020.
- Article 16: Accept Energy Stretch Code to regulate the design and construction of buildings for the effective use of energy.
- Article 28: Appropriate \$5,400 to purchase new voting equipment.
- Article 29: Appropriate \$18,500 to purchase new Town Offices computer server and computer.
- Article 30: Appropriate \$18,000 to purchase new security system for the Town Offices.
- Article 31: Appropriate \$6,000 to gear racks for the Fire Department per OSHA requirement.
- Article 32: Appropriate \$58,494 to purchase a new police vehicle.
- Article 33: Appropriate, transfer, or borrow \$426,273 for the West Center Road reconstruction and re-surfacing project (adding town funds to annual state highway funding; requires 2/3 vote for approval).
- Article 34: Appropriate \$18,000 to purchase a new boiler for the DPW/Fire Department building.
- Article 36: Appropriate \$6,250 to pay the town's share (with grant awarded) of a Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Article 37: Appropriate \$6,000 to pay the town's share of a new paver with the Town of Richmond.
- Article 38: Appropriate \$25,000 for the resurfacing of the Transfer Station.
- Article 39: Appropriate \$11,500 for plantings at the solar array near the Turnpike entrance/exit.
- Article 42: Appropriate \$12,600 to repair the Transfer Station roof.

# TOWN OF WEST STOCKBRIDGE

## ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

June 29, 2020, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Village School Town Offices, 21 State Line Road

Voters are encouraged to vote by mail. The state is allowing “no excuse” voting by mail for town elections this year due to the coronavirus.

<i>Elected Office</i>	<i>Term Length</i>	<i>Incumbents</i>	<i>Challengers</i>
Moderator	1 year	Eugene Dellea	
Select Board	1 year	Doane Perry (resigned)	Peter Skorput Roger Kavanagh
Select Board	3 years	Bernie Fallon (not running)	Kathleen Keresey
Board of Assessors	3 years	Michelle Jenny	
Finance Committee	3 years	Robert Salerno	
Finance Committee	3 years	Andrew Krouss	
Planning Board	5 years	Dana Bixby	
Planning Board	2 years	Ryan Beattie (appointed)	
Board of Health	3 years	Michael Skorput	David Finck
Library Trustees	3 years	Andrew Potter (appointed)	
Library Trustees	1 year	Beth Sack (appointed)	
Cemetery Commission	3 years	Scott Sawyer (not running)	
Tree Warden	3 years	Andrew Fudge	
Constable	3 years	Karl Cooper	
Constable	3 years	Wayne Cooper	
Constable	3 years	Paul Faggioni	
Constable	3 years	Michael Skorput	
Constable	3 years	Vacant	
Vacancy Committee (Volunteer Search Committee)	Earl Moffatt Robert Salerno Eric Shimelonis Curt Wilton		

*As of the time of publication, no additional candidates had come forward.*



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# Annual Town Election: The Candidates in Their Own Words

Looking ahead to the annual town election on June 29, the *Local Yokel* invited each candidate for a contested or vacant town office to provide a written statement and photograph. Statements by candidates were limited to 250 words. These are all the statements and photos received by the deadline for publication.



## Peter Skorput | Candidate for Select Board

Greetings. I am running for the one-year seat vacated by Doane Perry. Doane was a good selectman and had the best interests of the town at heart. My platform is fiscal responsibility on spending and budgets. With the current crisis the state coffers will be low, meaning its contributions will be low, putting a bigger load on us for schools and roads.

I'm not saying we have to cut budgets to the bone, but a careful approach to spending should be done. Lastly, if anyone has any questions, please ask me, and I will answer your questions.



## Roger Kavanagh | Candidate for Select Board

Having lived in the Berkshires before I went off to 8 years in the Air Force and 40+ years working in corporate and government jobs, I was delighted to come back to the Berkshires in October 2016 and make West Stockbridge my home. Since then I've made a concerted effort to learn about the town and find ways to contribute to the community. I thought attending Select Board meetings would be an excellent way to do that and have attended nearly every meeting since January 2017.

I have served on the Monument Mountain Next committee that developed recommendations regarding the future of the MMRHS building. I'm currently on the Regional School District Planning Board, evaluating the benefits of combining the Berkshire Hills and Southern Berkshire school districts.

Through my regular attendance at Select Board meetings, I've seen how various boards operate and how they deal with issues large and small. I believe there are opportunities to improve the way the board conducts its business, to improve communication with residents, and to transform the board into a more cohesive team.

I think my background and experience, in both the public and private sectors, in particular the work I've done leading diverse groups through collaborative processes that evaluate current situations, then develop solutions to problems, would be an asset to the board and the town.

I'm excited about the prospect of serving West Stockbridge on the Select Board and look forward to serving you if elected. For more, visit [rogerforws.com](http://rogerforws.com).



## Kathleen Keresey | Candidate for Select Board

I am running for the open three-year term on the Select Board.

I was born and raised in West Stockbridge and am a proud fifth-generation resident. I've spent a number of years living in New York City pursuing a career in film and video production and now live in West Stockbridge on a full time basis while continuing my work.

The West Stockbridge Vision Committee, on which I serve, has made recommendations to the town board to further the beautification efforts in the downtown area, study open space, housing, Internet, and transportation issues, and celebrate the arts in West Stockbridge.

To further this, I saw the opportunity to form and lead a Master Plan Committee with fellow town representatives. We recently learned that the town will receive state funding of \$50,000 to develop a comprehensive Master Plan!

I've served for two years on the Finance Committee and will continue with my efforts assuring proper fiscal management of the town.

I love West Stockbridge. I love its history and traditions. As a member of the Select Board, I will fairly, independently, and respectfully represent the best interests of the citizenry of the town. I welcome input and feedback.

As West Stockbridge continues to grow and evolve, I look forward to working with my neighbors and our various town boards and committees as we determine how best to shepherd West Stockbridge into the future. I ask for your support in the election on June 29.



