

Local yokel

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

WEST STOCKBRIDGE
OCTOBER
2016



Scarecrow on Main Street.
Photo by John Parker.

**Halloween
events info
inside!**

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005



Local Author Publishes “Prosocial” Children’s Book

By Doane Perry

“One night, a field mouse with busy hands and smart eyes, heard the beautiful but sad music.” (from Soldier by Kara Van Kirk Levin)


Written by West Stockbridge author Kara Van Kirk Levin and illustrated by Vlada Soshkina and Polina Doroshenko, *Soldier* is a prosocial children’s book teaching empathy and generosity. In it, a porcupine named Soldier plays beautiful but sad music on the wooden flute his father made for him. Sadly, he can’t be hugged by his mother until a field mouse gets her friends to make Soldier a sweater that keeps his quills from sticking up.

I met the author Kara at the West Stockbridge Farmers Market where she had a booth to market and sell her children’s books this summer. The illustrators of *Soldier* are two Ukrainian artists who met in Kiev and connected with Kara in West Stockbridge.

Kara lives on Water Street in West Stockbridge and in Brooklyn, New York. She is founder of Little Wooden Flute publishing house and aims to “raise sympathetic little humans by engaging them with thoughtful literature and storytelling.”

For more *Soldier* adventures and new characters, visit www.littlewoodenflute.com, info@littlewoodenflute.com, littlewoodenflute.com/newsletter.

Photos from top left: Little Wooden Flute book display by lin P Cox, Smaller Gift illustration courtesy of Kara Van Kirk Levin, Polina Doroshenko Private Collection by Polina, Vlada Soshkina by Dima Gomberg, Author Kara Van Kirk Levin by Emma Rothenberg-Ware.



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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: August 29, 2016

Chairman Curt Wilton opened the meeting, noting that 40 years ago yesterday the tornado hit the town.

Police Department

In his fourth week of employment by the town, Officer-in-Charge Frank Murphy introduced newly hired part-time officer Cameron Forest. Cameron is from Cape Cod where he graduated high school in 2014 and was lacrosse team captain. (Curt Wilton joked that Cameron will be using a different sort of stick as a police officer.) His parents live in Richmond. He is EMT trained but not certified, and sponsored by Becket. The town now has seven part-time police officers. Cameron will be sworn in by the town clerk and start work in September.

Baker Road Reclamation & Paving

Highway Department Chief Curt Wilton recommended low bidders Gorman Group of Albany, New York, for the full-depth reclamation work, and Delsignore of Troy for the paving, noting both have done satisfactory work previously for the town. The project will take four weeks starting in late September followed by another treatment next year. The selectmen voted in favor of Curt's recommendations.

Meetings and Hearings

- The Chief of Police Screening Committee (Joe Roy, Jill Pixley, Kathleen Davis, and Laurence Tonini) will meet in executive session on September 7 at 5 p.m. to select two or three candidates from among the 20-plus applicants to recommend to the Board of Selectmen.
- The selectmen scheduled a liquor license transfer hearing about transferring the liquor license from the Shaker Mill Tavern to the Shaker Mill Tavern Family Smoke House. The hearing will be held on September 12 at 6:30 p.m.
- At the request of Mill Pond Trailer Park owners, Rent Control Board eviction hearings were scheduled for September 12 at 7 p.m.
- Five public hearings across the state have been scheduled for Mass Pike toll booth removals, with one in Lenox set for September 15.

Town Employee Salary Survey

The selectmen discussed conducting a comprehensive town employee salary survey. Curt recused himself as highway superintendent, and he cited

the "great question" at the last town meeting about how the town determines what to pay employees. Curt said he thinks the town needs to know more about comparative pay and duties for full-time, part-time, and paid appointed employees. Current practice is what has been done in the past, without any comparative basis. Earl Moffatt suggested consulting with Town Auditor Tom Scanlon.

Snow Removal Guidelines

Curt distributed a draft of snowplowing guidelines from November 2014 that he would like to circulate and update. Curt said the document will help new police employees by eliminating guesswork. Earl suggested including the bylaws on plowing from driveways onto public roads, on sidewalk snow clearing, and on overnight parking.

Other Business:

- Administrative Assistant Mark Webber will be on vacation from September 14 to 28.
- Cable TV license renewal status: Mark said he does not have a draft as yet but expects to have a final version within two weeks.
- Earl asked about warranties on new vehicles for the Highway Department.

Open Meeting: September 12, 2016

Upcoming Board of Selectmen meetings will take place on September 26, October 3, and 17.

Police Chief Search Update

The Search Committee has had one good meeting and has gone through half of the 22 applicants. Committee members will review the rest on September 21 and 28, and they will give the selectmen three finalist recommendations by October 3, at which time the names will be made public.

Cable TV License Renewal

Town counsel recommends that the Board of Selectmen accept the Charter plan, which is similar to the previous agreement, and was achieved through several months of negotiations between town counsel, the town Cable Committee, and Charter. The selectmen will review the plan.

...continued on page 5



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Chamber Players Harvest Concert: Benefit for Campaign to Restore 1854 Town Hall

by Liza Bennett



On Sunday, October 23, at 2 p.m., the 1854 Town Hall will be filled with music as brilliant and colorful as the season itself when the West Stockbridge Chamber Players perform their second annual Harvest Concert. 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 and other prestigious orchestras. They 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 Sunday afternoon program will feature six outstanding musicians: Sheila Fiekowsky, violin; Catherine Hudgins, clarinet; Katherine Matasy, accordion; Elizabeth Morse, harp; William Rounds, cello; and Linda Toote, flute.

