

# Local yokel

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WEST STOCKBRIDGE  
JULY  
2016



*Tyler Campbell, age 8, enjoying the sun at the Card Pond Opening Celebration. Photo by John Parker.*

*More photos on page 23.*



*The Hallock clan: Mary, Jenni, Abby, Jim, James, Shannon, and Caitlyn. Photo by John Parker.*

## The Shaker Mill Tavern Family Smoke House

*By John Parker*

The Shaker Mill Tavern restaurant has new owners: Jim and Jenni Roy Hallock acquired the business from Dominick Luchi on June 1. Dom and Jim have worked together closely during the transition, and, indeed, most of the staff has remained the same, including Chef Dom Jr. Fans of the venerable West Stockbridge eatery will be reassured to find that the menu also remains mostly the same including the popular polenta, meatloaf, beet salad, chicken parmesan, pizza, and burgers.

But hold on! Something is new here, starting with the name. Jim and Jenni are calling the restaurant the Shaker Mill Tavern Family Smoke House. "Family" because the whole Hallock family will be involved and they hope to appeal to a family clientele. "Smoke House" because Jim's Texas-style house-smoked barbeque specialties like ribs, chicken, and pulled pork will be infused into the existing menu.

Jim says he has always enjoyed cooking on the grill, and some time ago brought back from Georgia a custom-made smoker on a trailer. He started bringing it around to farmers markets and other events and quickly sold out with customers clamoring for more. It appears there's something of a smoked meat vacuum in the Berkshires, with the nearest smoke houses in Hudson and Springfield.

Jim plans to continue catering events with his mobile smoker, and he will

start offering picnic meals—to go only—when Tanglewood opens. Currently open for dinner Friday through Sunday, the Hallocks want to start serving lunches soon, and they are thinking about adding dinner midweek on Tuesday or Wednesday. Jenni says there will soon be a children's menu and a children's corner in the back (with kid-friendly items like a chalkboard, books, and matchbox cars) where younger diners can hang out before or after their meal. Jenni is putting finishing touches on the Shaker Cove, a romantic enclosed private booth featuring a glass-beaded entrance, chandelier, and faux stained glass window.

Jim and Jenni have owned JLH Outdoor Services for about 10 years here in West Stockbridge, and one of their employees, Sean Timmons, recently became half owner of the business. Sean plans to purchase all of JLH Outdoor Services and continue the business, and Jim will continue to help him as needed.

The restaurant will be a real family affair. The Hallocks have five children—Mary and Caitlyn Alpert, Shannon, James, and Abby Hallock—all of whom will often be found at the restaurant. Mary will work as hostess; Shannon, James, and Caitlyn in the kitchen; and even Abby will make frequent guest appearances helping to clear tables.

With its relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere and Jim's smoked barbeque added to an already successful and popular menu, the Shaker Mill Tavern Family Smoke House should be a happening place in West Stockbridge for years to come. Check it out!



*Jim's house-smoked specialties include ribs, chicken, and pulled pork. Photo courtesy of Jim and Jenni Hallock.*



*The traveling smoker can prepare 200 pounds of meat. Photo courtesy of Jim and Jenni Hallock.*



*Jenni's special project is the Shaker Cove, a private romantic booth. Photo by John Parker.*



# 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: May 16, 2016

### Board Reorganization

Curt Wilton was voted in as the new chair of the Board of Selectmen. Earl Moffatt will serve as secretary and Peter Skorput as clerk (whose role is to be acting chair in Curt's absence).

Curt wished Peter good luck with his recent election to a three-year term. Regarding the town meeting warrant article about improving the audibility of town meetings, Curt said he would do what he could to improve the situation, even turning off the air circulation system during meetings. Curt asked meeting participants to join him in standing and saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Complete Streets Program

Curt introduced a representative from Berkshire Regional Planning who described Complete Streets, a state program designed to supplement the Chapter 90 highway funding program of the Department of Transportation. Complete Streets is intended to benefit all street users including autos, public transit, pedestrians, and bikers. It provides funding for improvements such as bike lanes, sidewalks, and wider shoulders. Egremont, Sandisfield, Cheshire, and North Adams have qualified for the grant program, with up to \$400,000 available per town and \$12 million statewide.

The board will take the program under consideration and discuss it again on June 16. Curt said he wants to go after this new funding while it is available. Peter said it looks good. Complete Streets provides a template for town projects but leaves the criteria up to each town. Earl expressed concern about traffic flow on shared roads such as Swamp Road and Route 41.

### Card Pond Weed Treatment

The town is struggling to get permission to treat Card Pond weeds chemically due to concerns about the public beach. Chemicals previously used stayed in the soil, but these are not the chemicals proposed for use today. In 2007, the town's permit from the Department of Environmental Protection was amended to allow only mechanical treatment, which has not worked well. Different procedures are used for Card Pond and Shaker Mill Pond because the weed types are not the same.

### WiredWest Update

Steve Sautman, the town's delegate to WiredWest, reported that the state has lifted the funding pause and made new appointments to the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative (MBI) board that will move along development of last-mile infrastructure. Steve said the MBI plan is to allow for different models to be employed. MBI will accelerate progress on partial-cable model projects such as West Stockbridge. Although MBI's goal is to provide 96% coverage, it is West Stockbridge's goal to have Charter wire 100% of the town. The Board of Selectmen appointed Mark Webber as the West Stockbridge town designee to MBI. Steve Sautman will no longer have a role because West Stockbridge will not be moving forward with WiredWest.