## Michael Skorput | Candidate for Board of Health

My name is Michael Skorput, and I am running for a seat on the Board of Health. I have lived in West Stockbridge all my life except for the two years I served in the military with the Army Security Agency at Fort Meade, Maryland. I owned and operated the Public Market before moving on to work as the administrator for the Board of Selectmen in the town of New Marlborough. Besides the Board of Health and Finance Committee, I have also served the town as a member of the Board of Selectmen and as a constable and special police officer. I have also served the community as a member of Kiwanis as its president and lieutenant governor, a member of the Fire Department, an EMT, and an assistant scoutmaster and cubmaster. I hope come this Election Day that the voters consider me to continue serving you as a member of the Board of Health.



## David Finck | Candidate for Board of Health

I am running for election to the West Stockbridge Board of Health as an opportunity to contribute my time and experience to town government.

I am a retired cardiologist who practiced at Berkshire Medical Center from 1979 until my retirement almost 2 years ago. I grew up in suburban Boston, received my B.A. from Columbia and then my M.D. from Tufts. I lived in Lanesborough and then Pittsfield prior to moving to West Stockbridge with my wife Lea in 2006.

I hope and believe that my medical background can contribute to the Board of Health's discussions. We all face challenges as individuals, as members of the West Stockbridge community, and for the planet including promoting clean air, clean water, and encouraging healthy practices for ourselves and our fellow citizens.

I enjoyed giving several lectures for the Community Health Association of Richmond and West Stockbridge, and I am involved with the Jazz Committee of the West Stockbridge Historical Society.

If elected, I look forward to becoming a regular participant at the Board of Health's meetings and working with the experienced board members and others involved in our town's government. Thank you for your consideration.



## **Congratulations to Our Graduates!**

**Monument Mountain Regional High School**

Monument Mountain Regional High School will hold an online graduation ceremony on Sunday, June 7. The ceremony will be streamed starting at 10 a.m. at [www.mmtv.us](http://www.mmtv.us). If there is a problem seeing it, you can also stream it on the educational page for CTSB at <http://www.ctsbv.org/education-ch-1302.html>. Click on the “watch” button. If you have cable service from Spectrum, watch on channel 1302. This will be a good quality version of the ceremony. In any event, there will be a high-quality version uploaded later in the day at [www.mmtv.us](http://www.mmtv.us) for anyone to view or download. The link to the ceremony should also be available on the Monument Mountain website shortly thereafter. The file will also be shared with PCTV for our students and families who live to the north of our three towns.

MMRHS also plans a graduation parade on Sunday, June 7, leaving the high school at approximately 1:30 p.m. and heading north to Stockbridge, then to West Stockbridge. It will come through the town and circle the loop at the Town Offices, proceed back through town and down Route 41 into Housatonic. Residents and friends are invited to line the route (socially distanced, of course!) to cheer for our seniors.

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- Building & Maintaining Gardens
- Firewood





# The West Stockbridge Farmers Market Is Open with Changes for Everyone's Safety in Place

Life in the time of Corona Loca. So much has changed in the last couple of months!

We have studied safety guidelines, measured The Green, drawn lines and moved little squares around on graph paper, had lots of Zoom meetings, made plans, read new guidelines, more meetings, changed plans . . . well, I think you are starting to get the picture. And what we have learned is that we are nothing if not adaptable.

We knew there would be challenges and many things to consider, with everyone's safety our biggest concern. But we really wanted to find a way to bring the Farmers Market to The Green again this season. And so we have.

Amy Brentano, owner of The Foundry, has once again generously donated the use of The Foundry Green so that we may continue to provide our vendors a place to sell

their products and give our community access to fresh local food. We are very grateful for that. Please check The Foundry website and social media for their upcoming events ([thefoundryws.com](http://thefoundryws.com)).

In compliance with state guidelines and the West Stockbridge Board of Health, we have made changes and taken steps to protect everyone's health and safety. At this time we are a Farmers + Food Producer Only Market. Some of our vendors are offering pre-ordering and pre-payment as well as bringing their goods to market. We encourage pre-ordering/pre-paying when possible with vendors who offer it. You can find this info on our website and in our weekly e-newsletters. If you're not on our mailing list and would like to receive our newsletter, you can also do so on our (new!) website.

This also means we will have no live music, seating areas, artisans, children's activities, or eating on the premises. Prepared food is for takeout only. You're probably thinking that without the social element, it just won't be the same. And we agree. That being said, we know this too shall pass, and in the meantime, we want to continue to support our farmers and our community.

We ask that you respect the guidelines such as wearing a mask and maintaining a 6-foot distance from others. You may have to wait in line a bit, and we ask you to shop as quickly as possible to help our vendors move things along. There are specific entry and exit points, hand washing stations are available, and vendors are required to wear gloves and masks. Please see our website for more information on safety guidelines for vendors and shoppers.

Although we may be 6 feet apart, we are still here for you and look forward to seeing you on Thursday afternoons. Our new hours are 3 to 6 p.m., rain or shine! If you have some free time on Thursday afternoons, we could always use a few volunteers to help out.

And just one more thing: please remember to thank your farmers. They are working hard to feed us. See you on The Foundry Green!

*WSFM, which celebrates its ninth 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](http://WestStockbridgeFarmersMarket.org)*

Photos by Robin Schmitt

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*Compost Facility Accepting Yard & Wood Waste*

# Who's Open for Business?

## Current Operating Status of Town Businesses During the COVID-19 Pandemic

*Thanks to Joe P. Roy, Joe Roy, Jr., and the members of the West Stockbridge Village Association for providing this information.*

**Anderson and Sons' Shaker Tree.** 232-7072. Closed for now. Furniture orders still being completed. Reach us at Shakertree@cox.net or (610) 241-6944.

**Baldwin's Hardware.** 232-7757. Open for normal business hours 7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Monday–Friday; 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Saturday. Curbside pickups and deliveries also available.

