

Local yokel

West Stockbridge
November
2016

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

✓ November 8 is Election Day—Be Sure to Vote!



Going,
going,
gone . . . !

The West Stockbridge turnpike toll booths are coming down as part of the transition to all-electronic toll collection. Article on page 6. Photo by John Parker.

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005



The Spooktacular

Munich has its Oktoberfest; New York has the New Year's Eve Ball Drop; West Stockbridge has its Spooktacular!

While not as impressive or important as the other festivities or as fondly anticipated as the late Zucchini Fest, the Spooktacular represents all that is good in small town living.

The Farmers Market started it years ago. Parks & Rec joined in with their traditional scarecrow building to decorate the town; the Cultural Council contributed to the music; the Board of Selectmen arranged the necessary permits; the WSVa urged its members to stay open late to tempt the crowd. And it became a yearly event!

Early on, masks and small toys are distributed to the children. Kids paint pumpkins donated by Taft Farms to take home. Midway through the afternoon a piñata filled with treats & toys is bashed by the children (no adults allowed although a few have tried to sneak into the line!). On occasion, there is even a hayride!

But the highlight of the event is the scarecrow building! Used clothing is solicited for a few weeks before the big day. Peter Skorput builds the frames for the scarecrows; Billy Kie generously donates the hay for the figures. When they've been completed, Peter displays them around town, and the ladies of the Art Council add accessories and bling to be sure they're as trendy as can be!!

After a busy afternoon of building and painting and bashing and noshing on candy apples, courtesy of the Congregational Church ladies, the green becomes an outdoor theater as darkness falls and Great Pumpkin movies and cartoons are screened on a screen loaned by No. 6 Depot.

When the weather cooperates, as it did this year, it's a magical day with most of the town organizations and committees joining forces to create something that is Very Special indeed.



Photos from top left and down:

A rare sighting: it's Spider Dog! Photo by Peter Cohen.

Mia Viola and Tony build a scarecrow. Photo by Roland Dudney.

"It takes a village..." to build enough scarecrows to decorate a village. Photo by Peter Cohen.

Terri Jo Dixon shows off the latest in West Stockbridge fashion. Photo by Peter Cohen.

Photos from above and down:

Hiding in plain sight. Photo by Peter Cohen.

Kids had a great time painting pumpkins donated by Taft Farms. Photo by Roland Dudney.

Bash that Piñata! Photo by Roland Dudney.

Board of Selectmen Meeting Summaries

By Doane Perry

Note: Copies of official board minutes are available at the West Stockbridge Public Library. Video recordings of town meetings are broadcast on Charter Cable channel 190 and on the Internet at <http://vimeo.com/channels/weststockbridge>. Residents can be notified by e-mail of town events and meeting agendas by subscribing at <http://weststockbridgema.virtualltownhall.net/subscriber>.

Open Meeting: October 3, 2016

Before the meeting began, a moment of silence was observed for Jimmy Fallon, a past police chief for the town, who passed away recently.

Council on Aging Van

After Earl Moffatt reported on his search for a replacement van that produced just one offer from a dealer in East Granby, the selectmen agreed with a plan to look into a used 2015 van with a new handicapped conversion costing about \$40,000, about two thirds the price of a new van. The used van can accommodate one wheelchair and two passengers or four passengers without a wheelchair and has front-wheel drive for better winter performance.

Cable TV License Renewal

The selectmen approved accepting the recommendation of the town's attorney on cable matters to execute a new 10-year contract for cable television with Charter Cable. Curt Wilton said he has confidence in the attorney who has negotiated "dozens" of contracts and recently concluded three years of negotiations with Charter (at a cost of "several thousand dollars" to the town). Curt thanked cable commission members Carol Kuller, Alan Thiel, and Mati Kiin for their work. Curt said the document is numbing and boring to read, is hard to follow, and has been shrunk from 112 pages down to 2.

Police Chief Search

The search committee has selected 5 semifinalists from the 24 applicants and has sent them each four questions. Their answers will be reviewed on October 17. The questions have three purposes: to see if they can respond in a quick manner, to ascertain their narrative ability, and to gain a feel for their personalities. The finalists will be announced after October 17.

Village School Use Requests

The selectmen approved applications from the Friends of the Library for selling books on October 21 and 22, for a talk by Lisa Landry about coffee on October 28, and from the Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild for five dates.

Village School Facilities Update

Problems with the HVAC system in the Town Offices building have been addressed including fixing some blowers that were found to be unplugged.

Salary Survey

The town auditor is considering a request to perform a salary survey for town employees and is estimating the cost. Curt commented that comparing salaries with other towns is important in light of the loss of one [police] employee due to a wage issue, and it would help to answer the question posed at the town meeting about how pay for town employees is determined. A salary survey will also be useful in hiring new employees and in developing the town budget.

Berkshire Truck Plaza Solar PILOT Agreement

Mark Webber reported that the assessors and Kirt Mayland have completed negotiations on taxes, which will generate \$22,000 per year in tax revenues to the town over a period of 20 years. The town will not use the generated power but will collect personal property and land tax based on the size of the array at the rate of \$12,000 per megawatt. Town counsel will review the agreement.

Turnpike Interchange and Solar Project

Mark reported a flurry of permitting activity for simultaneous construction of the planned turnpike interchange solar farm and nearby bridge repairs. Blasting permit applications have been made for the off-ramp area. There will continue to be no westbound on ramp at the interchange. Curt Wilton predicted that noise from truck "Jake brakes" will be lessened because trucks will not have to slow down as much to go through the toll booths as they do now.

Main Street Parking Lot

Earl Moffatt reported on the status of negotiations concerning the parking lot between the 1854 Town Hall and the apartment building (the former Card Lake Inn). The town has proposed buying the parking lot. The owner has appraised it. Some townspeople believe that a commercial building should be there; others argue there will not be enough parking for that.

Planning and Parking Issues

Richard Squailia reminded the Board of Selectmen to continue their work on two issues that have been identified and discussed: the codification of the bylaws and the joint meeting of the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen about parking on Main Street. On the bylaws, Mark responded that Planning Board chair Mitch Greenwald will provide a list of vendors, and an authorization of funds at town meeting is needed.

...continued on page 5

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VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!



Election 2016

Tuesday, November 8

- ❖ **Early voting** will be available to all registered voters at the town clerk's office during regular office hours Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30 to 4 p.m., and also on Saturday, October 29, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Early voting will begin statewide on October 24 and end November 4.
- ❖ **Polls will be open** at the Town Offices on Election Day, November 8, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- ❖ **Absentee ballots** may be requested using forms provided outside the town clerk's office and available online. The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is noon the day before the election, **but it is recommended** that applications be submitted as soon as practicable. Completed ballots must be received by the time polls close on Election Day. For more information, visit <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleifv/howabs.htm>.

