

# Local yokel

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

West  
Stockbridge  
August 2018



*Sparky the Fire Dog (Richard Trudeau) poses with some new friends.  
Photo by Eric Shimelonis  
See story and more photos on page 7.*

S E R V I N G   O U R   C O M M U N I T Y   S I N C E   2 0 0 5





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# Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes

[Editor's note: This is the text of the official minutes of the meetings, lightly edited for clarity, length, and format. Copies of the official board minutes are available at the West Stockbridge Public Library. Board of Selectmen meetings can be viewed on the town's Spectrum cable local access channel. Residents can receive notification by e-mail of town events and meeting agendas by subscribing at <http://weststockbridgema.virtualltownhall.net/subscriber>].

## June 18, 2018

Open Meeting. Quorum present: Bernie Fallon, Chair; Doane Perry; Peter Skorput. Also present: Administrative Assistant Mark Webber. Press present: Berkshire Record.

Board reviewed and approved previous meeting minutes (as corrected) and weekly warrants.

Don Wood, West Alford Road resident, addressed the board regarding concerns about the condition of West Alford Road, one of the town's 13 miles of nonpaved gravel public roads. Mr. Wood submitted a petition signed by 16 West Alford Road residents. His concerns center on the damage caused to the road by heavy construction vehicles involved in building new homes on the road. Bernie Fallon noted that he took a ride on the road the other day and it was in perfect shape. Mr. Wood conceded that it is, but it gets bad in the spring. Highway Superintendent Curt Wilton was sympathetic but noted that 30 years ago there were 4 homes on the entire road; now there are 40, and four or five vacant lots are available. Curt said the Highway Department maintains the road regularly via grading and pothole repair as it does on all gravel roads. Curt also negotiates with developers to encourage them to use the Wilson Road entrance and avoid the road during mud season. Some listen; some don't. Curt continued that West Alford Road is not a through street, so all traffic is made up of current residents or construction vehicles related to new residences. The town does not stop development. Curt will research whether the town can force heavy vehicles to use the Wilson Road access only and report back

to the board. Finally, it was noted that most of the petition signers have recently built homes that have contributed to the concerns expressed in the petition. Mr. Wood was satisfied with the response from the board and Curt, and he thanked the board for listening.

### Other Business/Discussion/Action Items

- Resident and downtown business owner Joe Roy, Jr. discussed the formation of a "Vision Committee" to map out the future of how the town might or should look like. Joe presented a draft document outlining his vision thoughts. Bernie would like the townspeople to get excited about a vision statement, but it needs to be well drafted and receive input from a cross section of town residents. Bernie wants to capitalize on this initiative and suggested establishing goals and objectives. Doane Perry stated that it is important to involve young residents and also acknowledge the town's unique character. Bernie added that it is essential to recognize existing and historic uses and character of the town. Joe was encouraged to continue his efforts and recruit a diverse group of people interested in serving on such a committee. Finally, he will submit names to Town Moderator Gene Dellea for appointment as the town's committee appointment authority. Board thanked Joe and the others for attending.
- It was suggested that local engineer Steve Mack be contacted for a formal discussion on downtown curbing. Steve was directly involved in the recent downtown reconstruction.
- Board conducted its annual town officer appointments. Mark

...continued on page 5



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

*1st West Stockbridge "Old School"*

# Summer Picnic



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Webber will tally individual board member lists into a master. All appointments receiving two or more votes would be reappointed for the length of their new terms. Mark recommended that Fire Chief Peter Skorput's appointment date be updated to begin this year before the board takes action instead of 2016 when no action was taken. Board agreed, with Peter abstaining.

- Board will meet again on July 2.
- Board discussed moving forward on projects approved by the annual town meeting including the Village School playground replacement.

There being no additional business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned.

## July 2, 2018

Open Meeting. Quorum present: Bernie Fallon, Chair; Doane Perry; Peter Skorput. Also present: Administrative Assistant Mark Webber. Press present: Berkshire Record.

Board reviewed and approved previous meeting minutes and warrants.

Bernie Fallon opened the regular portion of the meeting and made an announcement that tonight's meeting is the first selectmen's meeting to be televised live on the town's local access channel on Spectrum Cable. Bernie stated that those not wishing to be televised should move to the back of the meeting room and asked that anyone wishing to address the board during the meeting should seek permission from the chair before doing so. Doane Perry thanked attending Cable Commissioner Bill Barth for his efforts in bringing local access government TV to a new level and noted that the commission is seeking one more volunteer member.

### Other Business/Discussion/Action Items

- Bernie opened a general discussion about class II (used cars) and class III (junk cars) licenses currently issued. He noted that the Troy's Garage owners would be unavailable to attend a meeting until the end of July or early August. Bernie stated that the board, contrary to uninformed statements made by a former resident, has been studying and discussing all of the auto license holders in town. All are under review and will be addressed before their annual renewals. Each license holder will be addressed individually, and likely some uniform standards will be applied

to all. Bernie added that all will be treated equitably. Peter Skorput suggested that the number of cars allowed for each license holder should be governed by a square foot standard that allows for reasonable access between vehicles. Peter has been in discussions with the town's building inspector who has experience in several other communities as well. The board will also be addressing the general residential junk car issue as governed by the town's junk car bylaw.

