

Local yokel

WEST STOCKBRIDGE
MAY
2016

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TOWN MEETING
&
ELECTION INFO
INSIDE!

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*Red Trillium (a.k.a. Wakerobin) along Williams River
near Pixley Hill Road. Photo by John Parker.*

**THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE
CHAMBER PLAYERS ANNUAL**

Spring Concert

Friday, May 27, 2016 at 6:00 PM

1854 Town Hall, Main Street, West Stockbridge

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

Program:

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

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PERFORMANCE FOR THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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: March 21, 2016

FY 2017 Budget

Mark Webber reported that the Finance Committee and selectmen reviewed the annual Town Meeting warrant and budget and that Chairman Bob Salerno said the Finance Committee will vote to endorse it for approval.

Old Town Landfill

Curt Wilton said a visitor from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection was impressed with the tree cutting and clearing improvement at the Old Town Landfill and gave it his blessing.

Harris Street Area Traffic Follow-Up

Town government members met with Ed Merritt and discussed the stone wall that is caving in. The wall is on Ed's property; the rest of the area belongs to National Grid. A resident asked if the selectmen plan to go forward on proposals to address the downtown traffic flow (see Board of Selectmen Meeting Summaries in our March issue). Earl Moffat and Curt answered that they are gathering data. The resident expressed skepticism and suggested other proposals.

Gallery Signs

The selectmen discussed an application for two signs for the Diana Felber Gallery at the former glassblowing studio. Earl suggested making

one of the signs smaller to comply with the regulation requiring that signs not exceed 15 square feet, and he offered a permit when the applicants come back.

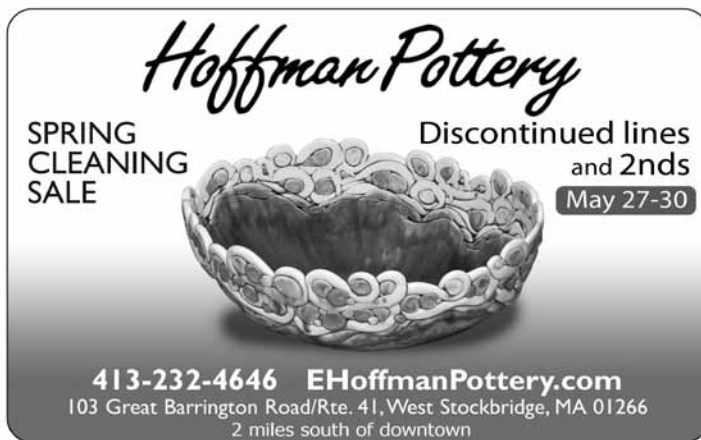
Fire Department (continued from March 7 meeting)

Earl said the continuation was to address concerns raised by Jim Hallock's attorney and also by Dom Luchi several meetings back.

Jim's attorney, Alex Shmulsky of Albany, sent a letter to the selectmen on March 9 stating that Jim would like to be reinstated to the Fire Department, but the town and the Board of Selectmen need to agree to conditions including a written public apology and acknowledgment that Chief Skorput slandered Jim and a promise to stop slandering him, and that the town and Fire Department take action on the concerns raised by Jim. In return, Jim will promise not to pursue any lawsuits against the town.

Curt said the last Board of Selectmen meeting produced a list of actions to be taken: Jim is to be reinstated to the Fire Department unconditionally, Jim and Peter have to work together, department members have to abide by the terms, and Peter has to address Jim's allegations.

...continued on page 5



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2016 Annual Town Election

May 9, 2016

Town Offices Gymnasium, 21 State Line Road



Polls open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.



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

* There are no challengers to incumbents.

May History Quiz Question:

On the north end of Main Street are two classic Greek revival houses that announce the entrance to the village center. Built sometime in the 1840s, they are examples of the classic New England town architecture of that period. This was a time when the village was prospering, a new railroad, marble, lime, and iron quarries going full tilt, and much commercial activity.

Both houses have a story to them. The larger house, on the corner with Swamp Road and Main Street, was the home and office of Dr. William Leavitt, builder of that house and the others around it. (It was mentioned in one 1920s Berkshire tour guide as a possible former bank but never was.) The other Greek revival house to the left of it has a more interesting history. What possible uses did that building serve?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)



West Stockbridge Historical Society
Incorporated in 1994



The *Local Yokel* is published monthly. Please send submissions to: the *Local Yokel*, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266 or info@thelocalyokel.org. Copy deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the publication. Editors: John Parker, 298-0052, john.parker49@verizon.net; Vicki Grayson, 232-6131, vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com; Susan Fisher, 232-4443, suefish12@gmail.com; Anne Lesser, 232-8577, anne@annelessercommunications.com. Contributor: Doane Perry, 617-547-1413, doaneperry@yahoo.com; Design: Kim Bradway, kim@bloominarts.com.