The first half of the concert—including several rarely heard pieces—will feature two of Astor Piazzolla's Tango-Etudes for violin, Jacques Ibert's Entr'acte for violin and harp, Carlos Salzedo's *Chanson dans la nuit*, Osvaldo Golijov's *Omaramor*, and Heitor Villa-Lobos's *The Jet Whistle*. After an intermission, the concert will continue with Camille Saint-Saëns's *Fantaisie for Violin and Harp*, Op. 124, and conclude, as it began, with a work by Piazzolla: Three Tangos, written for clarinet, cello, harp, and, for the first time in a concert by the West Stockbridge Chamber Players, accordion.

As always, a reception downstairs will follow the program where the audience will have the opportunity to talk to the musicians. Please note: These extraordinary events routinely sell out weeks before the actual concert, so please make sure to get your tickets in advance! Although the date has passed for this concert, members of the Historical Society can purchase tickets before they go on sale to the public, so do consider becoming a member.

We are grateful to Sybil and Michael Pollet for generously underwriting this concert to celebrate Sybil's birthday.

Tickets are \$35, available at downtown West Stockbridge businesses with a "Blue Note" in their window or online at www.weststockbridgehistory.org.


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*Apple Pressing
at the
Johnson Barn
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Host Don Johnson has announced that there will be *no* apple pressing this year due to a shortage of apples, putting prices out of reach for the benefit event. Hopefully weather will be more cooperative so there will be a good crop next year!

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Facility Use Requests

The selectmen approved the following requests to use space in the Town Offices complex:

- A town resident was given permission to use rooms for educational seminars on five Thursdays, 4 to 6 p.m., from September 29 into December.
- The Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild was given permission to use rooms on Wednesday, October 19, 5:50 to 6 p.m. for an Artist-to-Artist program; on Wednesdays, November 2 and December 7, 4 to 8 p.m. for a demonstration and meeting; and on Thursdays, October 13 and November 10, 4 to 6 p.m., for positive critique sessions. The five meetings are open to the public.

Withdrawal from WiredWest

The Board of Selectmen voted to withdraw formally from WiredWest, having decided instead to partner with Charter and the Massachusetts Broadband Institute to provide high-speed Internet. Curt Wilton commented that this approach avoids taking on debt and is "free" except to the subscribers.

Other Business:

- Mark Webber said the town has received notice of a past fuel spill on the turnpike.
- The selectmen agreed to fill a vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals with Ed Sporn of High Street. Baker Street will be closed September 15 and 16 for full depth reclamation, which will make it a gravel road for two weeks before being paved.
- A resident of Oak Street asked for an update on no parking signs. Curt answered that parking a vehicle in a travel lane is an infraction. He will

research whether the signs are legal but advised that whether no parking signs are enforceable is up to the court.

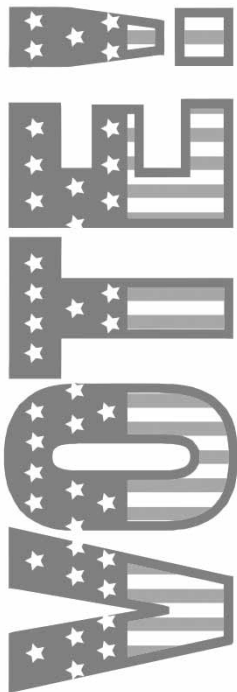
Transfer of Liquor License Public Hearing

Acting as the local licensing board, the Board of Selectmen approved an application to transfer the all-liquor license from the Shaker Mill Tavern formerly owned by Dom Luchi to Shaker Mill Tavern Family Smoke House owned by Jim Hallock. Curt observed that the town had a few barrooms in the old days, but they have come and gone. The number of licenses allotted to a town is determined by population, and several are now available in West Stockbridge.

Rent Control Board Public Hearing

Acting as the Rent Control Board, the Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to authorize the owners of the Mill Pond Trailer Park (Pam Bartlett, Lois Gennari, Chris Gennari, Charlene Gennari, and Diane Lenhart) to proceed with evictions as petitioned. Of the four residents the owners want to evict, three have received notices and signed for them, and one has refused receipt. The three owners present said the tenants to be evicted have been notified and are still delinquent. Curt said the outstanding rents of \$241 per month have been unpaid for five to six months. Mark said that this is his first eviction hearing in West Stockbridge, but that he has learned proper procedures in the other town where he works.

Asked if they had any other issues, the owners said they have a problem with unregistered vehicles parked in the park. The selectmen said that the owners should contact West Stockbridge Police to ticket the vehicles. After three tickets, the vehicles can be towed. Curt said that the Highway Department has pulled a lot of cars out of the bushes. □



Election 2016 Tuesday, November 8



West Stockbridge Town Clerk Ronni Barrett wants voters to know:

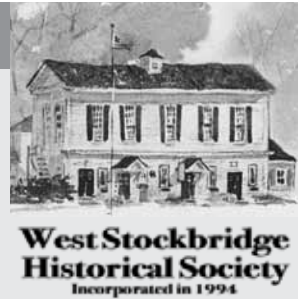
- ❖ **Early voting** will begin statewide on October 24 and end November 4. During that period early voting will be available to all registered voters at the town clerk's office during regular office hours Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30 to 4 p.m., and also on Saturday, October 29, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- ❖ **Polls will be open** at the Town Offices on Election Day, November 8, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- ❖ **Requests for absentee ballots** may be made in writing using forms provided outside the town clerk's office and available online. Reasons for absentee voting are absence from town on Election Day, physical disability preventing you from getting to the polling place, or religious belief. 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. To be counted, 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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October History Quiz Question:



West Stockbridge has always been very proud of having the first railroad in Western Massachusetts (1838). For over 120 years, the railroad ran through the center of town. It employed many residents and was an important component of our local industries. Limestone and crushed lime were shipped to the Hudson River and west, and milk was sent to New York City. We received bulk feed and coal for the farms, and even California grapes during Prohibition for local wine and grappa. The railroad was also convenient to commute to school in Pittsfield or to church services in Albany, for example.

