

# Local yokel

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

West  
Stockbridge  
March 2018



*Water droplets under ice in a puddle off Red Rock Road.  
Photo by Emily Weiland*

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005



*Karden Rabin shows space being renovated for private suites. Photo by John Parker*

## Meet Karden Rabin and "The Werkshires"

*By John J. Parker*

Entrepreneur Karden Rabin, founder of Boundless and now owner of the Shaker Mill Tavern building in West Stockbridge, is starting up a new venture he's calling The Werkshires. The Werkshires is designed to provide independent small businesses, professionals, artisans, and others a professional environment with shared amenities at a modest price and the potential for interaction, synergy, and collaboration.

Located on the second floor of the tavern building, currently under renovation, The Werkshires offers four new private office suites ranging in size from 175 to 500 square feet, plus a 500-square-foot open-plan work space to be shared by four occupants. All

options include off-street parking, utilities, 300-megabit high-speed Internet, and a shared fully appointed kitchen, break room, and conference room.

Karden says, "It's not just about having a well-appointed space, but wanting to be with others, wanting to be in West Stockbridge, enjoying the Berkshire lifestyle, and knowing your neighbors." Karden hopes to cultivate sharing and interaction between his tenants. He describes West Stockbridge as "the loveliest town in the Berkshires" and points to the town's central location in the county, making it a hub for people traveling for business and pleasure. He also notes the town is "perfectly sized" and has many businesses and services within easy walking distance of The Werkshires.

Karden, who lives in West Stockbridge with his wife Gillian (owner of Radiance Yoga in Great Barrington) and cat Cheshire, started Boundless as a renter himself in its current space above the Shaker Mill Tavern Family Smoke House. Boundless provides clients with an integrative approach to health and wellness including bodywork, therapeutic massage, and mindfulness training.

Karden bought the building in October 2017 from Dom Luchi, who is the contractor for the renovations now underway. Current occupants of the 5,500-square-foot second floor (a onetime comedy club and banquet hall) include Boundless, contractor David Haust of Quadresign, Inc., and Noah and Ari Meyerowitz, aka the "Sprout Brothers." A writer and a jewelry designer are planning to move into the new suites once renovations are complete later this spring.

For more information, potential tenants can contact Karden at [Morabllc@gmail.com](mailto:Morabllc@gmail.com) or by phone at (201) 207-9910.



*Boundless owner Karden Rabin is renovating the second floor of the Shaker Mill Tavern building for private office suites and a shared work space. Photo by John Parker*



# 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

### Police Report

Chief of Police Marc Portieri presented his monthly report, and the board expressed satisfaction, noting that public feedback has been very positive. Marc introduced town-sponsored full-time Police Academy graduate Cameron Forest. After a discussion of his training, the board offered Cameron a full-time employment agreement and welcomed him to his position with the department.

### FY 2019 Budget and Annual Town Meeting

The board discussed the upcoming fiscal year 2019 budget and annual town meeting. Selectman Curt Wilton requested an updated town debt service report, and Administrative Assistant Mark Webber asked the board to consider future capital request items.

### Charter/Spectrum Cable Update

Mark said that Charter/Spectrum crews are installing fiberoptic cable in several areas of town, and it appears the remaining 10% of unserved homes will have high-speed "triple-play" service available within 4 to 6 weeks. Charter/Spectrum spokesperson Anna Lucey has said that once all of the new fiberoptic cable is attached to utility poles and all equipment has been tested, properties that have updated fiberoptic cable running past their driveways will be entered into the Charter/Spectrum database. At that point, those residents may sign up for service.

### Community Access Television

Mark reported that Cable Commissioner Bill Barth and a technician from Community Television of Southern Berkshire (CTSB) surveyed existing audio/video equipment in the Town Offices. Bill is waiting for the results of that

survey and the list of needed equipment. Once the list is in hand, equipment will be ordered and board meetings can be recorded and broadcast on the Community Access Television channel.

### Facilities Use Request

The board approved a request to use the gym for a birthday party. Select Board Chair Peter Skorput recommended that all future approved applicants get together with the Town Offices custodian to review protocols and guest responsibilities.

### Public Speaks:

A resident asked that the walkway leading to the new entrance to the town library be watched more closely because snow and ice have made the walkway difficult to use. Curt pledged to work with the town's custodian on the matter.

## Open Meeting: January 29, 2018

### FY 2019 Budget and Annual Town Meeting

The selectmen discussed the FY 2019 budget, potential capital item requests, and annual town meeting warrant articles.

### Youth Services Fund

Administrative Assistant Mark Webber informed the selectmen that \$5,263 remains in a Youth Services Fund trust account and that the money could be used toward the discussed replacement and upgrade of the Village School playground equipment. This can be done without a town meeting article because the funds would be used in the spirit of their original intent.

*...continued on page 5*



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**Friday, March 23rd**

**Pasta Dinner**

at West Stockbridge Congregational Church  
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**5 p.m. to 7 p.m.** (continuous seating)

Buffet style meal includes pasta with meatballs,  
salad bar, dessert, and beverage.  
\$10 pp / \$12 pp gluten free.

~ Fresh, homemade meatballs will also be on sale to take home! ~  
Tickets available in advance by calling 232-4256 or at the door

**All proceeds will benefit the West Stockbridge Police Association**



## BURN SEASON NOTICE

Burning season is January 15 to April 30.

Permits are available at Baldwin Hardware and the Public Market for \$2 and good for two days. If you have brush to burn, please do it when there is snow cover or the ground is wet to reduce the risk of an out-of-control brush fire.