- Doane asked if the sightlines could be improved at the Cobb Road/Great Barrington Road intersection. Vehicles coming from Cobb Road have a difficult time seeing oncoming Great Barrington Road traffic.
- Bernie noted that Crane Lake Camp opened the past weekend and uses the Village School parking and loop area. The opening session day is typically on a weekday. The Town Offices are open and the bathrooms utilized by campers and parents. Peter noted problems in the past with a mess left behind in the building and said there was no reason why they couldn't use the outside portable toilets for the short time they were on the property. No further action was taken.
- Board discussed confusion about allowed/disallowed plastic items at the Transfer Station. Mark Webber will get updated information from the Board of Health.
- Board continued Vision Committee discussion. Organizer Joe Roy, Jr. has gathered a list of 13 who have agreed to serve on the committee. Bernie suggested adding two more names: Wayne Cooper and Steve Graham. Bernie then made a motion to name Joe as chair of the Vision Committee and to appoint all of the offered names as committee members. Peter seconded the motion. Vote taken, 3-0 in favor.
- Board had general discussion about recent vandalism at Card Pond. The dock has twice been detached and allowed to float away, and the Highway Department had to spend considerable time retrieving and resetting it. Mark noted that the Highway Department will be trimming the lower parts of the large row of evergreens bordering Great Barrington Road that should allow better viewing of the area. The police have also been notified, and they will increase patrols of the area.

There being no additional business and no comments from those in attendance, the meeting was adjourned. □

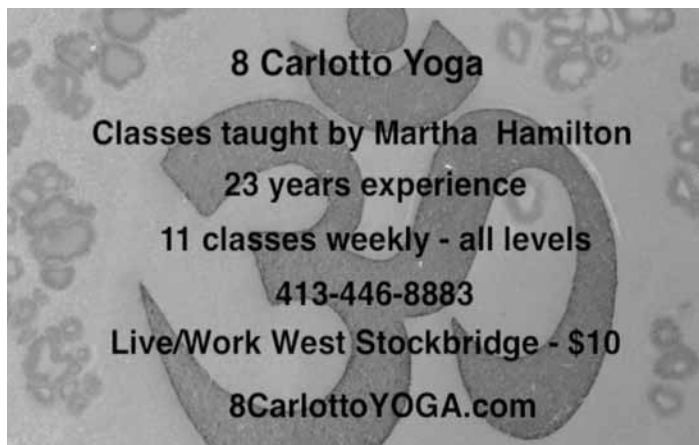


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## August History Quiz Question:



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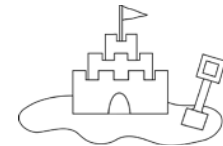
Many of the physical features of the town have practical names describing the feature, such as Maple Hill, Great Barrington Road, or Lenox Road. Other names come from early families like Williams and Pixley. The first few maps of the area did not have anything named except the Williams River. This was fitting because they were our most prominent family and the river the most important feature.

Place names in West Stockbridge didn't become formalized until the arrival of common maps in the early 1800s. Before then, most maps were expensive and generally hung on the walls of estates. With the invention of lithography in 1796, maps became affordable for everyone. As the so-called Berkshires frontier was becoming civilized, more detailed maps were in demand that, in turn, created the need for a clearer and more accurate definition of places and names.

One of the more interesting places is Cone Hill, on the border with Richmond. Was it named for its shape, a 1,200-foot-high cone-shaped hill, or for a person or a family? If it was named for a family, who were the Cones, and why did they get this feature named after them?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)

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](mailto:info@weststockbridgehistory.org) or call 232-4270.



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# West Stockbridge Fire Department Celebrates 90th Anniversary

By Eric Shimelonis

With sunlight glinting off its shiny chrome, a deep-red 1950 Seagrave fire truck made a special appearance next to the Old Town Hall on July 14. West Stockbridge Fire Department's old engine #2 came back to town as part of the WSFD's 90th anniversary celebration. The truck shared a display with two of the department's newer pieces of equipment, all of which were available for children to climb around and explore.

Some hundreds of people participated in the festivities including Caitlin Graham, granddaughter of former chief Jim McDermott, who was there with her son Brady. The current fire station was named after Chief McDermott in 1993, and Graham was thrilled to see that her grandfather's legacy is going strong.

"The Fire Department was everything to him," she said. "[My family] loves that the West Stockbridge Fire Department is still active and doing things like this."

The event featured live music from the Eagles Trombone Ensemble, tasty barbecue, and Taft Farms sweet corn grilled on site by Smokey Sweet of Canaan, New York. Refreshments and giveaways provided by the members of the Fire Department.

It was also an open house for the Historical Society, whose members had the opportunity to show off the progress made on the restoration of the Old Town Hall. Visitors to the building were also treated to a small but intriguing museum display of artifacts from the Fire Department's 90 years, including gear dating back to the early 20th century, and a slide show featuring early photographs, newspaper articles, and WSFD's founding document.

One of the department's younger members, Billy Filiault, was visibly moved at seeing this display of the department's history and getting more of a sense of the legacy that he's now a part of. As he walked about the town center, modeling his heavy fire gear despite the heat, his pride was palpable.

"This is what the fire service is all about. Getting the community together," said the recent graduate of the Massachusetts Fire Academy, who hopes to lead by example. "I want others to follow in the same footsteps."



