

Local yokel

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

West
Stockbridge
December 2017

Let it snow,

Let it snow,

Let it snow!

Early dusting of snow on sedums. Photo by John Parker

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005

West Stockbridge Artists Featured in Exhibition at Berkshire Botanical Garden



From December 5 to January 2, the Berkshire Botanical Garden will present botanical art and landscapes in its new Center House Galleries with submissions by the Guild of Berkshire Artists (previously the Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild). Dozens of artists submitted work in media including watercolor, oil, drawing, and photography. Matt Larkin, board chair of the Berkshire Botanical Garden, curated the show. Come celebrate beauty in this season! Bring your family and friends. You might even find something you want to share or can't live without. Info@www.Rwsag.org

Gallery hours: Saturdays, 10–2, and Sundays, 11–2. Weekdays by appointment: (413) 298-3926, ext 10.

Artists left to right: Karen Carmean, Lear Levin, and Doane Perry III. Photos by Anne Auberjonois

THE RICHMOND-WEST STOCKBRIDGE ARTISTS' GUILD

2017 HOLIDAY ART SHOW

FRIDAY DEC 1 -- 3 to 7pm
SATURDAY DEC 2 -- 10 to 5 pm
SUNDAY DEC 3 -- 11 to 3 pm



FOR MORE INFORMATION www.rwsag.org info@rwsag.org



On Halloween evening the West Stockbridge Historical Society once again shared in the community-wide celebration. Volunteers, costumed for the occasion, distributed special treats to the town's youngsters. The annual event was enjoyed by all who participated: children and their families and friends, along with the volunteers from the Historical Society. Pictured here in costume (left to right) are Jill Pixley, Helen Nolan, and Jerri Buehler.

Photo courtesy of Jerri and Dan Buehler

Board of Selectmen Meeting Summaries

By Doane Perry

Note: Copies of official board minutes are available at the West Stockbridge Public Library. Video recordings of town meetings are broadcast on Charter Cable channel 190 and on the Internet at <http://vimeo.com/channels/weststockbridge>. Residents can be notified by e-mail of town events and meeting agendas by subscribing at <http://weststockbridgema.virtualltownhall.net/subscriber>.

Open Meeting: November 6, 2017

Williams River Retaining Wall Repair

Highway chief Curt Wilton praised the work by D & M Lamke that took over the project after Maxymillian became too busy repairing turnpike bridges. The project was repairing the pipes and rock walls that were broken by water coming down Lenox Road into the Williams River just below the dam. The final task will be reseeded with winter rye.



Contractor Dennis Lamke repaired the collapsed Williams River wall and drain pipe. Photos by Doane Perry

Curt commented that several residents have taken responsible action managing trees along the river.

Special Town Meeting

Mark Webber reviewed with the Selectmen preparations for the special town meeting on November 13. Joe Roy will send out a reminder: "You have to be there to vote."

License Hearings Scheduled

Public hearings for annual auto (Class II, used vehicles) and (Class III, junk vehicles) and alcoholic beverage license renewals were scheduled for December 4. Five auto and six alcohol licenses are up for renewal.

Winter Parking Ban

Mark announced the winter parking ban of overnight parking November 1 through April 1 from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. Enforcement stages are warning, ticketing, and towing.

Use of Town Offices

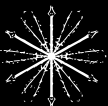
The selectmen approved use of the Town Offices by the Artists' Guild. Mark said there has been no conflict with other organizations. Guild president Karen Carmean said recent programs have been about positive critique, safety, and methods. Artists are learning a lot and having fun. Programs are free and open to all.

Parks and Recreation




Roland Dudney reported that he had spoken with Richard Allen about Egremont's creation of a separate nonprofit organization that succeeded in improving the recreational facilities there. Roland asked the selectmen if they thought that strategy would be effective in West Stockbridge. Curt responded that a separate organization is not necessary because Parks and Recreation has so many accomplishments and also the Board of Selectmen agrees on the need to replace the facilities.

Curt asked Parks and Recreation to prepare their capital improvement plans for a vote at the May 2018 town meeting including design, cost, and Finance Committee review and approval.

...continued on page 5



Happy Holidays!



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A Tour of Early Industries in West Stockbridge

By Doane Perry

Adapted and used with permission from the Richmond Record.

On a beautiful day in September, West Stockbridge Historical Society leaders Barbara Dowling and Bob Salerno led a walking tour of early industries in the center of town including the iron works, lime quarry, lime kilns, and blast furnaces that used to define downtown West Stockbridge.

Starting in front of the post office, Bob explained that in the mid-19th century, Main Street was where it is today. The main train line ran where the Farmers Market stone wall is now, and three additional tracks were located near the parking lot opposite Hotchkiss Mobiles. There were coal-fired steam locomotives spouting soot, cinders, sparks, and flames—and no Environmental Protection Agency!

Barbara said a map from 1796 shows that between the dam and the bend in the river, there was already a mill pond, iron works, and wool fulling mill on the west bank of the river. On the east bank was a sawmill and a stone-cutting mill. The area attracted early industrial development because of the iron ore and the river.

Where the wastewater treatment plant is now on the other side of the turnpike from the Turn Park on Moscow Road was a 48-foot-high iron blast furnace. Started in 1854, it had various names as it was sold to different owners. Pomeroy Iron Furnace was one name when it was owned by a Mr. Pomeroy from Pittsfield. It was the only soft coal anthracite blast furnace in the Northeast, and it ran day and night and glowed in the dark, according to Barbara. Most of the furnaces in the area ran on charcoal, which burns hotter and more efficiently than wood. The river enabled the workers to run a bellows and create a “blast” furnace, which was much bigger and more efficient than the earlier simple furnaces, enabling an iron industry on a much larger scale.

The other mineral that West Stockbridge depended on was limestone. Verne Tower talked about the Truesdale limestone quarry at the Turn Park site that operated from 1856 to the 1920s. Limestone was used in building but also as a flux for removing impurities from iron to make pig-iron bars in the furnaces. Verne pointed to West Stockbridge Mountain and Yokun Ridge and said all the stone was drilled, dynamited, and loaded by hand into hopper cars that ran on a narrow-gage railroad. In the 1930s, two men worked as a team loading about 20 hopper cars for 70 cents a day that they split between themselves. Bob said there was workers’ housing all along Moscow Road that is gone now. Baker Street at the Richmond town line had workers’ housing along it as well. Barbara said she now lives in one of the worker’s houses from 1850 on State Line Road, in view of the furnaces.

