

Local yokel

West
Stockbridge
February 2018

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



Sunlight filtering through snow-covered trees at Stevens Glen. Photo by Emily Weiland

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005



Rachel Alter. Photo by John Parker

Rachel Alter, New Library Director

By John Parker, Managing Editor, The Local Yokel

We are pleased to join retiring Director Lee Appelbaum and the library board of trustees in welcoming Rachel Alter, appointed the new library director effective January 2. As board chair M.C. Nihart noted in her announcement, the town is fortunate to have yet “another lovely and over-qualified librarian” serving in this important capacity.

We recently engaged in a short Q&A with Rachel, to introduce her to our readers who may not have met her. Here’s what we learned.

LY: Would you tell us where you are from, where you went to school, and where you live now?

RA: The Berkshires has been my home since 1990. My son was born and raised here. I’m originally from Honolulu but have lived here on the mainland since 1979. My library degree is from the University at Albany. I currently live in Glendale.

LY: What was your previous library work or training?

RA: I’ve worked in school libraries, special libraries, and college libraries for 25 years. Before becoming a librarian, I worked in preschool education, as a Montessori teacher, and I ended up getting a graduate degree in education. [Editor’s note: In addition to her master’s degree in library science from SUNY Albany, Rachel holds a master’s degree in education (reading and languages) from Harvard University, and has worked at Bay Path University Library, Pittsfield Public Schools Libraries, and Austen Riggs Center Library.]

LY: What interested you in the job? What do you think you’ll enjoy about it?

RA: I’m already enjoying all of the people who use the WSPL. Everyone has been so welcoming. Our amazing long-time library assistant Jodi has already helped me so much with questions about current practices. It’s also a blessing to be working just 10 minutes from home now.

LY: Any plans or ideas for programs, projects, initiatives, improvements?

RA: For now, I’m focusing on learning everything I can about our collection, getting information and impressions from our users, our trustees, and Friends of the Library. Lee did a remarkable job meeting the library and information needs of our community. Future initiatives and improvements will definitely be in keeping with the work started by Lee and in collaboration with our trustees.

Congratulations and good luck to Rachel on her new appointment, and to Lee on her retirement!

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. Residents can be notified by e-mail of town events and meeting agendas by subscribing at <http://weststockbridgema.virtualltownhall.net/subscriber>.

Open Meeting: January 8, 2018

Fire Chief's Monthly Report

Fire Chief Peter Skorput reported that December was a quiet month, mostly taken up with training, weather, and the holidays. Training focused on a fire-retardant bomb that extinguishes chimney fires. Other tasks included maintenance of the firehouse and changing batteries. Three department members are signed up for an EMT course to be held in Lee next month. The department responded to four medical calls and one structure fire with little damage.

Selectman Bernie Fallon asked when Peter would be appointed fire chief (Peter is currently acting chief as a holdover appointment). Curt said he wants Peter to complete two three-day National Incident Management System (NIMS) courses as recommended by the Massachusetts Municipal Resources study commissioned by the town. Peter said he is making an effort to complete the trainings.

Town Website/E-mail/Internet

Bill Biggs and the selectmen discussed ways to improve the town's website. The board will ask boards and commissions to send Bill any corrections or updates for their web pages. Bernie noted that some links don't go anywhere. Bill can put in the content, but he

has to be provided with the information. The board and Bill also discussed ways to get more people to subscribe for the town's news and announcements e-mail. June Biggs suggested requesting residents' e-mail addresses at the town meeting.

Doane Perry reported an issue with Internet signal strength in the Town Offices. When the Artists' Guild meets, there is not enough signal for one person even when all other phones and laptops are turned off. A range extender might solve the problem.

Goal Setting for 2018

The board discussed goals for the coming year. Among those items considered important were getting town board meetings on local access cable TV, producing a video promoting the town, a more formal so-called swap shop at the Transfer Station, land acquisitions including the National Grid parcel by the public restrooms and the parking lot adjacent to the former Card Lake Inn, phase 2 downtown rehabilitation, and providing 100% residential high-speed fiberoptic coverage.

