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West Stockbridge
April
2016



SAVE THE DATE!

**Annual Town Meeting
Monday, May 2**

7 p.m.

**Annual Town Election Warrant
Monday, May 9**

Polls open at 10 a.m. and close at 7 p.m.

~ Town Offices Gymnasium, 21 State Line Road ~

Photo by John Parker.

Effort Begun to Update Town War Memorial

By Dominick Luchi



Photo by John Parker.

We are trying to update the war memorial at the Town Hall and need your help! We are looking for the names of West Stockbridge residents who served our country from 1975 to the present. I have compiled a partial list with the help of Rep. William 'Smitty' Pignatelli's office. Please drop off a note with the name(s) of the veterans from your family at the Town Hall, c/o Dom Luchi. Thanks!

Here are the names I have so far:

Michael John Angelo
 Mark Elsworth Clousen
 Randy Scott Crane
 Jesse Delsoldato
 Jackie R. Eldridge
 Scott Lee Emerson
 Brian Michael Faggioni
 David Michael Greer
 Dennis Mathew Hall
 Michael Korte
 Michael Robert Luchi
 Donald Duane Mann
 Wayne Dennis Moore
 William Nolan III
 Kevin Norton
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Board of Selectmen Meeting Summaries

By Doane Perry

Note: Copies of official board minutes may be read at the West Stockbridge Public Library.

Open Meeting: February 22, 2016

Town Bylaw Review Committee

Sheila Thunfors and Joe Roy Jr. presented the report of the Town Bylaw Review Committee. The committee's purpose was to review and clarify the present status of the bylaws of West Stockbridge. To be enforced, bylaws must be passed at the town meeting and approved by the state attorney general.



Sheila Thunfors and Joe Roy Jr. present the report of the Town Bylaw Review Committee. Photo by Doane Perry.

The report covers bylaws pertaining to zoning, noise, leash laws, and roads, particularly abandoned and established roads. While records reviewed go back before World War I, the committee found that many more recent bylaws were not sent to the state attorney general.

One issue identified in the report is that it is not always clear whether certain bylaws were actually passed. Documents were stored in two different state offices, and neither had a dedicated West Stockbridge file. Also, the difference between a bylaw and an ordinance is not clear. The town could hire experts for assistance. Issues of concern raised in the report may be addressed by future bylaws. Sheila, Joe, and the selectmen all thanked the members of the committee, including Martha Almgren, Matt Lopez, and Mike Skorput.

Parks and Recreation Committee

The Board of Selectmen discussed and approved a plan presented by Roland Dudney for a conceptual summary of requirements as a step toward applying for a matching grant for playground equipment from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).

The town would pay half the cost of \$55,000. Additional support would come from sponsorships by businesses in exchange for signs at the playground. If the conceptual plan is approved by the DCR, the town will develop a detailed plan and seek appropriation of the full amount at the town meeting.

...continued on page 5



The Children's Attic

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Saturday, April 30, 9:30am - 2pm
Sunday, May 1, 9am - noon
(Many items will be half price on Sunday)

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for the**



**1854 Town Hall
Spring Cleanup
Saturday,
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10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

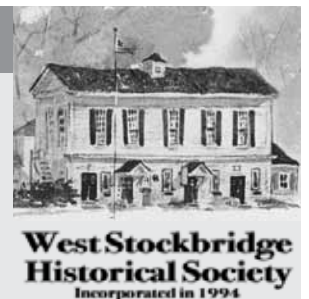
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April History Quiz Question:

Spring is coming after a mild winter, and thoughts turn to outside spaces, long delayed yard work, and enjoying early flowers—crocuses, daffodils, and skunk cabbage. Our town has three named small parks, or park spaces, in the village center. Two of these were named after local families who lived nearby, but one has an unusual contemporary name.

Where are these town center parks, and which one has the contemporary name?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)



Other Business:

- Mark Webber was appointed to the Berkshire County Insurance Group board of directors. He replaces Jorja-Ann Marsden, who is retiring. Mark will attend two to three meetings per year to review rates for health and dental coverage.
- At the March 7 meeting, the library trustees will present architectural plans to redesign access to the outside.
- The Annual Caucus Warrant was approved for March 14.

Open Meeting: March 7, 2016

Library Entrance Proposal

Barbara Dowling, chair of the library trustees, presented a preliminary plan for a privately funded vestibule entrance outside the door behind the circulation desk—a sunroom, intended for three-season use. The purpose is to make the library more accessible to patrons and people with disabilities. The vestibule will not be heated but will provide protection from the weather, reduce hallway traffic, and improve security. The space can also be used for programs for children three seasons of the year. The library wants to offer more outdoor activities, and the vestibule would help keep outdoor air from blowing in.

