

Local yokel

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

West
Stockbridge

May
2020



*Skunk cabbage in flower along Williams River.
Photo by John Parker*

Town Caucus, Town Meeting & Election postponed

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005

"Open for Business" & Coronavirus Information

COVID-19 Updated Assistance and Information for Residents

Town of West Stockbridge (as of April 3, 2020)

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://theberkshireedge.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.

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.

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 March 23, 2020

Remote Access by Free Conference Call.com

8:00 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 6:05 PM

The first discussion was about the date and time of the next conference call meeting. It was determined to have the next meeting by conference call on the usual set date of Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at 6 PM. Marie mentioned that this meeting will be to go over the warrant articles for Town Meeting and she will e-mail them to the Board for review prior to the meeting.

Then, Bernie made a motion pursuant to Section 1 of Chapter 45 of the Acts of 2020 and because of the state of emergency declared by the governor pursuant to executive order 591, Declaration of a State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19,

I make a motion that in light of recent events that we delay the date of the Town Caucus and the Town Election to a date undetermined at this time.

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

There was some discussion in regards to helping out local families and seniors with meals. Marie noted that she is working with Richmond to include West Stockbridge residents on the meals that the Richmond School is providing for residents. She will update the Board later today after working with Richmond Town Administrator, Danielle Fillio.

Eric then made a motion to adjourn, Bernie Seconded, all in favor.

The Select Board adjourned at 8:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan
Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator

Select Board Meeting Minutes April 1, 2020

Remote Access by Free Conference Call.com

6:00 PM: Open Meeting
Quorum present: Select Board Members: Bernie Fallon, Chair; Eric Shimelonis, Member, Town Administrator Marie Ryan and Board of Health Agent Earl Moffatt.
Review and act on previous meeting minutes.

Agenda Items/Action/Discussion Items: Meeting Opened at 6:00 PM

Bernie began the meeting by stating that Select Board Member Doane Perry has resigned his position as of Friday, March 27, 2020. Bernie thanked Doane for coming in during a time when the Board needed a calm presence which Doane provided. He said they appreciated his service to the Town.

Marie then asked the Board to vote on placing Doane's position for the remainder of his term (1 Year) on the Annual Town Election ballot. Bernie made a motion to include Doane's position on the Annual Town Election ballot for 2020, Eric seconded, all in favor.

Town Update on COVID-19:

Marie stated that she is updating the Town Website everyday with new information as she receives it. She noted that the Food Pantry has been set up for residents at the Transfer Station.

Board of Health Agent, Earl Moffatt then gave an update to the Board. He said he is contact daily with the Visiting Nurse, Emile Jarrett and the State and Federal Government agencies with updates. He has been in the office at Town Hall daily and has been issuing notices about reminding people to self-distance and stay apart. He put notices up to also remind people not to sit next to each other on the benches on Main Street as well as all the parks in town. He also spoke to the fact that with the assistance of the Board of Health have created a statement that Marie has posted on the website and sent to local media in regards to travelers and out of town

...continued on page 5



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Town Caucus, Meeting, and Election Postponed

Due to the COVID-19 health emergency, Town Administrator Marie Ryan has announced the following changes for these events:

- Town caucus will be May 21 at 7 p.m.
- Town meeting will be June 22 at 7 p.m.
- Town election will be June 29, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. We will be encouraging all voters to vote by mail. The state is allowing “no excuse” voting by mail for town elections this year due to the virus.



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS TOWN OF WEST STOCKBRIDGE ANNUAL TOWN CAUCUS

May 21, 2020, 7 p.m., Village School Town Offices, 21 State Line Rd.

Elected Office	Term Length	Incumbent
Moderator	1 year	Eugene Dellea
Select Board	1 year	Doane Perry (resigned, not running)
Select Board	3 years	Bernard Fallon
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
Library Trustees	3 years	Andrew Potter (Appointed)
Library Trustees	1 year	Beth Sack (Appointed)
Cemetery Commission	3 years	Scott Sawyer
Tree Warden	3 years	Andrew Fudge
Constable	3 years	Wayne Cooper
Constable	3 years	Michael Skorput
Constable	3 years	Paul Faggioni
Constable	3 years	Karl Cooper
Constable	3 years	Vacant

guests. He stated they tried to word it very carefully and not discourage homeowners about coming to town for refuge in their homes but to stress the seriousness of the current health crisis by remaining at their homes. Earl said currently there is no enforcement they have available to control this.

Earl reported that currently there are two homes with confirmed cases of the virus that in quarantine in West Stockbridge and Emilie and he are constantly monitoring the situation in Town.

Eric then thanked Marie and Earl for getting out a lot of information to the residents. His concern is that we are not welcoming the travelers and second homeowners to their homes. Eric wondered if, as long as they stick to the guidelines, we could create a message with a more welcoming type of tone. Earl stated that it took him days to word the posting with that in mind but that he and Marie can work on some wording to put on the website along with the statement that was posted to re-enforce that sentiment.