Bob said it was apparent from the census that new Irish immigrants had come to town in the 1800s due to the famine. They came as families: the husband listed on the census as a quarry worker, miner, or laborer; the wife as a housewife or washerwoman; and the kids as farmers. The Irish children did not go to school because they were all working.

The Italian immigrants came later, at the turn of the century. The census shows single Italian men ages 15 to 20 arriving and living in groups in Richmond or West Stockbridge. As they made money, they brought their families over. All the wives were homemakers, and all the kids went to school.

The people who made charcoal were French Canadians who worked in the area for six months at a time. According to Bob, they had the worst jobs, living on the mountain, cutting the trees with cross-cut saws and axes, piling the wood, getting covered in soot, and getting paid very little. They stripped the forests bare, covering 10 square miles every year.

We visited the site of a former lime kiln next to Hotchkiss Mobiles. Bob showed the firebricks used to line the lime kiln. One of the



Verne Tower talked about the Truesdale limestone quarry at the Turn Park site. Photo by Doane Perry

...continued on page 7

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Other Business:

- Fire Chief Peter Skorput said he will put a newly graduated firefighter on the agenda for the next selectmen's meeting.
- Curt said repaving Route 41 south and repairing the river wall are almost complete.

Citizens Speak:

- Asked about the scope of the moderator's discretion at the special town meetings, the selectmen said they review that with the moderator, noting that Gene Dellea is the longest serving moderator in Massachusetts.
- A citizen commented that Wayland has a meeting the day after West Stockbridge and that the suburbs west of Boston have resolutions with similar language to West Stockbridge.

Open Meeting: November 13, 2017

The Board of Selectmen held a short meeting before the special town meeting.

Bridge Repairs

Highway chief Curt Wilton stated that West Stockbridge has had five of its seven major bridges repaired with funding from the state. Curt said each repaired bridge cost about \$2 million.

Firefighter Training

Fire Chief Peter Skorput announced that William Filiault has completed the Firefighter One course at the Springfield Academy. Peter praised William, noting that the 260-hour course is grueling both academically and physically. Classes are held two nights a week and weekends at the Springfield Academy.



In a ceremony at the Springfield Academy on October 30, West Stockbridge firefighter William Filiault received his diploma from Deputy Director Joseph Klucznick, along with 25 other firefighters from Western Massachusetts towns. Photo courtesy of Peter Skorput.

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License Review Planned

The agenda of the next Board of Selectmen meeting on December 4 will include a review of licenses. The junk and used vehicles on Oak Street and Riverside will be discussed.

Citizens Speak:

- Karen Carmean thanked the selectmen for enabling the Artists' Guild to use the Town Offices for its programs. Karen described other guild programs that take place at Hancock Shaker Village, the Shaker Mill Inn, and the Humane Society.

Special Town Meeting: November 13, 2017

With a quorum present, the town clerk and moderator proceeded to read and move the following articles for vote:

Article 1, to see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of West Stockbridge's Zoning Bylaws by adding a new Section 6.9 Temporary Moratorium on Recreational Marijuana Establishment, was approved.

Article 2, to see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of West Stockbridge's Zoning Bylaws by adding a new Section 6.10, Temporary Moratorium on Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers, was approved. Both votes took a total of about seven minutes. □

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Winter Parking Ban



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

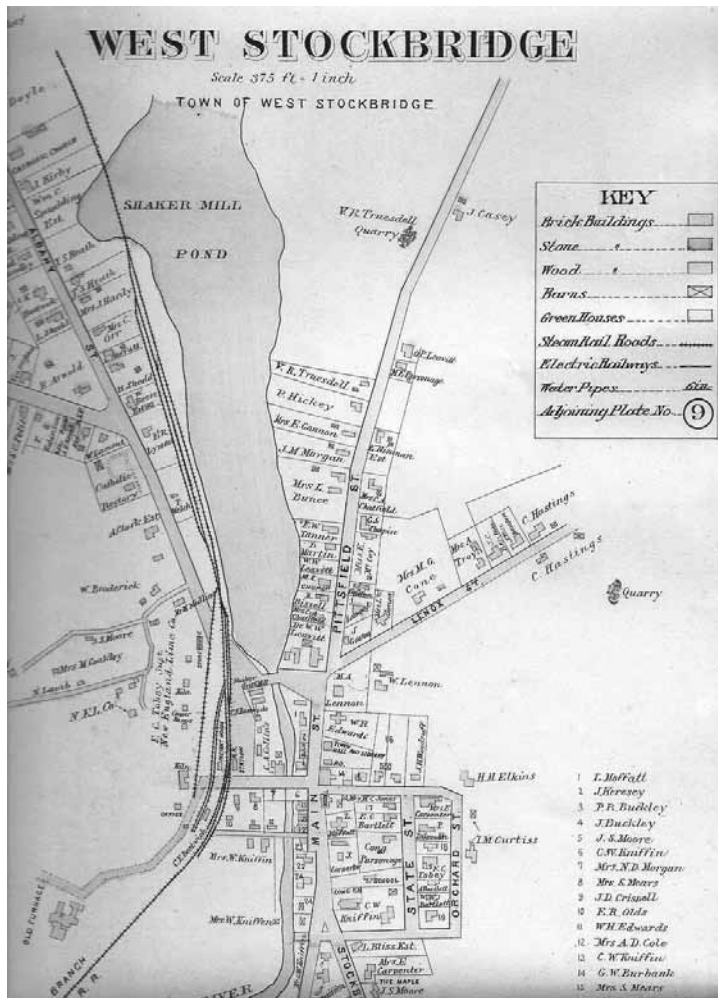
The Municipal parking lot across from the Public Market and the parking area on Moscow Road where the public bathrooms are may be used for overnight off street parking. However, vehicles in those lots must be moved by 8:00 a.m. to allow the Department of Public Works to manage snow and ice removal.

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



The *Local Yokel* is published monthly. Please send submissions to: the *Local Yokel*, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266 or info@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, 232-8577, anne@annelessercommunications.com. Contributor: Doane Perry, (617) 547-1413, doaneperry@yahoo.com; Design: Kim Bradway, kim@bloominarts.com.

