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Local yokel

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West Stockbridge
March
2016



Hay wagons in a frosty field. Photo by John Parker.

Berkshire Festival of Women Writers

On March 18, West Stockbridge will host three events on behalf of the Berkshire Festival of Women Writers. All the events are free. BFWW's new magazine, *WOW! Women of Words*, along with the full nine-day program, is available in the West Stockbridge Library.

Peanut Peregrinations and Other Tales of Food Travel

March 18 @ 1:30–3:30 p.m.

Stanmeyer Gallery and Shaker Dam Coffeehouse,
2 Main Street, West Stockbridge, MA 01266

Whether peanuts from South America or grapes from Asia, each food has a tale to tell about how it was discovered and introduced around the world to appear in myriad forms on people's dinner plates, as well as in their cultures and traditions, in everything from pottery to poetry. In a reading and slide lecture, Carol Goodman Kaufman will read from and discuss her current book project that follows the paths of various foods around the world.



Ophelia Rising

March 18 @ 3:30–5:30 p.m.

West Stockbridge Public Library,
21 State Line Rd, West Stockbridge, MA 01266

Young women, have you ever wanted to take the stage and claim the spotlight? Do you have poems, short stories, or other wise words to share? In this Writing & Spoken Word Workshop led by Grace Rossman, you will craft your own spoken word piece and perform it for a supportive and enthusiastic audience. Just bring a notebook, a pen, and a bit of faith, and discover how easy and exhilarating it can be.

Monument Girls Write On

March 18 @ 7 p.m.

West Stockbridge Historical Society,
9 Main Street, West Stockbridge, MA 01266

This celebratory reading hosted by Liskin Van Pelt Dus and other faculty from Monument Mountain Regional High School will feature young women writers from MMRHS presenting selections from their poetry, short fiction, creative nonfiction, and hybrid work. Students have been chosen to participate by MMRHS English Department faculty, who will also introduce the writers.



For more information, visit <http://berkshirewomenwriters.org/the-events-calendar/list/?tribe-bar-date=2016-03>.

Photos courtesy of Berkshire Festival of Women Writers.



Board of Selectmen Meeting Summaries

By Doane Perry

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

Correction to Summaries in our February issue: Town Meeting will be on May 2.

Open Meeting: January 25, 2016

Public Hearing on Truck Stop Solar Project

The board conducted a public hearing on special permit applications submitted by Housatonic Solar LLC for the installation of a 2-megawatt solar array at 92 State Line Road. [For more information, see "Truck Stop Solar Project: Green Power from a Brown-field" in our February 2016 issue.]

Kirt Mayland described his related experience with solar projects at Rising Paper, the Bushika gravel pit, and a sandpit in Sheffield. He said the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is pushing for solar energy projects on brownfields and landfills. This site is classified a brownfield by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), which sets protocols and criteria for redevelopment.

Kirt said the project will use 10 acres of the 14-acre site including 8 paved acres plus 2 acres previously disturbed but unpaved. It is not anticipated the wetlands resources will be affected because the site is vacant, south facing, and flat. The surface will not be changed, so no increase in runoff is anticipated. Kirt said this is his first project on pavement; he plans to drill through the pavement and not to use any herbicides.

The site had a restaurant and truck refueling facility from 1960 to 1999 with 13 underground storage tanks and three aboveground tanks that have been removed. The one drinking water well will be closed. Wetland resource areas include a perennial stream located near the western property line.

Releases of gasoline and diesel contaminated the groundwater. Most of the site has been cleaned up, but to be considered a permanent solution, the one remaining test well has to show levels of gasoline below thresholds for four consecutive quarters, which is

expected thanks to natural attenuation. No further remediation is required.

Kirt said National Grid power lines that pass the site are adequate for transmitting the power. He will notify the Mass. Highway Department and check whether he needs a permit from the Department of Transportation because there is an existing drive.

The town building inspector will finalize site details in the building and electrical permits. The solar panels are dark blue and do not produce glare (there will be transformer hum audible during the day). There will be no night lighting. Screening vegetation and a fence will be installed.

Kirt said net metering and solar renewable energy credit issues are being negotiated in the legislature. However, this project does have solar renewable energy credits allocated already. This project is Kirt's first without net metering. National Grid could be required to buy power from the project since it will be a qualified facility, but Kirt is looking for other buyers as well. A decommissioning bond (probably in the range of \$50,000) will be purchased in case the project ever has to be taken down.

Asked about tax revenue for the town, Kirt replied the tax on the land assessment is currently about \$5,000 per year with no tax abatement. The solar project will add personal property value, to be determined in conjunction with the town assessor for tax purposes. The panels are warrantied at 80% efficiency for 20 years.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously granted two 20-year permits: one to operate in the manufacturing zone and the other to operate in the flood zone. With regard to the manufacturing zone permit, the selectmen found that the project was desirable, not detrimental, would have no traffic impact, and there would be no public health or water system overload. For the permit to operate

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WiredWest Update: MBI on “Pause” and Change of Leadership

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

There were shake-ups last month for the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI). First, the Baker administration asked the MBI to “pause” and hold off on spending any of their budgeted state money for broadband. Then Eric Nakajima resigned as the director of MBI. Pamela Goldberg, CEO of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, MBI’s parent agency, has designated Elizabeth Copeland from Mass Tech’s legal team to fulfill the duties of interim director.

