

Local Yokel

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

West Stockbridge
December
2016

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Snowy Green River scene. Colby Parker measuring
14 inches in the first snow of winter 2016-17.
A friendly goat. Photos by John Parker.

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005

Local Talent Key to Building Turn Park Art Space

By Doane Perry

With its opening scheduled for May 2017, the Turn Park Art Space (named as a word play on “turnpike”) on Moscow Road is taking shape. The gatehouse and parking lot are especially handsome lit up at night, and two large sculptures are already installed. One aspect of the project that may not have received sufficient attention is the significant role played by local businesses, artisans, and professionals.

The master plan, architectural plan, and landscape design were developed by Moscow-based designer and artist Alexander Konstantinov in collaboration with Grigori Fateyev of AF Architecture. Fateyev has designed multiple residential, commercial, and municipal projects in Berkshire and Columbia Counties. In addition to his work as an architect, he will serve as a director for Turn Park Art Space.

Steve Mack of Foresight Land Services, who designed the downtown West Stockbridge sidewalk and street crossing project, did the civil engineering for Turn Park. Based in Pittsfield, Foresight Land Services provides clients in the four-state Berkshire region with coordinated engineering, surveying, planning, and environmental permitting services. Vern Tower of Tower Stone, a marble-cutting and stone fabrication firm in Richmond, built the amphitheater designed by Alexander Konstantinov. Tower is an accomplished stone mason and marble historian with 40 years of experience. His expertise ranges from fine art to engineering; stone cutting, setting, restoration and preservation; and landscape design and heavy construction.

Landscape architect and stonemason Jon Piasecki assisted Tower in building the amphitheater. Piasecki’s design/build company, Golden Bough, is located in West Stockbridge. His sculptural earth and stonework are widely recognized nationally and internationally.

Fateyev recognized the following local businesses and individuals who also helped to bring the project to fruition:

- Lori Rose and Randy Thunfors of Stone House Properties of West Stockbridge and lawyer Lori Robbins with Heller and Robbins who facilitated the purchase of the property.
- Allegrone Construction of Pittsfield with Jim Culliton, principal in charge, Brian Turton and Aaron Singer as project managers, along with the rest of their talented team.



Amphitheater under construction. Photo by Doane Perry.

- Billy Kie’s West Center Construction Company in West Stockbridge carried out the “terraforming project” where most of the land in the park was reshaped according to plan, a “gargantuan effort.”
- The West Stockbridge Board of Selectmen and Planning Board supported the project.
- The law firm of Hellman, Shearn and Arienti in Great Barrington, especially Catherine Chester and David Hellman, spearheaded the approvals.
- Gardener/Landscape designer Naomi Blumenthal helped select a grass mix, trees, and shrubs for the project and provided planting assistance and instructions.
- Bill Barry of Barry Engineers & Constructors in Pittsfield oversaw structural engineering; Hesnor Engineering Associates of North Adams provided mechanical, electrical, and plumbing plans.

Turn Park Historical Background

According to West Stockbridge Historical Society president Robert Salerno, the Turn Park site on Moscow Road was once the Bona family farm. The quarry on the site produced limestone. Moscow Road became a town road in 1930 or 1931. Where the name Moscow Road came from seems to be completely unknown. Grigori Fateyev speculates the name derives from a “quarry shanty town populated mostly by Eastern European immigrants in the early part of the 20th century.”

Lisa Landry and Flavio Lichtenstein purchased the property that includes the building that is now Six Depot Coffee Roastery and Café together with the 14-acre quarry. They then sold the quarry and surroundings to Turn Park founders Igor and Katya Gomberg. There is a story going around that the Gomers chose the West Stockbridge site for their Russian sculpture park because it is on Moscow Road. Grigori says, “Not exactly! Igor and Katya did not realize the fortuitous name of the road until the purchase. They were attracted to the beauty of the quarry and the culturally rich Berkshires area.”

Turn Park Gatehouse at night. Photo by Doane Perry.



Board of Selectmen Meeting Summaries

By Doane Perry

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

Open Meeting: October 24, 2016

Chief of Police Search

The selectmen announced two finalists for chief of police: Marc Portieri from Becket and John Carbone from Clinton, Connecticut. Curt Wilton thanked the members of the search committee, who narrowed the field of 24 original applicants, and he asked the selectmen to conduct their own independent follow-ups on the candidates and to schedule public interviews during the board's November 7 regular meeting.

Truck Plaza Solar PILOT

The town will receive \$30,000 per year for 20 years as a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) according to an agreement approved by town counsel and the town's principal assessor. There will be an additional 2% premium payment in each of the final 19 years. Curt called the solar power project and the payment agreement a huge gain for the town.

Other Business:

- Mark Webber told the selectmen that the replacement van will be delivered to the Council on Aging on or about November 3.
- Mark told the selectmen that the firm General Code of Rochester, New York, will give the town an estimate for codifying the town's bylaws.
- Curt informed the selectmen that the final toll ticket will be issued on October 28 at 10 p.m., after which decommissioning of Turnpike Interchange 1 will begin in earnest and will continue around the clock.

