

Local yokel

West
Stockbridge
September 2019

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



Great Blue Heron stalks Flat Brook. Photo by John Parker

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005

"We Remember When . . ."

Growing Up in West Stockbridge in the 1950s

A Series of Recollections by John Bormolini and Friends



John Bormolini's eighth-grade graduating class from the new Village School. Bottom row, L to R: Louise Pericolosi, Bruce Morelli, Nissa Besaw, Robert Gennari, Judy Frana, Gene Salvi. Middle row: John Bormolini, Linda Palmer, Robert Palmer, Helen Zanconatto, Sandy Walker, Norma McArdle, Anthony Balestro, Doris Carlson. Back row: Lois Finch, Jeanne Cornell, Clifford Hill, Peter Angelini. Louise Dalmaso, Teresa Gennari, Mr. Frank Reddington, Principal. Not pictured: Henry Salvas. Photo courtesy of John Bormolini.

School Days

By John Bormolini

Back in the 1950s, Labor Day signaled the end of summer vacation. School usually began either the day after Labor Day or Wednesday of the same week. By September you could feel the subtle wisp of fall in the air. We were moving on to Williams High School (WHS) in Stockbridge.

I asked many WHS alums whether there was some sort of an orientation visit before that first day of school. The overall consensus was no, except for Louise Pericolosi (Faggioni) and Judy Linscott (Frana), who faintly remember a tour of the building. Anita Norton (Zanconatto) contacted a classmate; Liz Kradel (Tyler) provided the most definitive recollection:

"On a morning early in June, we were in the play area behind WHS and saw a school bus dropping off the West Stockbridge eighth graders. We heard they were coming to register for fall subjects. We didn't see them again until lunch.

Toward the end of the day, we were let out

of school early to play a softball game between Stockbridge and West Stockbridge eighth graders. I don't remember who won. What I remember most about that game is that Lorraine Gennari, from WS, hit a ball that went over everyone's head! I just watched dumbfounded. I think everyone was."

Peter Angelini responded:

"I do not remember [a freshman orientation] happening. There must have been some type of pre-registration prior to school starting because I knew that I was going to take the college prep curriculum. The other choices were business, vocational agriculture, and general. I recall that my courses were Algebra I, English, World History, Latin, and Phys. Ed. After the first week, I decided that Latin wasn't for me, and I transferred to General Science."

That's the best I could do on the notion of a pre-high school orientation. If anyone recalls anything else, please contact me.

"For many of us, the greatest change was riding the bus to and from Stockbridge. I think in today's world many students would have been driven by their parents or in some sort of carpool. Back then, there was generally one automobile per family, driven by the dad to work. Also, there were many more stay-at-home moms. That's just the way it was!"

Labor Day 1956 brought with it the realization that we were headed to WHS in just a few days. Bam! The day came too soon. Tony Balestro recalled, "For those of us out of town, we were bussed to the elementary school. There were two runs, West Center and Great Barrington Road. We were then consolidated at the elementary school and off to WHS with one final stop at Masiero's Food Market."

...continued on page 7

Select Board Meeting Minutes

[Editor's note: This is the text of the official minutes of the meetings, lightly edited for clarity, length, and format (see special note on minutes of August 14). Copies of the official board minutes are available at the West Stockbridge Public Library. Select Board meetings can be viewed on the town's Spectrum cable local access channel 190. Residents can receive notification by e-mail of town events and meeting agendas by subscribing at <http://weststockbridgema.virtualtownhall.net/subscriber>].

July 31, 2019

Open Meeting. Quorum present: Bernie Fallon, Chair; Doane Perry; Eric Shimelonis. Also present: Town Administrator Marie Ryan.

Board reviewed and approved warrants; payroll, and vendor as well as minutes from July 24, 2019, Select Board meeting. Board approved and signed one-day liquor license for August 24 and sign permit for Guild of Berkshire Artists.

Bike Racks

Eris Shimelonis discussed a quote from DERO for bike racks for the town. The quote included six hoop racks with a fix-it with an air kit attached to it. The quote was for \$2692. Eric suggested the town purchase these and possibly place them near the public restrooms. A discussion ensued about whose budget it would come from and who will be responsible for the care and maintenance of these units. It was agreed that, if possible, the cost would be paid for by the Parks and Recreation Committee account. Eric stated that as far as the maintenance and care of the units, he thought Jay Elling of Berkshire Bike & Board would be able to help. The board voted unanimously for Marie Ryan to discuss the budgeting with accountant Elaine Markham. Marie will let Eric know once it is OK to purchase, and he will then proceed.

Planning Board Member

The Planning Board chair, Dana Bixby, spoke to the board and let them know that they recommend the Select Board appoint Ryan Beattie to the Planning Board to fill the unexpired term of John Piasecki who resigned from the board recently. Two other members of the Planning Board were present to create a quorum. The

Select Board unanimously approved appointing Ryan as a Planning Board member.

Special Town Meeting/Planning Board Solar Bylaws

The Planning Board discussed the updated solar bylaws they have been working on. They asked the Select Board to write a letter of support for them to proceed with a public hearing at a special town meeting on September 19. The Select Board unanimously approved and asked Marie to draft the letter for the Planning Board so they may proceed with the public hearing.

Dog Waste

Bernie Fallon brought up a discussion about dog owners not being responsible about picking up dog waste in town. Eric questioned whether there are any state laws or any enforcement ticketing by the animal control officer. Doane Perry feels the town needs to have a good policy on this in place. Marie stated that in Great Barrington they have a unit with baggies and a trash container disposal and agreed to find more information on that. Also, Marie noted that John Springstube is no longer the animal control officer (ACO) in West Stockbridge, and the ACO in Richmond is interested in also working for West Stockbridge. Marie will bring this to the next meeting for a vote.

