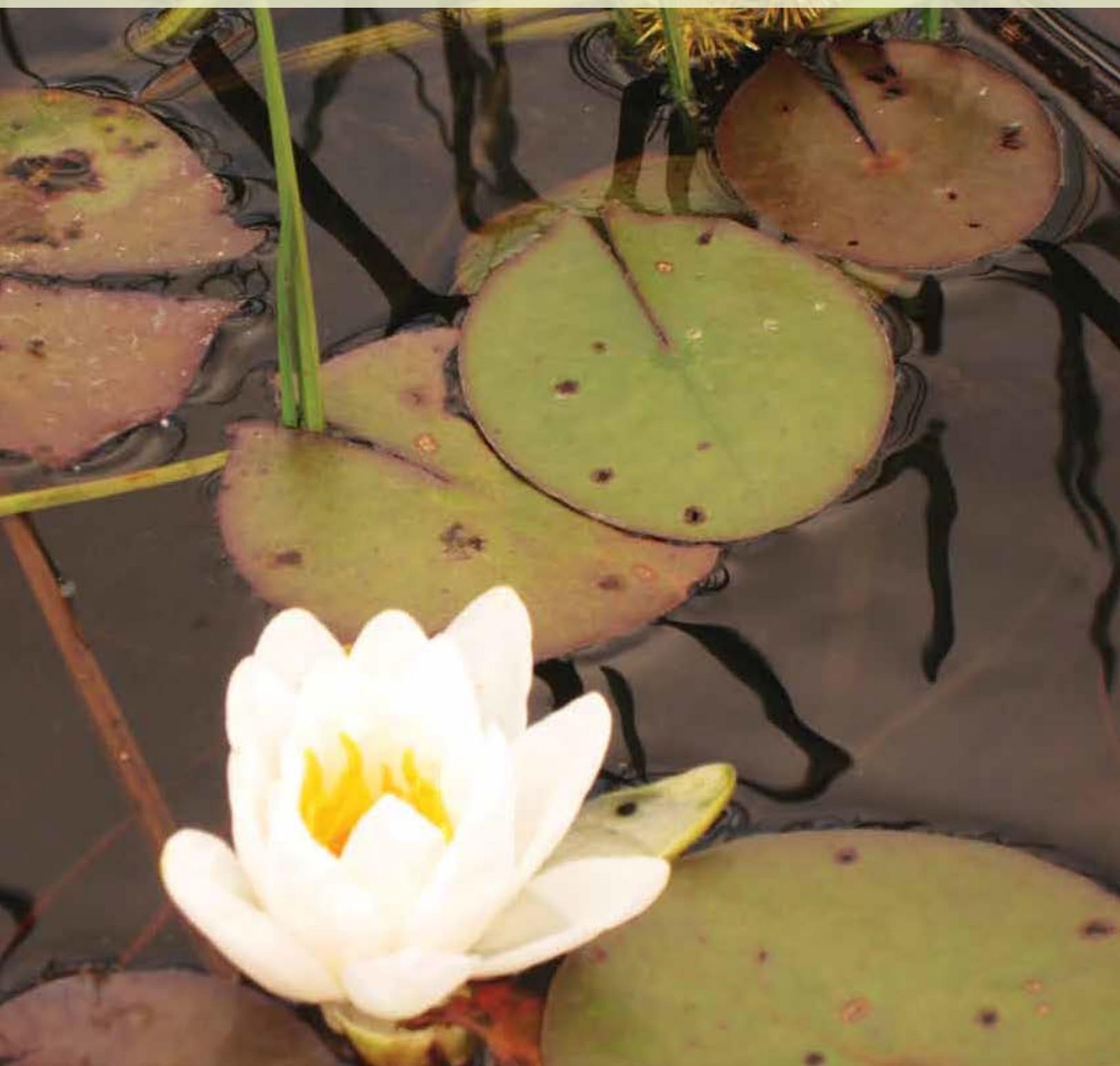


Local yokel

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

West
Stockbridge
September 2017

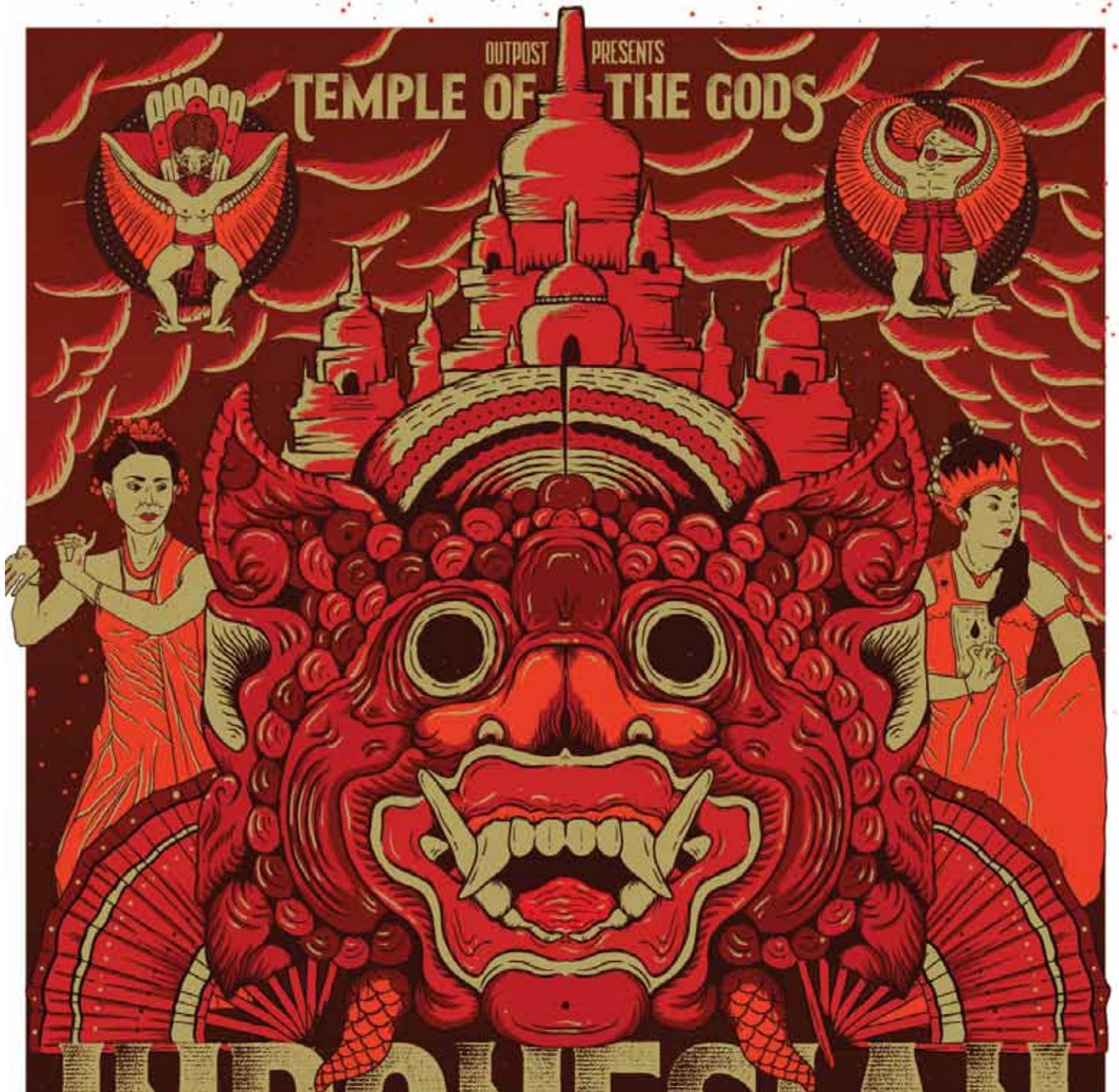


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Fragrant Water Lily at Flat Brook Wildlife Management Area. Photo by John Parker

OUTPOST PRESENTS

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Board of Selectmen Meeting Summaries

By Doane Perry

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

Open Meeting: July 24, 2017

Curt Wilton was absent. Peter Skorput chaired the meeting.

