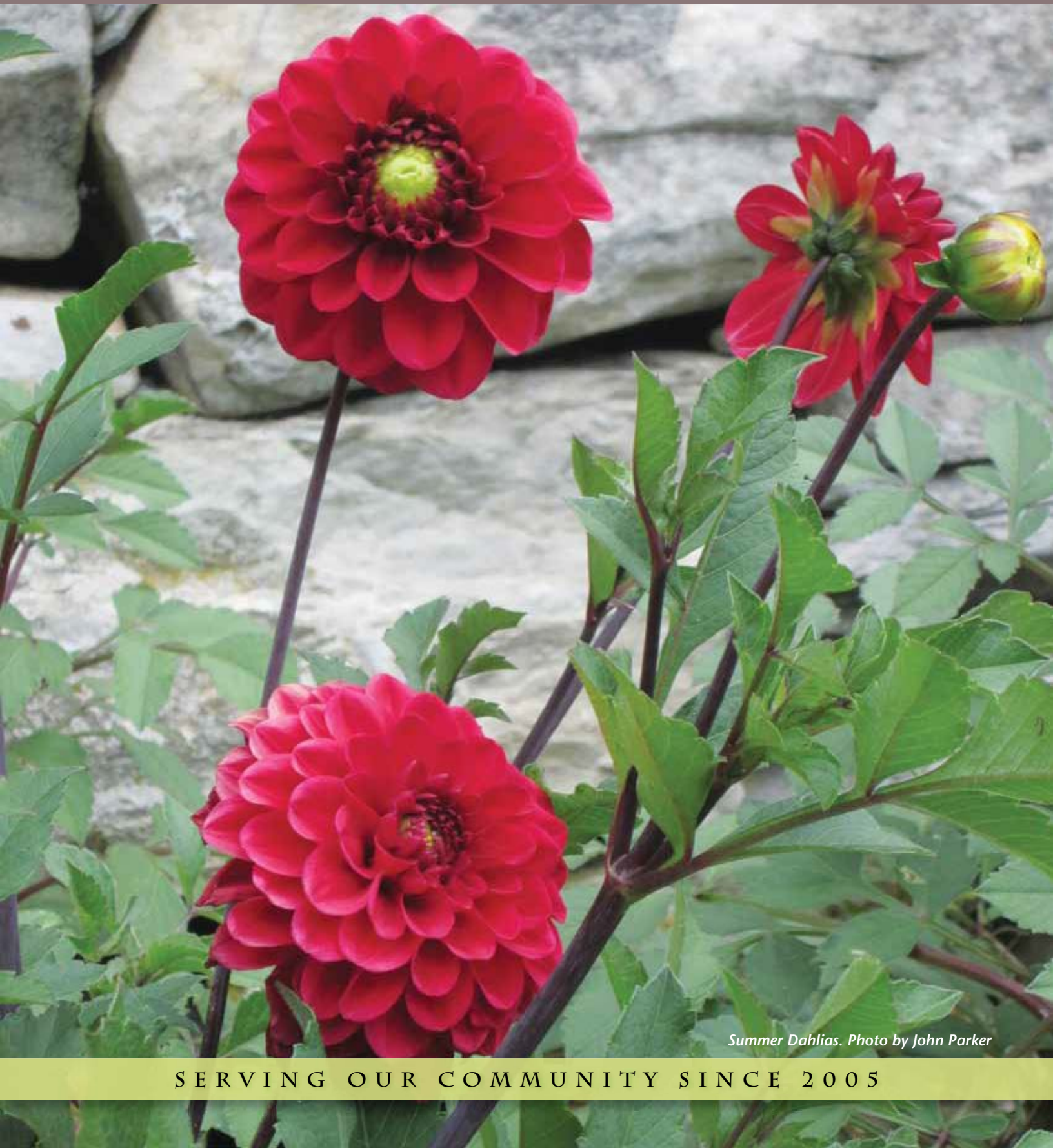


Local yokel

West
Stockbridge
August 2019

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



Summer Dahlias. Photo by John Parker

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005



Chef Brian Alberg (at center) with Tap House staff



Dining room



Chicken wings



The bar

The Tap House at Shaker Mill

By John Parker

Residents and visitors to West Stockbridge once again have another option for dining out in town. On June 1, The Tap House at Shaker Mill opened its doors in the space previously occupied by the Shaker Mill Tavern Family Smoke House, the Shaker Mill Tavern, and (going back a few more years) the Square Rigger.

The Tap House is the latest venture of Brian Alberg, master chef and vice president of culinary development for Main Street Hospitality Group, the company that owns and operates Stockbridge's historic Red Lion Inn, The Porches Inn in North Adams, Hotel on North in Pittsfield, and Race Brook Lodge in Sheffield. According to Alberg, the business will be partly owned by employees in partnership with Main Street Hospitality Group.

Asked why he chose West Stockbridge, Alberg explained, "I felt it fell in line with our philosophy of having restaurants rooted in community and that it was the perfect location and a growing town through food and arts," citing as examples Six Depot, Turn Park, The Foundry, along with other new businesses and attractions in town. Alberg also observed that the culinary division's growing seasonal cafés at Hancock Shaker Village, The Mount, Norman Rockwell Museum, and Shakespeare and Co., as well as Main Street Catering and Events, would all benefit from a venue that is open year-round.

Alberg's vision for The Tap House is "a place where people can come and eat and drink without a pretentious menu or New York prices—a place where people feel welcomed and relaxed." The bar list runs the gamut from \$2 PBR drafts to local microbrews, and the menu features "sloppy wings," burgers, shrimp and grits, campfire trout, grilled New York strip steak, and nightly specials from \$8 to \$30. Alberg says customer faves so far include the Tap That Burger (a cheeseburger with maple-cured bacon and Barrington Brewery ale-battered onion rings), shrimp and grits, clams casino, and the nightly specials.

The Tap House seats 80 indoors and another 60 outdoors, and plans are afoot to include live music. The restaurant is open 5 to 9 on Mondays, 5 to 9:30 on Thursdays, 5 to 10 on Fridays, noon to 10 on Saturdays, noon to 9 on Sundays, and is closed Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Reservations are accepted for parties of 8 or more at 5 and 5:30, or 8 p.m. and later.

All photos by Jesse Tobin McCauley

Select Board 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. Select Board 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>].