Best Town Hall

Eric mentioned that West Stockbridge was voted Best Town Hall in the *Berkshire Record's* "Best of" Issue this year.

Marie confirmed with the Select Board that the next meeting would be on Wednesday, August 14, at 6 p.m.

...continued on page 5



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The *Local Yokel* is published monthly. Please mail submissions to: **The Local Yokel**, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266, e-mail info@thelocalyokel.org, or visit www.thelocalyokel.org. Copy deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the publication. Editors: **John Parker**, 394-4368, john.j.parker53@gmail.com; **Vicki Grayson**, 232-6131, vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com; **Susan Fisher**, 232-4443, suefish12@gmail.com; **Anne Lesser**, 717-0277, anne@annelessercommunications.com; Designer: **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.

Poet Jayne Benjulian to Present Writing Workshops at The Foundry

By John Parker

Poet and essayist Jayne Benjulian will present two writing workshops, both programs of the Berkshire Writers Project, at The Foundry this fall. The Foundry (profiled in our May 2019 issue) is the new year-round performing and visual arts venue established by Amy Brentano in the former Diana Felber Gallery at 2 Harris Street in West Stockbridge.

Jayne resides in West Stockbridge and has lived in the Berkshires since 2015. She is a published poet, author of *Five Sextillion Atoms* (Saddle Road Press, 2016), and her poems and essays appear in many literary and performance journals. She also offers developmental and copy editing and teaches the writing and performance of poetry. Jayne previously lived on the West Coast and served as chief speechwriter for Apple, as director of new play development at Magic Theatre in San Francisco, and as an investigator for the public defender in King County, Washington. Jayne currently serves as the chair of the library trustees for the West Stockbridge Public Library.

Jayne says she is “especially drawn to the lives of artists and their creative process.” She appreciates the “deep rich texture of the arts” and the community of artists she found here in the Berkshires. She is excited to be able to work with The Foundry, a local space where creative people are engaged year round in making “dangerous art”—that is, art that is provocative and asks audiences to question their assumptions.

The first workshop, “Writing & Performing the Monologue,” will be held Friday mornings, September 6 to October 4, 9 a.m. to noon. Jayne describes the art of the monologue as “accessing an interior life, and giving voice to that life in a way that an audience can believe in it.” Monologues can take the form of a speaker “unraveling the thoughts of her own mind to herself,” addressing another character, or addressing an audience. Workshop participants will read, listen to, and practice three types of monologues, write and revise (with guidance) their monologue, and then rehearse and perform their work for a friendly audience on the evening of October 4.

The “Poetry Workshop,” will be held Friday mornings, October 18 to November 22, 9 a.m. to noon, and is “designed for writers who want to understand more deeply how to make art of their feelings.” Jayne says the workshop will focus on writing and the “critical art of revising,” working with “voice, language, and structure, using as models examples of master poems in their draft and revised forms.” There will be a public reading of works in progress at The Foundry.

For more information and registration, see <https://jaynebenjulian.com/home/events/>.




*Poet and essayist Jayne Benjulian.
Photo courtesy of Jayne Benjulian*

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August 14, 2019

Open Meeting. Quorum present: Bernie Fallon, Chair; Doane Perry; and Eric Shimelonis. Also present: Town Administrator Marie Ryan; David Jenkins, town counsel from KP Law; Highway Superintendent Curt Wilton; and Peter Skorput. Press in attendance: Terry Cowgill (*Berkshire Edge*), Heather Bellow (*Berkshire Eagle*), and the *Berkshire Record*.

Board reviewed and approved warrants, payroll, and vendors as well as minutes from July 31, 2019, Select Board meeting. Board approved and signed deed for purchase of Card Lake Inn parking lot, and a request for Chapter 90 Money for Swamp Road was presented by Curt Wilton.

Appointments

Board unanimously approved the following appointments:

- Michael Renton and Lukas Horn as part-time police officers
- Brian Hoskeer as new animal control officer
- Marie Ryan as assistant treasurer

Proclamation

Eric Shimelonis read a proclamation regarding tolerance, kindness, and compassion for the town of West Stockbridge. A discussion ensued with full support. The Select Board decided to review

the wording and come back in a future meeting to vote on adopting this proclamation.

Solar Field Planting

Marie Ryan presented a drawing of future planting plans from the turnpike to cover the solar field on Rte. 102. Curt stated that this plan should be completed in the fall.

Vision Committee

Joe Roy presented a list of four new members for the Vision Committee to be appointed by the Select Board (Elizabeth DiGrigoli, Paul Cunningham, Gary Schieneman, and Michelle Laramee-Jenny). Bernie Fallon made a motion to appoint all members, Eric seconded; there was no further discussion, and vote was unanimous. Joe presented an update by the Vision Committee listing their current main objectives. In the future, he would like to see the Select Board minutes to help coordinate the work of the committee with the board.

Swamp Road

Lisa Korte discussed the heavy large vehicle traffic and speeding vehicles on Swamp Road. She asked the Select Board to see if there was a way to prohibit large trucks from traveling on Swamp Road and have more police presence for speeders. Police Chief Marc Portieri said they will be moving the speed trailer to Swamp Road and will increase police presence. Curt stated that as far as the large vehicle traffic goes, we could petition the state to eliminate trucks on particular roads, but certain specifications have to be met. Bernie asked Marie to look into this petition.

Executive Session

At this time Bernie told the audience that the board would be entering into executive session. Fire Chief Peter Skorput stated he wanted to have this part of the meeting as an open session. The board voted unanimously that the meeting would be in open session. An extended discussion of concerns followed about Fire Department management, operations, and procedures.