Also: the Fire Department is looking for new members. If you want to help, please call Chief Peter Skorput or stop at the fire station any Monday night.



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## Fire Department Log

*By Peter Skorput, Fire Chief*

### JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2018

Date	Time	Nature of Call
1/22	6:05 a.m.	Smoke detector activation
1/22	2:58 p.m.	Medical
1/30	7:41 a.m.	Motor vehicle accident
2/4	4:39 p.m.	Medical
2/6	4:57 p.m.	Medical
2/6	10:57 p.m.	Medical

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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](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org)*



### **Town Roads**

Highway Superintendent Curt Wilton discussed a town roads inventory produced by Street Scan and its report on the current condition of paved roadways. Street Scan recommended costs necessary to maintain and extend the usable life of the roads. Curt reported that State Aid to Highways and Bridges is about \$170,000 annually. He said most town roads are in above-average condition, and he would like to adopt a program to get them all into above-average or better condition over the next three to seven years.

### **Subdivision Application**

Mark informed the selectmen that the Planning Board will consider plans for a subdivision that would create two parcels off Orchard Street. The board has discussed potential issues of maintenance and improvements to Orchard Street, commonly referred to as a “paper road,” appearing on the town’s maps but never put into regular use.

### **Open Meeting: February 5, 2018**

#### **FY 2019 Highway Department Budget**

Selectman and Highway Department Superintendent Curt Wilton recused himself from the board to present the Highway Department’s budget proposal of \$470,000. The Highway Department comprises 8.5% of the town budget and is the town’s largest budget item after the schools. The proposal would raise salaries and includes overtime, benefits, longevity pay, uniforms, training, and license renewals. The gas and diesel budget is \$30,000 (the department was able to return some of this allowance last year). Curt wants to buy a third interactive speed sign to place by Troy’s Garage. The budget for culverts and guardrails will be \$7,000, although Curt noted that most guardrails damaged in accidents are covered by insurance. The proposed budget for road maintenance is \$30,000, gravel for 46 miles of road \$55,000, and line painting \$14,000.

The cost of salt for snow and ice has gone down from last year. Curt said that computer-controlled spreading is used now to minimize waste, laying down 400 pounds of salt per lane mile, whereas in the old days truck drivers would crank their spreaders up and look out the window to evaluate. Curt

said state highway trucks don’t have computer-controlled spreading, and they leave piles of salt on the road. The town’s Highway Department had 35 snow and ice removal events this year compared to 52 last year. Tracking salting is relevant to analysis of the cause of accidents. The department spreads rock salt under normal conditions and magnesium salt below 18 degrees. Purple salt is enhanced with corn syrup and designed to reduce corrosion. Asked about what he does for black ice, Curt replied he prays and focuses on getting the slush off the road.

### **Parks and Recreation Committee**

In discussion with Roland Dudney, a member of the Parks and Recreation Committee, the selectmen approved buying equipment and a new swimming dock for Card Pond using FY 2018 funds because quite a bit of money is left over.

New playground equipment will be installed at the rear of the Town Offices with the assistance of the Highway Department. Selectman Bernie Fallon suggested asking Crane Lake Camp for help because their camp counselors use town facilities and the camp does not pay real estate taxes, and also writing a letter to town merchants seeking assistance.

The selectmen recommended the committee add any balance needed to their FY 2019 town meeting warrant item and also use the town’s Youth Service Fund that has \$5,260 remaining. The total cost of demolition, purchase, and construction of the playground is estimated to be \$40,000. They also recommended adding a bike rack near the playground. Curt praised the committee’s plan and thanked all its volunteers.

### **Codifying Bylaws**

Administrative Assistant Mark Webber reported that Joe Roy and Sheila Thunfors have reviewed work done by General Code, the firm codifying town bylaws. General Code will continue its involvement in the project, stay in contact with the town clerk, and track action by the state attorney general.

### **Transfer Station Inspection**

Mark reported that the Transfer Station has received good marks in the inspection of its handling of solid waste as required by the Department of Environmental Protection. The inspection report said the Transfer Station is well organized and maintained.

*...continued on page 7*



The *Local Yokel* is published monthly. Please send submissions to: *Local Yokel*, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266 or [info@thelocalyokel.org](mailto: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](mailto:john.j.parker53@gmail.com); Vicki Grayson, 232-6131, [vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com](mailto:vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com); Susan Fisher, 232-4443, [suefish12@gmail.com](mailto:suefish12@gmail.com); Anne Lesser, 232-8577, [anne@annelessercommunications.com](mailto:anne@annelessercommunications.com). Contributor: Doane Perry, (617) 547-1413, [doaneperry@yahoo.com](mailto:doaneperry@yahoo.com); Designer: Kim Bradway, [kim@bloominarts.com](mailto: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.



## Second Annual

# "Spring Is Coming!"

## Photo Contest

Once again we invite local photographers to submit photos on the theme of "Spring Is Coming!" As judged by our editors, the best photos will be published in upcoming issues of the *Local Yokel*, and we are offering a grand prize of \$25 for any photo selected for the cover!

Photos must be taken in West Stockbridge and be submitted by e-mail as a digital file. Resolution should be at least 300 dpi at 9x12 inches for cover use. Please include the date and location the photo was taken. Submissions will be accepted until May 15. Photos may be published in the April, May, or June issues. The deadline for each issue is the 15th of the preceding month.