June 12, 2019

Open Meeting. Quorum present: Bernie Fallon, Chair; Doane Perry; Eric Shimelonis. Also present: Town Administrator Mark Webber. No press present.

Board reviewed and approved previous meeting minutes, warrants, payroll, and vendors.

Appointment of New Library Trustees

Library trustee Sue Coxon sought board approval to appoint two current library trustee members due to pending retirement: Kristin Piasecki would replace Sue Coxon, and Andrew Potter would replace Gail Garrick. Sue noted that the town is fortunate to have two willing and engaged residents to step up and fill the vacancies. Following a discussion, Bernie Fallon made a motion to accept Sue's recommendations and nominated Kristin Piasecki and Andrew Potter to fill the vacancies. Doane Perry seconded the motion. Vote taken, 3-0 in favor.

Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Curt Wilton attended the meeting for a general/initial discussion on transforming/expanding his and the Highway Department's roles into a more comprehensive Department of Public Works (DPW).

Curt noted that the timing is right to consider some changes. Concerns have been expressed about the general care and condition of the town cemeteries, and sadly both the recent leaders of the Parks and Recreation Committee recently died. The draft model would have the highway superintendent become the superintendent of public works. That person would then have daily/direct oversight of highway operations; cemetery maintenance and improvements; transfer station maintenance and repairs; buildings and grounds maintenance and repairs; and parks and recreation maintenance and repairs.

Mark Webber noted that Curt's department and current staff are doing a lot of this work anyway, and forming a DPW would only formalize current practice and increase efficiency. Curt does not recommend involving the sewer and water operations into the discussion because they are distinct from town departments. They rely on enterprise funds and are governed by a board of water and sewer commissioners.

Board members all expressed support for continuing the discussion toward forming a DPW. Curt will do some more research and noted that he has a large file from a prior initiative several years back.

Other Business/Action/Discussion Items:

- Board reviewed and signed a special town meeting warrant to be held on June 26.
- Mark noted that he had met with incoming town administrator Marie Ryan several times and that he has a good feeling about the transition.
- Eric Shimelonis noted that he attended a recent Finance Committee meeting and among the suggestions discussed was to hire a consultant to investigate future capital/building needs at the wastewater treatment facility and the highway garage/fire station.
- Eric informed the board that he has researched security cameras for the Village School/Police Department and will formalize a proposal that will come in at far less expense than previous quotes and will be a better system. Board thanked Eric for his work.

...continued on page 5

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Introducing Your New Town Administrator: Marie Ryan

by Eric Shimelonis

The role of town administrator is the keystone of a small-town government. We've been very lucky to have Mark Webber holding up the arch that is West Stockbridge for the past 22 years, and we congratulate him on his retirement. After a comprehensive search by a special committee and by the Select Board, we're fortunate to have found Mark's replacement right in our own backyard.

Meet Our New Town Administrator— And Highly Qualified Keystone—Marie Ryan.

Marie grew up in neighboring Housatonic, in the house where she still lives. Her career started in the region's well-known paper industry, where she worked for a decade. However, as those factories shut down, her future became unclear. It was at this point that a friend suggested she apply for an open clerk position in Great Barrington. She got the job and quickly discovered that she loved the work of coordinating a town hall and serving the community. Twelve years later, and with additional professional experience in Richmond, she has established a reputation for excellence and flawless customer service.

Marie has three children, and the whole family shares a fondness for sports. She especially enjoys golf but can rarely find the time with her commitment to her job, not to mention a strong involvement with the Massachusetts Town Clerks Association. Marie looks forward to putting her skills and experience to work for you—and you can look forward to that too!



*New town administrator Marie Ryan.
Photo by Eric Shimelonis*

A promotional poster for a play. The background is dark with a silhouette of a person with arms outstretched towards a bright light source. The text is white and includes the Bazaar Productions logo, the dates August 8-18, the title 'The TEAM's PARTICULARLY IN THE HEARTLAND', a description of the play, the director's name, and the venue information for The Foundry.

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With all regular business satisfied, Bernie made a motion to go into four separate executive sessions and not to return to open session as follows:

- Executive session per MGL Chapter 30Am Section 21(a)(2)...” to conduct collective bargaining or contract negotiations”
- Executive session per MGL Chapter 30Am Section 21(a)(2)...” to conduct collective bargaining or contract negotiations”
- Executive session per MGL Chapter 30Am Section 21(a)(3)...” to discuss strategy with respect to litigation ...”
- Executive session per MGL Chapter 30Am Section 21(a)(3)...” to discuss strategy with respect to litigation ...”

Eric seconded the motion. Voice vote was taken, and all three members of the Select Board voted aye.

July 10, 2019

Open Meeting. Quorum present: Bernie Fallon, Chair; Doane Perry; Eric Shimelonis. Also present: Town Administrator Marie Ryan. No press present.

Board reviewed and approved warrants, payroll, and vendor.

Vision Committee

Joe Roy Jr. of the Vision Committee gave an update on the committee. They have taken Eric off as a member and would like to add two additional members. He asked the board if they had any suggestions who may be interested in joining the committee. Bernie Fallon recommended Liz Digrigoli. Joe will come back to the board in the near future with recommendations for appointments to the committee.

Other Business/Action/Discussion Items:

- Marie Ryan gave an update on the liquor license for Shaker Mill Dam Coffeehouse. She stated that Kim Hubbard had the investigator there doing the inspection that day and things were progressing.
- Marie asked the board if they wanted to have Senator Hinds’ office continue with the process of working on the legislation for the shared town administrator with Richmond. All the board members agreed to continue with the process.
- Marie gave an update on the Moscow Road/National Grid property. National Grid recently sent an e-mail suggesting they will have paperwork completed by the end of the week.
- The board signed the agreement for the purchase of the shared excavator with Richmond.
- Eric noted that the deadline for the Green Communities application is October 1. He said that he met with the Planning Board, and they are ready to go after a special town meeting to accept the stretch code and new zoning for solar. The board agreed to have a special town meeting on September 18, 2019, for this purpose.

