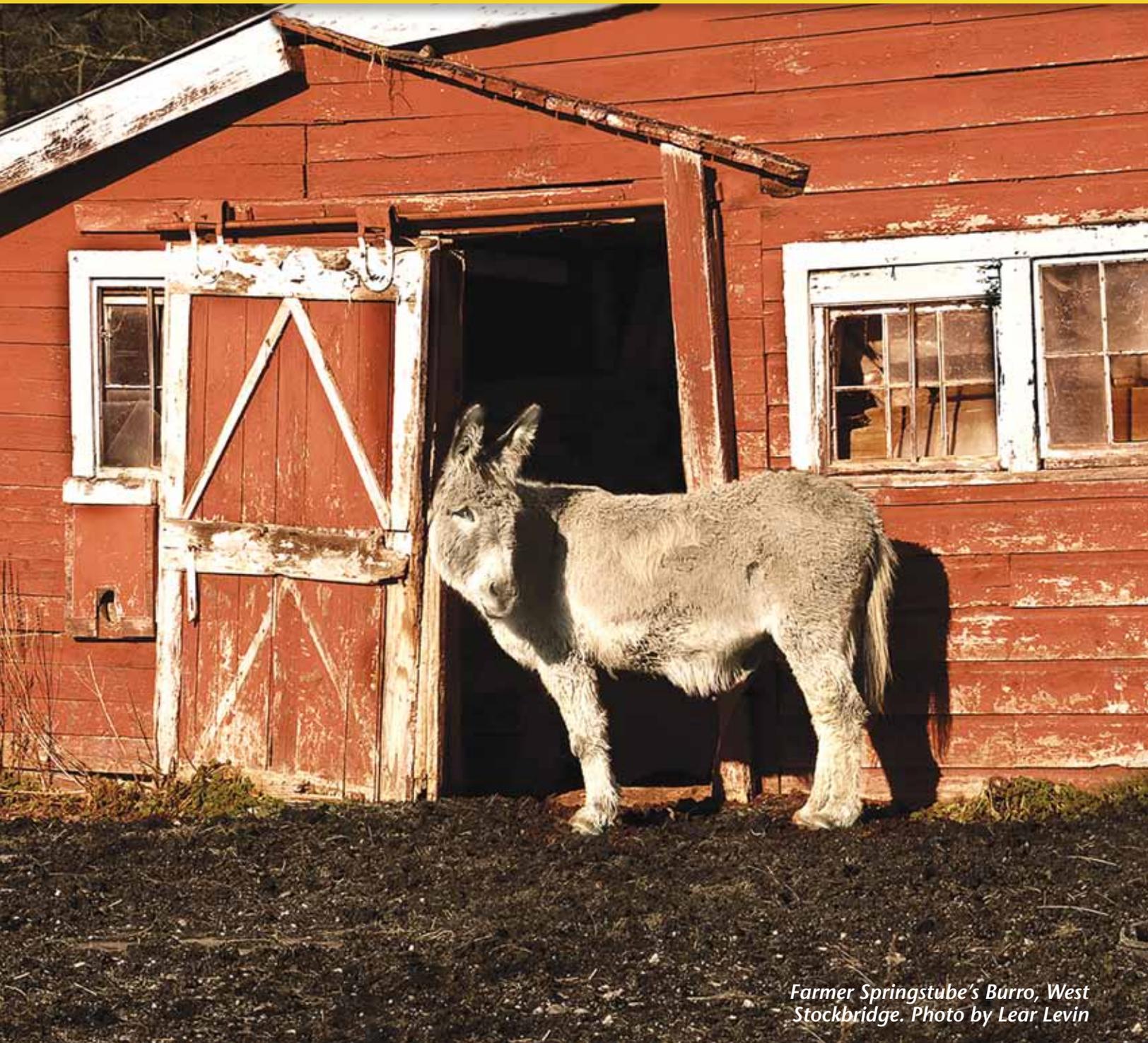


# Local yokel

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

West  
Stockbridge  
May 2019

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005



*Farmer Springstube's Burro, West  
Stockbridge. Photo by Lear Levin*

**Town Meeting & Election  
Information Inside**



Actress, producer, and educator Amy Brentano. Photo by Eric Korenman

# The Foundry: A New Center for Performing and Visual Arts

By John Parker

Adding to the growing arts scene in West Stockbridge is The Foundry, a new performing and visual arts venue taking shape at 2 Harris Street in the former Diana Felber Gallery. The new owner of the building is actress, producer, and theater educator Amy Brentano. A 17-year resident of Richmond, Amy has established strong roots in the Berkshire arts community as a teaching artist with WAM Theatre, serving on the artistic board of Bazaar Productions, and as associate editor of the *Richmond Record*.

Amy describes the mission of The Foundry to be “a holding tank that serves a diverse community with accessible, intentional, dangerous (that is, challenging, relevant, and thought-provoking) creations.” The Foundry seeks to offer excellence in theater, music, comedy, multidisciplinary events, and visual art. Amy explains the name of the new center is in recognition of the building’s original use

as a glassblowing studio, “a place where materials meld together to make something new.”

The former glassblowing studio is being transformed into a black box theater with seating for up to 99. Plans include outdoor seating and a bar to help support the operating costs of the venue. Meanwhile, the gallery space is currently presenting an exhibition of works on paper by artist Pat Brentano (Amy’s sister) entitled, “Is There No Decency,” featuring faces reacting to the current political environment, plus natural landscapes and habitats on layered, hand-cut Japanese translucent shoji paper. Currently rehearsing in the gallery space is the rig, a performance project bringing professional theater to audiences in shelters.

Returning after a two-year performing hiatus, Bazaar Productions will be in residence at The Foundry. Since its inception in 2005, the artist-led company has staged dozens of productions and been artist in residence at Mass MoCA, Bard College at Simon’s Rock, and Shire City Sanctuary in Pittsfield. The backbone of Bazaar Productions is the Berkshire Fringe, an international festival that has welcomed over 600 artists from Korea, the United Kingdom, Canada, Mexico, and all across the United States. The Berkshire Fringe has presented nearly 100 full-length original productions, staged readings, visual art exhibitions, free concerts, and workshops.