**Boundless.** (413) 822-7394. Our physical location is closed. Karden is offering online stress management classes and foam roller classes. More info at [www.kardenrabin.com](http://www.kardenrabin.com) and @kardenrabin on Instagram. Our sister studio, Yoga Great Barrington, is offering a wide variety of online yoga classes at [www.yogagb.com](http://www.yogagb.com).

**Charles H. Baldwin & Sons Extracts.** 232-7785. Available to take and ship online orders. Storefront closed to public but available for curbside pickup (enclosed Pick Up Room). Order online and freight will be deducted for local pickup. <http://www.baldwinextracts.com>

**Energy In Motion Pilates Studio.** 232-7838. Currently not open. Waiting for go-ahead to resume business at physical location. Offering Pilates mat sessions via Zoom. E-mail: [brumleyoneworld@verizon.net](mailto:brumleyoneworld@verizon.net); [www.energyinmotionpilates.com](http://www.energyinmotionpilates.com)

**Flourish Market Home + Vintage.** 232-8501. Storefront temporarily closed, but *new* online store available for shipping or curbside pickup. [www.flourishmarket.com](http://www.flourishmarket.com)

**Graham Farmhouse Winery.** 232-4290. Offering curbside wine pickup only. Call or e-mail to order and arrange for curbside pickup. [grahamfarmhouse@gmail.com](mailto:grahamfarmhouse@gmail.com)

**Guild of Berkshire Artists.** Online exhibit of art with at least 25% of sales benefiting 501(c)(3) groups providing COVID-19 medical aid or food pantries. Weekly art demonstrations Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m., artist talks Fridays at 5 p.m., ART Together programs on Zoom on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. E-mail [berkshireartists@gmail.com](mailto:berkshireartists@gmail.com) or visit <http://www.Berkshireartists.org>.

**Hoffman Pottery.** 232-4646. Available for online orders/special commissions. Happy to ship. [www.EHoffmanPottery.com](http://www.EHoffmanPottery.com). Call ahead for details/no texting. Can answer questions and send pictures. Showroom is temporarily closed.

**Hotchkiss Mobiles Gallery.** 232-0200. Need a gift? “Virtual Sales Woman.” FaceTime Sandra at (413) 329-0364 and she will guide you through our gallery of jewelry, glass, ceramics, and mobiles! All mobiles available for orders online at [www.artmobiles.com](http://www.artmobiles.com), by phone, or e-mail: [sandra@artmobiles.com](mailto:sandra@artmobiles.com). Physical gallery is currently closed. We ship or offer curbside pickup.

**Margie Skaggs Ceramics.** 232-4465. Unique functional and decorative pottery. Open by appointment. [Mskaggs@mindspring.com](mailto:Mskaggs@mindspring.com)

**Public Market.** 232-8595. Open normal business hours. 6 a.m.–7 p.m. every day. Curbside pickup and deliveries also available.

**Queensboro Wine & Spirits.** 232-8522. Open normal business hours Monday–Saturday, 9:30 a.m.–9 p.m.; Sunday, noon–6 p.m.

**R&R West Stockbridge.** (347) 248-3474. Online orders and curbside pickup available. <https://www.randrweststockbridge.com>

**Rouge Restaurant.** 232-4111. Closed until further notice. Updated information online at [Rougerestaurant.com](http://Rougerestaurant.com).

**Sandy Klempner At Home.** (518) 322-1894. 22 Main Street. Open by appointment only, 7 days a week. [www.sandyklempnerathome.com](http://www.sandyklempnerathome.com) (photos of inventory not current and breadth and diversity at the shop is large).

**Shaker Mill Books.** 232-0251. Available for orders by phone or e-mail. Free curbside pickup and free shipping. Storefront closed to the public.

**Shaker Mill Inn.** 232-4600. Closed until further notice *except for our health care providers and first responders*. We are a unique inn offering a great deal of privacy and social distancing. Each room is equipped with a kitchenette. We do not have any common areas; most rooms have private entrances. Call for additional details on cost and availability. <https://www.shakermillinn.com>

**Six Depot.** 232-8584. Starting May 21, we're offering takeout breakfast, lunch, baked goods, coffee, drinks, pantry items, and coffee beans. Preorder/prepay at [SixDepotCafe.com](http://SixDepotCafe.com). Pickup on the porch every day 8 a.m.–3 p.m. To have coffee, tea, and salt shipped, stay on the site and select "SHOP" from the navigation menu, same as always.

**Soma Catering.** 232-0007. Offering curbside pickup only, Thursday–Saturday, 4–7 p.m. Visit <https://www.somacatering.com> for more details and menus.

**Stone House Properties.** 232-4253. Available by special appointment. Please call ahead. Storefront closed to the public.

**The Floor Store.** 232-7175. Operating by special appointment only. Deliveries, pickups, and installations are operating as normal. Showroom is closed to the public. <http://www.floorstoreweststockbridge.com>

**The Foundry.** 232-5222. Performing/visual arts venue currently closed until further notice. [thefoundryws.com](http://thefoundryws.com)

**The Tap House at Shaker Mill.** 232-8565. Open for takeout and parking lot pickup Thursday–Saturday, 5–8 p.m. Sunday for donuts, 9–noon, and takeout and parking lot delivery, 3–7 p.m.

**Troy's Garage.** 232-4295. Open normal business hours. Must call ahead for any work done.

**Truc's Orient Express.** 232-4204. Still closed for winter season. Call ahead to confirm.

**TurnPark Art Space.** TurnPark's 2020 season has been suspended. The Gatehouse Gallery, gift shop, and Garage Gallery are closed until further notice. The grounds are open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. <https://www.turnpark.com>

**West Stockbridge Congregational Church.** 232-4256. Online worship resources at <https://www.weststockbridgeunitedchurchofchrist.org/worship-resources>. Facebook group for live worship at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/worshipWSCC>. Church closed to the public.