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Map from Barnes & Farnum 1904 Atlas of Berkshire County

bricks had the name Newton and Company on it, the largest firebrick company in the Northeast, operating from 1865 to 1877, which is when the kiln next to the mobile shop was operating to produce quicklime. Because they needed 90 barrels a day for the lime, there was a cooperage behind the post office, likely run by the Italians, and a sawmill for the cooperage. Lime is still used for many things: mortar in building, whitewashing house walls, paints to brighten interiors, preventing foot rot in livestock, removing hairs in leathermaking, and frost protection for potatoes. The two active limestone mines in the Berkshires are Specialty Minerals in Adams, a division of Pfizer, and Lee Lime, run by Oldcastle Cement.

Finally, the tour moved to the Shaker Mill, the red building near the dam on the west side of the river. It is being renovated by Eric Wilska, who owns Shaker Mill Books next door. In 1763, Elisha Williams came up from Stockbridge and got the land—bought, stole, or wheedled according to interpretation. He built a dam and a sawmill on the other side where John Stanmeyer now has a coffeehouse, and built the first mill here in about 1805.

The mill had an overshot wheel where the water went over the top of the wheel to power a gristmill and sawmill. The 34-foot chestnut beams and flooring are original. The grain was hoisted up to the top, and ground grain came down through two chutes into bags. The Tyringham Shakers bought it around 1807 and leased it out, never living in West Stockbridge, and ran it until about 1850. It was a gristmill until about 1920. In 1909, the owner built a dynamo (an early generator) and sold electricity to the town for streetlights, one of the first villages in the Berkshires to have them. It made a lot of money, and he sold it to Stockbridge Power Company that ended up becoming National Grid.

Eric is making the Shaker Mill building part of his bookstore. About 10 years ago a driver coming south on Routes 41 and 102 missed the turn and drove right into the building. He missed the beams by 2 inches! □

December History Quiz Question:

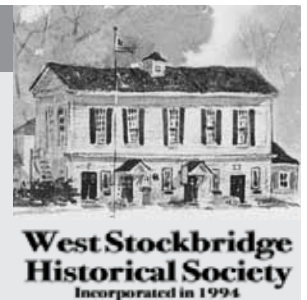
Last month, we asked about West Stockbridge and World War I. That war resulted in over 20 million deaths including 10 million civilians and 21 million wounded, a global tragedy. West Stockbridge was fortunate in that only two of its citizens died during that period, both from influenza.

Deadlier than the war was the influenza pandemic that arose toward the end of the war and lasted until 1920. A particularly virulent strain, it raced through a war-weakened global population. An estimated 500 million people were infected, and between 50 and 100 million died. Many were young, healthy survivors of battle, only to die quickly of the virus. Others were weakened by general malnourishment, poor hygiene, and overcrowding and thus easily succumbed.

How was West Stockbridge impacted by this pandemic?

(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.





Special Feature: Acts of Kindness and Community

At the suggestion of Selectman Bernie Fallon, we would like to pass along local stories of kindness and community in West Stockbridge. Do you have a story you'd like to share? Please send it to info@thelocalyokel.org.

Karma: At the Intersection of Goodness and Kindness

By Don and Debbie Paine

On Labor Day weekend a three-generational family was renting a house near our home in West Stockbridge. On Saturday morning, Dad showed up at our door asking if they could buy some firewood because they had a bonfire on Friday night that went out pretty quickly because the wood they bought was pine.

Debbie invited them to take a wheelbarrow full of hardwood from our pile. He offered to pay. She said to him, "Our goal is that you and your family have a wonderful weekend here in wonderful West Stockbridge. This means that if you have a bonfire tonight and you run out of firewood, come down or borrow our wheelbarrow and grab another load of firewood. Your only job is to enjoy."

Debbie refused payment because it's just the neighborly thing to do. Being good neighbors even to strangers for the weekend is part of what makes West Stockbridge a wonderful place to live and visit.

They did have a wonderful weekend and so did we. What a wonderful world it would be if we all just did "intentional acts of kindness" for our neighbors whether here for the day, the weekend, or a lifetime. I think this is at the heart of what makes West Stockbridge a wonderful and sensational place to live and visit and a welcome station in the West.

Maybe what the WS in West Stockbridge stands for is "Welcome Station"—*average people doing good things make a great community*.

P.S. The visitors were so thankful that they gave us a gift certificate to the Stanmeyer Gallery & Shaker Dam Coffeehouse, which means money gets reinvested in a West Stockbridge business when West Stockbridge residents make it a welcome station. Karma is a delight.

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*The Jeremy Kittel Trio performed at the Old Town Hall.
Photo by Joe Roy, Jr.*

Jeremy Kittel Trio Brings Innovative Music to Old Town Hall

By Lorrin Krouss

Friday night, November 10, 2017, may have been the coldest night of the season, but that didn't deter a well-bundled up crowd from entering the warmth of the Old Town Hall to listen to the Jeremy Kittel Trio, featuring Jeremy Kittel on fiddle, Josh Pinkham on mandolin, and Quinn Bachand on guitar. Robert Salerno, president of the West Stockbridge Historical Society, introduced the group that was brought back by popular demand.

Jeremy, an award-winning fiddler, violinist, and composer; Josh, a mandolin prodigy; and Quinn, a wunderkind guitarist, filled Vaber Hall with explosive sounds and rhythms. Jeremy is fluent in many musical genres, which was evident in the diversity of Celtic, classical, jazz, and bluegrass music that was performed. At 23 he was the U.S. National Fiddle Champion, and from 2008 to 2012 he was a member of the Grammy-winning Turtle Island Quartet. He has performed around the world at numerous venues including Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and the Celtic Connections Festival in Scotland.

With fingers flying and a mash-up of styles, the music was both exciting and harmonious. Among the many selections was an Irish jig, a romantic rendition of "Smile Though Your Heart Is Aching," "El Pino" (based on Jeremy's childhood vacations in Michigan), the prelude from Bach's Violin Partita No. 3, "Chrysalis," and "At Home in the World" (a moving tribute to the late journalist and violinist, Daniel Pearl).

At the reception after the performance, people commented about the group's unbridled enthusiasm for music. Josh Pinkham summed it up with this insightful remark: "We truly enjoy each other and are inspired by one another." This inspiration and camaraderie created a flawless performance.