Other Business:

- The board reviewed the 2019 budget and town meeting timeline.
- The next BOS meetings will be January 22 and 29. □

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weststockbridgelibrary.org | 413-232-0300 ext. 308

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

Library Announces Retirement of Director Lee Appelbaum

By M.C. Nihart, Chair, for the West Stockbridge Public Library Board of Trustees

During her five-year tenure, Director Lee Appelbaum created a bright and welcoming atmosphere in the library. By enhancing the decor, redesigning traffic patterns, increasing the collection, and expanding resources, she increased patronage exponentially. With contributions from local artists and patrons (among them Sarah and Peter Thorne, Joel Hotchkiss, and Gordon Soule), the library added a logo, signage, advertising, and the new vestibule entry. Not only does the vestibule provide easier access from the parking lot but it offers additional three-season space for patrons.

We thank Lee for her many contributions and wish her the happiest retirement. Meanwhile, we look forward to her return as a substitute, and we welcome Lee's friend, Rachel Alter (another lovely and overqualified librarian), as our new director.

A Personal Note to Our Library Community

Many thanks to all for your warmth, friendliness, and, of course, your many and varied book recommendations over the past five years. It's been a pleasure and privilege to serve as your town librarian. I'm thrilled that my friend Rachel Alter will be taking over and bringing her many and varied talents and experiences to our library.

My special thanks to the trustees whose commitment to excellence and community service has so enriched our library as well as to the voters in town and the Friends of the Library for their continued support.

FYI: I'm not really going away forever since I'll be filling in at the desk when needed. I look forward to seeing all of you soon.

Best,

Lee Appelbaum



*Thank You,
West Stockbridge!*

Santa's Wish List Donations

In our December issue, the *Local Yokel* included an appeal for donations to nine West Stockbridge organizations. The total received was \$7,775. We thank all those who gave so generously to these important community groups that work very hard to make West Stockbridge such a special place to live. Here are the totals by organization:

Community Health Association: \$670
Friends of the Library: \$1,275
Local Yokel: \$1,590
Pet Partners of the Tri-State Berkshires: \$265
West Stockbridge Beautification: \$895
West Stockbridge Farmers Market: \$805
West Stockbridge Fire & Rescue: \$1,805
West Stockbridge Historical Society: \$470

TOTAL GIVING: \$7,775



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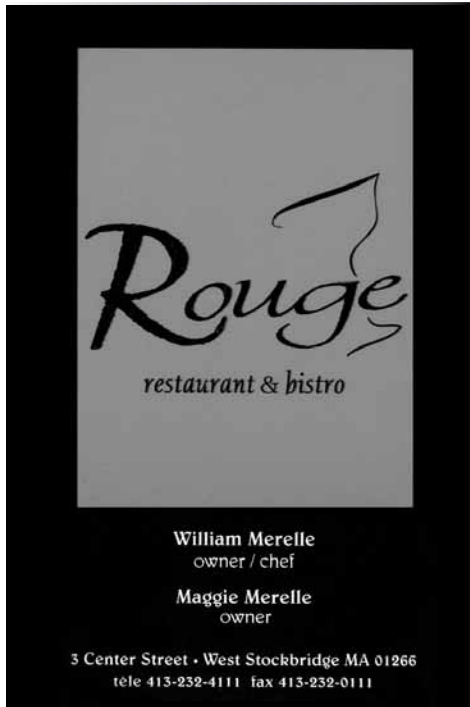
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Please send your Birthdays & Anniversaries to the Local Yokel.

We are happy to include them in the next issue.



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



Parks and Recreation

Our winter goal for Parks & Recreation is to finalize plans for the playground. The Board of Selectmen has invited us to develop and submit a proposal that includes expenses for construction of the new up-to-code playground as a capital expenditure in the 2018–19 budget. That proposal is now being drafted. If you have any interest in helping develop the final plans, call (917) 209-0926.

In the meantime, behind-the-scenes work continues:

- Both courts will be scheduled for spring maintenance checks.
- A new dock for Card Pond will be added to the capital expenditures for the 2018–19 fiscal year.



Several names were omitted from the West Stockbridge Sparkles Honor List:

Ann Marie Farrell
Susannah Gale
Caitlin Graham
Ian Kaehn
Krysta Kaehn

Your help at the church, at the tree, and with the caroling, is greatly appreciated.
You added to the magic!