**West Stockbridge Farmers Market.** Opening Thursday, May 28. New hours are 3–6 p.m., on The Foundry Green on Harris Street. We will be a farmer and food producer only market. We will be following the guidelines from Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources and our local Board of Health to ensure a safe environment for our vendors and customers.

**West Stockbridge Historical Society.** April and June jazz and West Stockbridge Chamber Players concerts are rescheduled for this fall. "Medicinal Shaker Herbs" program is also scheduled for fall. "Spring Flowers and Birds" with Pleasant Valley/Mass Audubon will become "Fall Flowers and Birds," also in fall. Check [Weststockbridgehistory.org](http://Weststockbridgehistory.org) for dates and articles on West Stockbridge history or e-mail [info@weststockbridgehistory.org](mailto:info@weststockbridgehistory.org) if you're not already on our e-mail list.

**West Stockbridge Library.** 232-0300, ext. 308. Closed to library users. Staff answering e-mail and voice messages to help with questions about online reading and viewing. A wealth of reading and viewing is available through the library website databases page. *Boston Globe* and *New York Times* are fully free to readers on the library page of the Town of West Stockbridge website.

## STAY SAFE - STAY HEALTHY

During this health crisis, we are available by phone and email.

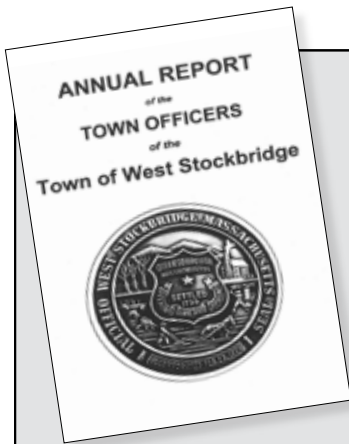
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## How to Get a Copy of the Town Report

Town Reports, as a cost savings for the Town of West Stockbridge, will not be mailed to every household this year. Copies will be available at the post office, Public Market, Town Offices, and on the website. The reports will also be available at the annual town meeting and annual town election. If for some reason you absolutely need to have it mailed to you, please feel free to contact Town Administrator Marie Ryan, 232-0300, ext. 319, and it can be arranged. Thank you for understanding, and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Town Offices.

## June History Quiz Question:

Many of the spaces and lots in town have had former lives. The town progressed from an early rural farming community, through the industrial age of limestone and marble and iron, to a mid-20th-century commercial center. Land area has changed to reflect the change in character.

One of the more interesting areas is the parking lot next to the Old Town Hall. This space had many uses and was at one time the most prominent in town. What occupied this current town parking lot?

(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](mailto:info@weststockbridgehistory.org) or call 232-4270.



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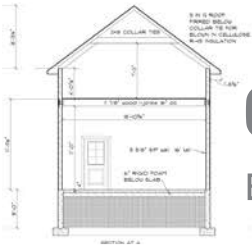
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# On the Home Front

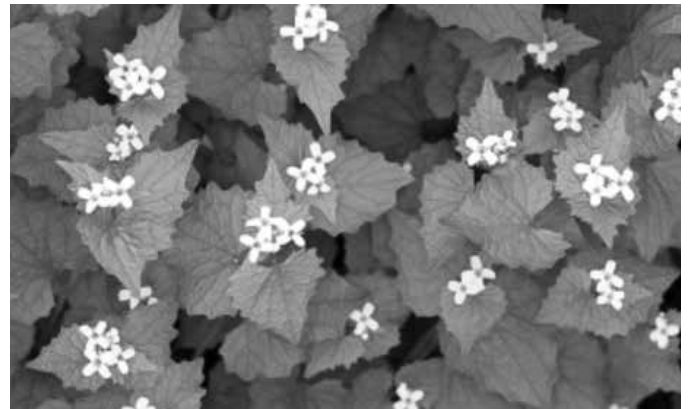
By Thom Lipiczky

Gabriel García Márquez wrote *Love in the Time of Cholera* in 1985. I can't remember much about the book, but the title, for obvious reasons, stays with me. So here's "Life in the Time of COVID," Berkshire County edition, with special consideration to those who actually *stay home* and are wondering what to do.

Two years ago this spring we were buying our piece of land across town. We then designed and built our new smaller and much more energy-efficient house. (See back issues of the *Local Yokel* for exciting episodes of "Thom and Anne's Excellent Adventure.") The adventure all worked out well, and about 13 months ago we were already living in our new house. But there was no time then for much consideration about our landscape.

This spring I've been busying myself setting up a new raised bed vegetable garden, as I reported last month. I find digging in the dirt keeps things in perspective for me. Just below the surface lies a whole world of living things vying for space and nutrients. It's just another reminder that, in fact, it's the microbes who are at the *top* of the food chain, as well as the bottom. They'll be munching on me one of these days. Maybe sooner if I forget to wear my mask in public.

Another activity I mentioned last month is pulling out bush honeysuckle, an invasive listed on Massachusetts Audubon Society's site ([massaudubon.org/learn/nature-wildlife.invasive-plants](http://massaudubon.org/learn/nature-wildlife.invasive-plants)). "Invasive plants are one of the greatest threats to the nature of Massachusetts because they out-compete, displace, or kill native species. These non-native species—many introduced to Massachusetts accidentally or on purpose for garden or landscape use—thrive and proliferate."



*Invasive Garlic Mustard.*  
Photo by Cornell Cooperative Extension

Listed along with honeysuckle are "pests" (i.e., plants I don't like) such as Japanese knotweed, goutweed, oriental bittersweet, and purple loosestrife. But the list includes items that really surprised me: sycamore maple, black locust, and yellow iris, among others. At what point does the invasive become native?

Which reminds me, when the Pilgrims landed in this part of the world in the early 1600s, there were *no* earthworms! The glaciers that covered our neck of the woods scraped off all the woods and the earthworms that lived there about 40,000 years ago and only receded about 10,000 years ago. The worms we count on today to aerate our soil and lure fish and transform our food waste into luscious compost only arrived with the Europeans in the ballast of their ships. So they're essentially invasive, I guess—undocumented immigrants.

