

Local yokel

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

West
Stockbridge
November 2018



ANNUAL APPLE PRESSING EVENT RAISES FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSOCIATION



Reminder to VOTE on Tuesday, Nov. 6!

Polls open 7 a.m., close 8 p.m., in the Town Offices Gymnasium

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005

Photo of band by Karen Carmean. All other photos by Kim Bradway

THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE CHAMBER PLAYERS

Harvest Concert

Sunday, November 4, 2018 at 2 pm

Old Town Hall, Main Street, West Stockbridge

Music:

Miniatures, Op. 75a Antonín Dvořák

Quartet for Bassoon, Violin, Viola, and Violoncello Bernard Garfield

Till Eulenspiegel-Einmal Anders! Richard Strauss, arranged by Franz Hasenöhrl

Septet in E Flat, Op. posthumous Max Bruch

Musicians:

Sheila Fiekowsky, violin • Lisa Crockett, violin

Daniel Getz, viola • Adam Esbensen, cello

Edwin Barker, bass • Catherine Hudgins, clarinet

Jason Snider, horn • Richard Ranti, bassoon

TICKETS \$35 Available October 1st*

PURCHASE ADVANCE TICKETS ONLINE

www.weststockbridgehistory.org

Or call 413-232-5055

...or look for the "Blue Note"
in downtown business windows...

* Residents of West Stockbridge under 18
are free with a reservation.

*A reception
will follow
the concert!*



THIS PROGRAM IS A BENEFIT
PERFORMANCE FOR THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Rev. Charles B. Boynton

Thanksgiving: The West Stockbridge Connection

By Bill Loeb

Our annual November national holiday of Thanksgiving is near. But its establishment as an annual event was not until the period 1864 to 1866. In the country's prior 80 years there had been a miscellany of only seven presidential Thanksgiving proclamations.¹

After the North's 1863 victory at Gettysburg, Sarah J. Hale, editor of *Lady's Book*, the largest circulating women's magazine of that time, suggested to President Lincoln that he declare a national Thanksgiving Day, which he did in 1863 and 1864.²

Following Lincoln's death in 1865, President Andrew Johnson was entreated by a committee of Washington's First Congregational Church, led by their pastor, Rev. Charles B. Boynton, to make Thanksgiving Day a national holiday.³ A week later, on October 29, 1865, the president did make such a proclamation.⁴ And Boynton, chaplain of the House of Representatives, was called on to give the Thanksgiving Day congressional sermon. On December 7, 1865, Boynton delivered a nine-page discourse.⁵

Who was Reverend Boynton?⁶ He was born in 1806 in West Stockbridge, Massachusetts, to a well-to-do single mother.⁷ Following attendance at Williams College, he practiced for 10 years as a West Stockbridge lawyer, during which time he served two years as representative to the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and he was instrumental in bringing early railroads into the town.

In 1840 he changed his profession, becoming an ordained Protestant minister. He served churches in Housatonic, Massachusetts, and Lansingburgh, New York, before taking over at a Protestant church in Cincinnati, Ohio. He converted that church to Congregational because the Protestant Church of the day was unwilling to take a stand against slavery. He remained in that Cincinnati post for 20 years, with a one-year interruption to head the South Congregational Church in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. He left there in a disagreement over the church's stand on slavery.⁸ In Cincinnati through the Civil War, his Second Street Congregational Church became an established Underground Railroad station.⁹

At war's end Boynton was drafted by the U.S. Navy to write *History of the Navy During the Rebellion*, published in 1867. At the time Boynton received this assignment, he was an assistant professor at the U.S. Naval Academy. His cousin was Representative James A. Garfield (later to become president), who was serving as chair of the House Committee on Military Affairs. And his friend from Lansingburgh days, John Griswold, had become a member of the House Naval Committee.¹⁰

In 1865 Boynton became chaplain of the House of Representatives, and at the same time he served as the first minister of

...continued on page 5

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Warm Drinks & Snacks

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WS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH*



The *Local Yokel* is published monthly. Please mail submissions to: **The Local Yokel, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266**, e-mail info@thelocalyokel.org, or visit www.thelocalyokel.org. Copy deadline is the 5th of the month prior to the publication. Editors: **John Parker, 394-4368, john.j.parker53@gmail.com**; **Vicki Grayson, 232-6131, vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com**; **Susan Fisher, 232-4443, suefish12@gmail.com**; **Anne Lesser, 232-8577, anne@annelessercommunications.com**; Designer: **Kim Bradway, kim@bloominarts.com**.