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

An audience member commented that there should be no arguing, people should put aside differences and fix the Fire Department, the town should hire an expert, and there should be a mature, productive resolution to the problem.

Earl made a motion that Jim's counsel and the town confer in a mediating process. Curt seconded the motion on condition that Jim is reenrolled in the Fire Department. The motion passed with two in favor, and the meeting was adjourned.

Farmers Market

Roland Dudney announced that the Farmers Market will open for the season on May 19. Signage, music, permits, and operations will be the same as last year.

Regarding cleaning the restrooms, Curt noted that the town custodian works from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. and has finished work by 3 p.m. when the Farmers Market opens. There was discussion of overtime and who should pay. The custodian is not available for overtime because he has other commitments after working for the town.

A person in the audience asked about the involvement of the town merchants. In the original agreement for the restrooms, the merchants agreed to pay. Earl said that a mechanism for charging the merchants was never developed.

Other Business

- The selectmen voted unanimously to approve remote attendance at Planning Board meetings.
- Earl reported that the budget for the treatment of Card Pond has been put in place.

Open Meeting, April 4, 2016

(Note: The chief of police update to the board was postponed to April 11.)

Gallery Sign Permit

The selectmen approved the permit application by Diana Felber Gallery at 6 Harris Street, having determined that the proposed signage was within bylaw limits.

Upcoming Meetings

There will be a meeting with the Harris Street abutters on April 18. A joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board is scheduled for April 18. A meeting with the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals is planned for April 25.

WiredWest

The selectmen will discuss WiredWest at the April 11 meeting to consider a resolution to ask the governor to release funds. Steve Sautman will provide an update on April 18.

Annual Town Meeting

Mark Webber told the selectmen that everything has been submitted for the warrant that will be discussed at the next Board of Selectmen meeting. There are three petition articles. Earl Moffat made a motion to accept the warrant, and all the selectmen voted in favor.

Capital Projects

Repair of three town buildings, the cemetery building roof, the town garage shed, and the sewer plant roof repair, will be approved at a June meeting and are not included in the town warrant.

Other Business

- The selectmen gave permission for the Artists' Guild to use the Town Offices for demonstrations and meetings. Earl commented that these uses were just what the Community Room was designed for.
- Mark Webber announced that a site review of the Old Town Landfill will take place on April 11 at 10:30 a.m. The visit was scheduled in conjunction with a site review in Tyringham to reduce the expense. Mark and Curt commented that hooking customers up to the town water system is the best way to avoid chemicals in the ground.
- A building permit application for downtown restrooms and information booth will be discussed at the board's April 11 meeting. *

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HIGH-HOLY-DAY JEWS
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AGNOSTIC JEWS
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MY-BAR-MITZVAH-JEWS

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Annual Town Meeting and Budget Highlights Fiscal Year 2017 as of March 21, 2016

Provided by Mark Webber, Administrative Assistant to Board of Selectmen

General:

- Total Raise and Appropriation (taxation) is \$5,102,486. This is an increase of \$160,934, or 3.3% over the current year.
- All things being equal, this reflects an approximate increase in the tax rate of \$.42/\$1,000 from \$12.33 to \$12.75.
- This reflects a tax bill increase of approximately \$170 based on the average single-family residence valued at \$412,586 (2016). The prior 7 years have seen an average tax bill increase of \$113 for the average single-family residence (DOR, 2016).

Substantial Year-to-Year Line Item Budget Changes:

- Town Accountant Salary. Up \$2,000. This increase puts her on par with the town treasurer.
- Fire/EMT Services. Up \$2,922. Increase is necessary to fund mandated fire equipment testing.
- BHRSD Operations. Up \$73,113, or 2.6%.
- BHRSD Capital. Up \$24,388, or 23%. The two education line items represent 69% of total taxation.
- Cemetery Tree Removal. Up \$3,500, or 100%. This should cover the removal of the remaining problem spruces at the town cemetery along Rte. 41.
- Mill Pond and Card Pond Aquatic Weed Control. Up \$5,000. This increase reflects the anticipated addition of Card Pond to the annual Mill Pond treatment.
- Community Health. Increase of \$3,940, or 19%. This reflects the increase in the Community Health RN's health insurance premiums.
- Debt Service. New Highway front-end loader. Category is up \$30,157, or 12% and reflects the first year of debt service (1 of 5) on the new loader.
- County Retirement. Increase of \$13,381, or 17%. This reflects an increase in payroll and assessment for unfunded future liability (projected to be satisfied by 2020).
- Health Insurance. Up 14%, or \$22,311. No change in enrollment.

