

Local yokel

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

WEST STOCKBRIDGE

JUNE

2016

happy summer!

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005

Tulips - photo by John Parker.

June Art Calendar

Art Demonstration and Business Meeting:

Wed., June 1, 5:30–7 p.m., West Stockbridge Town Hall, Community Room, 21 Stateline Rd. (Rte. 102). Demonstration by painter and digital artist Anne Auberjonois, 4:15–5:15. Application due for July 7–21 Fine Art Show/Sale at Welles Gallery, Lenox Library. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

First Fridays Artswalk: Fri., June 3, 5–8 p.m., Pittsfield, North and South Streets. www.firstfridaysartwalk.com

Positive Critique: Thurs., June 9, 4–6 p.m. Bring two or three pieces of your art. WS Town Hall, 21 Stateline Rd. (Rte. 102), WS. For required reading and RSVP: carolgkelly@hotmail.com

How to Use Facebook and Instagram: Sat., June 11, 1–3 p.m. Free seminar. Stanmeyer Gallery, 2 Main St., WS. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Photo Gathering: Sun., June 12, 3–5 p.m. Stanmeyer Gallery. Bring three to five photos or on USB or iPhone. <http://www.edgemaster.com/Photo-Gathering>

Meet the Artist: Pat Hogan, Painter: Tues., June 14, 12:15–1:30 p.m. Six Depot, WS. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Art Book Gathering: Fri. June 17, 4–5:30 p.m. Share a favorite book: artist, process. Stanmeyer Gallery, 2 Main St., WS. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Meet the Artist: Karen Farkas, Stained Glass, Pastel Painter: Tues., June 21, 12:15–1:30 p.m. Six Depot, WS. Field trip carpooling to her studio after her talk until 3:30 p.m. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Meet the Artist: Cynthia Atwood, Sculptor: Tues., June 28, 12:15–1:30 p.m. Six Depot, WS. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Applications for Fall Show due June 30.

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

Recent Works



Amy Butterworth



Ilene Spiewak



Sheli Ronnen



Howard Greenhalgh



Bruce Panock

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: April 11, 2016

(This meeting summary is based on the official meeting minutes by Administrative Assistant Mark Webber.)

WiredWest Update

The Board of Selectmen agreed to Steve Sautman's request to send a letter to Governor Baker urging him to get Massachusetts Broadband Initiative [MBI] moving again. Steve had reported that MBI and WiredWest were at an operational impasse and that Governor Baker had frozen the \$40 million funding for last-mile high-speed fiber. It seemed that MBI was looking to reopen past settled agreements and understandings.

Visitor's Center

Representing the West Stockbridge Village Association, Roland Dudney asked for an update on the board's recommendation on the construction of a visitor's information center in the public restrooms across from the Post Office.

Earl Moffatt asked if there was any new information such as scale drawings, handicapped access concerns, and types of door. Roland said that information and a draft building permit application had been submitted to the building inspector, who did not note any deficiencies. Earl said he would still like more information before making a decision.

Curt Wilton stated that he does not like the idea of utilizing a public bathroom hallway as an information booth because the uses are inconsistent and inappropriate. Curt said he would work with the merchants to find a better location. Earl also said he understands the need for an information booth but is uncomfortable with the location.

Roland responded that the association had raised about \$5,000 toward modifying the bathrooms to serve as an information center. Asked what type of organization the merchants group is and how it works, Roland said that the West Stockbridge Village Association is a volunteer organization and not a legal entity. The association has 25 to 30 dues-paying members.

Curt said that he feels the best place for the Visitor's Center is right where it has been for the last several years. It has high visibility and is an appropriate size. Curt suggested that the association reopen discussions with the building's owner to see if an equitable deal could be reached. (The owner has asked \$15,000 for the building and property.) Curt pledged the board's assistance but said he cannot support the public bathroom proposal.

Old Town Landfill

Earl reported on a recent meeting with Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) officials at the site of the Old Town Landfill on Oak Street. DEP officials were pleased with work to date including removing trees from the site and cleanup. Additional testing of private wells in the immediate vicinity may be required in the future. DEP recommends that the town expand municipal

water lines to those properties, eliminating the need for future testing and monitoring wells (testing could be more expensive than extending the water lines). The selectmen will ask the water superintendent to estimate costs to extend water services to those properties. Once cleaned up and capped, the old landfill site could be used for solar energy generation or something else.

Meeting with Planning Board: April 25, 2016

Chair of the Planning Board Mitch Greenwald introduced Dana Bixby to present proposed changes to zoning bylaws for downtown West Stockbridge. This presentation will be followed by another meeting for the general public.

...continued on page 4



MAN'S BEST FRIEND
A dog park story

A new one act play

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY LINDA JOSEPHS

Mixed Company	June 18-July 9
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Dana said the proposed changes have two main objectives: to maintain the character of the village and to reduce the permitting burden. The changes are based on new data such as the amount of parking available and new tools such as creating a conceptual village core overlay district. There will be no change in building heights allowed but substantial changes to setbacks and density.