### Sign Permits

The Shaker Mill Tavern has applied for sign permits for a silk screening business upstairs. Because the tavern is seeking multiple signs, the selectmen requested that Mark Webber ask owner Dominick Luchi to list all the signs at the tavern, noting that each business does not receive the total allotment for the building.

### Noise Bylaw Special Permit

The selectmen approved with no conditions Ed Robbins's application to hold a graduation party from 3 to 9 p.m. on June 12. One selectman suggested the applicant "Notify the neighbors and, if you are smart, invite them!"

### Corner Curb


Earl said he has been urged to do something about the sharp curbstones at the junction of Swamp Road and Routes 41 and 102 that are damaging motorists' tires. Curt recommended not adjusting the curb (that has been there since 1996), but he proposed adding 8 to 10 feet of yellow tape. Earl said the reflectors he placed on the curb got run over.

### Other Business:

The town tree warden will be invited to the June 6 meeting to discuss his duties and salary.

The selectmen approved an application for use of the Meeting Room by the Artists' Guild.

*...continued on page 4*



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## Open Meeting: June 6, 2016

Note: Peter Skorput was absent.

### Tree Warden Discussion

The discussion addressed Tree Warden Jim Hallock's stipend for tree work along the town's highways and improving management of responsibilities involving Police, Fire Department, Highway Department, and Tree Warden when a tree comes down on a road. The current procedure calls for the tree warden to have only administrative participation and not use a chain saw to clear the obstruction. Instead, the town Highway Department loader comes out, at overtime and "comp" time rates (after regular 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. hours), resulting in higher costs.

Curt Wilton and Jim proposed that Jim remove the downed tree hazard and that the Highway Department do the cleanup. Curt commented that Jim is phenomenal at getting National Grid rather than the town to deal with trees. Jim commented that he feels it is a shame for him to go out and not to be able to remove a tree.

### Cemetery Trees

Twelve trees need to come down and nine stumps need to be removed. Bids have come in way over the budget of \$30,000. Jim said that the town was able to keep on top of cemetery tree management in the past, but the budget over the last five years has not kept up. Curt commented that the trees have become a safety issue and the town is starting to catch up.

Jim and Curt recommended prioritizing the tree cutting, especially the trees in the front. National Grid won't take down trees unless they fall on the road, and they trim trees over the road so that they fall backward onto the gravestones. Fixing a broken stone costs twice as much as cutting a

tree. Curt recommended taking down the 12 hazardous trees and checking others along the avenues through the cemetery. The Board of Selectmen will fund dealing with the rest.

### Rent Control Board Petition

Mark Webber said the Mill Pond applicants' petition for a rent adjustment is complete. The town clerk will sign the petition and schedule a public hearing for July 11. Delays are possible.

### Complete Streets Program

The board voted in favor of a resolution that the town accept and send a policy letter of commitment to Complete Streets for funding safe multi-modal and multi-user non-roadway projects such as sidewalks. The town will create a committee with five members from town departments and administration to establish priorities. Curt said he thinks West Stockbridge might be the sixth town in the Berkshires to receive Complete Streets funding.

### Colrain Withdraws from WiredWest

Mark described a recent letter from the town of Colrain to WiredWest, copied to other WiredWest towns, announcing that Colrain is withdrawing from WiredWest and advising Colrain residents to seek refunds of their deposits.

### Charter Cable

Mark described the May 26 letter announcing the merger of New Charter, Time Warner, and Brightview as of May 18, with a new service brand name of Spectrum, creating the second largest cable company in the United States. Spectrum representative Tom Cohan said that West Stockbridge and Lanesboro cable systems are being upgraded with completion scheduled for August 2.

...continued on page 6



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# Berkshire Ukulele Band Sets Toes Tapping