Open Meeting: November 7, 2016

Police Chief

Marc Portieri became the lone finalist after John Carbone, the other final candidate, withdrew. Marc has been a police officer for 24 years, mostly in Becket where he is a sergeant. He is a certified emergency medical technician (EMT), a graduate of Lee High School needing only six credits to get his associate's degree, and is married with three children.

Curt Wilton commented that Marc's small town background is what West Stockbridge needs. He wants Marc to make a commitment to one town "24/7/365" and to "get good men."

To Peter Skorput's question whether Marc would be available "at 2 a.m.," Marc, who lives 17 minutes away from town, answered, "Of course." Peter said he wants Marc to respond to all EMT and fire calls, and to interact with people, be visible, get to know young people, and serve as a deterrent if needed.

Public comments and questions:

Paula Farrell asked Marc if he would participate in community programs, and he said he would. Paula commented that police officers visiting the Farmers Market has "made a difference."

Joe Roy commented that merchants are happy with the police presence in response to the busy traffic downtown and the challenges of Main Street parking. Joe said there is a joke circulating that some West Stockbridge parkers "took their lessons on another planet."

One of the town's part-time police officers complimented Frank Murphy who has served as officer in charge and has set a good example in "getting out of the cruiser." Marc agreed that getting to know people is important.

The selectmen voted unanimously to hire Marc Portieri as chief of police. He is expected to start work in the second half of December 2016. His contract is pending negotiation.

Stockbridge Requests Assistance

The Stockbridge Board of Selectmen has requested help from Mark Webber in preparing next year's budget (there is a history of budget cooperation among the towns). Mark said he is willing if the task is limited in scope and time. All of the selectmen said they approved and are glad to help Stockbridge.

Winter Parking

Curt Wilton asked the *Local Yokel* to publish the town's winter parking ban, which extends from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., November 1 through April 30. Curt also urged residents to clear their sidewalks and not to plow driveway snow onto the road.

Regional School District

Mark reported that the regional school district has provided a draft of proposed changes to the district funding plan. The district requests a date to review the plan and a special town meeting to vote on the plan.

Tree Warden

Mark informed the selectmen that a Robin Road resident is frustrated with the town tree warden's response about a tree: whether it is on town property and is a hazard. Curt said Tree Warden Jim Hallock needs to make a determination.

Cable Commission Resignations

Curt commented that the resignation of the cable commissioners was an "unfortunate situation" due to a "communications gap," requiring the selectmen to appoint new members to the cable commission. During discussion of the cable commission's responsibilities, Richard Squailia, who videos the Board of Selectmen meetings, said he is prepared to do the cable system Channel 2 programming.

Other Business:

- Mark reported that he will attend a public procurement recertification class.
- Mark also reported that the Alcohol Control Commission has approved transfer of a liquor license to the Shaker Mill Tavern. □

Winter Parking Ban
No overnight parking along town roads
November 1 through April 30
from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Notice issued, November 17, 2016, Town of
West Stockbridge, Massachusetts





The West Stockbridge Farmers Market Committee regrets to inform you that there will be no holiday market this year during the West Stockbridge Sparkles festivities on December 2.

No venue was available, and a serious scarcity of helping hands made it impossible to put it together in time.

Anyone with ideas for future venues or willing to contribute even a small amount of time for upcoming planned events, please contact the committee at (917) 209-0926 or WSFarmMarket@gmail.com.



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Artist and Library volunteer Adam Boscarino. Photo courtesy of West Stockbridge Historical Society.

Young Artist Captures Heart of 1854 Town Hall Restoration Campaign

By Liza Bennett

Zina Greene, a West Stockbridge Historical Society board member, decided she wanted to do something different—something graphic and engaging—for the solicitation she was sending out to raise funds for the next phase of the 1854 Town Hall Restoration. “We’re going to need to raise \$100,000 to match a state grant we’re applying for. That’s a big amount, and I knew I had to get people’s attention. Another letter was just not going to do it.”

She had an idea of what she wanted—an image of a heart that represented the goodwill and contributions that people have already made to the restoration and why their ongoing support is so important. “The campaign’s been about community from the very beginning,” Zina explained. “And I wanted something that would illustrate that idea in a straightforward and meaningful way.” She asked Lee Appelbaum, director of the West Stockbridge library, if she knew of anyone who could help her with the project. Lee immediately thought of Adam Boscarino, a 14-year-old freshman at Monument Mountain Regional High School and a West Stockbridge resident, who volunteers at the library and is a gifted artist.

After meeting with Zina and discussing the concept, it didn’t take Adam long to come up with a rough draft of exactly what was wanted. He and Zina shared it with members of the West Stockbridge Historical Society’s board, who loved it, and then Adam worked to refine and finalize the artwork. Printed in bright colors, the mailing piece featuring Adam’s drawing arrived in the mailboxes

of Historical Society members in mid-November. “It was really wonderful to find such a talented artist right here in West Stockbridge to help us tell the story of why this campaign is so important to the future of our community,” Zina said.

Adam, who has studied at the Norman Rockwell Museum, attending their cartooning camp and sketch club, and who has studied perspective, said, “I love to draw. I’m glad it worked out so well.”

If you’re not a member of the society and would like to receive a printed piece and contribute to the restoration, please e-mail Jerri Buehler at jerribuehler@verizon.net or call 232-0013.

