

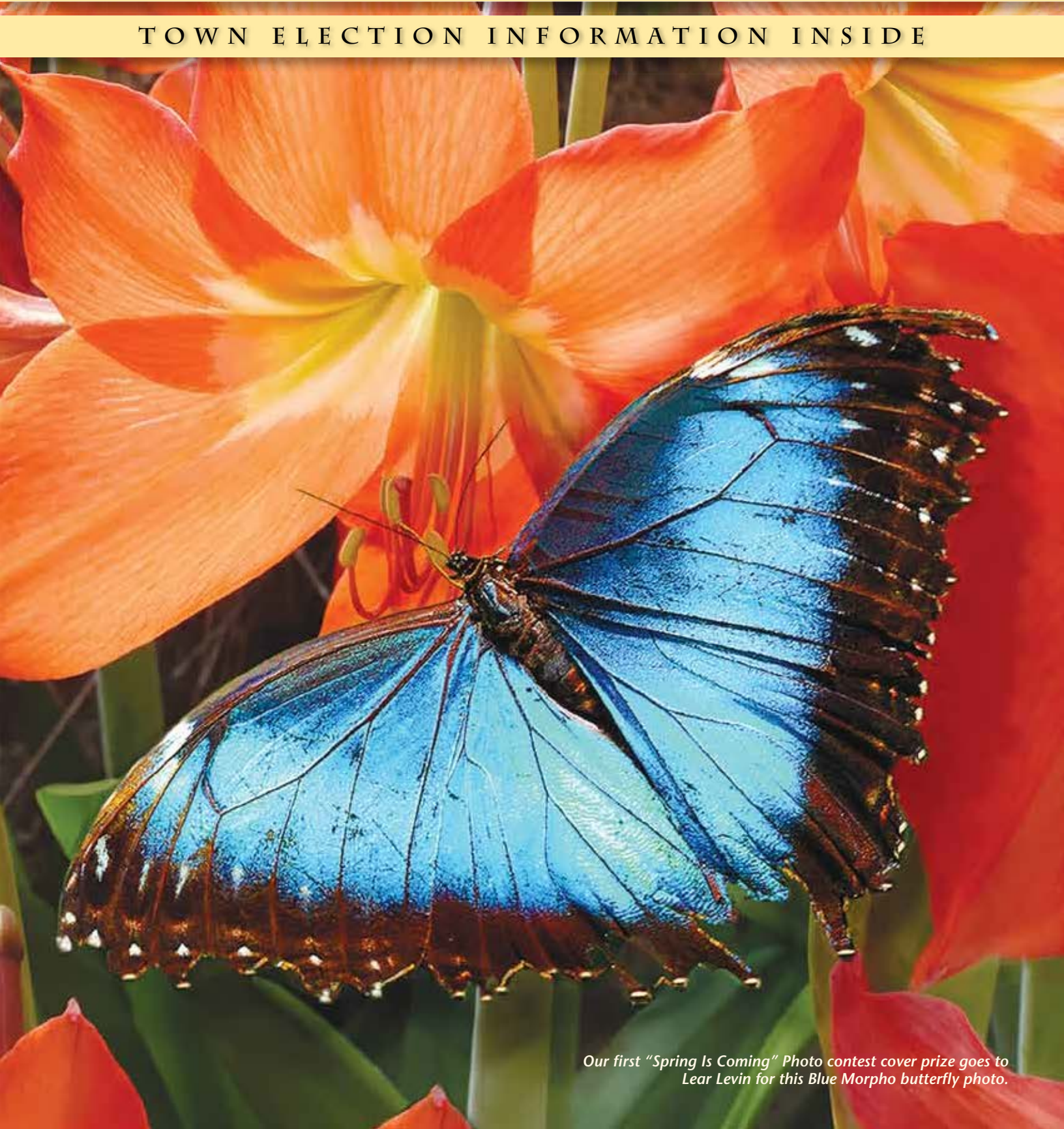
Local yokel

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

WEST
STOCKBRIDGE
MAY 2017

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005

TOWN ELECTION INFORMATION INSIDE



Our first "Spring Is Coming" Photo contest cover prize goes to
Lear Levin for this Blue Morpho butterfly photo.

Thursday, May 18
3 - 7 PM, Rain or Shine!

Celebrate the
Year of the Rooster



Opening Day

Cub Scout Pack 45
presents

KIDS CARNIVAL

Fun & Games For Kids, by Kids

4:30 - 7:00 PM

Carnival Rain Date May 25



Top: View of the market

Right: Colfax Farm

Bottom: Raffle basket

Photos by Robin Schmitt



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: March 27, 2017

Annual Town Caucus

Joe Roy, Jr. chaired the caucus, announcing for each position the incumbent candidate and asking if there were additional nominees. Bernard Fallon was nominated for Board of Selectman, Andrew Fudge for Planning Board, Michael Skorput for Board of Health, Ed Denham and Andrew Fudge for tree warden [Editor's note: Ed Denham subsequently declined the nomination]. Two vacancies remained for constable. Three volunteers were nominated for the Vacancy Committee: Evie Kerswell, Karen Zick, and Andrew Fudge.

Budget and Annual Town Meeting Warrant Review

The budget is complete except for the Buildings and Grounds position (Dom Luchi has resigned). This year's tax rate is about the same as last year. Mark Webber said all departments got their reports in on time.