- Eric stated when he met with the Planning Board that they discussed the downtown and possibly some landscaping and banners across Main Street. Mark Webber confirmed that National Grid owns the poles on Main Street, and they won’t allow the town to attach banners. Eric said maybe they can find a way to hang some banners in the future.
- Eric mentioned he thought the new website looks great but would like all the mentions of the Board of Selectmen changed to Select Board.
- Eric brought up the fact that even though the board has had conversations regarding junk cars in town, there still is an issue. Bernie asked Marie to look into what would be the next legal steps to get this issue taken care of. Doane Perry agreed.
- Doane stated that he spoke with Highway Superintendent Curt Wilton after a water main break, and they agreed the town really needs to work on a capital plan for infrastructure in the near future. Doane asked that this subject be put on the agenda for a future meeting. A member of the Finance Committee was present and noted that infrastructure and a capital plan is something they want to work on that will include water and sewer.
- Marie asked the board when they are able to have a meeting with Attorney David Jenkins present. The board all agreed to hold this meeting on Wednesday, August 14, 2019.
- With all regular business satisfied, Bernie made a motion to go into two separate executive sessions and not to return to open session as follows:
 - Executive session per MGL Chapter 30Am Section 21(a)(6)...” to consider the purchases, exchange, lease or value of real estate...”
 - Executive session per MGL Chapter 30Am Section 21(a)(6)...” to consider the purchases, exchange, lease or value of real estate...”

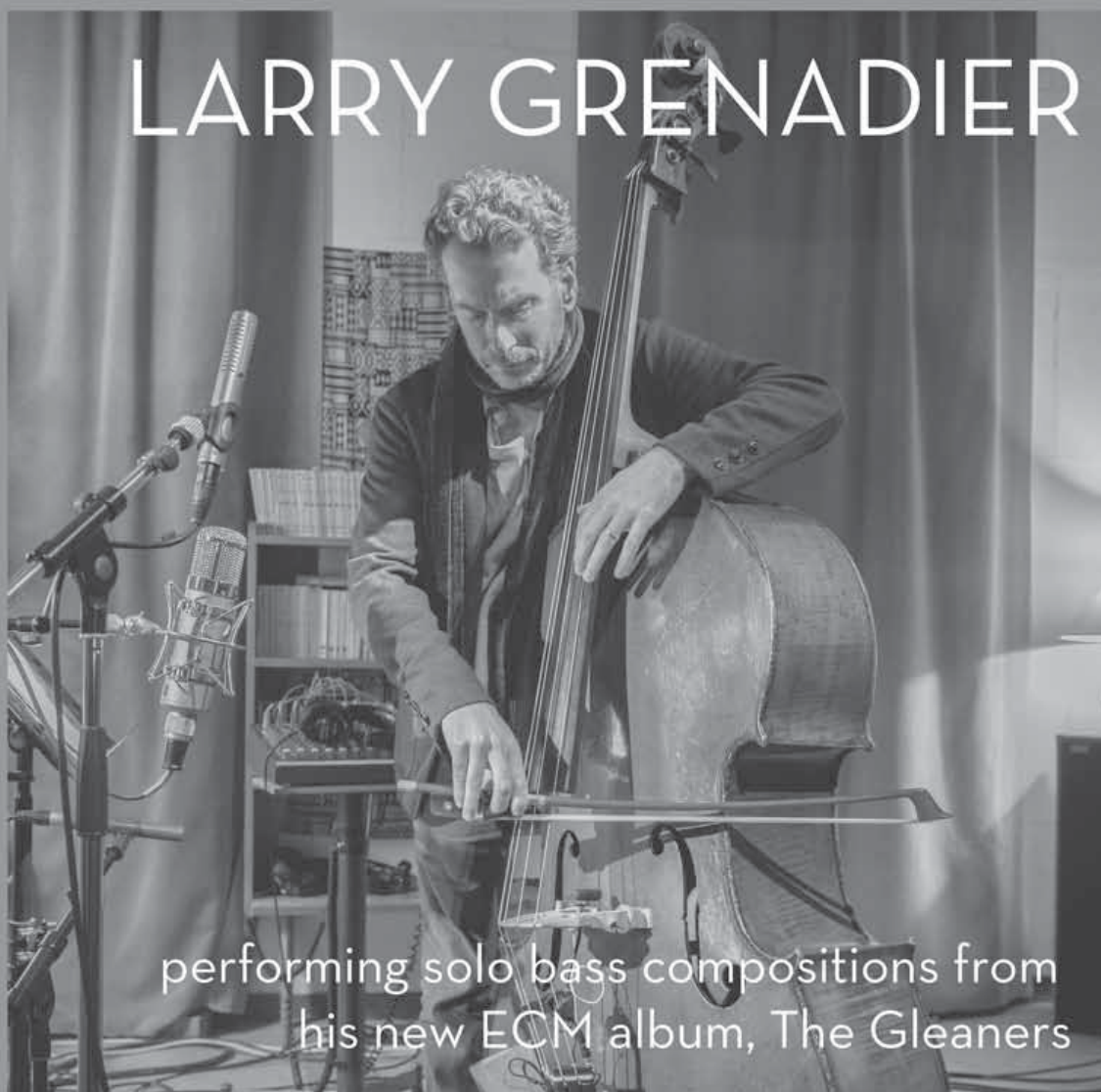
Eric seconded the motion. Voice vote taken: All members voted aye. ❖



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weststockbridgehistory.org

Congregational Church Presents

Benefit Concert by Pianist Bruce Vogt

The West Stockbridge Congregational Church will be hosting Canadian pianist Bruce Vogt on Thursday, August 15, to benefit the Berkshire Interfaith Organizing (BIO). Bruce is graciously donating his time and talents for this event to join with the church in supporting BIO and helping bring people together across lines of class, race, and religion to create a strong and united community where everyone has an opportunity to thrive.

BIO is sponsoring a campaign to build a network of sanctuary congregations in Berkshire County that will shelter immigrants facing unjust deportation and allow them time to find a legal remedy and secure an adjustment of status. We view this campaign as an essential way to stand with our immigrant community and fulfill the call of our faith traditions to welcome the stranger.

Bruce Vogt was born in southern Ontario, but for the past 39 years he has lived and worked in Victoria, British Columbia, and taught piano at the University of Victoria. He has appeared regularly as a soloist in concerts in Canada, and he tours throughout Europe and Asia every year. His repertoire encompasses music from the 16th century to the present. In addition to having a special affinity for the music of Franz Liszt, he has both performed on period instruments and commissioned and premiered a number of new works.