The *Local Yokel* is *always* looking for local content. We invite residents, businesspeople, and creative folks of all ages to submit material of interest to our readers for consideration. Submissions can include articles, columns, profiles, photos, artwork, poems—you name it! You don't have to be a pro, just have something to share. Our editors will help you prepare your content for publication.

For more information and submissions, please contact *Local Yokel* editor John Parker at [john.j.parker53@gmail.com](mailto:john.j.parker53@gmail.com) or by phone at (413) 394-4368.



*Last year's cover picks: Lear Levin (top)  
Patrick Barry (bottom)*

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### Insurance Costs

Mark reported that the cost of health insurance for town employees and school insurance will remain flat next year.

### Town Website

Bernie reported on his efforts to update and improve the town website. The selectmen approved Bernie's request to send messages to the town's boards and commissions. Bernie mentioned, as an example, that the town's Animal Control page by John Springstube is good.

## Open Meeting: February 12, 2018

### FY 2019 Budget

Administrative Assistant Mark Webber reported on the status of next year's budget. Almost all department budgets are in, and all of them will be in by the next board meeting on February 22. Comparing this year to last, Mark said the FY 2019 budget will be manageable due to a reduction in the town's share of the school district budget offsetting higher expenses for the stabilization fund, a police cruiser, the playground and firehouse roof repairs, and no change for health insurance and debt service.

### Cable Television Local Programming

Mark reported that Chris Graham, a consultant for the Cable Commission, has recommended a list of equipment to buy so the system will be able to originate and show local programming such as Board of Selectmen meetings.

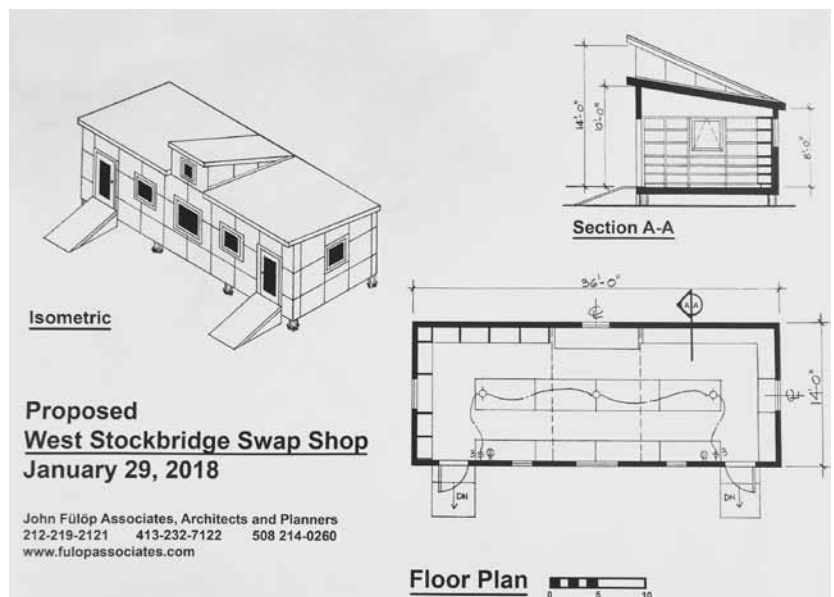
### Planning Board

Select Board Chair Peter Skorput reported on a Planning Board meeting in which the board

did not approve an attempt to get a road off Hotel Street approved. It is not a usable road, and the matter was not on the board's agenda.

### Transfer Station Swap Shop

The selectmen discussed a plan for building a Swap Shop at the Transfer Station. Architect and local resident John Fülöp described his drawing of the building and said it is to be located opposite the shed. Selectman Bernie Fallon said he is glad the ball is rolling on the Swap Shop project, and the next step will be a meeting with the Board of Health that oversees operation of the Transfer Station. Selectman Curt Wilton thanked John for his design. Peter said the Swap Shop is a good idea that people ask him about all the time. Transfer Station manager Wayne Cooper discussed installing security cameras. □



Design for Transfer Station Swap Shop by John Fülöp Associates

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## Myron Schiffer

*Myron  
Schiffer*

*Photographer*

*"exploration of  
improvisation and captured  
essence"*

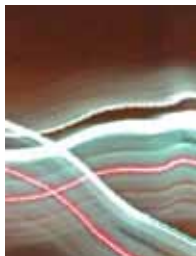
*"gleaned from everyday scenes  
and transformed into a  
minimalist expression of  
color, light, and space"*

Fri., March 9  
12:15-1:30pm

Six Depot,  
West Stockbridge

Guild of Berkshire Artists  
(formerly Richmond-West Stockbridge  
Artists Guild)

[www.rwsag.org](http://www.rwsag.org) "Our  
Programs: Meet the Artist" and  
Facebook



Join Myron Schiffer on Friday, March 9, 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 him questions. RSVP: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090544a5a72ca7fa7-meet> or if necessary [kcarmean@gmail.com](mailto:kcarmean@gmail.com).

Established as a pianist and teacher in the Berkshires since the late 1960s, Myron "Mike" Schiffer has a history of exploring the avant-garde. Fascinated with music and the visual arts since childhood, Schiffer enrolled in photography at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. Working in black and white at the time, he was most notably inspired by Richard Avedon's fashion photography. Once introduced to color, he was deeply moved by the mystical color fields of Georgia O'Keeffe and Mark Rothko and considers this work his strongest influence.