By Andy Krouss



*Leader instructor Rob Sanzone.  
Photo by Michael Pfeiffer.*



*Berkshire Ukulele Band at 1854 Town Hall. Photo by Bob Salerno.*

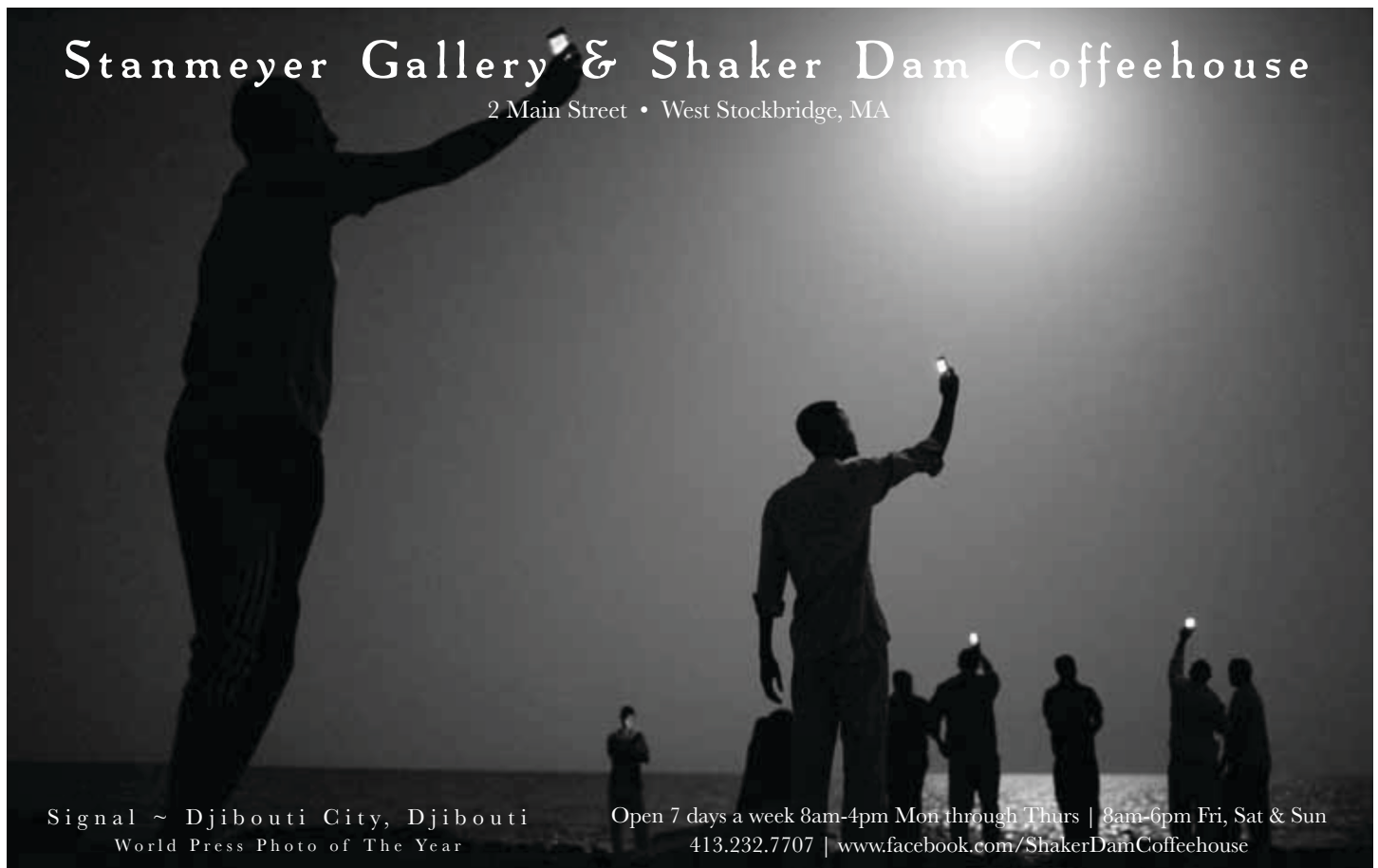
If you had closed your eyes, you might have thought you were sitting under a banyan tree in Hawaii rather than in the West Stockbridge Historical Society's 1854 Town Hall. Everyone at the Berkshire Ukulele Band June 10 performance certainly had a toe-tapping, foot stomping, sing-a-long time.

Led by witty band leader and teacher Rob Sanzone, 20 members of the band (two of whom are our very own West Stockbridge residents Andrew Krouss and Robin Schmitt), wearing Hawaiian shirts and sporting colorful leis or flowers in their hair, strummed and sang 15 songs including "A Little Help from My Friends," "I Walk the Line," "What a Day for a Daydream," and everyone's favorite, "Take Me Out to the Ballgame." The audience was encouraged to join in the singing and most did—it was pretty amazing to see how many knew all the words to the songs!

Following the performance, everyone was treated to sandwiches, cookies, and cake at a festive reception.

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Spectrum is negotiating with the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) seeking \$1 million to build out the final 10% of the system on town-owned roads. Earl Moffatt asked if that 10% equals the unserved dwellings. West Stockbridge cable representatives Carol Kuller and Jackie DelRossi said the town's objective is service to 100% of public and private roads and noted that the town established its policy when it voted in favor of seeking service "to the home." Carol is on the Cable Commission and Jackie is a former WiredWest representative and adviser to the Cable Commission. Earl mentioned that West Stockbridge has some shared public and private roads. Curt promised to provide a description of the town's private roads to Spectrum.

Earl commented that a pledge from Charter has not meant much, and Mark described Charter's response as thin. The town has to be specific in negotiations because Charter has received very low ratings in some places (although Jackie mentioned she saw excellent on-site service by Spectrum technicians in California). Carol and Jackie said while Charter's service backbone may be fiberoptic, they are uncertain what portion of the "final drop" or link to dwellings will be coaxial cable rather than fiber. It will deliver 20-100 megabyte service, with pricing the same as nationally.

#### Other Business:

Mark said that, for the tenth year in a row, a special town meeting will not

be needed because only a handful of departments are over budget.

Regarding the Fire Services study, consultant Brian Dugan has interviewed people and will return, although the timeline of the study is uncertain.

The Conservation Commission will hold a hearing on June 9 at 7 p.m. to discuss Card Pond weed removal.

Mark informed the selectmen that he had a letter of notice from Alford that Willson Road was closed as of today at the Root property for replacement of a large box culvert under the road.

Curt said that washouts were prevalent in the southeast part of town due to heavy rain of a few inches an hour. The Highway Department is addressing them.

Curt reported the bridge replacement on Route 41 south of town will be completed in mid-July.