Because Bruce sees teaching and working with young pianists and with piano teachers as an important commitment, he is available for master classes, workshops, festival adjudications, and lectures. In recent years, he has received many invitations in Canada and abroad to indulge another of his passions—improvising accompaniments to great films of the silent era. He has played for and lectured about films by Chaplin, Keaton, Lloyd, Griffith, Murnau, and others.

The concert will take place in the church sanctuary from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Suggested donation is \$25, and all proceeds will support the work of BIO. Tickets at the door only; first come, first served. Doors will open at 6 p.m. Light refreshments will be available during a 15-minute intermission. For more information, contact Pastor Patty Fox at 232-4256.



Pianist Bruce Vogt. Photo courtesy of Bruce Vogt

JT

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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
 8/30 Frank & Mary Agnes McMahon
 50th anniversary
 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.

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



Fire Department Log

By Peter Skorput, Fire Chief

JUNE 2019

Date	Time	Nature of Call
6/5	10:28 a.m.	Medical
6/15	5:19 p.m.	Automatic alarm
6/15	7:13 p.m.	Lost hiker
6/20	2:32 p.m.	Medical
6/25	8:32 p.m.	Medical
6/26	2:08 p.m.	Medical
6/28	10:55 a.m.	Tree on propane tank
6/29	4:10 p.m.	Medical
6/29	11:35 p.m.	Medical
6/30	2:24 p.m.	Medical
6/30	1:48 a.m.	Motor vehicle accident



Bring the Kids for a live
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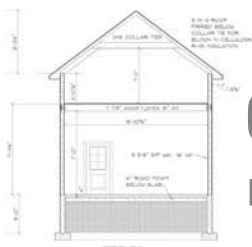


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On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky

It's Wild Kingdom at the New House!

I was puzzled a few years ago when Doane Perry and others put up “Turtle Crossing” signs around town. I guess I wasn’t paying attention, but now I know! Living, as we now do, on the shores of the Magnificent Mud Ponds, we have noted *dozens* of mama turtles—snappers, painted, box, teenage mutant ninja—make their way across our driveway and into the area around our new house to lay eggs. I suspect they have some sort of GPS hardwired in their brains that lead them to the exact spot where they were hatched. But, confusing for many of them, there’s now a house where once there was their birthplace! Can any naturalists out there shed light on this?

Another big feature of local wildlife is, of course, the black-legged tick. Even though I spritz my socks, shoes, and pants legs with permethrin and DEET, the little buggers occasionally manage to get a blood meal from me. Most of the time I find them in time, but recently I got hit with anaplasmosis, one of many different tick-borne illnesses. Severe joint pain, headache, fever was lifted—mostly—by a quick application of doxycycline prescribed for 3 weeks. By the second week of the treatment I felt a lot better, but I had to avoid sunlight like a vampire, because the antibiotic makes the skin very light sensitive. This put a damper on my outdoor activities around the new homestead.

A friend and building partner, Bob Olinski, told me about Damminix Tick Tubes. Because the main vector for ticks is mice, not deer (Bambi’s mom does occasionally visit us, though), the product uses mice’s nesting instincts in the battle. The tick tubes contain permethrin-treated cotton balls that mice collect to line their nests. When the ticks try feeding on the mice, the permethrin kills them. After a while, far fewer ticks are in an area. Damminix says other mammals are unharmed by the chemical.

Bob suggests that *whole neighborhoods* coordinate to use the tick tubes, making a large area tick free in a few months. Anyone interested? www.ticktubes.com.

I’m happy to report that we received our Certificate of Occupancy from Brian Duvall, the town’s building commissioner, on April 23. That means from excavation to completion took about eight months, which is pretty fast as these things go. Thanks again to all the subs, suppliers, and help that made this possible.

AND FINALLY: we got our 34 photovoltaic panels installed in mid-June and are waiting for the company (All-Energy Solar from Chicopee) to coordinate with National Grid to fire them up! We’ve been led to believe that once the system is in full operation that we should produce enough electricity to offset *most* of our electric use. Our heating system, air source heat pumps (a.k.a. mini-splits) runs on electricity, and despite being very efficient does use a fair amount of juice. More reports on this in the next few issues. Hang tight!



Solar panel installation. Photo by Thom Lipiczky

August History Quiz Question:

During the 19th century, West Stockbridge did not have the historical status or place in society as our neighboring towns, Stockbridge and Lenox. We did not have a collection of literary and political families that defined it. Society and tradition were less important in West Stockbridge. We were a blue-collar industrial mining center.

As described last month with the Williams family, West Stockbridge seemed to be the place where adventurous or rebellious family members from other towns came to "expand their horizons" and break the mold. One important member of the most famous family in Stockbridge made her mark in West Stockbridge. Who was she, and what was her legacy?

(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.



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Incorporated in 1994



*Please send your Birthdays & Anniversaries to the Local Yokel.
We are happy to include them in the next issue.*



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“We Remember When . . .” Growing Up in West Stockbridge in the 1950s

A Series of Recollections by John Bormolini and Friends

Summer Vacation Memories

By Pete Angelini

Growing up in West Stockbridge offered many opportunities for summer fun and adventure; swimming was my favorite. I attended Red Cross swimming lessons at Card Pond Road daily and progressed through the levels from beginner through lifesaving. At that time, Card Pond had a public beach with areas roped off by water depth. As a pond in the country and not a city pool, we had to share it with its natural inhabitants including perch, pickerel, and bullheads as well as frogs, snapping turtles, and leeches. Bumping into a turtle while swimming underwater gave you a scare, and the nasty leeches glommed onto your body and were hard to remove!



Card Pond. Photo by John Bormolini

A raft offshore with a diving board was available to proficient swimmers. The diving board was 10 feet long with excellent spring, making it easy to do cool dives like the jackknife. Swimming lessons started at 9 and ended at 11. We biked to the pond, swimming with others until noon when we rode home for lunch. A couple of days each week, my mom drove to the pond bringing a picnic basket with our lunch. One rule was that we had to wait an hour to go in the water after lunch for fear of getting cramps. Those hours seemed like days. It was wonderful fun and helped us to become excellent swimmers.