In May, Bazaar Productions will present *Gasping Whiteness*, a play and community workshop exploring the impact of white supremacy on parenting in progressive middle-class communities. In June, Pat Brentano will conduct “Removing the Blinders,” a two-day visual awareness workshop. In July, WAM Theatre’s Teen Ensemble and Elder Ensemble will be in residency, rehearsing and presenting two original works on dreams. In August, Bazaar Productions will present *Particularly in the Heartland*, a play originally developed and produced by the TEAM, a Brooklyn-based theater. Also in August, the company will collaborate with Pittsfield’s Manos Unidas Cooperative to workshop a rock opera based on the story of indigenous Mexican singer Julia Pastrana.

For more information about The Foundry and Bazaar Productions, see [www.thefoundryws.com](http://www.thefoundryws.com), [bazaarproductions.org](http://bazaarproductions.org), and [thefoundryws](https://www.instagram.com/thefoundryws) on Instagram.



The Gallery at The Foundry. Photo courtesy of Amy Brentano

# 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.virtualtownhall.net/subscriber/>].

## March 20, 2019

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.

### FY 2020 Budget and Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Board continued its FY 2020 budget and annual town meeting warrant article discussion and review. Board had a general discussion regarding the hiring of a new town administrator and recommended that the salary line be increased to attract qualified applicants. Board is aware that neighboring towns have had recent difficulty attracting qualified applicants; some communities had to go two or more rounds before they were able to hire. Furthermore, it is possible that West Stockbridge will be advertising at the same time as Richmond for a replacement. Mark Webber is anxious to get the ball rolling with an advertisement and recommended that a not-to-exceed salary number be put in place and placed on the upcoming town meeting warrant. Board agreed and set a not-to-exceed salary of \$70,000.

### Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Curt Wilton reported that it's been a tough mud season and that he has spent upward of \$1,000 a day in materials on the town's gravel roads. He said we are in better shape than some of the surrounding towns and the weather should break shortly. Further repairs should not be necessary.

### Solar Bylaw Regulations

Board reviewed a note from Planning Board member Gunnar Gudmundson regarding general observations about the recently passed solar bylaw regulations, particularly the small-scale solar provisions. Board agreed that the town meeting was confusing at best. For reference, Gunnar provided a visual concept of

what a pole-mounted 25-kW solar panel array might look like. A 25-kW system (small-scale solar) would have a panel area of approximately 1,470 square feet, equivalent to the combined face of three tractor-trailer trailers. Mark suggested that few homeowners would be pleased with such an array located 15 feet from their property line as a by right use; no special permit is required. Board noted that it is too late to address an amendment at the annual town meeting, but the Planning Board is expected to advance a small-scale solar bylaw amendment for a special town meeting at the end of June.

### Other Business/Action/Discussion Items:

- Board will meet next week with representatives of the Vision Committee to review their work to date and see if they have any recommendations for annual town meeting warrant articles. The warrant will be closed out on April 3 to new articles.

## March 27, 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 Spectrum local-access TV.

Board reviewed and approved previous meeting minutes and warrants.

### Vision Committee/Community Preservation Act

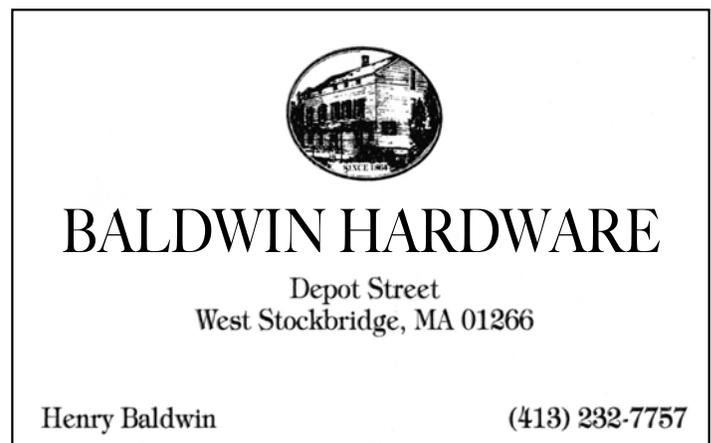
Bernie Fallon opened the regular portion of the meeting by welcoming members of the Vision Committee. The committee was scheduled to meet earlier in the evening but failed to achieve a quorum. Committee member Joe Roy informed the board that the adoption of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) has been a topic raised in recent meetings and was hoping to get the Board of Selectmen's endorsement of same and place the item on the upcoming annual town meeting warrant.

...continued on page 5



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# West Stockbridge Run for Fun 5K



**Saturday, May 18, 2019**  
**Race Starts at 9:00 am**

**5K T-Shirts for  
the first 50  
participants to  
register**



**Monument Mountain Student NHS 5K Fundraiser**

**All proceeds will go towards a new playground at the West Stockbridge Townhall**

**@ West Stockbridge Townhall**  
**21 State Line Rd, West Stockbridge**



**Register @ Berkshire Running Center** <https://bit.ly/2GenJsp>

**Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/events/370726693515698/>

## Donor Roll Call May

John & Barbara Bormolini

Norma Comstock

Carol & Joel Kaufman

John & Marcia Miner

William & Janine Reid

Elizabeth Roberts

John & Eileen Tremblay

Anonymous: 1

*Thank You!*

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

## May History Quiz Question:

The south end of the village center was developed in the post-Civil War period. From 1865 to 1900, the town was a booming industrial center with mines, quarries, and lime kilns in full production. The railroad was a major link to Albany and the Hudson River, and south to Connecticut. Local industry owners and merchants built their big family homes along Stockbridge and Great Barrington Roads. The Congregational Church was rebuilt after a fire in 1883 with a new organ and stained-glass windows. Our town was booming.

One of the most impressive homes sits on the knoll at the intersection of Routes 41 and 102. Set back from the road, the house has an interesting background, different from the other homes in the neighborhood. What makes this home so unique?

(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

Mark Webber remarked that in anticipation of such a request, he had drafted a memo on the rules of adopting the act and the general details of how the act works and anticipated surcharge totals based on various surcharge percentages. Mark noted that, to date, 6 of the 31 cities and towns in Berkshire County have adopted the act, and approximately 50% of the remainder of the state has as well.