Surveying for the Route 102 Solar Park is underway. The "for sale" sign pertains to the property next door. □

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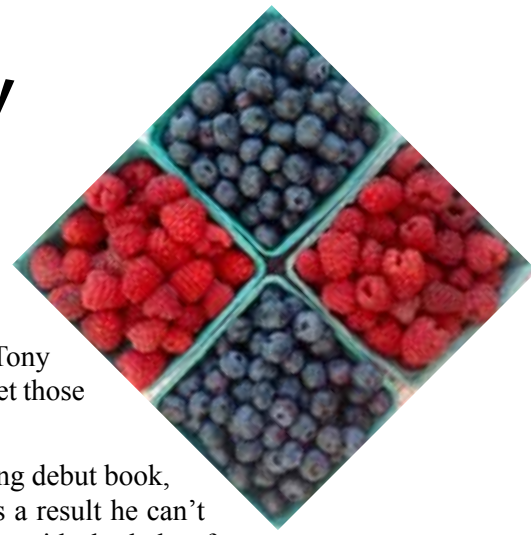


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# Celebrate the glory that is July at the best place to do it: the West Stockbridge Farmers Market!



July 7 brings another fabulous and fun cooking demonstration from Chef Tony Carlotto. Rumor has it that Chef Tony will be highlighting pork loins and potatoes. Get those grills ready!

Children's book author Kara Van Kirk Levin will be visiting on July 21. Her charming debut book, *Soldier*, introduces a precious little porcupine whose quills stick up all the time. As a result he can't get hugs, and that makes him very sad. Find out how Soldier resolves his problem with the help of a sympathetic new friend!

July 28 is the Berry Best Market, a salute to the juicy berries that sing of the season and are gone too soon.

Again this month, John Sanger of Windy Ridge Farm will join our wonderful all-season farmers, Martha and Danny of Taft Farms and Molly Comstock of Colfax Farm. Food purveyors extraordinaire SoMa, Villa Mia, Sky View, award-winning Hosta Hill, Pittsfield Rye, Berkshire's Own, and Mission Maple are all on hand each week to stock your kitchens with everything you need to keep summer livin' easy.



Specialty vendors Tony and Darby at Rolling Rock Farm with incredible seasonings for every need, Karl at Lakonia Greek Products to enhance what's cooking with luscious oils and tasty vinegars, and Georgia at First Flower Farm with edible flowers (and salad mix) that are too pretty to eat and hand-made syrups from unexpected sources that are sure to amaze.

J.W. Ryan Landscaping always offers nature's beauties to brighten your garden, and Graham Farm House provides libations to lighten your mood. Artists Ali Herrmann, AMC Jewelry, Aubry, Bead Signatures, Dancing Bare Soap, Herzfeld Studios, JK Custom Furniture, Kelli's Creations, Michelle Shafto, Soasa, and Nora at Yarnworks tempt with original creations to keep or gift.

Live music continues, cosponsored by the WS Cultural Council. In July the Zimmer Quartet, Don McGrory, DuoEamon, and Linda Worster will perform—a great lineup!

As always, little furry and feathered friends may pop in to interact with kids of all ages. And Fun for Kids, every week introduces another game or craft to delight kids of all ages. The search for the Rooster also continues every week, and a lucky raffle winner always goes home with the contents of a brimming market basket. A dollar and a dream!

There's no better way to wile away a summer afternoon—don't miss it!

## July History Quiz Question:

The Civil War, also known as the "War between the States," "War of Northern Aggression," or "War of 1861," depending on where you live, had a major effect on the U.S. population. Of the 3 million people who served, there were 1.1 million casualties. The impact on the country, and particularly the service age population, from small towns was devastating.

West Stockbridge in 1860 was not isolated from the war. Like many northern towns, our young men were actively recruited and enlisted, or later they were drafted and served in the war. What percentage of the West Stockbridge service age population went to war, and how many survived?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)



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## ***Volunteers Drivers Sought to Put Cancer Patients on Road to Recovery***

The American Cancer Society (ACS) is looking for volunteer drivers in Berkshire County for its Road to Recovery program that provides transportation to and from treatment for people with cancer who do not have a ride or are unable to drive themselves. Drivers and volunteers can connect using the new Service Match online tool, developed to help connect ride requests to available drivers. Trainings on the new tool are available for both new and experienced volunteer drivers. To register as a Road to Recovery volunteer, to sign up for a Service Match training, or to learn more, call 1-800-227-2345 or visit <http://www.cancer.org/involved/volunteer/road-to-recovery-volunteers>.



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*Frank Litsky's grandchildren Nathan and Sarah James came from California to scoop ice cream and celebrate Frank's 90th birthday. Photo by Jerri Buehler.*



*The Berkshire Hills Chorus of Sweet Adelines performed at the 1854 Town Hall. Photo by Bob Salerno.*



*Frank Litsky. Photo by Mary James.*

## Sweet Adelines Charm Audience, Raise Funds

*By Zina Greene*

On July 18, more than 70 people cheered the performance of the Berkshire Hills Chorus of Sweet Adelines at West Stockbridge's Vaber Hall in the 1854 Town Hall. Nineteen women sang a wide variety of songs, a cappella, each in four-part harmony, and the enthusiastic audience was charmed. Based on barbershop quartet style, the Sweet Adelines sing in quartets, octets, and as a full chorus. The Berkshire Hills group arranges their own music and has won several recent prizes from Sweet Adelines International. Last year they took First Place in Division A (under 30 members) and First Place for Most Improved Chorus.

Historical Society members Zina Greene and Frank Litsky sponsored the evening in honor of Frank's 90th birthday. The performance was open to the community, free to Historical Society members, and a contribution of \$10 was suggested for nonmembers. The event raised nearly \$1,000 for the restoration fund, and contributions in Frank's honor are still coming in.

The concert was followed by an ice cream social. Two of Frank's grandchildren who had come from California to celebrate his birthday served SoCo Creamery ice cream along with cookies and fresh fruit—a festive ending for this wonderful event.