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On the Main Street parking issue, Richard questioned forecasts of minimal traffic problems by Foresight Engineering. Curt commented that the forecasts were accurate at the time they were made, but he acknowledged that growth may bring problems such as those seen with infractions and traffic around the successful Farmers Market.

In response to a question asked about the Planning Board's Overlay District plans, Curt referred the questioner to the Planning Board, and he said the selectmen would never do anything that is not a majority plan.

Other Business:

- Paula Farrell expressed gratitude to Peter Skorput for his help with community projects including watering, cutting grass, and providing hay for the Halloween straw figures.
- Halloween will be celebrated on Halloween Monday 4 to 6 p.m., possibly with candy by Merritt Way if the owner agrees.

Open Meeting: October 17, 2016

Cable TV Commission

Speaking for the members of the Cable Commission, Mati Kiin read a statement that the commissioners were not part of, do not agree with, and are disappointed with the Board of Selectmen's decision and vote to approve a contract with Charter Cable:

CABLE COMMISSION STATEMENT TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Charter contract is for television but also includes a provision for "other services." Charter/Spectrum will be providers of TV, broadband, and phone services—they will make money from our town.

While the Cable Commission was part of the negotiation process, we were not part of the approval process of the 33-page contract with Charter. We do not agree with the contract as signed. It doesn't help our town and puts the residents of West Stockbridge at a disadvantage to other towns with Charter contracts.

For example:

- We asked for a drop line extension of 300' and would accept 250'; we got 150'. We wanted a density of 15 houses, we got 25.
- There were verbal agreements with Tom Cohan, the negotiator for Charter, to wire 100% of the town with broadband (which would also allow their other services) [and] to fund up to \$3,000 toward line extension per customer.

These things are not in the contract or as suggested, by us, in a side agreement. Our concern is that Tom Cohan may not be there forever, we don't know how long these agreements will last or be remembered. People change jobs.

Even if we could not get the things we requested, if we had been consulted we would have opted for a 7-year contract instead of 10 years. In that way we would have the leverage of negotiating a contract with the other 5 towns that are now part of Charter/Spectrum and whose contracts end in 7 years. We have lost this leverage. We have been told we can join this group when Time Warner and Charter systems are integrated. We have not been told when this will happen.

We are disappointed and we were surprised to learn the contract had been signed when the attorney was still communicating with us about changes to the contract. We are a small group of talented people who volunteer their services and are appointed, and hope to help ease the burden on the Select Board. Our town benefits when we all work together. In this case that did not happen.

Cable Commissioner Carol Kuller said that the contract does not meet all their goals. The town's lawyer was in discussion with the Cable Commission at the same time the Board of Selectmen voted to approve the contract, and commission members were not aware of the signing. The commissioners believe that having a 7-year rather than a 10-year contract is particularly important.

Curt replied that the Board of Selectmen took the advice of William Hewig, the town's lawyer for cable issues, and believed that they were not going to get more from Charter Cable. Alan Thiel commented that the lawyer either lies or is befuddled and that the selectmen should find someone else. He said West Stockbridge can join with other towns in negotiations with Charter even with a 10-year contract.

Curt added that one reason for signing was that Charter needed a contract with West Stockbridge to get money from Massachusetts Broadband Initiative to pay for connecting the 10% of customers who need new connections. Curt said he respects the board's lawyer and is sticking to his decision.

Administrative Assistant Mark Webber said that the cable contract was on the agenda as a discussion item, but the selectmen decided to move forward with a motion and a vote. After Earl Moffatt asked board members how they felt about a 7-year contract, and they indicated they were in favor, Mark said he would seek to amend the agreement to a 7-year contract. Asked about Charter's plans for the 10% of customers who need new connections, Mark said Charter will take up to 18 months to connect them.

The Cable Commission members said they are all resigning and the town should find other Cable Commission members.

Turn Park Siting and Signage

Mark described a complicated situation where the Turn Park's building and sign are too close to the road. The building presents a setback issue, but the Zoning Board of Appeals will approve if the Board of Selectmen


...continued on page 7



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The West Stockbridge turnpike toll booths are coming down as part of the transition to all-electronic toll collection. Photo by John Parker.

Going, going, gone . . . !

By John Parker

As reported by the *Berkshire Eagle* (10/13/16), the toll booths at the Massachusetts Turnpike’s West Stockbridge and Lee interchanges are being removed by MassDOT as part of the transition to all-electronic toll collection on the interstate. Demolition is expected to start at 10 p.m. on Friday, October 28, when the electronic toll collection system is activated and cash tolls will no longer be accepted.

J.H. Maxymillian of Pittsfield is the contractor for the work in West Stockbridge and Lee, which will be performed 24/7 until completion. Stage 1 of the West Stockbridge project, extending until November 22, will involve traffic being shifted to the outside lanes so that the toll booths in the center can be removed. Two nonstop lanes in each direction will replace the current five lanes each way. During stage 2, after November 22, construction activity will continue but with fewer obstacles because the toll booths will have been removed. Major roadway reconstruction is planned to accommodate free-flow, high-speed travel through the interchange.

Addressing concerns about construction noise, Gary Polumbo, project superintendent for Maxymillian, told the *Eagle* that noise levels would be monitored and mitigated throughout the work, and that industry standards for nighttime operations would be followed. West Stockbridge Selectman Curt Wilton sought assurances that excavated material would not be trucked through the town. Polumbo responded that their plan is to use the turnpike for removal of the material where possible, citing this approach as the most economical solution.

The entire turnpike project is slated for completion by October 27, 2017, with substantial incentives to contractors for early completion. State officials cite as benefits of the \$163 million statewide project reduced congestion and delays at toll plazas, reduced emission of greenhouse gases by backed-up vehicles, and safety improvements. Acknowledging some delays are inevitable with this kind of construction, officials urge drivers to be patient and remain alert while driving through the work zones.

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November History Quiz Question:

From the founding of the state through the early 20th century, each town operated on its own, providing services and support to its residents through local taxes. Federal or state help was limited, and the town’s budget covered all the expenses of those services. The two biggest activities, and most contentious at times, were education and roads. Other services cost much less than those two and didn’t seem to provoke much debate.