Railroads also had a downside. Smoke, air pollution, and track fires were common. However, the biggest problem was the danger of hitting or being hit by a train. The mass and momentum of an engine and string of cars, loaded or unloaded, meant that anything hitting a train didn't come out well. Over the years a number of accidents involving the train occurred, but one was probably the most tragic. When was it, and what were the circumstances?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)

WANDERING JEWS
 WONDERING JEWS
 CULTURAL JEWS
 MIXED-MARRIAGE JEWS
 MIXED-UP JEWS
 NON-JEWS
 LGBT JEWS
 CREATIVE JEWS
 PASSIONATE JEWS
 POLITICAL JEWS
WELCOME
 POLITICAL JEWS
 YIDDISH-SPEAKING JEWS
 INTELLECTUAL JEWS
 SEARCHING JEWS
 OBSERVANT JEWS
 ARTISTIC JEWS
 AGNOSTIC JEWS
 HIGH-HOLY-DAY JEWS
 SPIRITUAL JEWS
 "I HAVEN'T BEEN IN SHUL SINCE MY BAR-MITZVAH" JEWS



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Sun., Oct. 2 Erev Rosh Hashanah 7:00 p.m.
 Mon., Oct. 3 Rosh Hashanah 10:00 a.m.
 followed by Tashlich
 Tues., Oct. 4 Rosh Hashanah 10:00 a.m.

NEW MOON

Tues., Oct. 11 Erev Yom Kippur / Kol Nidre
 Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Doors will be closed during chanting of Kol Nidre at 7:00 p.m.
 Wed., Oct. 12 Yom Kippur, 10:00 a.m., with Yizkor
 Neilah, 5:00 p.m., followed by Break Fast

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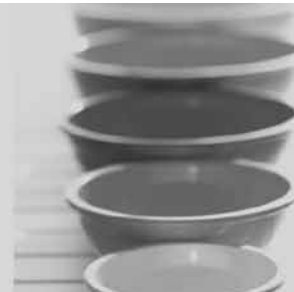
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Mindful Eating: Apples—Not Just Delicious, Anymore!

by Rachel Alves, RD, LDN



I have *always* loved the fall. Since I was a young woman, I welcomed fall graciously by lighting fall-scented candles, cooking and baking seasonal delights, and going apple picking. I love visiting the apple orchard, sitting on bales of hay on an old red farm tractor, and knowing that at the end of my visit, I will have a variety of delicious and nutritious treasures—apples! Here in the Berkshires, many varieties of apples are grown locally. I cannot think of anything that symbolizes fall more than the apple. OK, well maybe the pumpkin comes in a close second!

Apples are wonderful in sweet dishes like pies, turnovers, and cakes, but they are also appealing in savory dishes accompanying roast pork, in soups, and especially delicious are apples and onions. It's not surprising that apples are good for you too. They are a good source of both insoluble and soluble pectic fiber, vitamin C, and potassium. But the real powerhouse nutrients are the apple's antioxidants found predominantly in the skin. Quercetin is the primary antioxidant, along with catechin. These antioxidants may play a vital role in protecting against heart disease and cancer, in helping prevent blood sugar spikes, and in boosting our immune system.

Apples aren't just Delicious (i.e., the variety). They come in many sizes, colors, and flavors. This list is adapted from the U.S. Apple Association and PickYourOwn.org:

Braeburn: Yellow and blush with red stripes; crisp firm bite; balance of sweet and tart flavors; great for baking and snacking.

Cortland: Dull red apple with soft white flesh; juicy all-purpose apple; great in salads due to low browning.

Empire: Cross between McIntosh and Red Delicious; firm, round, and red; crisp, sweet, and tart; great cooking apple.

Fuji: Blush red apple with yellow stripes; sweet, spicy, and crisp; great for snacking, salads, and freezing.

Gala: Red-orange, yellow-striped apple; very sweet, juicy, and crisp; great for snacking, salads, and baking.

Ginger Gold: Green-yellow apple has a slight blush; sweet, tangy, and juicy; great all-purpose apple; good on salads due to low browning.

Golden-Delicious: Yellow-green apple; crisp and juicy; holds up well to cooking; also a good eating apple.

Granny Smith: Bright green apple with occasional pink blush; crispy and very tart; sweetens up somewhat when cooked; great in savory dishes; also good for baking, snacking, and salads.

Honeycrisp: Mottled red over a yellow background; sweet, tart, and crisp; a good all-purpose apple (one of my favorites).

Idared: Light red apple; sweet, tart, and tangy; white firm flesh; best for snacking and sauces.

Jazz: Cross between Royal Gala and Braeburn; very sweet; great for eating, applesauce, and apple butter.