Police Chief Agreement

The selectmen signed the agreement with police chief Marc Portieri based on executive session discussions.

Spectrum/Charter

Mark Webber discussed inviting Spectrum representative Anna Lucey to a Board of Selectmen's meeting. MBI is transferring funds to pay for the last 10% of installation.

Cable Commission

Richard Squailia reported that the commission has met twice and elected him chair. He described the commission's responsibilities including programming and operations based on a blending of a document from Mark with input from the three commissioners.

Josh Billings Triathlon

Organizers of the Josh Billings race sent the selectmen a letter requesting approval for the race to pass through town on Sunday, September 17. The selectmen took the request under advisement.

Marijuana Dispensary

David Carls, coauthor of a letter sent to town residents, spoke to the selectmen about the proposal to operate a marijuana dispensary in West

Stockbridge. He commented that the situation has changed since Great Barrington approved sales through a dispensary and that West Stockbridge does not need a dispensary. There were comments on the law being unclear about how to interpret the referendum.

Bylaw Codification

Mark reported that codification firm General Code will meet with him July 27 and make a proposal.

Shared Services

Richmond and West Stockbridge selectmen and administrators will meet on September 13 to discuss sharing services.

Williams River Trail

Mark reported that town counsel responded favorably to the walking trail proposed by the Friends of the Williams River Trail and suggested contacting National Grid.

Town Website

Bernie Fallon commented that the town's website doesn't match the town's identity and vision. He wants each town department to review content and provide fully accurate information.

A member of the audience suggested that all of the programming on cable channel 2 could be online. Richard Squailia said he has been video recording meetings for three years, and all of it could be made available online.

...continued on page 5



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It Took a Village to Find Me!

By Lois Ferguson

My name is Hedy Lamar. I'm a three-year-old rescue dog from Tennessee. My new owner, Lois, adopted me two weeks ago, so I am very new to this area. And very curious!

Around 9 a.m. on August 13, 2017, I ran out of my yard. Although many people tried to catch me, I was afraid and kept on running. Eventually I found an old building with just enough of an opening for me to slip through to hide inside and be safe.

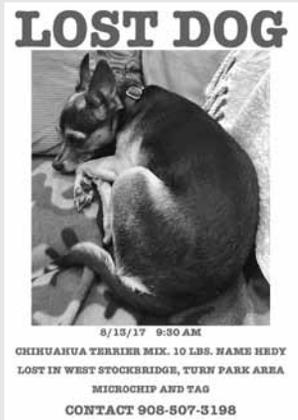


Photo by Roland Dudney

I could hear people calling me but didn't know who they were, so I stayed put.

Eventually, someone put some food through my little opening, which was a very good thing to do because I was not only very frightened, I was also very hungry. So I ate the

food and then ran back to the farthest darkest corner.

Many hours passed as my new friends tried to figure out a way to unlock the door that was bolted shut. I did not like being alone and in the dark. Then someone pushed open the heavy door and found me huddled in the corner. Lo and behold, it was Lois, my very best friend, and Mary. By now it was early evening, but they hadn't given up on me. I was rescued again!

Now that I am safely and happily back in my forever home, my new mom and I would like to thank the many people in the village of West Stockbridge who went out of their way to search for me and express their concern. We couldn't have done it without you all!

Thanks to:

- Lyn and her friend who initially tried to catch me
- Linda, who put together the game plan
- Santi and the West Stockbridge police who kept their eyes open for me and the search crew updated
- John of animal control
- Roland, who printed up the beautiful posters
- The Fagioni family, on their bikes
- Dimitri for scouring Turn Park and all its potential hiding places
- Bee and Bob
- Harry, the handsome canine-tracking Scotty, who sensed I was in the building
- Mary, who one last time went back to the building

It was quite an adventure for me, but now I know I am safe in my forever home. I will try to be on my best behavior from now on!

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Citizens Speak

- A citizen suggested addressing speeding on Main Street by getting officers down there and photographing license plates.
- Bernie reported that the candidate to clean the public restrooms is no longer available. Bernie has cleaned the bathrooms twice and plans to donate any wages to a town organization.

Open Meeting: July 31, 2017

Chief of Police Update

Chief Marc Portieri reported that officers not yet trained in the use of Tasers will be trained in August. Drug paraphernalia was found on Baker Street and also by the public bathrooms. A new four-hour foot patrol shift on Main Street is focusing on parking. On Lenox Road, radar is being used and warnings given. Some early morning drivers are going 60 mph. There is also early morning speeding on Main Street. Officers have been instructed to visit neighborhoods.

Curt Wilton added that the Highway Department is cleaning up crosswalk signs. Curt asked for police attention to vehicles stopping for school buses when schools open in late August.

Town Website

The selectmen thanked Bill Biggs for working on the town website. A memo has been sent to town departments asking for their input and to revisit their department's information including links, some of which go nowhere. Some department staff reported they don't know how to do it.

Recreational Marijuana

The Board of Selectmen voted 3-0 in favor of Curt's motion to start the moratorium process. Curt said that receipt of two letters and two e-mails about marijuana since the *Local Yokel* reported last month on the discussion in the Board of Selectmen meeting indicates a need for more public input. Peter Skorput spoke in favor of a moratorium to give the town breathing room as well as for an open meeting to give residents a chance to express their opinions. Peter said he has been asking residents and most are opposed. The selectmen asked town counsel for updates and sent the zoning bylaw matter to the Planning Board.

Maintaining Town Bathrooms

Because the planned cleaners decided not to take the job, Bernie Fallon has cleaned the public restrooms three consecutive weekends so far, with approval from Mark Webber. Bernie will donate his wages. Curt said, "God bless you." Bernie noted that Wayne Cooper does a nice job during the week.

Curbs

In a discussion of the sharp curb at Swamp and Main, Curt said he would not modify the curb due to the town's liability if cars can get onto the sidewalk. Evie Kerswell commented that the problem is drivers coming south on Swamp Road who do not stay near the stop sign and force cars going onto Swamp Road to swing wide and encounter the sharp curb. Curt said that moving the Swamp Road stop sign back 4 feet was done.

Green Committee

Judy Eddy asked about starting a town Green Committee. Mark answered

that the town moderator appoints a Green Committee at a town meeting or special town meeting. West Stockbridge qualifies, but the deadline is September 1.

Other Business:

- Card Pond will be treated for aquatic weeds on August 7.
- Town counsel advised the town that it can reduce speed limits in thickly settled areas, as well as other areas, without permission from Mass Highway.

Open Meeting: August 7, 2017

Route 41 Paving Project Bid Opening

One bid was received for reclamation (removing and recycling) from the Gorman Group for \$6.75 per square yard. Three bids were received for resurfacing: Lane Construction for \$65.85 per ton in place, Delsignore for \$69.00 per ton in place, and Maxymillian for \$73.65 per ton in place. The selectmen took the bids under advisement and will award the contracts at their next meeting.

Zoning Bylaw Amendment

The selectmen voted to refer the zoning bylaw amendment to the Planning Board Bylaw Committee for scheduling a public hearing per Sections 68 and 69.

Tree Removal

Curt Wilton suggested that the Highway Department remove trees that may be weakening stone walls by the Old Town Hall and by the Farmers Market. The trees may be destabilizing the walls.

Other Business:

- The selectmen approved the Artists' Guild's request for a one-day liquor license on August 26.
- Town Counsel Bill Hewett is contacting National Grid about the proposed Williams River Trail. There is no action, but a Mr. Reubens has expressed opposition.
- Chief Peter Skorput reported on Fire Department training, calls, equipment, and membership.