After focusing purely on his musical career for most of his life, he's now fulfilling his dream of investigating photography as an additional means of expression. Similar to his approach to jazz, Myron Schiffer's Motion Capture photography is an exploration of improvisation and captured essence. His photographs are gleaned from everyday scenes and transformed into a minimalist expression of color, light, and space. The method he employs for this series is improvisational movement of the camera while capturing various light sources, resulting in bold abstract images. Schiffer's graffiti and urban scenes follow along similar lines, capturing unexpected images of everyday scenes.

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# Letter to All Our Berkshire Friends

(Who Fled to a Warmer Climate the Minute  
the Temperature Dropped Below 60 Degrees)

Hello there. Thank you for all your phone calls, e-mails, and text messages, also for the pictures of you sipping cocktails at poolside or pretending to have scored a hole in one (ha! ha!). We do appreciate you reaching out across the miles to check on our well-being. However, let me reassure you that we are absolutely fine. You really do not need to begin every communication with "So, how many inches you got?" or "Are you able to get outside?" My personal favorites are the questions as to whether or not we have food and electricity.

Dear ones, your kindness and concern have overwhelmed us. You will not find us wasted away when you return as our freezer and pantry cabinet is stocked with enough supplies to feed a Third World country. If anything, we have eaten too many cookies and snacks. As a result, we have had to hike and snowshoe a bit more often, a sport we thoroughly enjoy.

So far this winter, we only lost TV reception on Super Bowl Sunday but were able to watch part of the game on my iPhone. Without Lady Gaga, we were underwhelmed with the half-time show. The next three days of replays on TV and the Internet gave us a complete picture of a very sorry-for-himself Tom Brady.

We lost all electricity on February 11 and snuggled under the covers reading books while using strap-on headlamps. We were almost sorry when the lights popped back on after a mere two hours. We have enjoyed many dinners and glasses of wine by the fireplace. We will miss that wonderful glow when the weather finally turns warm.

We wish you a glorious rest of winter in your warm habitats. Please do not get overheated because it could raise your blood pressure. And please remember to slather on countless amounts of sunblock. Keeping your cap visor low over your face to cover your nose is also important.

Looking forward to your return to the beautiful bucolic Berkshires!

Andy and Lorrin Krouss



## 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 host a corned beef and cabbage dinner in the Grange Hall at 51 Church Street on Sunday, March 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.

### Council on Aging Potluck

It has been nice to see new faces and some who we haven't seen in a while, so let's continue with another Council on Aging potluck luncheon at noon on Tuesday, March 13, in the Community Room at the Town Offices. We look forward to seeing you then.

### West Stockbridge Congregational Church

On Friday, March 23, the West Stockbridge Congregational Church, at 45 Main Street, will hold a pasta dinner at the church, with continuous seating from 5 to 7 p.m. The buffet-style meal will include pasta with meatballs, salad bar, dessert, and beverage for \$10 per person, \$12 gluten free. Fresh homemade meatballs will also be on sale to take home! Tickets are available in advance by calling 232-4256 or at the door. All proceeds benefit the West Stockbridge Police Association.

Other upcoming events:

- Easter sunrise service at 6:45 a.m. on Sunday, April 1, at the Outdoor Chapel, 141 West Center Road
- Easter breakfast (no charge) at 7:30 a.m., April 1, in the Church Dining Hall, 45 Main Street
- Easter service at 9:30 a.m. on April 1, in the church sanctuary, 45 Main Street
- During Lent, through April 1, the church will hold regular Sunday services at 9:30 a.m. in the church sanctuary, 45 Main Street.

*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](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org).*



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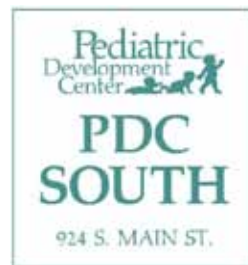
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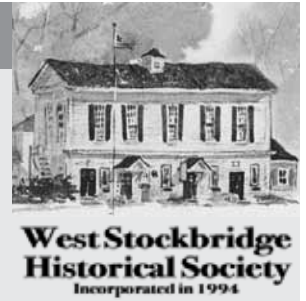
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## March History Quiz Question:



March has mud season and St. Patrick's Day (plus some other occasional holidays thrown in). Starting as an early 17th-century religious celebration, the Feast of St. Patrick evolved into an informal day off to celebrate Irish culture. It received its biggest push into the form it takes now (wearing green, green beer, green ice cream, etc.) in the United States and other Commonwealth countries in the mid-19th century. It was as much a celebration of Irish immigration and reaction against a growing anti-immigrant sentiment as a religious holiday.

Like many New England towns, West Stockbridge had a growing Irish population in the mid-1800s. The Irish were one of the major waves of immigrant groups that helped build our town and industries (others were settlers from Connecticut, French Canadians, and Italians). What was the nature of the Irish population at that point in the town? Were they welcomed here?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)

When friends, neighbors, or relatives move, downsize, or just clean house, *please* ask them to think of the West Stockbridge Historical Society before they discard any old books, pictures, postcards, letters, or memorabilia of the Town of West Stockbridge. E-mail [info@weststockbridgehistory.org](mailto:info@weststockbridgehistory.org) or call 232-4270.



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# On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky



# Let There Be Light!

There's been a big change in lighting over the past few years, and some of the changes can be confusing. It will be increasingly hard to find old-fashioned incandescent light bulbs because they are being quickly replaced with newer LED bulbs. LED means "light-emitting diode," and the technology is a much more efficient way of producing light (measured in lumens) than the older bulbs. In fact, LED bulbs use up to 80% less electricity to produce the same level of lumens as incandescent, halogen, or even fluorescent lights. About 95% of the energy in an LED is converted to light, and only 5% is wasted as heat. That means a 40-watt LED bulb can provide roughly the same amount of lumens as an older 100-watt incandescent. And LEDs last many times longer than incandescents.