Although the Baker administration has said it remains committed to funding the “last mile” broadband initiative, it is expected they will challenge the technology, coverage, and cost of the project to bring high-speed Internet to every home and business in the unserved towns of central and western Massachusetts. The governor’s Executive Office of Administration and Finance has been looking into MBI projects over the last few months and will be conducting an in-depth financial review of plans to expand broadband access. There is indication that the Baker administration is looking at ways to bring in private businesses to offer other solutions.

It is not clear how long the MBI “pause” will be or its impact on the timing of the overall project. Hopefully, the Baker administration will develop a better understanding of the regional fiber network proposed by WiredWest to bring affordable high-speed Internet to everyone, delivered by future-proof fiberoptic technology and community controlled by the towns.

Members of the WiredWest Negotiating Committee have been working successfully to build open lines of communication with MBI over the last two months and have had numerous productive meetings. As the MBI works with the Baker administration, the WiredWest team continues the exhaustive due diligence process so they are all ready to move forward as soon as the pause has been lifted. WiredWest representatives remain in close contact with legislators and the MBI to monitor progress.

With everything going on at MBI and with WiredWest, it is best for West Stockbridge to also watch the developments with the proposed acquisition of Time Warner Cable by Charter Communications. The FCC is expected to make a ruling on this merger in the spring of 2016. We expect Charter to make a proposal to our town once the merger has been approved. Stay tuned for more to come.

March History Quiz Question:

Last month we asked about the formation of our library (celebrating 125 years this spring) and the support it received from the town. During the first 20 years, circulation grew to over 5,000 items loaned, a branch operation was set up in the Alford Grange, and an interlibrary loan program with the Berkshire Athenaeum was established. In 1913, the library implemented extended hours on Saturday night until 8 p.m. for the “men of the town.” Regular workdays were Monday through Saturday, especially in a farming and mining community.

Things were going well, but somehow, after 20 years, the library hit a bump. What could have caused this friendly town-centered institution to stir some controversy?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)



**West Stockbridge
Historical Society**
Incorporated in 1994



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The *Local Yokel* is supported in part by a grant from the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

in the floodplain, the selectmen determined there will be no change in drainage and grade, and drilling holes for posts for the array will be beneficial to drainage.

Review by the Conservation Commission is scheduled for February 4. Construction will take nine months (there will be no work on Sundays). Kirt will sign a purchase and sale agreement in one month.

Other Business:

- The board will review the Solid Waste contract with Valley Roll-Off Dumpster Service of Lee
- Regarding the annual inspection report for the Transfer Station, Mark Webber said the Transfer Station has received top grades for several years
- A public informational meeting for the Center, Depot, and Harris Streets traffic flow discussion was scheduled for the February 8 Board of Selectmen meeting
- Use of the Town Offices building on February 1, 13, and 25 and on March 2 and 19 was approved
- Curt Wilton reported that Allegrone Construction has asked for a temporary curb cut on the south end of the Turn Park parking lot
- The Highway Department truck needs repairs costing \$4,700 that will come from the maintenance budget
- The Commonwealth Community Compact will meet February 4 at 7 p.m. in the Great Barrington Town Hall

Executive Session

Open Meeting: February 8, 2016

Informational Meeting on Downtown Traffic Flow

Earl Moffatt introduced the discussion of traffic flow in the Center/Depot/Harris/Main Street area for the purposes of improving safety at the junction of Center and Main Streets and parking for merchants. Earl said this was a continuation of a meeting in June 2015 about merchants' issues with parking. He described the purpose as informational, to collect different points of view, and anticipated a 6- to 12-month decision process.

The selectmen are currently considering two proposals:

1. Make Center Street one way from Main to Depot Streets to eliminate safety problems entering Main from Depot, add designated truck parking and loading zones on Center Street, and make drivers go around the block to enter angle parking on Main, reducing turns into the angle parking.
2. Make Harris Street more of a public two-way road from the footbridge to a new entrance and exit on Moscow Road to increase capacity in this part of downtown for a new hub near the Turn Park.

Planning Board chair Mitch Greenwald commented that the town should look at the complicated regulations on public roads and questioned the assumption that there will be lots of traffic. He suggested adopting policies that do not injure existing businesses or spend money on convenience for private operations.

An architect praised the Harris to Moscow Road plan because a successful street grid includes multiple pathways, reducing congestion by encouraging movement.