I've also noticed that this year we have a bumper crop of garlic mustard. An Asian plant introduced in the 1860s as a culinary herb, it has become an aggressive invasive. Not only does it crowd out other so-called native plants, but it actually alters the soil chemistry to inhibit the growth of other species. My daughter-in-law picks the leaves before it flowers and makes pesto out of it, but we'd need to consume many truckloads of garlic-mustard pesto to make a dent in it this year. Adam Weinberg from Second Nature Garden Design in Richmond calls it a "zombie" plant because it will still spread its seeds even after it's been pulled up. You can't compost it and need to discard it in black plastic bags to kill it.

And of course black plastic is made from petroleum, which is, in effect, million-year-old plant life, some of which, I'm sure, was invasive in its day. If only we had a wall . . .

What are you doing at your house while you stay at home during "Love in the Time of COVID"? You can fill me in, leave questions, comments, or rants at [info@localyokel.org](mailto: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](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org), or visit [www.thelocalyokel.org](http://www.thelocalyokel.org)*

# West Stockbridge Historical Society Awarded Major Grant

*By Bob Salerno, President, WSHS*

The Mass Cultural Council announced this past week that the West Stockbridge Historical Society is one of the organizations awarded a grant from the Cultural Facilities Fund for the next phase of restoration of the Old Town Hall. This is an \$80,000 matching grant to replace/repair the 1914 metal roof and restore the windows and the building's cupola.



*Cupola on Old Town Hall. Photo by Bob Salerno*

Although the roof and windows in the Old Town Hall are "historic," they leak like a sieve. The metal roof was installed in 1914, has had sporadic maintenance over the years, and is probably 10 years beyond its useful life. The chimneys need repair. The cupola has sheltered squirrels, and the bell doesn't ring. It's critical that this work be done before we can move forward with heat and air conditioning. We can stop pumping heat out onto Main Street every time the furnace goes on. It's not very sexy or exciting as an elevator but crucial in making the Old Town Hall usable year round.

We have some distance to go. We have to raise the matching funds first within a year, do the work, and then we get reimbursed. (There is no free money.) Hopefully, there won't be many unexpected surprises.

Winning this grant was very important for the Historical Society and our town. We competed statewide against all the major cultural institutions. Every year Mass Cultural Council receives requests for about four times what it has available in the budget. We feel very honored to be in the company of groups like The Mount, the Clark Art Institute, and Barrington Stage Company.

When we applied for the grant, we received a lot of support. Our merchants and town government, State Representative Smitty Pignatelli, Senator Adam Hinds, private individuals, and civic groups all contributed letters. Most important, though, we were able to demonstrate commitment from our members and the town. We appreciate everyone's help and support. It's why West Stockbridge is a wonderful community.

## June Donor Roll Call

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John & Barbara Bormolini  
Jennifer Curtis  
Connie Eagan  
Paula Farrell & Digger Lockenwitz  
Andi Goerlach  
Joel & Carol Kaufman  
Thomas & Kathryn Lobasso  
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Thanks to everyone who has donated to WSLY. We couldn't do it without your support! Keep the *Local Yoke* coming. Please send your gift today! (See response form on page 21.)

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The *Local Yoke* is published monthly. Please mail submissions to: **The Local Yoke**, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266, e-mail [info@thelocalyoke.org](mailto:info@thelocalyoke.org), or visit [www.thelocalyoke.org](http://www.thelocalyoke.org). Copy deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the publication. Editors: **John Parker**, 394-4368, [john.j.parker53@gmail.com](mailto:john.j.parker53@gmail.com); **Vicki Grayson**, 232-6131, [vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com](mailto:vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com); **Susan Fisher**, 232-4443, [suefish12@gmail.com](mailto:suefish12@gmail.com); **Anne Lesser**, 717-0277, [anne@annelessercommunications.com](mailto:anne@annelessercommunications.com); Designer: **Kim Bradway**, [kim@bloominarts.com](mailto:kim@bloominarts.com).

The *Local Yoke* 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.





# WEST STOCKBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

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

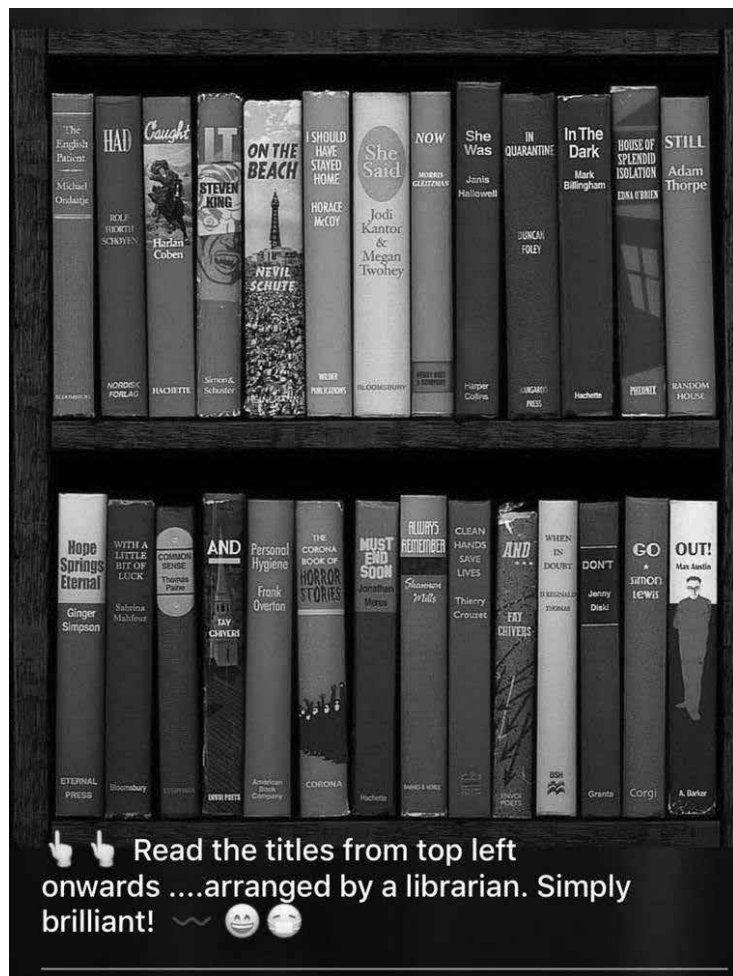
## Library News

Greetings from the staff and trustees of your library. We want to help you get something new to read, listen to, and watch! At this writing, we are very happy to be planning to be able to make library books and DVDs available for pickup.