Dana said highlights of the changes include (1) making zoning fit current conditions, (2) allowing mixed uses, (3) relaxing parking regulations while being more explicit about shared parking, and (4) changing boundaries to incorporate historical features.

Mitch added that the purpose is to make things more possible rather than less, and to accommodate the unusual town layout that is due to its history and topography. The Planning Board seeks input and support.

In the question and discussion period that followed, it was pointed out that density in the village is good because proximity creates a walking environment. All of the downtown buildings are nonconforming—too close together, too big, and not set back enough. The trick will be “how to get the new to be like the now” and how to capture those qualities in zoning regulations. Zoning is about regulating spatial qualities not visual characteristics. There are limits to the use of zoning to control aesthetics, but there are other methods such as historical districts and demolition delay bylaws. The Card Lake Inn renovation shows that messy vitality can be good. But historical districts can create contentious issues. Other concerns included grandfathering, change of use, parking, increased and new uses (e.g., Six Depot, Turn Park), chain stores, and condos.

Open Meeting: May 2, 2016

Fire Department

Earl Moffatt read Jim Hallock’s letter of April 18 stating that retaliation has continued but he does not want to sue the town. Jim has resigned from the Fire Department and will not return as long as Chief Peter Skorput is in charge. Jim awaits resolution and an

apology. Earl said negotiations with a mediator are going forward. Curt Wilton characterized the situation as unfortunate and complicated. Curt asked the chief if the town is adequately protected against fire. Peter said that although the department has lost two men, the town is protected and he is seeking more personnel.

Charter Cable Update

Noting the utility trucks that have been seen about town, Mark Webber said that Charter is buying Time Warner and doing a full upgrade of its West Stockbridge system. The new equipment will cover 90% of West Stockbridge with broadband at rates the same as those available nationally. Charter is negotiating with MBI to receive \$300,000 to \$400,000 to extend their build-out to the last 10% of dwellings.

Mark said that the town has been pursuing parallel tracks with WiredWest and Charter for the last two years, but that now WiredWest is in trouble and gone. (WiredWest deposit refunds are available from their office in Northampton: WiredWest, Old Courthouse, 99 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060.) Mark said he was glad the town would avoid the \$130,000 debt service for WiredWest.

The selectmen thanked Steve Sautman and Carol Kuller for representing the town with WiredWest and Charter.

Police Department

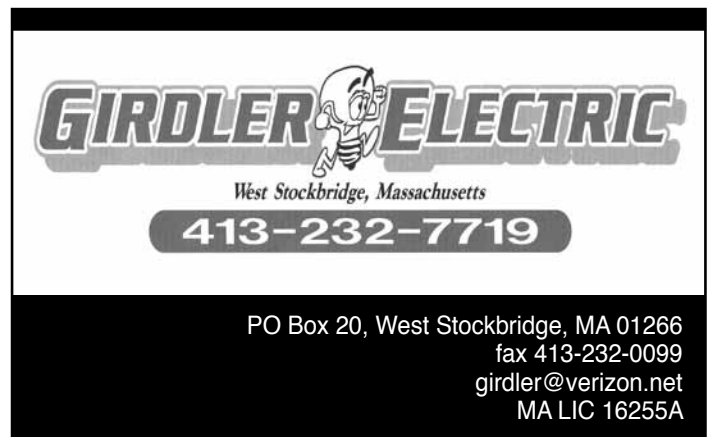
The town and the chief of police sent Officer Santana to the police academy, but he was injured on the second day and withdrew. Officer Santana has received medical clearance and is serving as a part-time officer but is very disappointed.

Mill Pond Park

Evie Kerswell reported that water pressure dropped suddenly for the 30-plus residents. The owners (the Gennaris) have been responsive and diligent but have not found the cause of the problem. Pressure had been 50 to 65 pounds per square inch (psi) and has dropped to 21 psi. Earl suggested contacting the attorney general who has jurisdiction in the park. □



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Annual Town Meeting & Election Results

By John Parker and Doane Perry

The annual town meeting was held at the Town Offices gymnasium on Monday, May 2. As reported by the *Berkshire Eagle* (May 6, 2016), only 85 of 1,104 registered voters, or less than 1%, participated.

Voters approved the town's \$5.1 million fiscal 2017 budget, representing a 3.3% increase over current spending. They also approved the town's share of the \$2.87 million operating budget for the Berkshire Hills Regional School District, a 2.6% increase. Voters also authorized the borrowing of \$150,000 for replacement of the Highway Department's one-ton plow sander, a pickup truck for the superintendent of buildings and grounds, and a new van for the Council on Aging.

