

# Local yokel

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STOCKBRIDGE  
JUNE 2017

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



*This month's "Spring is Coming" Photo Contest cover prize goes to Patrick Barry for his photo of tulips in bloom.*

S E R V I N G   O U R   C O M M U N I T Y   S I N C E   2 0 0 5

# Local Yokel "Spring Is Coming" Photo Contest

**Congratulations and thanks to reader Patrick Barry for his photo of tulips taken along Lenox Road in West Stockbridge that is our pick for this month's cover.**



Along with last month's Morpho butterfly cover photo submitted by Lear Levin (right), we were delighted to receive photo entries from Deborah Carbone, Rozann Kraus, Gabrielle K. Murphy, Mary Ann Richer and Anne L. White, which we are pleased to share with you as well. Many thanks to all these fine photographers who sent in entries for our contest.

The contest may be over (for now) but we continue to encourage submissions of photos, articles, artwork, poems and other material for consideration. We hope to see *your* byline in these pages soon!

*Top left: Rainbow photo by Deborah Carbone; Center left: Horses photo by Anne L. White;  
Lower left: Pasture and Barn photo by Gabrielle K. Murphy;  
Top right: Garlic photo by Mary Ann Richer; Lower right: Butterfly photo by Rozann Kraus*



# 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.virtualtownhall.net/subscriber>.*

## Open Meeting: April 24, 2017

### Town Custodian

The selectmen discussed Curt Wilton's proposal to reconfigure the custodian position recently vacated by Dom Luchi into two positions: one working for the Highway Department and one working on town buildings and rest rooms paid from the town's budget for buildings. Curt argued that the old plan was confusing and the highway person needs to have licenses to operate highway plows and hydraulics.

Taking care of the town rest rooms by the post office on weekends remains an issue. Roland Dudney urged that the buildings custodian cover weekends, and Evie Kerswell argued that the part-time custodian should work more hours.

On the motion to make the highway position full time and the facilities position part time, Peter Skorput voted no, and Earl Moffatt and Curt voted yes.

### Fire Department Report

Fire Chief Peter Skorput provided a monthly report showing two new members of the department. Curt said he would like to meet new members: not to approve them, but as part of the recruitment process.

The selectmen discussed training, particularly the multilevel National Incident Management System (NIMS) of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Most West Stockbridge firefighters are NIMS trained and certified. Although NIMS training is regarded as important, knowledge of Standard Operating Guidelines is basic but less sufficient as training.

### Sign Permit Application

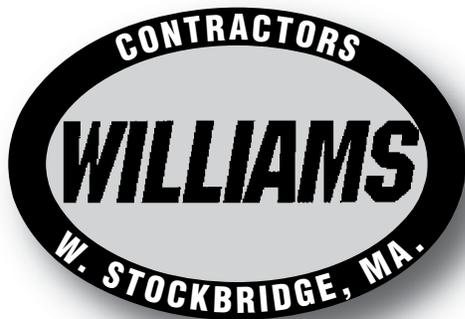
The Board of Selectmen approved the Turn Park sign permit as amended. The sign is reduced in size and farther from the road, and it may be visible from the turnpike when traveling from New York.

There is an ongoing exhibit in the garage on Moscow Road and, for the opening, a food court in the parking lot on Oak Street.

### Other Business:

- The selectmen approved a request by the Artists' Guild to use the Town Offices, barring any conflict that arises. Curt commented that guild president Karen Carmean is "on top of the game."
- Curt said he has had two complaints by people who want dying maple trees taken down. The trees were planted through a state program when diseased elm trees were dying in the 1960s. Now the maples are dying, and it is unclear who is responsible for removal. The selectmen agreed with Earl's suggestion to send the matter to town counsel.
- Curt asked if the Highway Department should repair the paving in the parking lot across from the post office. The parking lot does not belong to the town, and Curt does not want to do anything that would make the town inherit the parking lot. Earl said, "Do it."

...continued on page 5



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**June History Quiz Question:**

Last month we described the three major waves of immigrants to West Stockbridge during the 19th and early 20th centuries and their impact on our town. However, they weren't the only people to come into our area. We had earlier, and possibly more impactful, immigrants to the area as well.

Who were the first immigrants to settle in West Stockbridge, where did they come from, and why did they come here?

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

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)

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

The Local Yokel, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266 or by e-mail to [info@thelocalyokel.org](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org)

### Citizens Speak:

- Roland Dudney asked permission to post signs and have music for the opening of the Farmers Market on May 18. Roland also asked permission for a 6-foot animated sign on market days, which the selectmen turned down.
- Farmers Market managers and the selectmen discussed parking. Curt said he finds “creative” parking disturbing. While vendors’ parking is managed, visitors’ parking is not, and they are going to get tickets. Roland said the Farmers Market needs more customers and “busy is what we wanted.”
- Bob Thibeault asked about the lack of parking signs on Moscow Road. Exiting the Turn Park lot, there is a left turn only sign.
- Doane Perry commented it might be time for bike racks downtown.
- Mark Webber said everything is ready for weed control at Card Lake.

## Open Meeting: May 15

### Reorganized Board



At left, newly elected Selectman Bernie Fallon with Chair Peter Skorput.  
Photo by Doane Perry.

Following the election on May 7, Chairman Curt Wilton thanked Earl Moffatt for his service on the Board of Selectmen and welcomed Bernie Fallon to the board. Curt then nominated Peter Skorput to be chair, who was approved unanimously. Peter nominated Bernie Fallon to be secretary

and Curt to be clerk of the Board of Selectmen, and they were both approved.

### Historical Society Benefit

West Stockbridge Historical Society president Bob Salerno told the selectmen about a benefit event at the Turn Park to raise money for a handicapped access elevator and bathroom at the 1854 Town Hall.

### Fire Department Study Follow-up

Peter recused himself as chair of the Board of Selectmen to act as fire chief with Curt chairing the Board of Selectmen.

