

# Local yokel

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

West  
Stockbridge  
February  
2019



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005



Winter woodland.  
Photo by Emily Weiland



# "We Remember When . . ."

## Growing Up in West Stockbridge in the 1950s

By John Bormolini and Friends



As I talk to others who grew up in West Stockbridge in the 1950s, we all agree there was more snow than there is now, and it was colder for longer periods. Lakes and ponds froze up in early December and thawed out in early March. Also, the snow stayed on the ground for a longer time. The town put up snow fences along roads that were prone to drifting. There was no climate change.

For kids, the most popular outdoor winter activities were ice skating, sledding, and ice fishing. The two ice skating venues were Card Pond adjacent to where the parking lot is today and Korte's Pond behind the fire station. At Card Pond, when the ice was deemed safe, the snow was cleared off by us kids. There was enough room to have a couple of hockey pucks whizzing around. I don't recall if we had store-bought hockey sticks or homemade sticks. But it didn't matter; everyone was having fun. A fire was built on the shoreline for warming up or cooking a few hot dogs.

Korte's Pond was much smaller than Card Pond but still large enough to skate. Mr. and Mrs. Korte let skaters access their pond through their yard. Here too there was a warming fire for all to enjoy. Korte's Pond was quite popular. One of the contributors to this article remembers that she went ice skating there on her first date with a young man from Stockbridge.

There were two sledding locations in town. One was behind my house on Washington Street on a property owned by Vasco Zanconato. It was a perfect hill. There was a slow sledding area and a fast sledding area because

of the drop-off at the top of the hill. A few of us daredevils tried increasing our downhill speed by running with our sled, throwing it down while moving, and plopping on it. The objective was to see who could go the farthest—in some cases even going under a barbed wire fence! Miraculously there were no serious injuries. Competitiveness prevailed until it was time to go home because it was getting too dark and the stars were becoming visible.

The other location was Smachetti Hill above Main Street at the end of Hotel Street, a very popular area for kids and adults who lived closer to the middle of town. Louise Faggioni (Pericolosi) recalled that her mother mentioned others sledding the hill in the 1930s and 1940s—and not just kids.

By all accounts, the 1950s generation of kids (now in their 70s, can you believe it?) did not rely on others to provide entertainment. We were self-starters. We got out there and made the best of circumstances growing up in a small town—West Stockbridge, my hometown.

*[Editor's note: Our correspondent, John Bormolini, is a West Stockbridge "ex-pat," now residing in Kansas, where he is a subscriber to the Local Yokel. John is a graduate of Williams High School in Stockbridge. He says the idea for this column came from a dinner conversation he and his wife Barbara had with friends and classmates when they returned to town for a high school reunion. The series will continue with ice fishing and other remembrances of the winter months in our March issue. Readers who would like to share their stories of 1950s West Stockbridge are invited to e-mail John at johnbormo@aol.com.]*

# 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 190. Residents can receive notification by e-mail of town events and meeting agendas by subscribing at <http://weststockbridgema.virtualltownhall.net/subscriber>].

## December 5, 2018

Open Meeting. Quorum present: Bernie Fallon, Chair; Peter Skorput; Doane Perry. Also present: Administrative Assistant Mark Webber. No press present.

### Annual Tax Classification Hearing

Bernie Fallon opened the annual tax classification hearing for fiscal year 2019. Present were the three elected members of the Board of Assessors (Michelle Laramee, Susan Lupo, and Ed Sporn), the Board of Assessors' clerk (Mary Stodden), and Jeffrey Reynolds of the Regional Resource Group.

Jeffrey gave a presentation laying out the process, timeline, and actions taken to date that are required to set the town's annual tax rate. It was noted that the town's excess levy capacity, the amount that could be raised through property taxation without hitting the levy limit, is \$1,387,419. This enviable position ranks West Stockbridge number 7 of the 351 municipalities statewide in terms of levy capacity as a percentage of maximum levy allowed (23%).

Jeffrey noted that the purpose of the hearing was for the Board of Selectmen to choose a single or split (separate commercial and residential tax rates) tax rate. Historically, West Stockbridge chooses a single rate because a split rate would place an onerous burden on its small number of commercial businesses. Jeffrey concluded his presentation by stating that he expects the Depart-

ment of Revenue to approve the town's paperwork within the next few days. The tax rate is anticipated to be exactly the same as last year: \$12.13.

Peter Skorput made a motion to adopt a single tax rate for fiscal year 2019. Doane Perry seconded the motion. Vote taken, 3-0 in favor. Bernie closed the annual tax classification hearing and thanked the Board of Assessors and staff for their efforts.