February History Quiz Question:

West Stockbridge started as a rural agricultural community. Early settlers came here for the open farmland in the West Center area and the ability to use the Williams River to mill the grain grown there. Even the Dutch traders from New York recognized the farming potential as they moved into the area around State Line and Canaan. As land was cleared and worked, rocks and hard soil made growing cash crops problematic, and farms moved more to dairy operations. Sheep and cattle became the major farm animals with horses for work and transportation.

By the mid-1800s, an annual census of all animals was required for valuation and the count was listed in the town reports. Sheep and cattle were prominent assets, as expected. However, one other small animal was most prominent in the early town reports and still is important now. What was it?

(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.



OFFICE OF
PREPAREDNESS
AND EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

All-hazard Preparedness Checklist

Before the Storm

- Listen to local news and National Weather Service for continued storm updates.
- Gather a disaster supply kit or replace/restock items as needed.
- Locate the evacuation routes in your local community if applicable and be sure family members know the routes.
- Store important documents (insurance papers, home inventory, etc.) in a waterproof container.
- Have cash on hand in small denominations.
- Make sure vehicle gas tanks are full.
- Make sure you have sufficient amounts of prescription medications.
- If you have a generator, test it and make sure you have sufficient fuel.
- Have a portable battery powered radio (with sufficient batteries) or weather radio on hand.
- Secure your home by trimming trees; clearing clogged downspouts/gutters; securing or removing items that could become airborne (plants, furniture, grills, etc.).
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Fill bathtubs and large containers with water to use for sanitary reasons.
- Turn freezer and refrigerator to the coldest settings in case the power goes out.
- Charge cell phones, laptops and other portable electronic devices.
- If you or your family member has special medical needs, register with your local community and utility provider to obtain any available resources (i.e. transportation to shelter, priority electrical restoration, etc.).
- Make plans for pets in the event you need to evacuate.

During the Storm

- Listen to the TV or radio for weather information and updates.
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed.
- Avoid using corded phones except for emergencies.
- Stay indoors and away from windows.

After the Storm

- Continue to tune in to local news and weather for post-storm updates.
- Carefully inspect your home for any exterior damage or safety issues.
- Watch for downed power lines and do not go near them.
- Do not venture out on roads until you know it is safe to do so.
- If you had to evacuate your home, inspect it upon your return and if there are any safety issues (flood waters; odor of gas, structural damage, etc.) do not enter.
- **DO NOT** run generators, grills or other gas operated devices indoors.
- If there was an extended power outage check frozen and refrigerated food for spoilage. If you are in doubt, throw it out.
- Watch pets carefully to make sure they don't wander in damaged areas.



**West Stockbridge
Historical Society**
Incorporated in 1994

Collector's Note

November through January have been busy months in the collector's office.

FY18 third-quarter real estate and/or personal property tax bills for homes and/or businesses were issued in mid-December. These were due on February 1, 2018, and are now accruing interest.

You may have noticed that the bills look a bit different, the result of new billing software in the collector's office in mid-December. To clarify this new format, I am including an annotated copy of a sample real estate bill. Hopefully it will help you read and understand your new bill. This is a great opportunity to look your bill over carefully for errors and report any that you detect to my office or to the assessors.

In general, the bill is a bit more straightforward. But for those who are at all visually impaired, the verbiage in minuscule print in the middle of the page also appears in a more readable font on the back of the bill! For most people, the biggest change will be remembering to return the *top*, rather than the *bottom*, third of the bill.

The same sorts of changes will appear on excise bills. I expect that the 2018 excise bill will be issued mid to late February. The back side of that bill will contain your rights and a modified abatement form. Please read and complete it carefully if you no longer own the vehicle for which you are being billed or if you trade that vehicle during 2018. You can also find a full abatement form on the town's website.

The new billing software will also handle water/sewer billing. Those customers will notice the greatest change in format. Since those bills have not yet been generated at press deadline, I will provide more information in next month's *Local Yoke*.