An article to purchase sound equipment to make town meetings more audible was tabled after Administrative Assistant Mark Webber said he could fix the problem by upgrading existing equipment at less expense. No action was taken on another measure to adopt term limits for all town boards after Moderator Gene Della commented that the proposal would conflict with state law and require legislative action. Voters approved in amended form an article providing for "citizens speak time" at town board and committee meetings, with implementation to be worked out by each board or committee.

In the town election on May 9, incumbent Peter Skorput was reelected to a three-year term as selectman, defeating write-in candidate Robert Powell 102-58. Powell was the only write-in candidate; there were no declared challengers to any of the incumbent officeholders.

Other incumbents reelected included Gene Della as town moderator, Ronni Barrett as town clerk, June Biggs as town collector, Amy Butterworth to the Board of Assessors, Michael Skorput to the Finance Committee, Mitch Greenwald to the Planning Board, Scott Sawyer to the Board of Health, Catherine Nihart as library trustee, and Marion Loring to the Cemetery Commission.

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Injury Prevention and Recovery for Trail Runners
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Wednesday, June 15 | 6:30-7:45pm
Happy Feet: Self-Care for Tired and Sore Feet
with Karden Rabin, LMT

Wednesday, June 28 | 6-7pm
Stability, Mobility and Balance for Seniors
with Elaine Mack, LMT

Monday, July 11 | 6:00-7:30pm
Alternative Approaches to Managing Menopause
with Kelly Clady-Giramma, L.Ac., Dipl. O.M.

Wednesday, July 13 | 6:30-7:45pm
Intuitive Energy Therapy 101
with Dan Marko

Wednesday, July 20 | 6:30-7:45pm
Self-Treatment Techniques for Low Back Pain
with Karden Rabin, LMT

Wednesday, July 27 | 6:30-7:45pm
Thriving Not Just Surviving
with Kelly Clady-Giramma, L.Ac., Dipl. O.M.

Wednesday, August 3 | 6:30-7:45pm
Insomnia No More: Holistic Care for Deep Sleep
with Karden Rabin, LMT

Monday, August 8 | 6:00-7:30pm
Healing Common Complaints with Acupressure
with Kelly Clady-Giramma, L.Ac., Dipl. O.M.

Monday, August 17 | 6:30-7:45pm
Loving Vitality, Intuition & Prana
with Dan Marko

Monday, August 31 | 6:30-7:45pm
Shamanism, Ritual & Healing
with Dan Marko

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Summary of Proposed Changes to the West Stockbridge Zoning By-Laws

4/11/16

The Planning Board has been working on changes for the Zoning By-Laws for the Village Center. In anticipation of reaching out to key boards, stakeholders, and community members, we have prepared the following summary of our work. This work has been guided by two key purposes:

- **Providing regulations that better enable the Village Center to maintain, replicate, and reproduce its inherent character**
- **Reducing the permitting burden**

Our current zoning regulations are a product of an era when no one thought about making regulations that actually related to the physical characteristics of the village. As a result in the Village Center most lot sizes and setbacks, which are products of the historical development of the village, are nonconforming. These nonconformities trigger the need for variances or special permits for most changes to existing buildings. A reduction in this permitting burden is one of the key concerns that we hope to address with these new regulations.

The proposed zoning changes for the Village Center are in four areas:

- **Expanding the commercial district boundary to encompass the old Town Hall, Wisdom lodge, and former Card Lake Inn. (There is a map attached to show the proposed new boundary.)**
- **Creating a "Village Core Overlay District" (VCOD) zoning district for the center of the village with new dimensional requirements for lot sizes and setbacks within the overlay district. The intent of the proposed changes is to make more of the existing fabric of the village core conforming, and to enable new development to more easily recreate the village fabric as it is. (There is a map attached to show the proposed VCOD boundary.)**
- **Making changes in the table of uses to allow mixed uses. We believe mixed use is key to the vitality of the village and to reducing the nonconformity of existing mixed uses.**
- **Providing improved parking regulations, including better mechanisms for shared parking and relief from onsite parking requirements in the VCOD where most of the lots are very small.**

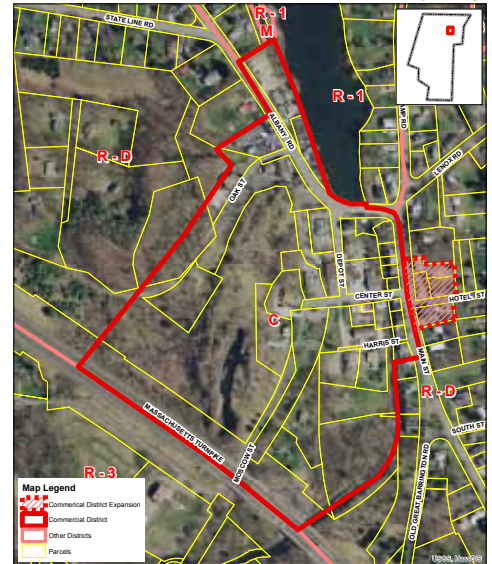
The full draft of the proposed changes is included with this summary for your review.