### Liquor License Renewals

Board reviewed and acted on the town's six annual liquor license renewal applications. Mark Webber reported that the town collector has confirmed that all license holders are current with taxes and fees. He noted that there have been no violations or any negative reports issued against any of the license holders during the past 12 months. Following a disclosure statement that he is the property owner where one of the liquor license renewals is held by a lessee (Public Market), Bernie recommended approval of all renewals.

### Residential Junk Cars

Board reviewed a list of unregistered autos found on residential properties. Over the past month, West Stockbridge police officers have compiled a list of unregistered vehicles on nonlicensed properties. Bernie noted that the town's junk car bylaw, adopted by the town meeting and approved by the attorney general in 1971, prohibits any unregistered vehicle and parts thereof on residential

...continued on page 4



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property. Bernie added that the selectmen have conducted a review of commercial auto license holders over the past year and that it's been decades since a review and action has taken place on residential junk cars. Board had a general discussion on notification/procedure/fines/timing and expects to finalize actions in the near future.

### **December 26, 2018**

Open Meeting. Quorum present: Bernie Fallon, Chair; Peter Skorput; Doane Perry. Also present: Administrative Assistant Mark Webber. No press was present. Board reviewed and approved previous meeting minutes and weekly warrants.

### **Special Town Meeting Warrant**

Board reviewed the draft warrant for the scheduled January 14, 2019, Special Town Meeting. Mark Webber explained that the Planning Board is still working with town counsel to finalize the town zoning bylaw amendment articles and that the warrant will not be ready for

signing and posting until Monday, January 31, which still meets the required 14-day advance posting requirement. Mark explained that the scope of the articles' language is unchanged from prior versions that the board has reviewed. Changes are limited to structure and language.

### **Used and Junk Autos**

Board reviewed and approved annual auto class II and III licenses as amended from prior years. Mark noted that the town collector notified him that one of the license holders is not current with taxes and/or fees owed to the town. Accordingly, those licenses will be held by the collector until such time as the license holder becomes current.

### **Town Website E-mail**

Bill Barth, member of the town's Cable TV Commission, discussed the idea of setting up an official town website e-mail for cable TV subscribers to submit concerns, comments, complaints, and suggestions to the

...continued on page 5

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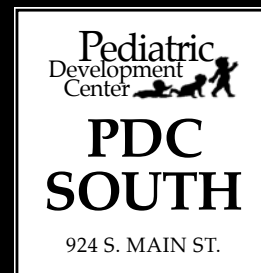
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committee. Board endorsed the idea and suggested that Bill contact the town's website administrator and get the ball rolling.

#### **Other Business/Discussion/Action Items:**

- Board members discussed registration and attendance at the upcoming Mass Municipal Association annual meeting and trade show. Two of the selectmen plan on attending.

#### **January 9, 2019**

Open Meeting. Quorum present: Bernie Fallon, Chair; Peter Skorput; Doane Perry. Also present: Administrative Assistant Mark Webber. No press was present. Meeting was broadcast on local access channel 190. Board reviewed and approved warrants and previous meeting minutes as presented.

#### **Fiscal Year 2020 Budget**

Board reviewed and discussed proposed timeline, actions, and meeting dates specific to the town's fiscal year 2020 budget. Mark Webber noted that FY 2020 budget request forms have been distributed and are to be returned by the February 15, 2019, deadline.

#### **Special Projects**

Bernie Fallon opened a general discussion on special projects and suggested that individual board members focus on one or more special projects of interest to take the lead on over the next few months. Peter Skorput stated that he is interested in finishing up securing the Card Lake Inn parking lot for public parking. Bernie would like to work with Bill Biggs and others to make the town's website the best it can be. Doane Perry supported both projects.

#### **Water/Sewer Bill Concern**

Peter discussed a resident's concern regarding their water/sewer bill. Bernie recommended that the best way

to resolve the matter is to sit down with the resident, a member of the Water/Sewer Commission, the town collector, and perhaps one of the selectmen to discuss and come up with a resolution.

#### **Monument Mountain Regional High School**

Resident Roger Kavanaugh, who is on the committee addressing the future building and educational needs of Monument Mt. High School, reported that the Berkshire Hills Regional School District submittal to the state's School Building Authority will not be considered for the current funding round but will be resubmitted for next year's funding cycle.

#### **Junk Car Letters**

Board approved the West Stockbridge Police Department (WSPD) compiled list of 25 junk car letters that will be hand-delivered to residents who are in violation of the town's junk car bylaw. It was noted and agreed to that residents who might either question or object to receiving a letter will have the opportunity to state their case to the Southern Berkshire District Court's clerk magistrate because there is no appeal process with either the Board of Selectmen or the WSPD.