Following a general discussion on the act, the board agreed to place an article on the annual town meeting warrant. Yet to be decided is the real estate surcharge percentage to be attached to the article. Board will discuss the matter further at an upcoming meeting.

A tentative date to hold a public informational hearing to present and discuss the CPA is scheduled for April 23.

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Compost Facility Accepting Yard & Wood Waste

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

- Mark informed the board that the town administrator help-wanted ad will be placed in the Massachusetts Municipal Association's monthly news publication, the *Beacon*, on Friday of that week with a deadline for return of applications set for May 1, 2019. A search committee needs to be appointed by the moderator.
- Board continues a review of the annual town meeting (ATM) warrant and FY 2020 budget. Additions to the ATM warrant from the prior week are two articles submitted by petition and the inclusion of the CPA. Budget line items remain unchanged. Acceptance of new articles, via petition or otherwise, closes out April 1. The board will sign the ATM warrant on April 22.
- Board reviewed and signed a noncompliance letter regarding the Auto Class II and III licenses for Route 41 Auto, LLC. Letter will be delivered by the West Stockbridge Police Department and calls the operator into a public hearing set for April 10.
- The town's annual caucus is scheduled for April 3 at 7 p.m.

**April 3, 2019**

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.

**FY 2020 Budget and Annual Town Meeting**

Mark Webber recapped the March 29, 2019, Finance Committee meeting held to review the FY 2020 budget and annual town meeting articles. Mark stated that Police Chief Marc Portieri was present and delivered his budget proposal. The Finance Committee gave a final review of all budget line items and warrant articles and took a vote to support all spending items.

Mark informed the board that no changes have taken place since the last time the board reviewed the FY 2020 budget and annual town meeting warrant. Warrant can be signed and posted at the board's next meeting. Annual Town Report will be delivered to the printers on April 12.

Board scheduled a hearing for April 10, 2019, to hear and act on license violations for Route 41 Auto, LLC, Class II and III auto licenses.

**Other Business/Discussion/Action Items**

- Board discussed seeking candidates to sit on a town administrator search committee. Five names should be submitted to the town moderator for appointment.
- Board approved a Village School use permit for the West Stockbridge Fire Department to hold their first annual town picnic on July 27.
- Police Chief Portieri supplied the board with a detailed department activity report.

With no additional business to come before the board and no questions/comments from those present, Doane Perry made a motion to adjourn the meeting and to convene to the annual town caucus beginning at 7 p.m. ❖

# Clean Up West Stockbridge!



Please come help support the clean up of our beautiful town on **Saturday, May 11th** from **9am-12pm**



**Meet at the West Stockbridge Fire House at 9am to receive bags and clean-up instructions**

For more information or questions, please contact

Olivia Thiemann - [othiemann99@gmail.com](mailto:othiemann99@gmail.com)  
Peter Thorne - [pgthorne@hotmail.com](mailto:pgthorne@hotmail.com)



FUNDING FOR OUR FUTURE

## WEST STOCKBRIDGE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT

A Massachusetts funding match program for historical preservation, affordable housing, and open space conservancy

INFORMATION SESSION: TUES APR 23 6:00 PM	SPECIAL TOWN MEETING: MON MAY 6 6:00 PM	GENERAL ELECTION: MON MAY 13 ALL DAY
--	---	--

WEST STOCKBRIDGE TOWN HALL

Learn more about the Community Preservation Act and how we can raise money to create and protect valuable town resources.

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### What is Freemasonry?

Freemasonry offers its members an approach to life which seeks to reinforce thoughtfulness for others, kindness in the community, honesty in business, courtesy in society and fairness in all things.



Promoting Freemasonry in the  
West Stockbridge Community for 216 years"

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Dine in, take out & catering - come on by and say 'hi'!

# FY 2020 Annual Budget & Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles Preview

By Mark Webber, Administrative Assistant

## Budget Highlights:

- FY '20 Draft Raise & Appropriate amount: \$5,476,218; increase of \$324,813 (6.3%)
- Education: BHRSD capital & operations: \$3,097,463; increase of \$237,527 (8.3%).
- Highway Operations: \$492,200; increase of \$10,550 (2.2%)
- Police Operations: \$341,834; increase of \$23,508 (7.4%)
- General Government: \$507,675; increase of \$14,106 (2.9%)
- Unclassified Expenses: \$345,210; increase of \$28,663 (9%)

## Proposed Warrant Articles:

- Article 14: Transfer of property off Orchard Street, commonly referred to as “old hearse house.” This same article was voted on at last year’s Annual Town Meeting but failed by two votes to achieve the required two-thirds majority.
- Article 15: Seeks voter authorization to borrow funds to purchase “Card Lake Inn parking lot.” The purchase amount (\$140,000) was determined by two independent licensed commercial property appraisal firms. Requires two-thirds voter approval. First-year debt service would be in FY 2021.
- Article 16: Seeks voter approval to adopt the Community Preservation Act (CPA). If approved, this vote would be subject to a subsequent election ballot vote to be taken in May 2020.
- Article 28: Seeks approval to appropriate \$75,000 from Free Cash to supplement annual Chapter 90 Highway funding (\$152,042) to expand town road paving projects. The amount of \$70,000 was approved at last year’s Annual Town Meeting for the same purpose.
- Article 31: Seeks approval to appropriate \$23,000 from Free Cash added to the remaining balance of the Swap Shop construction (\$12,132) to perform structural and equipment repairs and upgrades to the town’s Transfer Station.
- Article 32: Seeks approval to appropriate \$25,000 from Free Cash to purchase a small excavator jointly with the Town of Richmond (equally). Highway Department historically spends approximately \$12,000 per year renting this piece of equipment.

**Local yokel**

Pick up a copy  
**FREE**  
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at these locations  
around town:



Berkshire Bank  
Charles H. Baldwin & Sons  
Flourish Market  
Library  
No. 6 Depot  
Public Market  
Queensboro Wine & Spirits  
Town Offices

Or you can choose  
to have the  
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mailed to you for a  
minimum annual  
contribution of \$25.