Open Meeting: April 3, 2017

Budget and Annual Town Meeting Warrant Review

The fiscal year 2018 tax bill is \$5,059,438, a decrease of \$46,000, or about 1% less compared to fiscal 2017, which Curt Wilton labeled "amazing" and "good news." The warrant was approved and passed unanimously.

Other items:

- Mark Webber reported that Turn Park has requested a one-day liquor license for its opening celebration on May 14.
- Bob Thibeault asked if the town bathrooms will be open on May 14. There was discussion of the role of the custodian and of forcing a funding item onto the town meeting warrant. No action was taken.
- Evie Kerswell asked the selectmen (acting as the Rent Control Board) whether a response had been received from the Gennaris, the trailer park owners. The selectmen said they have not received a response.
- Dana Bixby asked the selectmen about how the Planning Board should handle the request to make Silvermine Lane a town road. The selectmen commented that other towns have made private roads public when approved by their planning boards, and West Stockbridge has done it for Iron Mine and Iron Ore Roads, but the benefits are only enjoyed by the residents on the road and none of the taxpayers.

Open Meeting: April 10, 2017

Police Department Update

Chief Marc Portieri reported that he has added a shift from 12 midnight to 8 a.m. Police are following school buses from 5 to 6 a.m. The selectmen accepted the chief's proposal to hire Tim O'Brien as a new part-time officer. Tim lives in Lanesboro and has paramedic expertise. Peter Skorput

...continued on page 5

Art 'Round Town 2017

Shaker Mill Inn Reception

More Than 50
Works of Art by
Local Artists

Sunday, May 7
4-7 p.m.

Shaker Mill Inn
2 Oak Street
West Stockbridge



Richmond-West Stockbridge
Artists' Guild
www.rwsag.org and Facebook



Join us for a rare opportunity to see some of the Inn's nine rooms decorated with art by local artists and enjoy light refreshments at the Shaker Mill Inn on Sunday, May 7, 4-7 p.m. See photos of work on Facebook "Berkshire Local Art: Shaker Mill Inn." This exhibit rotates, and other artists will be added. Representative works clockwise from top left: Bill Graulty, Susan Sabino, Janet Pumphrey, Joan Rocks, and Keith Emerling.

COMMUNITY CARE DAYS at BOUNDLESS

SPRING/SUMMER 2017

SCHEDULE

SATURDAYS : 9:30 -11:15am

May 13 & 27, June 10 & 24, July 8 & 22

ROOM 1 **Community Acupuncture**

ROOM 2 **Community Bodywork Clinic**

TUESDAYS : 4:30-6:15pm

May 16 & 30, June 13 & 27, July 11 & 25

ROOM 1 **Community Acupuncture**

ROOM 2 **Community Bodywork Clinic**



Kelly Clady, L.Ac., Dipl. O.M.



Karden Rabin, LMT

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said the Fire Department welcomes Tim's medical assistance. Earl Moffatt welcomed Tim, noting that he is replacing an officer that the department lost. The police have ordered the Plymouth County parking ticket system and plan to go forward with it.

Fiscal Year 2018 Budget and Annual Town Meeting Warrant

The selectmen signed the warrant and noted that the fiscal year 2018 spending budget is down about \$100,000 from 2017 due to lower school enrollment. The Finance Committee has reviewed and approved the budget. A petition article was put in as submitted.

Fire Department Operations

Chief Peter Skorput and the selectmen discussed the status and maintenance of the town's 12 so-called dry fire hydrants. A dry hydrant gets water from an unpressurized pipe connected to a pond or stream; wet hydrants get water from a pipe attached to a pressurized piped water system. West Stockbridge has 12 dry hydrants and no wet hydrants.



Hydrant testing meter
Photo by Doane Perry

The Fire Department tests the water available from hydrants with a meter. Earl and Peter discussed addressing hydrants that don't work well or have not been tested. The selectmen suggested performing drill contests such as a Tanker Shuttle practice where filling and emptying a tanker is timed and a Jaws of Life drill contest on a vehicle. Curt Wilton asked Peter to use this review as a guide to improve and hone Fire Department skills.

In response to Paula Farrell's question about how much the town pays Peter, Curt responded, "very little" but said

that Peter could ask for more. Curt said he would love to give Peter more money and a secretary if he asked for it.

Other items:

- Curt said he would like to return the buildings and grounds superintendent position (now vacant) to the way it used to be, with a part-time custodian caring for the Town Offices and a grounds person working full time with the Highway Department.
- Curt reported that Lenox Road is closed for resurfacing following the water line replacement.
- There was discussion about responsibility for the condition of sidewalks by the turnpike entrance and State Line Road. □

Annual Town Report Available Online

The Annual Town Report is now viewable on the Town of West Stockbridge website at this address:

http://weststockbridge-ma.gov/pages/WestStockbridgeMA_BOS/Town_Report/Annual_Town_Report

A link to the report can be found on the home page of the town's website, under Town Documents. The link to the home page is <http://weststockbridge-ma.gov/Pages/index>.

Correction

Due to an editing error, our April Board of Selectmen summary for the March 6 meeting said, "The town's highways are in good shape, but the eight major bridges need repair." Fortunately, only two bridges need repair: those near Denny's garage and at Cone Brook. We regret the error.