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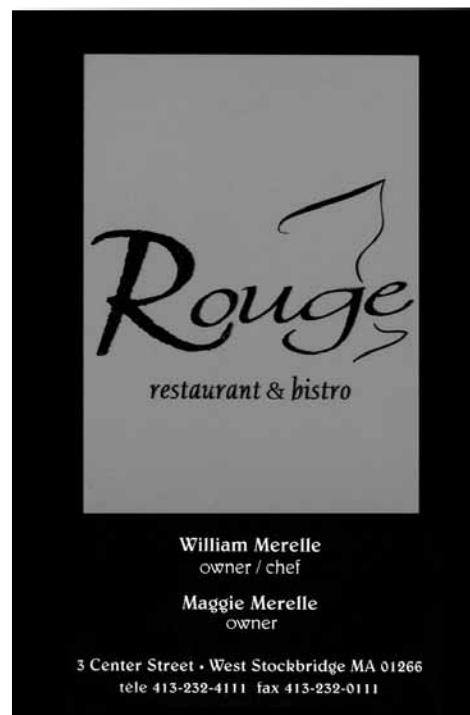
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March Art Calendar

Tea with the Masters: Wed. March 2, 12-200pm
Viewing of an artist's work or demonstration on DVD or other media. Bring lunch. Tues. March 22, 4-6pm Hockney RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

First Friday Artswalk: Fri. March 4, 5-8pm.
Pittsfield, www.firstfridaysartwalk.com

Clark Art Museum: Sun. March 6, 10am- 5pm First Sundays free admission. To carpool with others, see our FaceBook page or kcarmean@gmail.com

Coffee as Muse: Artist Reception/Party: Sun. March 6 3-5pm. Six Depot, West Stockbridge (WS)

Positive Critique: Thurs. March 10, 4-6pm Bring 2-3 pieces of your art. West Stockbridge Town Hall, 21 Stateline Rd. Rt. 102, WS. For required reading and RSVP: carolgkelly@hotmail.com

Photo Gathering: Sun. Mar. 13, 3-5pm Stanmeyer Gallery. Bring 3-5 photos or on USB or iPhone. <http://www.edgemaster.com/Photo-Gathering>

Book Gathering: Fri. March 18, 4-5:30pm. Share a favorite book: artist, process. Stanmeyer Gallery 2 Main St. WS. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Model Session: Fri. March.18, 5:30-8:30pm. Sessions for beginners to experts with a live model. \$15 RSVP: carolgkelly@hotmail.com

Snap Seminar: Using Instagram: Sat. March 19, 1-3pm at Stanmeyer Gallery, 2 Main St. WS. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Meet the Artist: Anne Auberjonois: Painter and Designer: Wed. March 23, 12:15-1:30pm Six Depot, WS. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Meet the Artist: Morgan Bulkeley: Painter and Sculptor. Wed. March 30, 12:15-1:30pm. Six Depot, WS. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

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

Recent Works



Ilene Spienak: Still Life with Boubon



Karen Carmean: Pink at The Mount



Keith Emerling: Amaryllis



Freya Segal: NY City Performer



Palma Fleck: Calm before the Storm

A resident asked about the cost of the proposals and whether three parking places and projected traffic flow is worth the cost.

Hardware Store owner Henry Baldwin commented that making Center Street one way will hurt his business. He said he thinks the problems could be solved by increased law enforcement.

One resident suggested mirrors at the junctions of Hotel Street and Center Street with Main Street to enable drivers to see oncoming traffic and to improve safety at a low cost.

The owner of the Public Market commented that one-way streets are bad for business. He suggested that traffic needs to be slowed down by means of a four-way stop in front of the liquor store and speed bumps on Main Street. He urged 15-minute parking in front of convenience businesses such as the Public Market and Queensboro.

Selectman Curt Wilton said traffic might be comparable to a daily Zucchini Festival, prompting a comment that town stores did not make any money during Zucchini Festivals, although Festival vendors did. Curt said the Turn Park will have 30 parking spaces for visitors.

Steve Mack, whose firm Foresight designed the sewer, sidewalk and crosswalk, and paving projects, stated that studies of parking, car, and pedestrian traffic flow and loading would be useful.

The selectmen are working on use of the parking lot at the corner of Hotel and Main Streets, next to the Old Town Hall, in executive sessions. They said discussions are not nearing completion yet. One merchant said he is opposed to using the lot for parking.

Parks and Recreation Committee

Roland Dudney reported that the five members of the Parks and Recreation Committee meet regularly on Tuesdays and are in the planning stages for next season.

Fire Department

Lieutenant Jim Hallock read a three-page letter to the Board of Selectmen regarding his concerns about "a steady decline in the leadership of our Fire Department."

Earl Moffatt characterized the letter as another indication of prob-

lems in the Fire Department (Town Custodian Dominick Lucci criticized Fire Department operations last year.). Earl said this is a difficult situation for him and that follow-up will be a mix of public and private discussions.