...continued on page 9

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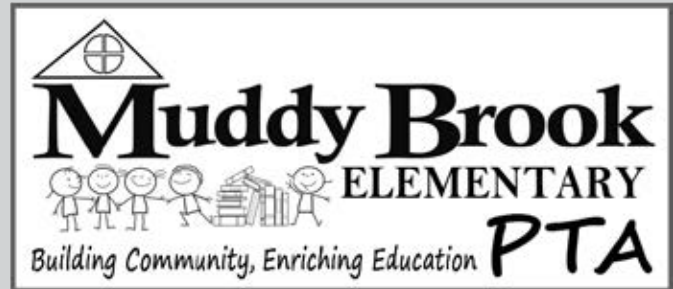
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Show Your School Spirit!

Spirit Days are back this year at Muddy Brook Elementary (MBE). Show your school spirit every Friday. Each month will have a different theme. October's theme is Pocket Day, where the goal is to wear as many pockets as possible. Have fun counting your pockets and your classmates'. How many can you wear in one day?

Rewards for Muddy Brook

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 ten cents when redeemed. Last year Muddy Brook earned \$2,000 toward classroom materials. This year's goal is to earn \$2,500. Mail Box Tops to Muddy Brook Regional Elementary School PTA, 318 Monument Valley Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair will be at the MBE library the week of October 17. Students will be able to shop at the fair during their regular library visits. Parents and community members may also shop at the fair during school hours. This is a great opportunity to purchase books for special events and holidays while contributing to the school library!

Our Annual Online Auction is coming up soon!

Business owners: We are accepting donations for our annual fundraiser, the Muddy Brook Online Auction. Business owners and individuals are invited to donate tax-deductible items: services, gift certificates, classes, food, clothing, artwork, home furnishings, and more. This is our largest fundraiser of the year with the money generated directly supporting enrichment opportunities for our students including class field trips and a variety of music, theater, movement, creative writing, science, and nature programs, as well as community-building events for families and classroom support for teachers. Contact Adrienne Rynes, PTA president, at muddybrookpta@gmail.com.

Thank you for your continued support. Visit our website, muddybrookpta.com, and like us on Facebook!

Jonagold: Red with yellow-orange stripes; rich and full-flavored; good all-purpose apple. Season: October to May.

Jonathan: Light red stripes over yellow or deep red; tender and juicy; good for snacking, pies, and sauce.

Macoun: Deep red over a green base; named best tasting apple by many; juicy white flesh with a more complex flavor of strawberries, honey, and spice; can be used in cooking but best eaten off the tree; tends not to store well.

McIntosh: Red and green; most tender-fleshed apple; a favorite New England apple; best for snacking, sauce, and apple butter.

Northern Spy: Larger deep red apple with red stripes; strong sweet flavor and crisp texture; good for eating, drying, and juicing.

Paula Red: Firm-fleshed red apple with yellow stripes; sweet, and tart flavor with hint of strawberry; good eating and cooking apple, especially for sauce. Does not store well.

Pink Lady: Pink-blush color over green apple; firm, crisp, and honey-sweet; good for eating, cooking, and sauce. Keeps for several months in refrigeration.

Red Delicious: Top-heavy apple, striped to solid red; most popular U.S. apple; sweeter and juicier when grown in New England; creamy white soft flesh and best for snacking and salads.

Our New England fall offers some of the best tasting apples you can sink your teeth into, not just *Delicious* apples, but many varieties! Remember to include the skins when you eat an apple because they contain much of the nutrition. Apple juice is not a good substitute because it usually contains added sugar and no fiber.

Happy fall—pick and enjoy APPLES!



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West Stockbridge Cultural Council Invites Grant Proposals for 2017

The WSCC has set an October 15, 2016, postmark deadline for local organizations, schools, and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in our community.

The West Stockbridge Cultural Council is part of a statewide network of local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. In West Stockbridge our priorities are to provide a variety of cultural resources for our diverse community from preschool to seniors.

Our grants can support many kinds of cultural projects and activities, including performances, lectures, school programs, workshops, and festivals. Subsidies may also be available for school-age children to attend cultural field trips to local museums and other cultural sites. Last year, the WSCC distributed \$4,800 in grants.

For specific guidelines and complete information on the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, contact Marjorie Powell at artifact@bcn.net or 232-0222. Application forms and more information about the local Cultural Council Program are available online at www.mass-culture.org/lcc_public.asp. (click on "application process"). Application forms are also available at the West Stockbridge Town Hall and Library.

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October Art Calendar

Plein Air: Paint, Sketch, or Photograph: Weekdays, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. with lunch and positive critique
Mon: Hancock Shaker Village* (begins at 10 a.m.);
Thurs: The Mount*; Fri: West Stockbridge. *Require fees. See Facebook page: Berkshires Plein Air at 8 a.m.

Model Painting and Drawing: Weekly three-hour sessions, usually Tuesdays 6–9 p.m. RSVP: riversidegrp@gmail.com

Fine Art Show/Sale of Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild work: Good Purpose Gallery, Sept. 23–Oct. 25. Opening: Fri., Sept. 23, 5:30–7:30 p.m., 40 Main Street, Lee, MA

First Fridays Artwalk: Fri., Oct. 7, 5–8 p.m. Pittsfield, North and South Streets. www.firstfridaysartwalk.com

Art Demo and Business Meeting: October 5, 4:30–5 p.m. Visit to studio and demo, 5–6 p.m. Meeting followed by members' potluck, Richmond. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Positive Critique: Thurs., Oct. 13, 4–6 p.m. Bring two or three pieces of your art. West Stockbridge Town Hall, 21 Stateline Rd. (Rte. 102). carolkelly@hotmail.com

