

Local yokel

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

West
Stockbridge
June 2018

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005



Congratulations and thanks to Emilija Baksys for her photo of a Turn Park sculpture, our pick for this month's cover. For more photos of Turn Park artwork by Donald Paine, see our inside cover.



The Turn Park in West Stockbridge

TURNING POINT OR
TUNING PLACE



If you liked this month's cover photo by Emilija Baksys, we thought you might also enjoy these shots taken at Turn Park Art Space by West Stockbridge resident Donald Paine. Turn Park is located at 2 Moscow Road and is open Wednesday through Monday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Board of Selectmen Minutes

[Editor's note: Since July 2014, Local Yokel contributor Doane Perry has prepared our summaries of Board of Selectmen meetings. Now that Doane has himself been elected selectman, we are trying a different approach. What follows is the text of the official minutes of the meetings, edited only for format. 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. Residents can be notified by e-mail of town events and meeting agendas by subscribing at <http://weststockbridgema.virtualltownhall.net/subscriber/>].

April 23, 2018

Open Meeting

Quorum present: Peter Skorput (PS), Chair; Curt Wilton (CW); Bernie Fallon (BF). Also present: AdminAsst Mark Webber (AA). Press present: Local Yokel.

Board reviews and signs previous meeting minutes.

Board reviews and signs weekly warrants.

PS opens the regular portion of the meeting.

Other Business / Discussion / Action Items: Board signs the annual town meeting warrant. Constable will sign and post the warrant on Wednesday.

- BF asks that the public restrooms be opened next week. CW responds that the bathrooms are being checked out now and that the Highway Department has been addressing the adjacent driveway/parking area and that the bathrooms will be opened on April 30th.
- Board has a general discussion on Troy's Garage auto licenses. Board instructs AA to draft a document specifying required actions with completion dates for same. These specifics would be codified into revised auto licenses for the period ending 12-31-18. The revised licenses would place a number limit on both used and junk vehicles and remove the vagueness

from the current licenses. Board notes that the owners have begun cleaning up the area in anticipation of expected changes. Board will review at their next meeting.

- AA informs the Board that the most recent full time Police Training Academy student has left, without prejudice, the Academy due to an injury during physical training. The student will be able to return to the next session.

- AA informs the Board that all of the paperwork related to the auction of Town-owned tax title property at 25 Gt. Barrington Road has been completed. The deed has been recorded and payment of \$20,000 has been received, which covers the entire cost of back taxes owed and associated legal expenses.

- Board discusses another tax title property, located at 16 State Line Road. Board instructs the Water Superintendent to shut off town water to the property and the Town will take further steps to secure the property. An auction will not take place for several more months since the last owner of record retains the ability to redeem the property for 12 months once Land Court awards the property to the Town. That period runs through December 2018.

...continued on page 5

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Thanks and Congratulations, Doane!



Congratulations to *Local Yokel* contributor Doane Perry, who was elected to the Board of Selectmen at the town election on May 14. For almost four years now, Doane has attended board meetings and written summaries for the *Local Yokel*. Now, with his additional responsibilities, Doane is stepping down from his role as a regular contributor. We thank Doane for his efforts, wish him good luck as selectman, and—who knows—we may hear from him again from time to time.



Chamber Players William Hudgins, clarinet; Xin Ding, violin; John Holland, violin, Oliver Aldort, cello; Daniel Getz, viola; and Catherine Hudgins, clarinet, on stage in the Old Town Hall. Photo by Carol Kuller

Chamber Players Fill Old Town Hall with Capacity Crowd

By Liza Bennett

It was standing room only on Friday, May 25, when Boston Symphony Orchestra members Xin Ding, violin; Daniel Getz, viola; Oliver Aldort, cello; and William Hudgins, clarinet, joined John Holland, violin, and Catherine Hudgins, clarinet, on the stage in the Old Town Hall for the opening piece of their benefit concert, the spritely Rondo for Two Clarinets and Strings by the Finnish composer Bernhard Henrik Crusell.

The mood darkened and deepened when the four string players performed Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Adagio and Fugue in C minor, K. 546, that the composer wrote the same year he completed his last three symphonies. Cellist Oliver Aldort then described how he was introduced to J.S. Bach's Cello Suite No. 3 in C major, BWV 1009, by a beloved teacher when he was just seven years old and learning how to play. He said it was that teacher who "taught him to love music," a feeling so resonant in his performance that the audience gave him a standing ovation.

After the intermission, the Chamber Players' artistic director Catherine Hudgins took the stage to explain she had devised the concert as a tribute to Pastor John Stendahl who was retiring from the Lutheran Church of the Newtons where the Chamber Players also perform. Pretending she was "conducting an informal survey," she'd asked him to name his favorite composers and had then managed to include four of them—Mozart, Bach, Scriabin, and Verdi—in the program (the Crusell was in tribute to Stendahl's Scandinavian roots). Hudgins herself rearranged the next piece, Alexander Scriabin's *Romance for Horn and Piano*, transcribing it for clarinet and strings. Scriabin's single contribution to the chamber music repertoire, this short piece is a rare glimpse into a touching and more modest side of the composer of the grandiose *Mysterium*.