Editor's note: Space does not allow us to print in their entirety the notes from the discussion as recorded in the official minutes. We encourage interested readers to see the following additional sources for details:

“West Stockbridge fire chief defends against complaints of mismanagement,” *Berkshire Eagle*, Thursday, August 15, 2019.

“Selectmen, West Stockbridge fire chief square off over leadership of the department,” *Berkshire Edge*, Friday, August 16, 2019.

A video recording of the executive session is available on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ct_dFyw158g (or search for W Stockbridge Fire).

Note: As of this writing, the minutes of the August 14 Select Board meeting have not yet been posted on the town website: <https://www.weststockbridge-ma.gov>. ❖

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September History Quiz Question:

In 1774, a small group of religious dissidents known as the Shakers arrived in New York City from England. Guided by their leader, Mother Ann Lee, they settled on an unpromising patch of land at a place called Niskayuna, near Albany, New York. At first, mere survival was their primary concern as they sought to make a living off the land. Soon the American Revolution was underway, and, as pacifists, the Shakers drew the ire of some so-called patriots who suspected them of undermining the war effort. Others objected to the Shakers' charismatic worship and practice of celibacy, confession, and communal living.

Word eventually spread about this strange sect and their belief that they could build a perfect Christian society on Earth and assure salvation in the hereafter. Meanwhile, religious fervor had built up during the war years in the vicinity of Hancock, Massachusetts, and New Lebanon, New York. By August 1783, the Shakers had attracted many adherents in this area and sought to spread the word further. Mother Ann and her entourage traveled to Hancock and Richmond to preach and worship, and they were greeted with joy by their fellow "Believers," and with scorn, suspicion, and often violence by their opponents.

Mother Ann and some of her followers were arrested for blasphemy and disorderly conduct and jailed in Great Barrington. Mother Ann was fined and released, returning to Hancock, but several of her company were held pending trial. Some days later, Mother Ann and the elders decided to return to Great Barrington to visit their comrades in jail. Afterward, they visited the family of Elijah Slosson in the West Center neighborhood of West Stockbridge, whose family had embraced the Shaker teachings. They stayed for several days preaching and worshipping, and as word spread, drew "upwards of two hundred" Believers. What was the "miracle" that ensued at this gathering?

(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.



**West Stockbridge
Historical Society**
Incorporated in 1994

There we were: it was the first day of high school and four years until our high school graduation ceremony at Tanglewood. Hard to put that into perspective, yet looking back, four years went by in the blink of an eye! Looking back those past 60 or so years, I believe I was anxious, even nervous. Perhaps it was from a general perception the kids from Stockbridge were a little more “uppity” than us West Stockbridge-ites.

On the first day of school, we arrived at the back parking lot of the school. We bailed out of the bus and headed for our homeroom where the administrative requirements and daily announcements took place. Mrs. Gilroy was our homeroom teacher, and this was to be our homeroom for the next four years.

The most memorable homeroom event I recall was when Norman Rockwell (yes, *that* guy) came into the room with his iconic pipe and looked around. We were all trying to get his attention to be chosen to be on the cover of the *Saturday Evening Post*. It was truly memorable!

When the bell rang, we bolted out of our seats into the hall. My first impression was chaos, the total student body on the move: upstairs, downstairs, staying in the same hall, stopping at a locker since we had no desks, and as time got on, socializing. It didn’t take long to make new friends. It got better as time wore on. The Stockbridge students weren’t as “uppity” as we thought!

This was a huge change. In our elementary school there were two classes in one room. We each had our own desk for books, pencils, notebooks, etc., and an occasional frog. And, one teacher for *both* classes.

In our eighth-grade graduation picture there were 20 students (Henry Salvas not pictured). Of the 21 students from this class, 15 graduated in the WHS class of 1960. Four additional students from West Stockbridge also graduated in the same WHS class: George Oliver and Robert Romeo (transfer students), Bernard Fallon, Sr., and Richard Clairmont. Of the total 46 graduates in the WHS class of 1960, 19 were from West Stockbridge. Darn good, I’d say!

Watch for future installments of “We Remember When...” in the Local Yokel. Next month’s issue will feature memories of Halloween in West Stockbridge. John Bormolini is a West Stockbridge “ex-pat,” now residing in Leavenworth, Kansas. Readers who would like to share their stories of 1950s West Stockbridge are invited to e-mail John at johnbormo@aol.com.

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Community News & Events

Community Health Association

Blood pressure clinics are held Mondays and Wednesdays, 9–10 a.m., at the CHA office at the West Stockbridge Town Offices. For more information about additional free skilled nursing services, such as home visits for residents, contact Emilie Jarrett, RN, at 232-0122, or visit our website, www.rwstcomhealth.com.

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, September 8, the Stockbridge Grange will serve a roast pork dinner in the Grange Hall at 51 Church Street, Stockbridge, from 1 to 2 p.m. Cost: \$12 adults, \$6 under 12, and under 5 free. Takeouts are available.

Council on Aging Potluck

The next Council on Aging potluck luncheon will be held at noon on Tuesday, September 10, in the Community Room at the Town Offices. We hope you are enjoying your summer and look forward to seeing you soon.

West Stockbridge Congregational Church

- Pancake breakfast in the church social hall on Saturday, September 7, from 8 to 11 a.m.: pancakes, sausage, home fries, fruit cup, coffee/tea/juice. \$10 adults; \$6 children under 10. There will be a 50/50 raffle. We will also be taking orders for Thanksgiving pies! Credit cards are accepted. All proceeds benefit the West Stockbridge Fire Department and the West Stockbridge Congregational Church, UCC.
- Class series: “Opening to the Sacred Through Yoga and Centering Prayer” including a gentle yoga practice led by Kripalu faculty teacher Susannah Beattie followed by a centering prayer led by Pastor Patty Fox. Tuesdays, Sept. 10–Oct. 15, 6:30–8 p.m., at 45 Main St. Each class is \$10. Please bring your own mat.
- Bake sale in front of Baldwin’s Extracts at 1 Center Street on Saturday, September 21, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Annual Blessing of the Animals at the Outdoor Chapel, 141 West Center Road, on Sunday, September 29. Pets of all sizes are welcome. Treats will be available for the most common attendees. Service begins at 10 a.m. In the event of inclement weather, the service will be held at our 45 Main Street West Stockbridge location. Please join us for this very unique and memorable service to celebrate our beloved companions!