The Historical Society will do its best to have the trio return to the Old Town Hall again!

WANDERING JEWS
WONDERING JEWS
CULTURAL JEWS
MIXED MARRIAGE JEWS
MIXED UP JEWS
NON-JEWS
LGBT JEWS
CREATIVE JEWS
SPIRITUAL JEWS
JEW BU'S
POLITICAL JEWS
APOLITICAL JEWS
YIDDISH SPEAKING JEWS
INTELLECTUAL JEWS
SEARCHING JEWS
OBSERVANT JEWS
NON-HEBREW-READING JEWS
PASSIONATE JEWS
HIGH-HOLY-DAY JEWS
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Date	Time	Nature of Call
10/3	6:58 a.m.	Truck fire
10/8	1:00 a.m.	Motor vehicle accident
10/13	7:37 a.m.	Chimney fire
10/19	1:35 p.m.	Assist disabled person
10/20	9:02 a.m.	Lifting assistance
10/22	2:45 a.m.	Medical
10/22	11:19 a.m.	Medical
10/25	9:23 a.m.	False alarm call
10/28	5:16 p.m.	Medical
10/29	1:35 p.m.	Motor vehicle accident

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West Stockbridge Sparkles

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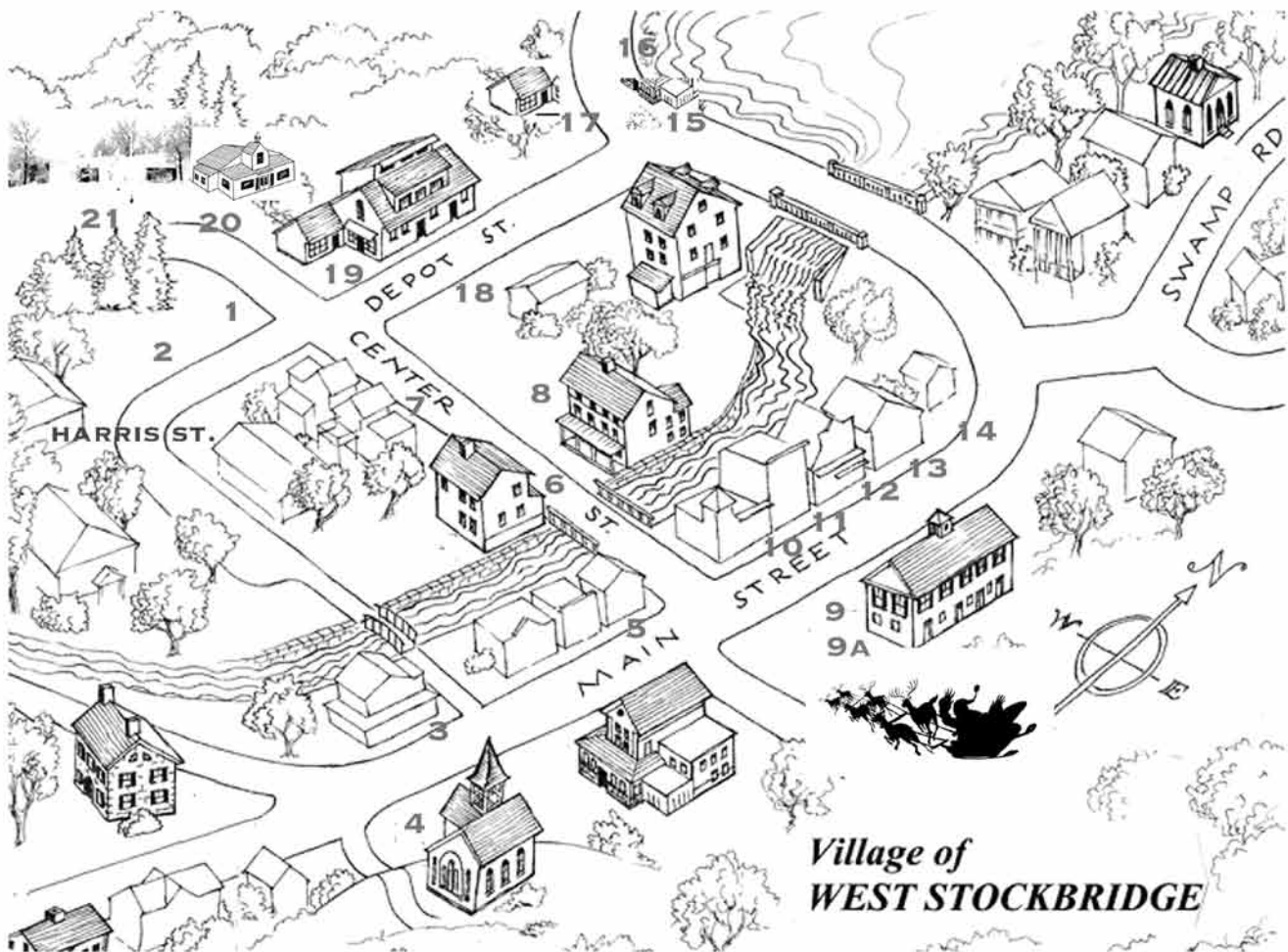
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WEST STOCKBRIDGE SPARKLES - DECEMBER 1, 2017