Violinist John Holland introduced the final piece of the evening, Giuseppe Verdi's String Quartet in E minor, explaining that the composer wrote it in Naples during a delay in rehearsals for his opera *Aida*. It, too, was the composer's only string quartet, and Verdi claimed at the time that "I don't know whether the Quartet is beautiful or ugly, but I do know that it's a Quartet." The rousing performance, which seemed at times to compress the drama and emotion of an entire Verdi opera, was a testament to the piece being, in fact, entirely beautiful.

The audience and musicians gathered downstairs after the concert to mingle, talk, and enjoy the refreshments and the glorious warmth of the late spring evening.

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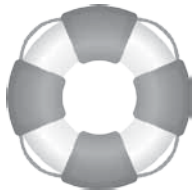
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- CW updates the Board on efforts to work with Mass DOT to install an evergreen screen between the Interchange 1 solar array and Route 102. Board recommends asking the assistance of Rep. Pignatelli once the final proposal is ready to present.

There being no additional business to come before the Board and no takers on Citizens Speak time, CW makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. BF seconds the motion. Vote taken, 3-0 in favor.

April 30, 2018 Open Meeting

Quorum present: Peter Skorput (PS), Chair; Curt Wilton (CW); Bernie Fallon (BF). Also present: AdminAsst Mark Webber (AA). Press present: Local Yokel.

Board reviews and approves previous meeting minutes as presented.

Board reviews and approves warrants.

Other Business/Discussion/Action items:

- Board acts on and approves a 1-day liquor license for a fund-raising event at the Old Town Hall scheduled for May 11th.
- AA gives Board an update on Local Access TV. Vendor is purchasing equipment now and will be installing in the next few weeks to provide for broadcasting of Selectmen's and other Board meetings.
- CW informs the Board that the Town will be impacted for the next 10 weeks or so with the Pittsfield Airport runway construction project. Trucks will be hauling several loads of stone per day from the Lane Quarry in West Stockbridge to the Pittsfield airport. CW demanded that the contractor stay off of Swamp Road and use state highways. Contractor agreed. Police Chief has been informed.
- AA notes that this will be CW's last official meeting as a Selectmen and expresses that it has been a pleasure working under him and that lots of good things have happened in town under his tenure. Both PS and BF express their good thoughts and their enjoyment with working with Curt over the past several years.

There being no additional business to come before the Board and no takers on Citizens Speak time, PS makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. BF seconds the motion. Vote taken, 3-0 in favor. □

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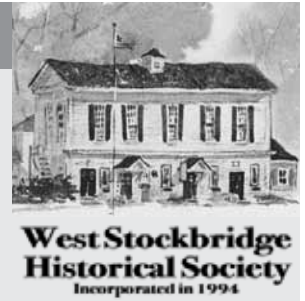
June History Quiz Question:

Berkshire Bank and its predecessor, Great Barrington Savings Bank, have been a fixture in the town center since 1975 when the modern branch building was constructed. (That space had a number of lives, as a railroad shed, a lime quarry and kiln, a cooperage, and a place for oil storage tanks.) Prior to 1975, the town had to rely on banks in Great Barrington or Lenox, not very convenient, and long before ATMs were invented. Because we did not have large industries or commercial operations like Lee or wealthy cottagers like Lenox, you can imagine why banks would be reluctant to set up branch operations here.

However, a while ago, we actually had our own bank headquartered in town. When and where was it, and what were the circumstances so a small town could support a bank?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)

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



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We are happy to include them in the next issue.

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Annual Town Meeting & Election Summary

By John Parker

This summary is based on official minutes of the Annual Town Meeting and correspondence from Ronni Barrett, Town Clerk.

Annual Town Meeting

At the Annual Town Meeting on May 7, a total of 65 voters approved all articles, with a few amendments.

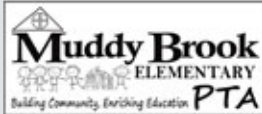
Articles Approved

- To discontinue Orchard Street as a public way, a motion approved by the Finance Committee and Planning Board, and the town to release all right, title, and interest for such consideration as the Board of Selectmen deem appropriate. The Planning Board found no such street, and Curt Wilton explained the road was never built or maintained. The property is of importance to the heirs of the “early owners,” who want to divide the 87 acres.
- To transfer a parcel of land located off Orchard Street, conveyed to the town by deed in 1879, to the current owners of the surrounding land for no consideration, since it would be a transfer, not a sale. The current owners of the land want to clear the title of this small 36 × 22-foot piece of land because it is not certain where on their land it is located, and they want to subdivide the parcel. The Board of Assessors has no record of the town owning this property, and there is no record of the town re-conveying the land back to the owners of the surrounding land.
- To set the salaries of various elected town officers, with the only change from FY 2018 an increase of \$500 for the town collector.
- To raise and appropriate funds for general government salaries and expenses, an increase of some \$30,000 (6.5%) over FY 2018, the most significant item an increase of \$13,777 to the salary for the Board of Selectmen administrative assistant, as a result of his returning to full time for West Stockbridge.
- To raise and appropriate \$411,345 (up \$20,087 over FY 2018) for Protection of Persons and Property including the Police and Fire Departments, Communications, Building Inspector, Animal Control, and Tree Warden.
- To raise and appropriate \$2,735,964 for the FY 2019 operating assessment for the Berkshire Hills Regional School District (a decrease of \$26,583 from FY 2018).
- To raise and appropriate \$123,972 to pay the FY 2019 capital assessment for the Berkshire Hills Regional School District (an increase of \$17,296).
- To raise and appropriate \$642,136 for Public Works and Facilities (up \$13,352).
- To transfer from certified free cash: \$70,000 to supplement FY 2019 Chapter 90 Highway Funding to complete the Great Barrington Road paving project; \$40,000 to purchase a new model police cruiser; \$26,100 to remove dilapidated playground structures at the Village School/Town Offices complex and install new playground structures; \$35,000 for repairs to the Fire Station/Highway Garage building; \$2,100 to purchase an online “e-Permit” system to facilitate electrical, building, and plumbing permitting; \$30,000 for the purpose of constructing a Swap Shop building to be located at the Transfer Station.
- To authorize the Board of Selectmen to transfer the sum of \$10,000 to acquire a parcel of land located at Moscow Road and Center Street, the site of town-owned public restrooms, a sewer treatment pump station, and a parking area, and to convey easements to abutting property owners for driveways serving their properties.