Furthermore, LEDs contain no toxic heavy metals, such as mercury, found in fluorescent lights. This means less pollution in landfills.

But it's not just the smaller amount of energy to produce a certain level of light. It's the reduced level of heat generated, especially important in areas where cooling is used—more and more of an issue as summers get hotter. Also, in ceiling-recessed lighting, the amount of heat emitted by a fixture can affect the insulation around it. Incandescent bulbs, giving off a lot of heat, should not be used in closets or other enclosed spaces where the buildup in heat can be a fire hazard. In the latest energy code component of the building code, new houses are required to use LED lights in most locations.

LEDs are directional; that is, they send light in a single direction. So they are ideal for task lighting, such as under-cabinet lights to shine on kitchen countertops or in recessed downlights in the ceiling.

When LEDs came on the market a few years ago, many people objected to the intense—even harsh—blue-white light from the early bulbs. But today LEDs are now produced to provide a variety of so-called color temperatures. A *warm white* bulb (rated at 2700 Kelvin) has a bit of yellow in it, closer to the color provided by older incandescent bulbs. A *clean white* (3000 K) is whiter, and a *clear white* has more blue in it. For interior residential lighting we're used to the warmer end of the spectrum. *Cool white*, sometimes called "daylight," provides a higher contrast and is good for reading in offices or studies.

But the blue-white tint in LEDs—and on the screens on our smartphones and e-readers—actually interferes with our circadian rhythm and our natural melatonin production in the brain. Melatonin is a hormone that allows us to fall asleep. So avoid LED bulbs above 2700 K in the bedroom, and check to see if your phone or Kindle has a blue filter if you use these devices in bed.

Energy Star provides price incentives (I know, I know—jack-booted government thugs in black helicopters trying to take over our lives) that subsidize the cost of LED lighting. But even without the incentives, LEDs last sometimes as much as 20 times longer than an incandescent bulb, so the nominal higher cost is really not an issue.

Thomas Edison would've loved these lights! He could have used them to illuminate his workshop so he could have invented the incandescent bulb much sooner.

Please send your questions to [info@thelocalyokel.org](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org).

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## Collector's Notes

Water bills were issued on 2/15/18 and will be due on 3/15/18. The format is different from the old one, and until the old supplies of envelopes are used up, the bills may arrive folded to fit the smaller envelopes. I've attached a sample copy of the new bill. It breaks out the individual charges for water and sewer and explains the rate structure. There is also a space to include notes as I did this time (it was a longer than usual cycle). I'm hoping our issues with the reading interface in the new billing software will be resolved by April and the next bills will go out on time!

As with real estate and tax bills now, the *top* portion of the invoice should be returned with payment. If you only send a check, please include your account number on that check. Your bank also sends a check when you pay online, so include a memo there too if you use that service. If your mailing address changes, please keep us informed.

If your bill indicates “0” usage and your dwelling was occupied during the cycle, your meter may not be functioning. Please contact Michael Buffoni at 232-0309. There is an answering machine. Leave your name, address, phone number, a good time to reach you, and a message that your water meter needs to be repaired or replaced. If we are unable to read your meter and need to switch to the unmetered rate, the charges are significantly higher, as you can see on the sample bill.

Interest on unpaid balances will accrue after the due date, and late bills will only be sent once a year, just before placing a lien on your real estate in December.

If you require a receipt for *any* payment you make to the collector's office, please include a stamped self-addressed envelope with your payment or include the entire invoice and indicate you'll stop by for a receipt, and I'll save it for you to pick up on your next trip through the Town Offices.


For those who like to plan ahead, fourth-quarter real estate and personal property bills will be going out between March 26 and 31.

Thank you, once again, for your cooperation and patience with the water/sewer bills.

June Biggs, Collector

Tel.: 232-0300, ext. 302; E-mail: [collector@weststockbridge-ma.gov](mailto: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.



**Town of West Stockbridge  
Water and Sewer Department**

Ph: 413.232.0300 x 302  
Mail to: P O BOX 8 W Stockbridge MA 01266  
Pay on-line at: [www.weststockbridge-ma.gov](http://www.weststockbridge-ma.gov)

**Remittance Coupon Please Return  
With Payment**

Account Number: ###

<b>New Charges:</b>	<b>\$\$\$\$.\$\$</b>
<b>Credits:</b>	<b>\$. \$.</b>
<b>Past Due:</b>	<b>\$. \$.</b>
<b>Interest:</b>	<b>\$. \$.</b>
<b>Total Due: 03/15/18</b>	<b>\$\$\$\$. \$\$</b>

**PROPERTY OWNER**

**MAILING ADDRESS**

**MAILING ADDRESS**

**Contact Information**

Account #	Service Location	Parcel Identifier	Billing Date	Due Date	Total Due
###	LOCAL STREET ADDRESS	MAP.0-0000-0L.OT.0	2/15/2018	3/15/2018	\$\$\$\$. \$\$