*You,
our Volunteers and Donors*



**ARE THE HEART
OF OUR
1854 TOWN HALL RESTORATION**

*West Stockbridge Historical Society
solicitation with Heart design.
Photo courtesy of West
Stockbridge Historical Society.*

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December History Quiz Question:

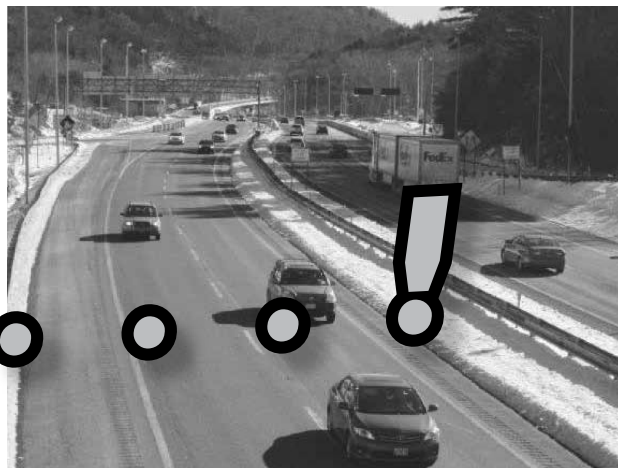
Early New England cemeteries were usually established to serve a church congregation and hence located as near as possible to the church. Later, as villages prospered, public cemeteries were created, also close to the population they served.

West Stockbridge has four cemeteries. The oldest, in West Center, served the Congregational and Baptist Churches that were there. Two are on Albany Road (Route 41) north of town, the town’s cemetery and St. Patrick’s Catholic cemetery next to it. The fourth one is the most interesting, the Rockdale Cemetery located on Route 41 two miles south of town, north of Pixley Hill and Glendale Roads. Why was it located so far away from any church or the town center?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)



**West Stockbridge
Historical Society**
Incorporated in 1994



Turnpike interchange at West Stockbridge before October 28 when demolition work began and today with toll booths gone. Photos by John Parker.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

12/1 Steve Seward
12/3 Kathy Wilson
12/20 Susan Fisher
12/20 Robin Lazarow

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

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



Donor Roll Call ~ December

Janet Barrett
Ginna & Roland Dudney
Lois Ferguson
Angie & John Korte
William Loeb
Jaylyn Olivo & Dale Flecker
Stockbridge Grange
Ellen & Leonard Tabs

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Mindful Eating: Keeping on Track This Holiday Season A Guide to Mindful Eating, Drinking, and Being Merry

by Rachel Alves, RD, LDN



Hard to believe it is holiday time again with more parties, more eating, and less physical activity. Weight gain during the holidays is a universal concern, according to a study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* that looked at weight gain during Christmas in Japan, Germany, and the United States. The first 10 days after Christmas led to the highest weight gain in all three countries. Although participants lost half the weight gained almost immediately after the holiday, the other half of the weight remained well into summer and even longer. Repeating this year after year can lead to an ever-expanding waistline and increased health risk.

Consider these helpful strategies:

- ❖ **Start today:** Studies show that people who keep a food journal lose twice as much weight as those who do not. Use an online calorie tool to figure out how many calories you should be consuming to maintain your weight. Tracking means accountability—you think before you put something in your mouth. For accuracy in tracking, measure portions too.
- ❖ **Keep it light on party days:** During the day of a party, eat light by choosing fruit and vegetables, salads without heavy dressing, and limiting grains and high-fat, high-sugar foods.
- ❖ **Move more:** The American Heart Association recommends that adults get 150 minutes per week of moderately vigorous or 75 minutes of vigorous exercise to promote health and weight management. Activities such as walking briskly, bicycling, and doubles tennis is moderate; running, aerobics, singles tennis, and uphill hiking are considered vigorous activity. Choose activities you like so you stick with it, and remember that fun activities such as sledding and ice skating count too. Even snow shoveling counts!
- ❖ **Cook and bake a little healthier:** Making a few substitutions can cut fat, sugar, and calories. Replace $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of butter (one stick) with $\frac{1}{4}$ cup plus 2 tablespoons of olive or canola oil and $\frac{3}{4}$ cup butter with $\frac{1}{2}$ cup plus 1 tablespoon oil. Use low-fat cream cheese, sour cream, or milk. Use up to half the sugar in a recipe, but add vanilla, cinnamon, or other spices to intensify flavor. For savory substitutions, try lean prosciutto instead of bacon, leaner loin cuts of beef, and dark leafy lettuces instead of iceberg. Choose whole-wheat pasta, brown rice, and more vegetarian recipes and limit salt but not taste by adding fresh herbs, spices, and citrus zests.
- ❖ **Slow down:** Most of us have “fast-eating syndrome” (I know I do). Research shows that those who eat quickly do not register that they are full, which promotes overeating. And those who eat slower tend to eat fewer calories and stay full longer. This is the basis of *mindful eating*. Slow down, put less on your fork, and put your fork down between bites. Take the next bite only after you’ve swallowed completely *and* enjoy every bite! Perfect advice during the holiday season in many ways: slow down!
- ❖ **Lastly, imbibe reasonably:** People tend to drink more during the holidays but forget the calories that beverages contain. A 1.5-ounce shot of liquor, 5 ounces of wine, and a regular 12-ounce beer have about 100, 120, and 150 calories, respectively. Plus many holiday drinks are very calorically dense like alcoholic eggnog, a creamy white Russian, or mulled wine that contain between 300 and 400 calories in just 1 cup, over 250 calories, and over 200 calories, respectively. Choose a smaller glass and mix with club soda or just a splash of juice or make trade-offs like exchanging eggnog for a dessert. Know your limits, drink plenty of water, and drink reasonably and responsibly.