*Outdoor distribution boxes: Baldwin Hardware, The Floor Store, the Shaker Dam Coffeehouse and Stanmeyer Gallery, & the Transfer Station*

# May Art Calendar

**Art seminars, Demonstration, and Business Meeting.**  
Wed. May 1, 4:00pm. Collect work for Show or Tues. May 2, 9-10 in Stockbridge. Bring plain air equipment. 5-6:00. Annual Meeting. Town Hall, 21 Stateline Road (Route 102) West Stockbridge (WS)

**First Fridays Artwalk** Fri. May 3, 5-8pm. Pittsfield, North and South Streets. [www.firstfridaysartwalk.com](http://www.firstfridaysartwalk.com)  
Katherine Oakes and Millie Kelly show and Adrian Holmes demonstrates at 137 No. St. Pittsfield.

**Meet the Artist: Joanie Ciolfi, Painter.** Thursday, 12:15-1:30pm Discussion and gallery walk. No. Six Depot in West Stockbridge

**First ever Stockbridge Art Walk!** Thurs. May 9, 4-7p.m. Second Thursdays in Stockbridge. Guild show at TKG 10 Elm Street, Stockbridge. Schantz Galleries, Image Gallery and five other venues.

**Meet the Artist: Elaine Radiss, photographer.** Thursday May 16, 12:15-2 p.m. Shaker Dam Coffeehouse and Stanmeyer Gallery 2 Main Street

**Members' Potluck.** Sat. May 18, perhaps, 5-7:30pm in Richmond. Bring main dish, hors d'oeuvres or dessert for ten and what YOU want to drink. Partners welcome. RSVP: [BerkshireArtists@gmail.com](mailto:BerkshireArtists@gmail.com)

**Meet the Artist: Katherine Oakes, painter.** Mon. May 20, 4-5:30pm. discussion and gallery walk. TKG Real Estate, 137 North St. Pittsfield.

**Berkshire Photo Gathering.** Sun. May 26, 2-4 p.m. \$5. Berkshire South Regional Comm. Center, 15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230 Put Photos on website to share.

**Collect Art for Shaker Mill Inn.** Tuesday May 29 4:30-5:30pm. at West Stockbridge Town Hall, 21 Stateline Rd (Rt. 102)

**Art Book Gathering** Friday, May 31, 2-4 p.m. Share a favorite book: artist, process. Shaker Mill Books, West Stockbridge

Guild of Berkshire Artists  
RSVP: [BerkshireArtists.org](http://BerkshireArtists.org)  
[BerkshireArtists@gmail.com](mailto:BerkshireArtists@gmail.com) See Facebook

## Some Works in Stockbridge Show



Elaine Radiss



Marilyn Orner



Dave Hagerty



Keith Davidson

**Where Art Happens!**  
**STOCKBRIDGE ART WALK**  
**2nd Thursdays**  
Reception at TKG  
Self-Guided Walk 4-7 pm  
May 9 • June 13  
July 11 • Aug 8  
Sept 12 • Oct 10

Elm Street –  
\*TKG Real Estate/Gallery – pick up map here!  
Schantz Gallery

Main Street & the Mews –  
\*Stockbridge Library (open 11-4:30)  
\*Matsubay in Motion  
An American Craftsman  
Image Gallery  
Red Lion Inn Gift Shop

South Street –  
\*SEVEN salon spa (6-7 pm)  
\*Formerly real estate

Map of TKG Real Estate 10 Elm Street

For more information visit [www.berkshireartists.org](http://www.berkshireartists.org) or call 413-232-7785  
Classical Drawing: DVD and still life drawing. Join us. RSVP [BerkshireArtists@gmail.com](mailto:BerkshireArtists@gmail.com). WS Town Hall.

**Figure Painting, Open Studio** Tuesdays 1-4pm. IS 183, Stockbridge. \$20 members, \$25 nonmembers. Bring your supplies. RSVP 413-298-5252x100.

**Creating Art Outdoors.** If the weather is lovely, post time and place you want to meet others on Facebook Berkshire Plain Air.

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**Town Meeting: Monday, May 6, 7 p.m.**

**Annual Election: Monday, May 13**

**TOWN OF WEST STOCKBRIDGE  
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION**

**Village School Town Offices, 21 State Line Road  
Polls Open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Town Offices Gymnasium**

<i>Elected Office</i>	<i>Term Length</i>	<i>Incumbents</i>	<i>Challengers</i>
Moderator	1 year	Eugene Dellea	
Board of Selectmen	3 years	Peter Skorput	Eric Shimelonis
Town Clerk	3 years	Ronni Barrett	
Town Collector	3 years	June Biggs	
Board of Assessors	3 years	Ed Sporn	
Finance Committee	3 years	Michael Skorput	
Planning Board	5 years	Andrew Fudge	
Planning Board	4 years	Gunnar Gudmundson	
Planning Board	3 years	Vacant	
Board of Health	3 years	Scott Sawyer	
Library Trustees	3 years	Catherine Nihart	
Cemetery Commission	3 years	Marion Loring	

*As of the time of publication, no additional candidates had come forward.*



**Spring Cleaning SALE**  
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[ADAM@SECONDNATUREGARDENS.ORG](mailto:ADAM@SECONDNATUREGARDENS.ORG)

# What's Happening with the Old Town Hall

By Bob Salerno

The people who designed the Old Town Hall in 1854 did so in a very pragmatic manner. The first floor had three separate rentable commercial spaces (one of which would serve as the town offices). The second floor would be the community space. Ideally, the rental income from the first floor would cover the upkeep on the building. (Nice idea, but the rents never covered the costs.)

Over the years, the first floor changed. The town gradually took over all the space. The library expanded to two rooms. Bathrooms and a small back stairway to the second floor were added, and even electricity was installed. The first and second floors continued to have separate entrances.



The mysterious 6x6-inch wooden beam. Photo by Bob Salerno

As part of our original renovation plan, we wanted to create an easy way for people to go upstairs without having to walk outside and come back in during inclement weather. Also, it would allow patrons to easily come down into the library space for a reception after an event. The renovation design called for opening up a passage between the library and stairway to the second floor. We didn't plan on doing this until the major work on the addition was complete; however, things changed.