Librarian Lee Apelbaum is excited about the plan, adding that the door [facing the side parking lot] is a headache because she has to send people back around through the front entrance.



Library Vestibule Exterior Entrance, courtesy of EDM Architecture.

The designer is Tim Eagles, principal of EDM Architecture (edm-ae.com), who redesigned the Village School into the town offices. The bid package is ready, so the time frame would be as soon as possible. Library trustee Mike Skorput said the attorney general has approved the project. He declined to provide a budget because it is to be privately funded and a gift to the town.

Curt Wilton asked the trustees to seek endorsement of their plan from the Police Department, to be sure the design complies with code, and the roof of the vestibule connects satisfactorily with the existing roof. Mike Skorput asked the selectmen to waive permit fees. Earl replied it is up to the permit-issuing authorities, but Curt said the selectmen can request fees be waived.

A motion to approve the plan passed unanimously.

Other Business:

- The Annual Town Caucus was set for March 14 at 7 p.m.
- A meeting on the FY 2017 budget was set for Wednesday, March 9, at 3 p.m.

Executive Session

The board went into executive session per G.L. c.30A, sec. 21[a] [1], “To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than the professional competence, of an individual, or discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual.” Contrary to usual practice, the session was open to the public as requested by Peter Skorput. Earl Moffatt asked Peter, who is also a selectman, to recuse himself and to sit in the audience.

Earl led the executive session, which was to deal with concerns about the operation of the town Fire Department and the dispute between Chief Peter Skorput and Lieutenant Jim Hallock. The central issue was that after Jim read a statement critical of Peter at the Board of Selectmen meeting on February 26, Peter fired Jim from the Fire Department. This action might be interpreted as retaliation in violation of Jim’s civil “whistle-blower” rights and open the town to the risk of a lawsuit.

Earl explained that the situation is complicated by ambiguities or irregularities in the appointment history when Peter and Karen Zick were both selectmen and members of the Fire Department. The consensus was that Peter was appointed chief for three years by the Board of Selectmen and needs to be approved at the town meeting.

Town Counsel Dave Jenkins commented that the public safety aspect of town government is complicated, due to multiple statutes, and sensitive, due to the difficulty of finding people willing to serve as volunteers. Dave also said the Skorput/Hallock case raises questions about whether the procedures were ethical. State law also prohibits selectmen from being appointed to positions that are then supervised by selectmen and setting stipends for oneself or relatives.

The alleged retaliation raises issues of First Amendment rights, indemnification from deliberate actions, and violation of the whistle-blower retaliation statute. The situation needs to be remedied because Peter did not give Jim sufficient due process or reasons, and he would be in a difficult position in court to defend his actions. The court would look at the timing for obvious retaliation. For the firing to be justified, Peter would have to show documentation of progressive discipline, but there is too little documentation.

Mark Webber asked town counsel if he thought the situation is remediable. Dave said the chief would need to reinstate Jim in the Fire Department, and there would need to be a stand-alone article on the town meeting warrant regarding the term of his own appointment.

Earl noted that the town’s volunteer Fire Department has a stipend package, administered by the chief, whereby volunteers are rewarded for showing initiative. Such a package depends on good record keeping, and better records should be kept.

Peter agreed with town counsel’s recommendations that Jim be offered unconditional reinstatement in the Fire Department and that he (Peter) would keep better records. Jim would have 24 hours to decide whether to accept reinstatement. Citing the circumstances of Peter’s actions, Earl moved to put Peter on administrative leave so as to have time to clean up the ethical issues. Peter protested from the audience. Curt Wilton seconded the motion.

...continued on page 7

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Wednesday, April 20 | 6-7pm
**MELT for Hands, Wrists +
Carpal Tunnel Syndrome**
with Karden Rabin

Monday, April 25 | 6:30-8pm
Treating the Root of Weight Loss
with Kelly Clady-Giramma

Wednesday, May 4 | 7-8pm
**The 5 Senses and Emotional
Integration**
with Dan Marko

Wednesday, May 18 | 6:30-8pm
**Improving Sexual Health + Stamina
with Acupuncture + Chinese
Medicine**
with Kelly Clady-Giramma

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Steve Dixon asked if Peter and Jim could work it out. Jim said he wanted his Fire Department status back. Joe Roy Jr. asked that, since Peter offered to put Jim back in the Fire Department and Jim wanted to return, couldn't the Board of Selectmen see if that could work out before they voted on putting Peter on administrative leave? A citizen proposed that Peter and Jim should both be back in the Fire Department and that town counsel should recommend legal steps for the town to take.