Annual Election

Town Clerk Ronni Barrett reported that 106 voters cast ballots in the annual election held on May 14. Eugene Dellea, the state’s longest serving town moderator, was elected to another term as moderator with 100 votes. In an uncontested race, Doane Perry was elected to a 3-year term on the Board of Selectmen with 91 votes. Susan Lupo was elected to a 3-year term on the Board of Assessors. In the only contested race, Dan Buehler defeated incumbent William Kie for a 3-year term on the Finance Committee, 71 votes to 32. Kathleen Keresey was elected to a vacant seat on the Finance Committee with 97 votes. Incumbent Sarah Thorne won a 5-year term on the Planning Board with 92 votes, and Sue Coxon was elected to a 3-year term on the Planning Board with 91 votes. Incumbent Luci Leonard was elected to a 3-year term on the Board of Health with 90 votes. Incumbent library trustees Sue Coxon and Gail Garrick each won an additional term with 89 and 86 votes, respectively. Incumbent Earl Moffatt was elected to another 3 years on the Cemetery Commission with 78 votes.

[Results from Ronni: Moderator: Gene Dellea 100, 6 blank; Selectmen: Doane Perry 91, 15 blank; Assessor: Susan Lupo 89, 17 blank; Finance: Dan Buehler 71, Billy Kie 32, 3 blank; Finance: Kathleen Keresey 97, 9 blank; Planning: Sarah Thorne 92, 14 blank; Planning: Sue Coxon 91, 15 blank; Health: Luci Leonard 90, 16 blank; Library Trustee: Sue Coxon 89, 17 blank; Library Trustee: Gail Garrick 86, 20 blank; Cemetery: Earl Moffatt 78, 28 blank]



The last day of school is scheduled for June 22. Thank you to all the friends and families that helped make the

2017-18 school year great! You can continue to clip and save Box Top coupons through 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.

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Alessandra Chiavacci reads from her original work. Photo by Bob Salerno



*Students and organizers of the Monument Mountain Girls Write On program:
Front row (L to R): Alessandra Chiavacci, Alice McDonald, Emily Martsen, Eva Letteron
Second row (L to R): Tallulah King, Greta Luf, Maggie D'Aniello, Claudia Maurino, Samantha Watson
Third row (L to R): Emery Gagnon, Tara Birkett, Meghan St. John
Back row (L to R): Michael Rosenthal, Michael Mooney, Liskin Van Pelt Dus.
Photo by Michael Casey*

Monument Mountain Girls Write On! at the Old Town Hall

By Lorrin Krouss

On Friday evening, April 27, The West Stockbridge Historical Society hosted nine Monument Mountain Regional High School students who presented the sixth edition of "Monument Mountain Girls Write On!" to more than 65 attendees. The event was originally part of the Berkshire Festival of Women Writers and now stands on its own. Liskin Van Pelt Dus, Monument Mountain English teacher, is the Write On organizer. Additional faculty members are Michael Rosenthal, Michael Mooney, Meghan St. John, Emery Gagnon, Tara Birkett, and Jolyn Unruh.

Thirty-two young women were nominated by their English teachers for the honor to participate. The final 10 selected were Eva Letteron, Chloe Charbonneau, Tallulah King, Alice McDonald, Maggie D'Aniello, Greta Luf, Alessandra Chiavacci, Emily Martsen, Samantha Watson, and Claudia Maurino. (Chloe was not present, but her poetry and essay were read by Ms. St. John.)

The original works of poetry, science fiction, and creative nonfiction were flawlessly presented by each author, and the readings resonated deeply with everyone in the audience. After Vaber Hall was filled with generous applause and heartfelt congratulations, parents, students, family members, faculty, and guests congregated downstairs for a reception provided by the Historical Society, allowing time to mingle and talk with the students.

I am certain that many of us came to similar conclusions about these amazing girls: These creative, intelligent, and brave young women will go on to play an important role in whatever career each chooses; they will take action and have the knowledge to get things done; they will earn the respect of their peers; their opinions will count; they will find solutions to difficult problems; they will speak and people will listen.