The Historical Society will definitely invite the Sweet Adelines back to West Stockbridge and hope to fill the hall again next year. In the meantime, the singers will be performing at Tanglewood on Parade in July. They practice every Tuesday evening in Pittsfield and welcome new members.

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**Summer Reading Program 2016**, June 21–August 5, for summer vacation readers up to grade 6. Get a reading log and turn it in by August 12 to enter our Big E raffle.

This summer's theme includes movement, wellness, and sports.



**Get up and move with Berkshire Pulse!** We welcome dance educator Ellen Gorman for a series of four creative movement classes for young people ages 4–8. Children will explore musical rhythms and movement through dance games and exercises. Space is limited, so sign-ups are encouraged.

Classes meet Tuesdays, July 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 1 to 1:45 p.m.

(sponsored by the West Stockbridge Friends of the Library).

- ❖ Magician and juggler Scott Jameson returns on July 8, at 11 a.m. Umbrellas plucked out of thin air, drawings come to life, and a volunteer will unlock telekinetic abilities—an all-ages magic show (sponsored by the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council)!
- ❖ Note: The library welcomes children of all abilities. All programs are free of charge. Pick up a calendar of events at the library.
- ❖ Summer library programs are supported by the Massachusetts Library System, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, and the Boston Bruins, with funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, an independent federal agency. We also thank the Friends of the West Stockbridge Public Library and the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, the Western Mass Library Advocates, Friendly's, and the Eastern States Exposition for donating tickets to the reading raffle.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: The library will be closed Saturday, July 2, to observe Independence Day.**

Our thanks to Bill Biggs for teaching a series of Windows 10 classes this spring. Computer classes wrapped up June 29. New classes resume in the fall.

Library assistant Jodi Magner has redesigned and updated our Facebook page. Post something at <https://www.facebook.com/West-Stockbridge-Public-Library>.

## New Additions

### DVDs

*Theeb, Embrace of the  
Serpent, Hail, Caesar!*

### FICTION

Erdrich, *Larose*  
Finder, *Guilty Minds*  
Hill, *The Fireman*  
Morgan, *Sport of Kings*

### NONFICTION

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Pataki, *Sisi: Empress on her Own*  
Philbrick, *Valiant Ambition: George  
Washington, Benedict Arnold and the  
Fate of the American Revolution*

### YOUNG ADULTS

Christopher, *White Mountains*  
Kibuishi, *Escape from Lucien*  
Riordan, *Trials of Apollo*  
Sepetys, *Salt to the Sea*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Ongoing

- Board meetings of the library trustees are now held on the third Tuesday of the month. All are open to the public. Next meeting: July 19 at 4:30 p.m. in the Community Room.
- A reminder: We offer day passes to many local attractions. Pick up our Summer 2016 brochure, and thank the Friends of the Library and the West Stockbridge Cultural Council for supporting this program.

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

*Lee Appelbaum and Jodi Magner*



Art at the West Stockbridge Library  
**July Exhibit**  
**Sandra Flannery Photography**  
**“Wonders of India”**



Taj Mahal, Agra, India

The exhibit features Sandra’s photographs of her November 2015 tour of India’s “golden triangle”—Delhi, Agra, Jaipur, and Varanasi, the holiest of India’s sacred cities.

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# Recipe Corner

by Lynn Ryan

## AMBROSIA SALAD

Every time I make this, people ask for the recipe. Enjoy!

1 cup tiny pasta of your choice (a variety called *acini di pepe* means peppercorn and that's the size of it)

1 20-oz. can crushed pineapple, drained with juice reserved

1 15-oz. can mandarin oranges, drained with juice reserved

1 cup sugar

2 eggs, beaten

½ tsp. salt

3 Tbsp. flour

1 8-oz. container frozen whipped topping, thawed (real whipped cream is OK, but in summer the frozen whipped topping holds up better)

7 oz. miniature marshmallows

1 10-oz. jar maraschino cherries, drained

1. Follow the directions on the pasta box. Cook, drain, and put aside.
2. In a medium saucepan, combine the reserved liquids from the pineapple and oranges (about 1½ cups), sugar, eggs, salt, and flour. Cook until thick, stirring constantly. Then add the cooked pasta and refrigerate overnight.
3. The next day, add pineapple and oranges, whipped topping, and marshmallows to taste. Mix together and top with the cherries. Keep chilled until ready to serve.

## PARMESAN ROASTED CORN ON THE COB

Brush a thin layer of mayonnaise on each ear of corn. Sprinkle the corn with shredded Parmesan and a little chili powder (optional), salt and pepper. Wrap each ear in aluminum foil and place on a preheated grill. Turn occasionally, until the kernels begin to brown, about 10–15 minutes. This is absolutely amazing—enjoy!

Lynn Ryan 232-7758 E-mail: [waxonwheels2655@yahoo.com](mailto:waxonwheels2655@yahoo.com) Web: [www.partylite.biz/waxonwheels](http://www.partylite.biz/waxonwheels)

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# Broadband Update: MBI, the Last Mile, and Charter

By Steve Sautman

The MBI, Baker/Polito Administration, and state legislature are committed to ensuring that all citizens of the Commonwealth can access broadband service. On May 10, 2016, Governor Baker and Lieutenant Governor Polito met with Senate president Rosenberg, other legislative leaders, MBI officials, and local representatives from unserved municipalities in western and central Massachusetts to discuss a strategic pathway forward for the Last Mile program designed to accelerate progress. The Baker/Polito Administration also announced a new Last Mile project leadership team to guide the MBI's high-speed Internet accessibility efforts and appropriately disperse state capital Last Mile funds to approved projects.