Meter Readings			Usage Summary		New Charge Summary				
Meter	Date	Type	Read	Rate	Total Usage	Charge	Quantity	Amount	Total
4*****	1/30/2018	ACT	19,260	Sewer Usage	2,097	Sewage Usage		\$125.82	\$125.82
4*****	10/7/2017	ACT	17,163	Water Usage	2,097	Sewer Base	1	\$25.00	\$25.00
						Water Base	1	\$35.00	\$35.00
						Water Usage		\$81.78	\$81.78
				= 19260 - 17163					
				Note: Total Usage is in cubic feet					

Tax Payer Message	Rate Information
<p>This invoice covers the period from Oct 2017 through January 2018.</p> <p style="text-align: center; border: 1px dashed black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 20px;">This space for special messages and notices</p>	<p>Water rate: \$35 plus \$3.90/100 cu ft</p> <p>Sewer rate: \$25 plus \$6.00/100 cu ft</p> <p>Non-metered accounts: \$200 per consumption type</p> <p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; margin-top: 20px;">\$200 for water \$200 for sewer</p>



# Keep Your Rooster Crowing!

**A few hours here and there will  
make all the difference.**

**If you love the market, join in.  
Contact [wsfarmmarket@gmail.org](mailto:wsfarmmarket@gmail.org)  
or call (917) 209-0926.**

## The market needs you!

# News from Parks and Rec

By Ginna Dudney



Responding to a request from the Board of Selectmen, the Parks & Recreation Committee has prepared and presented a proposal for construction of the new code-compliant playground as a capital expenditure in the 2018–19 budget. The selectmen and the Highway Department worked together to lower demolition and construction costs on the project. The opportunity to provide our children with a safe and fun environment will now rest with the voters. If you are interested in helping develop the final plans, call (917) 209-0926.

\*\*\*\*\*

A new swimming dock was ordered for Card Pond and will be installed by the Highway Department well in advance of the opening pond party on June 24.

\*\*\*\*\*

After conversations with the selectmen and the librarian about the feasibility of installing a bike rack near the new entrance of the library, it was agreed that our committee will arrange for the installation.

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# WEST STOCKBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

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

Greetings to one and all from the WSPL staff and trustees. We are hoping for some March weather that will tempt us all to uncurl from our reading chairs and get out into the sunshine and fresh air!



It's time to celebrate and remember Dr. Seuss this month, the ninth best-selling fiction author of all time, whose birthday is March 2. Here at the WSPL, we are big fans of this Springfield, Mass., native, and we think of him whenever we look at our terrific clock!

Dr. Seuss is credited with making children's literature fun. Also, the rhyming and rhythm of his verses boost beginning readers' skills. If you are up for

a tongue-twisting challenge, come on in and borrow one of our wonderful Seuss titles to read to your favorite little ones.

## New Additions

DVDs: *Call Me by Your Name*; *Darkest Hour*; *I, Tonya*; *The Shape of Water*; *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*  
JUST FOR KIDS: *Coco*; *Ferdinand*

## FICTION

Aiyan, *Salt Houses*  
Lee, *Pachinko*  
Lehane, *Since We Fell*  
Nguyen, *Refugees*  
Saunders, *Lincoln in the Bardo*  
Ward, *Sing, Unburied, Sing*

## NONFICTION

Ford, *Between Them: Remembering My Parents*  
Kelly, *Endurance: A Year in Space, a Lifetime of Discovery*  
Lockwood, *Priestdaddy: A Memoir*  
Perry, *After the Eclipse: A Mother's Murder, a Daughter's Search*  
Riggs, *Bright Hour: A Memoir of Living and Dying*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Ongoing

- Set up a CW/MARS online account by going to weststockbridgelibrary.org and clicking on the card catalog picture. Your personal account allows you to keep track of checkouts, requests, overdues and fees, pickup locations, renewals, and more. Can't find it in our C/WMARS network? Click on the Commonwealth Catalog to borrow any item statewide.
- Another computer class will be held in the library, taught by our wonderful volunteer Bill Biggs, during the second half of March (specific date and time to be arranged). We have one more seat available at the library computers, and additional attendees are welcome to bring their own laptop or other device. Please sign up with Rachel or Jodi.
- All library trustees board meetings are open to the public. Please check our website for March's meeting date.
- A reminder that day passes to our year-round attractions are available at the library, thanks to the Friends of the Library and the West Stockbridge Cultural Council.

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

Rachel Alter and Jodi Wagner

## West Stockbridge History Quiz Answer:

Irish-born residents of West Stockbridge in the mid-1800s made up about 10% of our population. Many were refugees from the Irish famine and likely came into the country on the so-called coffin ships through the Port of Boston. In the 1850 census, those listing their birthplace as Ireland were primarily male, occupation as "laborer" or "quarryman," and worked in the marble quarries and lime kilns. Many of the men could not read or write. There were also a number of females, usually teenagers or women in their early 20s who were listed as servants or washwomen. Most also could not read or write.

By 1860 our Irish population increased, and the makeup was very different from 10 years before. The census shows many more families with children in school versus the single men boarding in local households. Some of the larger families had young Irish teenagers as servants or washwomen who were probably recent arrivals and unable to read or write. Some of the families also had Irish immigrant boarders who were listed as laborers or farmhands. Many of the Irish heads of households owned real estate, houses and small farms. They were listed as farmers now instead of as working in the quarries. They had clearly worked hard and built up their assets here, which would have been impossible in 19th-century western Ireland.

Immigration was a contentious issue in the 1850s, with resentment against newly arrived Germans and Irish, particularly in New England. In 1854 West Stockbridge elected a one-term state representative from the Know-Nothing party, a short-lived and virulently anti-Irish and anti-Catholic party. It would be interesting to know if this sentiment was local in our area or just a way to follow along with the national trend at the time.