Capital Purchases:

- Seeking authorization for the treasurer to borrow \$150,000 for departmental Equipment including replacement of Highway Dept. one-ton plow/sander; new Council on Aging H.C. Van (smaller version), and pickup truck for the superintendent of buildings and grounds.
- Under consideration are repairs to the roof at the wastewater treatment plant on Moscow Road. Initial estimate is \$17,500 for the standing seam metal roof.
- The town's Bond Rating is AA (S&P, 2016). Up from A+ (2006-2010).

Other Notes:

- 2016 Free Cash was certified at \$199,587. This budget proposes to use \$85,000, leaving a balance of \$114,587 going forward.
- Certified Retained Earnings for Sewer Enterprise is \$60,655.
- Certified Retained Earnings for Water Enterprise is \$24,583.
- 2016 Excess Levy Capacity (amount under the levy limit) is \$886,455.
- Stabilization Fund balance is \$297,783. FY 2017 budget requests adding \$25,000.
- Capital Stabilization Fund balance is \$51,000. FY 2017 budget requests adding \$25,000.
- Parks and Recreation Committee has requested an unspecified amount to upgrade the playground at the Village School. Safety concerns have been raised on the condition of the existing equipment. A 50% matching grant has been applied for from the Department of Environmental Management. Total project cost is estimated at \$50,000 with a portion to be offset with advertising revenue. This topic will be deferred until the end of June Special Town Meeting when, hopefully, there will be an indication from the state as to grant funding approval.

Pasta Dinner Raises Funds for Farmers Market

By Joanne Wodecki



Jan Reid, Caitlin Graham, Katie Kilmer, Bill Reid, and Joanne Wodecki of the West Stockbridge Congregational Church present the proceeds from the April 8 Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser to Lois Ferguson, Robin Schmitt, and Terri Jo Dixon of the West Stockbridge Farmers Market.

On Friday, April 8, the West Stockbridge Congregational Church held its third annual fundraising pasta dinner in its newly renovated social hall and commercial kitchen. Each year since its inception, this event has raised hundreds of dollars that are donated to various organizations—charitable or otherwise. In previous years, we have given to the local People’s Food Pantry and also to Pet Partners. This year it was our pleasure to support the market and its vendors and, with \$600 raised, it was the most successful event we’ve held to date.

We would like to thank all the market vendors and community members who came out to support the cause and to Ginna and Roland Dudney for their continued leadership, hard work, and dedication to the Farmers Market Association.

A good time and a great meal was enjoyed by all that included spaghetti, delicious homemade sauce and meatballs, an incredible salad bar, brownies, ice cream, hot fudge, fresh-cut pineapple and watermelon, coffee, and cold drinks. A very special thanks to Tony Carlotto who saved the evening with his donation of homemade kielbasa and Sarah Thorne for her donation of romaine lettuce to replenish the salad bar. This was truly a community coming together for the greater good. A true-to-life “loaves and fishes” story in our midst!

And last, but not least, many thanks to the members and volunteers of the West Stockbridge Congregational Church who worked tirelessly to organize, prepare, and cook the food and—everyone’s favorite—clean up! Great job!

If you have questions concerning the commercial kitchen/social hall, please contact Joanne Wodecki at 413-454-0054 for more information.

A large black and white advertisement. The top half features the text "Stanmeyer Gallery & Shaker Dam Coffeehouse" in a serif font, with "2 Main Street • West Stockbridge, MA" below it. The background is a dark, moody photograph of silhouettes of people standing on a beach or shore at night, holding up flashlights that create a bright glow against the dark sky. The bottom left corner contains the text "Signal ~ Djibouti City, Djibouti" and "World Press Photo of The Year". The bottom right corner contains the text "Open 7 days a week 8am-4pm Mon through Thurs | 8am-6pm Fri, Sat & Sun" and "413.232.7707 | www.facebook.com/ShakerDamCoffeehouse".

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Season Opening: Save the Date!



On May 19, the West Stockbridge Farmers Market celebrates the opening of its fifth season, 3–7 p.m., on Merritt Green on Harris Street in the center of beautiful West Stockbridge.

The wonderful friendly vendors will again be offering the finest and freshest produce and prepared foods available in the Berkshires! Be sure to stock up on fresh veggies, meat, bread, wine, dining choices, and wonderful desserts. Browse the lovely and unique pieces presented by local artists.