The MBI is building a flexible framework that will help all unserved towns achieve broadband access, allowing for a range of project models including multi-town collaborations, locally owned networks, and industry partnerships. Many technology and operational choices will be supported, as long as they meet core speed, affordability, and sustainability standards.

The MBI team is engaging directly with unserved towns to assess each town's readiness to move forward by exploring technology options, funding strategy, and operational plans. MBI is engaging with town designees to determine the project readiness status of each Last Mile town. The readiness evaluation process is intended to result in detailed status reports from the MBI and successful approved project proposals. The first step in seeking project approval is completion of a readiness request form.

Mark Webber, West Stockbridge town administrator and MBI contact designee, spoke with Tom Cohan of Charter in early

June to get an update on their progress of upgrading their cable system for Internet, HDTV, and digital phone. Charter is currently on track to complete the upgrade of its system by the end of August. Charter's current system covers about 90% of the households in West Stockbridge. Charter submitted a preliminary request to MBI at the end of May seeking state funds to build out the remaining 10% of homes not currently served. We are awaiting the decision by MBI on how much they will fund Charter using state money to complete the build-out for 100% coverage including private roads. The new upgraded Charter service offerings and prices should be similar to their national ones for their current cities such as Worcester. The West Stockbridge Cable Commission will also need to approve any new contract with Charter.

If you signed up with WiredWest, you can receive a refund for your \$49 deposit (with interest) by sending a written signed request letter to WiredWest, Old Courthouse, 99 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060. Please include your name, your address for service, and your address to send the refund if different. Indicate whether your deposit was by credit card or check, and be sure to sign your request. Unfortunately, e-mail is not sufficient to satisfy the legal requirement to remove funds from the escrow account in which deposits are held.

This is my last update as our town's delegate to WiredWest. Please contact Mark Webber or attend the Board of Selectmen meetings for further status updates.

**West Stockbridge Parks & Recreation Committee** is exploring the community's interest in having tennis lessons available at the Town Hall tennis courts.

If you'd like to sign up for adult or child group lessons, call 917.209.0926 or email [wspandr@gmail.com](mailto:wspandr@gmail.com)

If enough residents express interest, classes will be arranged.

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–Marion Loring, Chairman, Cemetery Commission



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Photo by Brocque Tonini.

## West Stockbridge Resident Attains Rank of Eagle Scout

Boy Scout Brocque A. Tonini of Troop 23 in Great Barrington received the honor of Eagle Scout on March 5, 2016, at the First Congregational Church in Great Barrington. He was also presented a certificate of recognition from the Massachusetts House of Representatives by Rep. William “Smitty” Pignatelli.

Brocque’s Eagle Scout project involved the rehabilitation of the Steven’s Glen hiking trail off Lenox Road in West Stockbridge, owned by the Berkshire Natural Resources Council. He was assisted by members of Wisdom Lodge A.F. & A.M. and the Monument Mountain

Regional High School varsity soccer team and their coaches, and of course Brocque’s mom, who provided all the refreshments and lunch for the workers.

The daunting task required clearing leaves, brush, and fallen trees from the defined trails to the glen, repairing a bridge, and rebuilding, moving, and/or repairing several rustic log benches.

To receive the Eagle Scout award, all requirements and the Eagle Scout project must be completed prior to a scout’s 18th birthday. Brocque’s birthday is November 8. At 9 on Saturday morning November 7, with all other requirements fulfilled except for the hiking trail rehabilitation and with a work crew consisting only of his dad and three members from the Masonic Lodge, it appeared that it would take a long day to complete the project in time.

Somewhere around 10 o’clock there was a lot of noise and commotion heard coming from the direction of the trailhead, and there appeared Brocque’s entire Monument Mountain varsity soccer team and coaches who helped complete the project in jig time. Brocque had asked permission to skip soccer practice that morning. Brocque says, “Thank you, Coach Naventi and team. And oh yes, thank you, Mom and Dad—you’re the best!”



### Community News & Events

#### Stockbridge Grange Dinner

A reminder: no public dinners will be served at the Stockbridge Grange during the months of July and August. The dinners will resume in September.

#### Council on Aging

The next COA potluck will be on Tuesday, July 12, in the Community Room at the Town Hall at noon.

On Tuesday, August 2, we will enjoy our annual COA cookout in place of our regular potluck. It will be held in the back of the Town Hall where the picnic tables are located. We need to know if you are coming, so please call Paula at 232-4394 with your name and if you are bringing a salad or dessert. The rest of the meal will be provided. Bring along an extra chair if you have one. We want to see as many seniors as possible!

#### Congregational Church Bake Sale

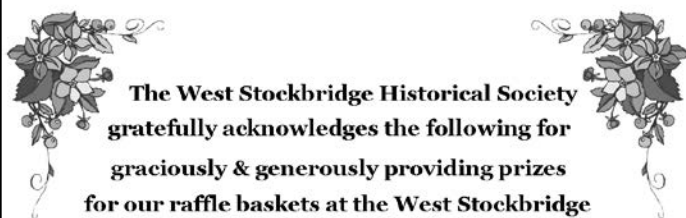
The West Stockbridge Congregational Church will hold a bake sale in front of Baldwin’s Extracts from 9:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, July 16.

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).