Eric then commented that he would like to volunteer to assist people that may need any type of assistance such as prescriptions picked up or groceries but cannot leave the house. He asked Earl and Marie if they could set up a phone number for people who need assistance. Earl suggested the best way would be to post the Police phone number for a contact if people need assistance. Eric said that would work and then the Police could contact him if he can coordinate help in any way as well. Earl and Marie said they would meet with the Police Chief the next day to get this

started. Earl also stated this is a good 1st phase but we may need to do more as time goes on.

Increase Inspectional Fees:

Marie explained that the inspectional fees for boiler, smoke and CO detectors are at \$35 which is below the average fee and the Fire Department would like to increase it to \$45. Bernie made a motion to increase the inspectional fee to \$45, Eric seconded, no discussion and both were in favor.

Review of 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant:

Marie explained that the articles 1-10 are routine and need to be in the warrant each year. She then read/ discussed what each of the remaining articles were about. She asked Bernie and Eric if they had any questions on any of the articles and there were no questions. The Board approved the warrant articles.

Bernie then made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Eric and all were in favor.

The Select Board adjourned at 6:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator

...continued on page 9

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- Lawn & Field Mowing
- Fall & Spring Cleanups
- Building & Maintaining Gardens
- Firewood



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

The *Local Yokel* is supported in part by a grant from the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

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 compiling this information. Editor's note: We will update in our June issue as needed.

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 and [@kardenrabin](https://www.instagram.com/kardenrabin) on Instagram. Our sister studio, Yoga Great Barrington, is offering a wide variety of online yoga classes at 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; 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

Graham Farmhouse Winery. 232-4290. Offering curbside wine pickup only. Call or e-mail to order and arrange for curbside pickup. grahamfarmhouse@gmail.com

Hoffman Pottery. 232-4646. Available for online orders/special commissions. Happy to ship. 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, by phone, or e-mail: 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

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.

Sandy Klempner At Home. (518) 322-1894. 22 Main Street. Open by appointment only, 7 days a week. 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. Offering curbside pickup service of coffee bags, tea, and other locally produced pantry items. Put in your order and pay online and then pick up curbside: <https://sixdepot.com/> (click on image on home page to get the order-pay-pickup form).

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

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.

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 for dates and articles on West Stockbridge history or e-mail 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.

Local yokel	Pick up a copy FREE AS ALWAYS at these locations around town:		Berkshire Bank	Or you can choose to have the <i>Local Yokel</i> mailed to you for a minimum annual contribution of \$25.
			Public Market	
			Queensboro Wine & Spirits	
Outdoor distribution boxes: Baldwin Hardware, The Floor Store, & the Transfer Station				

Due Date for Tax Payments and Exemptions Extended Until June 1

Town of West Stockbridge (Updated April 9, 2020)

Under “An Act to Address Challenges Faced by Municipalities and State Authorities Resulting From COVID-19,” Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, the town has adopted local options to extend due dates for real and personal property tax payments and applications for exemptions.

The due date of your real and personal property tax bill has been extended to June 1, 2020. June 1, 2020, is the new due date even if the due date for payment on your tax bill is May 1, 2020.

The due date for applications for property tax exemptions has also been extended to June 1, 2020. This extension applies to applications for the exemptions listed in the third paragraph of G.L. c. 59, § 59, including exemptions under clauses 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E, 22F, and 22H (veterans, surviving spouses, and surviving parents); 37 and 37A (blind persons); 41C (seniors). This extension also automatically applies to applications for residential exemptions under G.L. c. 59, § 5C, for small commercial exemptions under G.L. c. 59, § 51 and for deferrals under G.L. c. 59, § 5, clauses 41A (seniors) and 18A (poverty or financial hardship due to change to active military).

Note: If town offices are closed on the June 1, 2020, extended due date for tax payments or filing of exemption applications, the due dates for tax payments and applications for exemptions are not extended. They will be due on June 1, 2020, even if the municipal offices are closed. (See section 10(b) of the Act.)

Tax payments and applications for exemptions can be filed by mail, through an online payment system, or by dropping payment into the lockbox located to the left of the front door of the Town Offices. If you have further questions about tax deadlines, call 232-0300, ext. 302. For information on exemptions, call 232-0300, ext. 303.

<https://www.weststockbridge-ma.gov/home/urgent-alerts/due-date-tax-payments-and-exemptions-are-extended-until-june-1-2020>

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Select Board Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2020

Remote Access by Free Conference Call.com

6:00 PM: Open Meeting

Quorum present: Select Board Members: Bernie Fallon, Chair; Eric Shimelonis, Member, Town Administrator Marie Ryan, DPW Director Curt Wilton, Police Chief Marc Portieri and Tax Collector June Biggs.