Everyone is welcome to call, e-mail, or place a request via your library account online, and librarians will arrange with you to come over and pick up your materials. We will have detailed safety instructions ready. Toward this effort, our amazing helpers, the Friends of the Library, will be making phone calls to check in with some of you to help us bring your loans to you.

In keeping with Governor Baker's reopening protocols, we are standing by for the day when we can once again welcome you in person. Until then, best wishes to all for your good health and peace of mind at home.

*Rachel Alter, Vicky Cooper, and Brad Havill*



👉 👉 Read the titles from top left onwards ...arranged by a librarian. Simply brilliant! 🤖 🤖

"Read the titles from top left onwards." From Reddit, [https://www.reddit.com/r/Coronamemes/comments/g62n4k/read\\_the\\_titles\\_from\\_top\\_left\\_onwards](https://www.reddit.com/r/Coronamemes/comments/g62n4k/read_the_titles_from_top_left_onwards)



With regrets we are cancelling our summer library book sale due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, we will not be able to accept any donated books or related materials.

We appreciate your support and look forward to resuming our programs in the future.



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# Grist from the Mill

by Kelt Wilska

## Musings on Books and Writing

### This Project Is for the Birds

On one of your drives through town last month, did you happen to notice someone on a ladder climbing the pond-facing side of the historic Shaker Mill? If you did, you were witness to the welcoming party for West Stockbridge's newest residents: cliff swallows.

Most Berkshirites are probably quite familiar with the barn swallow, that beautiful but noisy fork-tailed neighbor that darts in and out of dusty attics to build its nests and leave its droppings. Far less common are cliff swallows, the square-tailed and red-rumped relatives of the barn dwellers. As European settlers began to build and farm in the Northeast, these birds likewise moved in from the South and West to take advantage of the agricultural spoils—a perfect blend of easy shelter, nutritious insects, and mud for building nests.

These nests are painstakingly constructed one bead of mud at a time as the birds fly back and forth from streamside quarries to their building sites, often tucked under the eaves of barns. The result is a rough cone-shaped structure with a simple hole for entry and exit.



*Cliff swallows build their nests one bead of mud at a time. Photo by Mara Silver and sourced from Creative Commons*

Sadly, as agriculture fades in importance from our day-to-day lives, so too fades the habitat for the cliff swallow. Suburbanization, forest regrowth, and competition from non-native house sparrows all contribute to their decline. Cliff swallow populations have declined 48% in Massachusetts since 1985 and are designated as threatened species in New Hampshire. They have stopped breeding entirely in Rhode Island.

Which brings us back to West Stockbridge. A few years ago, Mara Silver, founder of western Massachusetts-based Swallow Conservation, noticed that cliff swallows were taking a particular liking to the eaves of the Shaker Mill. This nesting site is one of fewer than fifty in the entire state. Using fired clay pots (Mara is a ceramicist), she affixes new nests to these hot spots in the hopes of encouraging colony growth.

So next time you take a walk across the Mill Pond bridge, keep an eye out for some watchful swallow heads poking out of their new homes. Shaker Mill Books is proud to sponsor this bright moment of conservation during such worrisome times. For more information about cliff swallows, visit [swallowconservation.org](http://swallowconservation.org).

Note: We are fortunate to have West Stockbridge's Mati Kiin of Kiin Media capturing this unique phenomenon of nature. We hope to share his film with the community in the coming months.

Shaker Mill Books – 3 Depot St – 413 232 0251  
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# "We Remember When . . ."

## Growing Up in West Stockbridge in the 1950s

*A Series of Recollections by John Bormolini and Friends*

### Still More West Stockbridge Businesses of the 1950s

*...in which the familiar family names Baldwin, Moffatt, and Skorput take center stage!*

#### A.W. Baldwin and Co.

The Baldwins were true entrepreneurs, recognizing the needs of the populace and filling those needs. A.W. Baldwin operated the hardware business. Yet it was much more than just hardware. I recall that we bought coal to use for home heating in the winter. Even after my mother Anna and father Joseph saved enough money to install central heating, heating oil was needed, supplied by Baldwin's Hardware. (We still used coal in the winter to save money; it was an Italian thing!) Other items available at Baldwin's included lumber, cattle feed, lawn mowers, tools of all kinds, paint, ladders, fencing, and everything else you expect to find in a hardware store!



*"W.W. Bartlett" Hardware. This postcard may show the A.W. Baldwin Hardware building before the business was acquired by Henry Baldwin in 1864. From West Stockbridge Village Association website, <https://sites.google.com/site/weststockbridgetowncom/history/postcards>*

#### Charles H. Baldwin and Sons

Across the street from the hardware store was, and is, Charles H. Baldwin and Sons, specializing in their own brands of in-house produced extracts, especially pure vanilla extracts, table syrups, and stove polish, Stazon, which was shipped throughout the United States. In those days, there was a plethora of pot belly stoves needing polish!