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Washington's First Congregational Church that then met in the House chamber. In the latter role he spearheaded the church's active antislavery interests including the establishment of Howard University and served as its first president.³

All of which led to Boynton having been invited to present the 1865 congressional Thanksgiving Day invocation.⁵ A few of his points follow:

The first point to which the President directs our attention, and to which all naturally turn, is that God has granted us once more the blessings of peace. . . .

The South has committed suicide upon her moral nature, and she must abide the result. . . .

The nation should come . . . with thank offerings today because . . . we must deliver the slaves or perish ourselves.

(Boynton, when the applause had subsided, remarked that however gratifying such tokens of approval were, they seemed to him somewhat inappropriate upon such an occasion, and he asked that the audience do him the favor of refraining from any applause.)

We have given the slave the form of freedom. Will we give to that form a reality and a life? Will we treat the delivered slave as a man? I thank God for every indication that the nation is preparing itself for this proof of its nobleness.

Again, no one need mistake the purposes of the South. They are willing to abolish the name and form of slavery if they can retain the control of the blacks through their local laws, because they gain some twelve members of Congress by this nominal freedom, while the degradation of the blacks will be as complete as before.

[We] fought the battle through, and fought down the rebellion. . . . We showed them four millions of slaves transformed into free men . . . and God permitted our loved and honored chief to be fully murdered . . . but we turned calmly and trustingly to place the power in the hands of his worthy successor.

References

1. The American Presidency Project. www.presidency.UCSB.edu.
 2. Papers of Abraham Lincoln, Library of Congress.
 3. Everett O. Alldredge, *Centennial History of First Congregational Church, 1865–1965*.
 4. The American Presidency Project. www.presidency.UCSB.edu.
 5. National Thanksgiving Services, Thursday, December 7, 1865; in the Hall of the House of Representatives of the United States of America, DISCOURSE, by Rev. C.B. Boynton, D.D., Chaplain of the House, Washington, D.C., W.H. and O.H. Morrison, 1866.
 6. *The Congregationalist*, May 3, 1883.
 7. Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, 3 Mass. 189; Clarissa Harlowe Boynton v. Ezra Kellogg; *Gazetteer of Berkshire County, Mass., 1725–1885*.
 8. South Congregational Church History, Pittsfield, MA.
 9. Reminiscences of Levi Coffin, "Ohio" chapter, University of North Carolina Library.
 10. Charles B. Boynton, *The History of the Navy During the Rebellion* (D. Appleton & Co., 1867).
- Image: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rev._Charles_B._Boynton_-_NARA_-_527212.jpg

November History Quiz Question:

The railroad has been an iconic symbol of West Stockbridge and a major part of our town's history and folklore. In 1838, the first railroad in western Massachusetts to connect the Berkshires to the Hudson River and western markets terminated in West Stockbridge at State Line. Built to move iron ore, marble, and lime, it was a crude affair. Despite wooden rails and slow-moving steam engines, it was better than hauling material over rutted dirt roads.

During the 1820s and 1830s, there was a rush to obtain railroad charters from the states and thus secure a monopoly on the routes. West Stockbridge had no less than eight different lines chartered to run through it or terminate in the town. Some were shell companies and never built. Others ran to Albany or south to Connecticut. One was unique to West Stockbridge and key to all the others. What was that railroad, how did it fit in the puzzle, and who built it?

(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 or call 232-4270.



**West Stockbridge
Historical Society**
Incorporated in 1994

November Art Calendar

Creating Art Outdoors. If weather looks good propose a time and location the night before on Facebook "Berkshire Plein Air." Then check the weather just before 8am and post.

Figure Painting, Open Studio Tuesdays in November 2-5pm. IS 183, Stockbridge. \$20 members, \$25 nonmembers. Bring your supplies. RSVP 413-298-5252x100.

First Fridays Artswalk Fri. Nov. 2, 5-8 p.m. Pittsfield, North and South Streets. www.firstfridaysartwalk.com

Art seminars and Business Meeting. Wed. Nov. 7, 4:00pm. Collect work for Shaker Mill Inn Show. Demo Adrian Holmes. RSVP BerkshireArtists@gmail.com. 5-6:30. Guild Meeting to plan events for the winter, . Community Room, 21 Stateline Road (Route 102) West Stockbridge [WS]

Positive Critique. Th. Nov. 8, 4-6pm. Bring 2-3 pieces of your art. WS Town Hall. RSVP required and reading

Meet the Artist: Nina Lipkowitz. Battle Fatigue: 1st Lt. Morton Polkowitz, 1942-1945 An Exploration of Discovery. Fri. Nov 9. 12:15-1:30pm , Six Depot Roastery/Café in WS. Multi media with photo transfer. See her work to the right.