Fire Chief Peter Skorput responded that he is insulted by Jim's attempt to push him aside and become fire chief.

Upcoming Meetings

The selectmen will have a budget meeting on February 17 at 3 p.m. and a regular Board of Selectmen meeting on February 22.

Broadband Update

Mark Webber reported on an e-mail from Steve Sautman stating that the impasse between Massachusetts Broadband Institute and WiredWest has not improved and that recommendations from the state are on hold.

Mark commented that he sees "big things happening" where Charter Cable will fulfill the role of WiredWest in providing last-mile services to West Stockbridge dwellings. Mark expects Charter to acquire Time Warner this spring. He said Charter is working on a plan for West Stockbridge. Mark said that the city manager of Great Barrington, which has cable service from Time Warner, has asked to be kept informed of what happens in West Stockbridge.

Curt Wilton said he is looking for "quicker, faster, cheaper" service.

Truck Plaza Solar Project

Kirt Mayland of Housatonic Solar, LLC, has received approval from the Town Conservation Commission for his Truck Plaza Solar project but was not available for the selectmen's meeting.

Highway Department

Highway Department Chief Curt Wilton said that highway crew will cut brush and trees at the Old Town Landfill on Oak Street where trees are toppling and pulling up trash from the landfill. The objective is to turn the area into a field.

Curt reported that the paving of a portion of Lenox Road cost \$122,000. The town received a surplus since the project was funded for \$134,000. *

REMINDER for West Stockbridge, MA Voters

The presidential primary in Massachusetts is March 1, 2016. West Stockbridge polling hours are from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Town Hall at 21 State Line Road.

Absentee ballot request deadline is noon on February 29, 2016. All requests for absentee ballots must be received by the town clerk at this time.

All *completed absentee ballots* must be returned by the deadline of 8 p.m. on March 1, 2016. You may have someone deliver the absentee ballot to the town clerk at the polling station on March 1, 2016. If you are mailing the absentee ballot, it *must* be in the town clerk's mailbox in the West Stockbridge Post Office by the last mail drop (which is normally 5 p.m.) on March 1, 2016.

THANK YOU (AND AN ANNOUNCEMENT) FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT



Because of your very generous donations to the Santa's Wish List, we are looking into a hose roller that would make hose pickup faster and much easier.

On a different note, lack of snow this winter could mean a dry spring, making an early cancellation by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) of the season for brush burning a possibility.

If you have some cleanup to do, now is the time to get it done.
Again, thank you for your continued support!

Peter Skorput, Fire Chief



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Millay Society Seeks Volunteers for Steepletop

*By Martha Raftery,
Manager of Visitors Services*

The Edna St. Vincent Millay Society at Steepletop, a National Historic Landmark in Austerlitz, New York, is looking for enthusiastic and friendly volunteers to join our team. Volunteering is a great way to give back to your community, meet new people, and share your love of historic sites, literature, and gardens.

Our volunteers staff the gift shop, conduct tours of Pulitzer Prize winning poet Edna St. Vincent Millay's house and grounds, maintain Steepletop's gardens, lead hikes into the beautiful surrounding landscape, and assist with events and special projects.

No matter what your schedule or skills, there is a place for you at Steepletop. Volunteers are needed both weekdays and weekends (April to October). You can help out once a week to once a month. All our volunteers receive personalized on-site training. And prior knowledge or experience is not necessary.

Now is the time to join the fun and fascinating group of people who make Steepletop come alive. To learn more, please phone us at (518) 392-3362 or e-mail martha@millay.org.



Photos courtesy of the Edna St. Vincent Millay Society.



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@West Stockbridge Library

Many thanks to Lauren Losaw of Shaker Mill Books who helped us celebrate Chinese New Year with a Year of the Monkey storytime during school vacation week.

The West Stockbridge Library is delighted to participate in the 2016 Berkshire Festival of Women Writers. Grace Rossman will lead "Ophelia Rising," a writing and spoken word workshop for young women, Friday, March 18, 3:30-5:30, in the Community Room. For more information, contact Lorrin Krouss at 232-0012.



➤ **Our third annual National Library Week Open House is set for Saturday, April 16.**

➤ **Stay tuned for more information on the 2016 Summer Reading Program, July 8–August 5. The theme centers on wellness, fitness, and sports with an emphasis on "Let's Move," a national initiative to get kids moving. We're teaming up with Berkshire Pulse Studios for a series of classes for young people and welcoming back acclaimed magician Scott Jameson. More details to follow.**

A reminder that we now have four Windows 10 workstations. If you are interested in learning more about Windows 10 or sharpening your computer skills, please contact the library at 232-0308. Tech adviser Bill Biggs is taking sign-ups for classes with dates and times to be announced.

Did you know that you can locate and borrow just about any library item across the state? If our library network C/W/ MARS does not have what you want, go to the Commonwealth Catalog (commonwealthcatalog.org). The requested items will be delivered to our library for pick-up. Thanks to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.