Following a recess, Dave said the chief had offered unconditional reinstatement to the lieutenant, who would have 24 hours to decide whether

to return. The chief will send a reminder to the department requiring no retaliation. Counsel recommended that the selectmen withdraw their motion placing Peter on administrative leave, and he said he would work with Mark on a disclosure form for Peter. Earl and Curt voted in favor of withdrawing the motion.

Curt said it had been difficult deciding how to protect the town in this case. He said Jim had been an active firefighter and called for more acceptance of him in the Fire Department.

Annual Town Caucus: March 14, 2016

The annual Town Caucus was held at 7 p.m. on March 1, at the Town Offices. After a short delay while the required quorum of 20 persons was assembled, Joe Roy Jr. was elected chairman of the caucus. Joe went through the list of 10 elected offices, asking for nominations of incumbents and inviting additional nominations from the floor.

Incumbent selectman Peter Skorput and Ed Denham of Maple Hill Road were both nominated for a three-year term as selectman and will contest the seat.

The candidates for elected office are as follows:

<u>Elected Office</u>	<u>Term Length</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>	<u>Nominee / Challenger</u>
Moderator	1 year	Eugene Dellea	
Board of Selectmen	3 years	Peter Skorput	Ed Denham*
Town Clerk	3 years	Ronni Barrett	
Town Collector	3 years	June Biggs	
Board of Assessors	3 years	Amy Butterworth	
Finance Committee	3 years	Michael Skorput	
Planning Board	5 years	Mitchell Greenwald	
Board of Health	3 years	Scott Sawyer	
Library Trustee	3 years	Catherine Nihart	
Cemetery Commission	3 years	Marion Loring	

* Nomination not yet accepted when this issue went to print.

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Farmers Market: Gettin' Ready!



On March 3, the West Stockbridge Farmers Market Committee held its annual vendor appreciation party at 31 Stockbridge Road. The object of the evening was to get all the participants of the market together for an evening of relaxation and good talk. Needless to say, good food was involved as well!



Farmers Market Marketing & Promotion Director Terri Jo Dixon and Jeweler Ali Herrmann are all smiles waiting for opening day 2016 on May 19. Photo by Peter Cohen.



Kris Kantor of JK Furniture and Maddie Elling of Hosta Hill Farm compare ideas for the upcoming season. Photo by Peter Cohen.



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News from Parks & Recreation

By Ginna Dudney

The Playground Project moves along. With the help of Mark Webber and the Board of Selectmen, **P & R** was able to apply for matching funds from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation to help finance the new playground structures.

Good ideas are still needed!

If you have the time and inclination, drop a note to wsparksandrec@gmail.com or stop by the next meeting on **Tuesday, April 12, at 5:30 p.m.** in the Board Workroom at the Town Hall.

WiredWest Update: More Delays with MBI

By Steve Sautman, West Stockbridge Delegate for WiredWest (Sautman@msn.com)

In early February, the Baker-Polito administration asked the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) to “pause” and hold off on spending any of its budgeted state money for broadband. On March 14, a joint letter was released by the administration and MBI to the towns, stating that the Baker-Polito administration is now asking MBI to develop policies to ensure it is reviewing and analyzing all options. This process will include review of technologies, cost projections, and various project design and delivery, governance, and operating models. The expected result is a strategic plan for MBI to provide cost-effective, financeable, and sustainable broadband solutions for western Massachusetts communities including criteria for approving last-mile project proposals from towns.

It is not clear how long it will take the MBI to develop these policies and criteria in order to proceed. The MBI letter does not acknowledge or refer to WiredWest, even though 31 of the 44 underserved towns are represented by and are part of the WiredWest regional cooperative. The MBI letter does reference Leverett’s locally owned network and private company solutions as successful options.

The WiredWest negotiating team met with MBI on March 11 to better understand the Baker-Polito administration’s areas of focus and concern. To provide effective return on public investments, the administration


wants to ensure affordability and operating sustainability for projects receiving Commonwealth funds. Their goal is to develop and execute a strategy that will provide broadband access to the greatest number of residents possible, access available sources of financing, offer the best value for the public investment, leverage outside sources of funding and expertise where possible, and operate sustainably over time. WiredWest and MBI still have differences around ownership, governance, and WiredWest’s business plan that has already been vetted by industry consultants.