We have done our work with the help of Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. BRPC has contributed research about existing conditions in our town, provided information about what other similar towns have done to update village zoning regulations and has helped with drafting and review the proposed zoning bylaw changes.

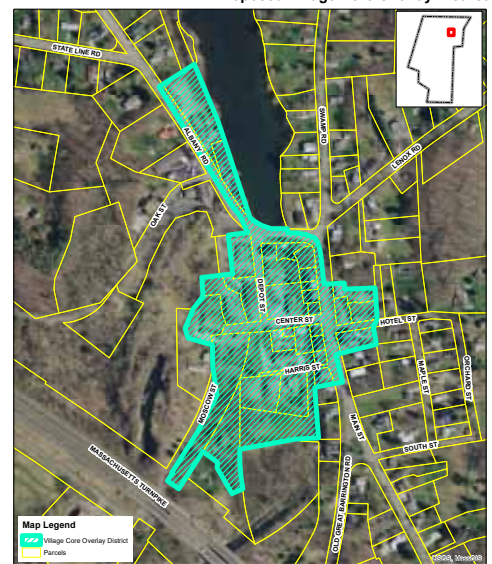
We plan to meet first with the Select Board, the ZBA, the Historic Commission and subsequently with business owners and the general public for informal discussions about the proposed changes. With the feedback we get from this process we will then make final recommendations for zoning changes to the Select Board, from which they would be able to make their formal vote to initiate the zoning change process, including a public hearing before the Planning Board and a Town Meeting vote.

In the course of this work we have at various times discussed other zoning issues and whether or not this round of zoning changes should be expanded to encompass other issues beyond the Village Center. We have chosen to keep this round of proposed changes focused on the Village Center. We anticipate addressing zoning issues beyond the Village Center at a future date.

3/23/2016 Proposed Commercial District Boundary Change



3/23/2016 Proposed Village Core Overlay District



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June History Quiz Question:



**West Stockbridge
Historical Society**
Incorporated in 1994

It's hard to imagine now, but the triangular area between Swamp Road and Lenox Road was part of a large farm plot in the early 1800s. Much of it was steep, wooded, and rocky; however, heading north along Swamp Road (called Pittsfield Street then), the land opened up and became flatter and better suited for farming. There were also a couple of small lime/marble quarries on the properties.

The houses along Swamp Road were built in the 1840s and 1850s as West Stockbridge village developed and became prosperous. They housed the farm owners, many of whom had businesses in the village center.

One of the historically important houses is on the northeast corner of the intersection of Swamp and Lenox Roads. It was built by one of our important but relatively unheralded residents, Lyman Hinman. Who was Lyman, and why was he important?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)

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Mindful Eating: Summer's Here and I've Got the Fever for Salads!

by Rachel Alves, RD, LDN



As a dietitian, I know that salad is a great way to eat a variety of foods, especially vegetables and fruit. One average meal-size salad provides about three cups of greens and another cup or so of vegetables, which is almost half the goal for daily servings of fruit and vegetables and a good amount of our daily fiber intake. Salads without high-calorie dressings are a nutrient-rich addition to any mindful eater's diet!

Salads are usually lower in calories and higher in fiber and antioxidants. These plant-based dishes are also a great vehicle for healthier fats, whole grains, and proteins. According to the *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*, people who enjoy a predominantly plant-based diet usually have reduced disease risk, lower body weight, longer life expectancy, and even better sex lives!

Summer in the Berkshires offers many ways to help make a variety of salads—farmers markets, local farm stands, and even your own gardens! Some of the local summer goodness right at your salad-making fingertips are beans, beets, berries, cabbage, cucumbers, greens, peppers, corn, stone fruit, and fresh herbs, just to name a few. With help from the Cleveland Clinic, here are some tips for healthy salad making:

- Choose dark, leafy greens (Tip: Limit lighter colored lettuces that have fewer nutrients)
- Add crunch with celery, edamame, raw thin-sliced asparagus, nuts, seeds, cabbage, cucumber, snap peas, broccoli, or cauliflower (Tip: Limit nuts and seeds to no more than 2 Tbsp.)
- Load your salad with lots of rich-colored fruit and vegetables such as colored bell peppers, red cabbage, asparagus, avocado, carrots, tomatoes, beets, and berries. (Tip: Add no more than 2 Tbsp. calorie-dense corn, avocado, or peas)
- Add protein-rich foods such as grilled chicken, canned tuna or salmon in water, hard-boiled eggs, tofu, or cheese (Tip: Limit full-fat cheese to no more than 2 Tbsp. to reduce saturated fat)
- Top with fresh fruit to add crunch and a touch of sweetness with berries, apples, pomegranate seeds, pears, or citrus fruit (Tip: Remember that dried fruit is higher in sugar and calories and should be kept to no more than 2 Tbsp.)
- Include items from the pantry such as beans, chickpeas, artichokes, or capers (Tip: Some items may be higher in sodium/salt, so always drain and rinse when appropriate)
- Be smart about the dressing by using a syrupy balsamic vinegar alone or a homemade dressing made with 2 parts vinegar/citrus juice or other acid and 1 part extra-virgin olive oil to watch total fat and calorie intake (Tip: Creamy dressings are usually higher in fat and should be limited if losing weight is your goal)