New Additions
DVDs: *Downton Abbey Season 6*, *The Martian*, *Black Mass*, *Spectre*, *Trumbo*

FICTION
Bivald, *The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend* (LP)

Bohjalian, *Guest Room*
Chevalier, *At the Edge of the Orchard*
Ferrante, *The Neapolitan Novels*
Nguyen, *The Sympathizer*
Robb, *Brotherhood in Death*
Yapa, *Your Heart Is a Muscle the Size of Your Fist*

Ongoing

- Set up a CW/MARS online account by going to weststockbridgelibrary.org and clicking on the card catalog picture. Your personal account allows you to keep track of checkouts, requests, overdues and fees, pick-up locations, renewals, and more.
- Free resources for the print disabled include Choice Magazine Listening (CML), at 1-888-724-6423 or www.choicemagazinelistening.org. and the Worcester Talking Book Library (1-800-762-0085) funded by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.
- If you use an e-reader, explore the new statewide Commonwealth e-book Collections (CEC) at eBooks.masslibsystem.org.
- Library Trustees Board meetings are open to the public. The next meeting is March 17, 4:30 in the Community Room.

As always, we welcome suggestions on just about anything to improve our library.
Lee Appelbaum and Jodi Magner



ART AT THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY

MARCH/APRIL ARTIST SUSAN PETTEE: BOTANICAL ART



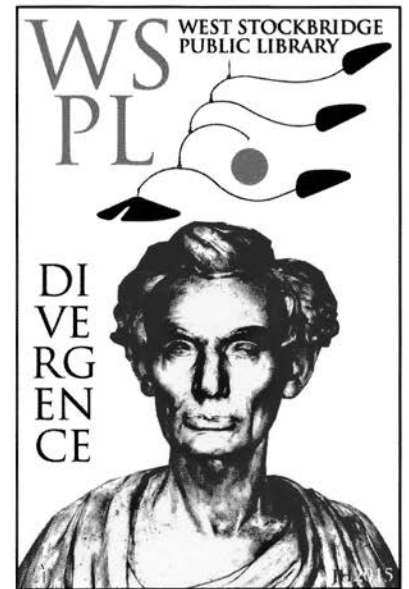
Pink Turtleheads

A graduate of Radcliffe College, Susan studied art at Boston Museum School, the Corcoran in Washington, D.C., and with Anne-Marie Evans at the English Gardening School in London. She received a certificate in botanical painting from the Society of Botanical artists in England in 2007.

Her paintings have been exhibited in New York; Washington, DC; Portland, Oregon; Great Barrington, MA; Lowell, MA; Pomfret, CT; Pittsfield, MA; and in Paris and Perigueux, France. She has also participated in several of the American Society of Botanical Artists' juried exhibitions at the New York Horticultural Society.

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News from Parks & Recreation

By Ginna Dudney

It's hard to believe that it's already the middle of winter. Parks & Rec is working hard to get the fields, courts, and pond open and terrific in time for the really warm weather.

The biggest project at hand, of course, is the new playground. Design plans are close to being finalized, so if there are any ideas or additions you'd like to add, now is the time to do it.

Drop a note to wsparksandrec@gmail.com or stop by the next meeting on Tuesday, March 8, in the board work room at the Town Hall.



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Public Hearing Held on Housatonic Water Company Rate Increase

By Doane Perry and John Parker

The Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU) held a public hearing on January 27 at the Housatonic Community Center on a petition by Housatonic Water Works Company for approval of a general rate increase. DPU has suspended the effective date of the proposed increase until November 1, 2016, while it considers the company's request.

The Housatonic Water Works Company serves a number of West Stockbridge residents. According to the DPU notice of the hearing, the company proposes to increase both the fixed and volumetric charges for all metered customers and apply the volumetric rate to all water used each month. The company estimates that the typical residential customer would experience a bill increase of approximately 34%.

Public comments included the following:

- There are major water quality issues throughout the country, and raising rates may be the only way for some systems to improve.
- The owners (the Mercers) are good people, long term and local, but the system is dilapidated—not because of the owners but despite the owners.
- Users cannot dig a well since the water is owned by the water company. Housatonic is proud to be a community for people with modest incomes, but they do not want to be a Flint, Michigan.
- The hearing was promising because experts from the state could hear testimony before mediating the issues.
- Customers commented that no reason has been given for this increase, whereas in the past the company cited installing meters and pipe replacement.
- Customers recommended that the state mediators ask the owner to present a master maintenance plan with verified past and future expenditures. Instead of the 34% rate increase requested, they should implement a gradual phased-in increase.
- A Housatonic Water board member argued that the state should enable Housatonic Water to partner with Great Barrington Water Company to provide a long-range solution for modernizing the system. As a private company, Housatonic Water is not eligible for grants for improvements, whereas as a public company, the Great Barrington "Fire District" Water Company is eligible for grants.