In addition to the bill style, water/sewer users will also be charged interest at a daily rather than monthly rate, and late notices will no longer be issued every month. Rather, delinquencies will be noted on each quarterly bill, and unpaid balances on December 1 will be liened to real estate.

As always, your questions are welcomed and your cooperation is appreciated.
 June Biggs, Collector
 Tel.: 232-0300, ext. 302
 E-mail: collector@weststockbridge-ma.gov

Office hours: Wednesday: 3–6 p.m.;
 Thursday and Friday: 10 a.m.–2 p.m.;
 Saturday: 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

NOTE: Return top portion of bill to Collector with payment

REMITTANCE COUPON PLEASE RETURN WITH PAYMENT

Assessed Owner as of 1/1/2017
 Mailing Address - Street
 Mailing Address - City, State, Zip Code

Information below appears on the back of your bill in a more readable font

Interest accrues after this date

Pay this amount

Send payments here

Mail abatement requests here

Assessments

Payments

Assessed Owner as of 1/1/2017
 Mailing Address - Street
 Mailing Address - City, State, Zip Code

Notify Collector of any errors

If you purchased after 1/1/2017, your name appears in a c/o line

Total Due 2/1/2018: \$\$\$\$.\$\$

Total Charges: This Quarter's Tax
Past Due: Unpaid or Underpaid Am't
Interest Due: Charges on Past Due Am't
Credits: Abatement/Exemption/Overpaym't

Total Due 2/1/2018: \$\$\$\$.\$\$

Parcel ID: M AP.0-0000-LOT.0
Land Area: (Size of Parcel) Acres
Deed Date:
Book/Page: Location of Deed at SBRD

Account: Permanent Account Number (Formerly Bill #)
Location: Location of Property
Owner: Assessed Owner as of 1/1/2017

Make checks payable to:
 Town of West Stockbridge
 Office of The Tax Collector
 P O Box 365
 W Stockbridge, MA 01266
 413.232.0300 x 302
 Tax Collector:
 June A Biggs
 Hours For Walk-In Service
 W 3-6, ThFri 10-2, Sat 10-1

Town of West Stockbridge
Board of Assessors
 P O Box 257
 W Stockbridge, MA 01266
 413.232.0300 x 303
 Abatement Applications to Assessors Due: 2/1/2018

INTEREST AT THE RATE OF 14% PER ANNUM WILL ACCRUE ON OVERDUE PAYMENTS FROM THE DUE DATE UNTIL PAYMENT IS MADE

Town of West Stockbridge

Fiscal Year 2018 Real Estate

Taxpayer Record

Account: **Acc't # / Bill #** Location: **Parcel location**
 Owner: **Assessed owner on 1/1/2017** Parcel ID: **Map.0-0000-Lot.0**
 Area: **(Size of parcel) Acres** Deed Date: / /
 Book/Page: /

Assessed As of	Type	Tax value	TOTAL ASSESSMENT	Total tax for FY18	Delinquency Notice
1/1/2017	LAND	\$\$\$.\$\$\$			
	BLDG	\$\$\$.\$\$\$			
	Total:	\$\$\$.\$\$\$			
			PAID am't		
			Exemption		
			Exemption		
			Liens		
			Int		
			Ab/E		
			Int Cr		
			Total:	\$\$\$.\$\$\$	\$\$\$.\$\$\$
			Total Due 2/1/2018:	\$\$\$.\$\$\$	\$\$\$.\$\$\$

Current tax rate

Amount credited prior to printing of bill

Total tax for FY18 \$\$\$\$.\$\$

Total Assessment \$\$\$\$.\$\$

Total Due 2/1/2018: \$\$\$\$.\$\$

A notice will appear in this space if you have unpaid prior year taxes.

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.

Council on Aging Potluck

The next Council of Aging luncheon will be on Tuesday, February 6 (note that it's the first Tuesday of the month because many people were not able to make it the following week). We hope to see as many seniors, if not more, than we had at the luncheon in January. See you all in the Town Offices Community Room at noon.

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

The Stockbridge Grange will host a stuffed breast of chicken dinner in the Grange Hall at 51 Church Street on Sunday, February 11, from 1 to 2 p.m. Cost for adults is \$12; \$6 for children under 12. Takeout is available; call (413) 298-3185. In case of stormy weather, please call first to see if it has been canceled.