Fortunately, the Know-Nothing movement died out quickly and disappeared as slavery and the Civil War took over as the major issues. The Irish were one of the largest immigrant groups to enlist and fight for the North.



*Irish Immigrant marble worker.  
Photo courtesy of Bob Salerno*



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 PASSIONATE JEWS  
 HIGH-HOLY-DAY JEWS  
 ARTISTIC JEWS  
 AGNOSTIC JEWS  
 HAVEN'T-BEEN-IN-SHUL-SINCE-  
 MY-BAR-MITZVAH-JEWS

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## Get Behind the Scenes!

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.

But volunteers are needed. Hours are flexible, and whatever your talent or creativity, there's a place for you. Join in—share your thoughts. Don't miss it!

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

**Happy Saint**  
 Patrick's Day

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Red fox. Photo courtesy of Nancy Trionfogs

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Meet the Artist 2018

## Rose Tannenbaum

Rose Tannenbaum

Abstract Painter

"First I put down a base layer of solid colors. Then I begin adding paint until some forms begin to emerge."

"The end result is a field of color full of energy and movement, often with a visual tunnel."

"What emerges is a remembrance of color and light in nature."

Thursday, March 15  
12:15-1:30 p.m.

Six Depot,  
West Stockbridge

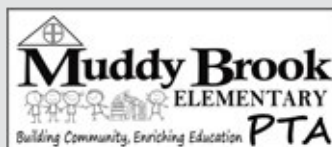
Guild of Berkshire Artists  
(formerly Richmond-West Stockbridge  
Artists' Guild)  
www.rwsag.org "Our  
Programs: Meet the Artist" and  
Facebook



Join Rose Tannenbaum on Thursday, March 15, at Six Depot, West Stockbridge, from 12:15 to 1:30 pm 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](mailto:kcarmean@gmail.com).

"Many of my larger paintings are impressionistic, in the sense that I'm painting from memory certain places that I've visited. Some of them have begun to emerge with the feeling of waterfalls, which began to happen after a recent trip to Brazil. On the southern coast of Brazil are short steep mountains between the main coast road and the beaches, often with waterfalls cascading down into deep pools. Those paintings are my memory's impression of those rocky shorelines. Others evoke the landscapes of Tuscany and southeastern Europe, sometimes with the help of photographs but primarily depending on my remembrance of the experience of being there."

The smaller paintings often begin as color studies, but again, what emerges is a remembrance of color and light in nature. Color harmony and composition guide the overall experience of the paintings. Please discover your own interpretations in these abstract paintings."



### MUD DAY NEWS!

Mud Day will take place on Saturday, May 19, from 12 to 4 p.m., and the theme this year is conservation. We are

asking for local organizations to participate. Does your business have a creative way to teach children about conservation? The activity should be an educational and fun outdoor activity. Mud Day is open to the public, not just Muddy Brook families. This will be our eighth annual Mud Day, and in past years around 400 people attended. We expect this year to be even bigger. Please contact Randi Craft, [randicraft1711@gmail.com](mailto:randicraft1711@gmail.com), if you would like to participate.

### 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.

Please join fellow parents and teachers in making this year very special for the students of Muddy Brook. Visit [muddybrookpta.com](http://muddybrookpta.com), and like us on Facebook!

Thank you for your continued support.

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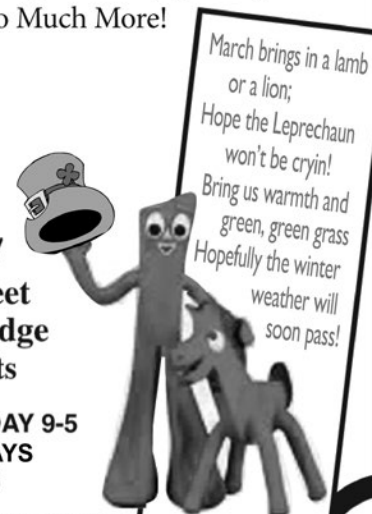
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## Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 3/1 Jim Mikolajczyk  
 3/5 Rocco Pigtrafesa  
 3/25 Jan Będini Lang  
 3/26 Rita Mikolajczyk  
 3/27 Jennah Buckaroo  
 Epstein-Santoyo  
 3/30 Charles Moffatt

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](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org)



2017 readers

The sixth annual "Monument Girls Write On" event will once again be held this year at the West Stockbridge Historical Society Old Town Hall, upstairs in the auditorium. Ten fabulous young female writers at Monument Mountain Regional High School, ages 14 to 18, will present selections from their poetry, short fiction, creative non-fiction, and hybrid work. Students are chosen to participate by MMRHS English department faculty, who will also introduce the writers.

## Monument Girls Write On

Friday, April 27 – 6 PM

**Free and open to the public. Reception to follow.**

This event has become a cherished honor for the students who are selected and a valued treat for audiences year after year. Please join us for what is sure to be a varied and impressive offering of entertaining, stimulating, and moving work.

## Donor Roll Call ~ March

Amy & Brian Butterworth  
 Hillary & Jay Cohen  
 Robert & Irma Gal  
 Lorrin & Andrew Krouss  
 Susan & Sam Menahem  
 Anonymous: 1

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# Every issue costs us about \$1,300 to print and distribute!