#### **Other Business/Discussion/Action Items:**

- Board reviewed and discussed the warrant articles for the following week's Special Town Meeting.
- Mark noted that he has been in contact with the town's IT provider for a quote to install security cameras in and around the Town Offices.
- Mark will contact the state's Green Communities regional contact Jim Barry to set up a presentation on the program for a future meeting with the selectmen and the Planning Board. □



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](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org), or visit [www.thelocalyokel.org](http://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](mailto:john.j.parker53@gmail.com); **Vicki Grayson**, 232-6131, [vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com](mailto:vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com); **Susan Fisher**, 232-4443, [suefish12@gmail.com](mailto:suefish12@gmail.com); **Anne Lesser**, 232-8577, [anne@annelessercommunications.com](mailto:anne@annelessercommunications.com); Designer: **Kim Bradway**, [kim@bloominarts.com](mailto:kim@bloominarts.com).

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





*Thank You,  
West Stockbridge!*

## *Santa's Wish List Donations*

In our December issue, the *Local Yokel* included an appeal for donations to nine West Stockbridge organizations. The total received was \$8,005. We thank all those who gave so generously to these important community groups that work very hard to make West Stockbridge such a special place to live. Here are the totals by organization:

Community Health Association: \$490

Friends of the Library: \$1,125

*Local Yokel*: \$1,605

Pet Partners of the Tri-State Berkshires: \$150

West Stockbridge Beautification: \$885

West Stockbridge Farmers Market: \$680

West Stockbridge Fire & Rescue: \$2,080

West Stockbridge Historical Society: \$990

**TOTAL GIVING: \$8,005**

### **February History Quiz Question:**

Health care in small rural areas has always been a problem and West Stockbridge is no exception. The town in the 19th century had its share of quarry and lime kiln accidents, epidemics, diseases, and childbirth complications. The town occasionally had a resident doctor but relied more on help from Stockbridge or Pittsfield. By 1915, the town was able to have a full-time local physician who everyone liked (an important attribute). Unfortunately, he died in the 1918 Spanish flu epidemic in a military camp in Kansas, and the town was again without a resident doctor.

Over the next few years various doctors came and went to the consternation of the town. Finally, the selectmen decided to remedy this problem. How did they do 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](mailto:info@weststockbridgehistory.org) or call 232-4270.



**West Stockbridge  
Historical Society**  
Incorporated in 1994



Over 100 registered voters attended the Special Town Meeting. Photo by Vicki Grayson

## Special Town Meeting Wrap-Up

*By John Parker*

Over a hundred registered voters came out on a cold winter's night on January 14 for what turned out to be a two-hour marathon meeting. The unusual turnout was likely due to the first article on the warrant, a zoning bylaw amendment regulating future medicinal and adult recreational marijuana business activity in town. (No marijuana operations have as yet been proposed for West Stockbridge.) However, it was a zoning bylaw amendment on solar power installations that generated the most heated discussion at the meeting.

Voters approved new zoning rules on medicinal and adult recreational marijuana uses by a substantial margin. The rules identify locations in town where marijuana retail and cultivation activities may be conducted. Such businesses will require a special permit issued by the Planning Board, good for 3 years initially and 10 years upon renewal. Additional regulations limit the size and scope of permitted activities. No more than one special permit will be granted by the town for the retail sale of medical marijuana, and no more than one for adult recreational use. Additional rules seek to ensure there is no negative impact of marijuana-related uses on adjoining properties.

After lengthy and, at times, spirited debate, voters approved new bylaws regulating new ground-mounted and rooftop solar energy installations. However, voters added an amendment raising the special permit threshold from 10 kW to 25 kW for "small" systems that are allowed in all zones. All ground-mounted solar systems require a special permit, but rooftop systems may be installed in any zone without a permit.

The zoning bylaws as adopted will now be sent to the state attorney general for review and approval. The remaining routine financial measures in the warrant were approved by voters without discussion. These included funding for closing costs on the purchase of the Moscow Road parcel with parking space and public rest rooms, wastewater treatment plant upgrades, a portable speed trailer for the Police Department, supplementary funds for a new police cruiser, and transfer of funds from water and sewer operations to the general fund.

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work on pieces with other artists?  
chat about art?  
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This is your chance to encourage your creativity. These sessions are free and open to the public. Bring your own art supplies including dropcloths. Bring photos or still lives to inspire!

Mark your calendars! Please RSVP to save your place. Each session will be open to the first twenty people, free of charge. Stay for an hour or all three. The sessions are inspired by an idea which Alexandra Benton proposed last year and which Karen Farkas heard about in another area with lots of artists. If they are successful we will to continue to have them on the second or third Wednesday evenings 6-9 pm. Painting is limited to the area with the linoleum flooring with dropcloths. Some artists draw or paint each other.