If eating salad doesn't appeal to you, but losing weight does, try making salads two to three times per week and then eventually moving up to a goal of one good-size salad every day. Be creative and try other types of salads such as quinoa, wild rice, or orzo salad, and remember the tips listed here to make it a healthier salad. Fruit salads are a wonderful dessert option with loads of combinations to satisfy any sweet tooth. Summer is here, so get making salad—your body and stomach will love you for it!

To paraphrase Dr. Seuss, "Oh, the salads you'll make!" Enjoy!

Pancake Breakfast a Success

The West Stockbridge Fire Department and Congregational Church joined forces to celebrate Mother's Day with a pancake breakfast on May 8. More than 50 people attended



and enjoyed pancakes, sausage, fruit, coffee and tea. The first-ever event was a fundraiser with proceeds shared by both organizations, and it also served to unveil to the public the church's new commercial kitchen and social room, now available for rental.



Molly and Chris Vreeland join Karen Carmean (right) at the pancake breakfast. Photos by Doane Perry.



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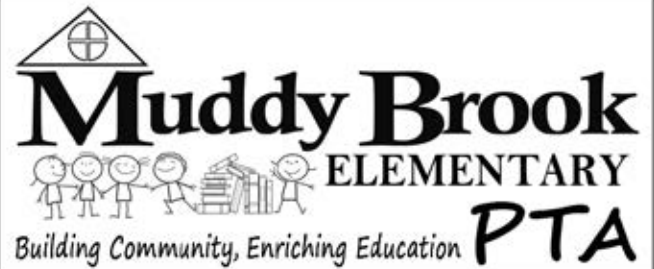


Michael Filmus



Martina Angela Muller

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The PTA would like to thank all of our parents, teachers, and community members for supporting our hard work. We have sent students on educational field trips, helped with enrichment programming, held community events, and supplied teachers with classroom stipends. We'd also like to congratulate our fourth graders and wish them luck next year and beyond.

Enjoy the summer, and see you next year!

Broadband Update:

Governor Lifts "Pause," Charter Merger Approved

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

Governor Baker has lifted "the pause" for the broadband last-mile program. The Baker-Polito Administration has announced a major reorganization of its approach to overseeing the Last-Mile Project aimed at jump-starting progress on delivery of broadband to unserved residents in Western Massachusetts. On May 4, 2016, Housing and Economic Development (HED) Secretary Jay Ash announced two new appointments to help lead the project. Peter Larkin will be serving as special advisor to the secretary on the Last-Mile Project, and Bill Ennen will serve as HED last-mile implementation liaison. Larkin will also assume the duties of chair of the MBI board.

On May 10, Governor Baker, Lieutenant Governor Polito, Senate president Rosenberg, and MBI officials met with local officials and legislative leaders to discuss a strategic pathway forward for the Last-Mile program. The MBI will be building a more 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.

For West Stockbridge, our fate is changing with the Charter Communications acquisition of Time Warner Cable. The FCC approved the merger, expected to close on May 18. Trucks have already been seen around town installing power boxes on telephone poles and stringing new cables. We expect Charter to present a proposal to the town on its plan to upgrade its system to full HDTV with digital phone and Internet services in June. With Charter upgrading its system to include high-speed Internet, our town switches categories with MBI and becomes a "potential cable expansion" town.

MBI is looking to accelerate projects for these partial cable towns extending their broadband coverage that is included in its state funding. Charter has already been talking with MBI to receive some of these state funds to extend their build-out. West Stockbridge will need to work with both MBI and Charter to reach an acceptable plan and coverage. Our Board of Selectmen appointed Town Administrator Mark Webber as the West Stockbridge contact with MBI. The Cable Commission will also need to approve any new contract with Charter.



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Community News & Events

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, June 12, the Stockbridge Grange will serve a stuffed breast of chicken 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.

Council on Aging Luncheon

The next monthly Council on Aging Potluck Luncheon will be held in the Community Room at the Town Hall at noon on Tuesday, June 14. See you there!

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, June 18.

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.

The West Stockbridge Farmers Market

would like to thank

our kind and generous neighbors at the
West Stockbridge Congregational Church
for orchestrating a wonderful
Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
on Friday, April 8th,
in the newly constructed Church Hall.