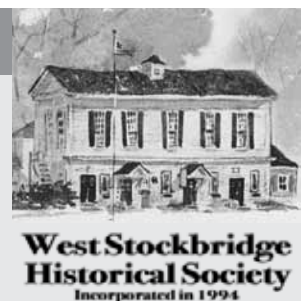
May History Quiz Question:

There has been a lot of talk both nationally and locally about immigrants and immigration in the past year or so. As we know, our nation is a nation of immigrants, and its success depended on immigration, New England industry specifically. The 19th-century transition from an agrarian economy to the industrial state could not have happened without the large inflow of immigrants. West Stockbridge's development was no different.

Who were the three major groups of immigrants to West Stockbridge, and what impact did they have on the town's industries?

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.

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)



Annual Town Elections

May 8, 2017

Town Offices Gymnasium, 21 State Line Road



Polls open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Elected Office	Term Length	Incumbent	Challenger/s
Moderator	1 year	Eugene Dellea	
Board of Selectmen	3 years	Earl Moffatt	Bernard Fallon
Board of Assessors	3 years	Michelle Jenny	
Finance Committee	3 years	Robert Salerno	
Finance Committee	3 years	Andrew Krauss	
Planning Board	5 years	Jon Piasecki	
Planning Board	4 years	Vacant	Andrew Fudge
Board of Health	3 years	Earl Moffatt	Michael Skorput
Library Trustes	3 years	Barbara Dowling	
Cemetery Commission	3 years	Scott Sawyer	
Tree Warden	3 years	Vacant	Andrew Fudge
Constable	3 years	Vacant	
Constable	3 years	Michael Skorput	
Constable	3 years	Paul Faggioni	
Constable	3 years	Karl G. Cooper	
Constable	3 years	Vacant	

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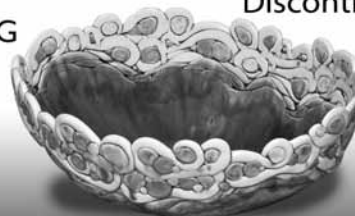
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The *Local Yokel* is published monthly. Please send submissions to: the *Local Yokel*, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266 or info@thelocalyokel.org. Copy deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the publication. Editors: John Parker, 394-4368, john.parker49@verizon.net; 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.


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.

Town of West Stockbridge

Highlights of the Fiscal Year 2018 Town Budget and Annual Town Meeting Warrant

- Annual town meeting: May 1, 2017; 7 p.m.
- Annual town elections: May 8, 2017; polls open at 10 a.m.
- Fiscal year 2018 total raise and appropriation: \$5,059,438, a reduction of (\$46,048), or -1%, over current fiscal year (2017).
- Special articles to be considered by voters are as follows:

Article No.	Item	Amount
13	Authorize treasurer to borrow for new highway plow/sander truck	\$183,000
26	Free cash transfer to offset debt service for Village School/Town Offices conversion	\$14,500
27	Free cash transfer to add to Stabilization Fund	\$25,000
28	Free cash transfer to add to Capital Stabilization Fund	\$25,000
29	Free cash transfer to conduct state-mandated Emergency Action Plan update for Shaker Mill Dam	\$2,500
30	Free cash transfer to clean up and demolish portion of town-owned tax title property to prepare for auction	\$7,500
31	Free cash transfer to make repairs to Wastewater Treatment Plant building roof	\$9,500
32	Free cash transfer to make repairs to town cemetery roofs	\$5,000
33	Free cash transfer to purchase in-cruiser computers for Police Department	\$7,000



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The Candidates: In Their Own Words

Looking ahead to the Annual Town Election on May 8, the *Local Yokel* invited each candidate for a contested or vacant town office to provide a written statement and photograph. This year, there are two candidates each running for two offices. Statements by candidates running for a single office were limited to 250 words; statements from candidates running for two offices were limited to 350 words.

Bernie Fallon

Candidate for Selectman



We can all agree that West Stockbridge is a wonderful place to live and work, and a terrific place to visit!

I was born and raised in West Stockbridge, and so was my grandfather Francis Fallon, who was born in 1900. He and his brother Tom operated the town's most vibrant grocery store known as Fallon's Public Market from the 1930s to the 1960s. West Stockbridge is in my blood.

The Public Market has been a big part of my life. While my grandfather sold the store in 1965, and it changed hands a few times, in 1978 my mother Anna and stepfather Mike bought the store! This became one of my greatest blessings—my job experience through Monument Mountain, Berkshire Community College, and Siena College.

In my job at the Public Market, I learned the value of *service* firsthand. I absolutely love customer service. What's not to like about kindness and helpfulness for another human being?

My career after college to the present has been in corporate training and in my customer service presentations. My job brought me to most of the United States until 2003. At that point, the opportunity to run the Public Market myself came up. Life is good. Great success occurred in my years at the market. I implemented creative and out-of-the-box solutions to problems, and I always ran the business answering this question, "What is in the best interest of the town?"

I always had an unabashed desire to pursue my passion for kindness. The world needs more of it! My first book is called *Goodology: Personal Development Through Good*. My waking (and sleeping) hours focus on this question: "How do I help make the world a better place?" You should see my notes!

I met my beautiful fiancée Isabel while writing my book. I bring my work ethic, good decision making, sense of humor, and absolute willingness to do the best for people. We can begin agreeing that West Stockbridge is a beautiful place. Bringing people together will accomplish all of our goals!

