

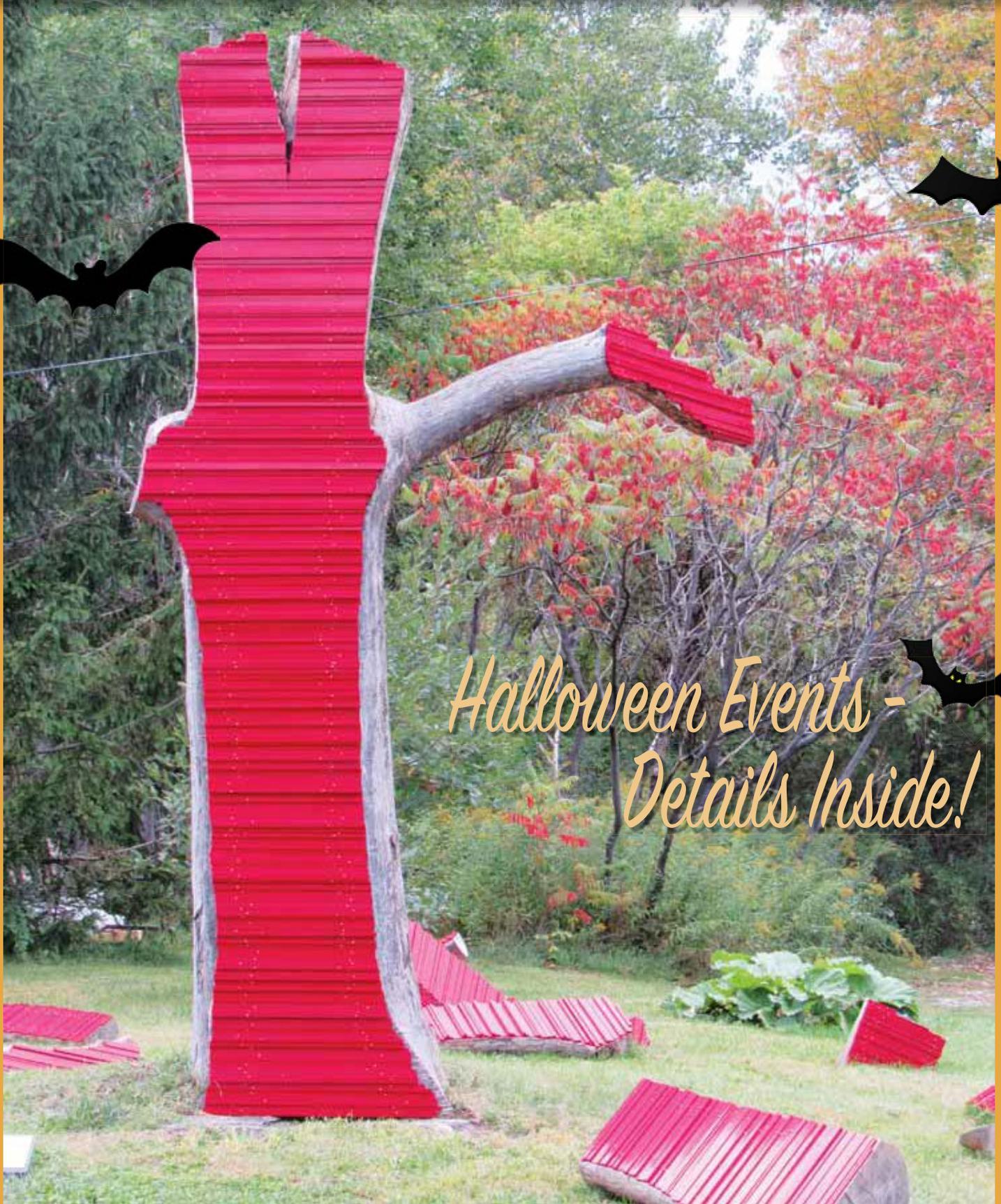
Local yokel

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

West
Stockbridge
October 2019



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005



*Halloween Events -
Details Inside!*

Turn Park Sculpture by Alexander Konstantinov 'Ash Tree', 2017, wood and aluminum. Photo by John Parker



Town Plans Halloween Events

Once again, the town of West Stockbridge will be hosting a ghoulishly fun evening of Halloween Haunts on October 31.

Here's the schedule of events:



4–6 p.m. **Trick-or-Treat.** Please turn on your porch light to indicate that you will be receiving Halloween revelers.



6:15 p.m. **Halloween Haunts Parade** begins in front of the WS Post Office. Please line up behind the fire trucks, or grab a viewing spot along Main Street!



6:30–8 p.m. **Spooky WSPD Obstacle Course, Haunted Church, and Halloween Party** take place at the West Stockbridge Congregational Church (45 Main Street). The all-ages **Halloween Costume Contest** begins at 7:15 p.m. Please note: This party is a nut-free event.

This is a *free* community evening!

West Stockbridge Halloween Haunts are made possible by the collaborative efforts of the West Stockbridge Congregational Church, West Stockbridge Police Department, and West Stockbridge Fire Department.



APPLE PRESSING AT THE JOHNSON BARN

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, NOON TO 5 P.M.

170 GREAT BARRINGTON ROAD (RTE. 41), WEST STOCKBRIDGE

The annual Apple Pressing will be held on Saturday, October 19, from noon to 5 p.m., at Johnson's barn on Route 41, 2½ miles south of town. There will be fresh pressed cider, hayrides, live music by the Zydeco Hillbillies, food, homemade ice cream, antique farm equipment, and animals to see. Free flu shots will be available from noon to 2 p.m.

Admission and food are free; all donations go to support the Community Health Association. If interested in helping with preparations, please call Don Johnson at (413) 854-4405 several days ahead.

Photo by John Parker

Select Board Meeting Minutes

[Editor's note: At the request of the town administrator, we are presenting here the Select Board minutes exactly as approved and provided to us with no editing of text and only minimal necessary re-formatting. Copies of the official board minutes are also available at the West Stockbridge Public Library. Select Board meetings may be viewed on 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>].