One fear shared by our parents was that, during dry summers without much rain, water would not flow over the dam, and the pond would become stagnant and a breeding ground for mosquitoes carrying the dreaded infantile paralysis (polio) virus. Before the Salk vaccine, polio was a real threat causing swimming in the pond to be curtailed toward the end of the summer during the driest periods. Thanks to the West Stockbridge Board of Health and Select Board for supporting this program and keeping us safe.

Card Pond was the safest swimming spot; however, two additional swimming holes were favored by adventurous lads of the village including me. These were the ore bed on State Line Road at West Center Road and the marble quarry off East Alford Road near the West Stockbridge Sportsmen's Club. Since summer mornings were spent at Card Pond, visiting these spots was an afternoon adventure.

We biked as close as possible and hoofed it the rest of the way. The ore bed was close to the road and easily accessible. Getting to the marble quarry required walking a mile along the railroad tracks and then trekking another half mile through the woods. The ore bed was owned by the Kersey family on land devoted to dairy farming. The marble quarry was owned by Lee Lime. Neither were quarried at that time. Both were potentially dangerous due to being unsupervised and remotely located as well as having possible underwater hazards like abandoned quarry equipment. If an emergency occurred, getting help quickly was impossible.

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Attractions of the ore bed were the clear cold water that was refreshing on the hottest days and a large rock near the shore that was great for diving and jumping off. Another attraction was a long rope hanging from a tree limb, perfect for swinging high over the water, letting go of the rope, and dropping into the cold water. The marble quarry's chief attraction, in addition to its total seclusion (encouraging skinny dipping), and clear cold water, were many ledges that were great for jumping off. While swimming in quarries can be risky and is inadvisable, fortunately no mishaps occurred.

Another summer swimming experience was at Boy Scout Camp Eagle on October Mountain. Our West Stockbridge Troop 37 went to camp for one week during midsummer. My favorite unit was the Chippewa site because it had abundant wildlife: porcupines, beavers, and foxes. The lake water at Camp Eagle had a copper tint caused by rock formations that circled the shore. The waterfront consisted of a large swimming and diving area and canoe and rowboat docks.

The camp offered merit badges for swimming, lifesaving, rowing, and canoeing. Every Friday there was a swim meet with competition in swimming, rowing, and canoeing. A marathon swim started at the far side of the lake and finished at the waterfront beach, about a mile. I competed three times and won once. These were enjoyable and memorable days in my young life.

Other summer activities besides swimming included family picnics on Maple Hill; evening rides through the woods of Dean Hill and Harvey Mountain; seeing deer, rabbits, once a wildcat; stopping at Masiero's store for an ice cream cone; bike rides to Baker Street and State Line; sleeping under the stars seeing the awesome August meteorite showers; and picking wild blueberries at Perry's Peak in Richmond.

For more about those experiences, watch for future installments of “We Remember When...” in the *Local Yokel*. Next month's issue will feature “Going Back to School.”



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Bazaar Productions Returns to the Berkshires

with The TEAM's

Particularly in the Heartland

A Boundary-busting Devised Work About Our Divided America

Opens August 8 at The Foundry

The resident theater company at The Foundry, Bazaar Productions, is delighted to announce its 2019 interpretation of *Particularly in the Heartland*, an interactive theater piece originally created and devised by the Brooklyn-based company The TEAM. The show opens August 8 in conjunction with a kick-off celebration and fundraising event.

Set in Kansas in 2004, *Particularly in the Heartland* is an excavation of American identity, exploring themes of idealism, cynicism, and hope. Directed by Bazaar Productions co-artistic director Sara Katzoff, and featuring a dynamic ensemble of emerging performers and designers, *Particularly in the Heartland* runs through August 18. "At its core, this show explores the soul of our identity as Americans," said Katzoff. "It's about losing sight of our country, and trying to fall back in love with it. America is a complex tapestry of ideals built on systems of profound racial, social, and economic injustice. This project is about reconciling patriotism and disillusionment. Plus, it's wildly entertaining!"

Integrating visceral and physical storytelling with original text, *Particularly in the Heartland* spotlights a trio of siblings living on a Kansas farm. Orphaned after their parents' disappearance by a tornado—or was it an alien invasion? Or possibly the Rapture?—the Springer children are left to raise themselves. They are soon joined by three outsiders: Dorothy, a New Yorker fallen from an airplane; Tracey Jo, a pregnant teen claiming to be an alien; and the ghost of 1968 presidential hopeful Robert F. Kennedy. Out of the chaos emerges a new kind of American family.

Known for producing boundary-smashing new work since 2005, Bazaar Productions plans to relaunch a full season of multidisciplinary programming in 2020. Their Berkshire Fringe Festival was the backbone of their programming from 2005 to 2016. "We could not be more excited to return to the Berkshires," said Peter Wise, co-artistic director for Bazaar Productions. "We needed to press pause on our activities for a few years to focus on personal projects. That time has been fruitful, and we're happy to bring this work and many new collaborators to the Berkshires and to have the opportunity to work in this amazing new venue in West Stockbridge."

Amy Brentano, owner of The Foundry, a new performing and visual arts space, is also a member of Bazaar Productions. "I'm thrilled to have created a space that Bazaar can call home. My vision for The Foundry is to offer a versatile and generative space for creatives who may lack access. We want to create work that no one else is making in the Berkshires, and we plan to present year-round," said Brentano. "Partnering with Bazaar is a dream come true. I can't wait to share *Particularly in the Heartland* with our community."

Tickets to the opening night performance on August 8 will include a kick-off celebration. Patrons will enjoy locally crafted fare and an open bar while bidding on a silent auction in The Foundry's gallery space. After the performance, attendees are invited to stay for a dance party. Separate tickets for the dance party will also be sold. All proceeds from the evening will support Bazaar Production's upcoming season and programming. Purchase tickets and find additional info at bazaarproductions.org.

Particularly in the Heartland was originally created and devised in 2004 by the award-winning ensemble, The TEAM (Theater of the Emerging American Moment), and it is produced in collaboration with The Foundry and the Boston University Professional Training Initiative.

Bazaar Productions, Inc. is a performing arts incubator now in residence at The Foundry artspace in West Stockbridge, MA. Our mission is to radicalize the cultural landscape of the Berkshires by commissioning, developing, and presenting original and groundbreaking new works of theater, dance, and multimedia performance by the most vital and revolutionary contemporary voices. Learn more at bazaarproductions.org.