Incorporating some or all of these strategies will help you stay on track for a mindful holiday season. Good luck and happy holidays!

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Don't miss the musical high note of the holiday season!
The Chamber Players' Benefit Holiday Concert

By Liza Bennett

On Thursday, December 29, at 6 p.m. at the West Stockbridge Congregational Church, the West Stockbridge Chamber Players will perform a benefit concert for the West Stockbridge 1854 Town Hall Restoration fund. Led by clarinetist and artistic director Catherine Hudgins, the Chamber Players are a world-class ensemble made up of Boston- and Berkshire-based musicians who regularly perform with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Boston Pops, Spoleto Festival, and Portland Symphony, and who teach at the Tanglewood Music Center. The winter concert, generously underwritten by Jaylyn Olivo and Dale Flecker, includes six outstanding musicians: clarinetist Catherine Hudgins, horn player Jason Snider, violinist Sheila Fiekowsky, violist Mary Ferrillo, cellist Jennifer Lucht, and pianist Sayuri Miyamoto.

In what is bound to be another sold-out performance, the concert will feature Max Reger's *Albumleaf* (for clarinet and piano), Johannes Brahms's Horn Trio, Op. 40 (for horn, violin, and piano), and Ernő Dohnányi's Sextet, Op. 37 (for clarinet, horn, violin, viola, cello, and piano).

The Chamber Players, who have developed a large and loyal following, have performed concerts for the West Stockbridge Historical Society several times a year since the start of the Restoration Campaign. With the Chamber Players' generous support, the society is about to launch the next phase of the campaign to transform the historic 1854 Town Hall, which anchors West Stockbridge's downtown, into a community center, history museum, and acoustically perfect permanent home for the Chamber Players.

A reception will follow the concert, where the audience will have the opportunity to mingle with the musicians.


Thursday, December 29, 6 p.m.,

West Stockbridge Congregational Church, 45 Main Street, West Stockbridge, MA 01266.

Advance ticket purchase is recommended; seating is limited.

Tickets (\$35) on sale December 1 at local West Stockbridge merchants with a "Blue Note" in their windows.

Or to reserve now, purchase at www.weststockbridgehistory.org or call 232-5055.



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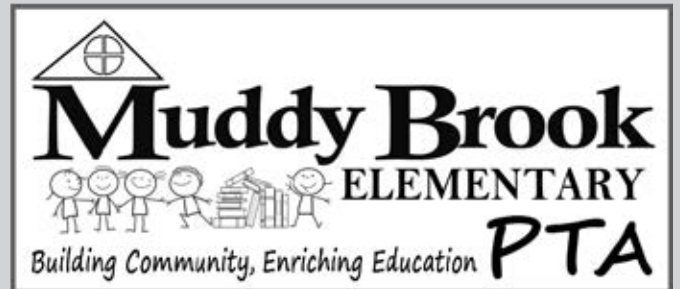
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The *Local Yokel* is supported in part by a grant from the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

West Stockbridge Parks & Recreation

*During this season of giving,
please consider donating some time
to serve your community.*

Several opportunities await anyone interested in bettering life in West Stockbridge. Call (917) 209-0926 or come to Town Hall for our meeting on January 10 at 5:30 p.m. *Join your neighbors!*



Show Your School Spirit!

December's theme is Muddy Brook Blue. Wear blue to school every Friday in December.

Rewards for Muddy Brook

In October we collected a little more than 1,800 Box Tops! Thank you to everyone that contributed. We're hosting another Box Top Challenge in December. Clip and save Box Tops coupons from more than 330 participating products including Avery, Cheerios, Cascadian Farms, Betty Crocker, Juicy Juice, Hefty, Kleenex, Ziploc, 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.

Online Auction

Wednesday, November 23, to Sunday, December 4

Get a jump on your holiday shopping while supporting our school! Visit www.biddingforgood.com/pta. Bid on more than 150 items generously donated by community members and local businesses. Items include gift certificates of all kinds, jewelry, home goods, toys, and much more! Many thanks to our sponsors: Prairie Whale, The Glass Shop, Anderson Landscapes, Flourish, Greylock Federal Credit Union, and Lee Bank.

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Results of November 8 Election in West Stockbridge



I VOTED.