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2019

5:55 PM: Open Meeting

Quorum present: Bernie Fallon (BF), Chair; Doane Perry (DP); Eric Shimelonis (ES) and Select Board (SB). Also, present: Town Admin Marie Ryan (MR) and Curt Wilton (CW) Highway Superintendent, Brian Duval (BD) Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer, Rosario Messina (RM) Lieutenant Police Department, and Peter Skorput (PS).
Press in attendance: Evan from the Berkshire Record.

Board reviews and approves warrants; payroll and vendor as well as minutes from August 14, 2019 SB meeting.

Board approves and signs Facilities Use form from the Library for an event and the Berkshire Hills Soccer to use the soccer field for the fall season.

Agenda Items/Action/Discussion Items: Meeting opened at 6 PM

Troy's Garage -Board discusses the issue with junk cars at Troy's Garage with Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer Brian Duval. BF stated there are two issues going on; one is an issue of the cars spilling over into the residence property and two is the issue of the used car license and if the bylaw is being complied with. BD stated that on the residence there is one car that is not registered and that falls on the Police Department to enforce. BD said that he spoke with John D'Aniello and about keeping the cars for the business on the business property only and John said he would comply.

BF asked about the golf carts on the property and if there is any law against those. BF asked RM to look into if they are allowed. ES said he felt is good to have communication instead of just law enforcement to keep things under control. BD said he would keep monitoring the situation and BF said he would discuss the unregistered car issue with the Police.

BF mentioned that the Finance Committee had a very productive meeting last Friday about creating a 5-year plan. He said it is a great committee and that they are looking ahead for the best interest of the Town.

Public Works Director-

CW presented a draft of an agreement that the Selectmen had created in 1990 but had never been acted upon. This would give him a new title and more responsibilities in

his job description of which he mostly deals with already. With this new title, CW would be in charge of Parks & Recreation, Cemeteries, Buildings and Grounds, Compactor and Highway DPW. He would be the liaison for the committees charged with overseeing these areas. CW said he has a lot of ideas to get these committees up and running again and looks forward to working with them. BF said CW was the right person for this job and this is a very positive move for the Town. ES said he thought this was fantastic move as well as DP. CW said he will begin contacting the committees and get things up and moving. BF asked about the finances for the cemeteries and Parks & Rec and CW said he will contact the Accountant Elaine and work with her on that. CW said he would have a line drafted for each committee he will be responsible for and have that in the agreement to go over and sign with SB at the next meeting.

Someone in the audience asked if the DPW will be OK with him doing other things and CW said he has been preparing his crew and given them more responsibilities. He said he let them vote on a supervisor and they all agreed that Jamie Boyer would be the best for the position and Jamie has been training with Curt and even has moved into Curt's office to learn from Curt. BF was asked for the timing of doing this and BF stated most likely 2-3 weeks.

BF made a motion to change CW title to Public Works Director, DP seconded, all were in favor.

Bike Racks – CW also mentioned that he is all set to order the bike racks but wanted input from the SB on what color they wanted them. CW also noted that when he called to order the bike racks, he was given an additional few hundred dollars off with a coupon. The SB decided to have some red and some silver.

16 State Line Road –

RM gave an update on the junk car issue in Town. He stated that there are only 5 people left that he typed up a criminal complaint for. He will deliver that paperwork to the court on Monday. The court will then issue a letter to those people to come in for a hearing. DP and ES thanked RM and said they liked his presentation on the issue.

Annie Kilmer asked if these also included the junk cars at the trailer park. RM said no but he was not aware of the issue and what had to be done for that. He said he would most definitely look into it for her and would get back to her. She said she thought those cars were included and that the Chief

...continued on page 5



To Our Readers and Advertisers

Please be advised that our November issue will be distributed about a week later than usual; we expect that will be around November 9. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience.



Join us for our
Fall Finale!
October 3rd, 3-7pm
Last Market of the Season

Fun for Kids - 4-6pm
hay ride, scavenger hunt, pumpkins
air dunking for doughnuts + more

West Stockbridge Farmers Market
The Green at The Foundry on Harris Street

West Stockbridge Congregational Church

Annual Harvest Dinner *Sunday, October 6*

A buffet-style meal with turkey, gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, squash, peas, roll with butter, apple pie, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate.

Always a great meal and good conversation.

Bring your neighbors and friends, and see for yourself!

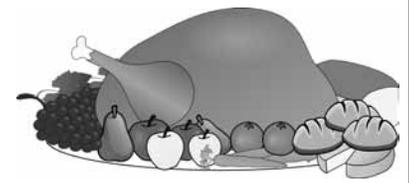
Seatings: 4:30 and 6:15 p.m. Takeout available.

Adults \$15/Children \$8 /Ages 5 and under *free!*

Cash, check, or credit cards accepted.

Tickets for the Chinese auction and 50/50 raffle:
\$1 each or 6 for \$5.

Tickets and
reservations:
Call 232-4256.



October History Quiz Question:

Tanglewood has had a major impact on many towns since its founding in 1937. Lenox and Stockbridge are the most directly affected by the visitors, and residents argue regularly about in which town the festival is located. (Tanglewood is on the border of both towns.) Even West Stockbridge, which tends to be outside of the larger summer tourist rush, sees increased tourist traffic (think about the weekends when James Taylor and Yo-Yo Ma perform). Many of the musicians, conductors, composers, and staff have homes in West Stockbridge or regularly rent here for the summer. We are part of the Tanglewood orbit.

In addition to serving as a residential center for Tanglewood, West Stockbridge actually has a connection to the beginnings of the music festival. What would that be?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)

When friends, neighbors, or relatives move, downsize, or just clean house, *please* ask them to think of the West Stockbridge Historical Society before they discard any old books, pictures, postcards, letters, or memorabilia of the Town of West Stockbridge. E-mail info@weststockbridgehistory.org or call 232-4270.



**West Stockbridge
Historical Society**
Incorporated in 1994

said he sent them letters a while ago. RM then explained the procedure of the letters sent by the SB and now these letters are going directly to the court as a next step.

Swamp Road –

Lisa Korte thanked RM for putting the speed trailer on Swamp Road and said it has made a huge difference. The vehicles have all been driving slower and she appreciates that. BF also mentioned that MR is beginning to look for grants to help the Town with roads and other issues.

MR stated that she is talking with DOT to file a petition for eliminating the large heavy vehicles from using Swamp Road and will give updates in future.