Come join the fun. RSVP to save a spot [alexandrabenton.art@gmail.com](mailto:alexandrabenton.art@gmail.com)  
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090544a5a72ca7fa7-artist>

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# Need a Lift? The Latest on the Old Town Hall Renovation

*By Bob Salerno*



*Rear of Old Town Hall showing structure housing elevator and walkway from upper parking lot. Photo by John Parker*

When we started the Old Town Hall renovation eight years ago, we set our renovation goals to bring the building into compliance with modern building codes and to meet the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility requirements. We really didn't have much choice because without those improvements, we couldn't legally use the space. The plans included installation of ADA bathrooms, elevator access to the second floor, and modern infrastructure and systems. All this had to be done under the new state building code that mandates a highly energy-efficient structure.



*Bay State Elevator is installing the elevator required for ADA compliance. Photo by Bob Salerno*

Last spring, the rear extension shell was built that will hold the elevator, three new bathrooms, and an additional means of access and egress from the second floor. (The exterior siding won't be applied until late spring.) The internal masonry core for the elevator had to be in place before any other work could be done as it is the central structure for everything. The masons couldn't work in the cold weather last March, so everything was backed up. But eventually the work was done.

Installing the elevator is an interesting experience. National Grid required us to pay for a new pole and transformer across the street and wiring into the building. We learned that the plumbing and electric in the building was "historic," that is, not up to commercial building codes. The power panel in the building was out of date, and the plumbing in the crawl space looked like it was left over from someone's garage. All this had to be corrected before the elevator work could begin. But on January 2, Bay State Elevator began the elevator installation, and by the first week of March we expect to have a fully functional elevator. The doorway to the second-floor lobby will be next, then building and elevator inspections, and, hopefully, the elevator will be open for use in April.

As you might imagine, all this work is very expensive. We obtained grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Fitzpatrick Family Trust to pay for part of the cost, and our members and donors have covered a large part of the expense. Although more work remains to be done (e.g., bathrooms and walkways), we are extremely proud of what we have accomplished thus far. As we raise additional funds we will move forward to create a central community building that the whole town can be proud of.



*Elevator providing access to second floor is expected to be ready for use by April. Photo by Bob Salerno*

# February Art Calendar

**First Fridays Artswalk** Fri. Feb. 1, 5-8pm. Pittsfield, North and South Streets. [www.firstfridaysartwalk.com](http://www.firstfridaysartwalk.com)

**First Sunday at Clark Museum.** Sun. Feb. 3, 10am-5pm. The first Sundays of the month are free Oct. to May. We carpool.

**Art seminars, Demonstration, and Business Meeting.** Wed. Feb. 6, 4:00pm. Demonstration arranged by Adrian Holmes. 5-6:00. Guild Meeting to plan exhibits and events for the winter, Community Room Town Hall, 21 Stateline Road (Route 102) West Stockbridge

**Photo Explorers.** Join Carole Quinn on Fri. Feb. 8 at Chocolate Springs at 8:30 am. for coffee. Explore the area together. 55 Pittsfield Rd. (Rt. 7/20) Lenox. Fri. Feb. 22 at 8:30, RSVP for location

**Encaustic workshop and work session.** Changed to Sat. Feb. 9, 11-4pm \$65 for beginners workshop. Or @\$15 an hour for those who have already taken the course. We carpool to Kingston. Contact RF Paints ASAP to be waitlisted for this workshop 845-331-3112. Call Carol Kelly to plan trip together [carolgoodkelly@gmail.com](mailto:carolgoodkelly@gmail.com) (413-551-7309).

**Art Together.** Wed. Feb. 13, 6-9pm. Bring art you want to start, 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: [AlexandraBenton.art@gmail.com](mailto:AlexandraBenton.art@gmail.com)

**Positive Critique.** Th. Feb. 14, 4-6pm. Bring 2-3 pieces of your art. WS Town Hall. RSVP required and reading

**Members' Potluck.** Sat Feb. 24 or Fri. Feb. 23, 5-7:30pm in Stockbridge. Bring main dish, hors d'oeuvres or dessert for ten and what YOU want to drink. Partners welcome. RSVP:

**Berkshire Photo Gathering.** Sun. February 24, 2-4 p.m. \$5. Berkshire South Regional Comm. Center, 15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230 Put Photos on website to share.

## Guild of Berkshire Artists

RSVP: [BerkshireArtists@gmail.com](mailto:BerkshireArtists@gmail.com)

[BerkshireArtists.org](http://BerkshireArtists.org) See Facebook & Instagram

## Recent Works



Susan Pettee



Stephanie Cohen



Bruce Pancock



Margareta Thaute



Barbara Shea Tracy



Amy Butterworth

## Join us learning how to and making art together:

**Classical Drawing:** DVD course and practice: Mondays beginning Jan.7, 14,18 1-4. Chair: Gail Oswald. Bring paper and pencil. West Stockbridge (WS) Community Room (CR), 21 Stateline Rd. Rt. 102 WS.