However, during the late 1800s and early 1900s, one other expense at times exceeded both schools and roads. It regularly took up pages of detail in the town reports but never seemed to generate the controversy the other two items did. What was that town service, and how did it work?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)



**West Stockbridge
Historical Society**
Incorporated in 1994

approve. Curt has already approved a sign with internal illumination and will find out exactly where the sign is planned to go. Earl suggested modifying the sign application.

Chief of Police Search

The committee has received responses from four of the five semifinalists (the fifth has dropped out). The committee will meet with the final four again and will make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen.

Turnpike Toll Plaza Removal

All of the selectmen attended a hearing about the removal of the turnpike toll plaza and the timing of the work. The new electronic toll system is to go live October 28. The project manager said they will work seven days a week starting November 3. Truck traffic carrying construction debris will be kept on the turnpike rather than diverted through town to recycling sites in State Line and in Lee. Peter Skorput said he is satisfied with the plans.

Tree Trimming

Mark reported that when the tree trimming contractor for National Grid is not allowed to do all the work he wants to, he reports to the town that the work, in this case on Pixley Road, will be good for three years rather than seven.

Council on Aging Van

Earl reported that van drivers John Zick and Eddie St. John approved of the Dodge Caravan van from Advanced Wheels in Granby. The town has \$40,998 to spend from the fiscal 2017 town meeting budget, and the price is \$41,514. Advanced Wheels did not offer a trade-in but did offer to take the old van to auction. The selectmen approved the purchase.

Other Business:

The selectmen approved the building inspector's request to change hours from Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. through December.

Continuation of Rent Control Board Public Hearing

The public hearing was called to hear and act on petitions from the owners and tenants for rent adjustments. At issue is value for the tenants and a fair rate of return for the owners. Rent is currently \$241 per month; the owners are seeking an increase to \$325, and the tenants are asking for a reduction to \$173.

The Rent Control Board began with a discussion of the basis for rent adjustments. The tenants say the park needs improvements that the owners should pay for themselves. The owners argue that they need the rent increase in order to make the improvements. The Rent Control Board wants to be fair to the tenants but also enable the owners to maintain a viable business.

The land, valued at \$170,000, includes lots for 35 trailers. The owners argue that the tenants also have use of 14 acres of former railroad track along the pond. Tenants say they don't use this area because it's a trash dump with rats, rent should be based only on the 6.46 acres where the trailers are, and common areas should be the responsibility of the owners. The Rent Control Board favors considering the whole property as used for the benefit of the tenants and the owners. The board's counsel said the 14-acre common area could be devalued under the bylaws due to its present condition.

Owners and tenants differed on the accounting for some operating expenses and agreed on others. There was lengthy discussion of metering and measuring water, which presents technical difficulties and is a high cost item. Representing the owners, Liza Gennari said, "The initial water

bill paid by the Gennari family was \$23,000. This number decreased significantly after leaks were fixed and has stayed fairly constant at \$13,000 to \$15,000. The bill has not increased back to \$23,000 since the fix." The owners said they know whose trailers are leaking. Curt said the Rent Control Board needs more information on the water issue and asked Doug Bartlett to look into it.

Tenant spokesperson Evie Kerswell said it is unacceptable that the owners and Rent Control Board want to raise the rent despite horrific roads, trees, trash, and water systems. Tenant Sissy Astore said they are pleased that the Gennaris have bought back the trailer park after Eric Levesque owned it and ruined it (he graded the road just once) and are not denying the Gennaris their business, but promises have been made for too long, the rise in rent is too high, and the tenants are still on the short end of the stick.

Curt concluded that water and sewer remain major areas of disagreement. Owners and tenants both worked hard preparing for the hearing. The owners have a right to run a business and make a profit. The Board of Selectmen have made decisions based on common sense and the opinions of experts. Earl summarized that there are still two major issues: land value and the water/sewer bill. The issues are not settled yet, and the Rent Control Board is still working on it.

The hearing was continued to a later date. □



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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, 298-1052, 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.



Get Your Sparkle On!

Save the date!
Friday, December 2,

is the evening to watch
 West Stockbridge come alight.

Local merchants will be hosting all visitors
 during the holiday stroll.

Drop in for goodies and good music.

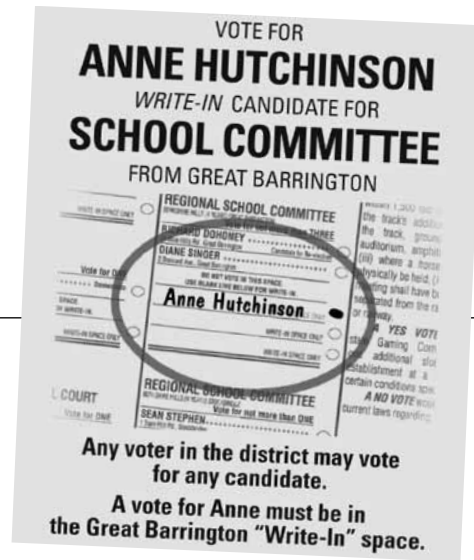
Carols begin at 5:45 p.m. The holiday tree will be lit
 at 6 p.m. across from the post office.

Watch for Santa's arrival at 6:15 p.m. when children
 young and old can visit him in his sleigh for a serious
 discussion of holiday bounty. Bring a camera to
 capture the moment!

The West Stockbridge Police Department will join
 with Parks & Recreation and provide
 each little visitor with a goody bag filled with
 holiday treats.

It will be a special night filled with family,
 friends, and good cheer.

Come join the fun!



Any voter in the district may vote
 for any candidate.
 A vote for Anne must be in
 the Great Barrington "Write-In" space.


I moved to this school district for my daughter to attend school. Thirty-two years later I am still parenting a child in BHRSD. I recently retired from a career of working with children and families as a pediatric nurse practitioner in Pittsfield. I have also been a secondary school teacher in the Peace Corps and a public health volunteer in Ghana and Ethiopia. I have organized and led post-Katrina rebuilding groups, a Stockbridge weekly community dinner, Girl Scout troops, and a BHRSD food backpack summer program.

At this time of declining enrollments and increasing costs we must be the premier district with the best education for all our students.

Thank you, Anne

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What's Up With Those Utility Poles?

By Doane Perry

Charter Spectrum cable service technicians have been up on the “phone” poles, upgrading the cable system in West Stockbridge and providing customers with telephone, high-speed Internet, and television services. Wikipedia defines utility poles as a column or post used to support overhead power lines and other public utilities such as cable, fiber-optic cable, and related equipment including transformers and street lights. Utility poles were initially used in the United States in the mid-19th century with telegraph systems.

The upgrade can be seen on West Stockbridge utility poles. As a Charter Spectrum subcontractor explained to me, the pole outside the post office in the municipal parking lot (for example) has, from the top down, power lines on a horizontal cross arm, transformers to service drop power lines to customers, Charter cable lines, and Verizon telephone wires.