Photo Explorers. Join Carole Quinn on Fri. Nov. 9 at 8:30 am. at Mom's Country Cafe. 65 Main St. So Egremont. Explore Egremont together.

Members Potluck. Sun. Nov 11, 4:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. In West Stockbridge. Bring main dish, hors d'oeuvres or dessert for ten and what YOU want to drink. Partners welcome. RSVP

Artist to Artist Open Studio. Wed. Nov. 14, 6-9pm. Bring art you want to finish, get advice, try out a new process or technique. Informal chance to do art together for fun! WS Town Hall, 21 Stateline Road. Rt. 102. You must rsvp:

Berkshire Photo Gathering. Sun. Nov. 18, 2-4 p.m. \$5. Berkshire South Regional Comm. Center, 15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230 Put Photos on website to share.

Meet the Artist: Bruce Shickmanter, Painter, Fri. Nov. 16, 12:15-1:30, Six Depot Roastery/Café in West Stockbridge

Art Book Gathering Fri., Nov. 30, 2-4pm. Share a favorite book: artist, process. Shaker Dam Books, West Stockbridge.

Guild of Berkshire Artists

RSVP: BerkshireArtists.org

BerkshireArtists@gmail.com See Facebook

Recent Works by Artists



Bonnie Reed



Kim Arre-Gerber



Dorene Beller



Nina Lipkowitz



Peggy Braun

Nov. 6 Statewide Election Will Include Vote for District Attorney, School Committee Reps

On Tuesday, November 6, West Stockbridge voters will have the opportunity to elect candidates for statewide offices, weigh in on three statewide ballot questions, and vote for Berkshire County district attorney and seats on the Berkshire Hills Regional School Committee.

For the DA race, the ballot will list Andrea Harrington and a blank space for write-ins. For the School Committee, the ballot will list incumbents Steve Bannon and Bill Fields (representing Great Barrington), and Dan Weston and Jason St. Peter (representing Stockbridge). No one is listed for West Stockbridge because incumbent Kristin Piasecki is not seeking reelection, but space will be provided for a write-in.

West Stockbridge resident Molly Thomas has advised the *Local Yokel* she is running a write-in campaign for the School Committee representing West Stockbridge; her candidate statement follows.

Polls will open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. in the Town Offices Gymnasium.

Molly Thomas Write-In Candidate for School Committee

Hello, my name is Molly Thomas. I am a write-in candidate for the town of West Stockbridge School Committee. I was born and raised in West Stockbridge with my four siblings; my maiden name is Pratt. I am currently raising my four children in West Stockbridge. Two are currently attending Monument Mountain High School, one is across the street at the Middle School, and the oldest has recently graduated and is attending MCLA. A seat on the School Committee is an important civic responsibility and duty. I feel it is time for me to give back to the community now that my children are more independent. When appointed to the committee I promise to work diligently to make decisions that will have a positive impact for Berkshire Hills Regional School systems and the residents of West Stockbridge. On Election Day, please write in Molly Thomas to represent you on the West Stockbridge School Committee. Thank you.

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Dear Folks,

We had our Annual Apple Pressing at the Johnson Barn on October 13, and it was our best year yet!

We raised \$1,000 in donations for the Community Health Association. This event would not be possible if not for the efforts of our friends and neighbors.

We thank you all and also thank everyone who attended. Without your generosity, it would not be such a success! See you next year.

Sincerely,

Don Johnson and Erin Gray



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West Stockbridge Vision Committee Update and Survey

This past June, a number of volunteers came together on the recommendation of Bernie Fallon and the Select Board to form a new West Stockbridge Vision Committee. You might be asking what would be the purpose of such a committee. Our first charge was asking that very question of ourselves, and we worked together to craft this mission statement:

The purpose of the Vision Committee is to nurture the development of West Stockbridge by providing visionary guidance toward building our future while recognizing our history and celebrating our present. This will be accomplished through a program of collaborative dialogue, innovative planning, and creative public outreach.