WSFD engine #2, a 1950 Seagrave, with its current owner, Ron Driscoll. Photo by Eric Shimelonis



Eric Shimelonis conducts the Eagles Trombone Ensemble in an original piece he composed for the occasion. Photo by Joe Roy, Jr.



A fire company of kids ready for action. Photo by Eric Shimelonis



Firefighter Matt McMahon demonstrates his breathing apparatus. Photo by Joe Roy, Jr.



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# Guild of Berkshire Artists Presents Art Shows and Studio Tours

By Karen Carmean

The Guild of Berkshire Artists held two major art shows at the Welles Gallery of the Lenox Library this July. Hundreds of people came! The first show, "Light and Motion," was held July 2–15. "Imagine" was the theme of the second show, July 16–29. More than 22 local Berkshire artists showed oil, watercolor and acrylic paintings, pottery, sculpture, drawings, and mixed media in each show.

Among the artists from West Stockbridge were Doane Perry, Bill Grauly, Margie Skaggs, Gary Schieneman, Ogden Gigli, and Karen Carmean. Founded in 2014, the Guild of Berkshire Artists has grown to include 130 artists from around the county. The exhibit featured a rich variety of paintings, photography, pottery, and various other 2D and 3D media.

At the end of August, the guild will host a fine art show at the Old Town Hall in West Stockbridge. The show is open August 23–26 and August 30–September 2. Upcoming events of the guild include monthly art studio tours on Saturdays, August 11, September 15, and October 6. Art enthusiasts should be able to find reasonably priced works by local artists that will allow them to bring home a taste of the Berkshires.

For more information, please visit [www.BerkshireArtists.org](http://www.BerkshireArtists.org) or e-mail [berkshireartists@gmail.com](mailto:berkshireartists@gmail.com).



Oil painting by Bill Grauly



Photo by Karen Carmean



"Berkshire Hills" by Karen Carmean



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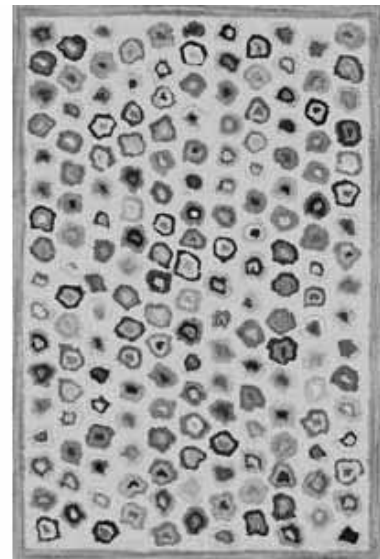
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*This new structure behind the Old Town Hall will house the elevator, three bathrooms, and additional access. Photo by Bob Salerno*

# Old Town Hall Construction Update

*By Bob Salerno*

In April, we began work on the biggest phase of the Old Town Hall restoration, the addition on the rear of the building. This new structure will house the elevator, three bathrooms, and an additional access to the second floor. It goes a long way to meeting the requirements of making our building ADA and code compliant.

The first step was to build the center core elevator shaft. Our masonry subcontractor, Pat O'Neill, and his crew built a block structure that will be standing long after the rest of the town falls down. It has to meet exacting specifications for the elevator and be super stable, so it has lots of rebars and iron inside and a fire-resistant metal roof. Watching the crew handling cinder blocks like children's toys was impressive.

While the masonry work was going on, the new plumbing and electric connections to the addition were installed, tying into the existing systems. This gave us a surprise when we found rotted building sills in the back that had to be replaced. Years ago, someone had covered the rotted beams, so they weren't visible—until we drilled the access holes. Now those rotted sills are replaced and added to our collection. We also recently poured the new concrete first floor. The second-floor beams are on order, and when they arrive, we start the new exterior structure.

*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](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org)*

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# Driving Around Town

*Bernie Fallon; Board of Selectmen, Chair*

Recently there has been a lot of discussion, both at selectmen's meetings and around town, about cars, particularly junk cars. Contrary to statements made by a few concerned yet misinformed folks, your Board of Selectmen is well into a comprehensive study/review of all current class II (used car) and class III (junk car) auto licenses. As the local licensing authority, the selectmen have full authority and wide discretion over the conditions that may or may not be attached to the required annual renewal of these licenses.

Beginning in August, each used and junk car license holder will be invited in to attend a selectmen's meeting for an individual review and discussion of their licenses. In short order following those meetings, the selectmen expect to modify most if not all of the currently issued licenses by applying uniform and reasonable conditions and standards. Those conditions will address the number of allowed vehicles, location and placement of those vehicles, and clearer distinction between class II and III vehicles. A thorough review of these licenses has not been conducted in many years. Clearly, some of these license holders have taken liberties over past years, and this board is responding.

Once this review is completed, the selectmen will adjust their focus to the growing problem of junk cars in our neighborhoods. Junk cars are specifically addressed in the town's bylaws, and unregistered vehicles and parts thereof are not allowed on any property unless specifically licensed for that purpose. Town meeting approved this bylaw back in 1971 (*see full text below*). Again, the selectmen recognize a public concern and are committed to addressing it.