- 1 TREE LIGHTING @ 6:00 PM**
- 2 SANTA'S SLEIGH**
- 3 STONE HOUSE PROPERTIES - TOAST THE HOLIDAYS WITH US!**
- 4 CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH - 4:00 - 7:00 PM - PARTYTIME FOR KIDS!**
- 5 QUEENSBORO WINE & SPIRITS - BEER TASTING**
- 6 BALDWIN'S EXTRACTS - (9:00 AM - 5:00 PM; 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM) CIDER, COOKIES & GOOD CHEER**
- 7 ROUGE - FINE DINING**
- 8 BALDWIN'S HARDWARE - GOOD CHEER**
- 9 WS HISTORICAL SOCIETY - ARTIST GUILD PRE-SHOW SALE - CIDER & SNACKS 3:00 'TIL 7 PM**
- 9A GRAMPIES DOG HOUSE - HOT DOGS AND KIELBASA**
- 10 EQUATOR - WINE & CHEESE**
- 11 SANDY KLEMPNER @HOME - SPARKLY LIBATIONS & CUSTOMER APPRECIATION - 20% OFF SALE**
- 12 THE FLOOR STORE - WINE & CHEESE**
- 13 PUBLIC MARKET - REFRESHMENTS**
- 14 SHAKER DAM COFFEEHOUSE - HOLIDAY CHEER OPEN 'TILL 7 PM**
- 15 FLOURISH MARKET - 2ND ANNUAL SALE - COCOA BAR & TASTY TIDBITS**
- 16 SoMA - CIDER & COOKIES - OPEN 'TILL 6 PM**
- 17 SHAKER MILL TAVERN - RIB SPECIALS FOR STROLLERS & ELVES**
- 18 SHAKER MILL BOOKS - BOOKS! BOOKS! BOOKS!**
- 19 No.6 DEPOT - HOT CHOCOLATE ON OUR PORCH BEFORE TREE LIGHTING**
- 20 HOTCHKISS MOBILES GALLERY & ZOFTIQUE - WINE & NIBBLES**
- 21 TURN PARK - HOT CHOCOLATE & MARSHMALLOWS AROUND THE BONFIRE!**

Santa's Wish List

Dear Readers,

It's that time of year again, and we are making our sixth annual Santa's Wish List appeal. When you are making out your gift lists, we hope you will consider a donation to one or more of the following: Community Health Association, Friends of the West Stockbridge Library, Pet Partners of the Tri-State Berkshires, West Stockbridge Beautification, West Stockbridge Farmers Market, West Stockbridge Fire and Rescue Services, West Stockbridge Historical Society, and, of course, the Local Yokel.

Without your help, none of these organizations could do the wonderful things they do to make our town such a special place to live. Your donations are very much appreciated, and gifts of even a few dollars add up and make a real difference.

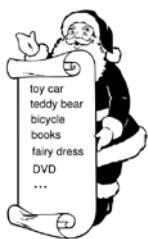
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of holidays! The WSLY Editors



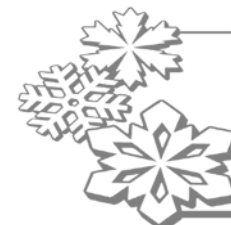
To: Community Health Association



To: Friends of the West Stockbridge Library



To: The Local Yokel



To: Pet Partners of the Tri-State Berkshires



To: West Stockbridge Beautification



To: West Stockbridge Farmers Market



To: West Stockbridge Fire and Rescue Services



To: West Stockbridge Historical Society

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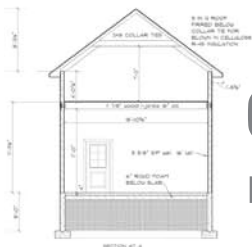
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*West Stockbridge
Historical Society*



On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky

End-of-year random thoughts and crumpled ravings:

- There's probably more illumination provided by the bulb in your refrigerator than was available after dark in the average 18th-century household. Yet folks back then often stayed up to past 9 or 10 (by which time yours truly is in his jammies). And tradesmen were expected to be at work by 5 or 6 a.m.
- It wasn't until the 1930s that indoor plumbing became common in rural houses in America. In my house, the indoor bathroom was added in 1932, and the work was signed by the local carpenters, including Billy Kie's father and the fathers of several other townspeople.
- About the same time, electrification came to the countryside. A 1930s newspaper advertisement I found in the walls of my old place offered wiring from basement to attic for \$79.
- Get the straight poop about indoor plumbing at www.livescience.com.
- Standardized 4 × 8-foot sheets of plywood were introduced as a building material in 1928. Once plywood had become commonly used, framing became standardized to accommodate it, with studs, joists, and rafters set at 16- or 24-inch spacing. This allowed even spacing of framing material. Then it was a simple step for rock wool insulation to be standardized to fit between the studs or rafters.
- "[Benjamin] Franklin published 'Observations on the Causes and Cure of Smoky Chimneys' in 1787. Franklin's 'Pennsylvanian Fireplace,' invented in 1742, and his Franklin stove, invented in 1771, were designed to burn fuel more efficiently reducing the amount of smoke dispersed in the air. The Franklin stove, a small cast-iron version of his Pennsylvania fireplace, was quickly adopted as a heater for small rooms before the American Revolution." ultimatehistoryproject.com/chimneys.html
- The early 20th century was a golden age of cold-cereal products—Corn Flakes, Quaker Puffed Rice and Puffed Wheat, and Shredded Wheat all came on the market between 1906 and 1912—but on the farm, people enjoyed a heartier meal of eggs and pancakes. www.theatlantic.com

Wishing both my faithful readers (you know who you are) a joyous holiday season and a prosperous new year! Questions for upcoming articles can be sent to info@localyokel.org.



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WEST STOCKBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

21 State Line Rd | West Stockbridge, MA 01266 | In the new Town Hall
weststockbridgelibrary.org | 413-232-0300 ext. 308

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

Warm wishes from the library staff and trustees to all of our library community for a very happy holiday season.

To best serve our patrons, we will be open normal hours during the holidays.

Winter vacation week doings: Like to build with LEGOs? Or play a board game?

Just relax with a book? Young readers are invited to stop in during school vacation



week for board games, puzzles, and LEGO Challenge. Or travel to the Berkshire Carousel in Pittsfield for a ride on one of the painted ponies! We're raffling off a Carousel Pack of tokens and other carousel-related surprises throughout the month. Check out a book AND get a ticket for the raffle.



New Additions

DVDs: *Big Little Lies*, *Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, *Wind River*, *Westworld season 1*, *The Glass Castle*

FICTION

Allende, *In the Midst of Winter*
Baldacci, *End Game* (also LP)
Child, *Midnight Line: A Jack Reacher Novel* (also LP)
Connelly, *Two Kinds of Truth* (also LP)
Erdrich, *Future Home of the Living God*
Evanovich, *Hardcore 24*
Matthews, *World of Tomorrow*
Mayor, *Trace*
Perry, *Echo of Murder: A William Monk Novel*
Perry, *A Christmas Return: A Novel*

NONFICTION

Isaacson, *Leonardo da Vinci*

JUST FOR KIDS

Border, *Merry Christmas*, *Peanut!*
Jeffers, *Jingle Bells*
Stine, *Young Scrooge*
Toht, *Pick a Pine Tree*





Ongoing

- Set up a CW/MARS online account by going to weststockbridgelibrary.org and clicking on the card catalog picture. Your personal account allows you to keep track of checkouts, requests, overdue and fees, pickup locations, renewals, and more. Can't find it in our C/WMARS network? Click on the Commonwealth Catalog to borrow any item statewide.
- All Library Trustees Board meetings are open to the public. Please check our website for December's meeting date.
- A reminder that day passes to our year-round attractions are available at the library thanks to the Friends of the Library and the West Stockbridge Cultural Council.
- As always, we welcome suggestions on just about anything to improve our library.