Our second charge was to craft an aspirational Vision Statement for our town. Here is our current draft of this statement, designed to serve as a guide for all of us as we communicate and collaborate on our town's future:

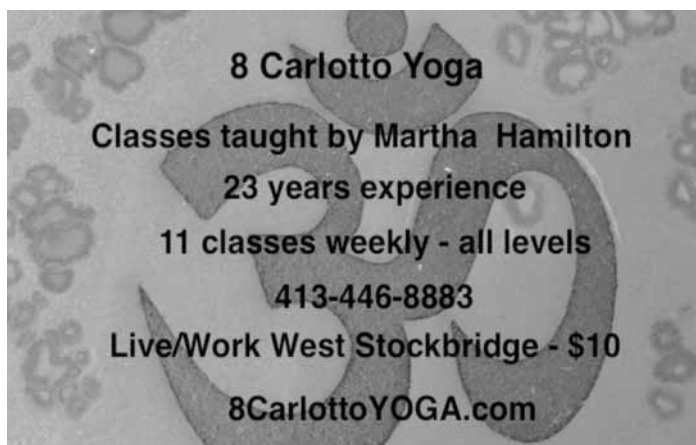
The town of West Stockbridge is defined by a rich history, scenic beauty, and an industrious work ethic. We aspire to further develop our foundation of craftsmanship, entrepreneurship, and the arts while continuing to beautify our landscapes and architecture, preserve our natural resources, and build, advance, and diversify our community.

One of the most important features of the Vision Committee is that it is officially a public forum, and your input and participation is very important to us. Meetings are announced in advance and open to all, and we are also going to be reaching out for ideas and feedback via the *Local Yokel* and a special Facebook group. We are starting right now with the following survey questions:

1. Does the West Stockbridge Vision Statement (above) resonate with you? Is there anything you'd change about it?
2. What are the things about West Stockbridge that you love the most?
3. What are some things about West Stockbridge that need improvement?
4. In planning our future, what kinds of things would you consider vital to that plan?
5. Are there things that we should try to avoid as the town evolves?

You can e-mail your answers to WStockVision@gmail.com or mail them to West Stockbridge Vision Committee, c/o Town Offices, 21 State Line Road, West Stockbridge, MA 01266. We also invite you to a public meeting for a discussion about our collective vision for West Stockbridge on Sunday, November 4, 2018, at 6 p.m. at the Town Offices. We'd love to get your feedback and hear your ideas!

Current members of the West Stockbridge Vision Committee are Bill Barth, Karen Carmean, Steve Dixon, Lois Ferguson, Stephen Graham, Kim Hubbard, Karden Rabin, Joe Roy, Jr., Eric Shimelonis, Peter Thorne, Sarah Thorne, and Randy Thunfors.



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West Stockbridge Planning Board: Summary of Proposed Changes to the Zoning Bylaws, October 15, 2018

In the last nine months the Planning Board has been working on three areas of improvements and additions to the town's zoning to provide regulations in these areas:

- Marijuana-related uses
- Solar energy systems
- Formula businesses

The aim of a general discussion with the Select Board was to bring zoning changes to a special town meeting in early December, before the December 31 expiration of the "marijuana use moratoriums" that were put in place in November 2017.

The following summarizes the key features for each category of proposed regulation as they have been developed to date.

Section 9.1. Marijuana-Related Uses

- The underlying premise of the proposed regulations is that all marijuana-related use must demonstrate that it conforms to all regulations of the state Cannabis Control Law as a condition of any special permit that might be given.
- The state Cannabis Control Law classifies cultivation of marijuana in 11 tiers by size based on the area of the plant canopy. The smallest is tier 1, and the proposed regulations limit any cultivation in West Stockbridge to tier 1.
- Cultivation and other marijuana-related uses are proposed to be allowed by special permit in the manufacturing district. Other uses are storage, testing, transportation, craft cooperative, and a micro-business.
- Cultivation is proposed to be allowed by special permits for farms in R1 and R3 residential districts, with the same tier 1 size limit.
- Retail sales type uses ("medical and recreational") are handled differently from all other marijuana-related uses in terms of in what zoning district they are allowed.
- In current discussions, the Planning Board has created a Marijuana Retail Overlay District (MROD) in a portion of the manufacturing district from Route 102 northerly on both sides of Baker Street.
- Regulations are proposed for all marijuana-related uses (lighting, parking, noise, security, etc.) to ensure there is no negative impact on any adjoining property, use, or generally for the town.