Andrew J. Fudge

Candidate for Planning Board and Tree Warden



Hello, my name is Andrew Fudge, and I'm running for tree warden and Planning Board for the town of West Stockbridge. Since my family and I moved here seven years ago, we have grown fond of the community and the people in it. We've met many of you through Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, town events, baseball and football games, and while volunteering at the farmers market, parks and recreations committee, Council on Aging, and many other volunteer functions. I truly believe that West Stockbridge is a wonderful place to raise a family and the greatest town in the Berkshires.

The main reason I decided to toss my hat into the tree warden and Planning Board races is pretty straightforward: I want to give back to the community in a meaningful and tangible way.

I believe that the position of tree warden needs to be filled by someone who has a good working knowledge about the care and maintenance of trees, minimum line and road clearances, and who will serve the best interest of the residents when those trees are located on easements and property owned by the town. More importantly, the position needs to be filled by someone who is courteous, answers the phone when you call, and will make the entire experience as pleasant as possible.

I decided to run for Planning Board because I care about this town and what is going on in it. I think it is important that Planning Board members be good stewards of our town's limited resources, green-light projects that benefit our businesses and citizens, and be open minded to projects that enrich the community, such as fixing the playground at the town offices.

I ask for the support of the citizens of West Stockbridge on Election Day. If elected to these offices, I promise to always put your interests first. In closing, I'd like to thank the folks at the *Local Yokel* for giving me an opportunity to introduce myself to the community.

Earl Moffatt

Candidate for Selectman and Board of Health



I am seeking reelection to positions on the Board of Selectmen and Board of Health. I was raised, educated, and operate businesses in town and have served continuously in some volunteer capacity since 1976. My family has lived and worked here for over 250 years.

As selectman, I was involved with construction of the well site, water and sewer system, Treatment Plant, Transfer Station, and reconstruction of the Shaker Mill and Card Pond dams; bridges at Harris Street, Center Street, Swamp Road, Great Barrington Road, and Shaker Mill Pond; formation of the Rent Control Board for the Mill Pond Park residents; negotiations leading up to the development of solar energy, bringing an annual revenue for the town of \$57,500 for the next 20 years; negotiations with Charter Communications bringing high-speed Internet service with 100% coverage to town and saving the town \$1.9 million that was appropriated in 2015 to build its own system. I have been instrumental in applying for and receiving nearly \$4 million in federal/state funds for a variety of town projects including the recent upgrade to the downtown corridor and improving infrastructure.

As a 28-year Board of Health member, experience and training are two of the most important qualifications. Decades of experience have given me knowledge of the public health intricacies and demands of West Stockbridge. I continuously update my training through many venues where I hold several certificates. Currently I am working toward a Public Health Core Training Certificate from Boston University, which is recommended for municipal health professionals responsible for health promotion and disease prevention.

As selectman and Board of Health member, my goal is to continue in an honest and professional manner to build on the positive course the town is on, which I have worked very hard with our team to achieve. Education, alternative energy, elderly housing, and aging infrastructure are but a few of the challenges we face that I am eager to continue working on. I ask that you consider casting your votes in my favor at the elections May 8, so that I may do so.

Michael Skorput

Candidate for Board of Health



My name is Michael Skorput, and I wish to be elected to the Board of Health. I am a lifelong resident of West Stockbridge and am retired as the administrator for the Board of Selectmen in the town of New Marlborough. For the Town of West Stockbridge, I have served on the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Health as both member and chairman. I am now a constable and on the Finance Committee. I have served the community as a fireman, EMT, special police officer, as well as on various town committees over the years. I have also been a member of Kiwanis, an assistant Scout master and Cub Scout master.

I believe that I can best serve the community as a member of the Board of Health. I understand that elected officials serve the residents, and I would bring not only my experience of municipal law but an understanding of the importance of serving all the residents.

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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





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 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.

Pompeii

Red hot lava over Pompeii
Hair found on brushes
Bread on the table.

Irena Martens

Squash Bug

Ugly like a cockroach
and so very stupid
all you know in your
brainless form
is to find someplace warm
in my pleated shade,
on the painted windowsill,
on the wood stair tread.
You meant no harm,
you did not bite,
but when I touched you
to take you outside
to join your hemlock brothers,
you sent out a smell
more overwhelming than
the worst decay of spring,
oozing stinky goo.

Mary M. Howard

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Chamber Players Kick Off Summer Music Season with Benefit Concert for 1854 Town Hall Restoration

By Liza Bennett

On Friday, May 26, at 6 p.m., in what is bound to be another standing-room-only event, Boston Symphony Orchestra members Sheila Fiekowsky, violin; John Holland, violin; Daniel Getz, viola; Oliver Aldort, cello; and Edwin Barker, double bass; will join Linda Toote, flute; and Catherine Hudgins, clarinet, in a concert of thrilling chamber music.

Curated by artistic director Catherine Hudgins, this program will include some rarely heard pieces: Jennifer Higdon's *Soliloquy* for Clarinet and String Quartet; Samuel Barber's String Quartet, Op. 11; Antonín Dvořák's Terzetto in C major, Op. 74; Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate's *Toklo (Two)* for American Indian Flute and Clarinet; and Osvaldo Golijov's *Lullaby and Doina*.

The concert not only kicks off the summer musical season, but also the next phase of the West Stockbridge Historical Society's campaign to turn the 1854 Town Hall, which anchors West Stockbridge's downtown, into a community center, history museum, and acoustically perfect home for the West Stockbridge Chamber Players.