Review and act on previous meeting minutes.

Agenda Items/Action/Discussion Items: Meeting Opened at 6:00 PM

Vote/Discussion of Tax Bill Due Date:

Bernie opened the meeting with a motion that was supported by the Town Administrator, Town Treasurer, Tax Collector, Town Accountant and the Town Assessor:

To address the challenges faced by Municipalities resulting from CORVID-19, pursuant to Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, the Municipal Relief Legislation signed by Governor on Friday, April 3, 2020:

I make a motion that the Town of West Stockbridge adopt Section 10 (A)(i-iii) Local Option to Extend the Due Dates of Property Tax Bills from May 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020 and Section 10 (B)(iv) Local Option to Extend the Due Date for Exemption and Deferral Applications from April 1, 2020 to a date no later than June 1, 2020.

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

Marie then explained to the Board that this information would be sent out in a Reverse 911 call as well as an urgent message on the Town website.

Declaration of State of Emergency:

Bernie stated that the Board would be voting on a motion to declare a State of Emergency in the Town and asked Marie to explain what that means. She said that if the Town declares a State of emergency, then that would enable the Town to receive funding from the state for any unexpected expenses to the Town during the Pandemic.

Bernie made a motion to declare a State of emergency in the Town of West Stockbridge due to the COVID-19. Eric seconded and there was no further discussion and all were in favor.

Police Department Update:

Chief Portieri stated that the Food Pantry has been moved to the Community Room at Town Hall and that the Police are running. He also

said that the Pet Food is still being run by Wayne Cooper at the Transfer Station.

Marc said that the Police have been very busy. They had three calls today alone. There was a domestic call, a call for a person who took a beer opened and sat outside of the store to drink it without paying, and an attempted breaking and entering. He said that crimes are increasing due to people being bored as well as low on money due to unemployment currently. He assured the Board that they Police are splitting shifts up and having more of a presence around Town now. They are working 7 days a week/ 24 hours a day currently in the Department, Eric and Marc expressed the importance of spreading the word around Town for people and businesses to be more aware and better at locking up their doors and vehicles. Marc also mentioned he would add information about the food Pantry and the safety issues in the reverse 911 call about the tax due date.

Long Term Sick Bank Discussion:

Curt Wilton, DPW Director asked the Board for permission during this State of Emergency for his employees to use time from the Long Term Sick Bank. He explained to the Board that every fulltime employee gets a 15 day long term sick bank for use due to an illness or injury and they need a doctor's note to be eligible to use these days. Curt said that he is trying to keep his employees safe and using social distancing, however, on days when it is raining and they can only do work in the garage, it is not safe health-wise. He would like for his employees to be able to utilize these sick days without a doctor's note during the current State of Emergency for inclement weather days when they cannot do outside work.

Eric thought this was a great idea, but in the longer term would like to research the possibility of restoring the sick time used under this motion using COVID-19 emergency funding. Bernie agreed. Bernie then made a motion to allow the employees to use their Long Term Sick Bank days during the State of Emergency. Eric seconded the motion, no further discussion, all were in favor.

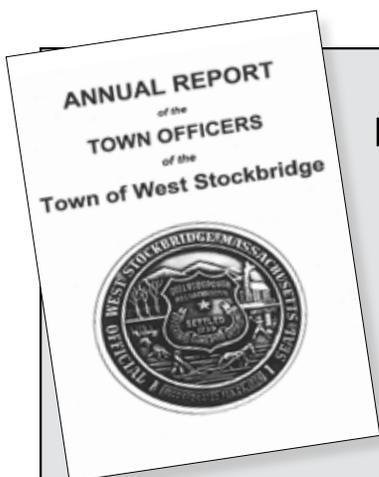
Bernie made a motion to adjourn, Eric seconded, the Select Board adjourned at 6:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator



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.

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



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Berkshire Community Diaper Project Needs Support

By Marie Rudden, MD

The Berkshire Community Diaper Project was founded in 2014 by West Stockbridge resident Dr. Marie Rudden, with the support of Dr. Jane Tillman, director of the Erikson Institute at Austen Riggs, also a West Stockbridge resident, and Dr. Elizabeth Weinberg of the Berkshire Psychoanalytic Institute. Dr. Rudden is assistant clinical professor in psychiatry, Weill Cornell School of Medicine.