Live music continues every week, cosponsored by the WS Cultural Council. Market favorite Ryan Hollander will be performing on May 19. Popular Moonshine Holler returns on May 26.

Also on May 19, award-winning author Jana Laiz will be on hand with her new young adult fiction book, *The Twelfth Stone*. Jana is the first writer-in-residence at Herman Melville’s Arrowhead and will be delighted to sign copies of her book.



Chef Tony revs up for the premiere of "Chef Tony Shares" at 4:30 p.m. on May 19 at the Grand Opening of the West Stockbridge Farmers Market's fifth season. Surprises guaranteed! Photo by Tony Carlotto.

New additions to the lineup this year include:

Chef Tony Shares

Talented Tony Carlotto of Rolling Rock Farm will share his cooking expertise in monthly demos. From 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on May 19, he'll reveal the secrets to create the wildly acclaimed salmon he brought to the market last year and distributed as samples, as well as other tidbits to make home preparation of market bounty as delicious and creative as possible. Stay tuned for future tidbits on the first Thursday of every month!


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


Reduce. Reuse. Repurpose. Recycle. A challenge to give new life to items that otherwise would be discarded. Get your creative on!

There'll be something for everyone at the West Stockbridge Farmers Market—don't miss it!



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WiredWest Update: BOS Sent letter to Governor

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

The rift between the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) and WiredWest continues to widen. Elizabeth Copeland, the interim director of the MBI, issued a letter to the MBI board of directors on April 6, stating that the current proposed modifications by WiredWest have still not been revised to MBI's satisfaction. MBI is now exploring alternatives of installing fixed wireless compared to a regional fiber network proposed by WiredWest, of using private company network operators compared to a cooperative governance model proposed by WiredWest, and of finding additional federal funding opportunities to reduce state funding compared to the business plan to pay back the towns' debt service proposed by WiredWest.

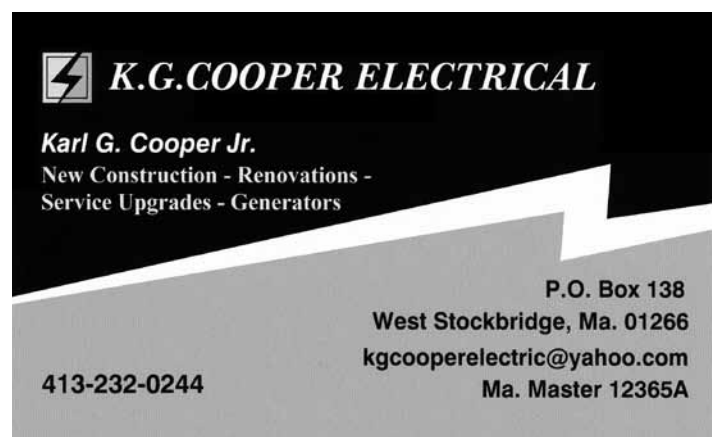
WiredWest responded by highlighting MBI's underlying lack of interest to work with the cooperative WiredWest that represents our towns and acts as our agent to develop satisfactory broadband solutions for the towns of western Massachusetts. WiredWest has proposed numerous solutions during the negotiating process to find agreeable solutions with MBI that are still good for our towns. However, MBI has not been negotiating in good faith with WiredWest because MBI prefers to work directly with the towns one on one to get their own way.

The MBI is now issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to further study wireless designs for all underserved towns at an additional cost of \$790,000 out of the allocated \$40 million to build the last-mile broadband network. Consultants will also study and analyze independent town solutions instead of a regional solution. These actions signal a fundamental shift in MBI's last-mile policy. This shift shows that the directly affected communities are not to be included in the policymaking process at MBI. Moreover, these actions and studies will further delay deployment of broadband in our communities and represent a regrettably inefficient use of precious public funds.

The West Stockbridge Board of Selectmen have signed and sent a letter to Governor Baker requesting his administration to lift "the pause" for the last-mile program and instruct the MBI to accept input and policy direction from the towns and WiredWest to jointly produce an actionable plan that is acceptable to our towns by June 30, 2016. The MBI was tasked in June 2014 to develop a plan to deploy a last-mile broadband solution to the homes in the underserved towns with the authorization of \$50 million. However, since then the MBI has not produced an actionable plan and has only repudiated WiredWest's proposed regional fiber network solution. Many of the towns' Boards of Selectmen have now sent similar letters to Governor Baker.

Governor Baker spoke as part of the annual conference put on by Sen. Stan Rosenberg for municipal officials in Hampshire and Franklin Counties on Saturday, April 9. He took questions, many of which were on broadband. After hearing about the lack of representation from Western Mass, he asked Rosenberg to convene a meeting at the State House. Rosenberg's office is currently putting together a roster of interested parties from Western Mass to attend the meeting that is scheduled for early May.