Spectrum/Charter

The selectmen discussed how to handle the waiting game as Spectrum completes build-out of the town's cable system. The town has a so-called gentleman's agreement but no written contract with Spectrum. Tom Cohan, the town's previous contact with Spectrum, has gone. The contract for the Massachusetts Broadband Institute to pay for the last 10% of the system is a separate agreement. Mark Webber said that town counsel has spoken with Spectrum managers.

Cable Commissioner Richard Squailia reported that he heard from Spectrum representative Anna Lucey that they are working on licenses with Verizon (owner of the poles) to pull the lines. Mark commented that licenses are needed to go underground. Richard recommended contacting Smitty Pignatelli. Bernie Fallon said, "Stay on it." Curt Wilton said such slight momentum is frustrating because it is August and the clock is ticking.

...continued on page 6



The *Local Yokel* is published monthly. Please send submissions to: the *Local Yokel*, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266 or info@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, 232-8577, anne@annelessercommunications.com. Contributor: Doane Perry, 617-547-1413, doaneperry@yahoo.com; Design: 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.

Open Meeting: August 21, 2017

Spectrum/Charter

Curt Wilton said progress is being made on installing trunk line fiber and drops to houses. It has been in the works although town officials didn't know it, with Samantha Lane now completed and West Alford Road next.

Bernie Fallon suggested preparing for the meeting with Spectrum representative Anna Lucey. Curt said the meeting should be friendly while based on the assumption of the verbal agreement to complete installation before the end of the year. Curt said he plans to raise the issue of service to Cable Commissioner Doane Perry's home. Curt recalled that he has had experience with Spectrum when the company cut off his service after two bills to him went unpaid. Spectrum restored Curt's service right away after he paid the bills. Cable Commissioner Bill Barth said he would like to develop an efficient interface for reporting and addressing issues such as service requested and provided and satisfaction achieved.

Rent Control Board

Mark Webber reported that the Gennaris, owners of the trailer park, have withdrawn their petition for a hearing but reserve their right to petition at another date. Evie Kerswell announced that the tenants are withdrawing their petition without prejudice. Because both the tenants and the owners have withdrawn their petitions, it is as if nothing happened.

From the audience Nancy Hale thanked and praised the Board of Selectmen, acting as the Rent Control Board, for doing a wonderful job of supporting the tenants while trying to get the owners a fair return. Nancy said she hopes the Gennaris can succeed. Another audience member commented that the park still has an active water leak. Peter Skorput said the problem is with metering and being worked on. Curt said he would follow up with park manager Liza Gennari.

Codification Update

Mark recalled that funding the town bylaw codification project by General Code was approved at town meeting and reported that the company's representative came and presented a contract that was executed on

August 4. Mark said the project is underway but will not be completed quickly because it includes the 1856 general bylaws, zoning bylaws, wetland bylaws, and cemetery bylaws.

Marijuana Moratorium

Mark reported that the Board of Selectmen voted to refer the marijuana dispensary matter to the Planning Board, that town counsel has added some updates, and the Planning Board is working on it.

Speed Warning Signs

Curt reported that the Highway Department has placed speed warning signs in two locations: on Main Street and Lenox Road. The signs must be placed on a straightaway, are solar powered with four days of battery backup, and cost \$3,500 each. The top display shows a vehicle's actual speed; the bottom display shows the local speed limit.

The Main Street sign is on the "wrong" side of the road, but it gets attention with a white flashing strobe light if a driver is approaching at more than the 25 mph speed limit. The police chief has witnessed drivers' brake lights coming on in response to the sign. The Lenox Road sign is on a straightaway where the speed limit is 35 mph and a 25 mph speed limit zone is ahead.

Curt said he has received one complaint about the Main Street speed sign keeping people up at night. Bernie said the people he knows are right next door to the sign and very happy about it, lights and all. Bernie asked about moving the signs in the future, to which Curt answered that each sign requires a 4-foot-deep foundation.

Colonial Power

Mark reported that West Stockbridge is auto-enrolled in an 11-town consortium starting November 1 for 36 months to receive 100% green power from hydrogeneration in New York and Maine at the rate of 10.4 cents per kilowatt, down from 10.9 cents. Mark said net metering does not apply. Curt pointed out that the full cost to customers includes six to seven other charges that are "huge." He said it is an issue that Representative Smitty Pignatelli has been working on "forever."

...continued on page 7

September History Quiz Question:

From the late 1700s through 1900, the West Stockbridge economy was based on three minerals: marble, lime, and iron (iron ore is actually the minerals hematite, siderite, limonite, or goethite). Our local geology had these three minerals in abundance, they were relatively easy to extract, and consequently, their impact on town growth was significant.

The West Stockbridge population started as a few hundred in 1790 to well over 1,900 in 1880 (our current population has stabilized around 1,300). French Canadian, Irish, and Italian immigrants came here to work in these industries. By the mid-1800s, our town's identity was established as an industrial quarrying/mining town, very different from others around it like Stockbridge, Lenox, or Great Barrington. The town center had many industrial plants (spewing smoke and fumes, no doubt) with a railroad primarily to move these minerals to the Hudson and beyond. The 19th century was a bustling, Dickensian environment.

Of the three minerals, marble, lime, and iron, which one had the largest, longest, and most significant impact on our town?

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.

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)



**West Stockbridge
Historical Society**
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National Grid Property Sale

Mark reported that National Grid will allow the town to purchase 1.75 acres for \$8,000 including the parking, public restrooms, pump station, and driveways along Moscow Road. National Grid has a reputation for never selling property. The sale solves a number of problems for the town. Mark said the change came about when a government relations manager for National Grid noticed how many West Stockbridge town facilities and functions use the property.

Pixley Hill Road Confusion

Bernie reported ambulances are having difficulty finding a particular address on Pixley Hill Road. This is an ongoing issue for residents of Dugway and Pixley Hill Roads. Bernie will get an exact address. Peter Skorpup recommended consulting with the phone company for lists of town telephone numbers and addresses.

Road and Highway Issues

- Curt said he would look into improving the crosswalk at Routes 41 and 102 with Mass Highway.
- In response to a member of the audience, Curt said he would look into improving signage for drivers coming from Oak Street to the bridge with the aim of slowing drivers down before they get to the bridge.

- A resident inquired about how to protect cars backing out from parking in the downtown.
- Bernie and Curt discussed the new yellow stripes on the Swamp Road at Main Street curb that has reportedly resulted in fewer popped tires. Curt said the stripes are better at showing that the corner is not flat than the solid yellow was.

Other Business:

- The selectmen accepted the low bidders for the Route 41 repaving project (see August 7 summary).
- The selectmen approved requests to use the Town Offices facilities by Karen Carmean for the Artists' Guild positive critique and other meetings, and by Ellen DuPont for the Berkshire Hills Youth Soccer Club.
- Bernie reported he heard about a smoke detector scam from Mary Korte. The selectmen advised that people report scams to the police.
- The Board of Selectmen approved a one-day liquor license request from Turn Park Art Space for September 9. □

Please send your Birthdays & Anniversaries to the Local Yokel.

We are happy to include them in the next issue.

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



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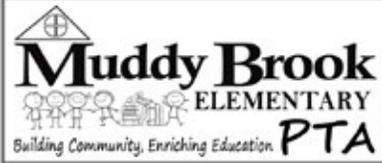
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Muddy Brook Elementary is an excellent school with talented, caring staff, enthusiastic students, and involved parents. The PTA is a volunteer group dedicated to supporting the school and enhancing the quality of the educational experience for all students. We hope to build a stronger community by hosting events and activities that encourage family involvement and fundraising events for field trips, supplemental services, equipment, and supplies.

Rewards for Muddy Brook

Clip and save Box Tops Coupons from more than 330 participating products including Annie's, Nature Valley, Cheerios, Cascadian Farms, Ziploc, Lysol, and more. Each coupon is worth 10 cents when redeemed. Last year we earned over \$1,500 in box tops alone! Mail box tops to Muddy Brook Regional Elementary School PTA, 318 Monument Valley Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

Our Annual Online Auction is coming up soon!