Dr. Rudden started the project after hearing a lecture about diaper need at Austen Riggs by Megan Smith, DPH, a pediatric epidemiologist at the Yale Child Study Center. According to Dr. Smith, 30% of low-income families cannot easily afford diapers, which have become increasingly expensive. Using cloth diapers is not an option for many low-income families because day care centers don't accept them, and laundromats prohibit using their facilities to clean them. Parents who can't afford diapers are at significant risk for depression because they feel ashamed and guilty about not being able to provide this basic necessity for their children. When diapering infants becomes fraught with anxiety, it can disrupt the parent-child relationship. Dr. Rudden said, "As a psychiatrist and psychoanalyst, I have always seen meeting diaper need as a preventive mental (and physical) health issue."



Shutterstock photo, provided by the Berkshire Community Diaper Project, used by permission.

The Diaper Project has a dedicated and creative volunteer board (including Dr. Rudden's husband Peter Lazes and Jen Wilton, both also West Stockbridge residents), which has made the project's enormous growth possible. Every penny donated goes toward diapers. To date, the Diaper Project has distributed 930,000 diapers to local food pantries, Great Barrington WIC, and numerous agencies throughout the county supporting children and parents. The Diaper Project participates in the National Diaper Bank Network, through which they have received large shipments of diapers at relatively low cost. They have also received generous grants from local institutions such as the Berkshire Bank,

Berkshire-Taconic Foundation, Greylock Federal Credit Union, and the Jewish Women's Federation.

Because the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in significant unemployment in the county, the Berkshire Community Diaper Project has expanded its services to include the Pittsfield YMCA, which is providing day care for essential responders, and to the North Adams Family Resource Center, as well as occasionally supplying Keenan House of the Brien Center, CHP in Pittsfield, and individuals unable to travel outside. The Diaper Project received a grant for this expansion from the Berkshire United Way that paid for a month's worth of diapers above current inventory.

However, the cost of diapers obtained through an arrangement between Huggies and the National Diaper Bank Network has ballooned astonishingly. Last fall, a shipment of 30,000 diapers cost the project \$3,999. In the early winter, the cost increased to \$4,500, and this month it jumped to \$6,500. Arrangements surrounding the purchase of diapers have been strained by the current pandemic; costs are difficult to predict and afford at a time when nonprofits are unable to engage in fund-raising activities due to current stay-at-home practices. Reaching out for community support, Dr. Rudden says, "We are hoping that our generous individual donors will help us continue to supply the growing number of families who are struggling to afford such basic necessities."

To support the work of the Berkshire Community Diaper Project send a check to Berkshire Community Diaper Project, P.O. Box 5, West Stockbridge, MA 01266, or donate online at www.berkshirecommunitydiaperproject.com.



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Select Board

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Tel. (413) 232-0300 x319
Fax. (413) 232-7195

E-mail: admin@weststockbridge-ma.gov

Dear West Stockbridge Town Residents,

During this difficult time, we would like you to know that if you are in need of meals or food, we have the following options available to you:

The Richmond Consolidated School will be providing "grab and go" lunch each day for anyone who needs it. They have graciously included West Stockbridge Residents in this meal plan. Please email Tammy the number of lunches you will need at tjervas@richmondconsolidated.org or call her at 698-2207, ext 124 the night before. When you call, you will need to let her know how many lunches you need and if need be, the address for delivery. Simply drive behind the school to the kitchen area and someone will meet you at the door. You can pick up lunches from 8:30-9:30 AM. If you would like lunch but have no transportation, please let her know and we will deliver.

If you need any other assistance with food or shopping and are unable to travel please call 413- 232-0300 ext. 300 and we will find a way to assist you.

Sincerely,

Marie Y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan
Town Administrator



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"We Remember When . . ."

Growing Up in West Stockbridge in the 1950s

A Series of Recollections by John Bormolini and Friends

More West Stockbridge Businesses of the 1950s

This month we continue our recollections of businesses in West Stockbridge. These are by no means all; we will continue with the same theme in June.

Bill's Variety

Bill's Variety was located on the north end of town across from Troy's Garage. What I remember most about the store was their strawberry milkshake topped off with whipped cream. You could also get an ice cream cone. In summer when Crane Lake Camp was in session, many of the camp staff and campers would walk to Bill's for ice cream and sundries. The store was later sold to Joe and Clara Gennari, who continued the proud tradition of serving the people of West Stockbridge.

Masiero's Variety (Aggie's)

The history of Masiero's Variety Store is worth noting, thanks to cousin John Masiero. Around 1915, Rinaldo Masiero, an immigrant from near Vicenza, Italy, purchased the building on Main Street formerly known as the One Horse Tavern (now Stone House Realty). The family lived upstairs and operated the store at street level. Rinaldo was a purveyor of fruits and vegetables. He delivered goods to outlying farms and homes with horse and wagon and later with a small truck. Rinaldo's wife Angela kept the store, raised kids, cooked, and washed for a large family and boarders.