The supply space. The basic architecture is safety driven and puts high-voltage uninsulated electricity wires supported by insulators, often on a horizontal cross arm at the top of the pole, in the supply space. Two types of power lines are on the poles: (1) high-voltage distribution lines with 2,400 to 34,500 volts and (2) sub-transmission lines with transformers that carry power to customers over service drops with 240/120 volts. The transformers are protected from overloads by fuse cutouts that pivot open so they can be seen for repair. The poles are protected from lightning by bare wire grounds running down the pole into the ground.

The communications worker safety zone. Below the electric power lines is the communications worker safety zone that provides room for workers to maneuver safely while servicing the communication cables, avoiding contact with the power lines.

The communications space. Below the safety zone are cables in the communications space—copper, fiber-optic, and coaxial cable.

Twisted pair cables. In 1881 Alexander Graham Bell invented unshielded twisted pair cables for voice service in which two wires carry equal and opposite signals and the destination detects the difference between the two. Shielded twisted pair cabling is used for data networks over short- and medium-length connections, with relatively low costs, and it has improved to become the basis for DSL (digital subscriber line) service.

DSL. This technology, available since 1998, brings analog voice and continually connected digital data over ordinary copper telephone lines if there is sufficient proximity to a telephone company central office that offers DSL service. Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) makes up most of the two-way data bandwidth devoted to downstream sending from the phone company to the user.

Coaxial cable. English engineer Oliver Heaviside patented coaxial cable in 1880. The term “coaxial” refers to the inner copper core and the woven copper shield sharing a geometric axis whose dimensions are controlled to give a precise constant conductor spacing needed to function efficiently as a transmission line, according to Wikipedia. In coax, the electromagnetic field carrying the signal exists only in the space between the inner and outer conductors, enabling installation next to metal objects such as gutters and protection of the signal from external electromagnetic interference, making coax a good choice for carrying weak signals such as video and cable TV.

At the bottom of the utility poles are *telephone cables* linking the telephone exchange to local customers over a thick cable lashed to a thin supporting cable, containing hundreds of twisted pair subscriber lines. Each twisted pair line provides a single telephone circuit or local loop over service drops to customers. In West Stockbridge one of the switches that distributes the telephone voice and DSL services is in a Verizon building at the bottom of Lenox Road.

At about eye level on the poles are *pole brands* that may be an aluminum tag nailed in place about pole owner, length and size, year of preservative treatment, species of tree, and sometimes compass coordinates that can be a poor man's GPS.

Historically, pole-mounted transformers were filled with polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) liquid that persists in the environment and has adverse effects.

Who owns the poles? In West Stockbridge the poles are owned by both the telephone company Verizon and by the power company National Grid. Selectmen Curt Wilton and Earl Moffatt commented that dual ownership sometimes means that when a new pole is installed, the old pole is not removed, which creates an “eyesore.”



This utility pole carries power, transformers, cable TV, and telephone service. Photo by Doane Perry.

Historical Society Presents Award-Winning Fiddler Jeremy Kittel

The West Stockbridge Historical Society hosts the award-winning and talented fiddler Jeremy Kittel and his trio on Friday, November 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the 1854 Town Hall. Admission is \$25, payable at the door by cash or check, and includes a reception with the musicians after the concert. Seating is limited, so mark your calendars now!

Jeremy Kittel is an American fiddler, violinist, and composer. Fluent in multiple musical genres, his original music draws from traditional roots, jazz, Celtic, classical, electronic, and more. In addition to his own projects, he has composed, arranged, performed, and recorded with such artists as Aoife O'Donovan, My Morning Jacket, Yo Yo Ma, Edgar Meyer, Chris Thile, and Mark O'Connor. He recently performed on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* and on *A Prairie Home Companion*.



2016: A Very Good Year

The West Stockbridge Farmers Market Fifth Season went by in a flash—a summer of good food, good music, good friends, and (hard to believe!) good weather.

Now that the tents are packed away and freezers are full, it's time to thank those very special neighbors who contributed time, money, and products, all of which made the running and upkeep of the market possible. In no particular order:

Jerri & Daniel Buehler
Raquel Levin
Karen & Jerry Waxberg
Irma & Robert Gal
Beth & Richard Fentin
James & Susan Coxon
Madeline & Martin Litz
Carol & Stuart Kuller
Jeannie & William Zox
Phyllis Weiss
Susan Fisher & Gary Schieneman
Elizabeth Morse
Stephen Harvey
Ada & John Masiero
Anastasia & John Stanmeyer
Amy & Brian Butterworth
Paula Farrell & Digger Lockenwitz
Nancy Howell
Megan & Dan Lewis

Queensboro Wine & Spirits
West Stockbridge Grange
West Stockbridge
Congregational Church
The Staff of the *Local Yokel*
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Vicki Grayson
Carol & Marvin Schwartzbard
Ray Dorazio
Jaylyn Olivo & Dale Flecker
Catherine America
Sarah & Peter Thorne
Anthony Voudren
Andrew Fudge
Jim Fudge
Mary & Don McClellan
Billy Kie
Helen Nolan
Zina Greene
Richard Squailia

And, of course, a very special thank you to the Merritt Family for the very generous use of their land. Your support and assistance makes the market possible!

Santa's Wish List Preview

Each December, the *Local Yokel* presents Santa's Wish List, an opportunity for community members to support local organizations and agencies that provide important programs and services. Last year a total of \$7,345 (almost \$1,000 more than the previous year) was raised on behalf of the following:



- ❖ Community Health Association
- ❖ Friends of the West Stockbridge Library
- ❖ Pet Partners of the Tri-State Berkshires
- ❖ *Local Yokel*
- ❖ West Stockbridge Beautification
- ❖ West Stockbridge Community Garden
- ❖ West Stockbridge Farmers Market
- ❖ West Stockbridge Fire and Rescue Services
- ❖ West Stockbridge Historical Society

For information about including an organization in this year's Santa's Wish List, contact John Parker at (413) 298-1052 or john.parker49@verizon.net.

Hoffman Pottery

Holiday Sale
Nov. 25 – Dec. 31

10-15% off Everything in the Gallery
15% off Garden frogs & turtles
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Chamber Players Perform to a Sold-Out Audience

by Liza Bennett



Michael and Sybil Pollet, sponsors of the concert, listen as the West Stockbridge Chamber Players perform "Happy Birthday" in honor of Sybil's birthday. Photo by Carol Kuller.