Section 9.2. Solar Energy Systems

- As a principal use:
 - No large-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems allowed in R districts
 - Large-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems allowed in C and M districts, by special permit
 - Medium-scale solar energy systems allowed by special permit in all districts
- As an accessory use:
 - For large-scale and medium-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems: same regulations as for principal use
 - Small-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems allowed by special permit in all districts
 - Roof-mounted solar energy systems allowed "as of right" in all districts
- Add particular dimensional requirements for medium- and large-scale ground-mounted solar energy systems
- Required visual screening, fence, and/or landscape planting
- Provide detailed requirements for a special permit application for a solar energy system and criteria for approval by the Special Permit Granting Authority (SPGA) of a solar energy system special permit application
- Provide regulations for training of fire and police department personnel in safety related to fire or other emergencies related to solar energy systems
- Provide requirements for bonding or other financial surety that a ground-mounted solar energy system will be removed if it is abandoned or decommissioned

Section 9.3. Formula Business

- Defines "formula business"
- Proposes to regulate both chain retail uses and chain restaurant uses by requiring a special permit for these uses
- The proposed regulations enable criteria for application of a formal business with detailed requirements that the proposed use does not negatively impact the character, economy, and life of West Stockbridge
- Adds very detailed requirements and regulations for formula businesses

The West Stockbridge Council on Aging presents:

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7:00 pm

Old Town Hall

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Funded, in part, by a grant from the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and by the West Stockbridge COA.



Season 7 Is a Wrap

In a season that saw more changes than anyone would have predicted, the assistance of volunteers and the generosity of attendees literally made the market possible.

Sincerest thanks are extended to these neighbors and friends who ensured that it happened:

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Jerri & Daniel Buehler | Nancy & Walter Howell | John Springstube & family |
| Tony Carlotto & Darby Weigel | Krysta Kaehn | Lynn Springstube |
| Peter Cohen | Billy Kie | Deb St. John |
| Terri Jo Dixon | Carol & Stuart Kuller | Victor Stannard |
| Steve Dixon, Queensboro Wine & Spirits | Racquel & Lear Levin | Martha & Danny Tawczynski |
| Ginna & Roland Dudney | Madeline & Martin Litz | Mary & Bob Thibeault |
| Bernie & Isabel Fallon | <i>Local Yokel</i> | Sarah & Peter Thorne |
| Lois Ferguson | Paula Farrell & Digger Lockenwitz | Tony Viola |
| Susan Fisher & Gary Schieneman | Ada & John Masiero | Molly & Christopher Vreeland |
| Dale Flecker & Jaylyn Olivo | Pam Maston | Karen & Jerry Waxberg |
| Andrew Fudge | The Merritt Family | Curt Wilton |
| Cheryl Fudge | Elizabeth Morse | Joanne Wodecki |
| The Gomberg Family | The Nguyen Family | WS Fire Department |
| Vicki Grayson | John Parker | WS Grange |
| Zina Greene | Doane Perry | WS Police Department |
| Janice & Gunnar Gudmundson | Robin Schmitt | Jeanne & William Zox |
| Brenda Harvey | Peter Skorput | |

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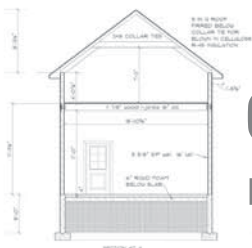
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Thanks to everyone who has donated to WSLY.
 We couldn't do it without your support!
 Keep the *Local Yokel* coming. Please send your gift today!
 (See response form on page 21.)



On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky

Rain, Rain Go Away!

Like many other building projects, we have been beset with lots of rain and with the delays rain causes. But at least we don't live on the Florida panhandle or the South Carolina coast, so I'm not complaining.

As of mid-October, we had the foundation complete, the slab poured, the lower level framed and sheathed, the main floor joists and girders in place, the subfloor down, and the structural insulated panels (SIPs) in place for the exterior walls. We're setting precast concrete piers for support of one more small section of the main floor (the porch), and then we'll be ready to place the trusses for the roof, followed by sheathing.

The backfilling is proceeding, and the conduits for underground electric and cable from our last pole to the house are all set. The well line and conduit for the power to the pump have been placed.

We've had footings and insulated concrete forms inspected before placing concrete. We also had our pre-backfill inspection for the waterproofing of the wall. And once we have the roof sheathed and interior partitions in place, we will start our plumbing rough-in. (Always better to do the plumbing first. Much easier to snake electric wires around pipes than the other way around!)

I've had several people ask me about the SIPs we're using for the walls of the main floor of the house. SIPs have been around for about 25 years, and they are one more alternative to conventional so-called stick framing (i.e., framing with 2 × 6 studs and plates and plywood sheathing).