Send your notices for Community News & Events to The Local Yokel, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266, e-mail info@thelocalyokel.org, or visit thelocalyokel.org.

September Donor Roll Call

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(See response form on page 21.)

Birthdays & Anniversaries

9/2 Jenni & Jim Hallock
anniversary
9/4 JP Mikolajczyk
9/11 Mary McGuane
9/20 Connor & Chloe 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.

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or visit www.thelocalyokel.org



2019 Annual Housatonic Heritage Walks: Four Autumn Weekends of Free Guided Tours



The Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area announces the 18th annual autumn Heritage Walks on Saturday and Sunday, September 7 and 8, 14 and 15, 21 and 22, and 28 and 29. Seventy-one free guided interpretive tours will be offered throughout Berkshire County, MA, and Litchfield County, CT.

The public is invited to participate in these family-oriented interpretive walks, offered in partnership with our region's historic, cultural, and outdoor recreation organizations and the National Park Service. The Heritage Walks are the ideal opportunity to experience and learn about our region's rich and varied local heritage!

Local historians, naturalists, and environmentalists will lead participants on explorations through historic estate gardens and town districts, behind-the-scenes cultural site tours, nature walks, trail hikes, and tours of many of the industrial-site ruins that were once thriving local industries. There will be Native American and African American history walks, a canoe paddling trip on the Housatonic River, and a bike tour on scenic country roads. See below for information on the walk in West Stockbridge.

Detailed Heritage Walks brochures are available at libraries, post offices, and stores throughout the region. The Heritage Walks schedule is also available on our website: <http://www.HousatonicHeritage.org/events/heritage-walks/>, or contact programs@housatonicheritage.org to request a brochure to be mailed to you.

Neighborhoods of West Stockbridge—19th-Century Commercial District Saturday, Sept. 21, 10:30 a.m.–noon

West Stockbridge was at its peak in the late 1800s with the quarries, mines, and kilns in full production. Join Robert Salerno and Barbara Dowling from the West Stockbridge Historical Society for a walking tour of our downtown commercial district, where many of the buildings are the same as they were back then, but the businesses are all different. Reception at the Old Town Hall to follow. Tour lasts 1.5 hours; 0.5 mile.



To register see info@weststockbridgehistory.org or call 232-5055. Meet at the Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street, West Stockbridge.

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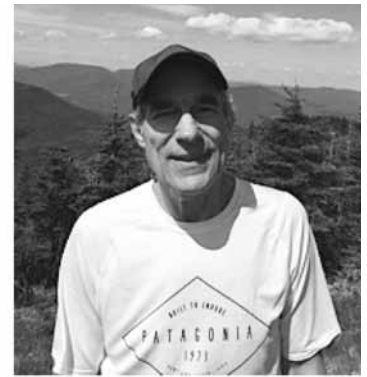
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When: Thursday, October 10, 5–7 p.m.

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~Reservations are required~

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

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Photo by Eric Shimelonis

West Stockbridge Historical Society Launches First Annual Jazz Series

By Eric Shimelonis

If the walls of our Old Town Hall could talk, they would certainly have some stories to tell. After the August 3 Saturday night's premiere of the West Stockbridge Jazz Series, they have yet another splendid tale.

Legendary bassist Larry Grenadier performed solo material from his new album, *The Gleaners*, to a sold-out audience. Many were surprised at the beauty, complexity, and variety of sounds that this one master player was able to produce with his dark-lacquered German bass: sounds that were carried so splendidly by the near-perfect acoustics of the space. The audience was spellbound as Grenadier shifted from mesmerizing atmospheric pieces, to rhythmic bowed compositions, to his own brand of swift and hard-hitting pizzicato.

After a decades-long career playing with such jazz notables as Pat Metheny, Brad Mehldau, and Paul Motian, Grenadier explained that ECM Records founder and former bassist Manfred Eicher "planted the seed of making a solo album, and I cultivated it as an artistic challenge." *The Gleaners* contains seven Grenadier originals and is rounded out by arrangements of Coltrane, Motian, and Gershwin compositions. The album also contains some new pieces by guitarist, longtime friend, and fellow ECM artist Wolfgang Muthspiel, as well as one by Grenadier's wife, songwriter and constant collaborator Rebecca Martin, who was also in attendance on Saturday night.

Larry Grenadier thoroughly enjoyed performing to the audience in the Old Town Hall, calling the experience "a beautiful evening in a very special place."

There are many more magical evenings of jazz to come—the next on October 12! Stay in tune with the West Stockbridge Historical Society and its Jazz Series by visiting weststockbridgehistory.org.

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CULTURAL JEWS
MIXED-MARRIAGE JEWS
MIXED-UP JEWS
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NEW YEAR

Sun., Sept 29 Erev Rosh HaShanah 7:00 p.m.
Mon., Sept 30 Rosh HaShanah 10:00 a.m.
followed by Tashlich
Tues., Oct 1 Rosh HaShanah 10:00 a.m.

NEW MOON

Tues., Oct 8 Erev Yom Kippur / Kol Nidre
Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Doors will be closed
during chanting of Kol Nidre at 7:00 p.m.
Wed., Oct 9 Yom Kippur, 10:00 a.m., with Yizkor
Neilah, 5:30 p.m., followed by the Break Fast

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See our website for reservation information.