Lee Appelbaum and Jodi Magner

Still Life

Still Life

*Painting,
Photography,
Drawing*

Mondays
1–3:30 p.m.

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Shaker
Village

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Housatonic Street
Pittsfield

Richmond-West Stockbridge
Artists' Guild/Guild of
Berkshire Artists
www.rwsag.org "Our
Programs: Meet the Artist" and
Facebook



Works from top right: Bruce Panock, Keith Emerling,
Dana Goedewaagen, Karen Carmean.

Join members Mondays 1–3:30 p.m., at Hancock Shaker Village. Each week Lesley Herzberg, the curator at Hancock Shaker Village, will select different artifacts to inspire us. We can bring flowers, fruits, and paint each other or the beautiful quilts and furnishings in the room. Please be sure to let us know you are coming. RSVP kcarmean@gmail.com or on our website for Still Life.

Free to members of the guild with Hancock Shaker Village or North American Regional Museum (NARM) membership. Bring all your supplies and a drop cloth. If Monday is a holiday, the Still Life program will not be held.



BE A READER! BE A WINNER!

Hey, kids, win a *free* magazine subscription
at the West Stockbridge Library!

Stop by the library to enter the drawing
THERE WILL BE THREE LUCKY WINNERS
Enter the drawing every time you visit the library
(and add to your chances of winning)

Holiday drawing on December 21 at 3 p.m.
Winners will be notified (no need to be present)

Don't miss out on a year of *free* great magazine reading!

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West Stockbridge, MA

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www.pediatricdevelopmentcenter.org

December Art Calendar

Holiday Art Show. Dec. 1, 3–7 p.m., Dec 2, 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Dec. 3, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. West Stockbridge Old Town Hall. For more information, info@rwsag.org

First Fridays Artswalk. Fri., Dec. 1, 5–8 p.m. Pittsfield, North and South Streets. www.firstfridaysartwalk.com

First Sunday at Clark Museum. Sun., Dec. 3, 10 a.m. –5 p.m. The first Sundays of the month are free from October to May. We carpool.

Berkshire Botanical Garden Art Show. December 5-Jan. 2. See times to the right.

Still Life Painting, Drawing, and Photography. Hancock Shaker Village. Mondays, Dec. 4, 11, and 18, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. You must reserve and bring all your own supplies including drop cloths. Free to guild members with membership in HSV or NARM. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Figure Painting, Open Studio. Tuesdays, Dec. 5 and 21, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. IS 183, Stockbridge. \$25; \$20 for members. Bring your supplies. RSVP: (413) 298-5252, ext. 100

Art Demonstration and Business Meeting. Wed., Dec. 6, 4:30 p.m. Seminar: How to make your own web page; bring 2–5 images. 5:30–6:45 p.m. Business meeting and planning in small groups. Community Room, Town Offices, 21 Stateline Road (Rte. 102), West Stockbridge

Members Potluck and Movie Night. Wed., Dec. 13, 5:30 potluck; 7 p.m., movie. Bring main dish, appetizers, or dessert for 10 and what you want to drink. Partners welcome. RSVP: aub@yahoo.com

Art Book Gathering. Fri., Dec. 29, 3:30–5 p.m. Share a favorite book: artist, process. Shaker Dam Books, West Stockbridge. Host: Mark Mellinger. RSVP

Shaker Mill Inn Art Exhibit Reception: Thurs., Jan. 4, 4–6 p.m. More than 50 works by local artists. A rare chance to see the works and some of the nine beautiful rooms. Light refreshments served. 7 Albany Rd., WS

Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild
RSVP: rwsag.org "Our Programs." See Facebook

Berkshire Botanical Garden Center House Galleries in December

Exhibition by the Richmond West-Stockbridge Artists' Guild

Gallery hours: Saturdays, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Sundays, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Weekdays by appointment by calling (413) 298-3926, ext. 10.

Recent Works in the Berkshire Botanical Garden Show.



Anne Auberjonois

Amy Pressman



THE RICHMOND-WEST STOCKBRIDGE ARTISTS' GUILD

2017 HOLIDAY ART SHOW

FRIDAY DEC 1 -- 3 to 7pm
SATURDAY DEC 2 -- 10 to 5 pm
SUNDAY DEC 3 -- 11 to 3 pm



FOR MORE INFORMATION www.rwsag.org info@rwsag.org



Moving Forward

Despite rumors to the contrary, the Farmers Market will remain in its pleasant and present location on Merritt Green. Our continued thanks to the Merritt family for making us welcome once again.

That is not to say, however, that there will not be other major changes this season. Age, health, business commitments, and family considerations have necessitated the withdrawal of some of the committee's most essential members.

Because the West Stockbridge Farmers Market receives no financial support from the town, unlike other farmers markets in the area, and because vendor fees and donations only cover the very basic costs of running the market, in the coming weeks and months the committee will be investigating ways to ensure that the market continues to run as smoothly and efficiently as it has in the past with the resources at hand.

Historically, the greatest resources have been the hands-on contributions of local residents. The WSFM has always been a volunteer-driven market, and the committee would like to see that it remains as such if possible. Volunteers who love the market add more to it.

Rather than appeal for volunteers to dedicate hours to time-consuming meetings or even be present for the set-up and duration of every weekly market, we are seeking neighbors who can give a bit of time to individual tasks on a weekly or less frequent basis.

If enough people step up to the plate, the market will continue to thrive. If not, sadly, the future is not bright.

If you have the time and inclination to assist in the continuation of the Farmers Market, call (917) 209-0926 or e-mail us at wsfarmmarket@gmail.com.



*The Year of the Rooster draws to a close.
Photo courtesy of Ginna Dudney*

The Local Yokel Needs You!