A reception will follow the concert downstairs in the 1854 Town Hall where the audience will have the opportunity to mingle with the musicians and enjoy light refreshments.

Tickets for the concert are \$35 and available for purchase starting April 28 online at www.weststockbridgehistory.org. or call 232-5055, or look for the "Blue Note" in the windows of downtown West Stockbridge businesses. Residents of West Stockbridge under 18 are free with a reservation. Seating is limited, so order today!



Clockwise from left: Oliver Aldort, cello; Edwin Barker, double bass; Linda Toote, flute; Catherine Hudgins, clarinet; Daniel Getz, viola; Sheila Fiekowsky, violin

Center: John Holland, violin

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.

Council on Aging Luncheon

The Council on Aging will hold their monthly potluck luncheon on Tuesday, May 9, in the Community Room at the West Stockbridge Town Offices at 12 noon. The weather is getting better, so come out and join us for a breath of fresh air!

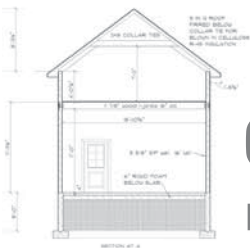
West Stockbridge Congregational Church

The West Stockbridge Congregational Church will hold its first bake sale of 2017 on Saturday, May 20. As usual, the sale will be held in front of Baldwin's Extracts, 1 Center Street, from 9:30 to noon.

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, May 21, the Stockbridge Grange will hold a baked ham 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.

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.



On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky

Okay, neighbors, let's see what's in the old Home Front fake mail bag today.
Ah, here's a question from A.L. She asks, "*Which projects require a building permit?*"

According to the Massachusetts State Building Code (780 CMR, Section R105.1), building permits are required to "construct, re-construct, alter, repair, remove, or demolish a building or structure; or to change the use or occupancy of a building or structure; or to install or alter any equipment for which provision is made or the installation of which is regulated by the Massachusetts State Building Code." So you need a permit issued by the town building department if you want to do the following, among others:

- Construct a new habitable structure or an accessory outbuilding larger than 200 sq ft
- Make any structural changes, such as moving a wall or load-bearing support
- Change or install a window or door (including storm windows) or skylight
- Install new shingles or apply new insulation, sheetrock, or new siding
- Put in a swimming pool
- Add or alter a fireplace or wood-burning appliance
- Do other building, repairs, or alterations listed on the town website "application instructions"

Also, if electric or plumbing need to be upgraded, separate permits are needed, although because these changes must be performed by licensed professionals, they'll take care of the permits as part of their services.

As a homeowner, you can apply for your own permit, but you assume the liability for having the work done properly, and it's usually safer to have a licensed contractor handle this for you. Per the Building Code, "The building permit is your assurance that whatever is done under its description complies with current codes, and thus, is safe, legal, efficient, and meets quality standards sometimes called 'workmanlike.'"

There is a category of work called "ordinary repairs," such as painting, landscaping, and tiling, that are not structural or do not affect egress, fire protection, or energy conservation, for example. If you're not sure you need a permit, talk to the West Stockbridge building inspector, Brian Duvall, whose hours are at the Town Offices, Saturdays from 10 to 1.

A.L. also asks, "*Do I need an architect for, say, a small addition?*"

As long as you can provide three sets of clear plans showing details of the proposed construction, you don't *need* to hire an architect. Many local designers and contractors who offer design/build services can do construction drawings. You do need someone with both the construction knowledge of what *can* be built along with a design sense of what will make your small addition look and feel great. Licensed architects and structural engineers are often called in to do calculations that are not plainly covered in the building code—situations where unusual structural loads require steel I-beams or the like. And architects may have a more experienced "eye" for what will work in a situation.

But if your drawings can clearly show setbacks (distance from the proposed structure to property lines), floor plans (with dimensions, points of egress, smoke detection, etc.), elevations (what the structure looks like from the outside), and sections (slices of the proposed showing structural details like piers, headers, wall thickness, rafters, etc.), most building inspectors will approve the project.

Don't forget to check in with the Conservation Commission and the Board of Health (if you're adding a bedroom that increases the demand on the septic system).

Happy building—and thanks to A.L. for the *excellent* questions!

I'm also eager to answer your building questions. You can e-mail them to info@thelocalyokel.org.

Community Garden Update

By Dan and Meg Lewis

The West Stockbridge community garden and food bank will be operating for a fourth season this year, providing free produce to as many of our residents in need as possible. We would like to say thank you West Stockbridge for three gifts in particular: the use of the land (between the two cemeteries on Route 41 near the Richmond line), the donations that make this project possible, and for the volunteers who help Megan and me turn half an acre into a living classroom for everybody to learn (or relearn) how good it feels to help others and yourself.

As I often tell anyone who listens, everybody has something they can bring to a project like this, even just spreading the word that behind the curtain of goldenrod, we have a rough-hewn paradise that belongs to all of us. As always, anyone who would like to get involved can e-mail (drlewis1979@gmail.com), call (508) 439-9657, or simply show up if you see anyone out there (we often garden on Sundays). Our outlook for the project is very positive. Every year we gain valuable experience and good friends that make each season better than the last. We will do our best to include regular updates of activity and production right here in the *Local Yoke*.

De terra erit civitas ("The land for the city")!