We are accepting donations for our annual fundraiser, the Muddy Brook Online Auction. Business owners and individuals are invited to donate tax-deductible items: services, gift certificates, classes, food, clothing, artwork, home furnishings, and more. This is our largest fundraiser of the year with the money generated directly supporting enrichment opportunities for our students including class field trips and a variety of music, theater, movement, creative writing, science, and nature programs, as well as community-building events for families and classroom support for teachers. Contact muddybrookpta@gmail.com to donate or for more information.

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

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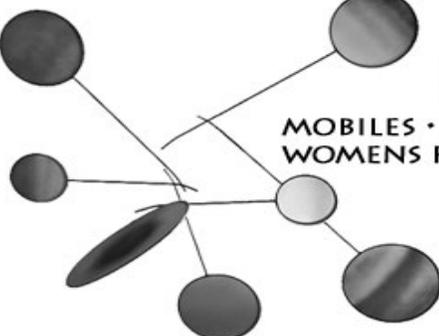
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Collector's Notes

By June A. Biggs, Town Collector

Note to All Water/Sewer Customers

Due to vacation schedules for both the collector and meter reader, meters that should have been read in mid-July were read in mid-June, and bills were issued for a two-month period instead of the usual three-month cycle. Those bills were due on August 21. If you noticed that your bill was slightly lower, that was the reason.

When we return to the normal schedule and meters are read in October, that reading will record usage from June 19 to early October, a four-month period, and your bill, which will be due in November, will be higher than usual. The total of the two cycles, however, should be approximately the same as for the same two periods last year.

Real Estate and Personal Property Bills

During the last billing cycle, an unusual number of people lost or misplaced their real estate and personal property bills and did not know what was due. A simple solution to this dilemma is to go to the town's website, www.weststockbridge-ma.gov, and use the "Pay Real Estate, Personal Property, and Current Excise" tab at the lower right side of the main screen. Once you have connected to Unipay, select the type of bill on the left side of the screen. Since you don't know the bill number, use the search feature "Need help finding your bill?" and it will locate your number by the name on your bill.

If your real estate is in a trust or LLC, you must type the name of the trust or trustee depending on what would normally appear in the first line on your bill. For example, if John Jones owns property as ABC Trust, he must search under ABC Trust not John or Jones. You need not proceed to make a payment, even though this is the simplest way to ensure a timely payment. The Unipay site will provide your bill number and amount due, and you may remit the correct payment without a stub. Please be sure to memo both the bill number and bill type on the check.

Those who use their own bank, instead of Unibank, need to be diligent in providing a clear memo when making a payment. Other banks cut physical checks that can be difficult to apply without clear directions.



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Savor the Season!

Is it really possible that summer is almost behind us!? It's good to know that there are still some wonderful afternoons ahead at the WFSM.

The month starts off with a bang with the Everything Apple Market on September 7. Always popular, it's time to celebrate the season and ease into autumn.

Air-dunk apples, enjoy cider, join in the games, and sample wonderful apple treats. There may even be a caramel apple in your future!

And don't forget the amazing produce and products available at the market—beautiful vegetables and fruit, just-baked breads, pastries and cookies, amazing seasonings, jams, and marinades, mouth-watering entrée treats—all joined by talented crafters offering jewelry, knit goods, baskets, glassworks, linens, and more. When you've decided on dinner, start thinking holiday shopping!

Hotshot Hillbillies, Reinhardt-Ciccarelli, Linda Worster, and Don McGrory will be performing to keep things upbeat and lively.

So wander down to the green! Greet your neighbors, and sit a spell to enjoy the music. But be ready for a few surprises. There's always something happening at the market—expect the unexpected.

Don't miss it!



Top: Enjoy it while you can.

Above: Walking Tall at the WFSM.

Far Left: Selectman Peter Skorput Celebrates The Year of the Rooster at the WFSM.

Left: Selectman Bernie Fallon Celebrates The Year of the Rooster at the WFSM.

Photos by Roland Dudney

OCTOBER FLU CLINIC SCHEDULE 2017

The Community Health Association of Richmond and West Stockbridge is offering free flu shots for eligible residents older than age 19 in both communities. For information about influenza, visit the website of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov/flu.

COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSOCIATION WEST STOCKBRIDGE OFFICE

Mondays and Wednesdays, 9–10 a.m., except major holidays

WEST STOCKBRIDGE TOWN HALL COMMUNITY ROOM

Tuesday, October 3, noon–2 p.m., and Tuesday, October 24, 5–7 p.m.

RICHMOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Every Thursday: 9–10 a.m. (except major holidays), Friday, October 6, noon–2 p.m., and Wednesday, October 18, 5–7 p.m.

RICHMOND LIBRARY

Tuesday, October 17, 5–7 p.m.

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

Community Health Association of Richmond and West Stockbridge
21 State Line Rd., PO Box 368, West Stockbridge, MA 01266, 232-0122/Emilie@charws.com

<p>WANDERING JEWS WONDERING JEWS CULTURAL JEWS MIXED-MARRIAGE JEWS MIXED-UP JEWS NON-JEWS LGBT JEWS CREATIVE JEWS PASSIONATE JEWS POLITICAL JEWS וְעַל כֵּן POLITICAL JEWS YIDDISH-SPEAKING JEWS INTELLECTUAL JEWS SEARCHING JEWS OBSERVANT JEWS ARTISTIC JEWS AGNOSTIC JEWS HIGH-HOLY-DAY JEWS SPIRITUAL JEWS "I HAVEN'T BEEN IN SHUL SINCE MY BAR-MITZVAH" JEWS</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">NEW YEAR</h2> <p>Wed. Sept. 20 Erev Rosh Hashanah 7:00 p.m. Thurs. Sept. 21 Rosh Hashanah 10:00 a.m. followed by Tashlich Fri. Sept. 22 Rosh Hashanah 10:00 a.m.</p> <h2 style="text-align: center;">NEW MOON</h2> <p>Fri. Sept. 29 Erev Yom Kippur / Kol Nidre Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Doors will be closed during chanting of Kol Nidre at 7:00 p.m. Sat. Sept. 30 Yom Kippur, 10:00 a.m., with Yizkor Neilah, 5:00 p.m., followed by Break Fast</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">THE HIGH HOLY DAYS AT CAS are a chance for self-examination, meditation and spiritual renewal. Poetry mixed with prayer. Thoughtful essays, interpretations and shared wisdom. All in a welcoming environment. Services are held at Berkshire South, Crissey Rd., GB See our website for reservation information.</p> </div>
 <p style="text-align: center;">RECONSTRUCTIONIST CONGREGATION AHAVATH SHOLOM <i>The creative spirit dwells here</i></p> <p>ahavathsholom.com North St., Geat Barrington 413-528-4197 info@ahavathsholom.com</p>	



BALDWIN HARDWARE

Depot Street
West Stockbridge, MA 01266

Henry Baldwin

(413) 232-7757

Berkshire Pottery Tour September 23 & 24 10am - 5pm



www.berkshirepotterytour.com

Fallin' in Love



An evening of song with the
Berkshire Hills Chorus

a chapter of Sweet Adelines International

2015 Region 1 Division A Champions

2016 2nd place, 2017 3rd place



West Stockbridge Historical Society

Old Town Hall 9 Main St West Stockbridge, MA

Friday September 8, 2017, 6:30 PM

Reception to Follow Suggested donation \$15 at door



Poet's Corner

Do you live or work in West Stockbridge and love poetry? Karen Carmean and Mary Howard will be considering original poems for publication in our latest feature, the Poet's Corner.