The FCC is expected to approve the acquisition of Time-Warner Cable by Charter Communications in the May timeframe. Charter will then make a proposal to the town of West Stockbridge on how it plans to upgrade their cable system to provide high-definition TV cable, digital phone, and Internet service. Charter has also been in communication with MBI to receive state funding to complete the build-out of their system to reach more homes in town.





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Botanist's Corner

By Dan Lewis

May is the most challenging month for avid gardeners because the timing of your moves now largely determines the scale and timing of your harvests. Are your beds ready? Most garden beds will benefit from a double dig before planting. Simply dig a trench on one side of your garden and fill it with the uppermost soil immediately adjacent to it, repeating until you have flipped the entire width of the garden bed.

On the foraging front, ramp (wild leek) season is beginning in earnest. Treat the leaves just like basil and experiment with your very own ramp pesto. Beware of ramp mimics; they may resemble the tasty native to the untrained eye. If you crush the leaves of a ramp, you will be treated to its characteristic pungent garlic aroma. If you don't smell this, or smell a different odor, put it down and forage with a knowledgeable friend instead!

Community Garden Update



Here we go! The planting season is upon us, and we look forward to many Sundays at the garden site. Stop by if you see us in the field, or simply honk as you drive by if you like what we're doing in our community. Our goals for this year include a better lettuce crop, a more efficient irrigation system powered by a small solar panel, and having lots of fun learning the benefits of organic growing for and with the community. As always, if you would like to learn more about our food bank/community garden, just call Dan or Megan Lewis at 232-7959.



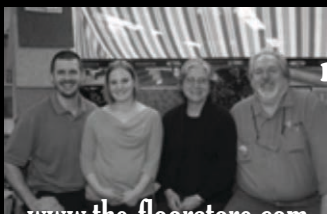
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Community News & Events

Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast

West Stockbridge Fire Department, in collaboration with the Congregational Church, will offer a Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, May 8, 7 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at the West Stockbridge Congregational Church Social Hall, 45 Main Street. Cost: \$10 per person; free for children 6 and under. Breakfast includes pancakes, sausage, fruit, coffee, and tea. Call Peter Skorput for tickets: 232-7853.

Council on Aging Luncheon

The next monthly COA Potluck Luncheon will be held in the Community Room at the Town Hall at noon on Tuesday, May 10. See you there!

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, May 15, the Stockbridge Grange will serve a baked ham 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.

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, May 21.

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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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



Chamber Players to Perform Memorial Day Concert

By Liza Bennett

On Friday, May 27, at 6 p.m., the summer music season will get off to a thrilling start with what is bound to be another sold-out benefit performance by the West Stockbridge Chamber Players. This world-class ensemble, led by clarinetist and artistic director Catherine Hudgins, is made up of Boston- and Berkshire-based musicians who regularly perform with the Boston Symphony, Boston Pops, Spoleto Festival, and Portland Symphony, and who teach at the Tanglewood Music Center.

The Chamber Players have given benefit concerts for the West Stockbridge Historical Society several times a year since the start of the campaign to restore the 1854 Town Hall. The May concert will feature six outstanding musicians: Edwin Barker on double bass, Ronny Feldman on cello, Sheila Fiekowsky on violin, Daniel Getz on viola, Amanda Hardy on oboe, and Catherine Hudgins on clarinet.

Johan Halvorsen's *Passacaglia*, based on a theme by George Frideric Handel, will start the concert. Halvorsen was a Norwegian violinist, conductor, and composer who wrote many compositions for orchestra and chamber music, as well as concertos and music for the theater. Sergei Prokofiev's *Quintet, Op. 39*, which is closely related to the composer's music for *Trapèze*, the ballet about circus life, will conclude the concert's first half.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's only music for string trio and his longest chamber work, the *Divertimento in E-flat major, K. 563*, will be performed after the intermission. Composed when Mozart was 32, just months after he completed his final three symphonies, the work is serious and stately in mood rather than the lighthearted entertainment its name suggests.

With the generous support of the Chamber Players and the campaign's hundreds of contributors, the Society is now over halfway to its goal of turning the 1854 Town Hall—which anchors West Stockbridge's downtown—into a community center, history museum, and acoustically perfect home for the West Stockbridge Chamber Players.

The concert is sponsored by Richard Ziter, MD, and grants from the West Stockbridge and Richmond Cultural Councils, local agencies supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Tickets are \$35, available at downtown West Stockbridge businesses with a "Blue Note" in their window, or online at www.weststockbridgehistory.org and at 232-4270. Seating is limited—order today!