Local yoke

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No. 6 Depot
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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



Consignment Sale

Saturday, May 6, 9:30am - 2:00pm

Sunday, May 7, 9:00am - noon

(Many items will be half price on Sunday)

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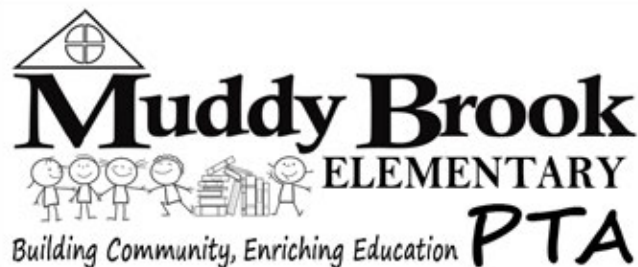
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Sunday 12-4



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Mud Day News!

This year's Mud Day will be on Saturday, May 20, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the MBE playground—rain or shine. Every year, Mud Day celebrates the Berkshire landscape by bringing the classroom outdoors in playful, festive, and creative ways. A variety of local conservation and education organizations will be participating. The theme is conservation and how we can we work together as a community to maintain the integrity of the great natural resources the Berkshires have to offer. Of course, there will be MUD! All activities are available to children for a onetime fee of \$5 (\$15 family maximum). Adults are free. Bring a change of clothes for the kids and a towel. For more information, visit www.muddybrookpta.com.

Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 1–5. This year's theme is "Lights, Camera, Appreciation." Teachers are superstars and provide so much to our students. We will celebrate teachers and deliver our thanks and gratitude to them. Teachers change the lives of millions of children every day, and their work and impact extends far beyond the boundaries of the classroom. Thank you, teachers!

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, Kleenex, and more. 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.

Show Your School Spirit!

May's theme is "Inside Out." Every Friday in May, wear your shirt inside out at Muddy Brook.

Special Olympics

The Special Olympics will take place at Monument Mountain Regional High School on Wednesday, May 3. Come support all the Muddy Brook Special Olympians as they go gold!

Visit our website, www.muddybrookpta.com, for more information on upcoming events, and remember to like us on Facebook!



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

Congrats to our spring coloring book raffle winners: Addison Kramek, Matt Ketchen, Chloe Seward, Maddie Mullen, Bobby Clady, Olivia Dellea, Arlo Merelle, and Ember Raifstanger.

Summer 2017 Preview

- Our many local museums, gardens, and historic houses are sprucing up for another great season. Thanks to the Friends of the Library and the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, we offer day passes to a wide array of attractions. Pick up a brochure of our pass program and member card requirements at the library.
- It's back! After a reorganization of their library program, the Trustees of Reservations (an amazing organization that makes some of the most iconic properties in the state available to the public) is offering GO (Get Outside) passes to library card holders. This pass allows two adults and two kids under 18 onetime use admission to any Trustees property. Our unique Berkshire sites include Naumkeag, Ashley House, the Mission House, Field Farm, and more.
- FYI: Free Admission Day is May 29 at all Trustees properties.



**Young readers up to grade 6 are invited to join our
2017 Summer Reading Program, July 5 to August 5.**

Sign-ups start last week in June. Complete calendar coming soon.

- 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

Tanna, Elle, 20th Century Women, Fantastic Beasts, Fences, The Eagle Huntress, Girl Rising
FOR KIDS: *Moana, A Monster Calls*

NEW ADULT FICTION

Chaon, *Ill Will*
Christie, *A Single Spy*
Hamid, *Exit West*
Kerr, *Prussian Blue*
Kline, *A Piece of the World*

NEW NONFICTION

Farrell, *Richard Nixon: A Life*
Montville, *Sting Like A Bee: Muhammed Ali vs. the United States of America*
Rosenthal, *American Sickness: How Healthcare Became Big Business..*
Tyson, *The Blood of Emmett Till*

JUST FOR KIDS

Bendis, *Guardians of the Galaxy: New Guard Vol. 3: Civil War II*
Daywalt, *Rock, Paper, Scissors*
Silvestro, *Bunny's Book Club*

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. Due to no meeting in April, the next meeting will be moved up to May 9, 4:30, in the Community Room. All 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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West Stockbridge
Historical Society

Help restore one of West Stockbridge's greatest gems . . .

The 1854 Town Hall

And celebrate the opening of its newest treasure . . .

Turn Park Art Space

Friday, June 2, 2017

4:30–7 p.m.

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Reserve online at weststockbridgehistory.org

RSVP by May 20, 2017

Festive attire and comfortable footwear suggested

All proceeds benefit the Restoration Campaign
for the 1854 Town Hall

Historical Society Offers Bicentennial Coins

By Jill Pixley and John Masiero

Commemorative coins originally issued in 1974 by the West Stockbridge Bicentennial Committee are treasured keepsakes in many local families. Now available are reissued coins struck from the original dies. The West Stockbridge Historical Society has a limited number of these coins for sale in either a pewter or bronze finish. Profits will help restore the 1854 Town Hall on Main Street. Coins are \$35 each. Board member John Masiero has more information (232-7063 or johnmasiero@verizon.net).



*Bicentennial coins are available in pewter or bronze finish.
Photos by John Masiero*

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Photo Contest Update

Congratulations and thanks to West Stockbridge resident Lear Levin, who submitted the spectacular photo of the Blue Morpho butterfly we used for our cover this month. We'll share more submissions with you next month!

This Space Could Have *Your* Byline!