If you know other poets, please pass the word along. Kids are also invited to participate. Adults, please encourage any budding poets you know! Poetry can offer a sense of wonder, joy, surprise, and a new way of looking at the world. All topics and styles by West Stockbridge poets of any age are welcome!

Please send submissions to info@thelocalyokel.org.

Masiero's Store, West Stockbridge, was a family business, first run by Mamma Masiero, then by her daughter Aggie. When I was a child (b. 1948), I lived in the Old Stone Mill on Main Street. Once a week, my mother, Natalie Howard, gave me 25 cents to spend on candy. I would walk up the sidewalk to Mamma's store. Later, Aggie took over the store, and that's when this poem was written.

Aggie's Store, 1970

I went to the post office.
I got what I hoped was a love letter.
I went to Aggie's where
I used to buy chocolate bars and
now I buy tears because
the letter was good-bye.

Aggie's store has:

- balloons
- pencils
- flour
- cigarettes
- Sara Lee coffee cakes
- fireballs
- Coca-Cola
- Hood's ice cream
- Johnson's baby powder
- plastic engagement rings
- free advice.

Aggie's advice:

Two years is nothin', when you've been married
thirty-seven years, then you'll know to stick to
chocolate bars.

I bought a Milky Way.
I smiled and left.

Mary M. Howard

Housatonic Heritage Walks in the Berkshires



WEST STOCKBRIDGE

19th CENTURY INDUSTRIES & LIME KILNS

Saturday Sept. 16. 2017

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Join Barbara Dowling & Robert Salerno of the West Stockbridge Historical Society as they investigate early industries in the center of town, particularly the iron works, lime quarry, lime kilns and blast furnaces that defined it.

1-1/2 hours, 0.5 mile. To register—wshistorybd@gmail.com or 413-232-5055

Walk will begin at the West Stockbridge public parking lot on Moscow Rd., across from the Post Office. Take Rt 102 to West Stockbridge. If arriving from the south, turn left on Center St. – parking area is one block further, on the left. If arriving from the west/north, turn right on Depot Street (just before the bridge) – parking area is one block further. GPS 42.333607, -73.368700

Free and open to the public. Reception to follow at the Old Town Hall.

Visitor Information Booth *Relocated and Revitalized*

By Edward Merritt



The Visitor Information Booth at its new location on Harris Street. Photo by Ed Merritt

new railings, a paved sidewalk, landscaping, and handicapped accessibility. A custom sign, featuring an artist's rendering of the town, mountain, and Williams River bridge, will hang on the side of the building facing Center Street. The remodeling of the 225-square-foot building is a small yet important move toward revitalizing the town and creating a more informed awareness of the incredible artists, restaurants, cafés, galleries, businesses, and services West Stockbridge has to offer.

Once completed, the Visitor Information Booth will offer traditional arts, culture, and business brochures as well as an interactive touch-screen resource where visitors can learn more about select West Stockbridge attractions.



Ed, Sam, and Eli Merritt at work on the booth. Photo by Doane Perry

The project has sparked positive feedback and encouragement from the local community including business owners, residents and nonresidents, and town leaders. Like the Farmers Market, the intention of the Merritts is to highlight the existing love and cooperation of community members by creating opportunity and space for both new and established entities. The town's inclusive and collaborative philosophy is a unique characteristic central to its recent increase in visitors.

Future plans for the Visitor Information Booth include opportunities for artists and craftspeople to exhibit and promote their work on the porch and lawn area.

Ed Merritt has also designed a 9.5-foot-tall aluminum directional sign that will replace the current wooden sign on the corner of Harris Street and Moscow Road. The locally fabricated sign will indicate walkways to businesses as well as to town destinations including the post office, municipal parking, and public restrooms. The sign will be erected this fall.

The West Stockbridge Visitor Information Booth has been moved from its former location on Route 41 near the Shaker Mill Tavern Family Smoke House to a centralized pedestrian-friendly location at the intersection of Center and Harris Streets.

After recognizing the need for a community space for both locals and visitors to access information about regional arts, culture, and services, Ed Merritt, along with his sons Eli and Sam, and with the support of the West Stockbridge community, relocated the structure earlier in July. Ed, a sculptor and inventor, is the owner of the 0.8-acre property on Harris Street and the 3,600-square-foot building containing his personal sculpture studio as well as the Diana Felber Gallery. It was formerly the Berkshire Center for Contemporary Glass. The property also hosts the West Stockbridge Farmers Market and is now home to the Visitor Information Booth.

The structure has undergone a full renovation including a new roof, siding, floors, windows, and doors. The exterior features



Move in progress. Photo by Ed Merritt



WEST STOCKBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

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

Time to bid our summer season adieu. Many thanks to all who supported the Friends book sale last month and the Trustees ice cream sundae party scooped up by The Scoop. About 50 library supporters dropped by to admire our new entrance vestibule. Rest assured there is still plenty of warm fall weather to make use of our new bistro tables and very comfy chairs donated by the family and friends of Rose Balestro. Bring a coffee, plug in your laptop, and enjoy the view.

Congrats to our 2017 summer reading raffle winners:

- Two complimentary tickets to the Big E (thanks to the Western Mass Library Advocates and the Eastern States Exposition for donating these tickets): the Kramek family
- Family pass to the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art: the Dellea family
- FYI: Our summer LEGO Club was so popular that we will continue on Thursdays, 3–3:45, throughout the fall. Children ages 4 and up who like to build with LEGOS are invited to be creative with our library’s collection.

A reminder that we offer day passes to many seasonal places throughout the fall. Pick up a brochure and thank the Friends of the Library and the West Stockbridge Cultural Council for supporting this program.



Planning a fall road trip?

We’ve added lots of audiobooks to take along. Here are a few:

- Anbinder, *City of Dreams: The 400-Year Epic History of Immigrant New York*
- Carosella, *Daughter of a Thousand Years*
- Clavin, *Dodge City, Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson, and the Wickedest Town in the American West*
- De Rosnay, *The Paris Affair*
- Johnson, *The Most Dangerous Place on Earth*
- Stewart, *Lady Cop Makes Trouble*

FOR KIDS

- Bosch, *Bad Luck*
- Hale, *The Unbeatable Squirrel Girl: Squirrel Meets World*
- Jeter, *Change Up*
- Machale, *Curse of the Boggin*

New DVDs: *The Promise, The Exception*

Just for Kids: *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul, Guardians of the Galaxy 2*

FICTION

- Finder, *The Switch*
- Grafton, *Y is for Yesterday*
- Gunhus, *Resurrection American*
- Indridason, *Shadow District*
- Meloy, *Do Not Become Alarmed*
- Messud, *The Burning Girl*

FOR KIDS

Hackworth, *Bedtime for Buzzy*

YOUNG ADULTS (YA)

Pullman, *Adventures of John Blake: The Mystery of the Ghost Ship*

Ongoing

- If you don’t have a CW/MARS online account, use your West Stockbridge Library card to create one by going to weststockbridgelibrary.org and clicking on the card catalog picture. Use your account to keep track of checkouts, request items, set a pickup location, renew eligible items, and more.
- Library Trustees board meetings are open to the public. The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 12, 4:20 p.m., in the Community Room.

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

Lee Appelbaum and Jodi Magner



Friends of the West Stockbridge Library Cultural Passes

Featured Venues: Trustees of Reservations

The Trustees of Reservations owns and protects more than 100 special places in Massachusetts, comprising over 25,000 acres. The listings here are all in Berkshire County, but many more are located throughout the state. Visit their website, www.thetrustees.org, for information about each of the sites and properties.

Ashintully Gardens: Tyringham, Berkshires

Against the backdrop of a sheltering Berkshires valley, during summer and fall wander through an intimate environment of outdoor sculpture and elegant gardens nourished by a gurgling stream.

Ashley House: Sheffield, Berkshires

Learn about two very different people who fought for freedom and liberty—and changed our history.