Should you wish to read the selected entries and possibly share them with others, their work has been compiled into a volume titled *Ophelias, Rivers & Other Truths: Monument Girls Write On, 2018* and is available for \$8 from blurb.com (<http://blurb.com/b/8676932>).

The West Stockbridge Historical Society looks forward to hosting this event in 2019 and for many years to come.

Please join us for a very special occasion...



*A Celebration of the Ongoing Restoration
of the Old Town Hall*

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Fredric D. Rutberg

for strengthening and enhancing our community

Friday, June 8th, 2018, 4:30-7:00 p.m.

At Turn Park Art Space

With gratitude to Katya Brezgunova and Igor Gomberg

Zina Greene and Carter White, Honorary Co-Chairs

\$125 per ticket | Please RSVP by May 31st

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Curated tours of Turn Park's Museum and Grounds

A dance event choreographed by Rozann Kraus | And more...

Festive attire and comfortable footwear suggested

All proceeds benefit the Campaign to Restore the Old Town Hall

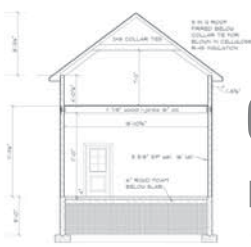
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On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky

DECISIONS, DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

Here I am in a “physician, heal thyself” situation. After over 30 years as a design/build contractor doing additions, remodels, and new construction for others, I’m now designing and building my *own* home! This is a very exciting project for my wife Anne and me, and it gives us added empathy for all those clients we’ve helped in the past.

We’ve lived in a wonderful ca. 2700-square-foot house for more than half our lives. The main part of the house was built in 1812, and it’s been added on to over the years including a large two-story addition I designed and built in 1996 and another 200-square-foot all-season porch three years ago.

Like many others in our age cohort, we want to downsize and simplify. We came across a wonderful piece of land just a few miles up the road from where we are now, so we will be able to stay in West Stockbridge. And we hope for a new house that’s smaller, more energy efficient, and easier to maintain. So now what? Here’s where countless decisions start. (I’ll keep you posted on how the process evolves.)

- 1. Siting the house:** Where’s the balance between the best view, orientation toward sun and weather, easiest sitework, best proximity to property lines and road? Also, where is the septic field and well (they need to be at least 100 feet apart)? How will construction vehicles get in and out?
- 2. House design:** How much smaller a house can we comfortably be happy in? Are there areas in our current house we don’t use? Areas in the new design that can serve double duty? All on one floor so that in our later years we can have wheelchair races? Seriously, do we need to consider Americans with Disabilities guidelines for access? What about a garage (would be a welcome change when it’s sleeting out there)? And how will we fit in my woodworking shop, a kitchen with a layout that lets us cook together, and room for Anne’s office?
- 3. Shell construction:** We definitely want a more energy-efficient house—our current house has been tightened up well over the years, but it’s got a laid-up stone foundation, and the oldest walls are planks nailed to beams, so not much room for insulation. I’ve designed and built Energy Star rated houses for clients, so why can’t we have one? I’ve chosen structural insulated panels that I’ve used many times in the past, offering a tight, strong shell of well-insulated walls. A truss system for the roof will have 18 inches of blown-in cellulose insulation in the ceiling. But a tight house creates another issue.
- 4. HVAC system:** In a house with few air changes per hour (the maximum is 5 in the new code), how the house is heated and ventilated is critical. HVAC (heating, ventilation, air-conditioning) has become a major physics problem these days. If the house is small enough and tight enough, a heating system such as air-sourced heat pumps (often called mini-splits) can offer very efficient heat as well as air conditioning. Or a more conventional propane-fired furnace can provide either a hot air system or a hydronic (hot water baseboard) system. We’re investigating both. But we’ll certainly need a heat recovery ventilation system. It exhausts the warm stale air in the house, first recovering the heat and then warming an intake of fresh air from outside.
- 5. Plumbing and Electric:** Good to have both! We’ll have to bring power in from a pole along the road, and we want it underground as far as possible. This requires working with the engineers from the power company as well as an electrical contractor. And the bathroom and half bath/laundry room as well as the kitchen sink will all need to be vented and drained to the new septic field. The field needs to be designed by an engineer to handle 110 gallons of politely termed “effluent” per day per bedroom. And because we’re too far from town water and sewer, fresh water needs to be pumped in from a well.
- 6. The fun stuff:** Flooring, paint, plumbing fixtures, cabinets, lighting, door hardware, appliances, and lots more. Stay posted for the next exciting episode of Anne and Thom’s excellent adventure!

Please send your questions to info@thelocalyokel.org.

The Local Yokel Needs You!