Curt urged Peter to recognize the achievements of members. Curt offered to help Peter with recruitment and team building and suggested identifying what Fire Department tasks appeal to prospective members. Peter said that although a few new recruits had already burned out, the department is advertising in the *Local Yokel* and through word-of-mouth marketing.

Bernie asked for more information about insurance benefits, training with other towns, grants, and equipment. Doane Perry asked about administrative support, noting the Police Department’s new payroll staff person has improved hiring and retention there. Curt responded that Peter needs to say what help the Fire Department requires.

Marge Powell asked about a response documenting system that makes a record of calls and responses and sends a report to the state at the end of the year, at an annual cost of \$600. Peter called it a waste of money.

Curt closed the discussion, thanking Peter for getting things done and for doing a good job. He said he supports electronic document systems and providing the money for improvements.

### Other Business:

- Governor Baker plans a walking tour of the downtown area on May 16, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Mark Webber described the governor’s visit as a celebration of the success of the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative in bringing broadband to West Stockbridge.
- Mark informed the selectmen that Ipswich Pharmaceutical is interested in operating a marijuana dispensary in West Stockbridge. Becket turned Ipswich down. Curt and Mark noted that West Stockbridge has no relevant zoning or bylaw regulation. Bernie asked Mark for more information.
- Mark said the next step in developing collaboration between Richmond and West Stockbridge will be a joint meeting of the two Select Boards.
- Mark reported that the New York University Film School has asked for permission to film on West Alford Road on June 1 from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mark said the town has no permission form, but Bob Salerno suggested using a basic film permit. Bernie asked Mark to get more information.
- Mark announced that Amy Butterworth has resigned as assessor because she is moving and the town is seeking a successor.
- Five applications have been received for the new Highway Department position created after Dom Luchi resigned. The application deadline was May 15.
- Curt reported that James Hallock has requested permission to install a new culvert at 96 West Center Road.
- The selectmen discussed and approved use of the Town Offices by the Cultural Council for a community picnic.

### Citizens Speak

Bob Thibeault asked the selectmen to remove the item about maintenance of the town public rest rooms from the agenda of the June special town meeting because a better idea has emerged. The item was a petition on the warrant for the annual town meeting that the moderator recommended be held for the special town meeting in June so that funding could be arranged.

The new idea is that the merchants organize as a nonprofit organization so the town can give it money. Other towns such as Lenox and Stockbridge give comparable organizations 10% of the meal and room taxes they collect, which would have been \$4,000 last year in West Stockbridge. The difficulties will be agreeing to take the responsibility and getting organized before the special town meeting in order to be eligible to receive funds.

Curt said he has urged the merchants to form an organization with one head. Mark supports transferring responsibility to the merchants so constituents who have the need can raise the money. Former selectman Earl Moffatt in the audience asked who will supervise. Peter commented that the town took over the rest rooms because the merchants couldn’t afford to maintain them.

Mill Pond Trailer Park spokesperson Evie Kerswell asked the Board of Selectmen acting as the Rent Control Board to review a document submitted November 16, 2016. The document asks the board to dismiss the owners’ petition, which was delayed unreasonably for lack of data, and hear the tenants’ petition. Mark advised the board to send the document to town counsel for review. □



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](mailto: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](mailto:john.j.parker53@gmail.com); Vicki Grayson, 232-6131, [vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com](mailto:vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com); Susan Fisher, 232-4443, [suefish12@gmail.com](mailto:suefish12@gmail.com); Anne Lesser, 232-8577, [anne@annelessercommunications.com](mailto:anne@annelessercommunications.com). Contributor: Doane Perry, 617-547-1413, [doaneperry@yahoo.com](mailto:doaneperry@yahoo.com); Design: Kim Bradway, [kim@bloominarts.com](mailto:kim@bloominarts.com).

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

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ROOM 2 **Community Bodywork Clinic**

*\*Please note, only Community Acupuncture will be offered on June 10. Community Bodywork Clinic will not be available*

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*June 13 & 27, July 11 & 25*

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# Annual Town Meeting & Election Summary

By Doane Perry and John Parker

## Annual Town Meeting

At the annual town meeting on May 1, the approximately 85 voters present approved most of the 38 articles on the warrant. One article, a petition asking the town to clean, stock, and maintain the public rest rooms across from the post office, was held over for the special town meeting in June to allow the selectmen time to address the issue of funding. Action on an article establishing a revolving account to pay inspectors was also deferred for amendment on advice of the moderator. The meeting was concluded in a brisk 70 minutes, thanks to the efforts of Moderator Gene Dellea, the longest continuously serving moderator in the Commonwealth.

Articles approved included:

- Authorizing the town to negotiate for the purchase of the Card Lake Inn parking lot for public use;
- Disposal of town property at 25 Great Barrington Road;
- Authorizing the treasurer to borrow \$183,000 to purchase a new model year highway dump truck and snow removal equipment and to dispose of the current 2007 Volvo plow truck;
- Appropriating funds to allow the Police Department to add a second full-time officer and several part-time officers;
- Appropriating \$2.76 million for the town's FY 2018 operating assessment for the Berkshire Hills Regional School District (the amount was less than last year due to fewer students enrolled);
- Appropriating \$106,676 for the FY 2018 capital assessment for the Berkshire Hills Regional School District (\$25,975 less than last year).

When asked for suggestions by Selectman and Highway Superintendent Curt Wilton, one voter asked that the town address the sharp curb corner downtown. Curt replied that the Highway Department will take the sharp edge off, as Great Barrington did. Curt and fellow Selectman Earl Moffatt both said they think the problem is distracted drivers. Curt said they have tried everything, even Red Sox signs. A voter suggested they try Yankee signs.



Highway Department worker grinds curb to reduce damage to tires. Photo by Curt Wilton.

## Annual Election

Town Clerk Ronni Barrett reported that a total of 401 voters participated in the town election on May 8. In the contested race for selectman, Bernie Fallon defeated incumbent Earl Moffatt 285 to 115. Mike Skorput defeated Earl Moffatt for a seat on the Board of Health 231 to 160.