Would you enjoy being part of the team that produces this free monthly newsletter serving our community, now in its 10th year of publication?

Do you enjoy writing or photography? We need regular and occasional contributors on subjects of local interest.

Or would you like to lend a hand a few hours each month to help with distribution, mailing, and other projects?

Call John Parker at (413) 394-4368 or e-mail info@thelocalyokel.org for more information.



Poet's Corner

Do you live or work in West Stockbridge and love poetry? Karen Carmean and Mary Howard will be considering original poems for publication in our latest feature, the Poet's Corner.

If you know other poets, please pass the word along. Kids are also invited to participate. Adults, please encourage any budding poets you know! Poetry can offer a sense of wonder, joy, surprise, and a new way of looking at the world. All topics and styles by West Stockbridge poets of any age are welcome!

Please send submissions to info@thelocalyokel.org.

Christmas

Love
snow bells
cheers dancing mistletoe
fur cinnamon brandy ribbons
red white green
holly carols
you
fires stockings
berries wine toasts
rituals children laughter icicles
sleigh rides snowboards skis
pink cheeks
silent
night

Mary Howard



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Community News & Events

Community Health Association

Blood pressure clinics are held Mondays and Wednesdays, 9–10 a.m., at the CHA office at the West Stockbridge Town Offices. For more information, contact Emilie Jarrett, RN, at 232-0122.

Council on Aging/Stockbridge Grange Dinner

There will be no COA luncheon or Stockbridge Grange dinner in December. The programs will resume in January.

Congregational Church Holiday Fair

The West Stockbridge Congregational Church Holiday Fair will be held on Saturday, December 2, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at 45 Main Street, in the church's sanctuary and social hall. Local vendors will offer a variety of craft, food, and gift items. Admission is free.

St. Patrick's Church Cookie Walk

St. Patrick's Church will hold its 20th Annual Holiday Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 16, from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. in the Church Parish Center. You will be able to choose from a wide variety of cookies sold by weight. Please visit St. Patrick's for your holiday cookies.

Send your notices for Community News & Events to the

Local Yokel, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266, or by e-mail to info@thelocalyokel.org.

Please send your Birthdays & Anniversaries to the Local Yokel.

We are happy to include them in the next issue.



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Board of Health

21 State Line Road PO Box 81 West Stockbridge, Mass. 01266-0525

Notice

As of December 31, 2017, the transfer station will no longer be accepting non - metal furniture related items such as carpet, sofas, chairs, mattresses, etc. and other bulky items that are normally deposited in the trash compactor for a fee. All these items will be accepted for the same fee at the Town's Contractors facility, Lenox Valley WTF, at 64-68 Willow Creek Road in Lenoxdale. Their hours are Mon. - Fri., 7am - 4pm, Sat. 7am - 12 noon.; 413-637-1101.

By eliminating these items from the compactor, it allows more room for common trash which will result in more cost efficiency as the Town is billed for not only disposal per ton but also transport of each load as well. Also, with the hours of operation of the Lenox facility, this will offer residents much more flexibility to dispose of these items.

Also, due to a recent procedural change, the MRF recycling center in Springfield is now accepting flattened bottles (plastic) and cans. Please consider this when you are sorting your recyclables, although note that glass containers should not be broken.

Thank you for your cooperation!



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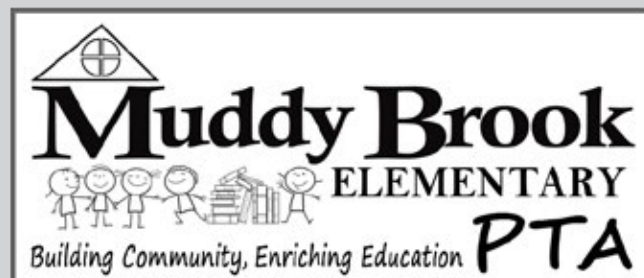
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On behalf of the entire Muddy Brook Elementary School community, we would like to thank everyone who donated and participated in our 2017 Online Auction. Thanks to you, we were able to continue funding a wide variety of valuable enrichment programming, field trips, in-school residency programs, nature and theater programs, classroom materials, and so much more. You have truly made a difference for the children in our community. We hope that your participation in the Muddy Brook PTA Online Auction was a positive experience and that we can continue to count on your support in the future.

Rewards for Muddy Brook

Clip and save Box Tops coupons from more than 330 participating products including Annie's, Nature Valley, Cheerios, Cascadian Farms, Ziploc, Lysol, and more. Each coupon is worth 10 cents when redeemed. Last year we earned over \$1,500 in box tops alone! Mail Box Tops to: Muddy Brook Regional Elementary School PTA, 318 Monument Valley Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

Please join fellow parents and teachers in making this year very special for the students of Muddy Brook. Share your ideas, start something new, get involved, visit muddybrookpta.com and like us on Facebook!

Thank you for your continued support.



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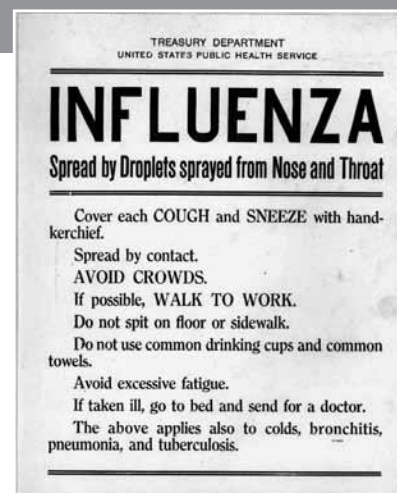
West Stockbridge History Quiz Answer:

The so-called Spanish flu (which actually did not begin in Spain) first surfaced in France in March 1918 and quickly spread throughout the rest of the world. Global travel with soldiers returning from the war, refugees, guest workers, and general trade and commerce made it a global pandemic. Rural communities in western Massachusetts were not exempt. The first wave of the H1N1 virus lasted until early 1919. Although many were infected, the initial death rate wasn't that high.

West Stockbridge lost its doctor, Dr. Eugene Hull, while stationed in Little Rock, Arkansas, in October 1918, and then in January 1919, John Bossidy, a U.S. Navy sailor in Queenstown, Ireland. This was just the beginning.