Meet the Artist: Nina Lipkowitz: Fri., Oct 14, 12:15 – 1:30 p.m. Six Depot, WS. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Photo Gathering: Sun., Oct. 16, 3–5 p.m., Stanmeyer Gallery, WS. Bring three to five photos or on USB or iPhone. www.berkshirephotogathering.com

Artist-to-Artist Open Studio: Wed., Oct. 19, 6–9 p.m. Community Room, 21 Stateline Rd. (Rte. 102), WS. Work, chat, experiment. Hosts: Aly Benton and Karen Farkas. Limited to first 20. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Meet the Artist: Esther Budnick: Fri., Oct. 28, 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Six Depot, WS. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

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

Many Hands, Multiple Methods

with the Richmond West Stockbridge Artists Guild



Opening reception: Friday, September 23,
5:30–7:30 PM

Exhibit runs through November 1st



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goodpurpose.org

Artists above : Carol Moore, Howard Greenhalgh, Nancy Nirenberg, and Keith Emerling, clockwise from top left.

Keith Emerling
Marcelene Isaacson
Lear Levin

Many Hands, Multiple Methods
With the Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild
September 23rd - October 31st



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

HALLOWEEN WEEKEND FUN

We're mashing up Halloween with technology for our first-ever Makerspace Party at the library!

**Saturday, October 29,
10:30-12:30**



Join Arthur and Peter Evans of Makerspace Workshops to learn how to design and print 3D objects for Halloween. Ages 7 and up (including anybody curious about new technologies) are welcome. This workshop will also include robotics and a few surprises. Participants are encouraged to bring a laptop, but that's optional. There will not be time during this workshop to print everything, but Makerspace Workshops will print after the event and send everything to the library for pickup. Space is limited and this workshop will fill up quickly, so please call the library to register at 232-0300, ext. 8.

Learn more at makerspaceworkshop.com.

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

New Additions

DVDs: *A Bigger Splash*, *Money Monster*,
Free State of Jones
Just for Kids: *Angry Birds*

FICTION

Chiaverini, *Fates and Traitors*
Coben, *Home* (also LP)
Donoghue, *Wonder*
Jeffries, *The Tea Planter's Wife*
Patchett, *Commonwealth* (also LP)
Robb, *Apprentice in Death*
Ware, *The Woman in Cabin 10*
Whitehead, *Underground Railroad*

NONFICTION

Good, Epic Cosplay Costumes: A Step-by-Step Guide
Toobin, *American Heiress: The Wild Saga of the Kidnapping, Crimes and Trial of Patty Hearst*
Winchester, *Pacific*

Just for Kids:

Disney, *Five-Minute Frozen Stories*
Lemke, *Justice League: Battle of the Power King*
Telgemeier, *Ghosts*
Riggs, *Hollow City: The Graphic Novel; Library of Souls: Third Novel of Miss Peregrine's Peculiar Children*

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: Oct. 18, 4:30 in the Community Room.
- A reminder that we offer day passes to many seasonal places throughout the fall. Pick up a 2016 brochure and thank the Friends of the Library and the West Stockbridge Cultural Council for supporting this program.

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



**11th Annual
National Friends of the Library Week
October 16-22**

Founded in 1975, the Friends of the West Stockbridge Library is a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to the support and promotion of the library in its enrichment of the lives of residents and visitors of all ages.

The Friends of the Library Welcome New Members

ART LOVER? Our art program promotes exhibits by local artists. Contact artists/schedule and set up displays.

BOOK LOVER? Our authors' program promotes readings and book signings by local authors. Contact authors and schedule presentations. Assist in our annual summer book sale.

COMMUNITY ORIENTED? Assist in arranging quarterly programs of interest to the community and participating in programs that raise awareness of the role of the library in West Stockbridge.

FRIENDS' PROMOTION Assist in promotion of Friends' events/passes to cultural venues/summer reading program.

LIBRARY PROMOTION Coordinate with the librarian and trustees in our joint interest in promoting and supporting the library.

If you are interested in joining and for more information, please contact Nancy Trionfo at trionfo@verizon.net or 232-4345.

.....
**Book Giveaway to Celebrate
National Friends of the Libraries
Week**

The Friends of the Library will celebrate National Friends of the Libraries Week by inviting community members to choose books without charge from those remaining from our last book sale. This event will be held Saturday, October 22, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the Community Room across the hall from the library. Each person may take up to five books without charge as our way of thanking the community for past donations and support of our book sale. Money raised by our Friends group has supported such important library services as summer programs for children, author events, special collections, and new technologies. Thank you, West Stockbridge, for your support!



**Art at the West Stockbridge Library
October/November Exhibit
Tri-State Artists' Group**



Organized by Theresa Terry, former West Stockbridge schoolteacher, the exhibit is composed of a selection of watercolor paintings by the artists' group.

The group meets weekly in Great Barrington to paint, critique, support, and learn from each other and guest artists. Their paintings are primarily in watercolor, but they sometimes experiment with other media.

The West Stockbridge Library
Town Hall
21 State Line Road/Route 102

.....
**Free Children's Books at the
Farmers Market**

The Friends of the Library fourth annual FREE KIDS BOOKS at the August 25 Farmers Market was a great success as children of all ages chose books from the wide selection provided. Special thanks to the Farmers Market for providing the space and the opportunity for us to promote and encourage reading for the children of West Stockbridge.