West Stockbridge Cultural Council Invites Grant Proposals for 2019

The West Stockbridge Cultural Council (WSCC) has set an October 15, 2019, postmark deadline for local organizations, schools, and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in our community.

The WSCC is part of a statewide network of local cultural councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. In West Stockbridge our priorities are to provide a variety of cultural resources for our diverse community from preschool to senior citizens.

Our grants can support many kinds of cultural projects and activities including performances, lectures, school programs, workshops, festivals, and more. Subsidies may also be available for school-age children to attend cultural field trips to local museums and other cultural sites. The council typically grants a total of \$4,000 to \$4,500 annually.

For specific guidelines and complete information on the WSCC, contact Marjorie Powell at ladyeasland@gmail.com or 232-0222. Application forms and more information about the local cultural council program are available online at www.mass-culture.org/lcc_public.asp. (click on "application process"). Application forms are also available at the West Stockbridge Town Offices and Library.

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weststockbridgelibrary.org | 413-232-0300 ext. 308

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

Greetings to all from the library!

Best wishes to all of you who may be going back to school or sending someone back to school this month. Have a wonderful school year and be proud of your efforts! Remember the great resources online at the library website: magazine articles, newspapers, and all kinds of help even for kids in the youngest grades.

We have a new offer from a very generous local resident to provide free financial help, information, and planning to library visitors. Come on in, or call or e-mail to sign up and find out more.

NEW DVDs

Homeland, season 7 (TV series)

NEW ADULT FICTION

Greaney, *Red Metal*
Macomber, *Window on the Bay*
McKinty, *The Chain*
Silva, *The New Girl*
Thor, *Backlash*
Weiner, *Mrs. Everything*
Whitehead, *The Nickel Boys*

NEW ADULT NONFICTION

Hanson, *The Case for Trump*
McCullough, *The Pioneers*



Please come in and borrow some of our brand-new books that we were able to add, thanks to the Pilcrow Foundation Grant.


Rachel Alter, Vicky Cooper, and Brad Havill



Scrapbook September 2019: TEST YOUR TRIVIA KNOWLEDGE!

1. What did the students do to commemorate the victims of 9/11?
2. What is the Josh Billings?
3. What are the three sports in the triathlon?
4. Who wrote the novel *So Near* in West Stockbridge?


Answers: 1. They recreated a huge flag on the front lawn of Monument Mountain Regional High School. 2. A RunAground Triathlon. 3. Bicycling, rowing, and running. 4. Liza Gyllenhaal



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, e-mail to info@thelocalyokel.org, or visit www.thelocalyokel.org



September Art Calendar

West Stockbridge Old Town Hall Show, 9 Main St. Sun. Sept. 1, 11-4.

Colonial Theater, Far, Far Away, exhibit of artists of the Guild of Berkshire Artists. Show is up to September 9. 111 South St. Pittsfield.

Meet the Artist: Ilene Richard. Wed. Sept. 4, 1-2 pm. Berkshire Community College. Koussevitsky Art Gallery. 1350 West St. Pittsfield MA

Art seminars, Demonstration, and Business Meeting. Wednesday September 4, Collect work for Berkshire Human Society. Demo.5:00-6:00. Planning for fall. Report on West Stockbridge show and studio tour. Community Room Town Hall, 21 Stateline Road (Route 102) West Stockbridge (WS)

First Fridays Artswalk Friday September 6, 5:00-8:00 p.m. Pittsfield, North and South Streets. www.firstfridaysartwalk.com Jean Rousseau, Doane Perry at 137 North St. GBA at the Colonial Theater.

Members' Potluck. Sun. Sept 8, 4-7pm. Richmond. Bring main dish, hors d'oeuvres or dessert for ten and what YOU want to drink. Partners welcome. RSVP & for location BerkshireArtists@gmail.com

Stockbridge Second Thursday ArtWalk. Thursday September 12, 4:00-7:00 p.m. Begin at TKG Real Estate, 10 Elm Street, Stockbridge for map and refreshments. Go onto Schantz, Image Galleries. Diane Firtell will demonstrate a "House Portrait" demonstration at 10 Elm Street.

Artists' Studio Tour. Saturday, September 14, 11:00 – 5:00 p.m. See BerkshireArtists.org for updates. Go to four studios and get a chance for an original portrait by Adrian Holmes.

Meet the Artist Janet McKinstry. Illustrating Children Books. Th. Sept. 19 10:30 -11:30 am. Shaker Dam Coffeehouse. 2 Main St. WS

Guild of Berkshire Artists

BerkshireArtists.org
BerkshireArtists@gmail.com

ART in Stockbridge Sept. 2019

Local Artists Reception

Thurs. Sept. 12
4 - 7 p.m.

New show 9/13-10/10

10 Elm Street
Stockbridge



Art Studio Tours
Preview of the Tours
on Saturday Sept. 14.
Go to 4 venues to get
a chance for a portrait.

Guild of Berkshire Artists

BerkshireArtists.org
BerkshireArtists@gmail.com



Walter Pasko



Carol Daynard



Marilyn Orner



Mark Oldhansky



Karen Dolmanisth

Diane Firtell will demonstrate making a house portrait at 4:30 +pen 10 Elm Street

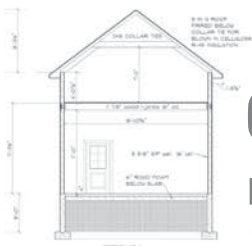
Creating Art Outdoors: Paint, Sketch, iPad or Photograph.

Daily 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch at noon and conversation at end of each session. Sundays on grounds of Norman Rockwell Museum; Mondays at Hancock Shaker Village; Tuesdays Great Barrington and Wednesdays Berkshire Botanical Garden and Stockbridge, Thursdays at The Mount; Fridays in Lenox, Saturdays in West Stockbridge. Sign up at our website BerkshireArtists.org and check at 8 a.m. for weather updates.