IF YOU GO

Particularly in the Heartland

Created and devised by The TEAM; directed by Sara Katzoff

August 8–18 at The Foundry, 2 Harris Street, West Stockbridge, MA 01266

Tickets: bazaarproductions.org or call (413) 418-4113

PERFORMANCE DATES

Thursday, August 8: Kick-off Celebration!

- Doors at 6 p.m.: Wine + Beer + Silent Auction
- Performance at 7 p.m.
- Dance party at 9 p.m.

Friday, August 9, at 8 p.m.

Saturday, August 10, at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Sunday, August 11, at 5 p.m.

Monday, August 12, at 8 p.m.

Wednesday, August 14, at 8 p.m.

Thursday, August 15, at 8 p.m.

Friday, August 16, at 8 p.m.

Saturday, August 17, at 8 p.m.

Sunday, August 18, at 5 p.m.

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 about additional free skilled nursing services, such as home visits for residents, contact Emilie Jarrett, RN, at 232-0122, or visit our website, www.rwstcomhealth.com.

Council on Aging Potluck

At noon on Friday, August 23, the combined Richmond and West Stockbridge Councils on Aging will host their annual picnic at the Richmond Fire Department Pavilion. We will provide the hamburgers, hot dogs, rolls, beverages, etc., and will look to you to bring covered dishes to supplement. We'll have delicious food, good conversation with your neighbors, and a caricaturist to entertain by drawing your picture. Please call Phyllis at (413) 698-3656 or Paula at 232-4394 to let us know how many will be in your party and what you are planning to bring, so that we can plan accordingly.

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

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

West Stockbridge Congregational Church

The West Stockbridge Congregational Church will hold a bake sale in front of Baldwin's Extracts, 1 Center Street, West Stockbridge, on Saturday, August 17, from 9:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

The Rev. Patty Fox, pastor of the West Stockbridge Congregational United Church of Christ, and Kripalu Yoga instructor Susannah Beattie, will be featured on the WSBS Religious Round Table on Sunday, August 11. They will be discussing a 6-week series integrating yoga and contemplative Christian prayer that will be offered at the church on Tuesday evenings. The series begins September 10.

Anyone who would like to volunteer to help with the annual West Stockbridge Halloween festivities (including planning, prepping, day of, and/or cleanup), please contact Cait Graham at wscongregationalchurch@gmail.com or (413) 329-6095. Any and all volunteers are welcome!

Send your notices for Community News & Events to The Local Yokel, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266, e-mail info@thelocalyokel.org, or visit thelocalyokel.org.

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"Dinosaurs in Living Color, Inside and Out"

By John Parker

A full house greeted renowned paleontologist Dr. Jack Horner for his slide lecture, "Dinosaurs in Living Color, Inside and Out," at the Old Town Hall on June 15. Horner is the former curator of paleontology at the Museum of the Rockies, recipient of a MacArthur Foundation "genius grant," and technical advisor for the Jurassic Park movies. He is currently a lecturer and presidential fellow at Chapman University in California and a research associate at the University of Washington's Burke Museum. Horner is a recipient of the Romer-Simpson Prize, the highest honor a paleontologist can receive from the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology.



Dr. Horner and Stanmeyer Gallery proprietor Kim Hubbard in front of the dinosaur fossil micrograph display at the gallery. Photo by Michael Mah

Born and raised near Shelby, Montana, Horner found his first dinosaur bone at age 8 and, despite a severe case of dyslexia that made his academic studies very difficult, he achieved his goal of becoming a professional dinosaur paleontologist. He is famous for discovering and naming *Maiasaura*, the first dinosaur ever found with its young, providing the first clear evidence that some dinosaurs cared for their young. Horner has published more than a hundred professional papers; eight books, including *Dinosaurs Under the Big Sky*; a children's book, *Maia: A Dinosaur Grows Up*; and numerous articles.

As Horner discussed, he has done much to debunk long-held assumptions about the nature of dinosaurs including the view that dinosaurs were cold-blooded, sluggish, and dull gray and brown colored, and that they dragged their tails. Discoveries in the 1990s showed that dinosaurs were, in fact, warm-blooded, active, held their tails up, and may even have been brightly colored. This new interpretation stems from the realization that dinosaurs' closest living relatives are birds, not reptiles.

Horner's research into the color of dinosaurs has led him to conclude that many distinctive features such as horns, crests, frills, shields, and other protuberances were for visual display and species recognition rather than defense as previously assumed. By analogy with similar features of modern birds, he concludes these features were likely vividly colored (think of a turkey's head and wattles). Some dinosaurs even bore feathers, an adaptation that helped them to maintain an elevated internal body temperature necessary for sustained vigorous activity. Extending the analogy with birds one step further, Horner believes that dinosaurs may have performed birdlike dance displays and songs.

Based on this new understanding, Horner advised Jurassic Park director Steven Spielberg that dinosaurs were likely brightly colored and that the ferocious predator Velociraptor had feathers. Spielberg thought that colorful dinosaurs would not be scary enough for audiences, so he went with the familiar gray and brown color scheme and left out the feathers. Imagine if the movie had featured a pink feathered T. rex! Horner told the crowd, "Jurassic Park had it all wrong!" Nevertheless, it was a terrific movie, he said.

Horner has also been studying the internal structure of fossilized dinosaur bones and other tissues. The process of fossilization allows microscopic features to show up better than in modern-day animals. The tissues are thinly sliced and then viewed with polarized light and a quartz lens resulting in false color micrographs (pictures taken through an electron microscope rather than a camera) of great beauty as well as scientific interest. Horner shared a number of these intricate and colorful images during his slide presentation. A striking display of these enlarged micrographs is on display at the Stanmeyer Gallery and Shaker Dam Coffeehouse in West Stockbridge until September.



Dr. Horner and young admirer Logan compare favorite dinosaurs. Photo by Kim Hubbard



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, 717-0277, anne@annelessercommunications.com; Designer: **Kim Bradway, kim@bloominarts.com**.**

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



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

Greetings from all of us at the library

—Rachel Alter, Vicky Cooper, and Brad Havill

We had a visit from a representative of the U.S. Census during July, who held several drop-in hours to explain the various jobs and salaries, and to answer any questions for anyone interested in adding to their income. Several training sessions will be held at the Town Offices on Tuesday, August 6, from 11 to 3, Friday, August 9, from 2 to 6, and Wednesday, August 14, from 2 to 5.