The Friends of the
West Stockbridge Library
present
An Evening with Lisa
Landry, Co-Owner



Lisa will present an overview of the business, how/why they got started, the business model, wholesale (in New England, New York, and around the county), outposts, and gallery events (private and public).

Her talk will include an introduction about coffee sourcing all over the world, visiting growers, how coffee grows, history, roasting coffee in house (the process), and coffee preparation.

She will also discuss importing whole-leaf teas.

**Complimentary Coffee Tasting
Friday, October 28, 7-9 p.m.**

The West Stockbridge Library
Town Hall Board Room
21 State Line Road/Route 102

**THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE
CHAMBER PLAYERS**

Harvest Concert

Sunday, October 23, 2016 at 2 pm

1854 Town Hall, Main Street, West Stockbridge

Musicians: Sheila Fiekowsky, violin
Catherine Hudgins, clarinet
Katherine Matasy, accordion
Elizabeth Morse, harp
William Rounds, cello
Linda Toote, flute



A reception
will follow
the concert!

Music composed by:

Astor Piazzolla • Jacques Ibert
Carlos Salzedo • Osvaldo Golijov
Heitor Villa-Lobos • Camille Saint-Saëns

Tickets \$35 available to members on September 17, 2016

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Parks & Recreation Update

By Ginna Dudney

As temperatures drop, recreation at Card Pond wanes. But behind the scenes, activity continues. As noted last month, treatments to the pond will ensure more enjoyable swimming for next summer, and research is ongoing regarding the benefit (or not) of hand-weeding the area of the pond cordoned off for swimming. (If it does turn out to be a viable alternative, beware! Parks & Rec will then be calling for volunteers in late spring to get the job done.)

The grills at the pond also will be attended to during the winter. One will be replaced totally; the other will be refitted with new grates.

The search for a second lifeguard for next summer is now underway. Anyone interested should call (917) 209-0926. And anyone still visiting the pond now that the season is officially over should be aware that swimming is done at your own risk when a lifeguard is not present. Do take care!

Be sure to celebrate the official end of summer at the Farmers Market Spooktacular on October 6. Parks & Rec will work with the Farmers Market committee to create an event that will be fun for the whole family.

The next Parks & Rec meeting will be Tuesday, October 11, at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. All new ideas are welcome—do join in!

Community News & Events

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, October 9, the Stockbridge Grange will hold a stuffed breast of chicken dinner in the Grange Hall on Church Street from 1 to 2 p.m. Cost for adults is \$12; \$6 for children under 12. Takeout is available; call (413) 298-3185.

Council on Aging Luncheon

The Council on Aging will hold a potluck luncheon on Tuesday, October 11, at noon in the Community Room at the Town Offices. Please bring any kind of meat dish, salad, vegetable, or dessert. Hope to see you there!

Congregational Church Bake Sale, Halloween Party & Contest

The West Stockbridge Congregational Church will hold a bake sale in front of Baldwin's Extracts on Saturday, October 15, from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

The annual town Halloween Party and Costume Contest will be Monday, October 31, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the West Stockbridge Congregational Church. Children of all ages can enjoy activities, games, and refreshments during this time. Registration for the costume contest begins at 4 p.m., and the contest itself will begin at 4:45 p.m. A variety of prizes will be awarded!

Pumpkin Decorating Contest

The Shaker Mill Tavern Family Smoke House calls on everyone to decorate, carve, paint, or turn a pumpkin into your own creation. Entries are free, and we will supply a card for you to fill out the name of your pumpkin and your age. There will be two age categories: 12 and under and 13 and over. Anyone can vote at our hostess station when we are open, one vote per person. The winner gets a free BBQ dinner!

Bring your pumpkin on Thursday, October 27, after we open at 5 p.m. (our hours are Monday and Thursday 5–9 p.m., Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 4–9 p.m.). Winners will be announced on November 1. Pumpkins will be on display on our porch until after Halloween and can be picked up on November 1. Any pumpkins still left on November 3 will be removed. Get your thinking cap on—we can't wait to see your creations! For more information, call 232-8565.

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.

Remembering Herbert J. Stein

1917–2016

By Barney Stein

Herbert J. Stein of West Stockbridge, Massachusetts, and Miami, Florida, died at his apartment in Miami on April 20, 2016, at 98 years old.

Born August 30, 1917, Herbert was raised by parents Augusta and Barnet in the Bronx, New York, and graduated from New York University at The Heights in 1938.

A CPA by training, Herbert worked in the home furnishings textiles business for most of his life. In 1966 he formed a company to represent the best European textile mills at his showroom in New York. He retired only when he was well into his 80s.

Herb was known for his bon vivant spirit. He loved music—especially opera—and played classical piano. He was an avid skier and raced International One Design sailboats for years. Herb eagerly and continually traveled the world well in to his 98th year. Herb loved and admired the five women who accompanied him through life until 2015—wives Marjorie Goldstein and Naomi Daniel, and partners Dana Jacobi, Muriel Russell, and Muriel Rudolph.

Following retirement, Herbert collected, designed, and constructed large outdoor sculptures that he erected on his estate in West Stockbridge.

He is survived by daughter Ellen Weaver, son Barney Stein, grandson Marc Davies, great-grandsons Zach, Owen, and Sam Davies, “bio-grandson” Nuriel Gutman, “second son”/caretaker since 2013, Kreston Johnson, and canine companion, Jimmie.



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It's that time of the year again!

October 6 is the celebration of the fifth annual Spooktacular! Sadly, it's also the grand finale of the 2016 Farmers Market season.