Don Johnson Fund Raiser –

BF stated that Don Johnson wanted permission to hold an Apple Squeeze/Fund Raiser at his home at 170 Great Barrington Road to raise money for donations to charities. DP said this is a great annual event. BF made a motion to support it, DP seconded and all were in favor.

Proclamation –

BF stated that the Board needs to work together to create this proclamation together. DP said he thought this was great. BF said he wanted to see this to be something good for the Town and not something that is read or written and just sits there. There was concern from someone in the audience about the words used in the proclamation and that is was not inclusive of all. He said either use all the phrases (i.e.: white supremacy, Jewish, Muslims, etc....) or do not use any. BF said he wants this to be a positive thing not using negative words. DP asked if possibly this should go out to the community for everyone's input. Bf thought this was a great idea so it truly does reflect the whole community. BF said it could be a general statement that can be used for the future and be relevant for years to come. ES had a concern because he said he wrote this specifically for the current situation and felt the wording is appropriate for now. He said he did not write this to be covering the future for all that is happening in the world currently. ES said there may be different issues in

the future and this is not a forever document. Someone in the audience said they should put it as is in the Local Yodel and the website and have people comment on it and then come back with the comments with a creation that the SB does using the community input on it. BF asked for a next step. DP and ES said they could get it in the Local Yodel for this coming edition as is. BF made a motion to get input from the community, DP seconded and all were in favor.

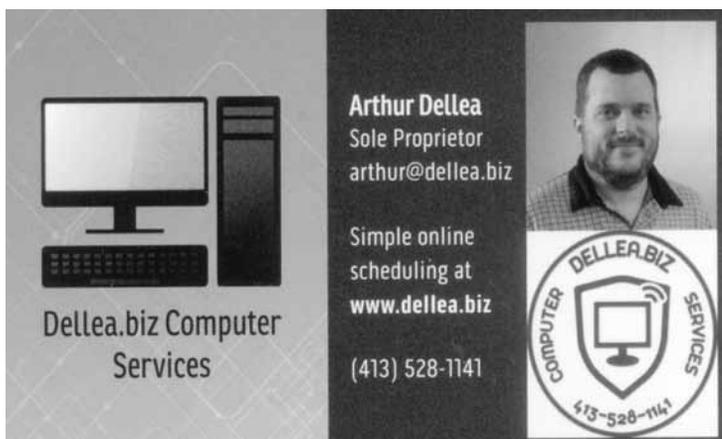
Fire Department – Next Steps-

BF began by saying that he felt that last week's meeting was productive because it opened the communication and was positive. DP said he was concerned and the primary need right now is financial responsibility due to insurance and the Town being sued. He said there appears to be a need for better reporting and it is not an option but is critical at this point. He said the Board should consider creating a position for someone to be hired to go and assist in organizing and with paperwork. The Town would pay the salary to lower the risk of being sued. ES said he is not sure that will help.

ES asked if PS had been invited. He felt uncomfortable speaking about the Fire Department without PS there and in the future would like any department head to be present if they were on the agenda for a meeting. ES continued that the bare minimum of reporting is not being done and this is Fire Fighting 101. He stated that proper training is not being done. ES said that systemically there needs to be changes in every area. BF then asked to see the Richmond Fire Dept report of a situation that both departments were at. There was a significant difference in the details written. BF stated that we need to be more detailed. He said we need them to listen and to find a better way to communicate as a community. The audience asked if there was someone from a state agency that could come and help show our FD how to create a proper report. BF asked the Board if they feel as he does that a top priority is having reports done correctly and ES and DP agreed.

Someone in the audience said you can get help with that but the main problem is the culture at the FD. When he went to be a part of the FD and help out, he said he got

...continued on page 7



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and The West Stockbridge Council on Aging



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“Marijuana (All There Is to Know): A Primer”

Cost: \$10 per person for the buffet-style dinner catered by The Marketplace

No charge for attending the lecture only

When: Thursday, October 10, 5–7 p.m.

Where: St. Patrick’s Church Parish Center, Route 41, West Stockbridge, 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.

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Mondays never felt so good!

no direction and they all just kept joking around as their conversation. Another person in the audience said he feels that we have dedicated people in the FD but they seemed to be not trained well enough and that the Board needs to protect the community. He said the FD needs to do at least the minimum standards and there has to be a commitment to do the minimum standard to be safe.

ES felt that an outside person is not going to be able to help the situation. He has no faith that an outside person can help. He said it is a dangerous situation with lack of training. He said to be clear he just feels that the FD just needs a new leader. Also, ES added that he got a call from Great Barrington Fire Chief Charlie Burger who wanted the record straight that they do not have a junior program like the West Stockbridge FD members stated at the last meeting that GB did and that GB let them ride the fire vehicles.

ES and BF both discussed a goal and what needs to be done first. BF said he thought reporting. DP said that PS is opposed to changes but we need help and to satisfy reporting issues for insurance purposes. We need to take short term steps to make a better department. BF said we need to do bit size improvements in the shortest amount of time but the training also needs to be adequate.

BF said he would like to get better communication so they are all on the same page. PS said yes, we will work with everyone. BF asked if an outside trained professional person could assist with giving more detail to the reports. PS stated that last week he went over how to complete the reports with his members and did a training on it. He stated that the reports that get filed with the state are complete.

ES stated that we need to keep up with the process and his only motivator for this is to increase public service for the Town. He said this is hard and he feels badly that this puts us all at odds. BF stated it will get better and it will help if we get a chain of command created for good communication. (Peter Skorput, Fire Chief arrived at this time of the meeting).

PS said that he has 5-year plan and he plans on attending the next SB meeting to present and update to the SB. He said the FD also has completed the sexual harassment

training and that he has signed paperwork for records.

BF said he would like a list of what stuff has been done from the report at the next meeting. PS stressed that the person who did the report was from a big town where he felt the person did not understand how a small-town FD works with only volunteers that all had full time jobs so some of the things really did not work for the WS FD.

BF said he would like to see PS work with MR and get some structure and good communication. PS said he will work this out. BF asked PS how they could show the members that they are appreciated and PS said they know that they are appreciated. PS said many people thank them all the time for their volunteering.