## *Town of West Stockbridge Junk Car bylaw*

*Voted June 22, 1971; Unanimously to accept the following ordinance: "No unregistered and dilapidated motor vehicle and or parts thereof may be allowed to stand on any premises unlicensed under Chapter 140, Section 57 of the General Laws if the Owner or Occupier of said premises receives notification either written or oral from the Selectmen or Chief of Police that there exists on the premises unregistered and dilapidated motor vehicles and/or parts thereof on such premises after fourteen days from the date of aforementioned notification shall constitute a violation of this ordinance. Such violation may be punishable by a fine of \$10. Each motor vehicle and each part thereof and each day that any motor vehicle or part thereof exists on such premises shall constitute a separate offense."*  
[Approved by Attorney General Robert H. Quinn on August 13, 1971]

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If you made a prepayment of FY 2019 real estate taxes in December 2017, your payment was credited to your account. Because the bills you have just received were printed before July 1, 2018, the first quarter FY 2019 real estate tax bills *did not reflect those prepayments*.

At the end of June, bills for the second utility billing cycle of calendar year 2018 (April through June) were issued. As in the past two years, balances remaining unpaid on December 10, 2018, will be liened to real estate taxes.

If you make online payments through a bank other than Unibank for any bill issued from my office, you must include a memo line clearly stating the account you wish your check credited to. The account number on your invoice is the easiest identifier to use. Those account numbers do not vary from year to year.

If I am away from my office, the quickest way to contact me is via e-mail: [collector@weststockbridge-ma.gov](mailto:collector@weststockbridge-ma.gov). I check it regularly and try to respond within a day or two.

As in most small towns, my office is open only part time. If you are unable to complete a transaction at the Registry of Motor Vehicles because of unpaid balances on motor vehicle excise taxes, and I am not available in the office, you may contact my deputy collector, Arthur P. Jones, at (413) 527-2388 or at his office at 98 Cottage Street in Easthampton, MA. His e-mail is [art@apjones.com](mailto:art@apjones.com). His office hours are Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. He has the ability to clear registry marks and reports all payments to my office.

*June Biggs, Collector*

*Tel.: 232-0300, ext. 302*

*E-mail: [collector@weststockbridge-ma.gov](mailto:collector@weststockbridge-ma.gov)*

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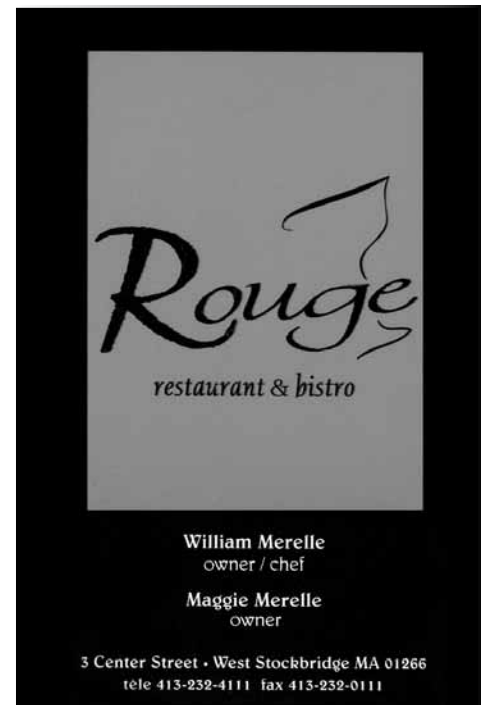
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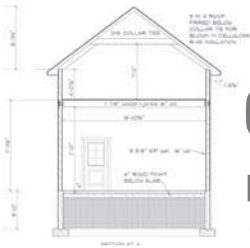


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# On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky

## Our Excellent Adventure Continues

Since last month, we had Eastern State Well Drillers drill our well (100 feet away from the septic system). Neighboring wells were around 180' feet deep, so we were very happy to get an excellent flow at 61 feet. The report on the water, including flow rate, has to go to the Board of Health before a building permit can be issued.

Then our project received a “negative” finding on our Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) from the Conservation Commission. Despair not, faithful readers. That’s actually *good* news. It means the affectionally nicknamed Con Com found that the project does *not* fall within an Area of Environmental Concern and is outside the 100-foot buffer zone abutting a body of water. (Lucky for us it’s a *pond*, not a river, where the buffer zone is 200 feet.)

Next we checked with June Biggs, West Stockbridge tax collector, who informed Brian Duval, our building inspector, that the taxes are current on our land. Then on to Brian with my set of drawings. Because I’m not a licensed architect or engineer (don’t even play one on TV!), I had an engineer certify with his stamp that the special girder I’m using in the basement can adequately support the floor load from above. This situation fell outside the scope of the span tables found in the current edition of the International Residential Code (IRC 2015) that covers the code for one- and two-family residences. The rest of the plan was accepted as I designed it.

We’re using insulated concrete forms (ICFs) for most of the foundation walls. They are like Styrofoam Legos, 48” long by 16” high with an 8” space between the two walls of the form. The space is also crisscrossed with heavy-duty plastic ties that hold the form together and support the horizontal steel rebar. The forms are stacked and braced, and then they are filled with concrete.

The floor system will be wood I-beams 16” apart, running across the 36-foot width of the building and resting on a bearing wall and girder. The subfloor is ¾” tongue-and-groove Advantech oriented strand board. This stuff is amazingly tough, stable, and can endure a long stretch exposed to the weather, due to the resin binder in the 4 × 8 panels.