Running uncontested, Eugene Dellea received 358 votes for moderator, Michelle Jenny received 330 votes for Board of Assessors, Jon Piasecki 313 votes for Planning Board, Andrew Fudge 295 votes for Planning Board, Barbara Dowling 326 votes for library trustee, Scott Sawyer 331 votes for Cemetery Commission, and Andrew Fudge 297 votes for tree warden.

Also running uncontested: Robert Salerno received 319 votes and Andrew Krouss 294 votes for Finance Committee, and for constable, Mike Skorput with 307 votes, Paul Faggioni 298 votes, Karl Cooper 289 votes, and write-ins Wayne Cooper with 12 votes and Stephen Seward 8 votes.

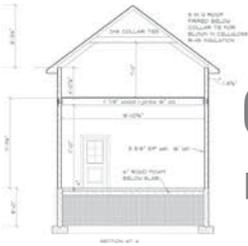


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# On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky

This month I got some excellent questions from readers!  
Thanks, and keep 'em coming. This one is from Kim and Rich:

**Q:** *Our kitchen window needs replacing because the sill outside is just mooshy, beyond repairing with wood epoxy. Does the window come out from the outside, so we don't have to fool with the tile on the inside of the wall?*

**A:** Sills that are “mooshy” are not good. “Mu Shi” pork is good, but not sills. I’d be concerned that the mooshiness (otherwise known as “rot”) has spread to the framing below the window. Chances are likely that there’s no flashing, sill pan, or other protection below the window frame. And yes, the window usually goes in—and comes out—from the outside, and likely can be replaced with a—*drumroll, please*—“replacement window”! Many window manufacturers, such as Andersen and Marvin, now offer replacement windows that can be custom made in increments of 1/8 inch. You’d need to carefully measure the existing window frame including the slope of the sill and note any out-of-level conditions before ordering a replacement. A clever homeowner can do this by going to the Andersen website and downloading the video instructions for getting the measurements right. Or you could have a contractor or a millwork specialist from a place like Herrington’s in Hillsdale or Dresser-Hull in Lee do it for you.

The replacement window will be a modern one, impervious to rot, with insulating glass and a cladding that means no more painting on the outside. Replacement windows are available in both double-hung and casement styles, so you can match the look of the other windows in the house. Once the window arrives, carefully remove the old mooshy window. You’ll probably need a reciprocating saw to cut the nails attaching the window jamb/sill to the casing. The existing exterior and interior casings/trim can be left intact. Some old windows are nailed to the house through the casing/trim.

You’ll need to inspect the framing below the sill to see if rot has spread. If so, this has to be repaired first, and if the window is below your kitchen sink, it’s best to do this by removing the siding below the window and cutting into the sheathing behind it to expose the framing. And it’s likely you’ll need to reinsulate the wall below the window before putting all this back together. But that’s another column!

Assuming the framing is OK, protective flashing tape is applied to the rough opening, and the new replacement window is installed with compressible gasket material to create an airtight seal. Typically, it’s attached with screws that go through the side jambs into the framing.

Some replacement windows are installed inside the existing jambs and sill, so you need only remove the sashes and parting stops (thin strips that hold the sashes in place). But if the sill is indeed mooshy, this style of replacement won’t work. You’ll need to determine which style of window to use depending on the condition of the sill and the adjacent framing.

A good quality replacement window can cost \$450 or more, depending on size and features. But if the framing and adjacent trim are in relatively good condition, an experienced carpenter can install one in less than two hours. And if the existing trim doesn’t have to be replaced, you’ll save a bunch there.

Please e-mail your questions to [info@thelocalyokel.org](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org).

## The Community Health Association

Invites you to join us for a  
dinner and lecture:

### “When Feeling Bad Is Good” with Dr. Louise Maron

Just as the experience of chronic stress is most frequently blamed for the many ills and the often harmful and self-destructive behaviors that can emerge, excess stress and its resultant distress can be understood as needed signposts for change. These ideas will be explored, and there will be ample time for discussion.

Dr. Louise Maron is a licensed clinical psychologist who lives and practices in Richmond.

**Cost:** \$10 per person for the buffet-style dinner

**When:** Thursday, June 15, 5–7 p.m.

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

~Reservations are required~

**Contact:** Emilie Jarrett: 232-0122 or emilie@charws.com



## Community Garden Update

By Dan Lewis

We are off to the races at the garden. Thanks to a great plowing job by Johnny D from Troy's Garage, lots of plants are already in the ground with many more to come. Thanks to donations we've received and a few new volunteers, we are well poised to break our production records. Further evolution of our mulching strategy should also add to our output. Most importantly, I'd like to thank Anne Lesser and Thom Lipiczky, who single-handedly handle home delivery throughout West Stockbridge when the garden is producing. Lastly, did you buy too many vegetable plants for your garden? Drop them by the community garden sign and we'll find them, putting those plants to work feeding people who need it in West Stockbridge. Stop by the garden or e-mail me at drlewis1979@gmail.com to get involved.

Happy gardening!

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# Chamber Players Concert Benefit for the Old Town Hall Restoration

By Liza Bennett

The room was filled to capacity on Friday, May 26, as Robert Salerno, president of the West Stockbridge Historical Society, welcomed the audience to the sixteenth benefit concert that the Chamber Players have performed for the Old Town Hall Restoration. After offering his thanks to the Chamber Players and to Dr. Richard Ziter who underwrote the concert, Salerno read aloud an e-mail from the Massachusetts Cultural Council announcing a \$90,000 matching grant in support of the next phase of restoration.

The concert began on that high note and continued with a richly diverse program performed by Boston Symphony Orchestra members Sheila Fiekowsky, violin; John Holland, violin; Daniel Getz, viola; Oliver Aldort, cello; and Edwin Barker, double bass; along with Linda Toote, flute; and Catherine Hudgins, clarinet.