*From a postcard: Main Street looking north.
Masiero's Variety is at left with flag.*

After Angela "retired," her daughter Agnes (Aggie) and her husband John took over the store and enlarged it with modern goods and services. The store had every daily essential that a family would ever need: medicinals, hosiery, perfumes, aprons, shoes, paper supplies, men's gloves, socks, slippers, boots, rubbers, books, an array of children's needs, apparel, games, bubble gum, candies, milk, and ice cream.

Family members helped out: a "no work, no eat" policy was in effect. Aggie's motto was, "If we don't have it, you don't need it." The personal service, along with advice and opinions by Aggie, was responsible for the store existing 65 years. At some point a sign was installed, "Masiero Variety Store," that stayed in place until 1982 when Aggie retired and handed over the building and business to David and Julie Rathbun.

Marion's Hair Salon

Also in the Masiero building was an ice cream parlor serving "Fro-Joy" brand specialties. After World War II this section became a beauty parlor, Marion's Hair Salon, operated by Marion Condry. In the 1950s, Marion's was the beauty shop in town, frequented by many local patrons. She cut, permed, and colored. The dyes were not as reliable as they are today, and younger patrons would experiment with dyes. Some had to put up with green hair until it could be bleached again!

Shoemaker's

Shoemaker's was run by Felice (Felix) Zanconato and his wife. His primary service was shoe repair. He also had other sundries including penny candy, fishing supplies, cigarettes at 24 cents a pack, and clothing. I mention cigarettes because

...continued on page 15



**WEST STOCKBRIDGE
FARMERS MARKET**
ON THE FOUNDRY GREEN

Opening on Thursday, May 28!
New hours: 3 - 6 pm

**Due to COVID-19
we will be a Farmer & Food
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We will be following all
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Bill Loeb
Susan Menahem
Wayne & Lisa Tenney
John & Eileen Tremblay

Thanks to everyone who has donated to WSLY. We couldn't
do it without your support! Keep the *Local Yokel* coming.
Please send your gift today! (See response form on page 21.)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy belated 4th birthday (April) to
Elena "Ru" Epstein-Santoya

5/28 Melissa Seward

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? To be sure your listing gets
in the *Local Yokel*, please send it in by the 15th of the month before
the desired issue each year.

The *Local Yokel*, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge MA 01266,
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"We Remember When . . ." ...continued from page 13

Bruce Morelli and I engaged in that bad habit at a young age. Most times we could not find enough returnable soda bottles, at 2 cents a bottle, to come up with 24 cents between us, so we would go frog hunting and bring them back to barter with Mr. Zanconato, who loved frog legs. In return he gave us a pack of Fatima cigarettes and one Double Bubble gum that we would split before going home. We then went to the woods above Bruce's house on Hotel Street where I had carved an ash-tray between two trees and smoked. We "stashed" the unsmoked pack at a location so secret I don't remember where it was.

When I went home, my mother asked me, "Have you been smoking?" Of course, my answer was no. What was I thinking? She could smell the cigarette smoke on my clothes a mile away, just before leveling a "back hand"!

Dellea's Shoe Repair

The other shoe repair shop in town was operated by Anthony (Tony) Dellea. His shop was on Depot Street near where the present-day Rouge restaurant is located. His ad in the 1957 Konkapot Yearbook also mentioned that he repaired chair seats.

Father Eastman's Religious Workshop

Next to the Congregational Church on the corner of Stockbridge Road and Maple Street was a large house occupied by Father Eastman, an Episcopal priest, and his sister Mrs. Joslin. The business was in the lower level of the house. His specialty was gilding and framing religious pictures, which he then provided to the Marion Fathers in Stockbridge for their gift shop. I worked for Fr. Eastman when I was in elementary school: gilding, cutting frames, and mounting the pictures.

I often accompanied him to the Marion Fathers to deliver the pictures. His driving was an adventure. He drove a blue 1954 Ford with automatic transmission. He would accelerate full tilt for about 3 to 4 seconds and then coast, thinking he was saving gas. He did this the entire trip (the phrase "white knuckles" comes to mind).

In the fall, one of my other tasks was to individually wrap in newspaper each apple that he obtained from Bartlett's Orchard. Why? So one bad apple would not spoil the others. Fr. Eastman was a lovable character. He was the first person that I saw putting peanut butter on his banana. I now do it myself.

The June issue will feature other businesses in West Stockbridge, my hometown.

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.



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



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

Transfer Station Recycling Reminder

During this pandemic, we want to remind all residents that the Transfer Station is still open: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

We also need to remind you to please be aware of and pay close attention to where you are placing your trash and recycling materials. Please only place recycling materials in the recycling bins and only trash in the trash bins. We appreciate your attention to this matter and hope you are all staying safe and healthy.