The walls will be structural insulated panels (SIPs), a kind of Styrofoam sandwich with 5 5/8” of foam bonded to an inner and outer skin of oriented strand board. I’ve built many houses and large additions with SIPs before and am impressed with the strength (10% stronger than a conventional stud wall) and energy effectiveness. The special mix in the foam provides a continuous R 27 (minimum code requirement for walls is R 20), and for you building science nerds out there, there’s no thermal bridging (loss of heat through the edges of the studs where they contact the outer layer of sheathing.) They also go up in half the time compared with a so-called stick-built wall.

The roof will be an engineered truss system designed and manufactured by United Forest Products in Hudson, based on my house design. These trusses will span the width of the building, hoisted in place by a crane, and nailed and braced together, then sheathed with 5/8” oriented strand board (“Zip”) panels that have a waterproof surface.

We chose triple insulated vinyl windows by Pella for the living space. These are about 25% more efficient than conventional insulating glass windows because we wanted to maximize the energy design of the house. To save on the cost, we chose the Pella 250 series vinyl windows, which are not your grandparents’ vinyl windows! Highly efficient, easy to clean, durable, and quite good looking, as well as less expensive than windows with wood sashes (which we would have preferred, but—oddly—we have not yet won the lottery).

OK, that’s enough for now. Hopefully next month I’ll be able to report on the excitement of the excavation and septic system installation, as well as the foundation work.

Please send your questions to [info@localyokel.org](mailto:info@localyokel.org).



# WEST STOCKBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

21 State Line Rd | West Stockbridge, MA 01266 | In the Town Offices

weststockbridgelibrary.org | 413-232-0300 ext. 308

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

## NEW ADDITIONS

### DVDs

*Bombshell: Hedy Lamar*  
*Game Night*  
*Victoria*  
*Black Panther*

### ADULT FICTION

Brinkley, *A Lucky Man: Stories*  
 Powers, *The Overstory*  
 Ware, *The Death of Mrs. Westaway*  
 Zevin, *Young Jane Young*

### NONFICTION

Bergman, *Rise and Kill First: The Secret History of Israel's Targeted Assassinations*

### BOOKS ON CD

Enger, *Peace Like a River*  
 Shreve, *A Change in Altitude*

### CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Crews, *Flying*  
 Ferri, *Peek-a-Boo*  
 Guinness, *World Records 2015*  
 Reit, *Trains*  
 Suares, *Funny Kittens*

### DVDS FOR THE KID IN ALL OF US

*The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies*

## Friends of the Library Scrapbook Shelf Quiz

1. What local author wrote *A Terrible Splendor*?
2. What year did the Western Massachusetts Library System's bookmobile start? What year did budget cuts end it?
3. What author lived on West Center Road and wrote the book *The Locavore Way*?
4. What was the name of the first town cat?

Answers: 1. Marshall Jon Fisher; 2. 1961 and 2009; 3. Amy Colter; 4. Felix.

## 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.
- If you use an e-reader, explore the new statewide Commonwealth e-book Collections (CEC) at eBooks.masslibsystem.org.
- The next library trustees board meeting will take place on August 23 in the Town Offices Community Room. Please check the library's website, Facebook page, or the Town Offices bulletin board. All meetings are open to the public.
- As always, we welcome suggestions on just about anything to improve our library.

Rachel Alter





## ANNUAL BOOK SALE

Saturday, August 4 and Sunday, August 5  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



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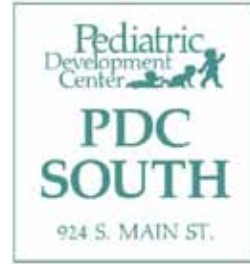
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# RECYCLING TIPS

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## Egg cartons 101: Why aren't all paper cartons created equal?

You'd think these two items are both recyclable. One is an egg carton, the other a wine-shipping carton (or similar item).

If you read the small print, you'll see this:



Fragile eggs break and can leave raw material in undetectable amounts on the carton. That bacteria could contaminate the whole recycled batch. This is why **egg cartons should not be recycled.**

Given the nature of their construction, these cartons break down very quickly in compost piles, so you can use them to help benefit your garden. Consider starting your own compost pile at home.

Remember that each transfer station could have its own rules. This month's tip is from West Stockbridge Transfer Station Manager Wayne Cooper.

For more tips, visit [www.recycleoftenrecycleright.com](http://www.recycleoftenrecycleright.com).