Send your notices for Community News & Events to the

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



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Marc J. Portieri Chief of Police
21 State Line Road, P.O. Box 90
West Stockbridge, MA 01266

Tele: 413-232-8500
Fax: 413-232-7938
E-mail: chief@weststockbridge/ma.gov

WEST STOCKBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT
21 State Line Road – West Stockbridge, MA 01266
(413) 232-8500

WINTER PARKING BAN

November 9, 2017

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

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

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



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Birthdays & Anniversaries

2/11 Anne Lesser

2/22 JoAnne Ellis

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





Fire Department Log

By Peter Skorput, Fire Chief

DECEMBER 2017 & JANUARY 2018

Date	Time	Nature of Call
12/25	6:45 p.m.	Medical
12/29	9:31 a.m.	Structure fire
12/30	6:45 p.m.	Medical
12/30	11:03 p.m.	Medical
1/1	12:18 p.m.	Motor vehicle accident
1/10	1:37 p.m.	Medical
1/13	6:28 a.m.	Automatic alarm
1/13	8:31 a.m.	Tree on wires
1/13	10:00 a.m.	Tree on wires

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Growing Pains

Plans for the seventh season of the West Stockbridge Farmers Market are well underway. Vendors are being invited, musicians are being auditioned, and themes that are entertaining and beneficial are being explored.

As several of the founding members move on to other commitments and distant locations, new ideas and helping hands are warmly welcomed.

Whatever your talent or creativity, there's a place for you. Join in and share your thoughts. Don't miss it!



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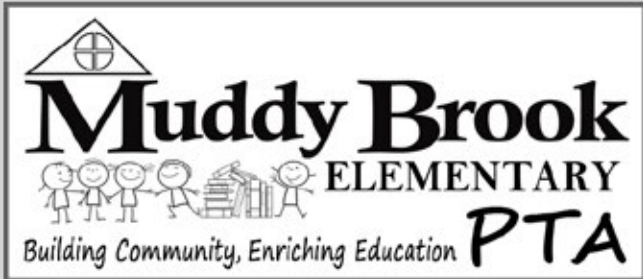
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Join Us!

Please join fellow parents and teachers in making this year very special for the students of Muddy Brook. Share your ideas, start something new, get involved, visit muddybrookpta.com and like us on Facebook!

Thank you for your continued support.



If you have the time and inclination to assist in the continuation of the Farmers Market, please call (917) 209-0926 or e-mail us at wsfarmmarket@gmail.com.

Donor Roll Call ~ February

- Alison & Marshall Ash
- Bob Balboni
- Robert & Lucy Bellville
- Liza & William Bennett
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- Sue & Jim Coxon
- Ginna & Roland Dudney
- Beth & Rich Fentin
- Friends of the Library
- Kathryn & Henry Gallitano
- Gunnar & Jan Gundmundson
- Nancy & Walter Howell
- Ilana Krishnamurti
- Carol & Stuart Kuller
- Sheila & Wally Lehman
- Lear & Raquel Levin
- John & Ada Masiero
- Lorraine Santhay & Jim Lindner
- Steve & Erika Sautman
- Sid & Vivian Schwartz
- Margie Skaggs & Bob Salerno
- William & Jeannie Zox
- Anonymous: 3

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 17.)

The *Local Yokel* Needs You!

Would you enjoy being part of the team that produces this free monthly newsletter serving our community, now in its 10th year of publication?

Do you enjoy writing or photography? We need regular and occasional contributors on subjects of local interest.

Or would you like to lend a hand a few hours each month to help with distribution, mailing, and other projects?

Call John Parker at (413) 394-4368 or e-mail info@thelocalyokel.org for more information.

West Stockbridge History Quiz Answer:

In 1877, the town report lists 600 sheep, 360 cattle, and 316 horses and our peak population of 1,981. We were an active farming and mining community. Also, in those early town reports is a line item listed as "Collection of Dog Licenses." The first recorded collection was in 1869 in the amount of \$81.40, a significant sum (\$1,362 in today's dollars). That was only a portion of the fees since the county kept some of the license fees and remitted the balance back to the towns.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

TOWN OF WEST STOCKBRIDGE.