YES **RECYCLING ONLY**
Deposit Only These Clean Items:



Clean paper, Milk Cartons, Cardboard (limit 18 x 24), Junk Mail, Paper Egg Cartons, Cereal Boxes
Newspapers, Magazines, Catalogs, Phone Books
Plastic Bottles and Jugs (no caps), Plastic Dairy Tubs (yogurt, margarine, etc.) no lids
Aluminum Cans, Steel or Tin Cans
Loose Glass Bottles and Jugs

NO



No Pizza Boxes, No Aerosol Cans, No Hoses, No Plants, No Toys, No Dishes/Paper Plates
No Juice Boxes or Pouches, No Tires, No Styrofoam, No Batteries, No Plastic Bags, No Electronics

May History Quiz Question:

A hundred years ago, the world was experiencing a recovery from a devastating world war and slowly coming out of a strong recession and the last devastating pandemic. Travel, both domestic and international, was limited, and there was no Internet or cable news. Even radio was still in its infancy. Life was more locally focused, and social distancing was a regular way of life.

West Stockbridge was even more isolated. Although the railroad branch came through, running from State Line down to Van Deusenville, we did not have many outside visitors, unlike Lenox or Stockbridge. What was the town like in 1920, and what were its main concerns during the last pandemic?

(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

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, or visit thelocalyokel.org.



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

Greetings and best wishes from the library staff, Board of Trustees, and Friends of the Library. We hope that we will be able to welcome everyone back into the library as soon as possible. In the meantime we want to offer you as many online reading and viewing opportunities as possible.

All Massachusetts residents can read both the *Boston Globe* and the *New York Times* for free. Just go to the library page on the Town of West Stockbridge website.

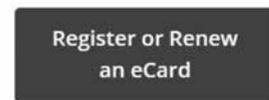


Please use your West Stockbridge Library card number to sign up for an eCard with the Boston Public Library. You can use your eCard to borrow streaming movies and TV shows on Kanopy and Hoopla.



Register for your eCard at <https://www.bpl.org/ecard>

If you have extra time and there is something you have always wanted to research, please ask us for help! Librarians are a great resource for your questions; we can find a lot of information for you and show you where to look for it, too. Please leave us a voice message or an e-mail and we will get back to you.



Rachel Alter, Vicky Cooper, Brad Havill



Scrapbook May 2020: TEST YOUR TRIVIA KNOWLEDGE!

1. Voters approved the second required vote to create a municipal lighting plant. It was necessary to do what?
2. What was Wired West trying to achieve?
3. Who was providing this service?
4. In May 2011, Joan Rehms, a West Stockbridge resident, did what? Why did she do it?

Answers: 1. A state law provision for telecommunications facilities that would permit eventual installation by Wired West. 2. The "last mile" connection to high-speed Internet service. 3. The Massachusetts Broadband Initiative. 4. As president of the Thursday Morning Club, Joan made a \$2,500 donation to Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation. The state had cut back and SBFT was in a financial crisis.



A Message from the Friends of the West Stockbridge Library:

Due to the uncertainty surrounding COVID 19, we have decided not to hold our annual book sale this summer. We additionally regret that *no books* can be dropped off at the library until further notice. In the coming months, we will reevaluate the situation and advise you of any changes.

Thank you for understanding.

Parks & Recreation Board Notice on Closures

Hello Everyone,

As we are sure you can imagine, the West Stockbridge Parks and Rec has had to tap the brakes due to the current state of events with COVID-19. Social distancing recommendations and state mandates have meant we have to hit the pause button for now.

You may have noticed that all of the town parks and Card Pond have yellow caution tape around the entrances. All town parks and recreation areas are considered closed until the state lets us know otherwise. We ask that everyone please respect these closures and stay out of these areas for your own and the rest of our town's safety. We all hope that these closures will be as short as possible.

In the meantime, Curt Wilton and Public Works are still hard at work maintaining our town grounds and keeping our landscape looking good for when we are able to enjoy these places again.

We are still having our monthly meetings and talking about our new town playground and other projects. We have moved our meetings online, and information on our meetings will always be available on the town website. Suggestions, concerns, and questions can always be sent to us by e-mail as well at weststockbridgeparks@gmail.com.

We all hope that everyone is weathering the effects of the virus and staying healthy during this strange time.

Stay safe,

Joseph P. Roy and the West Stockbridge Parks & Recreation Board

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Thank you so much to our **Queensboro Wine & Spirits** customers for continuing to adhere to the CDC recommended Physical Distance Policy.

We are grateful that shoppers also follow the one-shopper-per-household request. This will increase the safety of all that enter the store.

For up to date Covid-19 guidance please refer to [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

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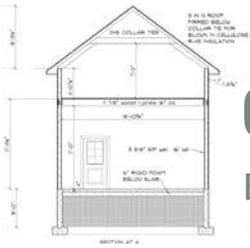
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On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky

'Tis the Season to Be Stir-Crazy

T.S. Eliot says, “April is the cruellest month,” and in my world, I understand this to mean that even though we’re technically in spring, the promise of warm weather and flowers is held just beyond reach until we get through the rains and snows of April. *This* April, though, is made all the more frustrating because most of us are hunkered down in our homes waiting for COVID-19 to pass by. Bulbs may be showing themselves in the yard, but we need to protect ourselves and our neighbors by laying low for another stretch of time.