West Stockbridge Chamber Players, clockwise from top right: Catherine Hudgins, clarinet; Edwin Barker, double bass; Ronny Feldman, cello; Sheila Fiekowsky, violin; Daniel Getz, viola; Amanda Hardy, oboe.

The Community Health Association
and
The Richmond Council on Aging

Invite you to join us for a dinner and lecture:

Cancer: Living with the Uninvited



**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

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West Stockbridge History Quiz Answer:

The two Greek revival houses, in addition to being a bookend to the village center, were important parts of the town's mid-19th-century history. The larger house on the corner was the home of Dr. William Leavitt, the town doctor and a real estate developer. He built these houses plus three others around it as spec houses. They never sold, and he wound up leaving them to his family and nurse.

The small house next door had a more interesting life during that period. It started in the mid-1840s as a store, then as a pharmacy. There were no rules against doctors owning a pharmacy then, but then again most cures were alcohol-based solutions. Finally, in the mid-1850s, Dr. Leavitt's sister Frances ran a school to train "young ladies." Sometime in the 1860s, it was converted to a full-time home.

The U.S. and Massachusetts census records do not show if "young ladies" attended the regular public schools or if that was a privilege limited to boys only. We also don't know if this was a fine finishing school, instructing on domestic duties, or if it was a more advanced academic institution. The bet is on "domestic duties," a more common subject area for girls then.

At that time the town had a large Irish immigrant population, working in the quarries and on the farms. Many of their children did not attend school but helped out at the farms. The school for young ladies most likely served the earlier, more prosperous, community members, preparing their daughters for a life as a homemaker and housewife.

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.



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

Thanks to those who took time away from a beautiful spring Saturday to stop by our annual Library Week Open House. Our patrons enjoyed treats from Soma Catering, free book bags, and a chance at our spring raffle basket. Lucky winner TBA!

**Reminder: Our new hours are Tuesday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.;
 Wednesday-Friday, 2–6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**



Summer Preview

- Our many local museums, gardens, and historic houses are gearing up for another great season. Thanks to the Friends of the Library, we offer day passes to a wide array of attractions. Pick up a brochure of our new pass program and member card requirements at the library.
- Young readers up to grade 6 are invited to join our 2016 Summer Reading Program, July 5–August 5. Sign-ups start Tuesday, June 28. The theme centers on wellness, fitness, and sports. We’re teaming up with Berkshire Pulse Studios for a series of classes for young people and welcoming back acclaimed magician Scott Jameson. Complete calendar coming soon.
- As in past years, we’re looking for students entering grades 7–10 to help in the library this summer. Jobs include assisting library patrons, shelving books, helping with the summer reading program, and more. Pick up an application at the library.

New Additions

DVDs: *Hateful 8*, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, *99 Homes*, *The Revenant*

FICTION

Box, *Off the Grid*
 Patterson, *Cross Justice*
 Reeves, *Work Like Any Other*
 Tidhar, *A Man Lies Dreaming*
 White, *Deep Blue*
 Winspear, *Journey to Munich*
 Woods, *Family Jewels*

Wagner, *Backbone: Modern Man’s Ultimate Guide... Power*

JUST FOR KIDS

Leavy, *O’Brien Book of Irish Tales*
 Nelson, *If You Plant a Seed*
 Siddals, *Compost Stew: An A-Z Recipe for the Earth*
 Stracynski, *Superman: Earth One, Vol. 3*
 Walker, *Winnie: The True Story of the Bear Who Inspired Winnie the Pooh*

NONFICTION

Desmond, *Evicted*

Ongoing

- Set up a CW/MARS online account by going to weststockbridgelibrary.org and clicking on the card catalog picture. Your personal account allows you to keep track of checkouts, requests, overdues and fees, pickup locations, renewals, and more.
- You can borrow just about any library item across the state via the Commonwealth Catalog. If our library network C/W MARS does not have what you want, go to the Commonwealth Catalog (commonwealthcatalog.org).
- 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 April meeting has been postponed to May 5, 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
May/June Artist: William Merelle
Sculpture in Marble and Stone
by the Chef at Rouge

William grew up in the Pyrenees in a family with generations of artists. He attended culinary school at age 14 and worked among the best chefs in Bordeaux, Paris, and Provence.



In St. Victor Le Costa, where people come from all over the world to study masonry and architecture, he met his wife Maggie. Together they opened Rouge (c'est la couleur d'amour), now in its fifteenth year and drawing people from all over the country.