Programmed by the Chamber Players' musical director Catherine Hudgins, the evening was dedicated to music by American composers or inspired by our heritage, beginning with Jennifer Higdon's haunting *Soliloquy* for Clarinet and String Quartet. Violinist Sheila Fiekowsky then introduced Samuel Barber's String Quartet, Op. 11, pointing out that while almost everyone recognizes the slow second movement, the piece as a whole is beautiful—and then proceeded to prove her point with a soaring rendition of the three-part composition.

The second half of the concert began with Antonín Dvořák's Terzetto in C major, Op. 74, a piece so difficult to perform that, according to violist Daniel Getz, Dvořák had to rewrite a less demanding version for its original performers. Catherine Hudgins then introduced Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate's *Toklo (Two)* for American Indian Flute and Clarinet, mentioning that Dvořák, who taught in America and championed an American style of composing, would have been delighted with the piece that is written by a Native American and interwoven with Native themes. The concert concluded with Osvaldo Golijov's *Lullaby and Doina* that bassist Edwin Barker mentioned he first performed under the composer's direction. "Be more free!" Golijov kept telling Barker, advice that led to a passionate, thrilling finale and a standing ovation.

The audience joined the musicians downstairs after the concert for light refreshments, with many lingering to talk and catch up after a long winter as a soft rain continued to fall outside.



Chamber Players performing Osvaldo Golijov's *Lullaby and Doina*, from left: Sheila Fiekowsky, Daniel Getz, Oliver Aldort, Edwin Barker, Linda Toote, and Catherine Hudgins. Photo by Bob Salerno



## Poet's Corner

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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 new feature, the Poet's Corner. If you know other poets, please pass the word along. 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 are welcome! Please send submissions to [info@thelocalyokel.org](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org).

### Spring Shadows

Deep blue violet  
on crystal white snow  
shadows of spring  
moving gently  
as the fir branches of young hemlocks  
now relieved of snow  
dance freely in soft curls  
ever changing rhythm  
born of the wind

*Mary Howard*

### Time

Before you read this  
ah, never mind, see  
here you are  
waiting for  
a rhyme  
this time  
  
just like  
spring

*Rozann Kraus*

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# Paint-Out/Photo-Out in Alford

Paint-Out/Photo-Out in ALFORD

Kickoff Potluck

Sat., June 10  
1-4 p.m.  
Alford Town Hall

Plein Air  
Tues. & Wed.  
June 13 & 14, 20 & 21  
9:30-1  
Bring lunch

June 17-25\*

Show

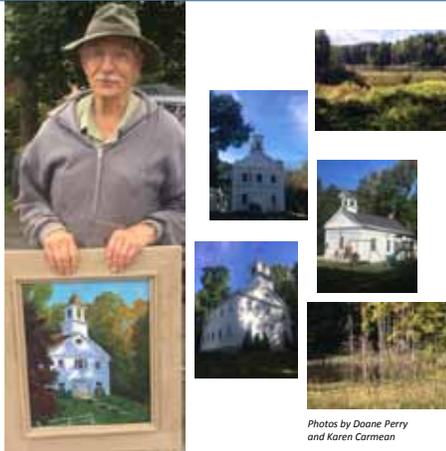
Bring work to Alford Church  
Fri., Aug. 25, 10-noon

Alford

Richmond-West Stockbridge  
Artists' Guild

www.rwsag.org and Facebook

RSVP: signugnenuis on "Our Programs" at www.rwsag.org or kcarnean@gmail.com



Photos by Doane Perry and Karen Carmean

The June 2017 Alford Paint-Out/Photo-Out and August Show is open to all artists. Capture the beauty of the historical buildings and nature! The registration entry fee is \$20 for members of RWSAG, \$30 for nonmembers, and free to artists living in Alford, payable at Kickoff. Artists who are not members are encouraged to become members by paying a \$40 annual membership (<http://rwsag.org/join-us/>)

WHEN and WHERE: **Sat., June 10, 1-4 p.m.** Kickoff Potluck for Paint-Out! Town Hall, 5 Alford Center Rd. Please bring an entrée, salad, or dessert for 8-10 people and what you want to drink (nonalcoholic). Get map and sign up! Bring an example of your work to show other artists and residents. You may take photos or paint right on the grounds! The five photos above are two minutes from the town hall. Application and fee due by June 17. **June 13 & 14 and June 20 & 21** Tuesdays and Wednesdays our regular Plein Air group (includes Walt Pasko above) meets 9:30-1 p.m. at town center, valley views, barns, and other locations. Bring lunch followed by positive critique. **June 17-25** All around town; see map. Registered artists\* contact Tricia Bevan at (413) 644-0007 or [tricia38@wildblue.net](mailto:tricia38@wildblue.net) for private property locations and for possible commissions. **Fri. Aug. 25, 10-noon:** Bring art inspired by Alford to Alford Church and complete inventory and tags. Each registered artist may count on four (4) linear feet and two (2) feet high of exhibit space that may increase depending on the number of participants. Enjoy the show and the Alford celebration this weekend. Sue Arkans and Robert Doerr have organized the Paint-Out/Photo-Out with Tricia Bevan and others from Alford and will supervise the sale. Show is Sat. Aug. 26, 1-5 p.m. and may be on Friday and Sunday as well.

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# Parks and Recreation: Getting Ready for Summer

By Ginna Dudney

Memorial Day has come and gone, so it's time to get serious about the arrival of summer!

The tennis court and basketball court fences are on schedule. Card Pond weeds have been treated to ensure more enjoyable swimming. Andrew Fudge is ready to coordinate the delivery of new sand if necessary. (The kids can build their own beach if they choose to rearrange it!) And good neighbor Lynn Springstube has already started geese patrol. The next time you enjoy the beach at the pond, thank Andrew and Lynn for their time and efforts!

The swans will be swimming again this year. They and the black hoses, laid out to resemble large snakes, are supposedly major geese repellents. Let's hope they stay in place for the duration of the season.



New grills have arrived and will be installed as soon as our hard-working Highway Department members can factor the work into their already crammed schedule.