A SIP is essentially a sandwich of two sheets of oriented strand board (OSB) with a core of extruded polystyrene foam (no formaldehyde or CFCs!). The thickness of the foam core determines the wall thickness and hence the insulation level. Panels can be 4' wide by as much as 11' 6" tall, according to the latest code. Panels are joined together with splines along the tall edges and 2 × 6 plates on top and bottom in grooves routed into the foam. There are no studs, so loss of heat through the framing (thermal bridging) is at a minimum.

Depending on the type of foam core, R-values for SIPs can be R-27 for a 5½"-thick wall, considerably higher than a 2 × 6 wall with fiberglass insulation in the stud cavities. And the insulation is *continuous*.

SIP walls are also significantly stronger, flatter, and stiffer than conventional stick-framed walls. And—assuming the crew is familiar with the techniques—the walls go up much faster and with less waste than with conventional framing. In fact, our gang put together the exterior walls of the house in a day and a half! (But then we're smarter, stronger, and better looking than most framing crews.)

Openings in the walls can be cut at the factory or cut on site. The foam at the perimeter of the opening is burned out with a "hot knife," and then a 2 × 6 is cut and foamed and nailed into place to provide solid nailing for window or door installation. Depending on the size of the opening, and whether it's on a load-bearing wall, a simple insulated box-beam header (framing that spreads the load from above) is used. But given the inherent strength of the SIPs, headers are typically not required if 15" of foam is left above the opening. (We always check with the engineers at the SIP manufacturer first.)

Once the walls are up and top-plated (two layers of 2 × 6s horizontally across the entire wall), the next level can be installed. For us, it's roof trusses premanufactured to the specifications of the house. These will have been lifted in place with a crane by the time you read this, weather permitting.

Stay tuned to the *Local Yokel* for the next episode! Questions and comments can be sent to info@localyokel.org.



Interior view of SIPs on the main floor with some of the window and door openings cut out. Photo by Mike Wilser



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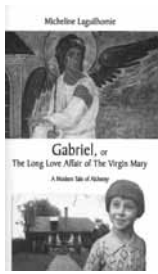
TUESDAY 10am-5pm | WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY 2-6pm | SATURDAY 10am-2pm

Greetings from the West Stockbridge Public Library to one and all! We hope this month finds you enjoying the warmth indoors of sitting and reading a good book, and we would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving hours

Wednesday, November 21, and Thursday, November 22, CLOSED

Friday, November 23, and Saturday, November 24, OPEN our usual hours



Local Author Talk

We invite you to a talk by local author Micheline Laguilhomie, who will be joining us on Saturday, November 3, at 11 a.m., to share her memoir *Gabriel*, a deep examination of her childhood before and during Nazi-occupied France and her experience of American life over the years. Please join us for what promises to be an engaging morning.

Italian Conversation

In other library news, a small group has been meeting regularly to maintain and build their Italian language skills. Some of them have spoken Italian from birth, and they are enjoying the opportunity to keep sharp!



Enjoy the Newspaper

The library receives the *Berkshire Eagle* and the *Berkshire Record*, through the generosity of our wonderful Friends organization. These papers, along with the Sunday *New York Times* (a weekly donation from a couple of very kind townfolk), can be found every day on the tables beside the armchairs shown in the photo. So come on in any time we are open to enjoy a look through the papers in a lively atmosphere!

Book Sale and Book Drop

The Friends of the Library hold their book sale every summer, a popular though labor-intensive endeavor that is very much appreciated by all of us at the library. Donations are welcome all year round. Please bring your donations in any time the Town Office are open, and leave them in the very last room on the left side of the hallway. We appreciate having the library book drop used only for returning items you've borrowed from the library. Many thanks!

NEW ADULT FICTION

Cussler, *Shadow Tyrants*
Galbraith, *Lethal White*

Hosseini, *Sea Prayer*
Kushner, *The Mars Room*
McDermott, *The Ninth Hour*

Patterson, *Texas Ranger*
Robb, *Leverage in Death*
Tolkien, *Fall of Gondolin*

NEW NONFICTION

Stallworth, *Black Klansman: A Memoir*



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.
- All library trustees board meetings are open to the public. Please check our website for the next meeting date and time.
- A reminder that day passes to many of our local attractions are available at the library thanks to the Friends of the Library and the West Stockbridge Cultural Council.
- As always, we welcome suggestions on just about anything to improve our library.

— Rachel Alter, Vicky Cooper, and Brad Havill



November Friends of the West Stockbridge Library Scrapbook Corner

1. Who was the new Muddy Brook Regional Elementary School principal in September 2010?
2. Who served as town police chief until 2008?
3. In what year were rural libraries endangered because of state consolidation plans?
4. Who was the well-known committee member of the West Stockbridge Sustainability Committee?