Photo Explorers: Fuel Bistro/Coffee Shop. 293 Main St. Great Barrington. Join Carole Quinn on Fri. Sept. 27, 8:30am for coffee/breakfast. Explore the area.

Art Book Gathering Friday, Sept. 27, 2-4 p.m. Share a favorite book: artist, process. Shaker Mill Books, West Stockbridge

Berkshire Photo Gathering. Sun. Sept. 29, 2-4 p.m. \$5. Berkshire South Regional Comm. Center, 15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230 Put Photos on website to share.



On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky

Some of you have been faithfully following episodes of Anne and Thom's Excellent Adventure (i.e., the story of designing and building our new house). Spoiler alert: A happy ending seems likely but not before some drama!

The drama involves the sale of our old house purchased in 1976 when our son Simon was 2 weeks old. Over the years, I've remodeled it several times, upgrading plumbing, heating, electric, windows, insulation, septic, and taking other measures to make it more energy efficient. This was not an easy task because the original part of the house was built around 1812. I've put on several additions and moved walls around, refinished the trim and floors, and painted it inside and out quite a few times in the past 43 years. We also put a lot of time and effort (and money) into landscaping around the house, and it really became a delightful place to live. But it had four bedrooms on two and a half floors, and as we approached what I call "geezerhood" (Anne does not embrace the term), we wanted something much smaller and more energy efficient. Plus it was always a dream to design and build a house for us.

We hoped the proceeds from the sale of the old house would cover the cost of the construction loan for the new one, plus reimburse us for improvements in the old house like the new septic and roof. We signed a contract with Lori Rose of Stone House Properties right here in town, and set off on a part of the Excellent Adventure that for us was uncharted territory.

One fairly recent development that has affected the real estate market is the burgeoning Airbnb phenomenon. Many people who might consider buying a second home would rather stay in someone else's place and let them take on the responsibility of upkeep.

As of this writing in mid-August, It looks as though we've finally sold the house, but not before a great deal of hard work on the part of Lori and the gang at Stone House (more than 50 showings in five months!) and lots of anxiety for Anne and me. We had to lower the price several times from what we thought was a reasonable amount.

At one point we even had two potential buyers in a bidding war. But then the winner changed his mind after three days and withdrew the offer. This was a big disappointment, but we were told by everyone to hang in there, that it was all part of the "process." Sure enough, we finally did get an acceptable offer from a nice family. We had always hoped that people with young children would buy the place and the kids could grow up enjoying the garden, the pond, the "secret" places, the barn, and so on, just as our son and his friends had long ago.

Now we're waiting for the inspection on behalf of the buyers that involves having a licensed inspector check the house for defects, safety issues, and areas of concern. As sellers, we're required to disclose any defects as well, although I've spent a lot of time fixing these over the years. Then comes the closing (in which lawyers do their lawyerly thing and money is exchanged), sometime in September.

Then the celebration, bittersweet as it will be. We have many mixed feelings about leaving a house where we've lived for more than half our lives and have put so much of our own mark on over the years. But we're loving the new house, too, and Anne and I hope to enjoy it for a long time to come.

As we roll into the cooler months, I'll give you a report on how well our new photovoltaic system is doing (most recent electric bill was *minus* \$32 after only two weeks of operation!). And I'll let you know how the air source heat pumps (aka "mini-splits") are keeping us warm this coming winter as they've been keeping us cool this summer.

Questions and comments can be sent to info@locallyokel.org.



Our house on Great Barrington Road with view of gardens and tea house. Photo by Gavin Preuss



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Fire Department Log

By Peter Skorput, Fire Chief

JULY 2019

Date	Time	Nature of Call
7/6	5:13 a.m.	Medical
7/6	9:04 a.m.	False alarm
7/6	9:22 a.m.	False alarm
7/7	3:45 p.m.	False alarm
7/13	3:52 p.m.	Medical
7/14	12:58 p.m.	Mutual aid structure fire (Alford)
7/14	7:41 p.m.	Medical
7/16	11:44 a.m.	Medical
7/17	12:56 a.m.	Medical
7/19	7:42 a.m.	Medical
7/19	4:02 p.m.	Medical
7/22	7:34 p.m.	False alarm
7/24	11:31 a.m.	Motor vehicle accident
7/25	10:03 p.m.	Medical
7/26	9:26 p.m.	Medical

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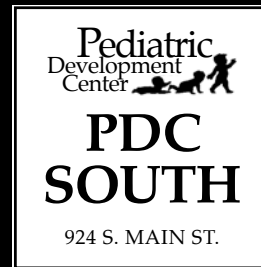
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Old Town Hall Oil Spill Update

Reprinted with permission from the West Stockbridge Historical Society e-newsletter

It was a “dark and stormy night” six months ago when our oil tank shifted and dumped 250 gallons of fuel oil onto the dirt floor of the crawl space in the Old Town Hall. Much has happened since then. Here is an update.