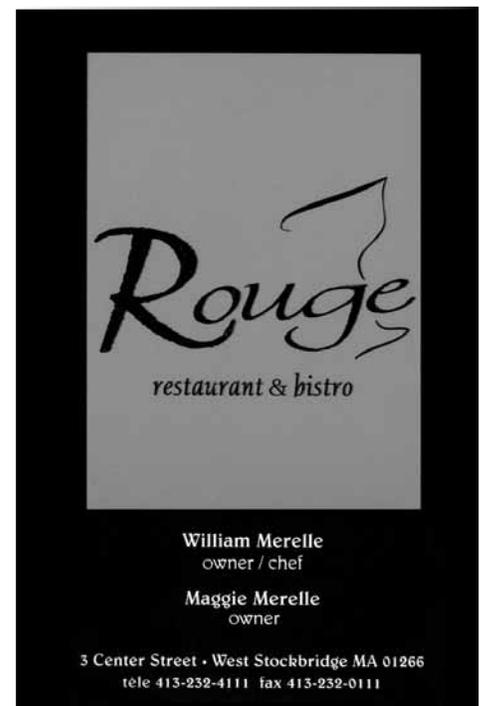
The Card Pond opening day party is scheduled for Sunday, June 25, from noon to 3 p.m. Once again co-sponsored by the Police Department, it will feature hot dogs, hamburgers, sodas, chips, games, prizes, water sports, live music, and visits with our wonderful police and fire personnel. Be sure to mark your calendars!

If you'd like to volunteer to help out at the party, just give a call: (917) 209-0926.

## Fire Department Log for April 2017

By Peter Skorput, Fire Chief

Date	Time	Nature of Call
4/7	10:17 a.m.	Medical
4/7	1 p.m.	Mutual aid to Richmond chimney fire
4/10	3:28 p.m.	Unattended outside fire
4/12	10:46 a.m.	Automatic alarm
4/12	1:35 p.m.	Mutual aid to Richmond automatic alarm
4/13	2:07 a.m.	Medical
4/18	8:48 p.m.	Medical alarm
4/17	5:43 p.m.	Medical
4/18	12:27 p.m.	Mutual aid to Richmond shed fire
4/22	6:30 p.m.	Medical
4/23	11:07 p.m.	Medical alarm
4/24	5:13 p.m.	Gas leak
4/25	8:09 p.m.	Medical
4/30	11:32 p.m.	Brush fire





# 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

## BUILD A BETTER WORLD

The theme of this year's summer reading program, "Build a Better World" (July 5 to August 5), is a perfect tie-in for the library this summer. Special guest Vicky Cooper will be here to build reading skills as well as a raised bed garden, birdhouses, and recycled cities. We're also partnering with the Farmers Market to turn library books into lemonade

every Thursday at the market from 3 to 7. LEGO Challenge Days return Fridays and Saturdays. Young readers up to grade 6 are invited to sign up after June 15. Pick up a summer calendar of events or check online.

Reminder: The library loans day passes to our local attractions. New this summer are GO (Get Outside) passes from the Trustees of Reservations. This pass allows two adults and two kids under 18 admission to any Trustees property in the state including Naumkeag, Ashley House, and others.



As in past years, we're looking for students entering grades 7-10 to help in the library this summer. Jobs include assisting library patrons, shelving books, helping with the summer reading program, and more. Pick up an application at the library.

### NEW DVDs

*Lion, Hidden Figures, La La Land, Before the Flood, The Salesman*

### NEW ADULT FICTION

El Akkad, *American War*  
Mullen, *Darktown*  
Powell, *No One Is Coming to Save Us*  
See, *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*  
Sendker, *The Language of Solitude*  
Shreve, *The Stars Are Fire* (also LP)  
Turow, *Testimony*  
Williams, *Colour Bar*

### NEW NONFICTION

Fitzgerald, *The Evangelicals*  
Grann, *The Killers of the Flower Moon*  
Rebello, *Abandoned Asylums of Massachusetts*

\*\*\*\*\*

### 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, overdues 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.
- If you use an e-reader, explore the new statewide Commonwealth e-book Collections (CEC) at eBooks.masslibsystem.org.
- Library trustees board meetings usually take place on the third Tuesdays of the month, but the next meeting has been moved up to June 13, 4:25 p.m., in the Community Room. All meetings are open to the public.

As always, we welcome suggestions on just about anything to improve our library.

*Lee Appelbaum and Jodi Magner*



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## **BOOK DONATION REQUEST**



**Donate Your Gently Used  
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**The Friends of the  
West Stockbridge Library are  
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July 22 and 23 book sale.  
Books (no textbooks or magazines)  
may be left at the library during  
regular hours. Please do *not* leave  
donated books in the outside  
library book return box.  
Note: We can only accept books in  
good and saleable condition.**

**Thank you!**

**Deadline for receipt of donated books:  
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# June Art Calendar

**Plein Air: Paint, Sketch, iPad, or Photograph.** 9:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Lunch and positive critique at end of each session. Sundays on grounds of Norman Rockwell Museum; Mondays at Hancock Shaker Village\*; Tuesdays and Wednesdays at BNRC locations or Naumkeag or private vistas, Thursdays at The Mount\*; Fridays at West Stockbridge town center. \*fees. RSVP [rwsag.org](http://rwsag.org), "Our Programs: Plein Air." See Facebook: "Berkshires Plein Air" for updates at 8 a.m. for weather.

**Meet the Artist: Marge Bride, watercolorist.** Fri., June 2, 12:15–1:30 p.m., Six Depot, West Stockbridge. RSVP

**First Fridays Artwalk.** Fri., June 2, 5–8, [www.firstfridaysartwalk.com](http://www.firstfridaysartwalk.com)

**Still Life Painting.** June 5, 1 p.m. RSVP: [carolgkelly@hotmail.com](mailto:carolgkelly@hotmail.com)

**Art Demonstration and Business Meeting.** Wed., June 7, 4 p.m. Bring new work for Berkshire Humane Society exhibit. 4:30: How to take cc payments. 5–5:30: Survey results. Email: [kcarmean@gmail.com](mailto:kcarmean@gmail.com) for survey. 5:30–6:30 Business meeting. Receive lawn signs and flyers for tours/July show. West Stockbridge Community Room, Town Offices, 21 Staline Rd., Rte. 102. RSVP

**Positive Critique.** Thurs., June 8, 4–6 p.m. Bring 2–3 pieces. Get advice for July Welles Gallery show and Paint/Photo Outs. WS Town Offices.