Celebrate the Visual Arts in August 2018

## August Art Calendar

**Creating Art Outdoors: Berkshire Plein Air.** See a demo, watch other artists, work till noon, then join us for lunch followed by a positive critique for helpful suggestions. Bring your supplies & lunch. We recommend a NARM level membership.  
M: Hancock Shaker Village, Meet at picnic tables.  
T: Great Barrington: Bard College at Simon's Rock, Meet at Lecture Hall parking on May 1. Later town center, Riverwalk W. Stockbridge: Berkshire Botanical Garden, Town center  
Th: The Mount, Meet at the Stables. We will explore grounds  
F: Lenox: Eastover: Sign in at Mansion, Town center.  
Sa: West Stockbridge, meet at parking lot across from P.O. Su: Norman Rockwell Museum grounds.  
See Facebook "Berkshire Plein Air" at 8 am for daily updates

**Art seminars and Guild Meeting.** Wed. Aug. 1, 4 pm. Watercolor demonstration. Get your own website if you bring 2-5 photos on flashdrive or smartphone or computer. 4:30pm How to accept payment by credit cards 5:00 - 6:30pm. Guild Meeting and planning upcoming show in West Stockbridge (WS) Community Room Town Hall, 21 Stateline Road (Route 102)

**Photo Explorers.** Join Carole Quinn on Fri. Aug., 3 at 8:30am, at Patisserie Lenox then explore Lenox.

**First Fridays Artswalk** Fri. Aug. 3, 5-8 pm. Pittsfield, [www.firstfridaysartwalk.com](http://www.firstfridaysartwalk.com)

**Figure Painting, Open Studio** Tuesdays in Aug. & Sept. 2-5pm. IS 183, Stockbridge. \$20 members. RSVP 413-298-5252x100.

**Positive Critique.** Th Aug. 8, 4-6 pm Bring 2-3 pieces. WS Town Hall, 21 St. Rd. Rt. 102. RSVP!

**Art Studio Tours** July 14, Aug 11, Sept 15, Oct 6. Sat. 11-5pm Free and Open to the public

**Members Potluck.** Sun. Aug. 19, 4-7pm. In Richmond. Bring dish for ten and what YOU want to drink. Partners welcome. RSVP at 413-329-9678

**Berkshire Photo Gathering.** Sun. Aug. 19, 2-4pm \$5., 15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington. Bring 2-5 photos

**Meet the Artist: Irena Martens.** Tues. Aug. 21, 4-5:30, in West Stockbridge. RSVP for address

**Art Book Gathering** Fri., Aug. 31, 2-4 pm. Share a favorite book: artist, process. Shaker Dam Books, WS

**Guild of Berkshire Artists**

(Formerly Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild)  
RSVP: [BerkshireArtists.org](http://BerkshireArtists.org) "Our Programs,"  
or See Facebook, [BerkshireArtists@gmail.com](mailto:BerkshireArtists@gmail.com)

**Creating Art Outdoors: Berkshire Plein Air.** Daily in good Weather 9:30-1pm

**West Stockbridge 1854 Town Hall Fine Art Show.**

August 23- 26 and August 30-September 2

Thursdays and Fridays 3-7

Saturdays 12-6

Sundays 12-3

**Reception: Saturday August 25, 2:30-5:30**

Free and Open to the public.



Follow the signs! to the 2018 Guild of Berkshire Artists

## Studio Tour

Meet 25 local artists in 13 studios  
August 11 • 11 am - 5 pm

The Complete Signage to locate each studio, listed here from north to south

Walter Peltis 101 Main St Pittsfield, MA 01201 413-243-1111	Bruce Anderson 175 Main St Pittsfield, MA 01201 413-243-1111	Ann Perreault 101 Main St Pittsfield, MA 01201 413-243-1111
Scott Bunting 101 Main St Pittsfield, MA 01201 413-243-1111	John Anderson 101 Main St Pittsfield, MA 01201 413-243-1111	John Perreault 101 Main St Pittsfield, MA 01201 413-243-1111
Steve Dwyer 101 Main St Pittsfield, MA 01201 413-243-1111	Ann Perreault 101 Main St Pittsfield, MA 01201 413-243-1111	John Perreault 101 Main St Pittsfield, MA 01201 413-243-1111
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Ann Perreault 101 Main St Pittsfield, MA 01201 413-243-1111	John Perreault 101 Main St Pittsfield, MA 01201 413-243-1111	Ann Perreault 101 Main St Pittsfield, MA 01201 413-243-1111

## Donor Roll Call ~ August

Gail Garrick

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Anonymous: 2

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# Worcester Shakespeare Company Presents *The Herbal Bed*

By *Ryan Cashman*

Since 2006, the Worcester Shakespeare Company (WSC) has brought quality professional performances of the Bard's work to Worcester and surrounding townships. The company's mission is to perform the works of William Shakespeare in dynamic and accessible ways, involving as many actors (both student and professional), designers, managers, and audience members as possible. The words are the primary emphasis of the company, thereby replacing extravagant sets and visual effects with ambient noise, natural light, and available architecture. WSC seeks to tell the stories of Shakespeare in ways that illuminate the imagination.

This year, WSC is presenting its first season without a production of Shakespeare. Instead, *The Herbal Bed* by Peter Whelan is the play of choice for 2018.

The year is 1613. The place: Stratford-upon-Avon. William Shakespeare's eldest daughter, Susanna Hall, has been accused of adultery with Rafe Smith, a married man. Susanna, herself married to prominent Stratford doctor Jonathan Hall, sues her accuser, Jack Lane, for slander in the court of Worcester Cathedral. Shakespeare's presence looms ethereally over this emotional tale of forbidden love and private intrigue.

The play is presented by special arrangement with Dramatist Play Service, Inc. and in collaboration with the West Stockbridge Historical Society at the Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street in West Stockbridge on August 5, 12, and 19 at 2:00 p.m.