## Please help us keep the Local Yokel coming!

With increased printing and postage costs, we need your help more than ever. To get the latest town news, please contribute to the *Local Yokel*. For your donation of at least \$25.00 per year we will mail each issue to you (unless you prefer otherwise). The *Local Yokel* will continue to be available free at selected locations as long as possible, but we hope you will contribute anything you can. The West Stockbridge Local Yokel, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization, and all contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Please check with your employer, or former employer if retired, for matching gift programs.

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

Town Government Boards and Commissions, Phone Directory, and Office Hours				
Town Offices Main Number 413-232-0300 • Fax 232-7195				
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	Tues. 4–7 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: <a href="http://weststockbridge-ma.gov">weststockbridge-ma.gov</a> • Community and Business Website: <a href="http://weststockbridgetown.com">weststockbridgetown.com</a>				

# March Art Calendar

**Reception Gallery 35: Works by members of the Guild.** Sat., March 3, 3–5 p.m. Stone House Properties, 35 Railroad St., Great Barrington. Artists, please bring hors d'oeuvres.

**March 2, 5–8 p.m.** [www.firstfridaysartwalk.com](http://www.firstfridaysartwalk.com), Pittsfield.  
**First Sundays at Clark Museum** are free October to May. Sun., March 4, 10–5 p.m. We carpool.

**Still Life Painting, Drawing, and Photography, Hancock Shaker Village.** Mondays, March 6, 12, 19, 26, 10 a.m. –1 p.m. You must reserve and bring all your own supplies including drop cloths. Free to guild members with HSV or NARM. RSVP.

**Figure Painting, Open Studio.** Tuesdays, Feb. 6–May 1, 10–1, IS183, Stockbridge. \$25, \$20 members. Bring your own supplies. RSVP (413) 298-5252 x 100. Sign up for first Tuesdays or all dates.

**Art Demonstration and Business Meeting.** Wed., March 7, 4 p.m. How to make your own web page. Bring 2–5 photos on flash drive, smartphone, or computer. 4:30 p.m. Demo; 5 p.m., business meeting and planning upcoming shows in Lenox, Great Barrington, etc., in small groups. Community Room, Town Offices, 21 Stateline Road (Rte. 102), WS.

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

**Meet the Artist:** Myron Schiffer, Photographer. Fri., March 9, 12:15–1:30 p.m., Six Depot, WS. RSVP.

**Shaker Mill Inn Reception: Opening of Exhibit.** Sun., March 11, 4–6 p.m. More than 50 works by local artists. This is a rare opportunity to see the works. Light refreshments served.

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

**Meet the Artist:** Rose Tannenbaum, abstract painter, Thurs., March 15, 12:15–1:30 p.m. Six Depot, WS.

**Berkshire Photo Gathering.** Sun., March 18, 2–4 p.m. \$5. Berkshire South, 15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington. Bring 2–5 photos on flash drive, smartphone, or print.

**Meet the Artist: Panel discussion with Artists Under 30.** Sun., March 18, 12:15–1:30 p.m. Six Depot, WS.

**Members Potluck and Movie Night.** Wed., March 21, 5:30 potluck; 7 p.m. movie. Bring main dish, hors d'oeuvres, or dessert for 10, and what *you* want to drink. Bring partners.

## Guild of Berkshire Artists

(Formerly Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild)

RSVP: [rwsag.org](http://rwsag.org) "Our Programs." See Facebook

**Gallery 35 Reception.** Sat., March 3, 3–5 p.m. Show open March until April 15. During business hours call (413) 528-4211.




Panel discussion with artists under 30. Sun., March 18, 3 p.m.

**Exhibit**

## OPEN HOUSE: Shaker Mill Inn

More than 50 Paintings and Photographs  
by Local Artists  
Sun. March 11  
4–6 pm  
Light Refreshments  
Shaker Mill Inn  
2 Oak Street  
West Stockbridge



See Photos of Work On Facebook "Berkshire Local Art: Shaker Mill Inn"

Guild of Berkshire Artists  
RSVP: [www.cbagg.org](http://www.cbagg.org)  
"Our Programs: Art Around Town" and Facebook

Join us for a rare opportunity to see some of the nine rooms decorated with rotating art by local artists and enjoy light refreshments at the Shaker Mill Inn. Representative works by artists in the show, clockwise from top left: Walt Pasko, Susan Sabino, Keith Emerling, Anne Pasko, Joan Sewall, Peg Dutchin, Marilyn Orner and Bill Graulty. To RSVP and for more information contact Karen Carmean at [kcarmean@gmail.com](mailto:kcarmean@gmail.com)



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



**March 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	29	30	31

**March 2018 Calendar of Events**

3/1	Board of Health meeting	6:30 p.m.	Town Offices
3/5	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
3/5	Planning Board meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
3/7	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
3/11	Daylight Savings Time begins: set clocks ahead one hour		
3/11	Grange Dinner	1-2 p.m.	Grange Hall, 51 Church Street, Stockbridge
3/12	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
3/13	Council on Aging Luncheon	12 noon	Town Offices Community Room
3/13	American Legion	7 p.m.	Town Offices
3/14	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
3/15	*** Deadline for the next Local Yokel ***		send to <a href="mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org">info@thelocalyokel.org</a>
3/17	St. Patrick's Day		
3/19	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
3/20	First Day of Spring		
3/21	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
3/23	W.S. Congregational Church Pasta Dinner		W.S. Cong. Church, 45 Main Street
3/25	Palm Sunday		
3/26	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
3/28	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
3/30	Good Friday / Passover begins at sundown		