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



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# Chamber Players Kick Off Summer Season with a Sensational Sold-Out Concert

By Liza Bennett

“We are fortunate to have such a beautiful hall to perform in,” Catherine Hudgins told the standing-room-only crowd during the West Stockbridge Chamber Players’ Memorial Day concert on Friday, May 27 in the 1854 Town Hall. The artistic director of this world-class ensemble of musicians, Ms. Hudgins has been the driving force behind these concerts that benefit the Restoration Campaign—and which now routinely sell out weeks before the actual performances. Along with Ms. Hudgins on clarinet, the concert featured five other outstanding musicians: Edwin Barker on double bass, Ronny Feldman on cello, Sheila Fiekowsky on violin, Daniel Getz on viola, and Amanda Hardy on oboe.

Introducing Johan Halvorsen’s *Passacaglia*, based on a theme by George Frideric Handel, cellist Ronny Feldman asked the audience to try and count the many brilliant variations in the piece, which started the concert off on a lively note. Though, at the end, Mr. Feldman claimed there were only 13 variations, many in the audience thought they heard at least a dozen more.

Ms. Hudgins took the stage for Sergei Prokofiev’s *Quintet, Op. 39*, and noted that it was a complete turnaround from the tone of the first piece. Written after World War I, the quintet reflects the fracturing of the old social order and Prokofiev’s leadership role in the musical avant-garde. Closely related to the composer’s music for the ballet *Trapeze*, the piece was filled with the discordant sounds of circus life.



Sheila Feikowsky, Ronny Feldman, and Daniel Getz. Photo by Carol Kuller.



Performers are Sheila Feikowsky, Daniel Getz, Edwin Barker, Catherine Hudgins, and Amanda Hardy. Photo by Carol Kuller.

Wolfgang Amedeus Mozart’s only music for string trio and his longest chamber work, the *Divertimento in E-flat major, K. 563*, made up the second half of the concert. Composed when Mozart was 32, just months after he completed his final three symphonies, the work was serious and stately in mood rather than the light-hearted entertainment its name suggests. Violinist Sheila Fiekowsky pointed out that the record-breaking heat in the hall affected the instruments differently; the bows of the strings tended to loosen while the winds filled with condensation. However, for those in the audience, the performance sounded faultless. The lengthy and heartfelt applause made it clear that, as the Chamber Players feel fortunate to have the hall, the loyal attendees of these remarkable concerts feel even more fortunate to have the West Stockbridge Chamber Players. Special thanks go to Richard Ziter, MD, who generously underwrote the concert, and to both the West Stockbridge and Richmond Cultural Councils, local agencies supported by the Mas-

sachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, for their grants in support of the concert.

A reception followed the concert where the audience was able to mingle with the musicians and discuss the music and the many exciting events the West Stockbridge Historical Society has lined up for this summer.



## July Art Calendar

### Art Demonstration and Business Meeting:

Wed., June 29, 4:15-7, West Stockbridge (WS) Community Room, Town Hall, 21 Stateline Rd. (Rte. 102). Using Facebook and Instagram: 4:15-5. Glazing Ceramics Demonstration by Amy Butterworth: 5-5:45. Meeting: 5:45-6:45. RSVP: kcarnean@gmail.com

**Plein Air Painting and Photos:** Weekdays, 9:30-1, The Mount and Hancock Shaker Village fees, lunch, and positive critique. RSVP: kcarnean@gmail.com

**Model Painting:** weekly @ \$15. riversidegrp@gmail.com

**Fine Art Show/Sale, Welles Gallery, Lenox Library, Lenox, MA:** July 8-21, 10-5, Tuesdays - Saturdays. Come see recent work of local artists.

**Reception: Fine Art Show/Sale, Welles Gallery, Lenox Library:** Sat., July 9, 2-5.

**Positive Critique:** Thurs., July 14, 4-6. Bring 2-3 pieces of your art. WS Town Hall, 21 Stateline Rd. (Rte. 102). For required reading and to RSVP: carolgkelly@hotmail.com

**Field Trip: Leon Nesis, Oil, Watercolor, and Multimedia Painter:** Sun., July 24, 1-3. RSVP and for address: kcarnean@gmail.com

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# Good News & Not Such Good News from Parks & Recreation

By Ginna Dudney

In July, the BIG news is about Card Pond.

First off, a huge thank you is due Andrew Fudge, who very kindly picked up and spread two truckloads of new sand for the beach in time for the opening day party on June 26—but not so much that there is nothing more to do with it. The village kids can now spend the rest of the summer building their own beach! Special thanks also to the West Stockbridge Police Department for providing complimentary hot dogs, hamburgers, corn on the cob, sodas, chips, watermelon, and cupcakes as well as a treasure hunt, prizes, games, and, of course, swimming.

The beach is now officially open. Be sure to check the schedule for the lifeguard hours. If anyone would like to apply for a position as a part-time lifeguard, contact (917) 209-0926. Parks & Rec would like to fill out the schedule a bit more.

The not-such-good beach news involves the swans. Purchased last year as a way to keep geese from invading the beach, they seemed to be doing the job until they disappeared a few weeks ago. They will be back but this time under surveillance—the wonders of modern technology!

Word is still out for volunteers to coordinate bocce, croquet, and cricket games on the town playing fields. Anyone wanting to play and who's willing and able to donate a few hours of time to help coordinate, do get in touch! Next meeting is July 12 at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Lastly, if there are things you'd like to see/do/play in the village, let Parks & Rec know. The goal is to offer the recreational activities that *you* want!