Flutist Linda Tooté performs with cellist William Rounds. Photo by Stuart Hirsch.



The program featured musicians including cellist William Rounds, accordionist Katherine Matasy, harpist Elizabeth Morse, and clarinetist Catherine Hudgins. Photo by Jeremy Pollet.

"I first heard a bandoneon played on the Paris metro. The sound has always stayed with me—and, in a way, inspired this concert," Catherine Hudgins, artistic director of the West Stockbridge Chamber Players, told the standing-room-only crowd in the sun-filled 1854 Town Hall on Sunday afternoon, October 23. With her usual skill at combining themes, musicians, and composers, in this case inspired primarily by the music of South America, Catherine put together another remarkable concert to benefit the 1854 Town Hall Restoration Campaign. The program featured six outstanding musicians: violinist Sheila Fiekowsky, clarinetist Catherine Hudgins, accordionist Katherine Matasy, harpist Elizabeth Morse, cellist William Rounds, and flutist Linda Tooté.

Before Sheila performed the opening offering, Astor Piazzolla's *Two Tango-Études* for violin, she explained that the first time she performed a Piazzolla piece, she got so carried away with the music that she broke off a corner of her 350-year-old violin! Although the performance was indeed passionate, the violin remained intact this time, as well as through the next piece, Jacques Ibert's *Entr'acte*, which Sheila performed with harpist Elizabeth Morse. Then Elizabeth gave a lush, romantic rendering of Carlos Salzedo's *Chanson dans la nuit*, followed by cellist William Rounds's spirited interpretation of Osvaldo Golijov's *Omaramor*. Next, Linda Tooté entertained the audience with a demonstration of "extended techniques" for the flute while William retuned his cello, and then together they performed Heitor Villa-Lobos's *The Jet Whistle* to close out the first half of the concert.

After an intermission, the concert continued with Sheila and William performing Camille Saint-Saëns's *Fantaisie*, Op. 124, a beautiful and haunting piece featuring the violin and harp. The program concluded, as it began, with work by Astor Piazzolla: Three Tangos, in this case written for clarinet, cello, harp, and—for the first time in a concert by the West Stockbridge Chamber Players—accordion, played by Katherine Matasy. As the audience gave the musicians a standing ovation, Catherine suggested that there was time for "one more tango," and the group performed a specially arranged version of "Happy Birthday" in honor of Sybil Pollet who, with her husband Michael, had sponsored the concert in celebration of Sybil's birthday.

The reception following the concert allowed the audience to mingle and talk with these fine musicians who have done so much to help with the Town Hall's restoration. Over the years, they have become a cherished part of the Historical Society and the whole West Stockbridge community.



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*From the staff and trustees,
a very happy and healthy
Thanksgiving Day holiday to all.*

- Please note: The library will be closed Friday, Nov. 11, to observe Veterans Day.
- We will also close for the Thanksgiving holiday, Wed., Nov. 23 through Friday, Nov. 26.



• **We're almost there. When the construction fence disappears, our brand-new beautiful vestibule will be open for business. You can park in the parking lot and stroll down the walkway to our bright open space. Stay tuned for more about our upcoming reception.**

- Reminder: LEGO club continues throughout the year Thursdays and Fridays, 3-4 p.m.

New Additions

DVDs: *Ghostbusters, Better Call Saul Season One, The Innocents, X-Men Apocalypse, Jack Reacher*

FICTION

Domet, *The Guineveres*
Grisham, *Whistler*
Jiles, *News of the World*
McCall Smith, *Precious and Grace*
Moore, *Jerusalem*
Semple, *Today Will Be Different* (also in audio CD)
Winters, *Underground Airlines*

YOUNG ADULTS

Bardugo, *Crooked Kingdom*

NONFICTION

Dickey, *Ghostland: An American History in Haunted Places*
Franklin, *Shirley Jackson, A Rather Haunted Life*
Springsteen, *Born to Run*
Vance, *Hillbilly Elegy*

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. Can't find it in our C/WMARS network? Click on the Commonwealth Catalog to borrow any item statewide.
- If you use an e-reader, explore the new statewide Commonwealth e-book Collections (CEC) at eBooks.masslibsystem.org.
- Library Trustees board meetings have been moved from third Thursday to third Tuesdays. All are open to the public. Next meeting is Nov. 15, 4:30 p.m. in the Community Room.

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

Lee Appelbaum and Jodi Magner

Have you heard the one about the Traveling Salesman?
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West Stockbridge Historical Society
Annual General Meeting
Friday, November 4, 2016
7:00 p.m.
In the 1854 Town Hall

Join us for our Annual General meeting and election of officers as **Barbara Dowling** shares the findings of her research inventory project on the **H.M. Baldwin & Son** Records, 1880 - 1915. Made possible by a grant from **MassHumanities**, the Baldwin papers reveal a picture of a business, a family, the railroad, traveling salesmen, and changing regulations.

Oh, and some fun stories and colorful personalities!

Join us for a reception afterwards and view some new photographs & displays.
Free & open to the public.



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info@weststockbridgehistoricalsociety.org



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Helen Krancer, Caryl Lennon, Jan Tarbert,
Theresa Terry, and Margareta Thaute

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Parks & Recreation Update

By *Ginna Dudney*

While the snow falls this winter, hopefully the details of some of the P&R projects will be finalized.

So far the tennis court has been resurfaced and maintained, and fencing with a gate has been ordered to complete the enclosure. The basketball court has been resurfaced, and a dialogue is underway to install a fence at the border of the court facing the parking lot.

The Card Pond swans are tucked away for the winter along with the black hose pieces designed to make geese think that snakes are on the beach. Geese apparently *hate* snakes. Plans to clear out the weeds in the pond are also in place, so swimming will be a much more pleasant experience next summer. Thanks to the Board of Selectmen and Mark Webber for making this happen. Also look for new and refurbished grills at the pond.

Plans are already underway for the 2017 Card Pond opening party. *Huge* thanks are due the WS Police Department for their generous contribution to and attendance at the party this year. Thanks also to the WS Fire Department for joining in the fun.

Planning continues on the playground. Once the disposition of the grant is clarified, final groundwork can begin. If you have any other things you'd like to see in our village, let P&R know. Send a note to wspandr@gmail.com, call (917) 209-0926, or drop into the next meeting on Thursday, November 10, at the Town Hall.

Grandparents Wanted

Parks & Recreation needs your help.

Who else, besides their parents, know your grandkids' faves better than you? Help plan a playground, host a party or two, and celebrate the milestones that mark their growing up. Not a lot of meetings are required—just some brainstorming and then participation in the events of your choice. Fresh ideas are needed! Aren't they worth it?