The Board thanked PS for coming in to the meeting.

BF motion to adjourn at 8:35 PM, DP seconded.

MR confirmed with the Select Board that their next meeting would be on Wednesday, September 4th at 6 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator

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Red & yellow leaves,
Orange leaves, brown
leaves are falling
Falling down.
Rake 'em, pile 'em
In a heap.
Oh, forget it!
Let's just leap!!

The Sound was made from this bell. The word around town is that when a customer made a big tip, the bell would be rung. It must have felt good knowing that the customer appreciated their service. Likewise the server felt appreciated for their conscientious efforts.

What ways do we have today, to communicate our appreciation for others hard work?

I wonder what else is known about this bell?



Written by: Paul Cunningham

Noticed by: Lois

Thank you from the West Stockbridge Appreciation Committee.
Send us what you Have Noticed to Lois @

wsappreciation@gmail.com

West Stockbridge invites you to enjoy...

Halloween Haunts

on October 31st

This is a
FREE
Community
evening

4-6pm. Trick-or-Treat
6:15pm. Halloween Haunt Parade begins in front
of the West Stockbridge Post Office
6:30 - 8pm. Spooky Obstacle Course, Haunted
Church, & Halloween Party at the WS
Congregational Church (45 Main St.)
**ALL AGES Costume Contest begins at 7:15pm

West Stockbridge Halloween Haunts are made possible by the collaborative efforts of the West Stockbridge Congregational Church, West Stockbridge Police Department, and West Stockbridge Fire Department.

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Jazz guitarist Peter Hand.
Photo courtesy of Peter Hand

**West Stockbridge Historical Society
Jazz Series Presents
The Peter Hand Trio
Saturday, October 12, at 8 p.m.
Old Town Hall, 9 Main St., West Stockbridge, MA**

Following the success of the first concert of the West Stockbridge Historical Society Jazz Series, the second concert will feature jazz guitarist, composer, and arranger Peter Hand's trio featuring bassist Harvie S and drummer Steve Johns.

Peter Hand leads his own combos and big band in New York and New England and has worked with many top artists and bands including Carmen Lundy, Jon Lucien, Houston Person, Lee Konitz, Claudio Roditi, Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, Chicago Jazz Orchestra, and Charleston Jazz Orchestra. His third recording, an exciting modern big-band album titled *Hand Painted Dream*, was just released on Savant Records.

Joined by Harvie S, a legendary bassist who has performed and recorded with Stan Getz, Tony Bennett, James Brown, Chick Corea, Pat Metheny, Toots Thielemans, and countless others, and Steve Johns, who has worked with the Count Basie Orchestra, Larry Coryell, Benny Carter, Diane Schuur, Stanley Turrentine, and Kenny Burrell, the trio will play selections from the new album including fresh twists on jazz standards, Brazilian jazz, and original compositions.

Hand's previous albums received excellent reviews and nationwide radio airplay. *Downbeat* stated, "Peter Hand's latest album is cause for celebration," and *Jazz & Blues Report* said, "Hand is a wonderful guitarist in the vein of a Montgomery, Kenny Burrell, Grant Green and the like with a definite blues sensibility."

Peter Hand is no stranger to the Berkshires and has performed at Castle Street Café (now closed) and the Williams College Jazz Festival. For many years he spent time visiting at a family home in Stockbridge, where he worked on many of his original compositions and arrangements. Hand says, "I love the Berkshires, and Stockbridge and West Stockbridge are some of my favorite places. It's such a wonderfully inspiring atmosphere to be in for the arts, nature, and a community of caring and spirited people. I'm thrilled to be able to take part in this event for the West Stockbridge Historical Society."

Tickets \$35 at weststockbridgehistory.org . Ticket includes one drink voucher. Doors open at 6:45; open seating.

Do you have an extra hour a week?

The *Local Yokel* is looking for distributors to deliver the publications to our spots around town, then check back a few times that month.

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



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Local Yokel

Welcomes

Volunteer

Paul Cunningham!

We are happy to welcome Paul Cunningham to our team of volunteers. He will be helping with our monthly distribution of the *Local Yokel* in town—thanks, Paul!



West Stockbridge Cultural Council invites Grant Proposals for 2020

The West Stockbridge Cultural Council (WSCC) has set an October 15, 2019, postmark deadline for local organizations, schools, and individuals to apply for 2020 state grants that support cultural activities in our community.

The WSCC is part of a statewide network of local cultural councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. In West Stockbridge our priorities are to provide a variety of cultural resources for our diverse community from preschool children to seniors.

Our grants can support many kinds of cultural projects and activities including performances, lectures, school programs, workshops, and festivals. Subsidies may also be available for school-age children to attend cultural field trips to local museums and other cultural sites. The council typically grants a total of \$4,000 to \$4,500 annually.

For specific guidelines and complete information on the WSCC, contact Marjorie Powell at ladyeasland@gmail.com or 232-0222. Application forms and more information about the Local Cultural Council program are available online at www.mass-culture.org/lcc_public.asp. (click on "application process"). Application forms are also available at the West Stockbridge Town Offices and Library.



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“We Remember When . . .”

Growing Up in West Stockbridge in the 1950s

A Series of Recollections by John Bormolini and Friends

October and Halloween

By John Bormolini

Before I get into remembrances of Halloween, there were other goings-on in October. Close your eyes, take a deep breath: smell the aroma of burning leaves with a trail of smoke wafting into the air. Most leaves were burned or raked into a compost pile. No specific day was designated as “burn day.” When you had a pile of leaves and the wind was favorable, you burned them. When not burned, leaves were often used to “bank” the outside foundation of the house to help keep the heat in and the cold out during the winter. Boards were placed around the house making a trench filled with leaves. I remember my mother doing that.

Getting ready for winter included getting, cutting, and splitting enough wood to get you through the winter. Our stove was the only source of heat until we installed an oil furnace. The stove was also used to heat water for our weekly tub bath. In the winter, we burned wood in the early evening and coal throughout the night. The tops of the stove got red hot.