**Long pose Figure/Portrait Painting and Drawing:** Open Studio. Tuesdays in February. IS 183, Stockbridge. \$20 members, \$25 nonmembers. Bring your supplies. RSVP 413-298-5252x100.

**Art Together.** Wed. Feb.13, 6-9pm. Bring art you want to start, finish, get advice, try out a new process or technique. Informal chance to do art together for fun! WS CR, 21 Stateline Road. Rt. 102. You must rsvp: [AlexandraBenton.art@gmail.com](mailto:AlexandraBenton.art@gmail.com) \*

# Free Playgroup Offered Mondays at the Town Offices Gymnasium

By John Parker

Parents: Is cabin fever setting in for you and your child under age 5? Are you looking for something fun and active? Community Health Program (CHP) is offering "WS Gym Fun," a free weekly playgroup this winter at the Town Offices Gymnasium on Mondays from 10 a.m. to noon.

According to CHP, playgroups are beneficial for both children and parents. As children play and interact with other children, they learn language, empathy, creativity, and physical coordination. Parents can informally socialize, share the experiences of being a parent, and learn ways to help their children build the skills they will need to grow and succeed.

WS Gym Fun is led by Jeanne Bassis, a gifted and enthusiastic educator with a master's degree in special education, who for more than 25 years has worked with children and adults to bring the healing power of play into their lives.

WS Gym Fun is scheduled to run weekly on Mondays through May.

For more information, visit the CHP website  
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## **Friends of the West Stockbridge Library Scrapbook Corner**

1. When was the first Zucchini Festival?
2. What is the name of the program that grows organic fruits and vegetables for all the Berkshire Hills Regional School District?
3. What longtime Berkshire Hills Regional School Committee member retired in 2010?
4. A West Stockbridge resident was killed when a small plane went down near the state line. Who was she?

*Answers: 1. August 2004, 2. Project Sprout, 3. Carol Kullen,  
4. Margaret "Peg" Noonan*

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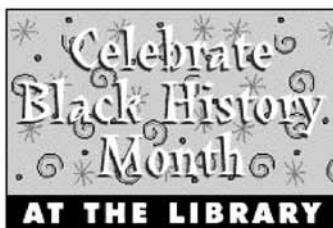




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TUESDAY 10am-5pm | WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY 2-6pm | SATURDAY 10am-2pm



Greetings to all from Vicky, Brad, and Rachel at the WSPL. We look forward to welcoming you at the library during this chilly month as we celebrate Black History Month, the Chinese New Year Spring Festival, and, last but not least, Valentine's Day! Do you need a book about any of these subjects? Come see us!

A lot has been going on at the library: users have been enjoying the opportunity to stop in to use the computers to get all kinds of things done. Our volunteer computer wizard Bill Biggs has been busy conducting a course about using iPads. Our wonderful Friends of the West Stockbridge Library held a very successful crossword puzzle event with author Michelle Arnot.



**NEW DVDs** *Won't You Be My Neighbor? Adrift; The Affair*; season 1 and 2 (we have season 3); *The Americans* (the complete final season); *The Miniaturist*; *Crazy Rich Asians*

## NEW ADULT FICTION

Buckley, *The Relic Master*  
Chevalier, *The Virgin Blue*  
Diamond, *Live to Tape*  
Gratton, *The Lost Sun*  
Houghteling, *Pictures at an Exhibition*  
Jepson, *All the Flowers of Shanghai*  
Kohn, *The Gilded Chamber*  
Mayhew, *The Dry Grass of August*  
Rash, *Serena*

Patterson, *Woman of God*  
Wharton, *Glimpses of the Moon*

## NEW ADULT NONFICTION

Gwynne, *Empire of the Summer Moon*  
Masson, *When Elephants Weep*

## NEW CHILDREN'S AUDIOBOOKS

Lowry, *The Giver*

## NEW YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Andersen, *Andersen's Fairy Tales*  
Hunter (three more titles from three of the *Warriors* series): *The Fourth Apprentice (Omen of the Stars)*; *Fading Echoes (Power of Three)*; *Sunrise (Power of Three)*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Ongoing

- \* For everyone with an online CW/MARS account (see below), we hope you will take advantage of the app called Libby to listen to audiobooks and read eBooks on your phone or tablet. Here is the picture you'll see when you look for the app. Librarians are very happy to help you set this up when you bring in your phone or tablet.
- \* 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, overdue 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 the library website for our next meeting.
- \* We have day passes for 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, Brad Havill



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## WEST STOCKBRIDGE WANTS DOCTOR, BUT REFUSES TO SUBSIDIZE HIM

*If He Is a Good Mixer and Will Keep Out of Politics, He Can Do Well  
Though the Town Is Proud of Its Healthfulness*

WEST STOCKBRIDGE, a town of 1058 inhabitants, high up in the Berkshires on the New York state boundary line, wants a doctor as a permanent institution, but isn't quite ready to subsidize one. The question came up in article 12 of the town meeting warrant and action was indefinitely postponed when Charles W. Kniffin, civil war veteran and merchant of 60 years standing, said it would be illegal for the town to appropriate money to induce a physician to locate there.