Answers: 1. Thad Dingman, 2. Karl Cooper, 3. 2010, 4. John Parker.



Kids enjoy free books from Friends of the West Stockbridge Library at the Farmer's Market. Photo courtesy of Carol Kuller

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OBSERVANT JEWS
NON-HEBREW-READING JEWS
PASSIONATE JEWS
HIGH-HOLY-DAY JEWS
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RECYCLING TIPS

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Why bother to separate your recyclables if it will all go into the trash anyway?

Transfer Station Manager Wayne Cooper said several of the last bins were sent to the Canaan trash facility because the bin had too high a percentage of contraband items. This is costly to West Stockbridge residents!

The circled items are not allowed in the plastic/bottle bin. Because this photo is black and white, it's harder to show, but they are (1) black plastic, (2) plastic bags, and (3) a chemical spray bottle. Also not allowed are oil bottles, meat trays, tool boxes, and redeemable bottles.



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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

On Sunday, November 11, the Stockbridge Grange will serve a family-style corned beef and cabbage dinner in the Grange Hall at 51 Church Street, Stockbridge, from 1 to 2 p.m. Cost \$12 adults, \$6 under 12, and under 5 free. Takeouts available, 298-3185.

Council on Aging Potluck

The senior concert and luncheon will be held at Monument Mountain Regional High School at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, November 13. All seniors are invited. Please call Paula at 232-4394 and let her know if you will be attending (the school needs a count for lunch) and if you need a ride.

Award-winning singer and storyteller David Bates will present “Celebrating News England: Seasonal Songs and Stories for Everyone” on Friday, November 2, 7 p.m., at the Old Town Hall.

West Stockbridge Congregational Church

On Election Day, Tuesday, November 6, the West Stockbridge Congregational Church will offer rides to the polling station at the Town Offices. Call the church at 232-4256 by no later than Sunday, November 4, and leave a message with the rider’s name and telephone number.

*Send your notices for Community News & Events to
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Where are these doors in your town?

Visit our website for past issues, plus information about how to support your West Stockbridge community newsletter, submit material for publication, advertise, contact us, and answers to September's *Local Yokel* cover question!

thelocalyokel.org



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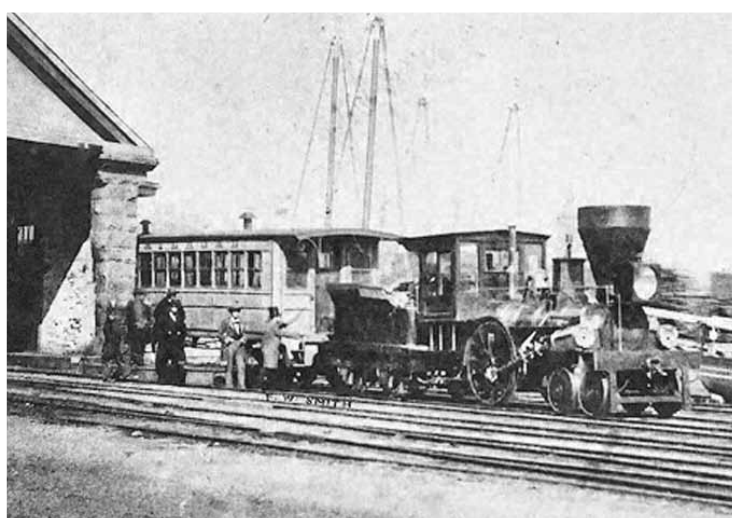
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- Building & Maintaining Gardens
- Firewood

History Quiz Answer:

During the 1820s, three railroad projects were chartered by New York State to go from Albany, Hudson, and Castleton to end at State Line. Another five were chartered by Massachusetts to run from Springfield and Boston to State Line. The first of these actually to be built was the Hudson and Berkshire Railroad, running from Hudson to State Line. Completed in June 1838, the line ran only 300 feet into West Stockbridge. It averaged about 10 miles per hour, sometimes soaring to 15 miles per hour, and carried both freight and passengers. (The railroads quickly realized people were as lucrative as minerals and easier to transport.)



Steam engine 1840. Photo courtesy of Bob Salerno

Other rail projects were still looking for funding or dealing with the technological challenges of the geography while this Hudson and Berkshire line got moving. There was a one glitch, however. Any railroad could only run within the state that chartered it, so everyone had to terminate at State Line. No through traffic was allowed.