On the occasional day when it’s been nice enough to work outside, I started building our raised bed garden. It consists of four boxes $48 \times 48 \times 6$ -inches high surrounded by a fence to keep the wild kingdom from decimating our veggies. I used pressure-treated lumber for durability and cost. But to keep the nasty chemicals from leaching into the food we’ll be eating, I lined the boxes with aluminum flashing.

One of the boxes has a removable cold frame made from aluminum storm window sashes I salvaged from a job a while back. And between the boxes I’m laying decking material to keep the grass and weeds down. For years, we have been getting guidance from Mel Bartholomew’s book *Square Foot Gardening* that has great ideas to maximize production and minimize the area and maintenance required. We used this technique in our old larger garden in our former house. We’re hoping the nice folks who bought the old place will enjoy the garden we put in.



Raised bed garden in progress. Photo courtesy of Thom Lipiczky

We’re also selectively pulling out some of the invasive plants that have taken over a good part of our woodland border. Mass Audubon has a helpful list of plants that threaten native species. Honeysuckle in particular is a very successful species that chokes out other plants. But we’re leaving large sections of it in place as a great bird sanctuary. In place of the honeysuckle and buckthorn, we’re sowing a native wildflower mix that provides nourishment for pollinators like bees, butterflies, and so forth. Less grass, more wildflowers!

I’ve also been using this time of physical isolation to hone my skills in the shop. I made a number of pieces for the Berkshire Woodworkers Guild furniture show at the Berkshire Botanical Gardens in Stockbridge in July. Alas, the show has been canceled for the year, so now I’ll have to put an addition on the new house to store all the stuff I’ve been building! I’ve switched to making smaller pieces that still provide some challenges in design and execution.

I’ve also been very aware of how fortunate we and our family are compared with many who are sick, in financial jeopardy, or on the front lines as medical personnel or grocery store clerks. The pandemic has made it clear that we are all truly interdependent.

I’m hoping my regular readers—both of you—are safe, healthy, and keeping out of mischief and harm’s way. Questions, comments, and rants can be sent to info@localyokel.org.

The Community Health Association of Richmond and West Stockbridge
Invites you to join us for a dinner and lecture with
Lea Finck, RD, LDN, CNSC

“What Kind of Diet Should I Follow?”

This lecture will highlight current nutrition

Cancelled due to coronavirus health emergency

...ing the lecture only
When: Thursday, May 21, 5-7 p.m.

This event may be postponed due to the COVID-19 situation. Please check our website or call 232-0122 for details.

History Quiz Answer:

West Stockbridge in May 1920 was emerging out of the troubled times of the past few years. The soldiers of the Great War had returned home. Of the 49 from West Stockbridge who served, only three were injured, and only one, our town doctor, died of influenza. He died in an army camp in the United States, not overseas. We had remarkable luck because many of our surrounding towns lost sons to war and disease.

West Stockbridge was still a small rural farming and mineral community. Population was at 1,058, a decline of 15% from 1910. Then, the iron mines, quarries, and lime kilns were at full production. One change since the Great War was that Italian immigration had picked up. The makeup of the population had shifted from settled Irish immigrants to Italian newcomers. In the 1920 census, many Italians were listed as working in the lime quarries or iron mines, or for the Richmond Iron Furnace.

Farming was still the main industry in town, but the modern world was starting to have an impact. The superintendent of schools noted complaints that “the schools were educating our boys and girls away from the farm, rather than toward it.” To correct that, each teacher was supplied with a copy of “Farm Arithmetic, Replete with Practical Farm Problems,” and “Progressive Mental Arithmetic” that was touted as a “handbook of agricultural information.”

Like today, roads were a major concern, a big part of the town budget. We had no paved roads. At best, oil and stone was put down to protect them and control the dust. Every year in the spring, roads were scraped and graded to restore them to a level of passable by a horse and carriage. One big issue was where to store the equipment. The precious scrapers were either kept outside or in space rented in the marble mill building on Main Street, and particularly West Center suffered. Also, West Center Road had major rocks that interfered with the grading operation. It was suggested that a “box of dynamite would greatly improve its condition.”

The larger issue was an increased amount of travel on our roads with those pesky new devices, that is, automobiles. Horses are easier on dirt roads than car tires. Those new vehicles coming through town were causing more damage to our dirt roads. We had our first car repair place. “Auto Service by C. Dunn by hour or day, Phone West Stockbridge 2-3” read the advertisement in the *Berkshire Eagle*. (Car repair was so new it was not listed as a category in the Business Directory of Berkshire County in 1920.)