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

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

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

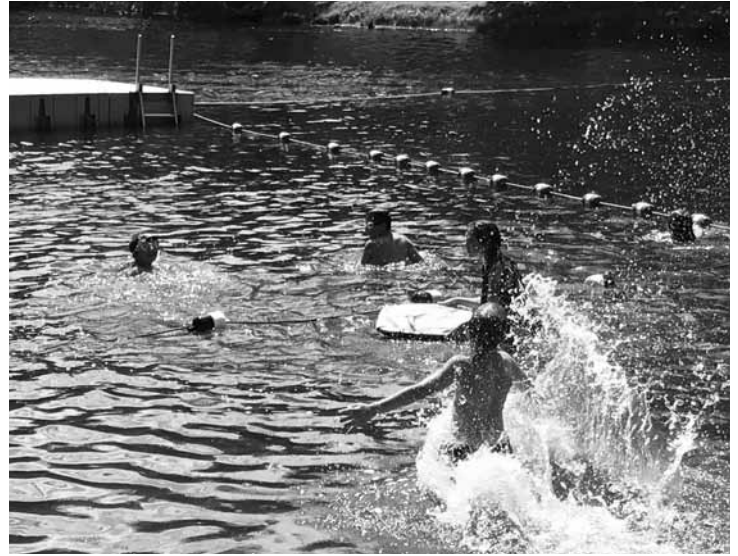
Call John Parker at (413) 394-4368 or e-mail info@thelocalyokel.org for more information.

Parks & Recreation

Get Ready to Party: Mark Your Calendar

June is the beginning of summer fun! The tennis court and basketball court are ready to use. Card Pond weeds have been cleared again to ensure more enjoyable swimming. New BBQ grills are ready for use at the pond where outthinking the geese continues to be a village pastime. The swans are swimming again this year. They and the black hoses, laid out to resemble large snakes, are supposedly major geese repellents. Hopefully, they will work their magic throughout the season.

The Card Pond opening day party is scheduled for Sunday, June 24, from noon to 3 p.m. Once again co-sponsored by our town 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. John D'Aniello of Troy's Garage promises to be on hand again this year with his golf carts to ferry people from the car park to the beach if necessary. Be sure to mark your calendar!



Kids splash in Card Pond. Photo by Roland Dudney

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

Wisdom Lodge
A.F. & A.M.
Chartered June 13, AL5803



"Supporting Soldier On, Nature's Class Room Scholarships for Monument Valley Middle School students and our local Angel Fund to assist families and kids thru our annual"

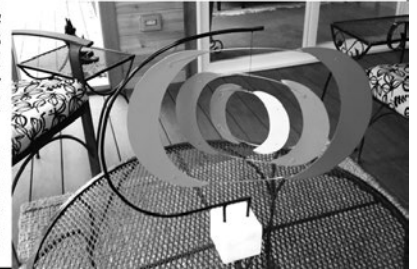
Wisdom Golf Tournament
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Cost: Workshop is free of charge; \$10 per person for the buffet-style dinner

When: Wednesday, June 6, 5–7 p.m.

Where: Richmond Congregational Church, 1515 State Rd., Richmond

~Reservations are required~

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

To make a reservation, contact Emilie Jarrett, RN: (413) 232-0122; Emilie@charws.com.


This program is supported in part by ACL grant no. 90-MP0226-03-01.



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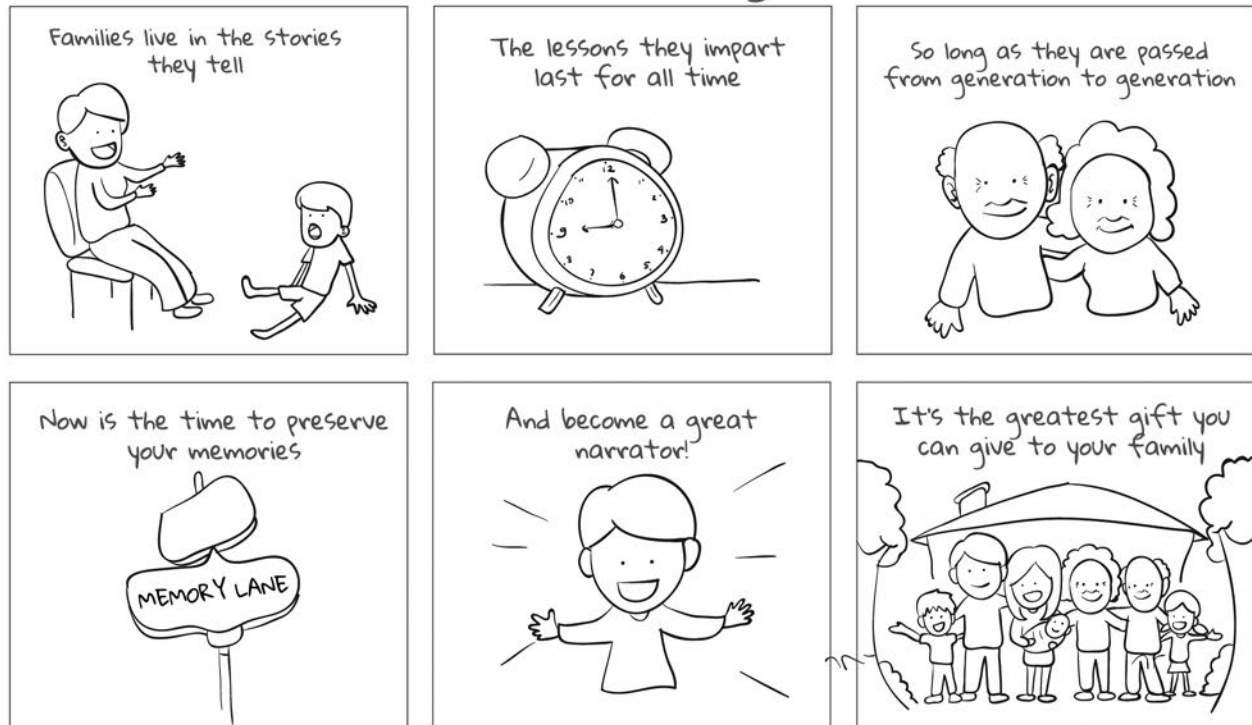
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What some of the narrators are saying:

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Recycling During Spring Planting Season

It's finally warm enough to plant, so what do you do with all those cardboard and plastic boxes from your favorite garden store?

The following containers are *not accepted*, and if you dump them in the recycle bin at the transfer station, the *whole* bin may be contaminated:

- * Dirty boxes
- * Dark green square (#5) plastic
- * Anything black, like those thin six-packs



Ward's in GB has a designated depository, and Country Caretaker in Cannan, NY takes back their containers. Check with your garden center; and for more tips, visit www.recycleoftenrecycleright.com



Fire Department Log

By Peter Skorput, Fire Chief

APRIL 2018

Date	Time	Nature of Call
4/4	2:32 p.m.	Carbon monoxide alarm
4/5	12:29 p.m.	Carbon monoxide alarm
4/8	1:01 a.m.	Medical
4/9	2:03 p.m.	Medical
4/10	1:01 a.m.	Medical
4/11	7:18 p.m.	Chimney fire
4/14	7:48 a.m.	Medical
4/24	12:41 p.m.	Fuel spill
4/24	2:22 p.m.	False report of car accident
4/26	5:39 a.m.	Medical

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BOOK DONATION REQUEST

DONATE YOUR GENTLY USED BOOKS/CDS/DVDs

The Friends of the West Stockbridge Library are requesting donations for their August 4 and 5 book sale, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Books (no textbooks or magazines, no VCR tapes) may be provided to the library during regular library hours. Please do *not* leave donated books in the library book return box.

WE CAN ONLY ACCEPT BOOKS THAT ARE IN GOOD AND SALABLE CONDITION.

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

West Stockbridge Library - June 2018

Happy spring, everybody! We look forward to sharing our beautiful new library vestibule with you. Now that it's warm out, please bring your book or device, and settle in to read and enjoy the view of the fields. It's a great space to see youth soccer on a Saturday if it's pouring outside, too!



Did you know you can stream movies with your library account? Here's a tech tip about Boston Public Library (BPL) eCard program.

The link to the BPL is <http://www.bpl.org/collections/downloadable.htm>. Use your library bar code as your account number to sign up for a BPL eCard, and the BPL will send you an e-mail with instructions to finish setting up your account.

CWMARS also has streaming films via either their direct app or the Overdrive app: Your library bar code is your user name for that.

Bring in your phone or other device for some in-person help if you have any questions about signing up for these.



NEW ADDITIONS FICTION

Wolitzer, *Female Persuasion*
Urrea, *House of Broken Angels*
Hetu, *Motherhood*
Tamirat, *Parking Lot Attendant*
Hollinghurst, *Sparsholt Affair*
Penny, *Twenty-One Days*

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

Thomas, *The Hate U Give*

YOUNG ADULT NONFICTION

Conley, *Boy Erased, A Memoir*

CHILDREN'S FICTION

Kelly, *Hello, Universe*

PICTURE BOOKS

Cooper, *Big Cat, Little Cat*
Rosenthal, *Duck! Rabbit!*
Burcaw, *Not So Different* (nonfiction)
Cordell, *Wolf in the Snow*



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.
- All library trustees board meetings are open to the public. Please check our website for June's meeting date.
- A reminder that day passes to our year-round attractions are available at the library thanks to the Friends of the Library and the West Stockbridge Cultural Council.
- As always, we welcome suggestions on just about anything to improve our library.

Rachel Alter and Jodi Magner



Theater Event: Staged Reading at Old Town Hall

Sunday, July 29, at 4 p.m., the Homespun Theatre Company will present a staged reading of a new play, *Namas Day*, written by Berkshire native, actor, and producer Samantha Cullen. This dramedy will be performed by 11 local actors and tells the story of the interpersonal dynamics that take place in a residential yoga retreat center. A brief talk-back will follow the reading.

A suggested donation will be requested at the door.

West Stockbridge Historical Society
Old Town Hall, 9 Main St., West Stockbridge, MA
232-5055; info@weststockbridgehistory.org



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West Stockbridge History Quiz Answer:

Sometime in the early 1870s, a few leading merchants and quarry owners of the town decided to form the Miner's Savings Bank. It was headquartered on Main Street in the center room of the Town Hall. We know they applied for a charter to the state legislature in 1872, and according to lore, the bank was created to serve the workers of the quarries, mines, and railroads and provide capital to the town's businesses. Based on the state bank tax records, the Miner's Savings Bank was the smallest bank or one of the smallest in the whole state.