## West Stockbridge History Quiz Answer:

West Stockbridge in the 1860s was certainly different from now. Farming, iron mining, lime kilns, and a few small marble operations were the town's main industries. The hills were logged bare for charcoal for the furnaces. It was a typical small, poor, and struggling New England town. Many of the families were Irish immigrants who settled here to escape the famine of the 1840s and 1850s. Total population for the town was 1,589 in the 1860 census, down from 1,700 a decade earlier. Farming and mining work was hard, and the average family was not wealthy.

Throughout the next four years of the Civil War, 162 men served in the Union Army according to town records. That was a little over 10% of the total population based on the 1860 census. The male population between the ages of 16 and 35, likely military candidates, was 220. That means 3 of 4 young working men in the town went off to war, a frightening statistic.

Even sadder is that of the 162 who served, 25 died or were killed. The war claimed over 10% of our eligible male population. Of those 25, only 6 were from injuries sustained in battle. The rest died away from home from diseases like cholera or typhus, or from infections. Many who did return had injuries that would shorten their lives. It was the most brutal war in our history, and, fortunately, no other war since has had such a devastating effect on our small town.

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

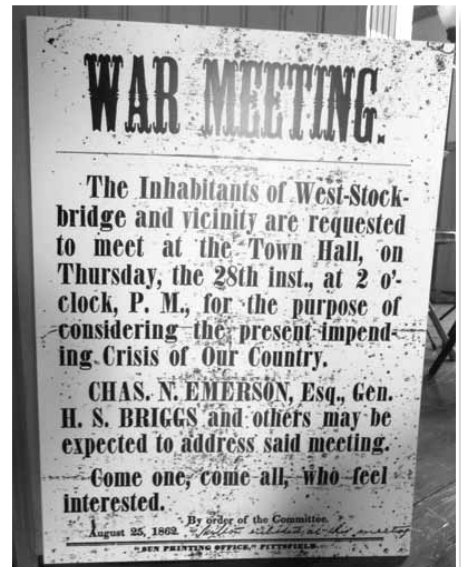


Photo: War meeting poster, ca. 1862.  
Courtesy of Bob Salerno.



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- 7/4 Steve & Melissa Seward anniversary
- 7/24 Joe & Anne Roy anniversary
- 7/27 Colby Parker
- 7/30 Gianna Pietrafesa
- 7/31 Violet McGuane

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

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Animal Control	<i>John W. Springstube</i>	232-0300	ext. 335	As Needed
Assessors Office	<i>Mary Stodden</i>	232-0300	ext. 303	Tues. 1–5 p.m.; Thurs. 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Board of Health	<i>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.
Police Department	<i>Tom Rubino</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>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](http://weststockbridge-ma.gov) • Community and Business Website: [weststockbridgetown.com](http://weststockbridgetown.com)



# ★ FUN AT THE BEACH! ★

*Kids of all ages had a great time at the Card Pond opening celebration on Sunday, June 26, organized by the Parks & Recreation Committee. Thanks to the WS Police Department for providing complimentary hot dogs, hamburgers, corn on the cob, sodas, chips, watermelon, and cupcakes as well as a treasure hunt, prizes, games, and, of course, swimming. In addition to the beautiful pond, sandy beach and swimming area, Card Pond offers picnic tables, grills, and a playground for use by residents and guests. A lifeguard is provided at hours posted at the pond. Photos by John Parker except as noted.*



*Free hot dogs, hamburgers, grilled corn, watermelon, and drinks were provided*



*Pirate at the Beach - photo by Roland Dudney*



*Enjoying a picnic*



*Nothing beats the water on a hot day*



*Fun on the beach*



*Happy Face - photo by Roland Dudney*



*Happy Independence Day!*



*West Stockbridge Police and Fire & Rescue were represented by (Left to right) firefighters Billy Cooper, Leslie Losaw, Peter Skorput, and officers Frank Murphy and Santi Messina*



*Something for everyone*



*Lifeguard James Dalrymple keeps watch*



*Kids survey Treasure Hunt prizes - photo by Roland Dudney*



*FIRE PIT musicians Evan Campbell and Pete Beauchaine provided entertainment*



West Stockbridge  
**Local Yokel**

P.O. Box 238  
West Stockbridge, MA  
01266

26	27	28	29	30	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	1	2	3	4	5	6



**July 2016 Calendar of Events**

7/1	Canada Day		
7/4	Independence Day		
7/6	Knitters & More	2–4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
7/7	Farmers Market	3–7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
7/11	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
7/12	COA Potluck Luncheon	12 noon	Town Offices Community Room
7/12	Parks & Recreation Committee meeting	5:30 p.m.	Town Offices Board Work Room
7/12	American Legion Meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
7/13	Knitters & More	2–4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
7/14	Farmers Market	3–7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
7/15	*** Deadline for the Next Local Yokel ***		send to <a href="mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org">info@thelocalyokel.org</a>
7/16	W.S. Congregational Church Bake Sale	9:30–noon	In front of Baldwin's Extracts
7/17	National Ice Cream Day		
7/18	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
7/18	Planning Board meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
7/19	Library Trustees meeting	4:30 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
7/20	Knitters & More	2–4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
7/21	Farmers Market	3–7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
7/23	National Hot Dog Day		
7/23–24	Annual Book Sale	10 a.m.–3 p.m.	West Stockbridge Library
7/27	Knitters & More	2–4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
7/28	Farmers Market	3–7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
7/28–8/5	Pythagoras Theatre Works: <i>The Promise</i> and <i>Roman Fever</i>	Various	1854 Town Hall