**Member Potluck.** Sat., June 10, 1–4 p.m. in Alford at Town Hall grounds. Bring main dish, hors d'oeuvres, or dessert for 10 and what you want to drink (alcohol is not allowed in the Town Hall or grounds). KICK OFF for Paint Out: get maps and sign up. Bring example of your work. Paint and Photograph. Partners welcome.

**"Figure Painting Open Studio."** Tues., June 13, 10–1 p.m. \$25/20 for members. (413) 298-5252 or [Peter@is183.org](mailto:Peter@is183.org) at IS183 Stockbridge

**Alford Paint Out/ Photo Out.** Alford, June 17–25. \$20/30 RSVP

**Reception for New Show at Berkshire Humane Society.** Fri., June 23, 5:30–7:30, 214 Barker Rd., Pittsfield. Artists bring hors d'oeuvres

**Art Studio Tour.** Saturdays, June 24, 11–5 p.m. Upcoming: July 22, Aug. 12, Sept. 16, Oct. 7. 19 venues and 30 artists. See right.

**Demonstration and Business Meeting.** Wed., June 28, 4:00–4:45 p.m.; seminar 4:45: **Lenox Welles Show: July 7–20. Reception July 8.** Bring titles, media, outside dimensions: width by height by depth, price, and your name for show. 5:30–6:30 meeting. WS Town Hall

**Art Book Gathering.** Friday, June 30, 3–5 p.m. Share a favorite book: artist, process. Shaker Dam Books, WS. Host Mark Mellinger. RSVP

Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild

[www.rwsag.org](http://www.rwsag.org) and Facebook

RSVP: [signupgenius](https://www.facebook.com/signupgenius) on "Our Programs" at [www.rwsag.org](http://www.rwsag.org)

## Recent Works



Helen Febbo



Thea Baker



Palma Fleck



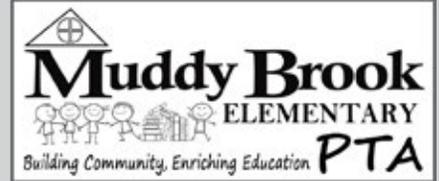
Marcelene Mosca



Bernard Isaacson

### Art Studio Tours Begin June 24, Saturdays 11–5

Come see 30 local artists in 19 venues like those above. Watch painters using watercolors, acrylics, oil, and even iPads! There are printmakers, sculptors, potters, and photographers. Ask the artists: What tools do you use? Where do you get your materials? How did you learn to do this? These tours are free and open to the public. We hope to inspire you to explore your creative side. For map: [www.rwsag.org](http://www.rwsag.org), "Our Programs" "Art Studio Tours"



June 22 is the last day of school.

Thank you to all the friends and families that helped make the 2016–17 school year a great one!

You can continue to clip and save box top coupons throughout the summer months. Each coupon is worth 10 cents when redeemed. Mail box tops to Muddy Brook Regional Elementary School PTA, 318 Monument Valley Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

Visit our website, [www.muddybrookpta.com](http://www.muddybrookpta.com), for more information on upcoming events, and remember to like us on Facebook!

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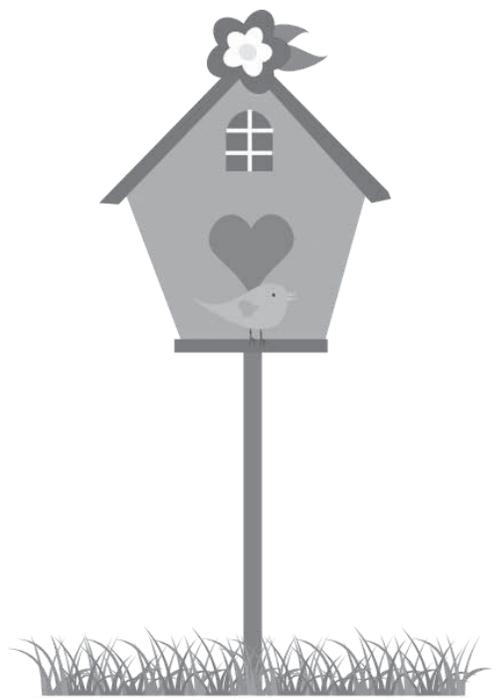
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# Historical Society Awarded Grant for Renovation

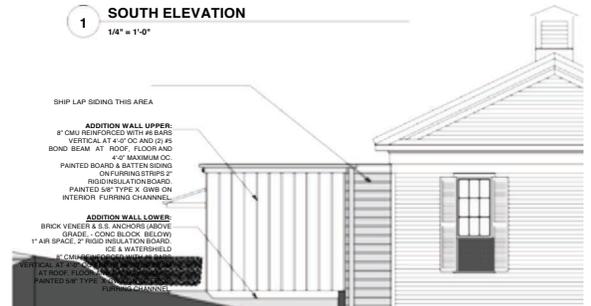
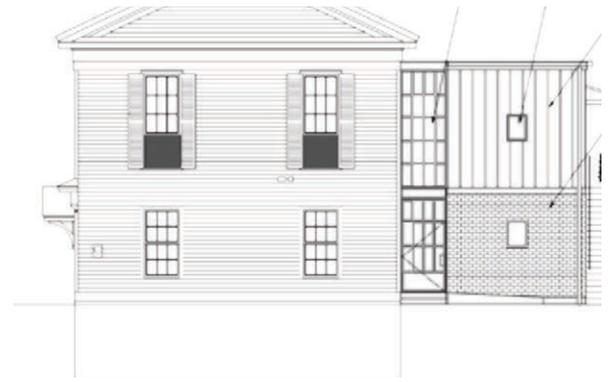
By Bob Salerno

On Thursday, May 18, the Mass Cultural Council (MCC) and Governor Baker announced that the West Stockbridge Historical Society is the recipient of a \$90,000 matching grant from the Cultural Facilities Fund. A number of people worked on the application, starting last November, and submitted it in January.