With everything going on at MBI and with WiredWest, it is best for West Stockbridge to also watch the developments with the proposed acquisition of Time-Warner Cable by Charter Communications. The Charter/Time-Warner Cable merger is nearing FCC approval. The FCC chairman has circulated a draft order for approval with some key conditions aimed at preventing the combined company from interfering with the emergence of online video companies as a challenge to traditional cable TV. Conditions likely also include requiring the new Charter to invest in spreading broadband access to more homes. FCC approval is anticipated some time in May. We expect Charter to make a proposal to our town once the merger has been approved. Stay tuned for more to come.



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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.

@West Stockbridge Library



National Library Week Open House Saturday, April 16, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Help us celebrate the contributions of all kinds of libraries as we hold our third annual National Library Week Open House. Pick up a new book bag, a coffee, and some goodies. Enter our spring basket raffle and learn more about our new entrance vestibule slated for the upcoming summer season.

**New Hours! Yes, we are finally streamlining our hours of operation.
Effective April 1, we're open Tuesday 10–5;
Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 2–6; and Saturday 10–2.**

Reminder: We now have four Windows 10 workstations. To learn more about Windows 10 or sharpen your computer skills, please contact the library at 232-0308. Tech adviser Bill Biggs is taking class sign-ups.

New Additions: Catch up on the 2016 Oscar winners—and more!

DVDs: *Spotlight, The Big Short, The Danish Girl, The Americans Season 3, Steve Jobs, Carol, Brooklyn, Creed*

FICTION

Baldacci, *The Last Mile* (also LP)
Brundage, *All Things Cease to Appear*
Coben, *Fool Me Once*
Gardner, *Find Her*
Lawhon, *Flight of Dreams*
Meyer, *Taliban Shuffle*
Tripp, *Georgia*

JUST FOR KIDS

Colfer, *Curvy Tree: Tale from the Land of Stories*
Siddals, *Bringing the Outside In*

YOUNG ADULTS

Bardugo, *Six of Crows*
Colfer, *Land of Stories: Beyond the Kingdom Vail, Unfriended*

NONFICTION

Donvan, *In a Different Key: The Story of Autism*
Rawlence: *City of Thorns; Nine Lives in the World's Largest Refugee Camp*
Offutt, *My Father, the Pornographer: A Memoir*

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, pick-up locations, renewals, and more.
- You can borrow just about any library item across the state via the Commonwealth Catalog. If our library network CW/MARS does not have what you want, go to the Commonwealth Catalog (commonwealthcatalog.org). Requested items will be delivered to West Stockbridge Library for pick-up. Thanks to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioner and the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.
- If you use an e-reader, explore the new statewide Commonwealth e-book Collections (CEC) at eBooks.masslibsystem.org.
- Library Trustees Board meetings are open to the public. The next meeting is April 21, 4:30 p.m., in the Community Room.

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

Lee Appelbaum and Jodi Magner



**The Friends of the
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**A Gardening Talk
by Molly Comstock of Colfax Farm**

Founded by Molly Comstock and named after her father, Colfax Farm is an independently owned and operated farm. "For the past seven years, I have been a gypsy farmer, managing farms and growing food throughout the Hudson Valley. Heading into my third season as a CSA [community-supported agriculture] farm,

I am now located in West Stockbridge, Mass., nestled at the edge of the beautiful Berkshires. I will be farming using organic practices on land generously provided by the Baldwin family."

Colfax Farm will be returning to the West Stockbridge Farmers Market and delivering fresh organic produce to local restaurants.

All produce raised on the farm is grown organically, without the use of harmful pesticides or herbicides. Colfax Farm is currently accepting members for the 2016 CSA summer season.

Friday, April 29, 7-9 p.m.

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Botanist's Corner

By Dan Lewis



April showers bring May flowers and the return of the Botanist's Corner! All those who planted allium, tulips, and daffodils last fall are now being rewarded with the earliest color on the block, although the alliums will likely take another month to go from leaf to flower.

For those just now thinking (and dreaming) of a perennial/annual masterpiece, I'll start with bed preparation. For established beds, simply smother the weeds with mulch before they come up. My favorite is landscaping fabric covered by 2 inches of coarse wood chips. The chips are more erosion resistant and last longer than fibrous mulch. Resist the urge to use landscaping fabric without a covering to weigh it down. The weeds can lift it up, and then it can blow away. Staples are not worth the effort in my opinion.

If creating a new bed, use a pickaxe to lift chunks of sod and shake out the dirt before using the chunks to fill in some bare spots in your lawn. Rototillers are usually less effective because the grass gets chopped into pieces but stays in place.