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



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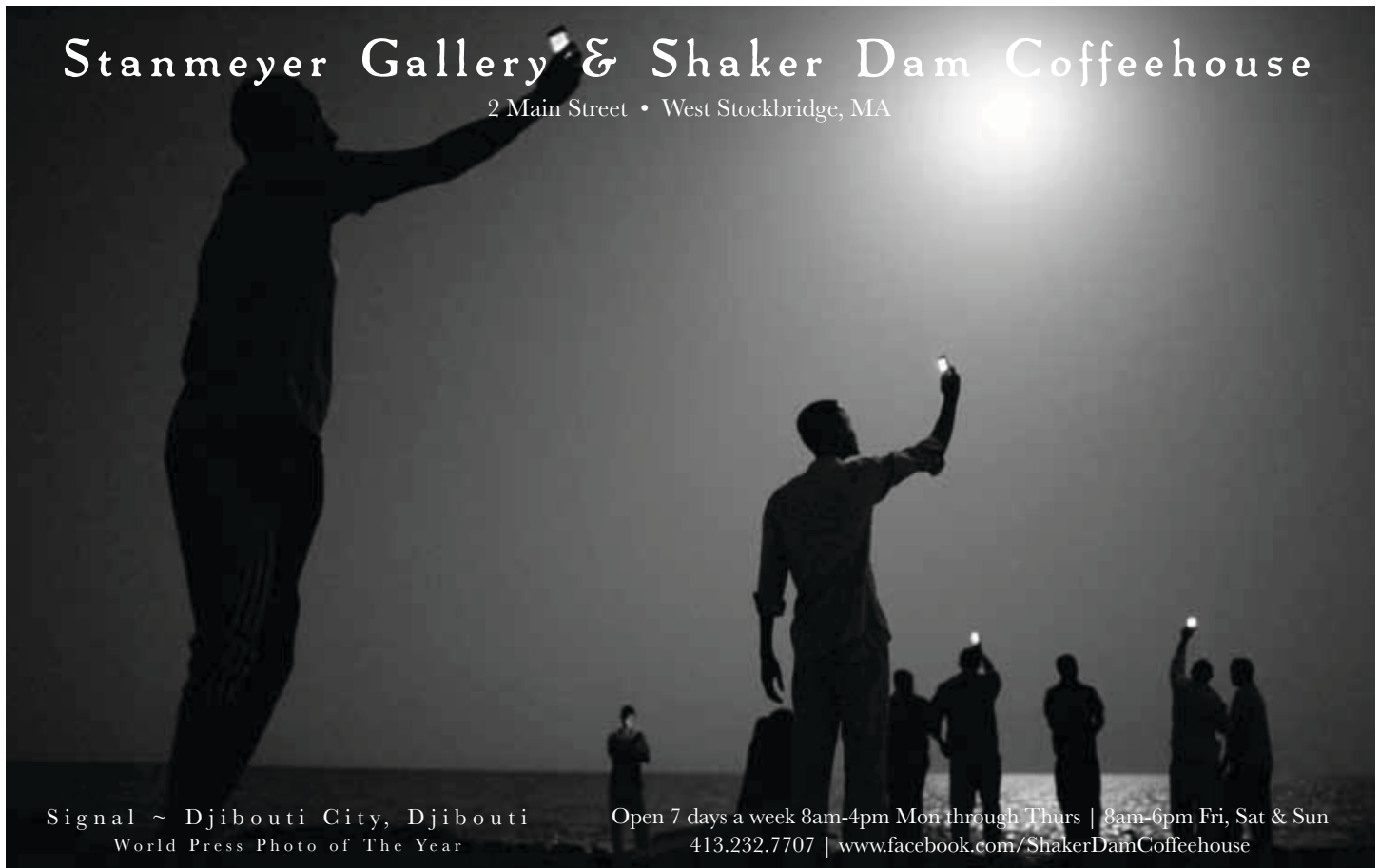
WEEKLY BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC

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

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

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Community News & Events

Council on Aging Luncheon

The next Council on Aging Potluck Luncheon will be held at noon on Tuesday, March 8, in the Town Hall Community Room.

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, March 13, the Stockbridge Grange will serve a corned beef and cabbage 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. In case of stormy weather, please call first.

Send your notices for Community News & Events to the Local Yokel, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266, or by e-mail to info@thelocalyokel.org.

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Birthdays & Anniversaries

3/5 Rocco Pietrafesa

3/9 Susan Fisher and
Gary Schiengeman

3/25 Jan Bedini Lang

3/30 Dick Moffatt

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

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





Recipe Corner

by Lynn Ryan

CORNERED BEEF AND CABBAGE PIZZA

I use a yummy pizza dough that I buy at Berkshire Mountain Bakery.
I couldn't make a better one on my own.