In March, our construction crew from Grayhouse Partners was on hold. They couldn't work in the extension until the plumber and electricians were done. These subcontractors couldn't finish their work until the oil spill in the crawl space was cleaned up. The elevator couldn't be tested and certified until the plumbers and electricians were done. Everything is connected, it seems. So when they had some time, Grayhouse proceeded to open up the wall in the library and start the passageway to the second-floor stairs. That's when the surprise came.

Old buildings always have some mystery, and the Old Town Hall is no exception. When the wall was opened up, we found a 6 × 6 wooden beam (pictured here) diagonally placed on the same angle of the stairs. There was no obvious structural reason for it. It doesn't tie into the front of the building; nor does it seem to have an interior purpose. The beam looked like it dated back to the original construction in 1854 and hadn't been touched since then. Historic yes, but it was also right in the middle of the new passageway.

After examination by the contractor, building inspector, architect, structural engineer, and Verne Tower, we decided to remove the beam and go forward with the passageway. It should be ready in time for our spring concert.



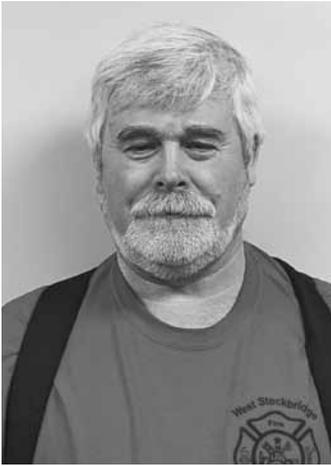
## Do you enjoy writing or photography?

The *Local Yokel* needs regular and occasional contributors.

Please call John Parker at (413) 394-4368, e-mail [info@thelocalyokel.org](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org),  
or visit [www.thelocalyokel.org](http://www.thelocalyokel.org) for more information.

# The Candidates: In Their Own Words

Looking ahead to the Annual Town Election on May 13, the *Local Yokel* invited each candidate for a contested or vacant town office to provide a written statement and photograph. Statements by candidates were limited to 250 words. These are all the statements received by the deadline for publication.



## Peter Skorput

### Candidate for Board of Selectmen

My name is Peter Skorput, and I am running for my third term as selectman. For those who do not know me, I am a lifelong resident with the best interests of the town as my reason for being a selectman. I have no agenda except making decisions that are best for the town. As a 37-year volunteer firefighter and chief since 2002, I care for the safety and welfare of the people of West Stockbridge. I have been working with the merchants to improve and promote the town to bring in needed tourist money. I also support town activities such as the Farmers Market and working on projects such as buying the rest room property from National Grid and the Card Lake parking lot. The purchase of these properties opens up possible grants that we could use to improve the facility and parking area. A vote for me will help us to keep moving forward into the future.



## Eric Shimelonis

### Candidate for Board of Selectmen

Having been active with many West Stockbridge organizations including the Vision Committee, Historical Society, and Fire Department, I aspire to serve you further by bringing my diverse experience, vision, and track record of accomplishments to the Board of Selectmen.

I have dedicated my life to public service, education, and the arts. My career began in police and fire departments. With degrees and certifications in public administration, fire science, and communications, my roles included firefighter, emergency medical technician, arson investigator, dispatcher, forensic artist and photographer, policy writer, and comprehensive planner.

After a decade of service, I moved on to pursue my passion in music and built a career distinguished by performances at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center. I have been a professor at the University of Maryland, an educational writer and director with the Washington Bach Consort, and a successful manager and music publisher with InterContemporary Music.

I now devote most of my time to our family business, located right here in town—in Ray Smith's old house. Along with my wife, Rebecca, and our 3-year-old son, I create the award-winning podcast *Circle Round*, a weekly educational program enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of children around the world.

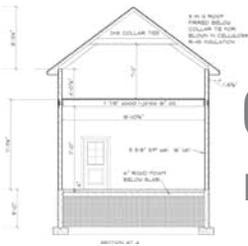
Like you, I am full of love and pride for West Stockbridge, and I want our gem of a town to be the best it can be. I hope you'll give me this chance to work with you—and for you—to make it so.

Learn more at [www.EricforWS.com](http://www.EricforWS.com).



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@annelesserscommunications.com](mailto:anne@annelesserscommunications.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.



# On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky

As I write this (mid-April), we're approaching the first anniversary of Anne and Thom's Excellent Adventure, that is, building our own house for our golden years—I usually say our “aluminum years.” It was on April 22 of last year that we first looked at the piece of land. We'd driven by it many times over the years, but it was that day we saw it with new eyes.

It's actually been almost eight months since we broke ground. Excavation began during the last week of August of last year. That was after a fast and furious few months doing plans for the house, lining up subs and materials, siting the house on the land, getting financing and permits, and arranging to put our old house on the market in the spring.

So here we are, with the inside of the house complete except for cosmetic things like drawer fronts and doors for the kitchen cabinets, and some carpet on the stairs down to the lower level. The outside is virtually done, too, except for painting and some landscaping. The question arises: What constitutes a completed house, suitable for habitation?

To reside legally at our new house, we need a Certificate of Occupancy granted by the town building inspector. This means the house has cleared several hurdles that make it safe and efficient.

First, of course, there was a plan review by the building inspector and the HERS (Home Efficiency Rating System) rater before issuance of a building permit. Then there were inspections along the way for these elements:

- Footings (the underneath support for the foundation walls) before and after concrete placement
- Ground rod inspection by the wiring inspector to make sure the house is grounded to the rebar in the footings
- Foundation walls before concrete and backfilling (to show footing drains and waterproofing)
- Poured foundation
- Framing (after the shell of the house is up) including all structural elements
- Sheathing (to determine if proper nailing practices have been followed)
- Rough electric (wiring run in the walls and ceilings)
- Rough plumbing (piping in the walls for water and drain lines)
- Rough HVAC (heat, ventilation, air conditioning); in our case, the “line sets” in the wall and exterior compressors for our air source heat pumps
- Insulation and caulking

All these “rough” inspections were done by inspectors for each trade before we could close up the framed walls and ceilings. Then, as work on the house progressed, we had these “finish” inspections:

- Finish electric including outlets, switches, light fixtures, breaker panel (including labels).
- Finish plumbing, after all the sinks, faucets, toilets, water heater, well, and pressure tank are operational.
- Finish HVAC.
- Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors inside each bedroom, outside in common areas, and at the top and bottom of stairs, as well as a heat detector in the garage; this inspection is usually done by the fire chief.
- A test to determine the efficiency of the energy system: a blower door test, in which a high-tech fan is placed in the main doorway and the house is depressurized to determine leaks and air changes; in addition, the efficiency of the windows, appliances, and light fixtures is noted; the test is done by the HERS rater who looked over the plans way back before we even applied for the building permit.
- A septic system certification, provided by the Board of Health, and a lab report for well water.
- And finally—ta-dah!—the “final” inspection, done by the building inspector. This inspection focuses on safety items, such as stairs and railings on decks, another look at the smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, appliances operational, and even a house number (important for emergency responders).