It's a day not to miss—pumpkin painting, piñata bashing, candy apples, scarecrow building, hay rides, and more! Chef Tony at the grill! Outdoor movies at dusk! Games, masks, and prizes! Moonshine Holler at the mic! And, of course, the stars of the show: the wonderful vendors who offer their gorgeous produce and art every week. Stop by to wish them all a happy winter, and take home the last bits of Berkshire bounty for this year.

Come early and stay late! There will be so much to do, it will be hard to fit it all in. For kids of all ages! Don't miss it!



Martha & Danny of Taft Farm offer all of Autumn's bounty. Photo by Peter Cohen.



Bobby & Liam found one of the best hidden roosters of the season—well done! Photo by Mary Thibeault.



Georgia Barberi of First Flower Farm reads from her book, CSYAY. Photo by Roland Dudney.



Molly Comstock of Colfax Farm air-apple-dunks like a pro. Photo by Roland Dudney.

What Do Best-Dressed Scarecrows Wear?

It's Up to You!!!

Drop Unused Clothing in the Bin in the Storeroom at the Town Hall, Opposite the Library



Then Watch Them Reappear Around the Village on Scarecrows Built by Children at the



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5th Annual Spooktacular Market

Thursday, October 6, 3:00 - 7:00 PM

Rain or Shine! Merritt Green on Harris Street
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Live Music sponsored by West Stockbridge Cultural Council
This event is co-sponsored by W. Stockbridge Parks & Recreation

www.WestStockbridgeFarmersMarket.org

Birthdays & Anniversaries

10/16 Bruce Lin
10/25 Mary Alpert
10/30 Maurzen O'Brien

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

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



Donor Roll Call ~ October

Susan & Dan D'Alessandro
Pam & Phil Lockenwitz
Carol & Marvin Schwartzbard
Mary K. Stodden
Anonymous: 1

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.*



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The Community Health Association of Richmond and West Stockbridge

OCTOBER FLU CLINIC SCHEDULE 2016

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 web page: www.cdc.gov/flu.

COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSOCIATION WEST STOCKBRIDGE OFFICE

Mondays and Wednesdays 9–10 a.m. (except major holidays)

WEST STOCKBRIDGE TOWN HALL COMMUNITY ROOM

Tuesday, October 4, noon–2 p.m.

Thursday, October 20, 5–7 p.m.

RICHMOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Every Thursday: 9–10 a.m. (except major holidays)

Friday, October 7, noon–2 p.m.

Thursday, October 13, 5–7 p.m.

RICHMOND LIBRARY

Tuesday, October 18, 5–7 p.m.

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



Meet the Artist

Nina Lipkowitz

Nina Lipkowitz:

Watercolor and
iPad Painter



Friday, Oct. 14

12:15–1:30 p.m.

Six Depot,
West Stockbridge

RSVP:
kcarmean@gmail.com

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

Join Nina Lipkowitz on Friday, October 14, at Six Depot, West Stockbridge, from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. for an informal discussion over lunch. You will be able to ask her questions. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com.

"I never meant to be a painter. It just happened. I learned about form and color during my years as a sculptor and potter. I carved marble and alabaster, created clay vessels, learned what makes colors sing, and drew and drew and drew, slowly learning how lines twist and turn and dance across paper, turning into forms, becoming sacred spaces containing endless puddles of color. Matisse, van Gogh, O'Keeffe, Calder, Kelly, Klee, Miro, Kandinsky, and the Fauves all inspire me, and of course David Hockney, who introduced me to the wonders of painting on the iPad.

"Whether with paint, on paper, or finger painting on an iPad screen, my work is always the same: an exploration of line and color, pattern and light, density and transparency. I don't have any preconceived idea of where the painting is going or what it will look like when it is finished."

Nina Lipkowitz received her degree in art history and later studied almost everything offered at the Art Students League. She has been a sculptor, a potter, a painter, and a yoga teacher. Today, living in Great Barrington, MA, she has found her voice painting watercolors and cutting-edge abstract iPad paintings painted in light on the touch screen of her iPad and printed as limited edition archival pigment prints. See her work at 510 Warren Street Gallery in Hudson, NY, and at ninalipkowitz.com.

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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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West Stockbridge History Quiz Answer:

West Stockbridge had the branch line that connected Boston and Albany at State Line to the New Haven Railroad in Housatonic. While there were regular passenger trains, by the mid-1900s the line carried primarily freight. The trains didn't always run on a predictable schedule. Although they didn't travel that fast, you had to be careful around the tracks. The railroad had a few major road crossings: Baker Street, Albany Road, Main Street, Moscow Road, and Great Barrington Road. Modern gates and flashing signals, common today, didn't exist, only unlit crossing signs.

On Christmas evening 1940, a young Connecticut husband and wife were driving north on Albany Road (Route 41). The rail line crossed Albany Road just before the bridge that feeds Flat Brook into the Shaker Mill Pond. The spot was known as Elkay's Crossing and had a reputation for being tricky. Locals knew to be careful there.

As a switch engine was approaching from the south (town center), the auto stopped, waiting for it to pass. For some reason, the driver started up when the engine hadn't completed going through the crossing, and the car was hit and dragged about 100 feet along the embankment. The wife was killed instantly and the husband critically injured.

This accident had a number of especially tragic components: Christmas night and the husband was only 23 years old, a student at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy. His wife graduated from Vassar College in June and they were recently married. The train crew were local, Harold McDermott and Frank Johnson. Investigation by Deputy Sheriff Garrett Troy, and later the railroad, cleared the crew of any wrongdoing.