Call (917) 209-0926 or join a P&R meeting on Thursday, November 10, at the Town Hall.



Community News & Events

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, November 13, the Stockbridge Grange will hold 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.

Council on Aging

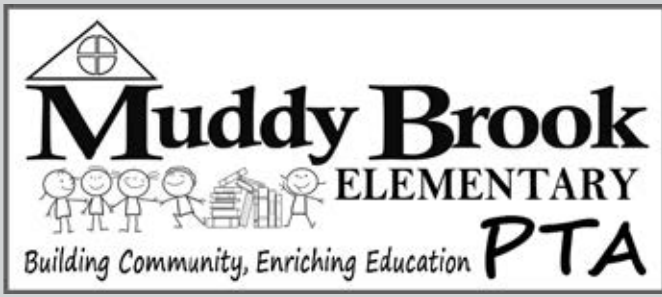
Come to the Council on Aging Potluck Luncheon on Election Day, Tuesday, November 8, at noon in the Town Offices Community Room. Please bring any kind of meat dish, salad, vegetable, or dessert for the potluck. After the meal, you can proceed to the ballot box to cast your vote.

The following week, on Tuesday, November 15, at 11 a.m., join us at Monument Mountain Regional High School where we will be entertained by the choir and bands and enjoy a lunch put on by the school. Call Paula at 232-4394 if you plan on attending and if you need transportation.

Congregational Church Harvest Dinner

The Annual Harvest Dinner at the West Stockbridge Congregational Church, 45 Main Street, will be held in the church's Social Hall on Sunday, November 13. Seatings will be at 4:30 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. Dinner for adults will be \$15, children from 6 to 10 years old will be \$8, and children 5 and under will be free. Dinners will include turkey with stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, peas, squash, cranberry sauce, bread and butter, dessert, and coffee, tea, or apple cider. Takeout dinners will be available. There will be raffle prizes plus a 50/50 drawing. For tickets or reservations, call 232-4256.

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.



Annual Online Auction: Bidding Begins on Wednesday, November 23

The online auction is the PTA's largest fundraiser. It helps pay for many things that enhance our children's experience at Muddy Brook including teacher grants, classroom supplies, artist residency programs, field trips, and much more. You can view items in our auction at www.biddingforgood.com/mbpta. On Wednesday, November 23, the auction will open and bidding will begin. Before the start of the auction, go to that same link and click on the "Register to Bid" button at the top of the page to open an account, a simple and secure process. The auction includes all kinds of items from the Berkshires and beyond—from practical (a gift certificate to Apex Automotive) to luxurious (a spa day at Canyon Ranch) and everything in between. Get a jump start on holiday shopping while keeping it local and supporting our school.

Show Your School Spirit Every Friday!
November's theme is rainbow dress. How many colors of the rainbow can students wear in one day?

Rewards for Muddy Brook
In September we collected a little more than 3,000 Box Tops! We're off to a great start and hope to keep the momentum going. Clip and save Box Tops coupons from more than 330 participating products including Avery, Cheerios, Cascadian Farms, Betty Crocker, Juicy Juice, Hefty, Kleenex, Ziploc, and more. Each coupon is worth 10 cents when redeemed. Mail Box Tops to Muddy Brook Regional Elementary School PTA, 318 Monument Valley Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

Campfire Night Thank You
On Friday, October 14, the PTA held its first ever Campfire Night. Friends and families gathered to sing songs, tell stories, and eat s'mores by a campfire next to the Muddy Brook playground. The event was a huge success thanks to the incredible volunteers who helped organize and host the event. Special thanks to Taft Farms for apple cider and donuts, Big Y Great Barrington for caramel apples, John W. Field Tree Service for the firewood, and McKnight's Landscape & Excavating for the hay bales.

Visit our website, www.muddybrook.com, for more information on upcoming events, and like us on Facebook!

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Recipe Corner by Lynn Ryan

VANILLA BEAN APPLE TARTE TATIN

Serves 8

This is one of the best fall recipes I've ever found using our wonderful apples that are being harvested right now. I got it from *Bon Appétit* about three years ago and make it a lot because it's phenomenal. Please try it—you won't regret it!

- 5 crisp apples of your choice, peeled
- ½ cup sugar, divided
- ½ vanilla bean, split lengthwise (Baldwin Extracts has them)
- 2 Tbsp. unsalted butter
- 1 Tbsp. apple cider vinegar
- ⅛ tsp. salt
- 1 sheet frozen puff pastry (14-oz. package), thawed
- All-purpose flour (to dust the work surface)

Preheat oven to 425°F.

Cut each apple as close to the core as possible into three lobes or chunks.

Scatter half of the sugar in a heavy 9-inch skillet and scrape in the vanilla seeds. Discard the pod. Cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until the sugar melts and starts to caramelize, 6 to 8 minutes. Add the remaining sugar and cook until all the sugar dissolves and is a deep amber color.

Stir in the butter, vinegar, and salt. Place the apples cut side down in the skillet and cook until they begin to give up some of their juices and shrink slightly, 5 to 8 minutes. Carefully turn apples over and arrange them so they overlap slightly (the apples will shrink more as they bake, so they need to be tightly packed from the beginning). Remove from the heat.

Gently roll out the puff pastry on a lightly floured work surface just to smooth out the creases; cut into a round that will fit snugly and flush inside the skillet. Drape the puff pastry over the apples and transfer the skillet to the oven.

Bake until the pastry puffs and starts to brown in spots, 20 to 25 minutes. Reduce the heat to 350°F, and bake until the apples are tender and the pastry is golden brown and cooked through, 20 to 25 minutes longer. Let the tart rest for 5 minutes before inverting onto a platter.

This dessert is wonderful with cheddar cheese, ice cream, or whipped cream. Enjoy!

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Notes from the Collector

Second-quarter preliminary real estate and personal property tax bills for FY2017 were mailed mid-September and are due November 2. Interest begins accruing on unpaid bills on November 3.

To ensure that your payment arrives on time, please

- Mail a few days before the due date; a misdirected letter is still late. Remember to allow *at least five business days* for postal delivery. We cannot use the postmark as the payment date.
- Remit payments to P.O. Box 365, West Stockbridge, MA 01266.
- Place payment in the drop box to the right of the *collector's* window if you deliver your payment to Town Hall when the office is closed.
- Note that you can pay online using your checking account or debit or credit card. Payments made before midnight are credited to that day for interest purposes.