William shares his passion and art by offering cooking classes and creating natural art in his home and garden.

"Life is a great adventure, and our community is what makes the difference."

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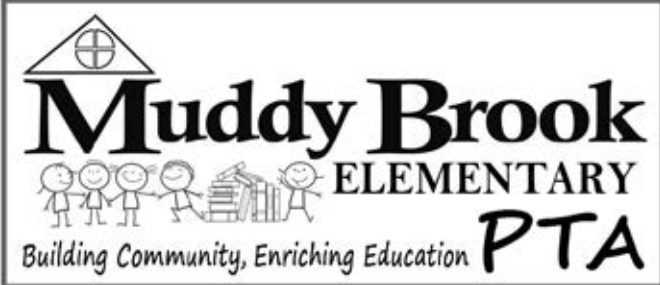
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William Merelle
 owner / chef

Maggie Merelle
 owner

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 tele 413-232-4111 fax 413-232-0111



Next PTA Meeting

Monday, May 2, 3:45 p.m. at Muddy Brook

Mud Day is Saturday, May 21

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Muddy Brook

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

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May Art Calendar

Clark Art Museum: Sun., May 1, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. You are free to carpool. See our Facebook page or kcarmean@gmail.com.

Plein Air Sessions, Hancock Shaker Village: Mondays, 10 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Show member card. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com. Bring everything you need.

Meet the Artist: William Merrill, Sculptor: Tues., May 3, 12:15–1:15 p.m., Rouge, 3 Center St., WS. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com.

Art Demonstration and Business Meeting: Wed., May 4, 5–7 p.m. Annual meeting including election of board of directors and any changes to the bylaws. West Stockbridge Town Hall, Community Room, 21 Stateline Rd., Rte. 102, 0.2 miles west of Rte. 41. Demonstration by Adrian Holmes, watercolorist. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com.

Diana Felber Gallery opening: Sat., May 14, 11–6 p.m., 6 Harris Street, WS.

Positive Critique: Thurs., May 12, 4–6 p.m. Bring 2–3 pieces of your art. 21 Stateline Rd., Rte. 102, WS. For required reading and RSVP: carolgkelly@hotmail.com.

Photo Gathering: Sun., May 15, 3–5 p.m., Stanmeyer Gallery. Bring 3–5 photos or on USB or iPhone. <http://www.edgemaster.com/Photo-Gathering>.

Field Trip: Ilene Spiewak, Painter: Tues., May 17, 5–7 p.m. District Kitchen & Bar, 40 West St., Pittsfield. RSVP required: kcarmean@gmail.com.

Art Book Gathering: Fri., May 20, 4–5:30 p.m. Share a favorite book, artist, process. Stanmeyer Gallery, 2 Main St., WS. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Meet the Artist: Keith Emerling, Painter: Thurs., May 26, 12:15–1:30 p.m. Six Depot, West Stockbridge. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

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

Recent Works



Gary Schieneman: New England Winter



Marcelene Mosca



William Merelle: In Marble



Bernard Isaacson

Leslie Klein: Adornment

Parks & Recreation News

By *Ginna Dudney*

Spring has definitely sprung! The geese have returned to Card Pond, and the Battle for the Beach has commenced!

Since there was a measure of success last year, the tactics used then will be repeated: swan decoys swimming (geese and swans are sworn enemies, and geese will not go where they see a pair of swans) and rope “fences” at the water line since geese will not cross them. But it was the efforts of a few hardworking neighbors who made it their business to clean up the beach that won the day. We hope they’ll do it again.

This month, resident Andrew Fudge has offered to truck several loads of fresh sand to the beach to ensure a safe surface for the kids to play.

The tennis net is up at Town Hall, and anyone interested in group lessons should contact the P&R Committee. Funds to complete the tennis court fence and add a fence at the basketball court/parking lot line have been requested and are pending, as are funds to resurface the basketball court this year. The Playground Project awaits word on the grant that was submitted by Mark Webber.

Last year, several cricket games were held on weekends on the playing fields at the Town Hall. This year discussions are underway to repeat the cricket and to possibly add croquet, bocce, and any other group sport that residents would like. But volunteers are needed to organize these functions. If you’re interested, drop a note to wspandr@gmail.com or stop by the next meeting on Tuesday, May 10, at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Workroom at the Town Hall.

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

If enough residents express interest, classes will be arranged.

tennis anyone?

Birthdays & Anniversaries

5/3 Mike & Liz DiGrigoli,
52nd Anniversary

5/3 Daniel Epstein, Happy 66!

5/12 Lisa Parker

5/28 Melissa Seward

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.