Two more tips before I get too long winded: start seeds in Ziploc bags with wet paper towels inside and transplant directly to large pots. Beware the late killing frost. Long-range forecasts are calling for a warm/hot spring, but don't put anything tender in the ground before May 15 or you will spend early May nervously watching the weather ☺.

Until next time, keep green, my friends.

Community Garden / Food Bank Update

After a wildly successful 2015, we are raring to go for 2016. We donated well over 600 pounds of produce to families in need right here in West Stockbridge. The big hits were butternut squash and red potatoes. The deer fence is still in good shape and only needs to be erected again. Then it's down to business.

As always, anyone who wants to help their community while learning how to organic garden on a large scale is welcome to put in whatever amount of time works for them. Just contact me (Dan) or my wonderful wife (Megan) at 232-7959.

Many thanks to the donors who made financial contributions through the *Local Yokel* wish list last holiday season. It has funded our project and will fill a lot of bellies through 2017! Finally, anyone who would like to control their own patch of the garden can do so all season for a donation of \$40.

I want to close with a very special thank you to Molly Comstock at Colfax Farm (you can find her at the West Stockbridge Farmers Market). She has made it a point to donate unbelievable numbers of transplants each year the food bank has been in operation. We couldn't have done it without you, Molly!



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Mindful Eating: Have You Met Ataúlfo (the Champagne Mango)?

by Rachel Alves, RD, LDN

Spring brings delicious seasonal fruit and vegetables to our grocery stores, and one worth discussing is the Champagne, or Ataúlfo, mango. Named after a Mexican mango grower, Ataúlfo Morales Godillo, these mangoes originated from the cross-pollination of several different types of mangoes in Chiapas, Mexico. The Ataúlfos are pampered from planting to harvesting, growing in volcanic soil in the balmy breezes of the South Pacific Ocean. Their groves are meticulously cared for with the regular removal of dead branches and perfect pruning to allow just the right sun exposure and growth. Although all Champagne mangoes are Ataúlfo mangoes, not all Ataúlfo mangoes are Champagne mangoes. Ataúlfo mangoes are also known as honey or Manila mangoes.

The Ataúlfo mango is known for its kidney shape and beautiful golden exterior. The flesh is a brilliant yellow and smoother, firmer, and less fibrous than the Tommy Atkins variety usually found in stores. The pit of an Ataúlfo mango is thinner, which means more flesh per mango. They are juicy and have a tropical sweet but tangy flavor. They are perfectly ripe when they smell sweet and have a slightly wrinkled-looking exterior. The Champagne variety also turns a golden yellow color when ripe. Ataúlfos with some speckles or stains that appear more pronounced when ripe are perfectly fine, and this will not affect the taste. However, avoid ones that have skin punctures, sunken areas, or that are too wrinkled because they may be brown inside. Unripe mangoes may take up to a week to ripen at room temperature. To speed ripening, put them in a paper bag and keep in a warm place. Mangoes can also be stored in refrigeration for up to two weeks.

The Ataúlfo mango is nutritionally dense providing many vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants such as vitamins A, B, and C, potassium, calcium, and iron, as well as beta-carotene and quercetin. They also are a good source of dietary fiber and naturally fat free! Some potential health benefits are associated with mangoes. They may help with indigestion and promote good digestion due to an enzyme they contain. According to *Natural News*, chemicals called polyphenols in mangoes may help protect against cancer by fighting free radicals in the body. Because it is a nutritional powerhouse, the mango may also help lower blood pressure, promote eye and skin health, as well as boost brain and heart health. Some people may have an allergy to mango because it is a distant relative to poison ivy. However, allergies tend to be from the peel or juice rather than from the flesh and usually affect the skin.

Health is not the only reason to eat mangoes! They make a delicious and easy snack, and they offer texture and flavor to salads, grain dishes, hot cereal, yogurt, and salsa. Some people have trouble getting the flesh out of the mango, but following these steps can make the process easier:

1. Always wash your mango before slicing.
2. Slice a small bit off of one end of the mango to create a flat surface.
3. Hold the mango upright with that cut side down.
4. Place your knife about a quarter inch from the widest center line to avoid the seed, and cut straight down the mango. Flip it around and repeat with the other side. The resulting sections are called “cheeks.”
5. From here you can either cut slices or chunks by holding a cheek skin side in your palm and cutting into the flesh either in a slicing motion or cross-hatched to make chunks. Be careful not to puncture the skin with the knife.
6. Next you can either scoop out the slices or chunks using a larger spoon, or you can turn the mango inside out and push the skin from underneath and scrape off the flesh.
7. The flesh is ready for snacking or adding to your favorite dishes!