Bartholomew's Cobble: Sheffield, Berkshires

Created by geologic upheavals a half-billion years ago, this 100-foot-high bedrock outcropping introduces visitors to a rugged and exotic landscape that also supports 800 species of plants while offering terrific mountain vistas.

Dry Hill: New Marlborough, Berkshires

Wander across more than 200 acres of forest and through a maze of thickets on a trail that traces a small brook and passes vernal pools and other wetlands.

Field Farm: Williamstown, Berkshires

From a pair of Modernist houses nestled against a hillside, you'll admire Mount Greylock rising across the valley. Follow trails past fields and marsh and wander through manicured gardens graced by sculptures. You can also stay at our Guest House on the property.

Goose Pond Reservation: Lee, Berkshires

Paddle across Lower Goose Pond, a mountain lake anchored by steep ridgelines that also support a remote section of the 2,100-mile Appalachian Trail.

McLennan Reservation: Tyringham & Otis, Berkshires

Venture into a rugged and remote tract of forested hills and wetlands at the edge of historic Tyringham Valley.

Mission House: Stockbridge, Berkshires

Journey back in time at this colonial-era house and museum, a National Historic Landmark that tells the story of the Stockbridge Mohicans and missionary John Sergeant.

Monument Mountain: Great Barrington, Berkshires

Ascend this popular peak that once drew 19th-century literary giants, and from its summit gaze across the spectacular landscapes of the Housatonic River Valley.

Mountain Meadow Preserve: Williamstown, Berkshires

Straddling the Massachusetts/Vermont border, this inviting mix of forest and field, wetland, and wildflower meadow draws both novice hikers and serious naturalists.

Naumkeag: Stockbridge, Berkshires

Experience Gilded Age style and splendor at this marvelous estate, renowned for its elegant gardens and rare Berkshire "cottage."

Notchview: Windsor, Berkshires

Famous for its Nordic skiing, Notchview also entices year-round adventurers for hiking and birdwatching.

Questing: New Marlborough, Berkshires

Visit a landscape of returning forest and wetlands, and remnant cellar holes and stone walls that recall a long-abandoned settlement dating to early colonial times.

Tyringham Cobble: Tyringham, Berkshires

Ascend through orchards and woodlands to where twin ancient formations of exposed bedrock offer panoramic vistas of the serene Tyringham Valley.

Save the Date!



APPLE PRESSING AT THE JOHNSON BARN SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, NOON TO 5 P.M.

(RAIN DATE SUNDAY) 170 GREAT BARRINGTON ROAD (RTE. 41), WEST STOCKBRIDGE

We will be pressing fresh cider, so bring a container and take some home. Enjoy the cider, music by the Zydeco Hillbillies, tractor wagon rides (kids must be accompanied by adults), and displays of restored farm equipment at the barn. Donations go to support the Community Health Association.

Meet the Artist

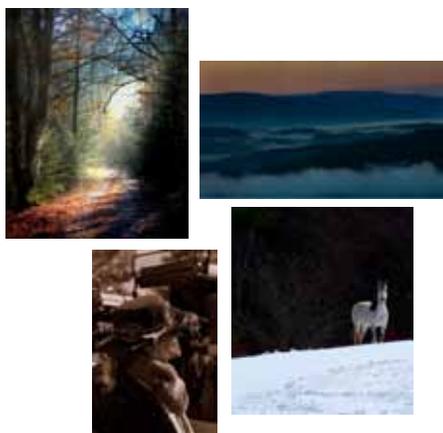
Gabrielle Murphy: Photographer

Gabrielle
Murphy

Photographer

*"a sense of energy to an
image"*

*"a mood and feeling of
wonderment, mystery, and
love that captivates her
audience"*



Join Gabrielle Murphy on Thursday, Sept. 28, 2017, at No. Six Depot, West Stockbridge, 12:15-1:30 p.m. for an informal discussion over lunch. You will be able to ask her questions. RSVP: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/4090544A5A72CA7FA7-meet. Or if necessary: kcarmean@gmail.com.

"I have enjoyed the art of photography since an early age and find that I am continually drawn to images that depict the inherent beauty in all things. While I shoot a wide variety of subjects, my goal is to bring a sense of energy to an image, and, in doing so, hope to accurately portray not only what I saw in the moment of capture, but also what I felt. Though my subjects may vary, it is my hope that my passion comes through each image and allows the viewer to engage emotionally with my work."

Others have said: "Gabrielle has a passion for her subjects that translates into the viewer having a strong connection to her images. She is able to communicate a mood and feeling of wonderment, mystery, and love that captivates her audience. Her vision of the world is captivating and exciting to witness."

"Anytime I gaze at Gabrielle's photographs, I am drawn into a magical realm; a world of rich color, soft light, and exquisite texture. Whether I want to see nature at it's finest, or delight in the sight of a child's fascination, or the elegant line of a dancer's body, her work is captivating."
"Enchanting. Draws you in like a fairytale."

Thurs., Sept. 28
12:15-1:30 p.m.

No. Six Depot
West Stockbridge

Richmond-West Stockbridge
Artists' Guild
www.rwsag.org and Facebook

Queensboro Wine & Spirits

26 Main Street ~ West Stockbridge ~ 413-232-8522

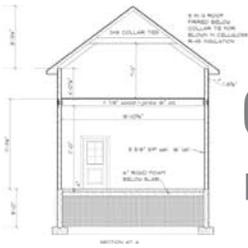
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Monday through Saturday 9:30am to 9:00pm
Open Sundays Noon to 5:00pm



On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky

As the summer winds down, here are some random thoughts from various sources:

Dave Barry: *Wood has been the preferred building material for thousands of years because it is one of the few materials that will rot as well as burn.*

Robert Frost: *Good fences make good neighbors.*

Robert Frost again: *Don't ever take a fence down until you know why it was put up.*

And speaking of fences, a reader asks what material should be used to install a fence on her property.

The posts need to be of a material that can withstand contact with ground moisture and not rot. In the old days (say before 1950), wooden fence posts were made of black locust, a native tree that is naturally rot resistant. It's hard to find these days, and most people would now use southern yellow pine that's been pressure treated by impregnating the timber under pressure with chemicals that kill insects and the spores that create rot.

The chemical cocktail has changed over the years, and the chromated copper arsenic used just a few years ago has been replaced with alkaline copper quaternary or a number of newer preservatives that are less toxic to use than older concoctions. However, don't use this kind of wood for salad bowls, and don't burn it in fireplaces or woodstoves!

Posts are typically pressure-treated (PT) 4 x 4s, that is, 3½ x 3½ inches cross section. The holes are dug with a hand-operated post-hole digger or a gas-powered auger (best done with two people). Depending on the height of the fence, usually 24 to 30 inches is deep enough. A quick-setting cement can be poured around the post, and water from a hose or bucket can be mixed in. A level should be held against the post to check for plumb on adjacent faces of the post while the concrete sets up, usually about 3 minutes. Then the holes are backfilled with dirt.

The distance between the posts is determined by the kind of fencing to be used. Fence sections can be purchased in a variety of designs, sizes, and materials. Because the fence section is usually not in direct contact with the ground, it doesn't need to be made of pressure-treated wood. Cedar is a relatively rot resistant and cost-effective alternative. There are some nice-looking PVC sections available that do not require painting or maintenance.

The length of the sections, whether whole or cut to a specific size, guides the placement of the posts. The sections can be screwed directly to the posts (with galvanized or weatherproof screws) or through galvanized brackets. The length of the posts above the ground is determined by the finished height of the fence section and can be cut after the sections are installed. Buy lengths a little longer than the height of the fence plus the depth of the hole. The 4 x 4s come in even lengths, starting at 8 feet, and they are available in 2-foot increments through 16 feet.

If you're putting up a fence along a common property line, check with your neighbor to see who gets to look at the "good" side of the fence, and whether you'll paint your neighbor's side (see Robert Frost's first quotation above).