October was also the time to pick up the wine grapes ordered in September. Bob Romeo remembers that his grandfather and my godfather, Julio Delmolino, ordered the grapes from Marchisio’s Italian store in Pittsfield. They were shipped in a boxcar from a California vineyard directly to the West Stockbridge train depot. I vividly remember the boxes of grapes in our earthen cellar and eating the grapes—they were the sweetest I’ve ever eaten. Winemaking began soon after the grapes arrived. The more sophisticated winemakers would use the dregs of leftover grapes to brew up high-powered alcohol called grappa, usually added to coffee to make “coffee royal.” Many hard-working men, working in the quarries, would kick-start the day with a coffee royal.

Coming back to Halloween, John Masiero recalls,

Growing up on Cobb Road with no school-age neighbors, I had little contact with kids other than in school. Once or twice I went to Halloween activities in town. A parade formed downtown on a side street and proceeded to the Village School. Costume judging was held in the gym. Cider and donuts were served, there was an apple dunking contest, and cartoons were shown on a screen in front of the stage. This practice was still followed in the 1980s when my daughter was in elementary school.

Merchants on Main Street allowed some of the more talented kids to paint scenes or decorations on their front windows. By chance, Louise Faggioni was going through old photos and ran across this picture. Thanks, Louise!

From Pete Angelini:

One recollection is of classmate Randy Walker’s Halloween parties. He lived way out of town, near Alford. His mom and dad would go all out constructing complex spider web mazes that occupied the entire room. We had to unravel the web in the dark to get our “prizes.” There was dunking for apples and a nice snack with homemade apple cider.

One memory that will be with me as long as I live happened on Cabbage Night (a.k.a. Devil’s Night) on Halloween eve. A few of us lads and I were out and about on Main Street, up to no good, when we saw the town policeman’s car parked in front of Karnegis’ soda shop. I could see the officer at the counter peacefully sipping his ice cream soda. I must have devised this wicked plan beforehand as I was well prepared with two boxes of caps in my pocket. I snuck across the street to the front doorstep of the shop, crouching low not to be seen. I placed the 10 rolls of caps on the step and using a hefty rock smashed the caps making a deafening boom and emitting dense smoke!

As I turned the corner running as fast as I could across the bridge toward Baldwin’s Hardware store, I saw the policeman come out of the store and get in his car. By the time he rounded the corner, I was hugging weeds behind the Square Rigger (now the



Photo courtesy of Louise Faggioni (Pericolosi)

...continued on page 14

The Community Health Association of Richmond and West Stockbridge

OCTOBER FLU CLINIC SCHEDULE 2019

Flu clinics will start on Tuesday, October 8

The Community Health Association of Richmond and West Stockbridge is offering free flu shots for eligible residents older than 19 years in both communities. For information about influenza, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website: www.cdc.gov/flu.

COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSOCIATION WEST STOCKBRIDGE OFFICE

Mondays and Wednesdays, 9–10 a.m. (except major holidays)

WEST STOCKBRIDGE TOWN OFFICES COMMUNITY ROOM

New date: Tuesday, October 8, 5–7 p.m.

Monday, October 21, noon–2 p.m.

RICHMOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Every Thursday: 9–10:00 a.m. (except major holidays)

Wednesday, October 9, noon–2 p.m.

Tuesday, October 15, 5–7 p.m.

RICHMOND LIBRARY

Tuesday, October 29, 5–7 p.m.

For more information, contact Emilie Jarrett, RN, BSN.

Community Health Association of Richmond and West Stockbridge

21 State Line Rd., PO Box 368

West Stockbridge, MA 01266

Tel.: 232-0122

Emilie@charws.com



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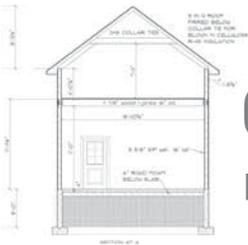
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On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky

Just Like Homer Simpson!

“Doh!!” Well, not *exactly* like Homer Simpson, but like him, I do produce electric energy for you all to use!

Both of you who have been following the *Excellent Adventure of Thom and Anne* (i.e., the story of planning and building our energy-efficient new house) know that we recently had solar panels installed on the roof. They went into operation on July 25 of this year, and to date (September 12), we’ve produced 892 Kwh *more than we used*. And we’ve been blithely using our air-sourced heat pumps (mini-splits) to run our air conditioning through the month of August. (As a point of comparison, we have a friend in Easthampton who used \$600 worth of electricity to run *his* AC this summer. Just sayin.’). So the bottom line is that the system works. Our latest electric bill showed a *credit* of about \$209 for about 6 weeks of usage.

Of course, we still have to pay for the panels and installation. But like many who have their own solar system (as opposed to living in their own universe), we are eligible for incentives offered by the federal and state governments. One of the advertised incentives is a federal tax credit that would have offset the cost of the system by a significant amount. However, the devil’s in the fine print. If your income is from self-employment (like us with our own businesses), you can’t claim the tax credit. We found this out only after we committed to the project, but we decided it was still the right thing to do (sorry, all you coal miners out there) and went ahead.

We took out a loan to pay for the system, and because I’m mostly retired and have a minimal income, we were eligible for the low-income tier on the loan package. This meant that the out-of-pocket expense of the system dropped by \$10,500. And the interest rate is lower too. (By the way, as far as we could determine, *no* banks in Berkshire County offer solar loans! Not even our “most exciting” bank. We had to join the UMassFive College Federal Credit Union in the Pioneer Valley and get the loan from them. What’s up with that?). In Massachusetts, there’s a state incentive program. The web site is www.revisionenergy.com/blogs/massachusetts-smart-solar-program.

The expectation is that the loan for the remaining cost of the system will be paid off in 10 years (hoping I live that long), and from there on, our electricity will not only be free but will be an income producer. Because of net metering, an arrangement with National Grid, we expect to start receiving periodic payments from them for the extra power we’re producing at our very own power plant right here on Albany Road. We’ll see what our production is like this winter when the panels may occasionally be covered with snow.

The system we had installed (34 panels producing 12.24 Kw) is connected to a nifty online monitoring system. Now instead of doing something useful, I can sit at my computer and watch how much electricity each of the panels is producing every hour of the day! It’s fascinating—like watching a lava lamp. And I can tell people I want to avoid that “Sorry, gotta go check my electric output!”

Questions/comments can be sent to info@localyokel.org.