3 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil, plus more for the pan
1½–2 cups sliced green cabbage
Salt and fresh ground pepper
1 tsp. pickling spices, tied securely in cheesecloth (optional but certainly helps with flavor)
1 medium potato (Yukon is the best), peeled and sliced thin
1 cup (or more if you like it extra cheesy) mozzarella, shredded
½ cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese
⅓ cup grated parmesan cheese
4 ounces sliced corned beef (use leftovers from St. Patrick's Day or buy sliced from the deli at the supermarket)

1. Heat 1 Tbsp. of the olive oil in a skillet over medium-high heat. Add the cabbage, season with salt and pepper, and cook until just soft, about 5 minutes. Add the pickling spices and just enough water to cover.
2. Simmer over low heat, covered, until the cabbage is tender, about 20 minutes. Drain the cabbage and set aside. Discard the spices.
3. Toss the potato slices with 2 Tbsp. olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Roast in a single layer on a baking sheet until golden brown, about 15 to 20 minutes at 400°F. Take out and set aside.
4. Place a pizza stone in the oven, if you have one, and turn up the oven to 500°F. Otherwise, use a baking sheet.
5. Drizzle some olive oil on the pizza dough round. Scatter all three cheeses in layers, corned beef, cabbage, and potatoes on top. Season with salt and pepper. Slip the pizza onto the stone or baking sheet in the oven. Cook until golden and crispy, 10 to 15 minutes. Enjoy, and Happy St. Patrick's Day!

An Old Irish Curse

May those who love us, love us;
And those who don't love us,
May God turn their hearts;
And if He can't turn their hearts,
May He turn their ankles
So we'll know them by their limping!

And remember this Irish saying: "When you can't sleep at night,
it's because you're awake in someone else's dream."

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Muddy Brook



ELEMENTARY

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PTA

Business Networking

Tuesday, March 1, 7:30 p.m., Muddy Brook Elementary School

Meet other business owners in your Muddy Brook community! Come and see what other businesses are doing and find new ways to connect. For questions, please call Stephen Tournas-Hardt at (413) 281-9272.

March PTA Meeting

Monday, March 21, 3:45-5 p.m.

School Budget

Remember, this is an important time of year to get engaged in local politics. Attend public meetings to voice your support for the school district and be sure to go to your town meeting to vote for it.

Third Grade Potluck

Thursday, March 24, 5-6:30 p.m., Muddy Brook Elementary Cafeteria

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

Wednesday Walkers

Join us each Wednesday at 8:40; meet in the lobby.

Drop in for an invigorating walk, connecting with each other and with our surrounding land. Younger kids always welcome.

PTA+1

In building our theme of connections, we challenge you to connect with other Muddy Brook families. So we're launching a new idea: PTA+1, where we encourage you to bring one person with you to a PTA event. Let's see if we can broaden our collective base together. Grab someone new, pull a name from the student directory, ask your child to choose a new friend to attend the next potluck, encourage a friend to walk with us on Wednesdays. Be part of the PTA+1 campaign and make a new connection!

Thank you for your continued support.
Please "like" us on Facebook, and
visit muddybrookpta.com.

West Stockbridge History Quiz Answer:

Through the early 1900s, the library became more and more popular with circulation increasing and the hours of operation expanding. By 1914 a core of volunteers was helping out, and in 1915 the library even started working with the schools to coordinate books and readings for students. Circulation reached over 6,000 items. Then it appears that success overwhelmed the space and resources.

The annual report of the library trustees in 1916 had circulation of 6,700 items but decried the library and the old town hall as being in a "most deplorable condition." No details were provided, but clearly there was a space and usage issue. Looking at the town accounts, the only money expended for the building was for supplies, coal for heating, and minor repairs. The library budget only supported the librarian's salary, with no capital improvements.

During the post-World War I period, the national economy, and likely West Stockbridge as well, was in a downturn. In addition, our iron and lime industries were on the decline. Money was tight, and the selectmen were reluctant to spend on capital improvements. The library trustees continued to push for renovation of the one-room library space, but there appeared to be no action.

Through the 1920s, the library continued to struggle with success and space. Trustees and volunteers had musical entertainment benefits upstairs to raise funds. Circulation peaked at 10,800 items in 1931. By 1933 the state had sent in a librarian from Boston to help catalog and rearrange the space. Volunteers provided her with free room and board. It wasn't until the 1970s that the library increased its space, adding the middle room of the building, and in 2007 the library moved into the new town hall, where patrons enjoy a bright renovated space even equipped with up-to-date computers.

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



Photo courtesy of Bob Salerno.



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Anne Auberjonois

Anne Auberjonois:

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Wed. March 23

12:15- 1:30pm

Six Depot
West Stockbridge

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



Join Anne Auberjonois on Wednesday March 23 at Six Depot West Stockbridge from 12:15-1:30 pm for an informal discussion over lunch. You will be able to ask her questions. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com.