This grant is for the next phase of the Old Town Hall renovation, to construct the rear extension on the building that will house the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) elevator shaft, new bathrooms, and access to the second floor. It is the biggest phase of work and most important in meeting ADA and building code requirements. The matching grant goes a long way in helping to fund the project.

This is a major event for the Historical Society and for our town in many ways: a real cause for celebration, something everyone can be proud of. In the grant world, we compete against larger organizations back east as well as the big nonprofits in Berkshire County like Mass MoCA, The Mount, and the BSO. All have been recipients of MCC Cultural Facilities funds in the past, and many have received multiple grants over the years. We are honored to be in such company. Competition was especially fierce this year, and our inclusion with the big guys makes us really proud.

Winning this grant is a result of the major support we have received from our loyal membership and donors, our community, politicians, partner organizations, and businesses. We couldn't have achieved this without you!



Drawing of rear extension by J.H. Harwood, Architect

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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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**West Stockbridge History Quiz Answer:**

Before 1600, Berkshire County was a fishing/hunting ground for Paleo-Indian groups and then the Abenaki tribes from northern areas. The Hudson and Connecticut River Valleys offered better fishing areas and a more hospitable climate. Since the settlements were temporary hunting camps, there are few archeological sites to document the visits. Some artifacts found in Stockbridge date the earliest visitors to around 4,000 years ago. They probably visited West Stockbridge on their way through.

Our first immigrants/settlers were the members of the Mohican tribe of the larger group of the Delaware/Lenni-Lenape. Originally settling on the Hudson River in villages around 1620, they also had small seasonal hunting/fishing grounds in southern Berkshire County. Experiencing pressure from the Dutch and English traders, and the more powerful Mohawk tribe on the north, and then English settlers to the east from the Connecticut River Valley, they migrated into our area and established permanent farming settlements. By 1734 pressure on the Mohicans from the Europeans, alcohol, disease, and conflict with other more warlike tribes had reduced their lands to the area around Stockbridge.

A perfect example of this is the first recorded deed transfer specifically involving West Stockbridge land. Dated 1758, the land currently encompassing West Center was deeded to 12 English settlers by Jehoiakim Yokum and John Pophnehonukwok. The land was deeded over because the settlers had already "entered on the tract of land and got into possession of part of the premises." In fact, they took over land that wasn't theirs and now had a deed to legitimize their land grab!

By 1783 the Mohican tribe had "sold" all of their land in Berkshire County and moved to New York State. Our first immigrants were pushed out by the next wave: European farmers from Connecticut and eastern Massachusetts.



*Mohawk king engraving, courtesy of Bob Salerno*

## Community News & Events

### Blood Pressure Clinics

The Community Health Association will hold blood pressure clinics on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 to 10 a.m. at the CHA office in the West Stockbridge Town Offices. For more information, contact Emilie Jarrett, RN, at 232-0122.

### Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, June 11, the Stockbridge Grange will hold a stuffed breast of chicken dinner in the Grange Hall at 51 Church Street from 1 to 2 p.m. Cost for adults is \$12; \$6 for children under 12. Takeout is available; call (413) 298-3185.

### Council on Aging Luncheon

The next Council on Aging potluck will be at noon on Tuesday, June 13, in the Community Room at the Town Offices. Please join us as police chief Marc Portieri shows off his cooking talents by making chicken cordon bleu. We will still need accompanying dishes and dessert. Come and enjoy a great meal!

### Congregational Church Bake Sale

The West Stockbridge Congregational Church will hold its second bake sale of 2017 on Saturday, June 17. As usual, the sale will be held in front of Baldwin's Extracts, 1 Center Street, from 9:30 to 12 noon.

*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](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org).*

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

June 3	Zia McGuane
June 9	JP & Anne Mikolajczyk (anniversary)
June 13	John Ellis
June 15	Frank McMahon
June 22	Michael McMahon
June 26	Mary Agnes McMahon
June 27	Leo Mikolajczyk

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.

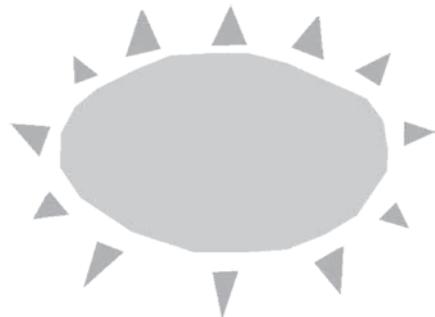
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Animal Control	<i>John W. Springstube</i>	232-0300	ext. 335	As Needed
Assessors Office	<i>Mary Stodden</i>	232-0300	ext. 303	Tues. 1–5 p.m.; Thurs. 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Board of Health	<i>John Olander</i>	232-0300	ext. 314	Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m., or by appt.
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>Edward McGrath</i>	232-0307		Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m.–6 p.m. and Sat. 8 a.m.–6 p.m.
Tree Warden	<i>Andrew Fudge</i>	232-4322		
Veterans Agency	<i>Laurie Hills</i>	528-1580		
Zoning Board of Appeals	<i>C. Randolph Thunfors</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	

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



# A Look Back in Time

May 18 marked the opening day of the sixth season of the West Stockbridge Farmers Market (WSFM). Started by a group of local residents (what *were* they thinking?) with a let's-put-on-a-show-in-the-barn mindset, it struggled to find its center and grew a little every year.

The five previous seasons have been an exercise in mistakes and home runs, amazing creative ideas that were hits with the entire community and other creative ideas that could not have been less successful. The market was enhanced by the wonderful music, made possible in part by a grant from the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, and, not so much, by the rain!