If you have not done so already, check out the online payment system at www.weststockbridge-ma.gov. The site is accessible through multiple browsers. The shopping cart feature allows you to pay all your current real estate and personal property tax bills, current excise bills, and water bills in one convenient location. The site is available 24/7. From May 2 through June 30, end of fiscal year real estate and personal tax payments should be handled in person.

For those who find it difficult to meet quarterly tax obligations, I am happy to discuss payment options that minimize interest and could avoid late fees.

FY17 rates will be set in December. If you wish to challenge your valuations, you have from January 1 through February 1, 2017, to file an abatement application with the Assessors' Office. The forms are available online or in the Assessors' office. *Applications returned after February 1 will not be considered.*

Please note: Unless payment is made in person, requests for receipts and payment records (for income tax purposes) should be accompanied by a stamped self-addressed envelope. Responses may take up to 10 calendar days from the time the request is received.

June Biggs, Collector

Tel.: 232-0300, ext. 302

E-mail: collector@weststockbridge-ma.gov

Office hours: Wednesday: 3-6 p.m.; Thursday and Friday: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

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11/9 Thom Lipiczky
11/9 Edward J. O'Brien
11/19 James Hallock Jr.

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,
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Thanks to everyone who has donated to WSLY. We couldn't do it without your support! Keep the *Local Yokel* coming. Please send your gift today! (See response form on page 21.)

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



West Stockbridge History Quiz Answer:



Photo courtesy of
Bob Salerno.

During the late 1800s, the town was moving from a largely self-contained agricultural community to an economy based increasingly on industry. West Stockbridge was connecting to the rest of the world via the railroad. National and regional economic swings were having an impact on the local economy. As the town evolved, services were added and the town budget grew appropriately.

Not surprisingly, the largest town budgeted expense through this period was for education. The second largest category, over 10% of the budget, was "Support for Paupers," or later "Overseers of the Poor." This line item regularly exceeded its allotted amount and often was the largest expense in the town budget. Each town in the commonwealth was responsible for whatever care they could provide to its indigent citizens, and West Stockbridge was no exception.

Reviewing the town reports from the 1800s, you see a list of "paupers" and the list of families who provided their food, clothing, and shelter, who were then reimbursed by the town. Early on, only a few names appeared, but as the population grew, and aged, the number increased. The paupers were mostly older widows and orphans; only a few families were listed. At its peak, more than 18 homes throughout town sheltered the poor and thus received town support.

Then as the national economy crashed in the Panic of 1893, the list of paupers grew to four pages in the town report. To control costs, the selectmen offered a warrant to purchase a town poorhouse. It was voted down (perhaps the sponsoring families would lose income?). By 1901, the town rented what was described as a poorhouse from Michael Condon, and in 1906, the house of Ed Vaber in West Center.

The pauper system was becoming a real burden, economically and administratively. The costs of support continued to grow as the number of widows and infirm elderly increased. The bigger issue was keeping track of who was to be deemed a resident. One town could charge another town for support of someone who moved in. Medical and burial costs were sent back and forth. The debate centered on who was a resident versus someone who had just moved to be with family. In the 1920s, the local pauper support system was gradually taken over by the state.

Throughout the town reports during this time, not one comment or complaint about the pauper account was noted. Nor were there any negative reports by the overseers of the poor. West Stockbridge took care of its less fortunate citizens.

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.

Author Simon Winchester Speaks on *Pacific*

by Andy Krouss

On the evening of September 6, Simon Winchester, the well-known travel writer, journalist, and author of more than a dozen nonfiction books including *The Men Who United the States*, *The Professor and the Madman*, and his most recent book, *Pacific: Silicon Chips and Surfboards, Coral Reefs and Atom Bombs, Brutal Dictators, Fading Empires, and the Coming Collision of the World's Superpowers*, spoke to an overflow crowd at the West Stockbridge Historical Society. In his opening remarks, Mr. Winchester informed the audience that his book *The Professor and the Madman* was being made into a full-length feature film, starring Mel Gibson and Sean Penn.



Simon Winchester speaks to Historical Society audience. Photo by Bill Nappo.

The focus of Mr. Winchester's talk was *Pacific*. In an engaging and often humorous manner, he provided a condensed version of the book that is divided into 10 chapters. Each is devoted to an event, such as nuclear bomb testing or the transistor radio revolution, or something in nature, such as coral reefs or cyclones, to tell his story and make his point. With China and American West Coast cities like Seattle, San Francisco, and the towns of Silicon Valley on the rise, Mr. Winchester makes the argument that the Pacific is the ocean of the future.

At the end of his talk he took questions from the obviously enthusiastic audience. One interesting person who spoke during the Q & A was West Stockbridge resident Bill Loeb. Mr. Winchester had talked about the hydrogen bomb tests on Bikini Atoll. He described how the atoll's native population had acquiesced in being evacuated from their homes in preparation for the 15-megaton blast that vaporized three islands and was a thousand times the magnitude of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki nuclear weapons dropped on Japan in World War II. Damage was such that the native population was never able to return. It turns out Bill Loeb was the radiological safety officer for the U.S. Navy when they tested two atom bombs on the Bikini Atoll five years before the hydrogen bomb tests. Bill suggested that local residents were perhaps more trusting about the hydrogen bomb tests because the atom bomb tests had left the atoll unscathed.

A lively reception and book sale followed, with Mr. Winchester graciously agreeing to sign his books.

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Hoffman Pottery Brochure Wins International Award

By John Parker



*Elaine Hoffman & award.
Photo by John Parker*

Congratulations to Elaine Hoffman, owner of Hoffman Pottery in West Stockbridge, on receiving a First Place Regional Award of Excellence in the International Association of Visitor Information Providers 2016 International Best Brochure Competition, held recently in Orlando, Florida. Her rack card, reproduced on the plaque in the photo, was designed by Tanya Bogaevskaya of Tanya B. Designs based in Pittsfield, and was nominated by John Hart

of Berkshire Brochure Display. The brochures were evaluated on criteria including headline quality, construction, content, and overall appeal. Judging was done by industry professionals from across the United States, Mexico, Canada, Europe, and South Africa.

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NOVEMBER FLU CLINIC SCHEDULE 2016

While supplies last, the Community Health Association of Richmond and West Stockbridge is offering free flu shots for eligible residents older than 19 years in both communities. For information about influenza, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website: www.cdc.gov/flu.

Clinic locations:

Community Health Association office in the West Stockbridge Town Hall: Mondays and Wednesdays: 9–10 a.m.
Richmond Congregational Church, Route 41, Richmond, Thursdays: 9–10 a.m.

Please call the CHA office first to make sure vaccine is still available and clinics are happening.

For more information, contact Emilie Jarrett, RN, BSN.