The *Local Yoke!*, P.O. Box 238,
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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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Assessors Office	<i>Mary Stodden</i>	232-0300	ext. 303	Tues. 1–5 p.m.; Thurs. 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Board of Health	<i>John Olander</i>	232-0300	ext. 314	Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m., or by appt.
Board of Selectmen	<i>Earl B. Moffatt, Peter Skorput, Curt G. Wilton</i>			
Administrative Assistant	<i>Mark Webber</i>	232-0300	ext. 319	Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Building Inspector	<i>Brian Duval</i>	232-0300	ext. 313	Tues. 4–7 p.m.
Conservation Commission	<i>Jennifer Kujawski, Lori Rose</i>	232-0300	ext. 338	Leave Message for Inquiries
Council on Aging	<i>John Zick</i>	232-0300	ext. 340	Leave Message for Inquiries
Emergency Management	<i>Louis Oggiani</i>	528-2175		
Fire Department	<i>Peter Skorput</i>	232-4200 (non-emergency)		Mon. 6:30–9 p.m.
Highway Department	<i>Curt G. Wilton</i>	232-0305		Leave Message for Inquiries
Library	<i>Lee Appelbaum</i>	232-0300	ext. 308	Tues. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Wed., Thurs., and Fri. 2–6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.–2 p.m.; closed Sun. & Mon.
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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



Meet the Artist

William Merelle

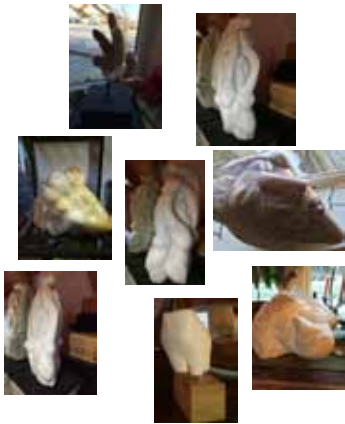
William Merelle:

*Sculptor in Marble and Stone
Chef at Rouge*

Tuesday, May 3

12:15–1:30 p.m.

West Stockbridge



Join William Merelle on Tuesday May 3 at Rouge West Stockbridge from 12:15-1:30 pm for an informal viewing of his wonderful sculptures. You will be able to ask him questions. We will have an informal lunch together afterwards at a nearby café. RSVP: kcamran@gmail.com.

William grew up in the Pyrenees in a family with generations of artists! He attended culinary school at 14 and worked among the best chefs in Bordeaux, Paris and Provence. In St. Victor La Coste, where people come from all over the world to study masonry and architecture he met his wife Maggie. Together they opened "Rouge! C'est la couleur d'amour," now on its fifteenth year drawing people from all over the country. William shares his passion and art by offering cooking classes and creating natural art in his home and yard. "Life is a great adventure and our community is what makes all the difference."

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Kathleen Cammarata

"Neither Accidental
Nor Arranged"
Oil on canvas
44" h x 42" w



Naomi Grossman

"Seated Figure"
Life size Wire sculpture



Zali-Kahill Zalkind

"Great Worms"
Carved Alabaster
32" h x 24" w x 12" d



Shawn Baker

"Red Peppers"
24" h x 36" w



Stephanie Anderson

"Red Peppers"
Watercolor and collage
15" w x 12" h

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

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May 2016 Calendar of Events			
5/2	Muddy Brook PTA meeting	3:45 p.m.	Muddy Brook Elementary School
5/2	Annual Town Meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices Gymnasium
5/4	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
5/5	Library Trustees meeting	4:30 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
5/8	Mother's Day		
5/8	Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast	7-11:30 a.m.	W.S. Congregational Church Social Hall
5/9	Annual Town Election	10 a.m.-7 p.m.	Town Offices Gymnasium
5/10	American Legion	7 p.m.	Town Offices
5/10	COA Potluck Luncheon	12 noon	Town Offices Community Room
5/10	Parks & Recreation Committee meeting	5:30 p.m.	Town Offices Board Work Room
5/11	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
5/11	Friends of the Library meeting	3:30 p.m.	Town Offices Board Room
5/15	*** Deadline for the Next Local Yokel ***		send to info@thelocalyokel.org
5/15	Grange Dinner	1-2 p.m.	Stockbridge Grange
5/16	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
5/18	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
5/21	Mud Day	8 a.m.-5 p.m.	Muddy Brook Elementary School
5/21	W.S. Congregational Church Bake Sale	9:30-noon	In front of Baldwin's Extracts
5/25	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
5/27	W.S. Chamber Players Spring Concert	6 p.m.	1854 Town Hall
5/30	Memorial Day		