The business originated in 1888. Dick Moffatt took over the business in 1958. I worked for Dick during the summer of 1959. One of my jobs was to make the table syrup. There was a rectangular vat in the back room that sat on a support and was heated by gas jets underneath. The formula for table syrup was to mix water, granulated sugar, and about 2 gallons of 100% maple syrup, and heat it to a certain temperature. When done there was a small pump used to fill gallon containers with the newly prepared syrup. C.H. Baldwin's Table Syrup was very popular because it is lighter than regular maple syrup with the same taste and less expensive.

The sugar used for the table syrup came in 100-pound bags. One day, Dick sent me to Pittsfield to pick up 10 bags. The only vehicle available was a mid-1950s VW Beetle with no seats. It was easily big enough for 1,000 pounds of sugar. Sometimes I took my dog with me, a full-size collie, and this was one of those times. After loading the ten 100-pound bags into the Beetle, there was little room left for my dog. Fortunately, the car had a sun roof: I got the dog in, and he stuck his head out the sun roof. He had a great perch on top of the sugar for the trip home!



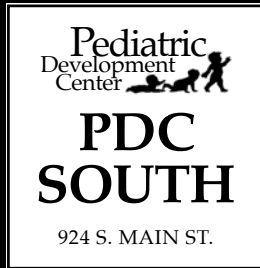
*Charles H. Baldwin & Sons. Photo from <http://www.baldwinextracts.com>*

The job I liked best was delivering orders on Fridays. Many customers were small mom-and-pop businesses. There were four different routes: one across the line into New York State, one to northern Berkshire and Vermont, one to southern Berkshire and Connecticut, and one close to home, that is, West Stockbridge, Lenox, Pittsfield, Lee, and out toward the Springfield area. (Jackie Moffatt observed, "Amazingly, we're still delivering to Deerfield Academy after all these years!")

*...continued on page 19*



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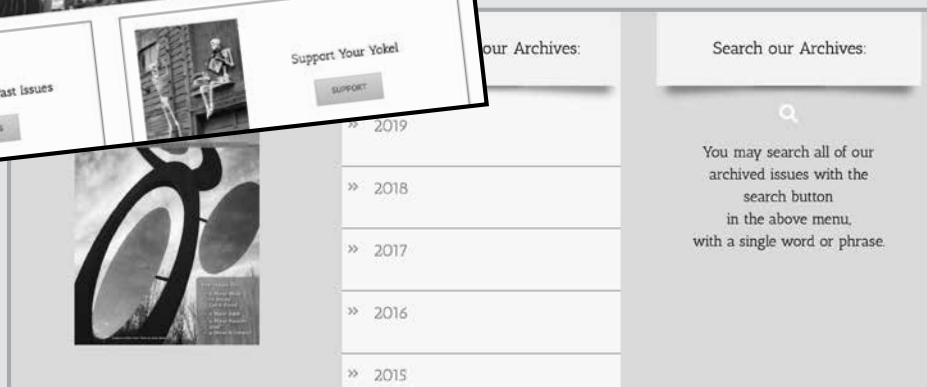
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The West Stockbridge Local Yokel  
P.O. Box 238  
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# thelocalyokel.org



Dick Moffatt, daughter Tricia, and son Earl in the "lab" at Charles H. Baldwin & Sons, ca. 1958. Photo courtesy of Jackie Moffatt

We loaded the truck late in the day on Thursday ready for an early start on Friday. In those days, there was no GPS. Dick drew me a map for each of the stops. Dick called himself a "jobber," the middleman between the wholesaler and small businesses.

Products included beauty aids, toiletries, toothpaste, sundries, and much more, and of course table syrup and extracts. My favorite was Bay Rum after-shave lotion. Dick was very good at what he did. I recall that he was very personable and easy to work for. To me he was the consummate "nice guy."

### Skorput's Garage

Skorput's Garage was on Route 41 heading toward Great Barrington. It was operated by Peter Skorput, Sr., and his sons. Behind the garage, where the transfer station is now located, there was a good-sized two-story building where mushrooms were grown. Mr. Skorput called them "Snow White Mushrooms."

There were caves above Skorput's Garage to the east that were used in the summer for growing mushrooms. The mushroom beds were prepared in their buildings and then moved to the caves for the summer. I helped get them there one summer. No need to pay for air-conditioning because the caves were cool and damp.

Peter's son, Tony Skorput, built a second mushroom plant. You got there by taking the road between Troy's Garage and the Square Rigger past the town dump, which was usually smoldering even in the winter months. I still remember the smell of burning trash. After the dump, a right and another quick right brought you to where the twin mushroom buildings were located, with an office building connecting them.

I worked at the plant while I was still in elementary school, sometime before 1956. I would go to the plant after school. I would often accompany Tony to Pittsfield to drop off baskets of mushrooms. For some reason, Tony liked me and allowed me to do most jobs in the plant. The best part was when he permitted me to pick mushrooms, layer them in a basket, and top the basket off with the best-looking mushrooms, market ready. I learned all of the tasks required before one itty bitty mushroom peeked above the dirt. Even today, I think I would be able to give a worthy dissertation on the processes needed to grow mushrooms from start to finish.

I love to reminisce about West Stockbridge, my hometown. For this installment, I had the added joy of talking with Jackie Moffatt about Charles H. Baldwin and especially chatting about Dick Moffatt, who just turned 101 years old in March! Be well . . .

*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](mailto: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

The CHA blood pressure clinics are on hold due to the coronavirus health emergency.

### Stockbridge Grange Dinner

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

### Council on Aging

The monthly COA luncheons are suspended for the duration of the coronavirus health emergency.

*Send your notices for Community News & Events to The Local Yokel, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266, e-mail [info@thelocalyokel.org](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org), or visit [thelocalyokel.org](http://thelocalyokel.org).*

## History Quiz Answer:

Most citizens have only known the lot next to the Old Town Hall as a parking lot serving Town Hall events and the Card Lake Inn. (Those who go back longer remember the Card Lake Inn as the Westbridge Inn and other names.) In its prior life, it was a thriving commercial hub. The first detailed town maps (1855 and 1858) show a hotel called the 1840 West Stockbridge Railroad House taking the entire space. Unfortunately, we don't have any photos of that early space. The old limestone retaining wall dates back to the original hotel building. The Masonic Lodge on Hotel Street is supposedly built on the hotel carriage barn.