Recognizing this, four enterprising and wealthy West Stockbridge residents obtained the charter for the key link, titled the West Stockbridge Railroad (WSRR). This was a 2.6-mile run from State Line to the town center and conveniently went past the iron and lime quarries. Chartered in 1831, the WSRR was completed in September 1838, just after the line to Hudson was opened. The line ran over flat farmland and only needed one bridge to cross a stream, relatively easy to build. This small extension allowed the minerals, farm produce, and people to be transported from West Stockbridge and the Berkshires to Hudson for shipment out to the world via the Hudson River.

The founders of the WSRR were a wealthy farmer, Sylvester Spencer; two prominent mill owners, Erastus Crocker and Sedgewick Cole; and Henry Taft, the town clerk and treasurer. Not being railroad operators, they quickly leased the line to the Hudson and Berkshire Railroad. That short line brought in \$1,900 a year to the four businessmen, or \$55,000 in today's dollars.

Five years later, the Housatonic Railroad came up from the south to West Stockbridge town center from Canaan, Connecticut. The little WSRR became even more important because it was the fastest way for trains to go from Albany to the Connecticut coast and avoid New York City. Business was so brisk that the two leasing railroads, Hudson and Berkshire and Housatonic, built a two-stall engine house in town. It was a success. Although going through numerous ownership changes, the little West Stockbridge Railroad remained active until April 1961 when it was closed by its final owner, the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 11/4 Tali Epstein-Santoyo
- 11/9 Edward J. O'Brien
- 11/19 James Hallock, Jr.
- 11/22 Sara Bedini Weaver

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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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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Save the date!

West Stockbridge Sparkles

November 30

Town Government Boards and Commissions, Phone Directory, and Office Hours Town Offices Main Number 413-232-0300 • Fax 232-7195

Animal Control	<i>John W. Springstube</i>	232-0300	ext. 335	As Needed
Assessors Office	<i>Mary Stodden</i>	232-0300	ext. 303	Tues. 1-5 p.m.; Thurs. 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Board of Health	<i>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	
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>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 • Community and Business Website: visitweststockbridge.com

Parks & Recreation News

By *Ginna Dudney*

The Spooktacular

The event, held on October 4 in conjunction with the West Stockbridge Police Department and the Farmers Market, was a hit. Even some raindrops didn't deter the scarecrow building, hayride taking, piñata bashing, pumpkin painting, movie watching, and more. It could not have happened without the generous and enthusiastic assistance of a slew of volunteers—thank you all!

West Stockbridge Sparkles

The holiday festivities are November 30. See the program so you don't miss any of the activities. WS Sparkles needs volunteers, so get your elf on and pitch in—stuff goodie bags or help with the kids waiting in line. Those who are carpentry inclined can help build Santa's structure, and those who aren't can help string lights. Please call (917) 209-0926. It's not terribly time consuming but very important. Participate!

The Playground

Companies have been contacted and invited to survey the property and submit bids based on West Stockbridge's preferences and the dollars available.

Card Pond

The swans have been replaced. They seem to be effective in repelling the geese and even attracted our own live mating pair this past summer. Cameras have been purchased at the suggestion of the police for the beach area. After last summer's vandalism, they will hopefully be helpful in recognizing anyone making future attempts with the goal of apprehending them. Curt Wilton and his ever-efficient highway department will install.

Spooktacular 2018

Photos by Roland Dudney



West Stockbridge
Local Yokel
 P.O. Box 238
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thelocalyokel.org



November 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	

November 2018 Calendar of Events		Date	Event	Time	Location
	11/1	Board of Health meeting	6:30 p.m.	Town Offices	
	11/2	COA David Bates "Celebrating New England"	7 p.m.	Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street	
	11/4	Daylight Savings Time ends (set clocks back 1 hour)			
	11/4	WS Chamber Players Harvest Concert	2 p.m.	Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street	
	11/4	WS Vision Committee public discussion	6 p.m.	Town Offices	
	11/6	Election Day (don't forget to vote!)			
	11/7	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room	
	11/11	Veterans Day			
	11/11	Grange Dinner	1-2 p.m.	Grange Hall, 51 Church Street, Stockbridge	
	11/13	COA Senior Concert & Luncheon	11 a.m.	Monument Mountain Regional High School	
	11/13	American Legion meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices	
	11/14	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room	
	11/15	*** Deadline for the next Local Yokel ***			send to info@thelocalyokel.org
	11/21	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room	
	11/22	Thanksgiving Day			
	11/28	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room	
	11/30	WS Sparkles Holiday Stroll	4-7:30 p.m.	Center Street & WS Congregational Church	