*Kitchen in progress. Photo by Mike Wilser*

Assuming everything passes, we will be granted a Certificate of Occupancy by the town. I'll let you know next month!

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

The Community Health Association of Richmond and West Stockbridge  
Invites you to join us for a dinner and lecture:

## “Your Heart: A User’s Manual” with David Finck, M.D.

**Cost:** \$10 per person for the buffet-style dinner catered by The Marketplace  
No charge for attending the lecture only

**When:** Thursday, May 23, 5–7 p.m.

**Where:** Richmond Congregational Church, State Road, Richmond, MA

### ~Reservations are required~

When making your reservation, please indicate if you are planning to join us  
for both the dinner and lecture or the lecture only.

**Contact:** Emilie Jarrett: 232-0122; e-mail: [emilie@charws.com](mailto:emilie@charws.com).

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# West Stockbridge Farmers Market



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Thursday, May 23

3 - 7 PM

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## Fire Department Log

By Peter Skorput, Fire Chief

### MARCH 2019

Date	Time	Nature of Call
3/1	2:58 a.m.	Medical
3/12	4:49 p.m.	Oil spill
3/14	11:11 a.m.	Medical
3/23	4:18 p.m.	Medical
3/29	4:50 a.m.	Carbon monoxide alarm
3/30	2:23 p.m.	Auto alarm
3/30	9:39 a.m.	Medical

# "We Remember When . . ."

## Growing Up in West Stockbridge in the 1950s

*A Series of Recollections by John Bormolini and Friends*

### Memorial Day in West Stockbridge

*By Pete Angelini*

Growing up in West Stockbridge, the month of May was special. After the long winter you could play outside all day without a jacket, open your bedroom window at night, fall asleep listening to frogs chirping in a nearby pond, and daydream about the fun you would have when school let out for summer vacation. Best of all was Memorial Day. It was usually a day off from school unless May 30 fell on a weekend (Memorial Day was celebrated on May 30 at that time). In preparation, we young people bought rolls of red, white, and blue crepe paper and decorated our bikes, threading the paper through the wheel spokes and wrapping the handlebars and crossbars and attaching small flags. Then we rode around town showing off.

On Memorial Day afternoon, there was a parade starting downtown and ending at the grade school (now the Town Offices). It was a wonderful parade with a marching band, the Eagles band from Pittsfield, local American Legion and Kiwanis Club members, Scouts, 4H, and town officials. At the school an opening prayer was offered by one of our local clergy, the band played "The Star-Spangled Banner," and the eighth-grade class valedictorian and salutatorian recited the Gettysburg Address and "In Flanders Field Where Poppies Grow" by John McCrae. Then a distinguished speaker from the community spoke about the significance of the day and the sacrifices of those who made it possible.

I first marched in the parade as a Cub Scout at age eight with Den 2. Joe Consolini was our first Den Chief (Boy Scout leader/mentor), followed by Steve Salvi. My dear mom, Ruth Angelini, was our Den Mother, and she and the other two Den Mothers, Mrs. Whiteman and Mrs. Shultz, also marched with us. I marched in the parade every year, advancing to Boy Scouts and then Explorers in Troop 37.

It was during this time that the American Legion purchased two bugles with the expectation that two scouts would learn to play Taps. It signifies "lights out" and is played concluding an honor guard ceremony paying respects to the fallen and at military funerals. The intent was for one bugler to play Taps with the honor guard following the four-volley rifle salute and for the second bugler to play the echo from a remote unseen location. At the time, I was taking trumpet lessons, and because a bugle is a trumpet without valves, I quickly learned to play Taps. However, no one else in our troop could play, so I suggested to the Legion that I play Taps after the rifle salute facing the gathering and then turn in the opposite direction facing away from the viewers and play the echo with a mute inserted into the bugle that quieted the sound as if being played from a distance. The honor guard is a striking and meaningful ceremony, and observing it has brought tears to my eyes more than once.

Preparing for this important event, I practiced daily. Taps is 24 musical notes and played in 45 seconds. Notes 16 to 18 are very high full-measure notes and, with bugles lacking valves, all the work is done by the bugler's lips. If your lip tires and these high notes aren't hit correctly, the sound is similar to a dog howling, and the entire effect is lost. Thankfully, I never experienced a mishap. Preparing also included polishing the bugle with Brasso and spit-shining my shoes. On Memorial Day, the Legion members and I met downtown and drove to West Center, the first of four local cemeteries where we would perform the honor guard ceremony. The American Legion Post commander was Paul Skorput. Other Legion honor guard veteran participants included Pete Antonazzi, who had lost his left arm in a World War II battle, Tony Viola, George Panzieri, and Gerry Roy. Arriving at the cemetery, we marched onto the grounds. Following a brief tribute to fallen comrades by Mr. Skorput, he gave the commands for the rifle salute, followed by me playing Taps and then the echo. Then we drove to the Williamsville cemetery where the ceremony was repeated, and on to West Stockbridge and the Protestant and Catholic cemeteries, concluding the morning's formal activities.

The Legion members returned to their post headquarters where they had prepared a hot dog roast and picnic lunch for their families. Being with these fine men on this day meant a great deal to me. Throughout the morning they were solemn, in keeping with the purpose of the day, but when the events had concluded and they were enjoying lunch with their families, they were completely at ease, chatting about work, fishing, the Boston Red Sox, planting their gardens, and other normal daily events. Although they had been in harm's way during the war, they never discussed that subject, reflecting their modesty and genuineness. I highly respected these local heroes for their devotion to country and duty, and these experiences strongly influenced my own decision to go into the military following college. Memorial Day was truly special growing up in West Stockbridge, and I will always treasure these wonderful memories.