Town Clerk's Office,.....1909.

In accordance with the provisions of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, license is hereby issued to

No.

Name,

Age,.....yrs.,.....mos. *to keep the DOG described in the margin until the first day of May, 1910. Said dog is numbered and registered as required by said laws, for which.....dollars have been paid.*

Sex,.....male.

Color,.....

Breed,

.....Town Clerk.

Printed and sold by H. M. Dolbear, Wakefield, Mass.

N. B.—The owner or keeper of every dog so licensed shall cause it to wear around its neck a collar distinctly marked with its owner's name and its registered number. Dogs three months old or over must be licensed.

Photo courtesy of Bob Salerno.

Given the value of the dollar then and what a dog license might cost (\$6 today), we estimate over 250 dog licenses were issued. Because licenses were issued by household, not to the animal, the number of dogs could exceed the horse or cattle population.

By the late 1800s, the town's share of dog license fees became a steady income stream. In some years it exceeded Town Hall rents, hearse fees, and pool table licenses. The dog fees were used for the school fund and to pay for "dog damages" (unspecified). The town clerk started listing the names of the dog owners who paid for licenses with a note that "not all dogs are recorded," a subtle hint to those who didn't. In 1909, the registered dog count was down to around 100, males only. The town clerk was still admonishing those who didn't register their dogs.

Listings of dog owners were included in the town clerk's reports until recent times. The names show all segments of the town population: farmers, tradespeople, immigrants, railroad workers, and quarrymen. It is a great view of who lived here. Now dog owners are protected by privacy laws and not listed in the town reports. (We have about 140 registered dogs now.)

West Stockbridge was, and is, a dog-friendly town. We know that there were at least three kennels for show dogs in the 1900s, but that's for another history question.

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Diane Englander

Diane Englander

Mixed Media Artist

"I have to attack the prettiness of an initial surface, avoid balance, court darkness or stridency, invest a piece with conflict."

"I work with formal means to create a place between discord and tranquility."

"When the work transmits to me a calm energized by tension, then it is done."



Join Diane Englander on Thursday, February 15, at Six Depot, West Stockbridge, from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. for an informal discussion over lunch. You will be able to ask her questions. RSVP: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090544a5a72ca7fa7-meet> or if necessary kcarmean@gmail.com.

"I work with formal means to create a place between discord and tranquility, a zone with a charged harmony that energizes as it also provides refuge. That search means I have to attack the prettiness of an initial surface, avoid balance, court darkness or stridency, invest a piece with conflict. Some of my efforts, which began with collaged surfaces only subtly alluding to three dimensions, have moved more firmly into space. With multiple layers of paper, gouges to the surface, or materials that are unambiguously three dimensional, I am reaching into your space as another way to create movement and energy.

"As for the largely intuitive process, the material in front of me—often found or repurposed papers, photographs, cloth, pieces of wood—influences my direction. I look around at the possible components and see what they make me do. Sometimes they dictate a very specific color range, and then I can't use that material with any other palette.

"When the work transmits to me a calm energized by tension, then it is done. Occasionally that happens the same day, sometimes weeks or months later, sometimes never; and then maybe its remnants become a new jumping-off place, another source of inspiration."

Thurs., Feb. 15
12:15–1:30
p.m.

Six Depot,
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Richmond-West Stockbridge
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www.rwsag.org "Our
Programs: Meet the Artist" and
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Reception
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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>Rachel Alter</i>	232-0300	ext. 308	Tues. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Wed., Thurs., and Fri. 2–6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.–2 p.m.; closed Sun. & Mon.
Police Department	<i>Marc Portieri</i>	232-8500 (non-emergency)	24 hours, 7 days/week	
Post Office	<i>Colleen A. Wich</i>	232-8544		Lobby: 7 a.m.–7 p.m.; 7 days/week; Window: Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.–12 noon
Seasonal Lifeguard		232-0315		
Sewer & Water Commission	<i>Michael Buffoni</i>	232-0309		
Town Accountant	<i>Elaine Markham</i>	232-0300	ext. 317	Leave Message for Inquiries
Town Clerk	<i>Ronni Barrett</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	Tues. & Thurs. 1:30–4 p.m.
Town Collector	<i>June A. Biggs</i>	232-0300	ext. 302	Wed. 3–6 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri. 10 a.m.–2 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
Town Historian	<i>Robert Salerno</i>	232-4465		
Town Treasurer	<i>Karen Williams</i>	232-0300	ext. 316	Thurs. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Transfer Station	<i>Wayne Cooper</i>	232-0307		Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m.–6 p.m. and Sat. 8 a.m.–6 p.m.
Tree Warden	<i>Andrew Fudge</i>	232-4322		
Veterans Agency	<i>Laurie Hills</i>	528-1580		
Zoning Board of Appeals	<i>C. Randolph Thunfors</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	