The bank was formed at the height of the town's industrial period. Population was at its peak of 1,948. Many worked in the quarries and lime kilns. Industry was flourishing in New England and along with it the need for capital. Massachusetts had the largest number of state-chartered banks.

At the same time, our national economy was unstable, going from booms to depressions every five years, and the average farmer or mine worker usually suffered the most with these wild swings. Distrust of Wall Street and banks was high. Banking laws were lax, and there were no formal audits to evaluate the integrity of your bank. Thus starting your own bank might have been a way to insulate yourself from those early robber barons. If nothing else, at least you knew the officers and where your money went.

On digging a little further into the Miner's Savings Bank, its relationship with the town government would certainly raise some questions today.

- Located in the center room of town hall, the bank paid no rent to the town for essentially a third of the town's rentable commercial space.
- The bank's vault was built and paid for by the town at a cost of \$900.
- The officers of the bank were also the selectmen, and the bank's treasurer was none other than W.C. Spaulding, town clerk and local lawyer.
- And finally, the town regularly borrowed money from the bank for town expenses at a slightly above-market interest rate through the 1880s.

The Miner's Savings Bank closed in the 1890s and disposed of its assets. The vault is still in the center room of the Old Town Hall, and the big brass lock and key still work.



Photo by Joe Roy, Jr.

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Birthdays & Anniversaries

6/3 Zia McGuane
 6/9 JP and Anne Mikolajczyk anniversary
 6/13 John Ellis
 6/15 Frank McMahon
 6/22 Michael McMahon
 6/26 Mary Agnes McMahon
 6/27 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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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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Animal Control	<i>John W. Springstube</i>	232-0300	ext. 335	As Needed
Assessors Office	<i>Mary Stodden</i>	232-0300	ext. 303	Tues. 1–5 p.m.; Thurs. 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Board of Health	<i>Earl Moffatt</i>	232-0300	ext. 314	Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m., or by appt.
Board of Selectmen	<i>Bernie Fallon, Peter Skorput, 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	Tues. 4–7 p.m.
Conservation Commission	<i>Jennifer Kujawski, Lori Rose</i>	232-0300	ext. 338	Leave Message for Inquiries
Council on Aging	<i>John Zick</i>	232-0300	ext. 340	Leave Message for Inquiries
Emergency Management	<i>Louis Oggiani</i>	528-2175		
Fire Department	<i>Peter Skorput</i>	232-4200 (non-emergency)		Mon. 6:30–9 p.m.
Highway Department	<i>Curt G. Wilton</i>	232-0305		Leave Message for Inquiries
Library	<i>Rachel Alter</i>	232-0300	ext. 308	Tues. 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Wed., Thurs., and Fri. 2–6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.–2 p.m.; closed Sun. & Mon.
Police Department	<i>Marc Portieri</i>	232-8500 (non-emergency)	24 hours, 7 days/week	
Post Office	<i>Colleen A. Wich</i>	232-8544		Lobby: 7 a.m.–7 p.m.; 7 days/week; Window: Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.–12 noon
Seasonal Lifeguard		232-0315		
Sewer & Water Commission	<i>Michael Buffoni</i>	232-0309		
Town Accountant	<i>Elaine Markham</i>	232-0300	ext. 317	Leave Message for Inquiries
Town Clerk	<i>Ronni Barrett</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	Tues. & Thurs. 1:30–4 p.m.
Town Collector	<i>June A. Biggs</i>	232-0300	ext. 302	Wed. 3–6 p.m.; Thurs. and Fri. 10 a.m.– 2 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
Town Historian	<i>Robert Salerno</i>	232-4465		
Town Treasurer	<i>Karen Williams</i>	232-0300	ext. 316	Thurs. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Transfer Station	<i>Wayne Cooper</i>	232-0307		Tues. & Thurs. 10 a.m.–6 p.m. and Sat. 8 a.m.–6 p.m.
Tree Warden	<i>Andrew Fudge</i>	232-4322		
Veterans Agency	<i>Laurie Hills</i>	528-1580		
Zoning Board of Appeals	<i>C. Randolph Thunfors</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	

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



It Finally Is Really Spring



The heavens smiled on the opening day of the West Stockbridge Farmers Market, and hopes ride high for a fun and fabulous seventh season.

The salute to the royal wedding was evident in touches throughout. Visitors sported hats and accessories to mark the event, and vendors introduced items appropriate for high tea on the day. Even a noble steed was on hand when Oz, a magnificent Morgan horse from Sebring Stables, paid a visit. How "fairy book" was that?

So the season moves along. Be sure to drop by to sample your favorite vendors' wares. In June listen to the great music of Ray Mason, Evan Campbell, Linda Wooster, and Nate Martel. Pick up and enjoy delicious food from a variety of producers. The lineup is a little different each week. Come and meet all of the wonderful participants.

Expect the unexpected, and *don't miss it!*

Clockwise from top:

Villa Mia is open for business. Photo by Peter Cohen

Oz makes new friends. Photo by Robin Schmitt

Terri Jo Dixon rocks a fascinator in preparation for the royal wedding. Photo by Peter Cohen

Opening Day saluted the royal wedding—headwear was key. Photo by Robin Schmitt

Roland Dudney was ready to party. Photo by Peter Cohen



Community News & Events

Community Health Association

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

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

The Stockbridge Grange will host a stuffed breast of chicken in the Grange Hall at 51 Church Street on Sunday, June 10, 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 Potluck

Seniors are invited to get together for a COA potluck luncheon on Tuesday, June 12, at noon in the Community Room at the Town Offices.