This spring, enjoy this delicious and nutritious delicacy!

SAVE THE DATE

**WEST STOCKBRIDGE
CHAMBER PLAYERS**

Friday, May 27, 2016 @ 6 p.m.

**1854 Town Hall
Main Street, West Stockbridge**



Halvorsen: Passacaglia
Prokofiev: Quintet, Op. 39
Mozart: Divertimento in E-flat major, K. 563

Edwin Barker, double bass
Ronny Feldman, cello
Sheila Fiekowsky, violin
Daniel Getz, viola
Amanda Hardy, oboe
Catherine Hudgins, clarinet

Tickets on sale to members on April 24, 2016, at
413-232-4270 or www.weststockbridgehistory.org
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WEEKLY BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC

The Community Health Association offers blood pressure screenings every Wednesday from 9 to 10 a.m. at the West Stockbridge Town Hall office. No appointments are needed.

For more information, contact Emilie Jarrett, RN
Community Health Association of Richmond and West Stockbridge
21 State Line Rd., PO Box 368
West Stockbridge, MA 01266
232-0122; Emilie@charws.com

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April Art Calendar

First Fridays Artswalk: Fri., April 1, 5–8 p.m., Pittsfield. www.firstfridaysartwalk.com

Clark Art Museum: Sun., April 3, 10 a.m. –5 p.m. First Sundays free admission. Field trip. To carpool with others, see Facebook or e-mail kcarmean@gmail.com

Business Meeting: Wed., April 6, 5–7 p.m., Community Room, WS Town Hall, 21 Stateline Rd. (Rte. 102). RSVP: ilenespiewak@gmail.com

Open House: Visual Art by Plein Air & Other Local Artists. Thurs., April 7, 4–6 p.m., Shaker Mill Inn, 7 Albany Rd. & Oak St., WS. E-mail: kcarmean@gmail.com

Meet the Artist: Carol Daynard: Painter, mixed media. Fri., April 8, 12:15–1:30 p.m., Six Depot, WS. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Photo Gathering: Sun., April 10, 3–5 p.m., Stanmeyer Gallery, WS. Bring 3–5 photos or on USB or iPhone. <http://www.edgemaster.com/Photo-Gathering>

Positive Critique: Thurs., April 14, 4–6 p.m. Bring 2–3 pieces of your art. WS Town Hall, 21 Stateline Rd. (Rte. 102). For required reading and RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Tea with the Masters: Wed., April 20, 12–2 p.m. Viewing of an artist's work or demonstration on DVD or video. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Art Book Gathering: Fri., April 22, 4–5:30 p.m. Share a favorite book: artist, process. Stanmeyer Gallery, 2 Main St., WS. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Meet the Artist: Julie Evans: Abstract painter, collage. Wed., April 27, 12:15–1:30 p.m., Six Depot, WS. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Model Session: \$15 RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Using Facebook RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

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

Recent Works



Keith Emerling: Crimson and Pink Gerber Daisies



Doane Perry: Fog in the West Stockbridge Valley



Gabrielle Kravanja Murphy: Housatonic River



Susan Sabino: Rolling Clouds



Carol Kelly: Enchanted



Recipe Corner

by Lynn Ryan

THE "BIG PINK" RHUBARB CAKE

Serves 12

Here's a recipe that's not for the faint of heart. It's an over-the-top 1950s-era recipe that I dug out of my grandmother's collection. My brother and I would pick the rhubarb in the backyard and beg her to make it. She made it every spring for dessert after Sunday dinners. Sooooooo bad but sooooooo good! Enjoy!

For the cake:

1 cup sugar
½ cup butter
4 yolks from large eggs, beaten
1 cup whole milk
1 tsp. Baldwin's (of course) vanilla
2 cups all-purpose flour
2 tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. salt

For the rhubarb layer:

3 cups sliced rhubarb, cut into ½-inch pieces
½ cup sugar
1 package strawberry gelatin
3 cups miniature marshmallows
¼ cup powdered sugar

Grease and flour a 9 × 13-inch pan. Preheat the oven to 350°F. First make the yellow cake batter. Using a hand mixer or stand mixer, cream the sugar and butter. Add the egg yolks, milk, and vanilla and mix well. Add the flour, baking powder, and salt and mix until fully combined. Set aside.

Evenly spread the rhubarb on the bottom of the greased baking pan. Sprinkle the ½ cup of sugar and contents of the strawberry gelatin package onto the rhubarb. Layer the marshmallows on top of the rhubarb as evenly as possible. Lastly, pour the cake batter over all of the ingredients. It's OK if a few marshmallows poke through; it will be a thin layer of batter.