*Solar panels being installed on our energy-efficient new home.
Photo courtesy of Thom Lipiczky*



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 15th 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@annelesserscommunications.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.

Tap House at the Shaker Mill). My companions had already departed the scene and found hiding places. He drove up and down the road along the river for two hours, getting out of the car from time to time walking with his flashlight and exhorting us to "give ourselves up," which of course we didn't do. Finally he left, and we hurried home. While I thought this was pretty funny then, I later came to realize what a dumb thing it was to do.

For some kids Halloween was not about clean fun and games; some were downright mean. Halloween seemed to bring out the worst in kids who were normally rationally minded young adults. I spoke to one person who was on the receiving end, more than once, of their pranks. Some families used outhouses as a secondary toilet. What did these marauders do? Tip the outhouse over! The more creative pranksters would relocate the outhouse to the front yard or even down the road. I was also told by this same person that, on one Halloween, his brother was able to thwart the tipping or moving of the outhouse by securing it on all sides with railroad ties. Fortunately, it worked. Safe for another year!

Do you ever wish you could go back in time and right wrongs? I do. October was a pivotal month, sandwiched between brisk frosty September days and the cold winds of November. Brrrr!

Watch for future installments of "We Remember When..." in the Local Yokel. Next month's issue will feature West Stockbridge in International News and Intrigue. 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.

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| Local Yokel | Pick up a copy FREE AS ALWAYS 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 <i>Local Yokel</i> 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 | | | |

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.

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, October 13, the Stockbridge Grange will serve a stuffed breast of chicken dinner in the Grange Hall at 51 Church Street, Stockbridge, from 1 to 2 p.m. Cost: \$12 adults, \$6 under 12, and under 5 free. Takeouts are available.

Council on Aging Potluck

Due to a lack of attendance on our usual second Tuesday, we will have our COA potluck luncheon in the Community Room at the Town Offices at noon on Tuesday, October 15. Please come and join us. We will be discussing our Christmas party.

West Stockbridge Congregational Church

The Annual Harvest Dinner will be held on Sunday, October 6, with seatings at 4:30 and 6:15 p.m., a buffet-style meal with turkey, gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, squash, peas, roll with butter, apple pie, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate. Tickets for the Chinese auction and 50/50 raffle will be available for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Takeout available. Adults \$15/Children \$8/Ages 5 and under free. Cash, check, or credit cards accepted. Always a great meal and good conversation. Bring your neighbors and friends and see for yourself. Tickets and reservations available by calling 232-4256.

Weather permitting, the West Stockbridge Congregational Church will hold a bake sale in front of Baldwin's Extracts, 1 Center Street in West Stockbridge, on Saturday, October 19, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

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



Greetings to all from the library!

With Halloween coming up, we invite young goblins, witches, and any other costume creators to wear your costume to the library and pick up a prize. Drop by and show off what you are wearing this year!

Remember that you are invited to sign up to meet one on one with our volunteer Chris Baldrige to build your knowledge about financial management. Chris is a financial professional and has offered to share her expertise. Come on in, or call or e-mail to sign up, and Chris will contact you.

And we have another signup: this one is for a class about how to search for information online. The class will be held sometime in November.

NEW DVDs

Boy Erased, Can You Ever Forgive Me?, A Dog's Journey, Dumbo, The Old Man and the Gun

NEW ADULT FICTION

Baldacci, *One Good Deed*
 Clark, *In the Full Light of the Sun*
 Coulter, *Labyrinth*
 Russo, *Chances Are*
 Vuong, *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*
 Zentner, *Copperhead*

NEW ADULT NONFICTION

Alexievich, *Last Witnesses: An Oral History of the Children of World War II*
 Anand, *Patient Assassin: A True Tale of Massacre, Revenge, and India's Quest for Independence*
 Budiansky, *Oliver Wendell Holmes: A Life In War, Law, and Ideas*
 Epstein, *Range: Why Generalists Triumph in a Specialized World*
 Lugavere, *Genius Foods: Become Smarter, Happier, and More Productive While Protecting Your Brain for Life*
 Mehta, *This Land Is Our Land: An Immigrant's Manifesto*
 Roberts, *Escalante's Dream: On the Trail of the Spanish Discovery of the Southwest*
 Taliaferro, *Grinnell: America's Environmental Pioneer and His Restless Drive to Save the West*

Ongoing

- Set up a CW/MARS online account by going to weststockbridgelibrary.org and clicking on the card catalog picture. Your personal account allows you to 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 items from libraries across the state.
- 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 their hair!) to listen to audiobooks and read eBooks on your phone or tablet. Librarians are very happy to help you set this up; if you would like some help with this, please bring in your phone or tablet.
- All library trustees board meetings are open to the public. Please check the library website for the date of 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 your suggestions about the library.

Rachel Alter, Vicky Cooper, and Brad Havill



Scrapbook October 2019: TEST YOUR TRIVIA KNOWLEDGE!

1. Who is the sole proprietor of the Purple Plume and lives in West Stockbridge?
2. West Stockbridge's Gary Soldati hooked what?
3. In November 2011, whose house caught on fire on West Center Road?
4. What building in West Stockbridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Sites?

Answers: 1. Judi Culver; 2. A 51-pound striped bass, October 20, 2011; 3. George Yonnone, Carla McCormick, and their son Nick; 4. The Old Town Hall.

October Art Calendar

Art seminars, Demonstration, and Business Meeting.

Wednesday October 2, 4-5pm Orientation to Guild of Berkshire Artists. 5-6pm. Planning for fall. Share work. Community Room Town Hall, 21 Stateline Road (Route 102) West Stockbridge (WS)

First Fridays Artswalk Friday October 4, 5:00-8:00 p.m. Pittsfield, North and South Streets.

www.firstfridaysartswalk.com Michele and Jon Caplan at 137 North St. GBA artists at Colonial Theater, Adrian Holmes at Beacon Theater, Mark Mellinger and Diane Firtell at Dottie's Coffee, Michelle Iglesias at Berkshire Paint and Sip

Members' Potluck. Sun. 4-7pm, Oct. 6 W. Stockbridge and Nov. 3, S. Egremont Bring dish, hors d'oeuvres or dessert for ten and what YOU want to drink and Partners. Location, RSVP: BerkshireArtists@gmail.com.