Check with Brian Duvall, our intrepid West Stockbridge building inspector, about whether you need a permit.

Happy fencing! *En garde!*

Please e-mail your questions to info@thelocalyokel.org.



Stanmeyer Gallery & Shaker Dam Coffeehouse
2 Main Street • West Stockbridge, MA • 413.232.7707 • Open Mon-Thur 8-4, Fri-Sun 8-6

SECOND NATURE GARDENS
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ADAM@SECONDNATUREGARDENS.ORG

September Art Calendar

First Fridays Artswalk. Fri., Sept. 1, 5–8 pm. Pittsfield, North and South Streets. www.firstfridaysartwalk.com

Plein Air: Paint, Sketch, iPad or Photograph. 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch and positive critique at end of each session. Sundays, Norman Rockwell grounds; Mondays, Hancock Shaker Village*; Tuesdays, Wednesdays at BNRC locations or Naumkeg or private vistas; Thursdays, The Mount*; Fridays, West Stockbridge. *Fees. See Facebook at 8 am. RSVP

Art Demonstration and Business Meeting. Wed., Sept. 6, 4 p.m. Bring paintings and photos for Shaker Mill Inn show. Bring titles, size, media. 5:30–6:45 p.m. Business meeting and planning in small groups. Community Room, Town Offices, 21 Stateline Rd., West Stockbridge

Narrative Figure Painting. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m.–1:30 pm. \$20 members/\$30 others, to pay for model. RSVP: or if necessary Adrian Holmes: ach022050@gmail.com

Positive Critique. Thurs., Sept. 14, 4–6 p.m. Bring 2–3 pieces of your art. WS Town Offices, 21 Stateline Rd.

Meet the Artist and Studio Tour: Michael Fabrizio, Painter. Fri., Sept. 15, 3–5 p.m. in Richmond. RSVP

Art Studio Tour. Sat., Sept. 16, 11–5 p.m.

Still Life Painting. Sept. 18, 1 p.m., Lenox. RSVP: carolgkelly@hotmail.com

Artist-to-Artist Open Studio. Wed., Sept. 20, 6–9 p.m. WS Community Room. Work, chat, experiment. Host: Aly Benton. Limited to first 20. RSVP

Tea with the Masters. Wed., Sept. 27, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., WS Community Room. "Classical Drawing." RSVP

Meet the Artist: Gabrielle Murphy: Photographer. Thurs., Sept. 28, 12:15–1:30 p.m., No. Six Depot, WS. RSVP

Art Book Gathering. Fri., Sept. 29, 3–5 p.m. Share a favorite book: artist, process. Shaker Dam Books, West Stockbridge. Host: Mark Mellinger.

Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild
RSVP: rwsag.org "Our Programs." See Facebook

www.rwsag.org

Follow the signs! → to the
Richmond-West Stockbridge
Artists Guild

Studios Tour

Marilyn Orner Cromwell Helen Fabbo Hoffman Studio Keith Emerling

Meet 28 local artists in 17 studios
September 16 • 11 am-5 pm

Use Google Maps or the QR code to locate each studio

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| Peg Dotchin – oils, pastels
28 Renne Ave, Lichtenstein Center
Pittsfield | Helen Fabbo – watercolor, acrylic
1488 State Rd
Richmond | Marcalena Mosca – mixed media
Karen Carmean – oils
Bernard Isaacson – photography
Freye Segal – mixed media
29 Rear Church St
Lenox |
| Mark Mellinger – acrylic
100 North St, Room 404
Pittsfield | Karen Andrews – watercolor
Furnace Rd at Corn Hill Rd
West Stockbridge | Thea Baker – pastel
Marilyn Orner Cromwell – oils
12 Squaw Peak Rd.
Great Barrington |
| Leon Nesis – mixed media
Shel Ronnen – photography
42 Lake Rd Ext (off Swamp Rd)
Richmond | Bill Graulty – oils
14 Iron Mine Rd.
West Stockbridge | Rose Tannenbaum – oils
10 South St
Great Barrington, MA 01230 |
| Palma Fleck – sculpture
Keith Emerling – watercolor, oils
Joy Cameron – sculpture
Bonnie Reed – printmaking
245 Swamp Rd
Richmond | Leslie Klein – sculpture
20 Austerlitz Rd.
West Stockbridge | Nina Lipkowitz – watercolor
John Lipkowitz – photography
404A Montney Rd (Rt 183/23)
Great Barrington, MA 01230 |
| Janet McKinstry – mixed media
Susan Sabino – photography
Adrian Holmes – watercolor
1515 State Rd, Richmond Cong. Church
Richmond | Elena Spiewak – acrylic, oils
115 West Center Rd
West Stockbridge | Karen Dolmanish – mixed media
208 Norfolk Rd, Buggy Whip Factory #5
Southfield |
| | Joel Hotchkiss – mobiles
8 Center St
West Stockbridge | |
| | Hoffman Pottery – clay
103 Great Barrington Rd
West Stockbridge | |

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2017
FINE ART SHOW
(C)2017

1854 TOWN HALL
9 MAIN STREET
WEST STOCKBRIDGE, MA

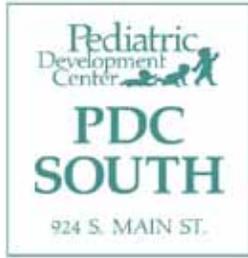
AUG 24-27
AUG 31-SEPT 3

GALLERY HOURS

THURS & FRI	AUG 24, 25, 31 and SEPT 1	•	3 to 7pm
SATURDAYS	AUG 26 and SEPT 2	•	noon to 7pm
SUNDAYS	AUG 27 and SEPT 3	•	noon to 3pm



FOR MORE INFORMATION www.rwsag.org • info@rwsag.org



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Infant or Toddler's development?**

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Dept. of Public Health Certified
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We're located at:
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You can reach us at: 413-717-4083.
www.pediatricdevelopmentcenter.org

Parks & Recs News

by *GINNA DUDNEY*

Get ready for the Spooktacular!



*Scarecrows at
2016 Spooktacular.
Photo by Peter Cohen*

October 5, the last day of the West Stockbridge Farmers Market, is the hit of the season. Mark your calendars, and get ready to paint pumpkins, build scarecrows, bash piñatas, and much, much more. It's a town-wide event. Be sure to make it!

As colder weather arrives, the committee will be putting the final touches on the plans for the new playground at the Town Offices. The existing structures are 25 years old

and looking their age. With the lovely new library entrance now in operation, it's high time to bring the playground into the 21st century.

Ideas and thoughts are still being considered. Join the next meeting on September 12 at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Offices or call (917) 209-0926.

And it's not too early to start thinking about Holiday Lights. December 1 is the date. Share your thoughts, and join the fun!

JT & Landscaping Tree Services

Fully Insured - Free estimates

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- Tree and Brush Removal
- Tree Pruning
- Stump Grinding
- Plowing & Sanding
- House Checking/Caretaking
- Drainage & Driveway Repairs
- Lawn & Field Mowing
- Fall & Spring Cleanups
- Building & Maintaining Gardens
- Firewood



Fire Department

LOG FOR JULY

Date	Time	Nature of Call
7/5	11:18 a.m.	Pool heater fire
7/9	<i>No time provided</i>	Assist police enter house of 911 hang-up call
7/11	5:41 p.m.	Medical
7/11	1:32 a.m.	Medical
7/14	5:24 a.m.	Medical
7/14	8:47 a.m.	Medical
7/16	9:39 a.m.	Propane leak
7/16	9:43 a.m.	Medical
7/19	9:09 a.m.	Auto alarm
7/24	7:23 a.m.	Auto alarm

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 9/1 Jenna & Ahl Epstein-Santoyo (birthday)
- 9/2 Jenni & Jim Hallock (anniversary)
- 9/4 JP Mikolajczyk
- 9/11 Mary McGuane
- 9/20 Connor & Chloe Seward (birthday)
- 9/26 Lavon Bartlett

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

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



West Stockbridge History Quiz Answer:

The answer is not as straightforward as first thought. "West Stockbridge marble" has been the big brand, most talked about and featured in numerous early descriptions of the town. The 1829 *History of Berkshire County* describes a number of early marble quarries employing about 200 men. This was the biggest industry in the town, and 2,700 tons of marble were shipped out in 1827. However, the marble industry ended after the Civil War. Too hard to work, too expensive to ship, and much competition from higher quality, purer stone from Vermont killed the marble business.