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

February Art Calendar

Meet the Artist. Michael Bufis, Photographer. Fri., Feb. 2, 12:15–1:30 p.m., Six Depot, West Stockbridge (WS). Bill Grauly, New England Landscape Painter. Wed., Feb. 28, 12:15–1:30 p.m., Six Depot. Diane Englander, Painter. Thurs., Feb. 15, 12:15–1:30 p.m., Six Depot. RSVP

First Sunday at Clark Museum. Sun., Feb. 4, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. The first Sundays of the month are free October to May. We carpool.

Still Life Painting, Drawing, and Photography. Hancock Shaker Village. Mondays, Feb. 6, 12, 26, March 6, 12, 19, 26. 1–3:30 p.m. You must reserve and bring all your own supplies including drop cloths. Free to guild members and members of HSV or NARM level

Figure Painting, Open Studio. Tuesdays, Feb. 6–May 1, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. IS 183, Stockbridge. \$25, \$20 members. RSVP (413) 298-5252, ext. 100. Sign up for first Tuesday or all dates

Art Demonstration and Business Meeting. Wed., Feb. 7, 4 p.m. Seminar: How to make your own web page; bring 2–5 images. 5–6:30 p.m. Business meeting and planning upcoming shows. Community Room, Town Offices, 21 Stateline Road (Rte. 102), WS

Positive Critique. Thurs., Feb. 8, 4–6 p.m. Bring 2–3 pieces of your art. WS Town Offices

Artist-to-Artist Open Studio. Wed., Feb. 14, 6–9 p.m. WS Town Offices. RSVP

Reception Gallery 35: Works by Members of the Guild. Sat., Feb. 10, 3–5 p.m. Stone House Properties, 35 Railroad St., Great Barrington. Bring hors d'oeuvres

Members Potluck and Movie Night. Wed., Feb. 21, 5:30 potluck. 7 p.m. movie. Bring main dish, hors d'oeuvres, or dessert for 10 and what *you* want to drink. Partners welcome. RSVP aaub@yahoo.com

Art Book Gathering. Friday, Feb. 23, 2–4 p.m. Share a favorite book: artist, process. Shaker Dam Books, WS. Host Mark Mellinger. RSVP

Guild of Berkshire Artists

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

Gallery 35 Show: Reception Sat., Feb. 10, 3–5 p.m., 35 Railroad St., Great Barrington, Stone House Properties



Bruce Panock



Rose Tannenbaum



Anne Auberjonois



Myron Schiffer



Walter Pasko



Erin Potter

Also featured: Peggy Braun, Bruce Shickmanter, Susan Sabino, and MK Kammel. See their work in the Reception announcement.

West Stockbridge
Local Yokel
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February 2018

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

February 2018 Calendar of Events		Date	Event	Time	Location
	2/1	Board of Health meeting	6:30 p.m.	Town Offices	
	2/2	Groundhog Day			
	2/5	Planning Board meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices	
	2/6	Council on Aging luncheon	12 noon	Town Offices Community Room	
	2/7	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room	
	2/11	Grange Dinner	1-2 p.m.	Grange Hall, 51 Church Street, Stockbridge	
	2/13	American Legion	7 p.m.	Town Offices	
	2/14	Valentine's Day			
	2/14	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room	
	2/15	*** Deadline for the next Local Yokel ***		send to info@thelocalyokel.org	
	2/21	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room	
	2/28	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room	
	2/28	Purim begins at sundown			