Bake 35 to 45 minutes until the cake is set. Cool completely and sift the powdered sugar through a strainer to dust the top of the cake.

Happy spring!

Lynn Ryan 232-7758 E-mail: waxonwheels2655@yahoo.com Web: www.partylite.biz/waxonwheels

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Community News & Events

Council on Aging Luncheon

Please join us for our monthly Potluck Luncheon in the Community Room at the Town Hall at noon on Tuesday, April 12. See you there!

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

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

West Stockbridge Congregational Church

Friday, April 8: Pasta dinner at the church, 4:30–7:00 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person; children 6 and under are free. All net proceeds will be donated to the West Stockbridge Farmers Market.

Saturday, April 16: Bake sale in front of Baldwin's Extracts, 9:30–noon.

Sunday, April 17: Earth Day Celebration at the outdoor chapel, 141 West Center Road, beginning at 10 a.m.

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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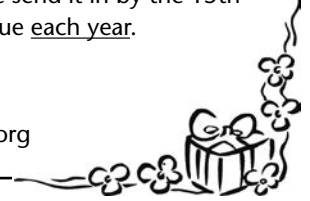
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Birthdays & Anniversaries

April 22 Anne Mikolajczyk

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.

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West Stockbridge History Quiz Answer:

During the late 1800s and early 1900s, open air spaces in American cities and towns became very popular. They were seen as antidotes to urban crowding and places for fresh air to counter so-called poisonous vapors that were believed to breed diseases. In the smaller towns like ours, they were also a way to honor local prominent families or citizens (who also might have donated the land).

One of our two family-named parks is Baldwin Park, located in the little triangle in front of the Stone House. The second, Bossidy Park, is the site of the cannon at the intersection of Routes 41 and 102.

The most unusual park is on Main Street, called People's Park. This park is the open lot next to Stone House Properties and the walkway over the Williams River near the former Olio restaurant. Its name, People's Park, came about in the 1970s when it was owned by the Rose family.

The People's Park name was actually cited in the January 1984 deed transfer when the land was sold to the Khalaf family.

The original People's Park was the name given to an open space in Berkeley, California. It was made famous in 1969 as the center of community protests that were squashed by Governor Ronald Reagan. During the 1970s, other cities and towns appropriated the name for community open space. We don't know the motivation for our People's Park. It didn't last long and was not universally adopted by the town. The name quickly fell out of favor, and the space became an outdoor sculpture garden as part of the Waterside Gallery.

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.



Photo courtesy of Bob Salerno.

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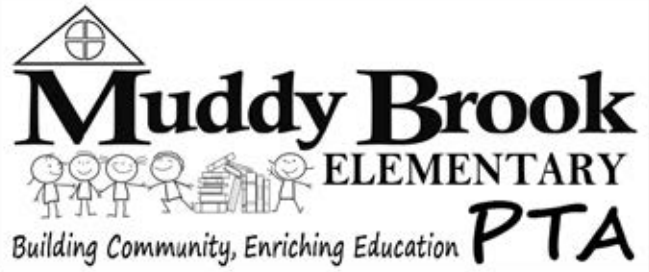
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Paint for the PTA, Wednesday, April 13, 7-9 p.m., Muddy Brook

Learn to paint "Man on the Monument Mountain" on a 16 x 20-inch canvas. All painting materials and instruction included for \$35. No alcohol permitted. Reserve your seats at www.berkshirepaintandsip.com or call (413) 205-8346.

3rd- and 4th-Grade Potluck, Friday, April 29, 5-6:30 p.m., Muddy Brook Cafeteria

Please join us for a fun evening with your school community. Your whole family is welcome. If you are able, please bring a dish to share. The Muddy Brook PTA will provide plates, utensils, cups, and water.

Family Social Dance, Friday, April 29, 6:30 p.m., Muddy Brook Gymnasium

Enjoy an evening of traditional American dances and songs your children have learned. Come as you are—no need to dress up or know the steps. Live music, group dancing, light snacks, fun for all ages!

Mud Day: Save the Date! Saturday, May 21, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Muddy Brook

Mud Day 2016 will be different from the last few Mud Days because we want to return to the original goals of the day. We want families, the school, and the area we live in to come together. We want our children to know what our environment has to offer and how to respect that. Mud Day 2016 will connect students and families to the outdoors through partnerships with local organizations. Participants will enjoy a day of learning how to explore the outdoors safely. In addition to the popular mud to play in, we will have activities such as knot tying, campfire songs, identifying plants and berries, and hiking, just to name a few. Please contact Heather at hsboyko@gmail.com if you would like to help with the festivities.