The leading townspeople now say that the right sort of a doctor needs no subsidy to get a good living in West Stockbridge. Experience has shown that he must not dabble in local politics, that he must be a clever mixer, although there is practically no aristocracy in the town; a willing to keep company with the wise at all times of the year, carry a snowshovel when necessary in winter, attend the dances when business is dull and be a good sport.



LEFT, WILLIAM H. STANTON; RIGHT, WILLIAM W. BARTLETT, SELECTMEN WHO TRIED TO GET WEST STOCKBRIDGE TO SUBSIDIZE A PHYSICIAN

had to be recorded among the deaths of the town not been good mixers; some have been perhaps too busy. Personally I don't

burned on the face with boiling soup. The family telephoned to Houghton and a doctor came eight miles through big snowdrifts to relieve suffering."

James S. Moore, civil war veteran retired druggist, who for 46 years filled the pill boxes and vials of the region also spoke plainly to the voters, saying: "When we had a good doctor like Hubert in the town didn't patronize him but invariably called one from Pittsfield or Great Barrington. Everybody liked Hub, but that didn't help him get a living unless he was employed as a doctor. If we had been more like the good men we have had in the past we wouldn't be asked to subsidize one now."

Mr. Brown then moved that action on article 12 be postponed indefinitely, it was so voted unanimously.

### Postmaster Receives Inquiries

Postmaster Michael E. Troy, who runs the village drug store and is one of the most popular young men in town is confident West Stockbridge will at last have a real live doctor, for he already has received a number of inquiries about the situation. Some of his letters

From Boston Herald, February 13, 1921. Courtesy of Bob Salerno

By the early 1920s, West Stockbridge had a "problem" in the medical business. There wasn't enough business for a physician to make a living. Industry was faltering, accidents were declining, and the population was getting healthier. Also, people were used to going to Pittsfield or Stockbridge, and travel was less of an obstacle to visit a personal doctor. The town went through four doctors in three years.

In 1920, the Board of Selectmen decided to ask the voters to approve a warrant for the town to subsidize a resident physician with a \$100 stipend. It was voted down, in part on a question of its legality.

According to a recently discovered 1921 *Boston Herald* article, the town advertised for a resident doctor. The ad showed some unique requirements that might have limited the responses: "The resident doctor must be the right kind—a clever mixer who does not dabble in local politics. He must be willing to keep company at all times of the year, carry a snow-shovel when necessary, attend dances when business is dull and be a good sport." There is no mention of medical qualifications or skills.

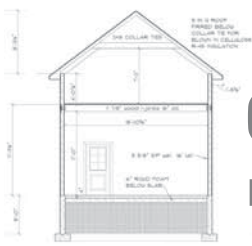
The town did not have a full-time resident doctor until 1931 when Dr. William Persing moved here. He was a popular family physician with his office in town and took care of many families until his death in 1966. Although we have many physicians who now live in town, there are no local offices. Nor do we know if they attend dances and carry snow shovels.



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, e-mail to [info@thelocalyokel.org](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org), or visit [www.thelocalyokel.org](http://www.thelocalyokel.org)



# On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky

## As Exciting as Watching Paint Dry

Steven Wright said, “It’s a small world, but I wouldn’t want to paint it.” Also, it would be really hard to know *which kind* of paint to use. There’s just so many choices. Let’s talk about interior paint because that’s what I’m up to at this point in the new house.

People have been painting interior walls for a very long time. Red ochre hand prints were all the rage on cave walls 40,000 years ago. But we’ve come a long way since then. Really.

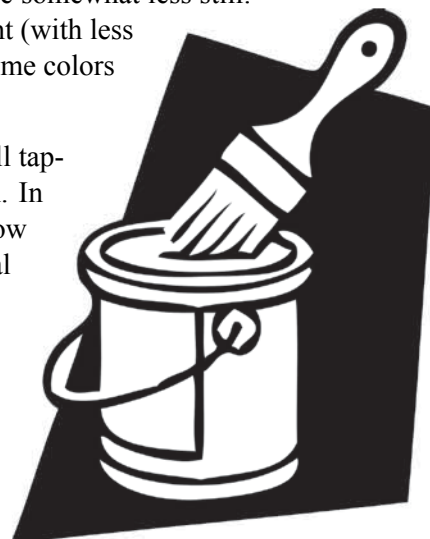
The most popular kind of paint for interior use is latex, which refers to the rubber originally used to form the solid membrane on the wall. Nowadays, a suspension of polymer microparticles made of acrylic or polyvinyl is used instead of rubber. This base carries the color and is washable and relatively durable. The solvent that carries the body of the paint is water, an improvement over the volatile thinners that are used in oil paint. Latex paints dry quickly and don’t give off nasty odors—volatile organic compounds (VOCs). And latex paint makes cleaning brushes, rollers, and spray equipment much easier.