Town Clerk Ronni Barrett reports that of 1182 registered voters, 901 cast ballots by early voting (new this year), absentee ballot, or voting on Election Day. Here are the results without blanks:

President

Clinton and Kaine 659
Trump and Pence 178
Johnson and Weld 28
Stein and Baraka 16

Representative in General Court

Pignatelli: 806

Sheriff

Bowler 747

Question 1 (Gaming)

Yes 211
No 640

Representative in Congress

Neal 664
Mayock 103
Simmons 64

Regional School Committee

Dohoney 504
Singer 436
Write-in Hutchinson 39

Question 2 (Charter Schools)

Yes 255
No 615

Councillor

Hurley 709

Regional School Committee

Stephen 635
Write-in Hutchinson 2

Question 3 (Farm Animals)

Yes 717
No 160

Senator in General Court

Hinds 640
Canning 194

Regional School Committee

Potter 688

Question 4 (Marijuana)

Yes 541
No 347



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West Stockbridge Sparkles

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5:00 – 7:30 PM

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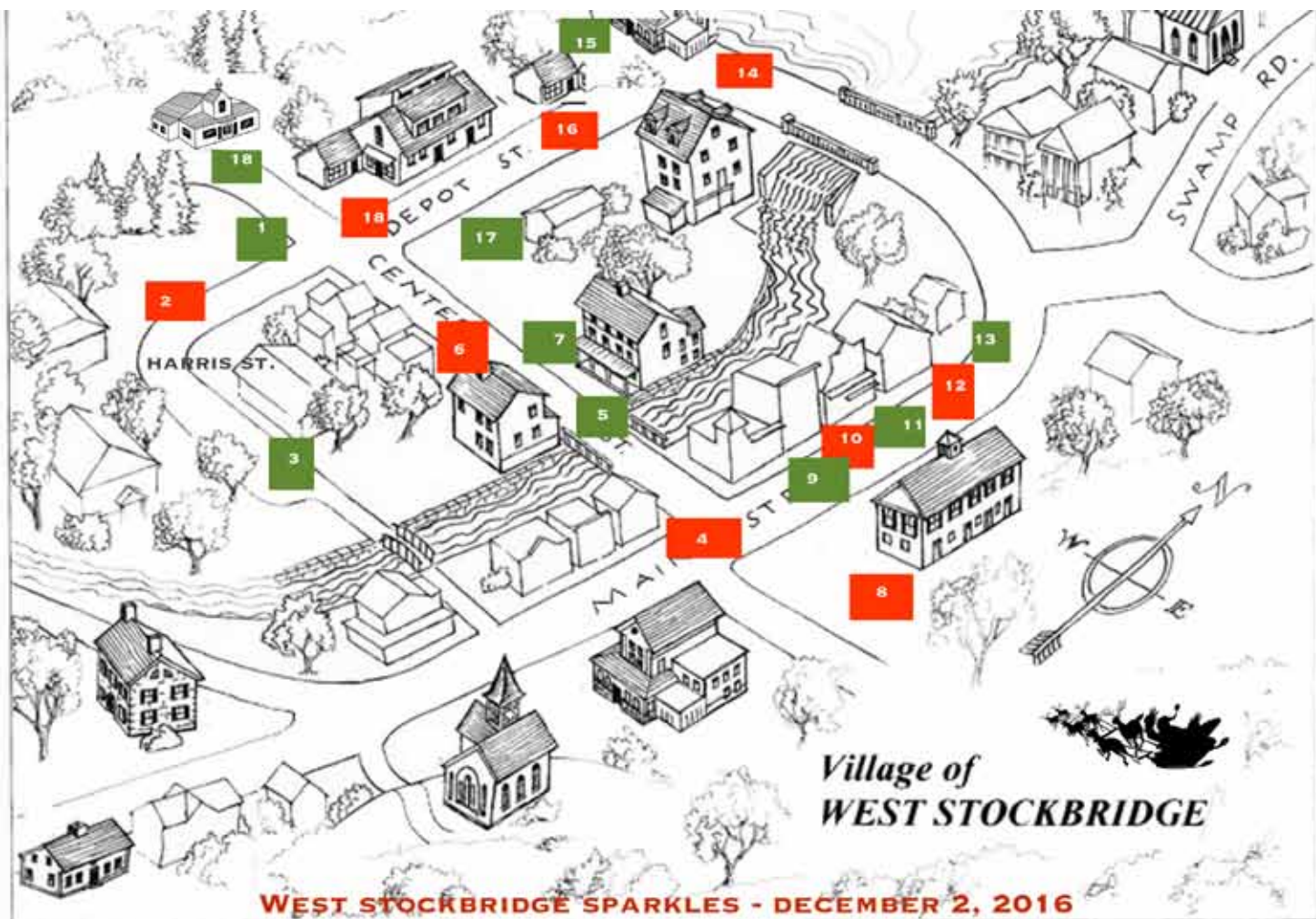
Center Street
TREE LIGHTING @ 6:00 PM
CAROLING
SANTA ARRIVES @ 6:15 PM
GREET SANTA IN HIS SLEIGH (BRING A CAMERA!)