Through it all, backed by the loyal and welcome founding vendors (including Hand Hollow Farm, Hosta Hill, Raven & Boar, Pittsfield Rye, Furnace Brook Winery, SoMa, and JK Custom Furniture), everyone at the market came to expect the unexpected, and with good reason.

Were you there the afternoon the llamas paid a visit? Those sweet gentle creatures (Sammi, Barry, and Tosca of Woolie Glen Farm) were the highlight of the day. Their presence on the green was only bested by the sight of them driving off, with one riding shotgun in the front seat of the van.

Were you aware that it can safely be assumed the WSFM was the *only* market in the Berkshires to have an eminent exchange vendor? What fun we had to share ideas and find out how markets are done in beautiful England.

Then our dear Ray Dorazio assembled, delivered, and drove what has to be the ultimate hayride vehicle ever in the Berkshires. Lucky for him, when his first attempt to maneuver the machine was thwarted by a child darting in front and he had to swerve directly into green owner Matt Merritt's brand-new post-and-rail fence, good-natured Matt just laughed it off and waved him on his way. Visitors of every age loved the ride and danced away the time between rides on the flatbed behind the tractor. Another memorable afternoon was had for all!

Because the rooster is the mascot of the market, kind-hearted friends and neighbors, including the Springstube family and star chef Tony Carlotto, often bring one or more to visit for the day. It was bound to happen when kids playing with a small flock of them failed to secure the latch to the pen. The result was an absolute free-for-all with kids chasing roosters all over and around the market and its surrounding countryside with shrieks and laughter and photo ops. It was difficult to tell who had the most fun, the kids or the roosters.

Another escapee created a major diversion when a little local baby black bear gave mom the slip to dumpster dive behind Truc's Orient Express, just a few hundred yards from the lower end of the green. Vendors and visitors alike were charmed beyond belief, but everyone obviously remained a safe distance off because Mama Bear was surely not far away.

There are truckloads of stories—of friendships made and neighbors rediscovered, information shared, and ideas exchanged. This year promises to generate even more.

Some of our favorite vendors have moved on but will be back to visit. Other new and interesting ones have taken up the baton.

This year promises to be the biggest and the best. Fabulous special event markets are already in the planning stages, and weekly surprises will abound during this Year of the Rooster.

Visit the market, meet the farmers and vendors, savor the bounty, dine al fresco enjoying the music, and attend the cooking demos! Share the magic of a community coming together, and always expect the unexpected.

Don't miss it!

*July 4, Roland Dudney. There's always something to get excited about at the market! Photo by Peter Cohen*

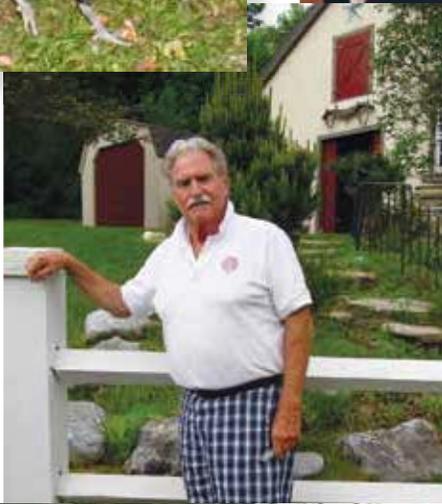


*Partial Committee. Original committee members Bob Thibeault, Mary Thibeault, and Terri Jo Dixon in 2012. Not shown are Ginna and Roland Dudney. Photo by John Parker*



*Lemonade. Committee member Mary Thibeault serves lemonade the old-fashioned way. Stand by Bob Thibeault. Photo by Roland Dudney*





## A Five-Year Retrospective



*Clockwise from top left:*

*Rooster Who Got Away. The Elusive Rooster! His companions were scooped up very quickly. Photo by Roland Dudney*

*Current Committee. Current committee members Mary Thibeault, Lois Ferguson, Bob Thibeault, Robin Schmitt, Terri Jo Dixon, Ginna Dudney, and Roland Dudney. Photo by Peter Cohen*

*Gov Deval Patrick with Tomatoes. A game of skill with a most successful outcome! Photo by Roland Dudney*

*Baby Bear Visitor. You never know who you'll meet on the green! Photo from Nature Conservancy of Massachusetts*

*Exchange Vendor. Stephen Harvey is amazed at the brisk pace of business at the market here. He'll be taking some of our business practices home to England. Photo by Robin Schmitt*

*Ray Dorazio Hayride. Everyone's neighbor, Ray Dorazio, sets off on the first hayride of the day. Photo by Peter Cohen*

*Llamas. Sammi, Barry, and Tosca greet visitors and welcome pets. Photo by Peter Cohen*

*Matt Merritt at Home. Matt Merritt, the man who so generously donated the use of his green to the market. Photo by Roland Dudney*

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	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	1

**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?

Call John Parker at (413) 394-4368 or e-mail [info@thelocalyokel.org](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org)

**June 2017 Calendar of Events**

6/1	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
6/1	Board of Health meeting	6:30 p.m.	Town Offices
6/5	Planning Board meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
6/7	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
6/8	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
6/11	Grange Dinner	1-2 p.m.	Grange Hall, 51 Church St., Stockbridge
6/13	COA Potluck Luncheon	12 noon	Town Offices Community Room
6/13	Library Trustees meeting	4:25 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
6/13	American Legion meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
6/14	Flag Day		
6/14	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
6/15	*** Deadline for the next Local Yokel ***		send to <a href="mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org">info@thelocalyokel.org</a>
6/15	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
6/17	W.S. Congregational Church Bake Sale	9:30-noon	In front of Baldwin's Extracts, 1 Center St.
6/18	Father's Day		
6/21	First Day of Summer		
6/21	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
6/22	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
6/25	Card Pond Opening Day Party	noon-3 p.m.	Card Pond
6/26	Eid al-Fitr (end of Ramadan) (begins at sundown)		
6/28	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
6/29	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
6/31	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room