Community participation exceeded all expectations,
and a fun (and delicious!) time was had by all!
The Farmers Market could not continue without the
help and support of the community it serves.

Many thanks to all!!!



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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





SoMa. A new menu for a new season. Enjoy! Photo by Robin Schmitt. (left) Chef Tony revs up for action at the debut of Chef Tony Shares at WSFM. Photo by Robin Schmitt. (center) JK Ryan Flowers. Glam for your garden at WSFM. Photo by Robin Schmitt. (right)

The **WS Farmers Market celebrates its fifth season** with the same outstanding quality you've grown accustomed to and with some new and exciting twists.

The fabulous loyal vendors who make up the backbone of the market will be returning with produce and products to snatch up.

Enjoy the freshest produce! Savor the finest food! Choose plants and herbs to enhance your home gardens! Purchase gifts or just indulge yourself!

Live music continues, cosponsored by the WS Cultural Council. In June **Don McGrory, the Zimmer Quartet, Eric Reinhardt, Moonshine Holler, and Linda Worster** will delight.

Little furry and feathered friends may pop in to interact with the **kids of all ages**. Local authors are invited to visit, and local businesses can be highlighted if they so wish.

Here are some of the new additions to the lineup this year:

Chef Tony Shares

Talented chef and personality extraordinaire Tony Carlotto of Rolling Rock Farm will be on hand to divulge secrets of the range and the grill on the first Thursday of every month. Questions happily answered; culinary mysteries solved—and there will be samples! What could be better?

Fun for Kids

Each week, from 4:30 to 6 p.m., the market will host a series of games and/or crafts designed for kids of all ages. All materials and instructions will be provided.

The Green Table: A Work in Progress

Reduce. Reuse. Repurpose. Recycle. A challenge to give new life to items that otherwise would be discarded. Work with the Market Committee to spread the word on how to eliminate waste and give new life to still useful items. Get your creative on, and share it!

The market is a great place to recharge while picking up the best of the Berkshires. Plus, it's *fun*—don't miss it!



WEST STOCKBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

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



Carousel Day Is June 21



Is there anybody who doesn't love a carousel? After years in the making, the Berkshire Carousel in Pittsfield opens July 1. We're thrilled to kick off our summer reading program with a sneak peek on Tuesday, June 21, 1-2 p.m., in the West Stockbridge Library. Executive Director Maria Caccaviello and friends have put together a fun program including the history of carousels, Pony Tales Reading Buddies, ride token giveaways, and coloring books featuring our own Berkshire horses. Learn more at www.berkshirecarousel.com.

Young readers up to grade 6 are invited to join our 2016 Summer Reading Program, "On Your Mark, Get Set, Read," June 28-July 30. Sign-ups start Tuesday, June 21. The theme centers on movement, wellness, the outdoors, and sports.

- We're very excited to be teaming up with the acclaimed Berkshire Pulse Studios for a series of creative movement classes (ages 4-8) taught by dance educator Ellen Gorman. Sessions run Tuesdays, July 5-26, 1-1:45 p.m. Thanks to the Friends for underwriting this program.
- Our favorite magician Scott Jameson returns July 8, 11 a.m., with a brand-new show.
- Pick up a complete calendar of events at the library or download at our website.
- We're also looking for students entering grades 7-10 to help in the library this summer with assisting library patrons, shelving books, and more. Pick up an application at the library.
- Library assistant Jodi Magner has been hard at work redesigning and updating our Facebook page to make it a quick and easy source of library happenings. Post something at <https://www.facebook.com/West-Stockbridge-Public-Library>.

NEW ADDITIONS

DVDs: *Son of Saul*, *The Lady in the Van*, *Witch*, *Orange Is the New Black*, *Season 3*

FICTION

Barnett, *Versions of Us*
 Kelly, *Lilac Girls*

O'Brien, *Little Red Chairs*
 Smith, *Predator*

LOCAL HISTORY

Overmyer, Larkin, *Baseball in the Berkshires*
 Owens, *Remarkable Women of New England: The War Years 1754-1787*

NONFICTION

Gardner, *Rough Riders: Theodore Roosevelt, and the Immortal Charge Up San Juan Hill*
 Smith, *Dimestore: A Writer's Life*

YOUNG ADULTS

Cloonan, *Gotham Academy*, Vol. 1
 Kerr, *Tommy Black and Cloak of Invisibility; Tommy Black and the Staff of Light*
 Ritter, *The Nearly Calamitous Taming of PZ: A Laboratory Dog's Search for Love*

Ongoing

- Library Trustees Board meetings are open to the public. Next meeting: June 9, 4:30 p.m., in the Community Room.
- Don't forget! We offer day passes to a wide array of 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



MOLLY COMSTOCK GARDENING TALK



Molly displays her vegetable gift tote bag made by Lucy Bellville. Photo by Carol Kuller.