OK, so we’re using latex (or latex acrylic) paint. Now what *color*? A recent *New Yorker* magazine Talk of the Town piece discusses the work of a color consultant. Benjamin Moore, one of the most popular brands, has *164 versions of white*! Sound overly fussy? Actually, there is a noticeable difference between some of these whites and a subtle psychological effect on us depending on what we’re surrounded with. There are “warmer” tones (tending toward the red end of the spectrum) and “cooler” (toward the blue end). (Slight detour: it’s just the opposite with color “temperatures” for lighting. See my “On the Home Front” article from March 2018. You can read archives of *Local Yokel* issues online at [locallyokel.org](http://locallyokel.org)!)

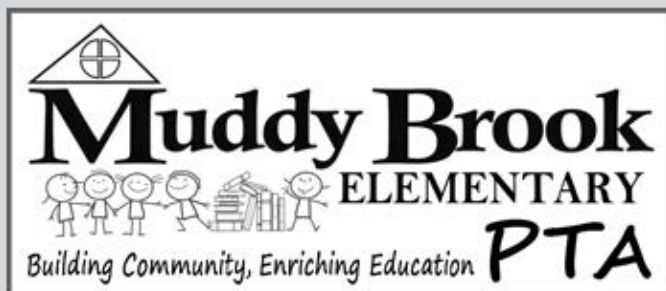
Then there’s *sheen*, that is, how much light is reflected off the surface. Sheen choices range from flat or matte, eggshell (slightly more reflectivity and subtle texture), satin, semigloss, and high gloss. The more reflective the sheen, the more durable the surface. That’s why woodwork that is often handled is usually painted with semigloss or gloss, and why ceilings are typically done with flat or matte.

*Cost* is another aspect of paint choice. And the cost of quality paint has almost doubled in the past 20 years! Expect to pay \$50/gallon for a custom color in an eggshell sheen from Benjamin Moore or Pittsburgh. Sherwin Williams, another good quality paint company, is slightly less. Glidden and Behr paints sold at Home Depot are somewhat less still. But designer paints out there are well over \$100/gallon. Generally, using a cheaper paint (with less pigment) means having to do multiple coats, eliminating the savings per gallon. And some colors require several coats to cover.

Surface preparation is key to an excellent paint job! That means a really careful drywall taping job, a good quality primer coat, sanding and filling nail holes on trim, and so on. In remodel situations, you might need to do some wall repairs as well. Depending on how fussy you are, this step can be very time consuming, and, if you’re using a professional painter, expensive—but well worth it.



*Questions and comments can be sent to [info@locallyokel.org](mailto:info@locallyokel.org).*



### Rewards for Muddy Brook

Clip and save Box Tops coupons from more than 330 participating products including Annie's, Nature Valley, Cheerios, Cascadian Farms, Ziploc, Lysol, and more. Each coupon is worth 10 cents when redeemed. Last year we earned over \$2,000 in Box Tops alone, and we're hoping to exceed that this year. Mail Box Tops to Muddy Brook Regional Elementary School PTA, 318 Monument Valley Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

### Muddy Brook Spirit Wear

T-shirts are 100% cotton. Sweatshirts are cotton/poly pullover hoodies. Both are blue with MB the coyote. E-mail us to place an order! [Muddybrookpta@gmail.com](mailto:Muddybrookpta@gmail.com)

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**MUD DAY SAVE THE DATE:** This year marks the 10th year of our annual Mud Day event. Join us on Saturday, May 18, 2019, from noon to 4 p.m. for fun in the mud!

Please join fellow parents and teachers in making this year very special for the students of Muddy Brook.

Like us on Facebook for other upcoming events:  
[www.facebook.com/muddybrookelempto](http://www.facebook.com/muddybrookelempto)

E-mail us with any questions:  
[muddybrookpta@gmail.com](mailto:muddybrookpta@gmail.com).

**Thank you for your continued support!**

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Keep the *Local Yokel* coming.  
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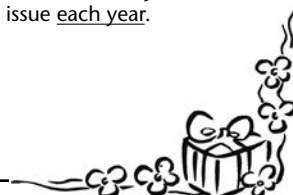
## Birthdays & Anniversaries

2/11 Anne Lesser

2/22 JoAnne C. Ellis

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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## 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, February 10, the Stockbridge Grange will serve a family-style stuffed breast of chicken 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. Take-outs available. Call first if the weather is “iffy”: 298-3185.