Yes, the *Local Yokel* is looking for local content. We invite residents, businesspeople, and creative folks of all ages to submit material of interest to our readers for consideration. Submissions can include articles, columns, profiles, photos, artwork, poems—you name it! You don't have to be a pro, just have something to share. Our editors will help you prepare your content for publication.



“Spring Is Coming” Photo Contest

As a special incentive, we invite you to submit photos on the theme of “Spring Is Coming.” As judged by our editors, the best photos will be published in upcoming issues of the *Local Yokel*, and we are offering a **grand prize of \$25 for any photo selected for the cover!** Photos may be in color or black and white, must be submitted as a digital file, and must be taken in West Stockbridge (we'll need you to tell us the date and location the photo was taken). The contest will run from now until May 15. Depending on how many are submitted, photos may be published in the April, May, or June issues. Deadline for each issue is the 15th of the preceding month.

For more information and submissions, please contact *Local Yokel* editor John Parker at john.parker49@verizon.net or by phone at (413) 394-4368.

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Kathryn & Sean Wilson
Anonymous: 1

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



Board of Health

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

Tel. (413) 232-0300 Fax. (413) 232-7195
Earl Moffatt, Agent

- ❖ Solicitation at Transfer Station Prohibited. At a duly posted Board of Health meeting held on March 2, 2017, with a quorum present, the board took the following action: *"To prohibit solicitation upon the grounds of the West Stockbridge Transfer Station."* A motion was made and seconded with all members in favor. (This updates a ruling done by a previous board several decades ago.)
- ❖ Tick Season Is Here! A reminder from your Community Health Association nurse and health agent that tick season is upon us. Become educated about Lyme disease with an excellent brochure from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that can be viewed at www.cdc.gov/Lyme. Brochures are also available at the Town Offices.

Parks & Recreation: Signs of Spring

By Ginna Dudney

Enjoy the sunshine, and get ready to make use of the lovely amenities available to West Stockbridge residents!

This month the fence around the tennis court will be completed and another will be built between the parking lot and the basketball court. Both courts will receive their annual maintenance as well.

New grills are being installed at Card Pond, and the beach will be inspected to see whether or not it will require additional sand this year.

The treatment of the weeds should be happening very soon, so swimming in the pond will be a much more pleasant experience from now on.

Get ready for the opening day party in June, generously cosponsored by the WS Police Department.

Lastly, the formation of the plan to raise money for a new playground continues. All ideas are most welcome. Join a meeting or call (917) 209-0926.

4th Quarter FY17 Tax Bills Due May 1

The town collector has announced that the 4th quarter FY17 real estate and personal property tax bills were mailed on March 30, 2017. Full payment is due by Monday, May 1, 2017. After this date the amount owed will begin to accrue interest and fees.

June Biggs, Collector

Tel.: 232-0300, ext. 302

E-mail: collector@weststockbridge-ma.gov

Office hours: Wednesday: 3–6 p.m.;

Thursday and Friday: 10 a.m.–2 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

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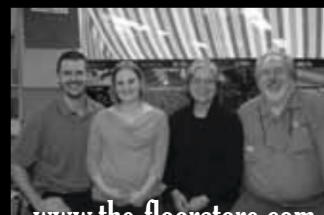
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West Stockbridge History Quiz Answer:

In the early 1800s, our first wave of immigrants was from Lower (or French) Canada, now the province of Quebec. They came to cut charcoal for the Richmond Furnace, and some worked in the iron mines that were just starting to develop. Lower Canada at that time was fully under the control of England, and power rested with the Anglo merchants in Toronto and Montreal. Lower Canada was not a booming economic area and in some cases actively discriminated against. The newly formed United States had a growing economy and offered a work opportunity in fields they knew, lumbering and charcoal production. The early census did not list them as citizens or even temporary residents, so the actual count is hard to determine.

The second and larger group was the Irish immigrants who came in the 1840s and 1850s as a result of famine, discrimination, and economic hardship in Ireland. Looking at the 1850 and 1860 U.S. census, their impact on our town seems significant. The 1850 census was the first year that country of origin was listed, and 152 people listed Ireland as their place of birth. The town's total population was 1,702. Digging deeper, most of the 152 were men, working as laborers in the lime and iron quarries, as farmhands, or as so-called washwomen. Very few were children. They were our industrial workforce.

By 1860 our Irish immigrant population had increased to 200, and the total number of people in town was down to 1,580. The profile continued to be mostly adults, primarily quarry laborers, some farm workers, and servants. It appears that our mining industries could not have thrived without the Irish laborers. When the Freedley quarry shut down in 1867 after a major accident, the five workers killed were Irish immigrants.

The third wave of immigrants was the Italians. According to the 1920 census, 129 people of our population of 1,058 identified Italy (or Italy/Austria) as their place of birth; many of those were children and housewives. The men worked in the lime or iron quarries or as laborers for the railroad. By 1924 the U.S. Immigration Act had imposed quotas by country, and Italian immigration was severely restricted. After that our Italian population grew more through our own growth and not through immigration.



*Irish coopers at the Gaston & Fuarey Lime Plant
Photo 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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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>Earl B. Moffatt, 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>James Hallock</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

May Art Calendar

Still Life Painting. May 1, 1-3 p.m. carolkelly@hotmail.com

Art Demonstration and Business Meeting. Wed., May 3, 4-6:45. 4 p.m.: Demonstration of lightweight tools, easels, and systems for plein air painting and drawing. 5 p.m.: Results of survey of what you want to do and when. E-mail kcarnean@gmail.com for survey. 5:30 p.m.: Annual meeting. 6:45 p.m.: Dinner together. RSVP: doaneperry@gmail.com. West Stockbridge Town Offices, 21 Stateline Road (Route 102).