An avid group of gardeners attended the Friends of the Library presentation of Molly's gardening talk on Friday, April 30.

Molly organically gardens 2½ acres on the Baldwin property. This is her third year as a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) gardener. CSA farming entails a partnership between the farmer and community members who purchase seasonal shares in the farm's produce. Shares are purchased prior to the growing season, which assists the farmer in seed and equipment purchases. Shareholders partake in weekly provision of an abundance of fresh vegetables.

In addition to her CSA Farm, Molly also provides her organic products to local restaurants, the West Stockbridge Farmers Market, and various other farmers markets.

Book Donation Request



Donate your gently used books/ CDs/DVDs

The Friends of the West Stockbridge Library are requesting donations for their annual July book sale. Books (no textbooks or magazines) may be provided to the library during regular library hours. Please do *not* leave donated books in the library book return box.

We can only accept books that are in good and salable condition.

Thank you!

**Deadline for receipt of donated
books: Saturday, July 9**

**The West Stockbridge Library, Town Hall
21 State Line Road**

Art, Culture, History, and Nature Day Passes Available at the Library

**Berkshire Botanical Garden
Berkshire Museum
Chesterwood
Clark Art Institute
Hancock Shaker Village**

**Mass MoCA
Norman Rockwell Museum
Steepletop
The Mount (copay required)
Ventfort Hall**

Passes may be obtained during library hours. Please call 232-0300, ext. 308, to reserve your pass. Information regarding admission provisions for each museum is available at the library. Please note that passes must be returned to the library.

Passes are provided by the Friends of the West Stockbridge Library, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and the West Stockbridge Cultural Council.

Donor Roll Call ~ June

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 (See response form on page 21.)

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Teresa Caldwell, LICSW, OSW-C, ACHP-SW
Oncology Social Worker
Berkshire Hematology Oncology Services

Cancer can cause many changes. Along with worry about mortality, this talk will discuss the common challenges of living with cancer during diagnosis, treatment, survivorship, concern about recurrence, and end of life. Living with cancer is often referred to now as living with a chronic illness.

Cost: \$10 per person. Includes a buffet-style dinner.

When: Thursday, June 2, 5-7 p.m.

Where: Richmond Congregational Church, State Road, Richmond, MA

~Reservations are required~

Contact: Emilie Jarrett: Tel.: 232-0122; e-mail: Emilie@charws.com, or
Phyllis LeBeau: Tel.: 413-698-3656; e-mail: coa@richmondma.org

The *Local Yokel* Needs You!

Would you enjoy being part of the team that produces this free monthly newsletter serving our community, now in its 11th year of publication?

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

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West Stockbridge History Quiz Answer:

Lyman Hinman came from impressive stock. He was the son of an early town resident, Enoch Hinman (who served in the Revolutionary War in the Massachusetts militia). His great-grandfather Edward served as sergeant of arms to Charles I. Edward wisely left for Connecticut after Cromwell beheaded Charles.

Lyman was born in West Stockbridge and became a successful farmer, millwright, and merchant. He was also the justice of the peace.

Lyman and his brother bought the farmland between Swamp and Lenox Roads and built the house on the corner at 2 Swamp Road.

We don't know if he or his brother lived there because the Hinman family also lived on Maple Hill. In 1839, Lyman was converted to the Mormon faith by the preaching of William Hyde along with Daniel Spencer and others from West Stockbridge.

By 1842, Lyman had liquidated all his properties and business in town to move to Nauvoo, Illinois. His leaving wasn't quite amicable. Reports were that local townspeople formed angry crowds and tried to stop him, even tipping over his wagon. He did make it to Nauvoo and even became a homeopathic doctor there.

In 1847, Lyman and the family started the trek across the prairie as part of the great migration to Salt Lake. Perhaps his most important act was writing a long letter, addressed to "Brother and Sister Taylor from the Winter Quarters," describing their trip. It documented the difficult conditions of disease, starvation, scurvy, hostile Indians and white settlers, rampaging bison, and the general misery of the journey. This letter is very important as one of the best chronicles of the difficulties encountered in the Mormon migration.

Lyman and the family reached Salt Lake in 1848. He became an elder and also worked as a carpenter and master millwright, building numerous mills throughout Utah until his death in 1864.

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.



Photos courtesy of John Parker.

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Recipe Corner

by Lynn Ryan

GREEN SALAD WITH PEACHES, GORGONZOLA, AND CRANBERRY DRESSING

This is one of three of my favorite salads *ever!* Wonderful peaches are available in local grocery stores now, so take advantage while you can. It's a wonderful salad with grilled chicken too, and drizzling some of the cranberry dressing over the chicken makes it all that much better. Julienned pears work nicely too—or use both. Anything goes!