By the mid-1800s, lime took over from marble as the biggest employer. Numerous quarries and kilns were located all along the Williams River including in the town center. Lime was made from heating limestone and scrap marble in a furnace, fueled by charcoal. (Charcoal is made from burning wood in an oxygen-reduced atmosphere. The wood came from clear-cutting and stripping all of the surrounding hills.) Lime was needed for construction materials and more importantly in the iron smelting process to remove impurities. We still have one active lime quarry.

By far, the longest and largest employer, and largest volume of material, although extracted, was iron ore. The two biggest quarries were on Route 102 west of town, near West Center Road. Although some ore was shipped via rail to the Hudson, the bulk was moved up the road to the Richmond Furnace. Irish and Italian immigrants worked in the Hudson and Leete ore beds, and the 1880–1920 censuses list many young men as ironworkers or miners. State Line, Baker Street, and Cone Hill Road all had ironworker housing, both for families and groups of single men. The earliest ironworks were noted in the 1820s, and iron mining lasted until the First World War. Although the ore was high quality, it became too expensive to extract, and competition from Michigan and Pennsylvania mines ended the iron business.



*West Stockbridge lime quarry.
Photo courtesy of Bob Salerno*



*Marble exposed by new road cut
at Turnpike Exit 1.
Photo by Bob Salerno*

Community News & Events

Community Health Association

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

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

The Stockbridge Grange will hold a roast pork dinner in the Grange Hall at 51 Church Street on Sunday, September 10, from 1 to 2 p.m. Cost for adults is \$12; \$6 for children under 12. Takeout is available; call (413) 298-3185.

Council on Aging Potluck

Our next Council on Aging potluck will be on Tuesday, September 12, at noon, at the Town Offices Community Room. Hope you all had a good time at the Richmond/West Stockbridge picnic, and we look forward to hearing about your summer.

West Stockbridge Congregational Church

The West Stockbridge Congregational Church will hold its fifth bake sale of 2017 on Saturday, September 16, in front of Baldwin's Extracts, 1 Center Street, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

On Sunday, September 17, at 10 a.m., the Congregational Churches in Canaan, Richmond, and West Stockbridge will conduct their annual Blessing of the Animals service at the West Stockbridge Outdoor Chapel, 141 West Center Road. Everyone and their pets and animals are welcome.

The church is looking for volunteers interested in helping with the town Halloween party that will take place October 31. Please e-mail wscongregationalchurch@gmail.com for more information. Call Cait Graham at (413) 329-6095 if you are interested in volunteering for setup, party day assistance, or take-down.

The church is seeking artisans, crafters, food vendors, and more, for the 2017 Holiday Fair that will take place on Saturday, December 2, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the church. There is a \$20 table fee. Interested persons may contact the church at wscongregationalchurch@gmail.com or 232-4256.

*Send your notices for Community News & Events to the
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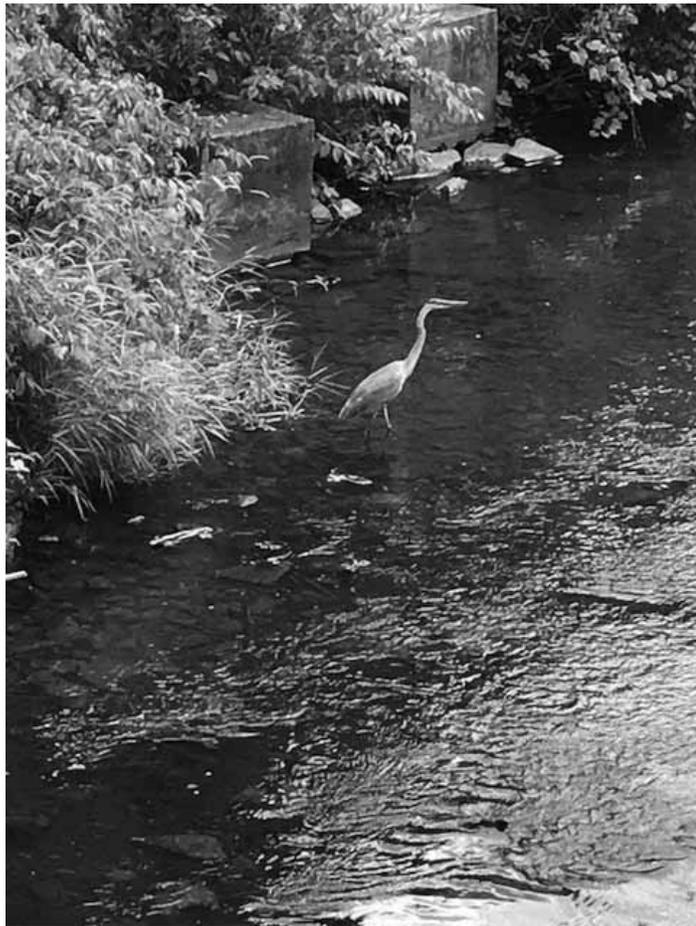
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*Great Blue Heron on Williams River.
Photo by Margie Skaggs*

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Animal Control	<i>John W. Springstube</i>	232-0300	ext. 335	As Needed
Assessors Office	<i>Mary Stodden</i>	232-0300	ext. 303	Tues. 1–5 p.m.; Thurs. 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Board of Health	<i>Earl Moffatt</i>	232-0300	ext. 314	Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m., or by appt.
Board of Selectmen	<i>Bernie Fallon, Peter Skorput, Curt G. Wilton</i>			
Administrative Assistant	<i>Mark Webber</i>	232-0300	ext. 319	Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Building Inspector	<i>Brian Duval</i>	232-0300	ext. 313	Sat. 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
Conservation Commission	<i>Jennifer Kujawski, Lori Rose</i>	232-0300	ext. 338	Leave Message for Inquiries
Council on Aging	<i>John Zick</i>	232-0300	ext. 340	Leave Message for Inquiries
Emergency Management	<i>Louis Oggiani</i>	528-2175		
Fire Department	<i>Peter Skorput</i>	232-4200 (non-emergency)		Mon. 6:30–9 p.m.
Highway Department	<i>Curt G. Wilton</i>	232-0305		Leave Message for Inquiries
Library	<i>Lee Appelbaum</i>	232-0300	ext. 308	Tues. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Wed., Thurs., and Fri. 2–6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.–2 p.m.; closed Sun. & Mon.
Police Department	<i>Marc Portieri</i>	232-8500 (non-emergency)	24 hours, 7 days/week	
Post Office	<i>Colleen A. Wich</i>	232-8544		Lobby: 7 a.m.–7 p.m.; 7 days/week; Window: Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.–12 noon
Seasonal Lifeguard		232-0315		
Sewer & Water Commission	<i>Michael Buffoni</i>	232-0309		
Town Accountant	<i>Elaine Markham</i>	232-0300	ext. 317	Leave Message for Inquiries
Town Clerk	<i>Ronni Barrett</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	Tues. & Thurs. 1:30–4 p.m.
Town Collector	<i>June A. Biggs</i>	232-0300	ext. 302	Wed. 3–6 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri. 10 a.m.–2 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
Town Historian	<i>Robert Salerno</i>	232-4465		
Town Treasurer	<i>Karen Williams</i>	232-0300	ext. 316	Thurs. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Transfer Station	<i>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	

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