“The Berkshires have been close to my heart since I started coming here in the early 80s. When I decided to retire from a design career, this seemed like the obvious place to move to. At some point you realize that there is only a finite amount of time and if you’re going to follow a dream you need to take a leap of faith. I love the Berkshire landscapes. Nature draws me visually as do the simple objects around me that make up my life. Right now I would say I am searching for my voice. And in my search, I’ve found the community of artists and creative people here to be wonderfully supportive and exciting.

So far, on this journey, I have been exploring digital painting on my iPad and doing some work in oils. My inspiration is easy: it is all around me. The editing process is harder as well as working without an exterior voice or ‘client,’ something I haven’t done in over twenty years. ”

Anne studied at the Art Students League, then worked as an artist, did commissions for the Pittsburgh Opera, and had galleries in Pittsburgh, Taos and Washington DC. Sculpture led her to making mixed media ‘portrait dolls’ for adults, then to a job designing award winning soft toys for North American Bear Co. For 20 years she divided her time as a set and costume designer with a French theater company, and designed interiors and painted murals in the US. Next she did package design for Estee Lauder and Bath & Body Works. For 30 years she has done musical theater set and costume designs for Blue Hill Troupe raising money for charity!!

Morgan Bulkeley

*Morgan
Bulkeley:*

*Sculptor and
Painter*

Wed. March 30

12:15-1:30pm

Six Depot
West Stockbridge

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



Join Morgan Bulkeley on Wednesday March 30 at Six Depot West Stockbridge from 12:15-1:30 pm for an informal discussion over lunch. Morgan Bulkeley was born in the Berkshires of Massachusetts, in 1944. He was raised on a small farm in the town of Mount Washington, where his parents, both naturalists, raised many wild, orphaned animals. He graduated from Yale University in 1966 with a B.A. in English Literature. After a stint in the Coast Guard, he spent a year in Newark, New Jersey, drawing and working with VISTA programs. Then he spent 14 years in Cambridge, Massachusetts, painting and sculpting. In 1985, he returned to his childhood home, where he lives with his environmentalist wife Eleanor Tillinghast. He has had more than 20 one man shows in Boston and the Berkshires and lots of group shows.

“The son of a naturalist, and himself a lifelong devotee of bird and free-range beast, Bulkeley has a well-developed sense of the fragile balance in which nature and man co-exist...Morgan Bulkeley comes to his good sense from long familiarity and appreciation of nature's multifarious and overlapping dramas of expression, hunger and survival.”-- Geoffrey Young. After seeing some of Morgan's work, you will have a chance to to ask him questions. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

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Assessors Office	<i>Mary Stodden</i>	232-0300	ext. 303	Tues. 1–5 p.m.; Thurs. 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Board of Health	<i>John Olander</i>	232-0300	ext. 314	Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m., or by appt.
Board of Selectmen	<i>Earl B. Moffatt, Peter Skorput, Curt G. Wilton</i>			
Administrative Assistant	<i>Mark Webber</i>	232-0300	ext. 319	Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Building Inspector	<i>Brian Duval</i>	232-0300	ext. 313	Tues. 4–7 p.m.
Conservation Commission	<i>Jennifer Kujawski, Lori Rose</i>	232-0300	ext. 338	Leave Message for Inquiries
Council on Aging	<i>John Zick</i>	232-0300	ext. 340	Leave Message for Inquiries
Emergency Management	<i>Louis Oggiani</i>	528-2175		
Fire Department	<i>Peter Skorput</i>	232-4200 (non-emergency)		Mon. 6:30–9 p.m.
Highway Department	<i>Curt G. Wilton</i>	232-0305		Leave Message for Inquiries
Library	<i>Lee Appelbaum</i>	232-0300	ext. 308	Tues. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Wed. 1–5 p.m.; Thurs. & 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



Coming Soon!!! Coldfax Farm Veggies.

Photo by Molly Comstock

Every issue costs us about \$1,000 to print and distribute! Please help us keep the Local Yokel coming!

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

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28	29	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



March 2016 Calendar of Events

3/1	Presidential Primary	Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	Town Offices
3/2	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
3/7	Board of Selectmen	7 p.m.	Town Offices
3/7	Planning Board meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
3/8	COA Potluck Luncheon	12 noon	Town Offices Community Room
3/8	Parks & Recreation Committee meeting	5:30 p.m.	Town Offices Work Room
3/8	American Legion	7 p.m.	Town Offices
3/9	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
3/9	Friends of the Library meeting	3:30 p.m.	Town Offices Board Room
3/13	Daylight Savings Time Begins: set clocks ahead one hour		
3/13	Grange Dinner	1-2 p.m.	Stockbridge Grange
3/15	*** Deadline for the Next Local Yokel ***		send to info@thelocalyokel.org
3/16	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
3/17	St. Patrick's Day		
3/20	Palm Sunday / First Day of Spring		
3/21	Muddy Brook PTA meeting	3:45-5 p.m.	Muddy Brook Elementary
3/21	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
3/23	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
3/25	Good Friday		
3/27	Easter		
3/28	Planning Board meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
3/30	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room