Do you hear the sound of tiny hoofbeats? It must be the mini-ponies from High and Mighty Therapeutic Riding Center, on the way to their library visit on Friday, August 9, beginning at 3 p.m. We hope you can make it!

Please join us as we bring our summer universe of stories back to earth with a book party on Saturday, August 24, at 11 a.m., celebrating more than 70 new children's books awarded to the library by the Pilecrow Foundation.

All kids are reminded to search for our little library friend, Pete the Cat, who is staying at the library for his second summer. Pete will be hiding somewhere new each week, dressed in a NASA suit in honor of this summer's theme. If you locate Pete, show a librarian where he is and pick out an award from the treasure chest.



NEW DVDs

Aquaman, Bumblebee, Free Solo, The Mule

NEW ADULT FICTION

Cohen, *The Grief of Others*

Edugyan, *Washington Black*

House, *Southernmost*

Patterson, *The First Lady*

NEW ADULT NONFICTION

Anderson, *One Person, No Vote*

Barry, *Lessons from Lucy*

Benedict, *The Only Woman in the Room*

Kildea, *Chopin's Piano*

NEW CHILDREN'S/YOUNG ADULT BOOKS

Colfer, *The Land of Stories: The Enchantress Returns, A Grimm Warning, An Author's Odyssey*

Donnelly, *WaterFire Saga: Deep Blue, Rogue Wave, Dark Tide, Sea Spell*

Gamble, *Count to Sleep Massachusetts*

Hiranandi, *The Night Diary*

Klapthor, *The First Ladies*

Lies, *The Rough Patch*

McDonald, *Judy Moody, Mood Martian*

Moberg, *Presidential Pets*

Morales, *Dreamers*

Murdock, *The Book of Boy*

Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*



Scrapbook August 2019: TEST YOUR TRIVIA KNOWLEDGE!

1. Who used to live in West Stockbridge and was the founding director of Berkshire Grown?
2. Who was the recipient of the Victoria A. Simon Locavore Award?
3. *The Locavore Way: Discover and Enjoy the Pleasure of Locally Grown Food* was written by who?
4. What does "locavore" mean?

Answers: 1. Amy Colter, 2. Amy Colter, 3. Amy Colter, 4. To promote the practice of eating a diet consisting of food harvested within a 100-mile radius.

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thelocalyoke.org

August Art Calendar

Colonial Theater, Far, Far Away, exhibit of artists of the Guild of Berkshire Artists. Opening reception Friday, August 2, 5:00-6:30. Show is up July 16-September 9.111South St. Pittsfield.

First Fridays Artswalk Fri. August 2, 5-8pm. Pittsfield, North and South Streets. www.firstfridaysartswalk.com Alice White and Lori Bradley, painters at 137 North Street and John Clarke at the Berkshire Museum.

Members' Potluck. Sunday August 4, 4-7pm at Richmond Pond. Bring main dish, hors d'oeuvres or dessert for ten and what YOU want to drink. Partners welcome. RSVP: kkelly@utica.edu or 413-329-9678

Art seminars, Demonstration, and Business Meeting. Wed. August 7. Demo 4:00pm. 5-6:00. pick up flyers and signs. Report on first studio tour and Lenox show. Community Room Town Hall, 21 Stateline Road (Route 102) West Stockbridge (WS)

Stockbridge Second Thursday Art. Thursday August 8, 4-7pm Begin at TKG Real Estate, 10 Elm Street, Stockbridge. Artists bring plate of hors d'oeuvres, pick up work at 7 p.m. and September Artist studio artists deliver art by 7 p.m. Artists in show MUST be present and invite many and get 5-10 folks to attend.

Artists' Studio Tour. Saturday, August 10, 11 - 5 p.m.

Meet the Artist: Lori Bradley, painter. Monday August 12, 1:30pm Gallery Talk at TKG Real Estate, 137 North Street, Pittsfield. **Michael Fabrizio**. Gallery Walk and Talk at Hotel on North. 297 North St. Pittsfield. Monday August 19, 4:30- 5:30pm

West Stockbridge Old Town Hall Show, August 22-Sept. 1, Thursdays and Friday, 2-6, Sat. 11-4, Sun. 11-4. Reception. Sat. Aug. 23, 2:30-5:30pm

Photo Explorers Fri. Aug. 23, 8:30am Shaker Dam Coffeehouse and Stanmeyer Gallery, 2 Main, W.S.

Berkshire Photo Gathering. Sun. August 25, 2-4 p.m. 55. Berkshire South Regional Comm. Center, 15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230 Put Photos on web.

Guild of Berkshire Artists

RSVP: BerkshireArtists.org

BerkshireArtists@gmail.com See Facebook

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SATURDAYS AUG 24 & 31 11AM to 6 PM
SUNDAYS AUG 25 & SEPT 1 11AM to 4 PM

RECEPTION Sat, Aug 24 2:30-5:30

For more information www.BerkshireArtists.org berkshireartists@gmail.com

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Daily 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch at noon and positive critique at end of each session. Sundays on grounds of Norman Rockwell Museum; Mondays at Hancock Shaker Village; Tuesdays Great Barrington; Wednesdays Berkshire Botanical Garden and Stockbridge, Thursdays at The Mount; Fridays in Lenox, Saturdays in West Stockbridge. Hancock SV, Berkshire Botanical Garden and The Mount have fees; we recommend joining at NARM level for one year entrance for two at all our venues and more than 900 more! Sign up at our website BerkshireArtists.org and check at 8 a.m. for current updates and weather.

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

Art Book Gathering Friday, Aug. 30, 2-4 p.m. Share a favorite book: artist, process. Shaker Mill Books, West Stockbridge

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Meet the Artist 2019

Lori Bradley

Lori Bradley

Painter

*"merging expressionism
with graphic realism"*

*"realist with simplified
shapes and complex
patterns"*



Join Lori Bradley on Monday August 12 for lunch at noon to about 1pm. after Creating Art Outdoors at Hancock Shaker Village which is 9:30-12. At 1:30-2:30pm please join Lori at TKG Real Estate at 137 North St. Pittsfield for a gallery talk and informal discussion of her process You will be able to ask her questions. "My style is realist with simplified shapes and complex patterns. Every living thing strives in its own way to stretch out to create patterns and interwoven communities. Nothing lives in isolation. I combine acrylic paint with paper collage techniques while merging expressionism with graphic realism.