### Council on Aging Potluck

The next Council on Aging potluck luncheon will be held at noon on Tuesday, February 12, in the Town Offices Community Room. Avoid cabin fever—come have lunch with us!

### West Stockbridge Congregational Church

You bring the talent, and we’ll provide the food! A Teen Talent Show will be held at the West Stockbridge Congregational Church UCC, 45 Main Street, on March 1 beginning at 7 p.m. This event is sponsored by a regional youth ministry called Bless Up! that seeks to bring teens together around matters of faith, fun, and service. If you have a talent you’d like to share, give Pastor Patty Fox a call at (908) 938-2481, or just come and enjoy the show. Chef Marianna Morrison will be providing a delicious meal for us. Join us for a night of feasting and fun.

*Send your notices for Community News & Events to The Local Yokel, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266, e-mail [info@thelocalyokel.org](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org), or visit [thelocalyokel.org](http://thelocalyokel.org).*

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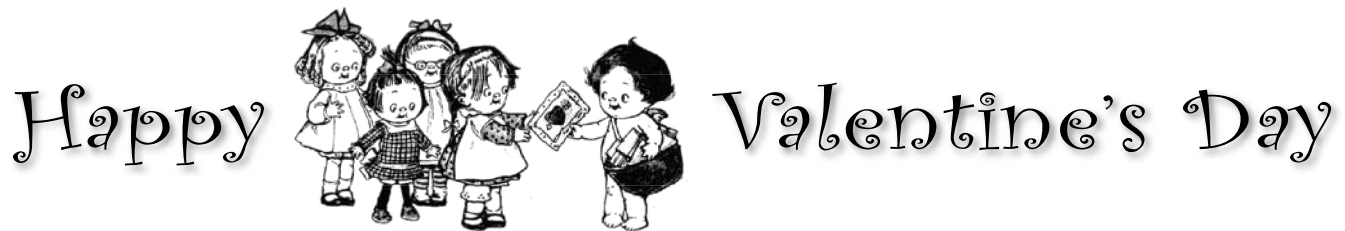
## Winter Parking Ban

The "Winter Parking Ban" is in effect from November 1, 2018 to April 30, 2019 between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. for all streets in West Stockbridge. Violations of this ban may result in a \$25 fine for parking in prohibited areas, or a \$50 fine for impeding snow removal. In addition, if the vehicle is impeding snow removal, it may be towed at the owner's expense.

The Municipal parking lot across from the Public Market and the parking area on Moscow Road where the public bathrooms are may be used for overnight off street parking. However, vehicles in those lots must be moved by 8:00 a.m. to allow the Department of Public Works to manage snow and ice removal.

Persons having questions about off street parking or the Winter off-street parking ban can call Mark Webber, Town Administrator at 413-232-0300 Extension 319.

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Tel.: 232-8544 Fax: 232-7068



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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	
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](http://weststockbridge-ma.gov) • Community and Business Website: [visitweststockbridge.com](http://visitweststockbridge.com)

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By Vicki Grayson

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- Or go to smile.amazon.com and, on your first visit, select the charitable organization you want the foundation to donate to before you start shopping. It will remember your selection. You can change the charity at any time.
- Eligible products are marked "eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages.
- The donation will be 0.5% of the item price excluding shipping and handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges.
- Because the AmazonSmile Foundation makes the donations, they are not tax deductible by you.

More detailed information about the program is available at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). We greatly appreciate the wonderful support the *Local Yokel* receives from our community and hope that you will participate in this new way.



## The *Local Yokel* meets the 21st Century!

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 more!

**[thelocalyokel.org](http://thelocalyokel.org)**





West Stockbridge  
**Local Yokel**

P.O. Box 238  
 West Stockbridge, MA  
 01266

**thelocalyokel.org**



**February 2019**

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		

**February 2019 Calendar of Events**

2/2	Groundhog Day		
2/6	Knitters & More	2–4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
2/6	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
2/7	Board of Health meeting	6:30 p.m.	Town Offices
2/10	Grange dinner	1–2 p.m.	Grange Hall, 51 Church St., Stockbridge
2/12	COA luncheon	12 noon	Town Offices Community Room
2/12	American Legion meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
2/13	Knitters & More	2–4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
2/13	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
2/14	Valentine's Day		
2/15	*** Deadline for the next Local Yokel ***		send to <a href="mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org">info@thelocalyokel.org</a>
2/18	President's Day		
2/20	Knitters & More	2–4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
2/20	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
2/27	Knitters & More	2–4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
2/27	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
3/1	Teen Talent Show	7 p.m.	W.S. Congregational Church