WS Historical Society's 1854 Town Hall – Main Street

KIDS EVENTS
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6:30 PM TO 7:30 PM
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WS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH*





1 TREE LIGHTING @ 6:00 PM

2 SANTA'S SLEIGH

3 DIANA FELBER GALLERY - REFRESHMENTS

4 QUEENSBORO WINE & SPIRITS - BEER TASTING

5 BALDWIN'S EXTRACTS - CIDER, COOKIES & GOOD CHEER

6 ROUGE - FINE DINING

7 BALDWIN'S HARDWARE - GOOD CHEER

8 WS HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 1854 TOWN HALL - KIDS EVENTS (5 TO 7:30 PM)

9 SANDY KLEMPNER @HOME - WINE & CHEESE, SPECIAL SALE

10 EQUATOR - WINE & CHEESE, SPECIAL SALE

11 THE FLOOR STORE - WINE & CHEESE

12 PUBLIC MARKET - REFRESHMENTS

13 SHAKER DAM COFFEEHOUSE - HOLIDAY CHEER

14 FLOURISH MARKET - TEMPTING TIDBITS

15 SOMA CATERING - CIDER & COOKIES (OPEN 'TILL 6 PM)

16 SHAKER MILL TAVERN - RIB SPECIALS FOR STROLLERS & ELVES

17 SHAKER MILL BOOKS - POETRY READING BY LOCAL POETS STEVEN AMASH & NINA PICK

18 NO. 6 DEPOT - WINE TASTING 6 TO 8 PM (FOR RESERVATIONS CALL 413.637.2221)

19 HOTCHKISS MOBILES GALLERY & ZOFTIQUE - WINE & NIBBLES

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

Warm wishes from the library staff and trustees to all of our library community for a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year! And happy holidays to those lighting the very first Hanukkah candles on Christmas Eve!

Please note the library will be closed Friday, Dec. 23, and Sat. Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve); also Friday, Dec. 30, and Sat. Dec. 31 (New Year's Eve).

If you weren't able to attend our Halloween 3D Printing Makerspace Workshop, rest assured that Arthur will be back with more in the near future. An all-ages group of about 18 got lessons in Tinkercad design software and how 3D printers work. We thank Arthur Evans and daughter Laila for bringing two printers and lots of laptops so that we could design and print our creations. Don't forget to pick up your project at the library.

❖ Like to build with LEGOs? Or play a board game? Young readers are invited to stop in during school vacation week for games and LEGO Challenge.

New Additions

DVDs: *Captain Fantastic*, *Hell or High Water*, *Florence Foster Jenkins*, *Sully*
Just for kids: *The BFG*, *Finding Dory*

FICTION

Atwood, *Hag-Seed*
Baldacci, *No Man's Land* (also CD)
Child, *Night School*
Connelly, *Wrong Side of Goodbye* (also CD)
Duncan, *Dracula vs. Hitler*
Montefiore, *The Girl in the Castle*
O'Nan, *City of Secrets*
Smith, *The Girl from Venice*

NONFICTION

Balko, *Rise of the Warrior Cop: Militarization of America's Police Forces*
Gilbert, *Big Magic: Creative Living Beyond Fear*

Humphreys, *Sweater for Dogs: 15 Knitting Projects*
Macy, Truevine: *Two Brothers, a Kidnapping, and a Mother's Quest: A True Story of the Jim Crow South*

Just For Kids

Dashner, *Fever Code* (Maze Runner Book 5)
Hyman, *Shirley Jackson's The Lottery Graphic Adaptation*
Kinney, *Double Down* (Diary of a Wimpy Kid)
Long, *Otis and the Kittens*
McVeigh, *LEGO Christmas Ornaments: 15 Designs to Spread Christmas Cheer*
Riordan, *Magnus Chase and the Gods of Asgard* (Book 2 Hammer of Thor)



***** Ongoing *****

- Set up a CW/MARS online account by going to weststockbridgelibrary.org and clicking on the card catalog picture. Your personal account allows you to keep track of checkouts, requests, overdue and fees, pickup locations, renewals, and more. Can't find it in our C/WMARS network? Click on the Commonwealth Catalog to borrow any item statewide.
- If you use an e-reader, explore the new statewide Commonwealth e-book Collections (CEC) at eBooks.masslibsystem.org.
- Library Trustees Board meetings have been moved from third Thursday to third Tuesdays. All are open to the public. Please check our website for December's meeting date.
- A reminder that day passes to our year-round attractions are available at the library. Thanks to the Friends of the Library and the West Stockbridge Cultural Council for supporting this program.
- As always, we welcome suggestions on just about anything to improve our library.

Lee Appelbaum and Jodi Magner



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Alchemy to Perform at No. 6 Depot

December 9, 7:30 p.m.

**Free will donation. Dinner available,
6:30–8:30 p.m.**



Photo courtesy of Eric Martin.

Alchemy is a trio of dynamic musicians—Eric Martin (fiddle, viola, voice), Karen Axelrod (piano, accordion), and Rachel Bell (viola, voice)—who love to bring the vibrancy of traditional and newly composed tunes and songs to the concert stage. Listeners can expect to be swept away on a musical journey to various lands including Ireland, Scotland, England, France, Argentina, Quebec, Appalachia, and New England. Alchemy's arrangements are contemporary, powerful, whimsical, and always heartfelt.

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Recipe Corner by Lynn Ryan

CRANBERRY CHRISTMAS CAKE

Yield: Up to 16 servings

A very simple old-fashioned recipe. Sometimes simple is better, and this cake is delicious!