The pandemic had multiple waves after 1918, each more lethal than the previous one. By 1920, when it subsided, more than 35 West Stockbridge residents and visitors had succumbed to influenza and related disease. The exact number is difficult because the causes of death listed varied and were not directly attributed to the virus. Our full-time population at that time was less than now at 1,050 (versus 1,305), so the impact on the town must have been significant. Everyone knew someone who was affected.

Health care was difficult as well. The town had one doctor who was part time, covering Lee, Lenox, Becket, and Great Barrington. The closest hospital was the House of Mercy (now Berkshire Medical Center) in Pittsfield. Travel between towns was arduous, at best, with dirt roads, mud, and snow six months of the year. The only option was the train. If you were sick, you likely stayed home, infecting other family members, and your house was quarantined during the pandemic. It was difficult times for our mining and farming community.



Courtesy of Bob Salerno

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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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Birthdays & Anniversaries

12/1 Steve Seward

12/20 Susan Fisher

12/20 Connor Bagel Epstein Kraus

12/20 Robin Lazarow

12/30 Mark McGuane

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? To be sure your listing gets in the *Local Yokel*, please send it in by the 15th of the month before the desired issue each year.

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Exhibit

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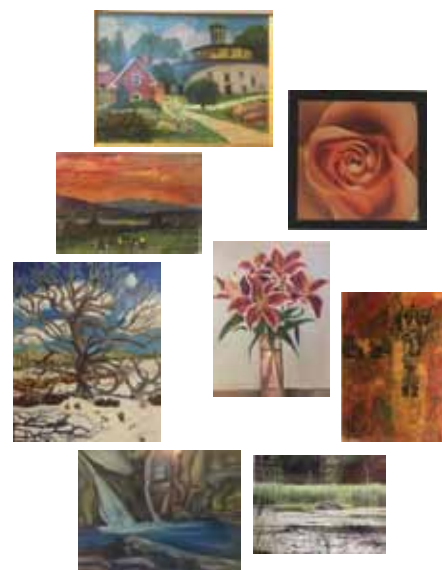
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West Stockbridge



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Art: Shaker Mill Inn"

Richmond-West
Stockbridge Artists' Guild
RSVP www.rwsag.org "Our
Programs: Art Around Town"
and Facebook



Join us for a rare opportunity to see some of the nine rooms decorated with art by local artists and enjoy light refreshments at the Shaker Mill Inn. See photos of work on Facebook: "Berkshire Local Art: Shaker Mill Inn." This exhibit rotates and other artists will be added. Representative works by artists in the show, clockwise from top left: Walt Pasko, Susan Sabino, Keith Emerling, Anne Pasko, Joan Sewall, Peg Dotchin, Marilyn Orner, and Bill Gaulty. The work will be rotated, and other artists will participate in future exhibits. You may see the work, background information, and contact the artist on the Facebook page "Berkshire Local Art: Shaker Mill Inn." To RSVP and for more information, contact Karen Carmean at kcarmean@gmail.com.

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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, Curt G. Wilton</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	Sat. 10 a.m.–1 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>Lee Appelbaum</i>	232-0300	ext. 308	Tues. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Wed., Thurs., and Fri. 2–6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.–2 p.m.; closed Sun. & Mon.
Police Department	<i>Marc Portieri</i>	232-8500 (non-emergency)	24 hours, 7 days/week	
Post Office	<i>Colleen A. Wich</i>	232-8544		Lobby: 7 a.m.–7 p.m.; 7 days/week; Window: Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.–12 noon
Seasonal Lifeguard		232-0315		
Sewer & Water Commission	<i>Michael Buffoni</i>	232-0309		
Town Accountant	<i>Elaine Markham</i>	232-0300	ext. 317	Leave Message for Inquiries
Town Clerk	<i>Ronni Barrett</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	Tues. & Thurs. 1:30–4 p.m.
Town Collector	<i>June A. Biggs</i>	232-0300	ext. 302	Wed. 3–6 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri. 10 a.m.– 2 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
Town Historian	<i>Robert Salerno</i>	232-4465		
Town Treasurer	<i>Karen Williams</i>	232-0300	ext. 316	Thurs. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Transfer Station	<i>Wayne Cooper</i>	232-0307		Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m.–6 p.m. and Sat. 8 a.m.–6 p.m.
Tree Warden	<i>Andrew Fudge</i>	232-4322		
Veterans Agency	<i>Laurie Hills</i>	528-1580		
Zoning Board of Appeals	<i>C. Randolph Thunfors</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	

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

THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE CHAMBER PLAYERS

Winter Concert

Thursday, December 28, 2017 at 6 pm

West Stockbridge Congregational Church, 45 Main Street, West Stockbridge

Margaret Felice, soprano • Catherine Hudgins, clarinet
William Rounds, cello • Sayuri Miyamoto, piano

Mahler *Des Antonius von Padua Fischpredigt*
Schubert *Arpeggione Sonata*
Schubert *Shepherd on the Rock*
Zemlinsky *Trio*

TICKETS \$35 Available Nov. 24th*

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
next door to
the church!

Sponsored by
a grant from the
West Stockbridge
Cultural Council.



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

West Stockbridge
Local Yokel

P.O. Box 238
 West Stockbridge, MA
 01266



December 2017

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						

December 2017 Calendar of Events

12/1-3	Holiday Art Show	Friday 3-7 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun. 11 a.m.-3 p.m.	Old Town Hall
12/1	West Stockbridge Sparkles	4-8 p.m.	Center Street and Town-wide
12/2	Holiday Fair	10 a.m.-3 p.m.	West Stockbridge Congregational Church
12/4	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
12/6	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
12/7	Board of Health meeting	6:30 p.m.	Town Offices
12/11	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
12/12	Chanukah (begins at sundown)		
12/12	Parks & Recreation Committee meeting	5:30 p.m.	Town Offices
12/13	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
12/14	Library Trustees meeting	4:25 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
12/14	American Legion	7 p.m.	Town Offices
12/15	*** Deadline for the next <i>Local Yokel</i> ***		send to info@thelocalyokel.org
12/16	Annual Holiday Cookie Walk	9-11:30 a.m.	St. Patrick's Parish Center
12/18	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
12/20	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
12/21	First Day of Winter		
12/25	Christmas Day		
12/27	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
12/28	Winter Concert	6 p.m.	West Stockbridge Congregational Church
12/31	New Years Eve		