The story about the West Stockbridge Hotel is that it was taken over by the owner of the Card Lake Inn in the 1870s. He wanted to open a bar in the Card Lake Inn, but it was too close to the village school and Congregational Church. Evidently the hotel building across Hotel Street was just far enough away to satisfy the town, and he ran a thriving establishment until the early 1900s.

The next time the lot shows up is on the 1904 map when it was owned by a G.W. Burbank, likely still a hotel. Then it gets interesting. By the 1920 census, the Battistoni family operated a three-story general store, meat market, and furniture store. It is pictured in this postcard, and you can see how this building took up most of the parking lot. It was the largest structure in the town center. The building served as parade central during the 150th anniversary celebration parade. Unfortunately, the building burned down in a spectacular fire in 1938. Parts of the building's foundation are still visible in the lot, giving some sense of scale.

On the north end of the lot stood the town's post office and barber shop in a much smaller building. The post office was originally in the Town Hall in the town clerk's office. It was then moved into the small building next door in the 1880s. It remained there until it was moved across the street sometime after the Battistoni fire. The post office has its own story, but that's for another history question.



*Battistoni General Store. Photo courtesy of Bob Salerno*



*Foundation wall at rear of parking lot. Photo courtesy of Bob Salerno*

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mailed to you for a  
minimum annual  
contribution of \$25.

**Outdoor distribution boxes: Baldwin Hardware, The Floor Store, & the Transfer Station**



# 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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### The town has announced the closure of the Town Offices until further notice.

#### 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>Bernie Fallon, Eric Shimelonis</i>			
Town Administrator	<i>Marie Ryan</i>	232-0300	ext. 319	Mon.–Thurs. 7 a.m.–3 p.m. Fri. 7 a.m.–11 a.m.
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).

### Census data affects your community.

- Census data determines federal and state funding to many programs, including transportation, education, and healthcare.
- The data collected by the U.S. Census will determine your political representation for the next 10 years at the local, state, and federal levels.

### Responding to the Census is easy.

- You can respond to the U.S. Census online or over the phone in 13 languages, or wait for the paper form to be delivered to you.

Learn More: [2020census.gov](https://www.2020census.gov)



William Francis Galvin  
Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Massachusetts 2020 Census Liaison

For more information:  
[www.ma2020census.org](https://www.ma2020census.org)  
1-833-MA1-2020 (1-833-621-2020)  
[ma2020census@sec.state.ma.us](mailto:ma2020census@sec.state.ma.us)

Scan to read more  
on how census  
affects your  
community.



## June Art Calendar

Guild of Berkshire Artists | [BerkshireArtists.org](https://BerkshireArtists.org) | [gobasocial@gmail.com](mailto:gobasocial@gmail.com)

2020

As we gain more experience navigating this pandemic and its necessary restrictions, the Guild will be announcing new programming and virtual events. Please stay tuned to the website ([berkshireartists.org](https://berkshireartists.org)) for the latest updates. Also remember to take advantage of the many additional platforms online and listed below.

### Our Website:

[www.berkshireartists.org](https://www.berkshireartists.org)

### Members' Facebook Group:

"[Guild of Berkshire Artists](https://www.facebook.com/GuildofBerkshireArtists)"

### Public Facebook Group:

"[Art in the Berkshires](https://www.facebook.com/ArtintheBerkshires)"

### Public Facebook Group for plein air:

"[Berkshire Plein Air](https://www.facebook.com/BerkshirePleinAir)"

### Guild of Berkshire Artists Instagram:

[@guildofberkshireartists](https://www.instagram.com/guildofberkshireartists)

### Creating Art Outdoors Instagram:

[@creatingartoutdoors](https://www.instagram.com/creatingartoutdoors)



**FRIDAYS, Art Together, 2pm.** 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, 5pm.** 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.

**Berkshire Plein Air: Creating Art Outdoors.** As the weather warms, keep an eye out as we work on a plan to safely hold a modified version of our summer outdoor art program.

*The Guild of Berkshire Artists encourages you to follow all physical distancing guidelines if you choose to take your art practice outside.*

Due to the Governor's physical distancing advisory, the Guild of Berkshire Artists has suspended all in person events until further notice.

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**Local Yokel**  
 P.O. Box 238  
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**thelocalyokel.org**



Poster commemorating the 140th Flag Day on June 14, 1917. Source Wikipedia

**June 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				

**June 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.			
6/3	Select Board meeting	6 p.m.	By conference call; see agenda on town website for details
6/4	Farmers Market	3–6 p.m.	The Foundry Green, Harris Street
6/8	Parks & Recreation Committee meeting	5:30 p.m.	Online meeting; see agenda on town website for details
	Select Board meeting	6 p.m.	By conference call; see agenda on town website for details
6/11	Farmers Market	3–6 p.m.	The Foundry Green, Harris Street
6/14	Flag Day		
6/15	*** Deadline for the next Local Yokel ***		Send to info@thelocalyokel.org
6/15	Planning Board meeting	7 p.m.	By conference call; see agenda on town website for details
6/16	Vision Committee meeting	6 p.m.	Online meeting; see agenda on town website for details
6/18	Farmers Market	3–6 p.m.	The Foundry Green, Harris Street
6/20	First Day of Summer		
6/21	Father's Day		
6/22	Annual Town Meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices Gymnasium
6/24	Select Board meeting	6 p.m.	By conference call; see agenda on town website for details
6/25	Farmers Market	3–6 p.m.	The Foundry Green, Harris Street
6/29	Annual Town Election	11 a.m.– 6 p.m.	Town Offices Gymnasium