There were other accidents on the line during its existence, but this one was the saddest. The *Berkshire Eagle* and *Berkshire Courier* both carried letters of condolences from the community. The railroad through West Stockbridge was abandoned in 1961 and the tracks removed in 1964. Flashing lights and gates were never installed at Elkay's Crossing.

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



Photo courtesy of Bob Salerno.



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Animal Control	<i>John W. Springstube</i>	232-0300	ext. 335	As Needed
Assessors Office	<i>Mary Stodden</i>	232-0300	ext. 303	Tues. 1–5 p.m.; Thurs. 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Board of Health	<i>John Olander</i>	232-0300	ext. 314	Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m., or by appt.
Board of Selectmen	<i>Earl B. Moffatt, Peter Skorput, Curt G. Wilton</i>			
Administrative Assistant	<i>Mark Webber</i>	232-0300	ext. 319	Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Building Inspector	<i>Brian Duval</i>	232-0300	ext. 313	Tues. 4–7 p.m.
Conservation Commission	<i>Jennifer Kujawski, Lori Rose</i>	232-0300	ext. 338	Leave Message for Inquiries
Council on Aging	<i>John Zick</i>	232-0300	ext. 340	Leave Message for Inquiries
Emergency Management	<i>Louis Oggiani</i>	528-2175		
Fire Department	<i>Peter Skorput</i>	232-4200 (non-emergency)		Mon. 6:30–9 p.m.
Highway Department	<i>Curt G. Wilton</i>	232-0305		Leave Message for Inquiries
Library	<i>Lee Appelbaum</i>	232-0300	ext. 308	Tues. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Wed., Thurs., and Fri. 2–6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.–2 p.m.; closed Sun. & Mon.
Police Department	<i>Tom Rubino</i>	232-8500 (non-emergency)	24 hours, 7 days/week	
Post Office	<i>Colleen A. Wich</i>	232-8544		Lobby: 7 a.m.–7 p.m.; 7 days/week; Window: Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.–12 noon
Seasonal Lifeguard		232-0315		
Sewer & Water Commission	<i>Michael Buffoni</i>	232-0309		
Town Accountant	<i>Elaine Markham</i>	232-0300	ext. 317	Leave Message for Inquiries
Town Clerk	<i>Ronni Barrett</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	Tues. & Thurs. 1:30–4 p.m.
Town Collector	<i>June A. Biggs</i>	232-0300	ext. 302	Wed. 3–6 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri. 10 a.m.–2 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
Town Historian	<i>Robert Salerno</i>	232-4465		
Town Treasurer	<i>Karen Williams</i>	232-0300	ext. 316	Thurs. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Transfer Station	<i>Edward McGrath</i>	232-0307		Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m.–6 p.m. and Sat. 8 a.m.–6 p.m.
Tree Warden	<i>James Hallock</i>	232-4322		
Veterans Agency	<i>Laurie Hills</i>	528-1580		
Zoning Board of Appeals	<i>C. Randolph Thunfors</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	

Official Town Government Website: weststockbridge-ma.gov • Community and Business Website: weststockbridgetown.com



standing

Cathy (Negrini) Bosley, Frances (Korte) Premerlani, Ruby (Girdler) Korte, Patricia (Girdler) Barry, Alice (Capelli) Keegan, Terry (Skorput) Fenneran

seated

Christine (Angelini) Ross, Cecelia Meade, Tom Meade

Friends Gather for Village School Reunion

By Ruby Korte and Chris Ross

On the evening of July 21, a group of West Stockbridge Village School friends who were in the eighth-grade graduating class of 1964 invited Tom Meade and his wife, Cecelia, to join them for a reunion at a local restaurant. Tom Meade was our history and geography teacher for fifth through eighth grade. He was also our physical education instructor and eighth-grade adviser. Later on, Tom became principal of the Village School.

We shared many fond memories and hilarious stories of the good old days together. It was a thrill to listen to Tom's joyous laughter once again.



West Stockbridge Village School Graduating Class of 1964

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5



October 2016 Calendar of Events	10/3 Rosh Hashanah (begins at sundown the day before)		
	10/3	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m. Town Offices
	10/3	Planning Board meeting	7 p.m. Town Offices
	10/5-	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m. Town Offices Community Room
	10/6	Farmers Market & Halloween "Spooktacular"	3-7 p.m. Merritt Green on Harris Street
	10/9	Grange Dinner	1-2 p.m. Stockbridge Grange Hall
	10/10	Columbus Day	
	10/11	COA Potluck Luncheon	12 noon Town Offices Community Room
	10/11	Parks & Recreation Committee meeting	5:30 p.m. Town Offices Board Work Room
	10/11	American Legion	7 p.m. Town Offices
	10/12	Yom Kippur (begins at sundown the day before)	
	10/12	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m. Town Offices Community Room
	10/15	*** Deadline for the Next Local Yokel ***	send to info@thelocalyokel.org
	10/15	W.S. Congregational Church Bake Sale	9:30-noon In front of Baldwin's Extracts
	10/17	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m. Town Offices
	10/18	Library Trustees meeting	4:30 p.m. Town Offices Community Room
10/19	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m. Town Offices Community Room	
10/23	Chamber Players Harvest Concert	2 p.m. 1854 Town Hall	
10/26	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m. Town Offices Community Room	
10/31	Halloween		
10/31	Halloween Party and Costume Contest	4-6 p.m. W.S. Congregational Church	