Art Opening and Reception. Thursday October 10, 4:00-7:00 p.m. Guild artists in Artist Studio Tours on September 14 at TKG Real Estate, 10 Elm Street, Stockbridge. Artists bring plate of hors d'oeuvres, pick up work at 7 p.m.

Artists' Studio Tour. Saturday, October 12, 11:00 – 5:00 p.m. See BerkshireArtists.org for updates. See brochures at tourist spots, inns and hotels throughout the Berkshires. The brochure can give you specific directions from anywhere to get to each venue. Go to 4 studios and get a chance for an original work of art.

Photo Explorers: Joe's Diner, 85 Center St., Lee. Join Carole Quinn on Fri. Oct.18, 8:30am. Explore the area.

Art Book Gathering Friday, Oct. 25 30, 2-4 p.m. Share a favorite book: artist, process. Shaker Mill Books, West Stockbridge

Berkshire Photo Gathering. Sun. Oct.27, 2-4 p.m. \$5. Berkshire South Regional Comm. Center, 15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230 Photos on website.

Meet the Artists Mary and Keith Davidson painters.

Sat. Nov. 2, 2:30-4pm. South Egremont. RSVP

Guild of Berkshire Artists

RSVP: BerkshireArtists.org

BerkshireArtists@gmail.com See Facebook

Some Works in Stockbridge Show Oct. 10, 4-7pm at 10 Elm Street and in

Artist Studio Tours, Oct. 12, 11-5pm



Virginia Bradley



William Casper



Rose Tannenbaum



Walter Pasko

Creating Art Outdoors: Paint, Sketch, iPad or Photograph. 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 and 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! Small additional charge for non-members of Guild. 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. \$30. Bring your supplies. RSVP 413-298-5252x100

Classical Drawing and Still Life : Bring paper, pencil, watercolor, charcoal. DVD and still life drawing. Join us. RSVP BerkshireArtists@gmail.com. WS Town Hall. 12:30-3:30

Collage group and Picture Book Publishing group RSVP for time and place.



Richmond Cultural Council Seeks Grant Applications for Community-Oriented Arts, Humanities, and Science Programs

Proposals from organizations, schools, and individuals applying for grants that support cultural activities in the community are due by October 15, 2019.

These grants can support a variety of artistic projects and activities in and around Richmond, MA, including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies or performances in schools, workshops, and lectures.

Previously funded projects include Scholarships to the Berkshire Children's Chorus, the 2015 Richmond/West Stockbridge Fine Art Show, the Fall Festival of Shakespeare, as well as various field trips and art programs at Richmond Consolidated School.

Grant application forms and more information about the local Cultural Council programs are available online at http://www.mass-culture.org/lcc_public.aspx. Although the online application is strongly suggested, application forms can be downloaded and are also available at the Richmond Town Hall, the Richmond Library, and the Richmond Consolidated School. Please be sure to complete and sign each application and answer all the questions on the Richmond Cultural Council (RCC) cover sheet. For specific information on the Richmond Cultural Council, contact Catherine Gamberoni at OL4eyes@gmail.com.

The RCC is part of a network of 329 local Cultural Councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the commonwealth. The LCC program is the largest cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences, and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to the community.

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

10/9 Emilie Tremblay Wilber
10/16 Bruce Lin
10/25 Mary Alpert
10/30 Maureen O'Brien

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,
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History Quiz Answer:

Joseph Franz was an accomplished electrical and mechanical engineer in Stockbridge. A German immigrant during the Bismarck era (1898), he settled in Stockbridge and lived in the house behind the Stockbridge Public Library. Joseph was involved with the design and engineering of many of the major facilities in our area. He designed the early electrical system for the town of Stockbridge and the East Lee power plant. He also designed the Ted Shawn Theatre at Jacob's Pillow. In West Stockbridge, he designed the electric generating facility at Rockdale and the electric generating system for the Shaker Mill Dam that powered all the houses in the village center.



*Shaker Mill Dam electric generator in the 1950s.
Postcard photo courtesy of Bob Salerno*

Joseph's most famous project was the shed at Tanglewood. The famous architect Eero Saarinen was approached to design the concert space. He declined, saying that for that little amount of money, all you would have is "just a shed." Joseph took the job and built the Music Shed that exists today (inaugurated in 1938). And now for the West Stockbridge connection.

Joseph needed someone to test the acoustics before it was turned over to the symphony. He called on a friend, Roxana Davenport, a prominent singer in the area. Roxana and her accompanist Robert Perry performed in the shed to sample the sound. The space was pronounced perfect, and with little modification remains as it was then. Roxana was married to our superintendent of schools, Elmer Davenport, and they lived on Maple Street. Based on this, we can proudly state that a West Stockbridge resident was the first performer in the shed at Tanglewood.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE



For Residents of:

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Every issue costs us about \$1,300 to print and distribute!
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| Animal Control | <i>Brian Hoskeer</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. |
| Select Board | <i>Bernie Fallon, Doane Perry, Eric Shimelonis</i> | | | |
| Administrative Assistant | <i>Marie Ryan</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. |
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| Sewer & Water Commission | <i>Michael Buffoni</i> | 232-0309 | | |
| Town Accountant | <i>Elaine Markham</i> | 232-0300 | ext. 317 | Leave Message for Inquiries |
| Town Clerk | <i>Ronni Barrett</i> | 232-0300 | ext. 300 | Tues. & Thurs. 1:30–4 p.m. |
| Town Collector | <i>June A. Biggs</i> | 232-0300 | ext. 302 | Wed. 3–6 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri. 10 a.m.– 2 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.–1 p.m. |
| Town Historian | <i>Robert Salerno</i> | 232-4465 | | |
| Town Treasurer | <i>Karen Williams</i> | 232-0300 | ext. 316 | Thurs. 9 a.m.–4 p.m. |
| Transfer Station | <i>Wayne Cooper</i> | 232-0307 | | Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m.–6 p.m. and Sat. 8 a.m.–6 p.m. |
| Tree Warden | <i>Andrew Fudge</i> | 232-4322 | | |
| Veterans Agency | <i>Laurie Hills</i> | 528-1580 | | |
| Zoning Board of Appeals | <i>C. Randolph Thunfors</i> | 232-0300 | ext. 300 | |