*Photo courtesy of Worcester Shakespeare Company*

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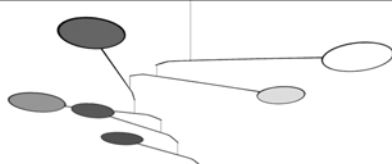
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### History Quiz Answer:

Cone Hill was not mentioned or shown in the early maps of the area and county. It doesn't appear on the maps as a named feature until 1904, and then we see it on all the subsequent topographical maps. Cone Brook, which comes off Stevens Glen into Shaker Mill Pond, was identified earlier in 1876. Perhaps the hill was not considered an important feature, unlike Tom Ball or Maple Hill.

The Cone family, however, was an important name in West Stockbridge and Richmond early on. Ashbel Cone, a settler from Connecticut, was a farmer and landowner before the Revolution. In the 1790 census, Ashbel listed a household of eleven men and four women. He owned an iron forge, rolling mill, and nail factory on the Williams River, in the Rockdale area.

Although his industry was south of town, Ashbel lived north of town on what is now Cone Hill. There he developed a lime quarry and forge on the property and farmed the area extensively. Ashbel died in 1800, and his son Benjamin became the real mover and shaker in the family.

Benjamin enlarged the farm to include the land along Swamp and Cone Hill Roads. He also developed another quarry along Swamp Road in town and expanded the quarries to both sides of Cone Hill. At one time Cone Brook had a sawmill, four stone mills, and two turning shops. His main house still stands at the intersection of Cone Hill and Swamp Road. Along Swamp Road and Cone Hill Roads were the homes of his children. Benjamin also donated money to help the Congregational Church buy a parsonage.

The Cone family were major players in the town, probably as prominent as the Williams. Given their reach and business holdings, naming a small hill after them was probably appropriate.



*Cone House. Photo by Bob Salerno*



## Fire Department Log

By Peter Skorput, Fire Chief

### JUNE 2018

Date	Time	Nature of Call
6/1	8:47 a.m.	Medical
6/5	2:20 a.m.	Automatic alarm
6/7	4:57 a.m.	Motor vehicle accident
6/10	2:13 a.m.	Medical
6/11	12:39 p.m.	Lift assist
6/16	9:05 p.m.	Motor vehicle fire
6/17	5:45 p.m.	Medical
6/20	3:24 p.m.	Motor vehicle accident
6/22	8:45 p.m.	Medical
6/23	8:05 a.m.	Medical
6/23	9:15 a.m.	Medical
6/24	7:03 p.m.	Medical
6/26	4:37 p.m.	Medical
6/29	8:15 p.m.	CO alarm



*Just a quick note!*

New from the  
Post Office!

We are now selling  
Hallmark greeting cards!!

## Community News & Events

### Community Health Association

Blood pressure clinics are held Mondays and Wednesdays, 9–10 a.m., at the CHA office at the West Stockbridge Town Offices. For more information, contact Emilie Jarrett, RN, at 232-0122.

### Stockbridge Grange Dinner

No public dinners will be served at the Stockbridge Grange during August. The dinners will resume in September.

### Council on Aging Potluck

Listen up, all seniors! The Council on Aging will be having our usual potluck luncheon on Tuesday, August 14, in the Community Room at the Town Offices. We will also have a picnic on Friday, August 24, with the Richmond Council on Aging at the Richmond firehouse on Route 41 at noon. Please bring what you want to drink and either a salad or dessert. Richmond will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and everything else to go along with them. I'll be looking forward to seeing many of you at both events. If you have questions or need a ride, please call Paula at 232-4394 and leave a message.

### West Stockbridge Congregational Church

At 1 p.m. on Sunday, August 5, 2018, the West Stockbridge Congregational Church, 45 Main Street, will host a Paint & Sip art instruction by Michelle Iglesias to create an original piece of art, *Sunflowers in Vase*, on an authentic slate roofing tile or a large 16 × 20 canvas. All painting materials, light snack, nonalcoholic sips, and donation are included in the \$35 fee per person. *Alcohol is not permitted.* At the end of the event, participants will take home a one-of-a-kind painting and hopefully the discovery of their newfound talent. To reserve seats, call (413) 205-8346 or visit [berkshirepaintandsip.com](http://berkshirepaintandsip.com).

The West Stockbridge Congregational Church will have a bake sale in front of Baldwin's Extracts from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, August 18, 2018.

*Send your notices for Community News & Events to the  
Local Yoke!, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266,  
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## Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 8/1 Mary Claire Lin
- 8/11 Collin Parker
- 8/17 Jenni Roy Hallock
- 8/24 Joe Roy, Jr.
- 8/25 Jeanne Kangas
- 8/31 Caitlyn ("Red") Alpert

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

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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>Earl Moffatt</i>	232-0300	ext. 314	Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m., or by appt.
Board of Selectmen	<i>Bernie Fallon, Peter Skorput, Doane Perry</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>Rachel Alter</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>Marc Portieri</i>	232-8500 (non-emergency)	24 hours, 7 days/week	
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Seasonal Lifeguard		232-0315		
Sewer & Water Commission	<i>Michael Buffoni</i>	232-0309		
Town Accountant	<i>Elaine Markham</i>	232-0300	ext. 317	Leave Message for Inquiries
Town Clerk	<i>Ronni Barrett</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	Tues. & Thurs. 1:30–4 p.m.
Town Collector	<i>June A. Biggs</i>	232-0300	ext. 302	Wed. 3–6 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri. 10 a.m.–2 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
Town Historian	<i>Robert Salerno</i>	232-4465		
Town Treasurer	<i>Karen Williams</i>	232-0300	ext. 316	Thurs. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Transfer Station	<i>Wayne Cooper</i>	232-0307		Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m.–6 p.m. and Sat. 8 a.m.–6 p.m.
Tree Warden	<i>Andrew Fudge</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](http://weststockbridge-ma.gov) • Community and Business Website: [weststockbridgetown.com](http://weststockbridgetown.com)