Community Health Association of Richmond and West Stockbridge
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Tel.: 232-0122; e-mail: Emilie@charws.com



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

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

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Check any that apply:

- I would like my contribution to remain anonymous.
- Thanks, but don't mail the *Local Yokel* to me. Save the postage; I'll pick it up myself.

Please mail this form with your check to:

WSLY

P.O. Box 238

West Stockbridge, MA 01266

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Town Government Boards and Commissions, Phone Directory, and Office Hours

Town Hall Main Number 413-232-0300 • Fax 232-7195

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	Sat. 10 a.m.-1 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		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

November Art Calendar

"How to Write an Inspiring Artist's Statement": workshop by Ilene Spiewak. Nov. 3, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Bring your current statement, if you have one, a notebook, and writing implement. Limited space. West Stockbridge. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Painting Course with Dan Howe: Nov. 3, 4, and 5. Limited to first 7. Cost \$375 or \$265 if 7 people. Richmond. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

First Fridays Artwalk: November 4, 5 p.m. Pittsfield, North and South Streets. www.firstfridaysartwalk.com

Art Demonstration and Business Meeting: Nov. 9, 4 p.m. Instagram and Facebook seminar. 4:45. Demonstration. 5:30. Business meeting. West Stockbridge Town Hall, 21 Steteline Rd., Rte. 102. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Positive Critique: Nov. 10, 4 p.m. Bring two to three pieces of your art. West Stockbridge Town Hall, 21 Steteline Rd., Rte. 102. For required reading and RSVP: carolgkelly@hotmail.com

Encaustic Mini Workshops: Sat., Nov. 12, noon - 4 p.m. in Kingston. \$65. Reserve now at rpaints.com/workshops. For more information and to carpool: RSVP: carolgkelly@hotmail.com

Open House: More than 50 recent paintings and photographs by local artists: Shaker Mill Inn, 2 Oak Street near 7 Albany Rd, West Stockbridge. Tuesday, Nov. 15, 4 - 7 p.m. Light refreshments served. This is a continuing and rotating exhibit. For more information: kcarmean@gmail.com or see Facebook page: "Berkshire Local Art: Shaker Mill Inn." RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Artist-to-Artist Open Studio: Wed., Nov. 16, 6 - 9 p.m. Community Room, 21 Steteline Rd., Rte. 102, West Stockbridge. Work, chat, experiment. Host: Aly Benton. Limited to first 20. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Meet the Artist: Paula Shalan: Studio tour. Sustainability Award at Smithsonian Craft Show. Thurs., Nov. 17, 1:15 - 2:30 p.m. West Stockbridge. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Photo Gathering: Sun., Nov. 20, 3 - 5 p.m. Stannmeyer Gallery. Bring three to five photos or on USB or iPhone. www.berkshirephotogathering.com

Meet the Artist: John Fulop: Designing Your Art Studio and a Heat/Cool/Moisture-Proof wall. Wed., Nov. 30, 4:30 - 6:30pm West Stockbridge Town Hall, 21 Steteline Rd., Rte. 102. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

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



NOVEMBER 25TH TO DECEMBER 10TH 2016



RECEPTION SAT NOVEMBER 26TH FROM 2-5PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION www.rwsag.org • info@rwsag.org



Come see works by these artists at the Holiday Art Show, Nov. 25 - Dec. 10*

OPEN HOUSE: Shaker Mill Inn

More Than 50
Paintings and
Photographs by
Local Artists

Tuesday, Nov. 15

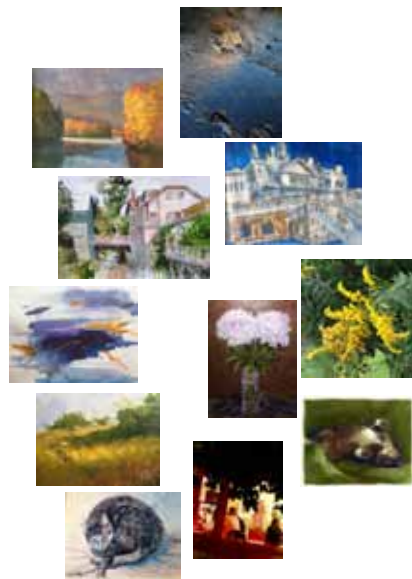
4-7 p.m.

Shaker Mill Inn
2 Oak Street
West Stockbridge

See Photos of Work
on Facebook: "Berkshire Local
Art: Shaker Mill Inn"

RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

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



Representative works by artists in the show. Clockwise from top left: Walt Pasko, Susan Sabino, Harvey Seigel, Doane Perry, Keith Emerling, Anne Auberjonois, Joan Sewall, Carol Kelly, Karen Carmean, Anne Pasko, and Carolyn Newberger. The work will be rotated, and other artists will participate in future exhibits. You may see the work, background information, and contact the artist on the Facebook page "Berkshire Local Art: Shaker Mill Inn." To RSVP and for more information, contact Karen Carmean at kcarmean@gmail.com.

MORE HALLOWEEN AROUND TOWN



Gourd dragon guarding Rouge Restaurant created by Arlo Merelle. Photos by John Parker.



West Stockbridge
Local Yokel
 P.O. Box 238
 West Stockbridge, MA
 01266

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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	3



November 2016 Calendar of Events

11/2	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
11/3	Board of Health	6:30 p.m.	Town Offices
11/4	W.S. Historical Society Annual Meeting & Reception	7 p.m.	1854 Town Hall
11/6	Daylight Savings Time ends: Set clocks back		
11/7	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
11/7	Planning Board meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
11/8	Election Day - REMEMBER TO VOTE!		
11/8	COA Potluck Luncheon	12 noon	Town Offices Community Room
11/8	American Legion	7 p.m.	Town Offices
11/9	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
11/10	Parks & Recreation Committee meeting	5:30 p.m.	Town Offices Board Work Room
11/11	Veterans Day		
11/13	Grange Dinner	1-2 p.m.	Stockbridge Grange Hall
11/13	W.S. Congregational Church Harvest Dinner	4:30 & 6:15 p.m.	W.S. Congregational Church
11/15	*** Deadline for the Next <i>Local Yokel</i> ***		send to info@thelocalyokel.org
11/15	COA Concert & Luncheon	11 a.m.	Monument Mountain Reg. High School
11/15	Library Trustees meeting	4:30 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
11/16	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
11/18	W.S. Hist. Society Concert: Jeremy Kittel Trio	7:30 p.m.	1854 Town Hall
11/21	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
11/23	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
11/24	Thanksgiving Day		
11/30	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room