"In my Common Birds series, I use birds to explore themes of struggle, friendship, relationships, leaving and returning home and forced flight. The viewer must confront and connect with the bird's eye to eye as they are large-scale with bodies cropped by the borders of the paintings. In my Boundary Water series I explore the powerful point where landscape plants and rocks meet water. These are exciting places as one can stand at a point of immersion while new patterns are revealed in surface reflections.

"The decorative arts and nature are integral to my artwork. The language of decoration is fascinating and *empowering* - a path to memories, cultural habits, family, friends, and community rituals. I explore decorative traditions, including Japanese, Victorian and Art Deco, in my designs while striving for a modern energy and edge. I'm a great admirer of the Group of Seven; Canadian landscape painters. My experiences growing up in the northeast and camping in the wilderness inspired a similar reverence for the northern landscape "

Mon. Aug. 12
1:30 -2:30pm

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History Quiz Answer:

The Sedgwick family has a long history in Stockbridge, going back to before the Revolution. Theodore Sedgwick, patriarch of the family, was a lawyer who successfully argued to free the slave Elizabeth Freeman and break slavery in Massachusetts. He was involved in Shay's Rebellion (on the government's side) and later held many state and federal offices. His daughter, Catherine Sedgwick, was the first major American woman novelist and a serious literary figure in the 1800s. The Sedgwick family were proper Massachusetts Congregationalists and later became prominent Unitarians.



The Sedgwick family plot. Photo by Bob Salerno

Jane Minot Sedgwick II (1821-1889), Theodore's granddaughter, grew up a member of elite Protestant society. Women's role at that time was to tend to the home and children. They were not welcome to participate in any major decisions about family, business, or religion. But Jane didn't quite fit that expectation, and after 10 years of study, she converted to Catholicism in 1853, an unpopular move at best. Her family accepted her, thinking perhaps it was a phase she would outgrow. Not only did Jane go against traditional New England society (Catholics were regarded as an immigrant foreign religion), but she clashed with the Catholic hierarchy as well. She felt that women should have a role in parish decisions, and the church did not share that opinion.

In the late 1860s, Jane came to West Stockbridge and started a Catholic academy. Our population at that time had a number of Irish immigrants, many were illiterate, and their children were not schooled. There was no church, and any religious instruction would have taken place in Pittsfield or Albany. Where the academy was located in town and for how long is still unknown. We do know that Jane was instrumental in organizing the church in West Stockbridge (St. Patrick's) and in Stockbridge (St. Joseph's).

Jane regularly clashed with the bishop, local clergy, and even members of the Vatican in Rome. They saw her as subversive, a wealthy society woman who spent money on a school the parish couldn't afford and regularly meddled in church affairs. They closed the school for financial reasons. Jane's work did contribute to the establishment of the churches in West Stockbridge and Stockbridge. You could argue that West Stockbridge gave her more of the opportunity to assert her individuality than traditional Stockbridge society.

The Sedgwick family was slightly more accepting than the church hierarchy when she was alive. But when Jane died in 1889, she was not buried in the Sedgwick family plot, the "Sedgwick Pie" (pictured here). She is instead buried "under the eaves" of St. Joseph's Church on Elm Street in Stockbridge.



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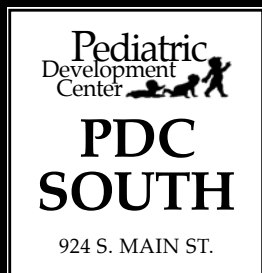
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Town Accountant	<i>Elaine Markham</i>	232-0300	ext. 317	Leave Message for Inquiries
Town Clerk	<i>Ronni Barrett</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	Tues. & Thurs. 1:30–4 p.m.
Town Collector	<i>June A. Biggs</i>	232-0300	ext. 302	Wed. 3–6 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri. 10 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



Beautification Committee Seeking Grant Writer

We are looking for a GRANT WRITER to join the Beautification Committee, an offshoot of the West Stockbridge Vision Committee. We are exploring ways to improve the look of the center of our town. Any efforts in that direction will require funds. It is our understanding that there are grant possibilities and other local towns have received grants for planting and maintaining trees, flowers, and more. We are looking for someone with grant writing skills to join our committee. Please contact Lois Ferguson at wstockdream@gmail.com.

GUILD OF BERKSHIRE ARTISTS



OLD TOWN HALL - WEST STOCKBRIDGE

9 Main St. West Stockbridge, MA

AUG 22-25 • AUG 29-SEPT 1

Gallery Hours: THURS-FRI 2pm-6pm SAT 11am-6pm SUN 11am-4pm

RECEPTION Sat, Aug 24 2:30-5:30

For More Information www.berkshireartists.org

West Stockbridge
Local Yokel

P.O. Box 238
 West Stockbridge, MA
 01266

thelocalyokel.org



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 2019 Calendar of Events

8/1	Farmers Market	3–7 p.m.	The Green at Harris Street
8/3	West Stockbridge Jazz Series: Larry Grenadier	8 p.m.	Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street
8/7	Knitters & More	2–4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
8/8	Farmers Market	3–7 p.m.	The Green at Harris Street
8/8	Particularly in the Heartland opening	7 p.m.	The Foundry, 2 Harris Street
8/10	Eid al-Adha		
8/13	American Legion meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
8/14	Knitters & More	2–4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
8/14	Select Board meeting	6 p.m.	Town Offices
8/15	*** Deadline for the next Local Yokel ***		Send to info@thelocalyokel.org
8/15	Farmers Market	3–7 p.m.	The Green at Harris Street
8/15	Benefit Concert: Pianist Bruce Vogt	6:30 p.m.	W. S. Cong. Church, 45 Main Street
8/17	Congregational Church Bake Sale	9:30 a.m.– 12 noon	Baldwin's Extracts, 1 Center Street
8/21	Knitters & More	2–4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
8/22	Farmers Market	3–7 p.m.	The Green at Harris Street
8/23	Council on Aging Annual Picnic	12 noon	Richmond Fire Department Pavilion
8/28	Knitters & More	2–4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
8/29	Farmers Market	3–7 p.m.	The Green at Harris Street