Making friends. Photo by Roland Dudney



Always something unusual. Photo by Robin Schmitt



Girl meets lamb. Photo by Roland Dudney



Always something yummy to eat. Photo by Robin Schmitt



Always something shiny & new. Photo by Peter Cohen



## Summer wanes... but the growing season continues at peak.

August is the time of gorgeous corn and tomatoes so good you want to bottle the essence of each and every one. August produce is as good as it gets—the perfect time to buy to cook at home or to preserve.

If you're not into canning, the wonderful food vendors will be offering their versions of items to overwinter: pesto, jams, preserves, freezer-ready entrees, meats, and more.

At the mic in August will be Reinhardt Ciccarelli, Mark Fisher, Firepit, Linda Worster, and Oakes & Smith.

August 5 begins National Farmers Market Week. Celebrate your favorite market on Thursday, August 9. There'll be some surprises, so mark your calendar and drop by—animals, contests, and fun for the whole family!

Expect the unexpected, and don't miss it!

Volunteers are needed for late August and all of September. Flexible schedules are available. If you can help, call (917) 209-0926 or e-mail [wsfarmmarket@gmail.com](mailto:wsfarmmarket@gmail.com).

Meet the Artist 2017

### Irena Martens

*Irena Martens*

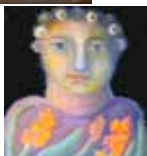
*Visual Artist In Wood, Plaster, Ceramic, Metal and other Media*

Tues. August 21

4-5:30pm

West Stockbridge

Guild of Berkshire Artists  
[www.BerkshireArtists.org](http://www.BerkshireArtists.org) and Facebook  
To reserve "Our Programs" "Meet the Artist" or [BerkshireArtists@gmail.com](mailto:BerkshireArtists@gmail.com)



Join Irena Martens on Tues. August 21 in West Stockbridge from 4-5:30 pm for a tour of her studio. You will be able to ask her questions. RSVP: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090544a5a72ca7fa7-meet> or if necessary [kcarmean@gmail.com](mailto:kcarmean@gmail.com). Irena Martens works in wood, plaster, ceramic, metal and other media. Her work has been exhibited internationally and is part of notable institutional and private collections. "Present endeavors: Restoring old art work of mine and working on new sculptures and collages. I am combining the images I have with new ideas – the Pupazzi, Relief sculpture, Photographs and paintings and present ideas. Thus connecting my past with my present."

Born in Hamburg, Germany she received a Diploma in Publishing. She studied at the Brera Art School in Milano, exhibiting her work in Milano and Venice. Offered a show in NYC – 1966 – she traveled to America, met her husband Jack Silverman and decided to stay. She received good reviews from the NY Times, Art News amongst others. Her sculptures were included in a Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition touring the U.S. After Irena and her husband bought an 18th Century Farm which they restored, she started dividing her time between West Stockbridge where a barn serves as her Art Studio and her apartment in NYC. In addition to making artwork she is an avid gardener and likes to collect antiques.

Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>  
12:00 to 3:00 PM  
Rain or Shine

# Card Pond Big Splash



Join  
WS Police and Parks & Recreation  
For  
Complimentary Hot Dogs, Hamburgers,  
Sodas, Chips, Corn  
Bring your own Beach Chair / Blanket  
Live Music, Games, Prizes!  
Come & Enjoy the Day!



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

**August 2018**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			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	



**August 2018 Calendar of Events**

8/1	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
8/2	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green
8/2	Board of Health meeting	6:30 p.m.	Town Offices
8/4 & 8/5	Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale	10 a.m.-3 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
8/5	W.S. Congregational Church "Paint & Sip"	1 p.m.	At the church, 45 Main Street
8/5,12,19	Worcester Shakespeare Co., The Herbal Bed	2:00 p.m.	Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street
8/8	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
8/9	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green
8/11	West Stockbridge Town Picnic	12-7 p.m.	Town Offices Grounds, Route 102
8/14	Council on Aging Luncheon	12 noon	Town Offices Community Room
8/14	American Legion meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
8/15	*** Deadline for the next Local Yokel ***		send to <a href="mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org">info@thelocalyokel.org</a>
8/15	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
8/16	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green
8/18	W.S. Congregational Church Bake Sale	9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.	In front of Baldwin Extracts
8/19	Card Pond "Big Splash"	12-3 p.m.	Card Pond
8/22	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
8/23-26	Guild of Berkshire Artists' Fine Art Show	see page 9	Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street
8/23	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green
8/24	Council on Aging Picnic with Richmond	12 noon	Richmond Firehouse, Route 41
8/29	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
8/30	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green
8/30-9/2	Guild of Berkshire Artists' Fine Art Show	see page 9	Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street