Thank you for your continued support.

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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>John Olander</i>	232-0300	ext. 314	Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m., or by appt.
Board of Selectmen	<i>Earl B. Moffatt, 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>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.
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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>Edward McGrath</i>	232-0307		Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m.–6 p.m. and Sat. 8 a.m.–6 p.m.
Tree Warden	<i>James Hallock</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

Meet the Artist

Carol Daynard

Collage, Painter,
Mixed Media

*"My work is about the
dance of life."*

Friday, April 8

12:15–1:30 p.m.

Six Depot,
West Stockbridge

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



Join Carol Daynard on Friday, April 8, at Six Depot, West Stockbridge, from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m., for an informal discussion over lunch.

"My work is about the dance of life, my own and others. It is about my family, my friends, those whose lives I have touched whether intimately or in passing. It is the crowd, the individual, and the other. Much of the content reflects the examination of the individual in her own context or a documentation of the individual's life work.

Memory is a rich source for my reflection on people and places. My small sketches capture the impact of culture while portrayal of an individual is a more cumulative process. The ultimate transformation of the individual almost makes all my individuals self-portraits. My work is influenced by travels, different art genres, and reflection of the relationship between material and form.

Materiality is an essential element in my work. I use coffee, fabric, and recycled material and transform them into images and landscapes. They become my paint and adhere to the canvas where they build the surface while they narrate. These often take on both 2D and almost 3D aspects. I have worked with a range of materials, such as *New York Times* delivery bags, coffee grinds, filters, fabric, gel mediums, and resins as well as wax."

You will be able to ask Carol questions. RSVP: kcarnean@gmail.com.

Meet the Artist

Julie Evans

Abstract Painter,
Collage, Mixed Media,
and Mylar Constructions

*"Confounding our
immediate perception"*

Wed., April 27

12:15–1:30 p.m.

Six Depot,
West Stockbridge

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



Join Julie Evans on Wednesday, April 27, at Six Depot, West Stockbridge, from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m., for an informal discussion over lunch.

"My work continues to address my interest in process and perception, combining the materiality and surface occupations of abstraction with the spatial illusions of representation.

The works are constructions of painted Mylar, created by random pours and gravitational pools of color, that I cut up into many small pieces, reconfigure, and then assemble with mending tissue. While the cut shapes themselves are abstract, they contain within them details of a hyperreality that simultaneously suggest the atmospheric, the geological, the aquatic, the biological, and the corporeal. This imparts a strange, almost creepy reality to the resulting aggregate forms that remain indefinable and possess the tension of a familiarity that is vague, elusive, and evocative. They are in a state of flux as they actively shift between whole and part, material surface and pictorial space, transparent liquid and solid form, amorphous fields of color and fine detail, evolution, and decay.

My intention is that the many formal and conceptual collisions in the works bring both materiality and representation into question, confounding our immediate perception and challenging our assumptions of how we construct image and meaning."

Julie has had numerous solo exhibitions in the New York area. With a Fulbright she studied Indian and Nepalese miniatures. See www.julieevans-art.com. After seeing some of her work, you will be able to ask her questions. RSVP: kcarnean@gmail.com

Every issue costs us about \$1,000 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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27	28	29	30	31	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

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April 2016 Calendar of Events

4/1	April Fool's Day		
4/4	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
4/6	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
4/8	Pasta Dinner	4:30-7 p.m.	W. Stockbridge Congregational Church
4/9	1854 Town Hall Spring Cleanup	10 a.m.-3 p.m.	1854 Town Hall
4/10	Grange Dinner	1-2 p.m.	Stockbridge Grange
4/10	American Legion	7 p.m.	Town Offices
4/11	Planning Board meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
4/12	COA Potluck Luncheon	12 noon	Town Offices Community Room
4/12	Parks & Recreation Committee meeting	5:30 p.m.	Town Offices Work Room
4/13	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
4/13	Friends of the Library meeting	3:30 p.m.	Town Offices Board Room
4/15	*** Deadline for the Next Local Yokel ***		send to info@thelocalyokel.org
4/16	Annual Town Cleanup	9-10 a.m.	Meet at the Firehouse
4/16	Congregational Church Bake Sale	9:30-noon	In front of Baldwin's Extracts
4/17	Earth Day Celebration	10 a.m.	Outdoor Chapel, 141 West Center Road
4/18	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
4/20	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
4/21	Library Trustees meeting	4:30 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
4/22	Earth Day		
4/22	Passover (begins at sundown)		
4/25	Planning Board meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
4/27	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room