Salad Dressing

½ cup balsamic vinegar

3 Tbsp. sugar

½ cup dried cranberries

½ cup olive oil

2 tsp. Dijon mustard

½ tsp. salt

¼ red onion, peeled and sliced thin

½ cup frozen cranberries, defrosted

¼ tsp. pepper

Salad

Salad greens

2 peaches, peeled and sliced into strips as best you can depending on ripeness

Arugula

1 cup Gorgonzola, crumbled (sometimes I use feta)

1 cup toasted pecans or walnuts, chopped (I roast them in butter and sugar)

6 slices thick-cut bacon, cooked and diced into ½-inch pieces

For the dressing, place all the ingredients in a blender and mix until smooth. Toss the greens, peaches, cheese, and bacon together in a bowl and moisten with the dressing. Enjoy!

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



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Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 6/3 Zia McGuane
- 6/9 JP & Anne Mikolajczyk anniversary
- 6/13 John Ellis
- 6/15 Frank McMahan
- 6/22 Michael McMahan
- 6/26 Mary Agnes McMahan
- 6/27 Leo 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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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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Town Government Boards and Commissions, Phone Directory, and Office Hours

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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 • Community and Business Website: weststockbridgetown.com

Where Have All the Flowers Gone?

As you drive or stroll through town this summer, you may notice the absence of colorful displays of flowers on the three downtown bridges.

For the past several years, landscape designer Lisa Parker of The Lady's Touch has designed, planted, watered, and maintained plantings on the bridges along with containers near the post office, public restrooms, Visitor's Center, and the island garden bed at the intersection of Routes 102 and 41.

Lisa is currently recovering from torn rotator cuff surgery performed this past March. She explains, "My days of reaching up and over, especially to water, are done for a while. I still have several months of physical therapy before I'll be comfortably able to reach forward or high or do any heavy lifting." As anyone who has experienced this type of surgery knows, it's a long and painful process, but Lisa hopes to be substantially recovered by fall.

Lisa deeply appreciates all the positive feedback she has received for her efforts to beautify the town. She wants to reassure all those who sent in donations for Beautification this year that, despite her current limitations, she plans to plant and maintain a few containers and the Route 41 island bed during her recovery. Stay tuned for updates on Beautification going forward.



*Container near Post Office (top).
Island Bed at Routes 41 and 102 (bottom).
Photos by John Parker.*



*Families enjoy the beach at Card Pond.
Photo by John Parker.*

Parks & Recreation News

By Ginna Dudney

June is a very special month, only made more so by the official opening of Card Pond on June 26 from noon to 3 p.m. This year the West Stockbridge Police Department will be sponsoring the big event with hot dogs, hamburgers, a treasure hunt, wonderful games, many prizes, music, and more.

The order is in for lots of fresh new sand, and the Board of Selectmen is working on getting the weeds into a manageable state to make swimming there fun once again.

Reminder: The tennis net is up at Town Hall, and anyone interested in group lessons should contact the P&R Committee at (917) 209-0926. Funds to complete the tennis court fence and add a fence at the basketball court/parking lot line are still pending as are funds to resurface the basketball court this year.

The Playground Project awaits word on the grant submitted by Mark Webber. Hopes are high that we'll get the funding we require to design and build a safe playing environment for our children that complies with Massachusetts code.

Anyone wanting to repeat the cricket and to possibly add croquet, bocce, and any other weekend group sport to the summer roster on the playing fields should drop a note to wspandr@gmail.com or stop by the next meeting on Tuesday, June 14, at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Workroom at the Town Hall.

West Stockbridge
Local Yokel
 P.O. Box 238
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 01266

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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	1	2



June 2016 Calendar of Events

6/1	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
6/2	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
6/2	CHA Dinner & Lecture	5-7 p.m.	Richmond Congregational Church
6/6	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
6/7	Ramadan (starts at sundown the day before)		
6/8	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
6/8	Friends of the Library meeting	3:30 p.m.	Town Offices Board Room
6/9	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
6/9	Library Trustees meeting	4:30 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
6/12	Grange Dinner	1-2 p.m.	Stockbridge Grange
6/13	Planning Board meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
6/14	Flag Day		
6/14	COA Potluck Luncheon	12 noon	Town Offices Community Room
6/14	Parks & Recreation Committee meeting	5:30 p.m.	Town Offices Board Work Room
6/14	American Legion	7 p.m.	Town Offices
6/15	*** Deadline for the Next Local Yokel ***		send to info@thelocalyokel.org
6/15	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
6/16	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
6/18	W.S. Congregational Church Bake Sale	9:30-noon	In front of Baldwin's Extracts
6/19	Father's Day		
6/20	First Day of Summer		
6/20	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
6/22	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
6/23	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
6/26	Card Pond Opening & Celebration	12-3 p.m.	Card Pond
6/27	Planning Board meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
6/29	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
6/30	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street