West Stockbridge Congregational Church

The West Stockbridge Congregational Church will hold a bake sale in front of Baldwin's Extracts from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 16.

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.

Celebrate the Visual Arts in June 2018

June Art Calendar

Creating Art Outdoors: Berkshire Plein Air. Join us to paint, draw and photograph outside at different Berkshire locations each day of the week. Nonmembers may participate for \$15 a day and \$50 for the season plus entry fees. See a demo, watch other artists, work till noon, then join us for lunch followed by a positive critique for helpful suggestions. Bring your supplies & lunch.

M: Hancock Shaker Village: Meet at picnic tables.
T: Great Barrington: Bard College at Simon's Rock, Meet at Lecture Hall parking. Later town center, Riverwalk
W: Stockbridge: Berkshire Botanical Garden. Town center
Th: The Mount: Meet in lower parking.
F: Lenox: Eastover: Sign in at Mansion. Town center.
Sa: West Stockbridge: meet at parking lot across from P.O.
Su: Norman Rockwell Museum grounds.
See Facebook "Berkshire Plein Air" at 8 am for daily updates

Figure Painting, Open Studio Tuesdays Feb. 6-June 12, 10-1. IS 183, Stockbridge. \$25 members Bring your supplies. RSVP 413-298-5252x100. Also in Aug. and Sept. Tuesdays 2-5pm.

First Fridays Artswalk Fri. June 1, 5-8pm. Pittsfield, North and South Streets. www.firstfridaysartwalk.com

Art seminars and Business Meeting. Wed. June 6, 4:00pm. Get your own website if you bring 2-5 photos on flashdrive or smartphone or computer. 4:30pm How to take credit card payments on Square. 5:00 - 6:30pm. Business Meeting and planning upcoming shows in Lenox, West Stockbridge, etc. in small groups. Community Room Town Hall, 21 Stateline Road (Route 102) West Stockbridge

Meet the Artist: Mark Mellinger: Acrylic, Collage, Construction. Sat. June 9, 1-2:30pm. Marketplace Café, 53 North St. Pittsfield followed by his studio across the street

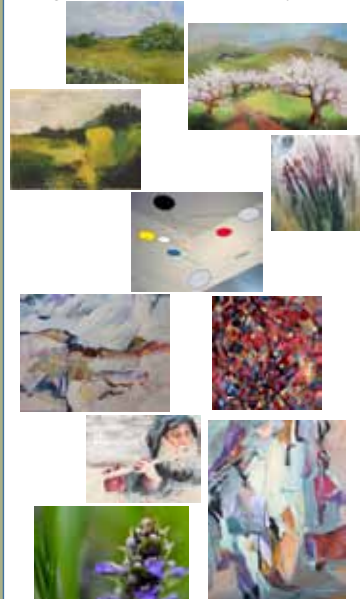
Meet the Artist: Trends in Photography: Ogden Gigli leads Discussion. Sat. June 9, 12:15-1:30pm, Shaker Dam Coffeehouse. West Stockbridge. RSVP:

Members Potluck. Tuesday June 19, 4:30-7:30pm. In Lenox. Bring main dish, hors d'oeuvres or dessert for ten and what YOU want to drink. Partners welcome. RSVP and for address

Art Book Gathering Friday, June 29, 5, 2-4pm. Share a favorite book: artist, process. Shaker Dam Books, West Stockbridge.

Guid of Berkshire Artists
(Formerly Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild)
RSVP: BerkshireArtists.org "Our Programs."
or See Facebook

Works by Artists in the Artist Studio Tours July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 15 and Oct. 6. Saturdays 11-5pm



Artists are from top left: Bill Gaulty, Leon Nesis, Scott Taylor, Joel Hatchkiss, Karen Dolmanisth, Helen Febba, Lisa Goudey, Freya Segal, Mark Mellinger, Rose Tannenbaum

West Stockbridge
Local Yokel

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					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



June 2018 Calendar of Events

6/4	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
6/6	Knitters & More	2–4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
6/6	CHA Dinner & Medicare Fraud Workshop	5-7 p.m.	Richmond Congregational Church
6/7	Board of Health meeting	6:30 p.m.	Town Offices
6/10	Grange Dinner	1–2 p.m.	Grange Hall, 51 Church St., Stockbridge
6/12	Council on Aging Luncheon	12 noon	Town Offices Community Room
6/12	American Legion	7 p.m.	Town Offices
6/13	Knitters & More	2–4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
	Library Trustees meeting	4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
6/14	Flag Day		
6/15	*** Deadline for the next Local Yokel ***		send to info@thelocalyokel.org
6/16	W.S. Congregational Church Bake Sale	9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.	In front of Baldwin Extracts
6/17	Father's Day		
6/18	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
6/20	Knitters & More	2–4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
6/21	First Day of Summer		
6/24	Card Pond Opening Day	Noon–3 p.m.	Card Pond
6/27	Knitters & More	2–4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room