Thanks to the quick response and some luck, we were able to contain the spill and get the major cleanup done before the oil contaminated much of the area in the crawl space. This spring we were able to accomplish these tasks:

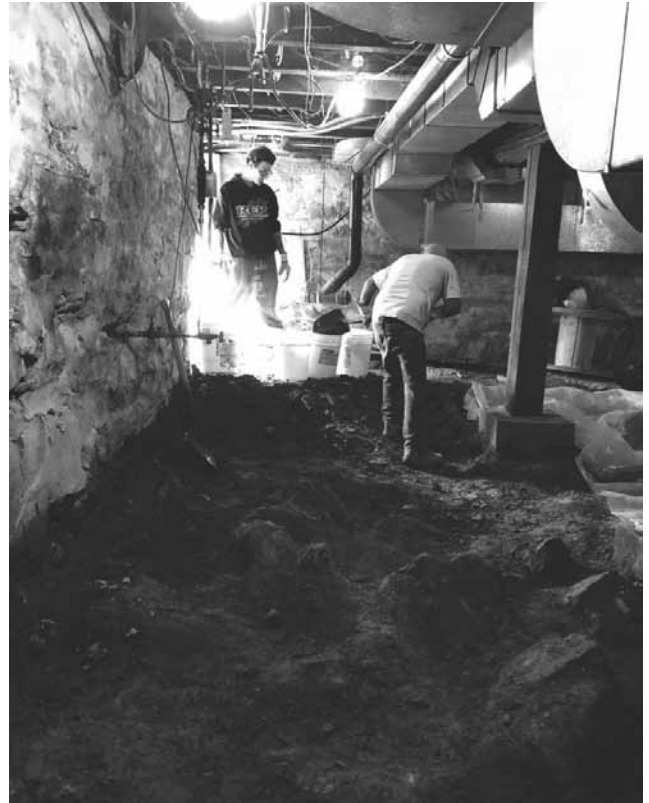
- Remove 50 cubic yards of contaminated soil from the crawl space plus 250 gallons of spilled oil. The soil went to a processing facility in Pittsfield, and the oil was trucked across state lines to a recycling plant in Albany. (We now have our own EPA number.)
- Install a new oil tank outside the building and get the heat working in time for the spring programs.
- Retain a licensed site professional to guide us through the process, fill out numerous forms, get incident numbers, and generally keep us out of trouble with the DEP. (No fines so far!)

But the process isn’t over. We still have to certify that there are no residual fumes or any contaminated groundwater. This fall, test wells will be drilled in the parking lot next door to the building to test the ground water for oil, and air samples will be taken in the building.

We estimate the total cost of the cleanup, filings and remediations, testing, and certifications will be around \$58,000. Unfortunately, insurance will not cover it. (Outside water damage is excluded from commercial liability policies.) Thanks to your generous support, we raised \$44,000 so far from over 60 members and supporters. But to stay current with our bills, we were forced to use money from our construction funds to cover the balance.

Despite the setback, we’ve moved forward with the restoration. The elevator is in and working, extension siding finished, and accessway between the first floor and stairway and the lobby entrance on the second floor completed. There is still a lot more to be done before we meet the ADA and building codes: accessible bathroom, proper entrance path from the parking lot, railings, and emergency lighting. But we’re getting there, and we’re in the midst of putting together a plan for our next grant application. In the coming weeks and months, we’ll tell you more about our next steps—and how you might be able to help.

In the meantime, please know how grateful we are for all your support, through good times and in dark and stormy ones as well!



*Maximillian workers removing the 50 yards of contaminated soil by hand.
Photo courtesy of Bob Salerno*

Local yokel

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*Outdoor distribution boxes: Baldwin Hardware, The Floor Store,
the Shaker Dam Coffeehouse and Stanmeyer Gallery, & the Transfer Station*

History Quiz Answer:

As a result of the "great concourse" of people who gathered at the Slossons, upward of 100 horses were turned out into their cow pasture for several days. Elijah's neighbors laughed at him as the horses ate up the pasture and asked him what he would do now. Elijah's response was "trust in God." By the following weekend, the pasture had regrown so abundantly, he was able to take in the cattle and horses of his neighbors, who were short of pasture, in addition to his own livestock. Strangely, the Slossons were also able to feed all the people who had gathered those days and somehow "always had a plenty." The Slossons' unbelieving neighbors "were forced to confess that it was marvelous."

Guest contributor: John Parker. Source: *Testimonies of the Life, Character, Revelations and Doctrines of Mother Ann Lee, and the Elders with Her* (Albany, NY: Ward, Parsons & Co., 1888).



Shakers dancing. Image courtesy of Hancock Shaker Village



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Do you have an extra hour a week?

The *Local Yokel* is looking for distributors to deliver the publications to our spots around town, then check back a few times that month.

Please call John Parker at (413) 394-4368, e-mail info@thelocalyokel.org, or visit www.thelocalyokel.org for more information.



Where are these doors in your town?

Visit our website for past issues, plus information about how to support your West Stockbridge community newsletter, submit material for publication, advertise, contact us, and answers to September's *Local Yokel* cover question!

thelocalyokel.org



The Community Health Association of Richmond and West Stockbridge

OCTOBER FLU CLINIC SCHEDULE 2019

Flu clinics will start the week of October 7

The Community Health Association of Richmond and West Stockbridge is offering free flu shots for eligible residents older than 19 years in both communities. For information about influenza, visit the website of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov/flu.

COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSOCIATION WEST STOCKBRIDGE OFFICE

Mondays and Wednesdays, 9–10 a.m.
except major holidays

WEST STOCKBRIDGE TOWN OFFICES COMMUNITY ROOM

Monday, October 7, 5–7 p.m.
Monday, October 21, noon–2 p.m.

RICHMOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Every Thursday, 9–10 a.m., except major holidays
Wednesday, October 9, noon–2 p.m.
Tuesday, October 15, 5–7 p.m.

RICHMOND LIBRARY

Tuesday, October 29, 5–7 p.m.

For more information, contact Emilie Jarrett, RN, BSN.