3 eggs
2 cups sugar
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup butter ($1\frac{1}{2}$ sticks), softened
1 tsp. Baldwin's vanilla
2 cups all-purpose flour
12 oz. fresh cranberries

Preheat oven to 350°F. With a mixer, beat the eggs with the sugar until slightly thickened and light in color, about 5 to 7 minutes. The mixture should be almost double in size. The eggs work as a leavening agent, so don't skip this step. It should form a ribbon when you lift the beaters out of the bowl. Add the butter and vanilla and mix 2 more minutes. Stir in the flour until just combined. Add the cranberries and stir well. Spread the batter in a buttered 9×13 pan. Bake 40 to 50 minutes or until lightly browned and a toothpick inserted comes out clean. Cut into small squares. Enjoy!

I would like to wish everyone in the happiest and greatest little town in the Berkshires HAPPY HOLIDAYS however you celebrate, so Happy Hanukkah, Happy Bodhi Day, Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanza, Happy Ramadan, and Happy Chinese New Year! Random acts of kindness everyday go a long way, and I hope they will pay it forward leading to love and peace throughout the land!

Lynn Ryan 232-7758 E-mail: waxonwheels2655@yahoo.com Web: www.partylite.biz/waxonwheels

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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



Santa's Wish List

Dear Readers,

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

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

To make a donation, just use the gift tag at the right, fill out your name and the donation amount on the reverse side, and send it with your check(s) to:

WSLY

P. O. Box 238

West Stockbridge, MA 01266

Thanks for your support, and we wish you the happiest of holidays! The WSLY Editors



To: Community Health Association



To: Friends of the West Stockbridge Library



To: Pet Partners of the Tri-State Berkshires



To: The Local Yokel



To: West Stockbridge Beautification



To: West Stockbridge Community Garden



To: West Stockbridge Farmers Market



To: West Stockbridge Fire and Rescue Services



To: West Stockbridge Historical Society

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*West Stockbridge
Historical Society*

West Stockbridge History Quiz Answer:



Photo courtesy of Bob Salerno

Burials in early New England were difficult in the rural areas. Initially many farms, particularly in the hill towns and in Berkshire County, had small family plots in the back of the property. As the population grew and churches were established, local cemeteries were established as part of the church property.

The Rockdale Cemetery, the second oldest after the one in West Center, is in many ways the most remote. It began as a family and neighborhood plot by the Slaughter family. The Slaughters had farms along the Williams River and operated a quarry and mill along Great Barrington Road, just north of the cemetery.

In 1813 they sold a half acre of land for their neighbors to use as a neighborhood cemetery and include the families of Williamsville, Freedleyville, and Rockdale. Many of the prominent families from the early 1800s are interred there. Spencer, French, Barnes, Boughton, Cobb, Kinne, Pixley, and Comstock are all early family names with prominent plots. (The earliest grave is 1783, likely transferred there from a family plot.)

The location is telling of how active and populated that area was back then. There were multiple dams along the Williams River. Williamsville and Rockdale had many manufacturing operations driven by the river. More people lived in that area than in the town center. The nearest church was either over one hill in Stockbridge or up the other hill to West Center, both a long distance for a hearse to travel. Locating the cemetery there made sense.

As the town center grew and the Congregational Church became active there, a cemetery was established on the lawn next to it. (It was later relocated to the present town cemetery on Route 41.) The roads improved, the population shifted, and the Rockdale Cemetery was used less. It is now a quiet contemplative place with many interesting stones and markers.

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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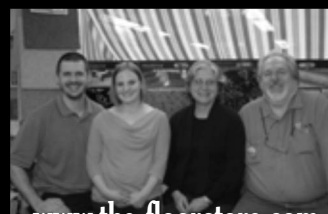
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Community News & Events

Stockbridge Grange Dinner & Council on Aging Luncheon

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

St. Patrick's Church Cookie Walk

St. Patrick's Church is holding its 19th Annual Holiday Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 10, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. in the Church Parish Center. You will be able to choose from a wide variety of cookies that will be sold by weight. Please visit St. Patrick's for your holiday cookies.

West Stockbridge Congregational Church Christmas Worship

The West Stockbridge Congregational Church will hold a Christmas Eve worship service at 4 p.m. on December 24. On Christmas Day, the regular Sunday worship service will be held at 10 a.m.

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.

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) 298-1052 or e-mail info@thelocalyokel.org for more information.

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Every issue costs us about \$1,000 to print and distribute!

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.

☐ **Yes!** I want to support the *Local Yokel*.

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____
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Animal Control	<i>John W. Springstube</i>	232-0300	ext. 335	As Needed
Assessors Office	<i>Mary Stodden</i>	232-0300	ext. 303	Tues. 1–5 p.m.; Thurs. 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Board of Health	<i>John Olander</i>	232-0300	ext. 314	Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m., or by appt.
Board of Selectmen	<i>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		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

December Art Calendar

Holiday Fine Art Show, Welles Gallery, Lenox Library: Nov. 25-Dec. 10, Wed.-Saturdays, 10-5; Tuesdays, 10-8. Reception, Sat., Nov. 26, 2-5.