We also were lucky with the influenza pandemic. Looking at the vital records, most of the deaths were either older residents or the very young (newborns). For the years 1918 through 1921, there were very few deaths in the 15 to 30 age group compared with those over 70. That pandemic targeted the younger population, which had a much higher incidence and death rate. Our rural isolation, and most likely bad roads, helped protect us from the virus. Unfortunately, they did not isolate us from the Great Depression, which started only nine years later.



Main Street, West Stockbridge, ca. 1920. Photo courtesy of Bob Salerno.

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.

Yes! I want to support the *Local Yokel*.
Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____
made payable to WSLY.

Name (as you want it to appear in acknowledgments)

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

City State Zip

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Check any that apply:

- I would like my contribution to remain anonymous.
- Thanks, but don't mail the *Local Yokel* to me. Save the postage; I'll pick it up myself.
- Yes, please do send me a YKL Bumper Sticker for my donation of \$35 or more.

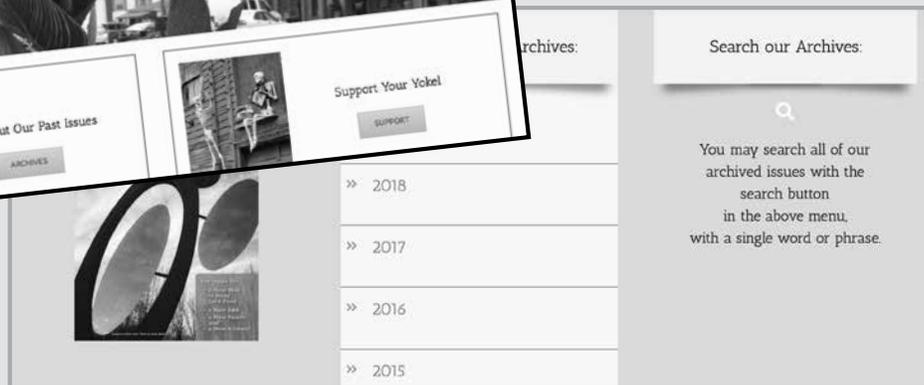


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The *Local Yokel* meets the 21st Century!

Visit our website for past issues, plus information about how to support your West Stockbridge community newsletter, submit material for publication, advertise, contact us, and more!



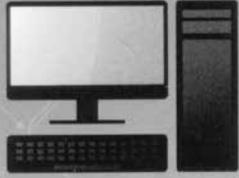
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The town has announced the closure of the Town Offices until further notice.

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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

May Art Calendar

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

2020

Update from the Guild of Berkshire Artists

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

For new and modified online opportunities or updates as they become available, please check our website, Facebooks groups, and Instagram pages listed below.

Website:

www.berkshireartists.org

Public Facebook Group for plein air:

["Berkshire Plein Air"](#)

Members' Facebook Group:

["Guild of Berkshire Artists"](#)

Guild of Berkshire Artists Instagram:

[@guildofberkshireartists](#)

Public Facebook Group:

["Art in the Berkshires"](#)

Creating Art Outdoors Instagram:

[@creatingartoutdoors](#)

As the weather warms, also keep an eye out as we work on a plan to safely hold a modified version of our summer outdoor art program, Berkshire Plein Air: Creating Art Outdoors. The Guild of Berkshire Artists encourages you to follow all social distancing guidelines if you choose to take your art practice outside.

Thank you and stay creative!



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.



2020 U.S. CENSUS

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
1-833-MA1-2020 (1-833-621-2020)
ma2020census@sec.state.ma.us

Scan to read more
on how census
affects your
community.



Gone Fishin'

Mike Kusmin tries his luck fishing
at the Shaker Mill Pond.



West Stockbridge
Local Yokel
 P.O. Box 238
 West Stockbridge, MA
 01266

thelocalyokel.org



May 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						

May 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.

5/10				Mother's Day			
5/11		Parks & Recreation Committee meeting		5:30 p.m.		Online meeting; see agenda on town website for details	
5/13		Select Board meeting		6 p.m.		By conference call; see agenda on town website for details	
5/15		*** Deadline for the next Local Yokel ***				Send to info@thelocalyokel.org	
5/19		Vision Committee meeting		6 p.m.		Online meeting; see agenda on town website for details	
5/21		Annual Town Caucus		7 p.m.		Town Offices	
5/23		Eid al-Fitr (begins at sundown)					
5/25		Memorial Day					
5/27		Select Board meeting		6 p.m.		By conference call; see agenda on town website for details	
5/28		Shavuot (begins at sundown)					
5/28		Farmers Market Opening Day		3-6 p.m.		The Foundry Green, Harris Street	