*John Bormolini is a West Stockbridge "ex-pat," now residing in Leavenworth, Kansas. Readers who would like to share their stories of 1950s West Stockbridge are invited to e-mail John at [johnbormo@aol.com](mailto:johnbormo@aol.com).*



*Honor Guard, 2014 Memorial Day parade, West Stockbridge. Photo by John Parker*



# WEST STOCKBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

21 State Line Rd | West Stockbridge, MA 01266 | In the Town Offices  
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TUESDAY 10am-5pm | WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY 2-6pm | SATURDAY 10am-2pm

Programming news: Our exciting “Birds of Prey” program is here! Please join us on Saturday, May 18, in the Town Offices gymnasium at 11 a.m. for this event.

Also, we are thrilled to announce that our library has been awarded the Pilcrow Foundation Grant for small rural public libraries. Our very own librarian Vicky Cooper, of storytime fame, spotted this great opportunity that will fund a big overhaul of our children’s book collection.



**NEW DVDs**

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 Patterson, *The Cornwalls Are Gone*

**NEW ADULT NONFICTION**

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 King, *The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers*

**NEW YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN’S BOOKS**

Byers, *I Am Enough*

**NEW YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN’S DVDs**

*Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*

\*\*\*\*\*



**Ongoing**

- Story time with Miss Vicky on Saturdays at 11 a.m.
- 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 ask us to hold books or movies for you, and keep track of checkouts, overdues and fees, pickup locations, renewals, and more. If you can't find it in our C/WMARS network, click on the Commonwealth Catalog to borrow any item statewide.
- For everyone with an online CW/MARS account, we hope you will take advantage of the app called Libby (image of a reader with a bow in her hair!) to listen to audiobooks and read eBooks on your phone or tablet. Librarians are very happy to help you set this up when you bring in your phone or tablet.
- 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 available at the library, thanks to the Friends of the Library and the West Stockbridge Cultural Council.
- As always, we welcome suggestions on just about anything to improve our library.

Rachel Alter, Vicky Cooper, and Brad Havill



### 2019 BOOK DONATION REQUEST



#### DONATE YOUR GENTLY USED BOOKS/CDs/DVDs

The Friends of the West Stockbridge Library are requesting donations for their July 27 and 28 book sale, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Books (no textbooks or magazines; no VCR tapes) may be provided to the library during regular library hours. Please do not leave donated books in the library book return box.

We can only accept books in good condition.

THANK YOU

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF BOOKS: SATURDAY, JULY 6

The West Stockbridge Library  
Town Hall  
21 State Line Road



### May 2019 Friends of the West Stockbridge Library Scrapbook Corner

1. What local college student was inducted into the Alpha Lambda Delta national academic Honor Society?
2. Who from West Stockbridge designed a partial renovation of the Housatonic mill district?
3. What full-time police officer became its chief?
4. What West Stockbridge resident and her father wrote the *Week-by-Week Vegetable Gardener's Handbook*?

Answers: 1. Amy Springstube, 2. John Fulop, 3. Tom Rubino, 4. Jennifer Kujawski and Ron Kujawski

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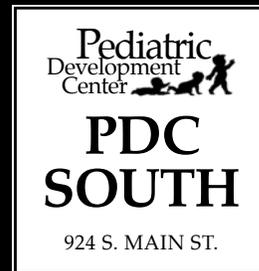
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## Community News & Events

### 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 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](http://www.rwstcomhealth.com).

### Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, May 19, the Stockbridge Grange will serve a family-style baked beans and ham dinner in the Grange Hall at 51 Church Street, Stockbridge, from 1 to 2 p.m. Cost: \$12 adults, \$6 under 12, and under 5 free. Takeouts are available.

### Council on Aging Potluck

The West Stockbridge Council on aging will meet on Tuesday, May 14, for our monthly potluck luncheon at noon in the Town Offices Community Room. Hope to see many of you there!

### West Stockbridge Congregational Church

The West Stockbridge Congregational Church will have its first bake sale of 2019 in front of Baldwin's Extracts, 1 Center Street, West Stockbridge, on Saturday, May 18, from 9:30 until noon.

*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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## Birthdays & Anniversaries

5/12 Lisa Parker

5/28 Melissa Seward

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or visit [www.thelocalyokel.org](http://www.thelocalyokel.org)



## History Quiz Answer:



This is my new boarding-place  
in the Berkshires. The cross indi-  
cates my room. The view from the  
front is magnificent. E.L.B.

Hill Top House. Photo courtesy of Bob Salerno

"Hill Top" house is sited on the knoll overlooking Route 41 and 102 with an attractive stone front wall overlooking Stockbridge Road. It was built in 1882, at the peak of the West Stockbridge industrial period. (The Congregational Church was built during the same time frame.) The house's architectural style was common at the time, originally called "Stick style" but later classified as "Queen Anne," one of the few homes like that in the area.

The original owner was Vallas Truesdale, a major quarry and lime kiln operator in town. He is listed in the 1876 *Biographical Review of Berkshire County* as a "lime burner." His father was one of the original founders of the lime industry in West Stockbridge, and Vallas carried on the family tradition. The Truesdale family owned many of the kilns and quarry businesses in the area at various times. They were one of the most important families in town.

The Hill Top house reflected Vallas's prominence in the community. He also owned a smaller house next to the Stone House Realty building on Main Street. Hill Top set the standard, and at one time it was probably the largest private home in the town center.

What adds to the uniqueness to the Hill Top house is that during the early 1900s, the house served as a boarding place, with summer rentals. A 1904 postcard shows the knoll and surrounding area completely barren of trees. There were wide-open views in all directions, north overlooking the town and east and south to West Stockbridge Mountain. All of the trees in the area were taken for charcoal to fuel the lime kilns and iron furnaces. The porch on the front (north) side has a sweeping view of the town. This location might have been the spot where Anson Clark took the first picture (daguerreotype) of West Stockbridge around 1840.

We don't know how long the house was a boardinghouse and when it returned to a private home. Vallas Truesdale lived on Main Street in 1904, and the home remained in the Truesdale family. He died in 1916.