Model Sessions: Tues., Nov. 29-Dec. 20, 4-7 p.m. Sessions for beginners to experts with a live model. \$15 RSVP: wgpolk@aol.com

Meet the Artist: Bruce Panock: Photographer: Fri., Dec. 2, 12:15-1:30 p.m., Six Depot, West Stockbridge. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

First Fridays Artwalk: Fri., Dec. 2, 5-8 p.m. Pittsfield, www.firstfridaysartwalk.com

Art Demonstration and Business Meeting: Wed., Dec. 7, 4 p.m. How to take better photos on the iPhone and Facebook. 5 p.m.: Demo. Transfer print, Peggy Reeves. 5:30-6:30: Business meeting: small group plan. West Stockbridge Town Hall, 21 Stateline Rd., Rte. 102. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Positive Critique: Thurs., Dec. 8, 4-6 p.m. Bring 2-3 pieces of your art. W.S. Town Hall, 21 Stateline Rd., Rte. 102, West Stockbridge. For required reading and RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Art Basel in Miami: What We Learned/Loved in the Latest Modern Art Show: Sun., Dec. 11, 3-5 p.m., Shaker Mill Coffeehouse and Stanmeyer Gallery, 2 Main St., West Stockbridge. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Tea with the Masters: Mon., Dec. 12, 12-2 p.m. Viewing of an artist's work or demonstration on DVD or other media. Bring lunch. In Lenox. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Artist-to-Artist Open Studio: Wed., Dec. 14, 6-9 p.m., WS Town Hall, 21 Stateline Rd. Work, chat, experiment. Host: Aly Benton. Limited to first 20. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Art Book Gathering: Mon. Dec. 19, 3pm. Share a favorite book: artist, process. RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Richmond-West Stockbridge Artists' Guild
www.rwsag.org and Facebook
RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

Works by Artists in Holiday Show



Anne Wickham Smith



Karen Carman



Keith Emerling



Rose Tannenbaum

Lynne Horvath



Join us!

Artist to Artist Open Studio

Artist-to-Artist

Open Studio

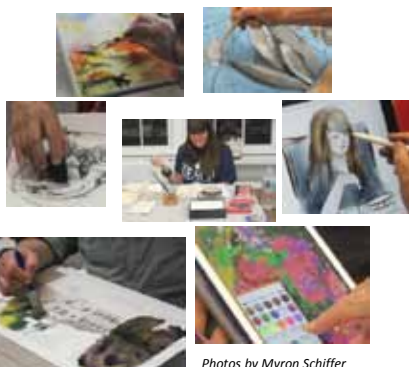
Wed., Dec. 14
6-9 p.m.

Community Room
West Stockbridge

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West Stockbridge, MA

RSVP: kcarmean@gmail.com

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



Photos by Myron Schiffer

Looking for a chance to start a new painting or finish one that's been waiting for you to complete? Looking to take or review photos with others? Looking to:

- work on pieces with other artists?
- chat about art?
- watch others work and join in?
- experiment with a new media like the iPad painting above?

This is your chance to encourage your creativity. These sessions are free and open to the public. Bring your own art supplies including drop cloths. Bring photos or still lifes to inspire!

Mark your calendars! Please RSVP to save your place. Each session will be open to the first 20 people, free of charge. Stay for an hour or all three. The sessions are inspired by an idea that Alexandra Benton proposed last year and Karen Farkas heard about in another area with lots of artists. If they are successful, we would like to continue to have them on the second or third Wednesday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. Painting is limited to the area with the linoleum flooring with drop cloths.

Come join the fun. RSVP to save a spot: kcarmean@gmail.com. We plan more Artist-to-Artist Open Studio Nights on third Wednesdays (except second Wednesdays in February and April).

THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE CHAMBER PLAYERS

Winter Concert

Thursday, December 29, 2016 at 6:00 PM

West Stockbridge Congregational Church, 45 Main Street, West Stockbridge

Catherine Hudgins, clarinet • Jason Snider, horn
Sheila Fiekowsky, violin • Mary Ferrillo, viola
Jennifer Lucht, cello • Sayuri Miyamoto, piano

Max Reger: Albumleaf
Johannes Brahms: Horn Trio, Op.40
Ernő Dohnányi: Sextet, Op.37

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Support the Local Yoke! Using AmazonSmile

By Vicki Grayson

With the holiday shopping season approaching, we wanted to remind you that you can now help the West Stockbridge *Local Yoke!* using AmazonSmile. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the cost of your eligible purchase to the *Local Yoke!* or to any other 501(c)(3) charitable organization that has registered with the foundation.

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More detailed information about the program is available at smile.amazon.com. We greatly appreciate the wonderful support the *Local Yoke!* receives from our community and hope that you will participate in this new way.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	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



December 2016 Calendar of Events

12/1	Board of Health	6:30 p.m.	Town Offices
12/5	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
12/7	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
12/10	St. Patrick's Holiday Cookie Walk	9-11:30 a.m.	St. Patrick's Church Parish Center
12/13	Library Trustees meeting	4:30 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
12/13	American Legion	7 p.m.	Town Offices
12/14	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
12/15	*** Deadline for the next Local Yokel ***		send to info@thelocalyokel.org
12/19	Board of Selectmen meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
12/21	First Day of Winter		
12/21	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
12/24	First Night of Hanukkah		
12/25	Christmas Day		
12/26	Kwanzaa begins		
12/28	Knitters & More	2-4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
12/29	Chamber Players Holiday Benefit Concert	6 p.m.	W.S. Congregational Church
12/31	New Year's Eve		