Community Health Association of Richmond and West Stockbridge
21 State Line Rd., PO Box 368, West Stockbridge, MA 01266; Tel.: 232.0122; Emilie@charws.com



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Janet McKinstry

Janet McKinstry

Illustrating Children's Books

Th. Sept. 19
10:30-11:30 am
discussion

**Shaker Dam
Coffeehouse**
2 Main Street
West Stockbridge

Guild of Berkshire Artists
www.BerkshireArtists.org and
BerkshireArtist@gmail.com



Join Janet McKinstry on Thursday Sept. 19 at Shaker Dam Coffeehouse, 2 Main Street, West Stockbridge 10:30-11:30 am for a talk and informal discussion of her process of illustrating children's books. You will be able to ask her questions. You must buy a coffee, tea or delectable so the Coffeehouse can stay in business. RSVP: BerkshireArtists@gmail.com.

Have you had ideas for children's books yourself? Have you wanted to create something special for your family using photos? This is your opportunity to learn how to do this. And it is just in time to make it during the quieter winter season, or for special gift giving!

Janet McKinstry is known for her art in many media, including her fabulous marionettes which she has shown in a number of Guild of Berkshire Artists shows. Right now she is illustrating children's books.

Janet will share her creative process which she has developed to incorporate original artwork, photos and other "cool" looks. She will share the process from creation to printing.

www.berkshireartists.org

Follow the signs!

to the 2019
Guild of Berkshire Artists
www.berkshireartists.org

Studia Tour

Meet 20 local artists in 12 studios

Sept 14 • 11 am - 5 pm

Preview at TKG Gallery, 10 Elm Street, Stockbridge
Opening reception Thursday Sept 12, 4-7pm

Karen Andrews
2 Furnace Rd
West Stockbridge

Joel Hotchkiss
8 Center St
West Stockbridge

Denise B Chandler
415 New Lenox Rd
Lenox

Karen Dolmanisth
169 West St
Lenox

Janet Pumphrey
317 Under Mountain Rd
Lenox

Karen Carmean
David Hagerty
Doane Perry
Walt Pasko

Katherine Oakes
Keith Emerling
170 Great Barrington Rd
(Rte 41)

West Stockbridge
West Stockbridge

Alan Papsun
40 Glendale Rd (Rte 183)
Stockbridge

Mark Olshansky
12 Squaw Peak Rd
Great Barrington

Virginia Bradley
William Casper
Chris Malcomson
234 Long Pond Rd
Great Barrington

Kerry Millikin
25 Townhouse Hill Rd
Great Barrington

Michael Lebowitz
9 Bott Hill Rd
South Egremont

Marjorie Wilke
RW Browne
106 Blair Lane
Sheffield

Win a piece of art!

- 1 Visit 4 studios (Get form at your first studio)
 - 2 At each studio have form signed by the artist
 - 3 Text a photo of your entry form to: (617) 547 1413
 - 4 Look for winners on www.berkshireartists.org
- This month's prize:**
A commissioned portrait by Adrian Holmes

Studios are listed from north to south



The Local Yokel meets the 21st Century!

Visit our website for past issues, plus information about how to support your West Stockbridge community newsletter, submit material for publication, advertise, contact us, and more!

thelocalyokel.org



Every issue costs us about \$1,300 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*.

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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>Earl Moffatt</i>	232-0300	ext. 314	Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m., or by appt.
Select Board	<i>Bernie Fallon, Doane Perry, Eric Shimelonis</i>			
Administrative Assistant	<i>Marie Ryan</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: visitweststockbridge.com

Have You Noticed?

Have you noticed, the monarch caterpillars
that were seen at Shaker Dam Coffee house?
During the last two weeks of August, the caterpillars were
Growing fast.

Day to day, they seemed to be growing before one's eyes.

First,
They were just as small as pinky size.

Then,
Suddenly it seemed, they were long and fat.

The monarch butterfly migrate every year.

We hope to see more, next year.

What have you noticed, in our West Stockbridge Village?

We would enjoy hearing what you notice.

Written by: Paul Cunningham Noticed by: Lois

Thank you from the West Stockbridge Appreciation Committee.
Send all replies to Lois Ferguson at wsappreciation@gmail.com.

This Just In: Wildlife Photos Submitted by Our Readers



*Fox kit in West Stockbridge yard.
Photo by Kyle Bailey*



*This very friendly ruffed grouse has been a
regular visitor to our West Stockbridge home
since early May. Photo by Edmund Parnes*

West Stockbridge
Local Yokel

P.O. Box 238
 West Stockbridge, MA
 01266

thelocalyokel.org



September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

September 2019 Calendar of Events

9/2	Labor Day		
9/4	Knitters & More	2–4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
9/4	Select Board meeting	6 p.m.	Town Offices
9/5	Farmers Market	3–7 p.m.	The Green at Harris Street
9/5	Board of Health meeting	6:30 p.m.	Town Offices
9/7	Pancake breakfast	8–11 a.m.	WS Congregational Church, 45 Main Street
9/8	National Grandparents' Day		
9/8	Grange dinner	1–2 p.m.	Grange Hall, 51 Church St., Stockbridge
9/10	COA potluck luncheon	12 noon	Town Offices Community Room
9/10	American Legion meeting	7 p.m.	Town Offices
9/11	Knitters & More	2–4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
9/12	Farmers Market	3–7 p.m.	The Green at Harris Street
9/15	*** Deadline for the next Local Yokel ***		Send to info@thelocalyokel.org
9/18	Knitters & More	2–4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
9/19	Farmers Market	3–7 p.m.	The Green at Harris Street
9/21	Congregational Church Bake Sale	9:30 a.m.–1 p.m.	Baldwin's Extracts, 1 Center Street
9/21	Housatonic Heritage Walk	10:30 a.m.– noon	Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street
9/23	First Day of Autumn		
9/25	Knitters & More	2–4 p.m.	Town Offices Community Room
9/26	Farmers Market	3–7 p.m.	The Green at Harris Street
9/29	Annual Blessing of the Animals	10 a.m.	Outdoor Chapel, 141 West Center Road
9/29	Rosh Hashanah (begins at sundown)		