Official Town Government Website: weststockbridge-ma.gov • Community and Business Website: visitweststockbridge.com

**THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE
CHAMBER PLAYERS**

Harvest Concert

Sunday, November 3, 2019 at 2 pm

Old Town Hall, Main Street, West Stockbridge

Musicians:

Linda Toote, flute • Richard Ranti, bassoon
Andrea Bonsignore, oboe • Sheila Fiekowsky, violin
Catherine Hudgins, clarinet • Daniel Getz, viola

Music:

Ibert: *Cinq Pièces en Trio*

Bozza: *Trois pièces pour une musique de nuit*

Thompson: Suite (for Oboe, Clarinet, and Viola)

Mozart: Duo in B-flat for Violin and Viola, K.424

Francaix: Quatuor

TICKETS \$35* Available September 23rd

PURCHASE ADVANCE TICKETS ONLINE

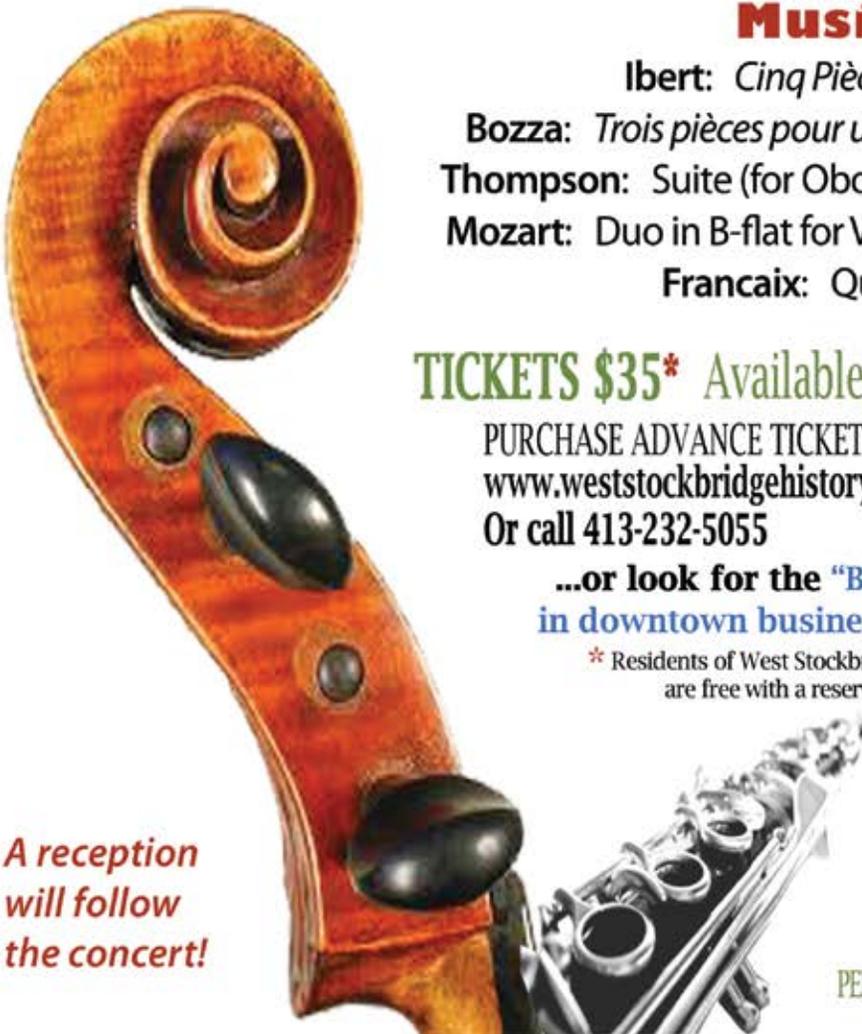
www.weststockbridgehistory.org

Or call 413-232-5055

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

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

*A reception
will follow
the concert!*



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

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 | | |

October 2019 Calendar of Events

| | | | |
|-------|---|------------------|--|
| 10/2 | Knitters & More | 2–4 p.m. | Town Offices Community Room |
| 10/3 | Farmers Market | 3–7 p.m. | The Green at Harris Street |
| 10/3 | Board of Health meeting | 6:30 p.m. | Town Offices |
| 10/6 | Annual Harvest Dinner | 4:30 & 6:15 p.m. | WS Congregational Church |
| 10/8 | Yom Kippur (begins at sundown) | | |
| 10/8 | American Legion meeting | 7 p.m. | Town Offices |
| 10/9 | Knitters & More | 2–4 p.m. | Town Offices Community Room |
| 10/9 | Select Board meeting | 6 p.m. | Town Offices |
| 10/10 | CHA Dinner & Lecture | 5–7 p.m. | St. Patrick's Church Parish Center |
| 10/12 | Jazz Series: Peter Hand concert | 8 p.m. | Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street |
| 10/13 | Grange Dinner | 1–2 p.m. | Grange Hall, 51 Church St., Stockbridge |
| 10/14 | Columbus Day | | |
| 10/15 | *** Deadline for the next Local Yokel *** | | Send to info@thelocalyokel.org |
| 10/15 | COA Potluck Luncheon | 12 noon | Town Offices Community Room |
| 10/16 | Knitters & More | 2–4 p.m. | Town Offices Community Room |
| 10/19 | Congregational Church Bake Sale | 9:30 a.m.–1 p.m. | Baldwin's Extracts, 1 Center Street |
| 10/19 | Apple Pressing | 12–5 p.m. | Johnson Barn, 170 Gt. Barrington Rd. |
| 10/23 | Knitters & More | 2–4 p.m. | Town Offices Community Room |
| 10/23 | Select Board meeting | 6 p.m. | Town Offices |
| 10/30 | Knitters & More | 2–4 p.m. | Town Offices Community Room |
| 10/31 | Halloween Haunts: | | |
| | Trick or Treat | 4–6 p.m. | |
| | Parade | 6:15 p.m. | Starts in front of post office |
| | Obstacle Course, Haunted Church, Halloween Party, Costume Contest (starts at 7:15 p.m.) | 6:30–8 p.m. | WS Congregational Church |