The trees have grown up considerably, and the view is not as dramatic as it once was, but Hill Top was certainly the top place to stay in town.

# Every issue costs us about \$1,300 to print and distribute! Please help us keep the *Local Yokel* coming!

With increased printing and postage costs, we need your help more than ever. To get the latest town news, please contribute to the *Local Yokel*. For your donation of at least \$25.00 per year we will mail each issue to you (unless you prefer otherwise). The *Local Yokel* will continue to be available free at selected locations as long as possible, but we hope you will contribute anything you can. The West Stockbridge Local Yokel, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization, and all contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Please check with your employer, or former employer if retired, for matching gift programs.

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What is your favorite tree in the center of West Stockbridge? Please send us the address and a brief description of the tree to [WSWalk012@gmail.com](mailto:WSWalk012@gmail.com) and a photo if that is easy for you. You do NOT have to know what kind it is.

We plan to add significant, beautiful trees to a walking map of West Stockbridge and put it out the Vision Committee's website [www.wstockvision.com](http://www.wstockvision.com) as a start. We will include the name of the tree, the country of origin and other special attributes of the trees. Tree lovers may nominate more than one. Please join us on a tree walk this spring. To sign up or to share your knowledge [WSWalk012@gmail.com](mailto:WSWalk012@gmail.com)

  
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## Wetlands and YOU

Tuesday, May 14

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MA Western Region

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

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

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

**THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE  
CHAMBER PLAYERS**

# Spring Concert

**Friday, May 24, 2019 at 6 pm**

Old Town Hall, Main Street, West Stockbridge

**Amanda Hardy, oboe • Catherine Hudgins, clarinet**  
**Sheila Fiekowsky, violin • Lisa Kim, violin**  
**Daniel Getz, viola • Oliver Aldort, cello**

**Mozart:** Oboe Quartet in F major, K. 370/368b

**Gál:** Serenade for Clarinet, Violin, and Cello, Op. 93

**Schubert:** String Quartet No. 13 in A minor  
(the Rosamunde Quartet), D. 804, Op. 29

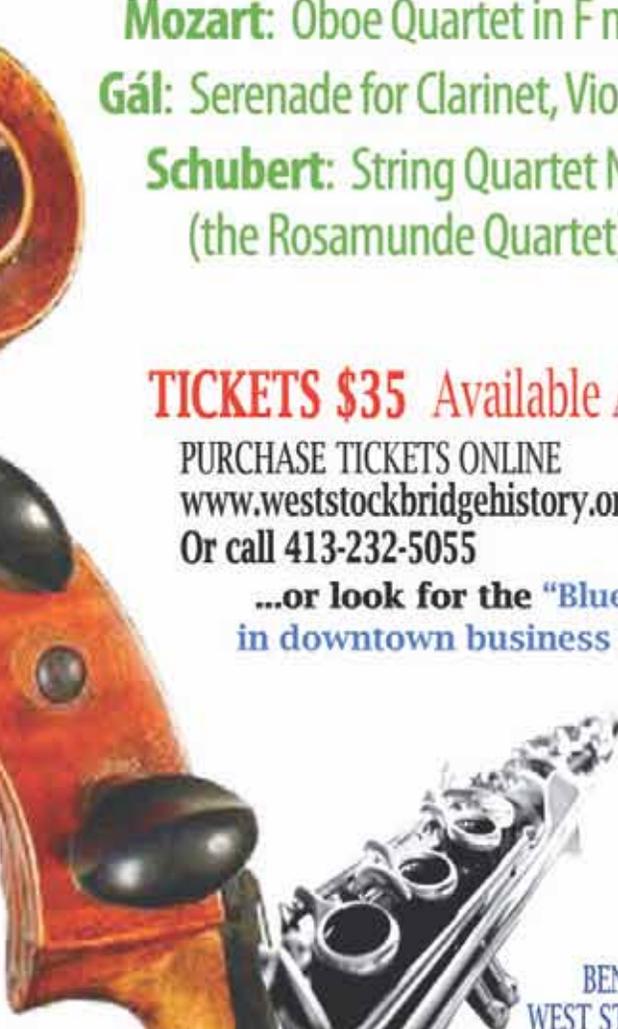
**TICKETS \$35 Available April 25th**

PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE  
[www.weststockbridgehistory.org](http://www.weststockbridgehistory.org)  
Or call 413-232-5055

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

*A reception  
will follow  
the concert!*

Sponsored by  
grants from the  
Richmond and  
West Stockbridge  
Cultural Councils



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

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

**thelocalyokel.org**



**May 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	29	30	31	

May 2019 Calendar of Events			
5/1	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
5/1	Board of Selectmen meeting	6 p.m.	Town Offices
5/2	Board of Health meeting	6:30 p.m.	Town Offices
5/5	Ramadan (begins at sundown)		
5/6	Annual Town Meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices Gymnasium
5/8	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
5/11	Clean Up West Stockbridge	9-12 noon	Meet at West Stockbridge Firehouse
5/12	Mother's Day		
5/13	Annual Town Election	10 a.m.- 7 p.m.	Town Offices Gymnasium
5/14	COA luncheon	12 noon	Town Offices Community Room
5/14	American Legion meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
5/15	*** Deadline for the next Local Yokel ***		Send to <a href="mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org">info@thelocalyokel.org</a>
5/15	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
5/15	Board of Selectmen meeting	6 p.m.	Town Offices
5/17-19	BerkChique	For hours see <a href="http://BerkChique.com">BerkChique.com</a>	Old Town Hall
5/18	West Stockbridge Run for Fun 5K	9 a.m.	Old Town Hall
5/18	Bake Sale	9:30-12 noon	Baldwin's Extracts, 1 Center Street
5/19	Grange dinner	1-2 p.m.	Grange Hall, 51 Church St., Stockbridge
5/22	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
5/22	Board of Selectmen meeting	6 p.m.	Town Offices
5/23	Farmers Market Opening Day	3-7 p.m.	The Green at Harris Street
5/23	CHA Dinner & Lecture	5-7 p.m.	Richmond Congregational Church
5/24	Chamber Players Spring Concert	6 p.m.	Old Town Hall
5/27	Memorial Day		
5/29	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
5/30	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	The Green at Harris Street