Plein Air: Paint, Sketch, iPad, or Photograph. 9:30-1. 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 Naumkeg or private vistas; Thursdays at The Mount; Fridays at West Stockbridge town center. Hancock and The Mount have fees. See Facebook page "Berkshires Plein Air" at 8 a.m. for current plans and weather.

First Fridays Artwalk. Fri., May 5, 5-8 p.m. Pittsfield, North and South Streets. www.firstfridaysartwalk.com

Narrative Figure Painting. Sat., May 6, 13, 20, 27, from 10 to 1:30. \$20 to pay for model. Le Brun self-portrait. Pittsfield. RSVP or if necessary Adrian Holmes: ach022050@gmail.com

Member Potluck. Sat., May 6, 4-8 p.m. in Richmond. Bring main dish, hors d'oeuvres, or dessert for 10 and what you like to drink.

Shaker Mill Inn Reception: Opening of Exhibit. Sun., May 6, 4-7 p.m. More than 50 works by local artists. Rare opportunity to see some of the inn's nine beautiful rooms. Light refreshments.

Positive Critique. Thurs., May 11, 4-6 p.m. Bring 2-3 pieces of your art. WS Town Offices

Turn Park Art Space. Grand opening, Sun., May 14, 11 a.m., 2 Moscow Road, WS. info@turnpark.com

Meet the Artist. Peggy Reeves, Photographer, using processes like chemigrams. Tues., May 16, 12:30-2 p.m. Six Depot, WS

Artist-to-Artist Open Studio. Wed., May 17, 6-9 p.m. WS Community Room. Work, chat, experiment. Host: Aly Benton.

Art Book Gathering. Fri., May 26, 3-5 p.m. Share a favorite book, artist, process. Shaker Dam Books, 3 Depot St., WS

Richmond-West
Stockbridge Artists' Guild

www.rwsag.org and Facebook
RSVP: "Our Programs" on www.rwsag.org or
kcarnean@gmail.com if necessary

Recent Works



Anne Pasko



Carole Quinn



Mitch Greenwald



MaryBeth Eldridge



Peg Dotchin

THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE CHAMBER PLAYERS Spring Concert

Friday, May 26, 2017 at 6:00 PM

1854 Town Hall, Main Street, West Stockbridge

Oliver Aldort, cello • Edwin Barker, double bass
Sheila Fiekowsky, violin • Daniel Getz, viola
John Holland, violin • Catherine Hudgins, clarinet
Linda Toote, flute

Jennifer Higdon: Soliloquy for Clarinet and String Quartet

Samuel Barber: String Quartet, Op. 11

Antonin Dvořák: Terzetto in C major, Op. 74

Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate:

Toklo (Two) for American Indian Flute and Clarinet

Oswaldo Golijov: Lullaby and Doina

TICKETS \$35 Available April 28*

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!

Sponsored by a grant from the West Stockbridge and Richmond Cultural Councils.



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

Birthdays & Anniversaries

May 3 Dan Epstein
May 12 Lisa Parker
May 28 Melissa Seward

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

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



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WWW.SHAKERMILLINN.COM

BOB & MARY THIBEAULT
KEEPERS OF THE INN



WEST STOCKBRIDGE MA

5 Albany Road | 413-232-8565

Check out our new Main Menu featuring:
House-Smoked items
TO GO Family Dinners/Picnics
Children's Menu & Children's Corner!
Jim & Jenni Roy Hallock

TO GO ONLY

FAMILY/PICNIC DINNER PACK SERVES 4 ADULTS

SMOKED SPLIT CHICKEN \$50.00 COMES WITH COLESLAW/CORNBREAD/SMOKED PORK BEANS
SMOKED SALMON OR RIBS \$60.00 COMES WITH COLESLAW/CORNBREAD/SMOKED PORK BEANS

SMOKE TURKEY'S AVAILABLE BY REQUEST - 3 DAY NOTICE IS NEEDED

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	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	1	2	3

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

May 2017 Calendar of Events

5/1	Annual Town Meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
5/3	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
5/4	Board of Health	6:30 p.m.	Town Offices
5/8	Annual Town Election	10 a.m.-7 p.m.	Town Offices
5/9	COA Potluck Luncheon	12 noon	Town Offices Community Room
5/9	Library Trustees meeting	4:30 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
5/9	American Legion	7 p.m.	Town Offices
5/10	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
5/14	Mother's Day		
5/15	*** Deadline for the next Local Yokel ***		send to info@thelocalyokel.org
5/17	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
5/18	Farmers Market: Opening Day	3-7 p.m. (Kids Carnival 4:30 -7 p.m.)	Merritt Green on Harris Street
5/20	W.S. Congregational Church Bake Sale	9:30-noon	In front of Baldwin's Extracts, 1 Center St.
5/21	Grange Dinner	1-2 p.m.	Grange Hall, 51 Church St., Stockbridge
5/24	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
5/25	Farmers Market	3-7 p.m.	Merritt Green on Harris Street
5/26	Ramadan (begins at sundown)		
5/26	Spring Benefit Concert	6 p.m.	1854 Town Hall
5/29	Memorial Day		
5/30	Shavuot (begins at sundown)		
5/31	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room