

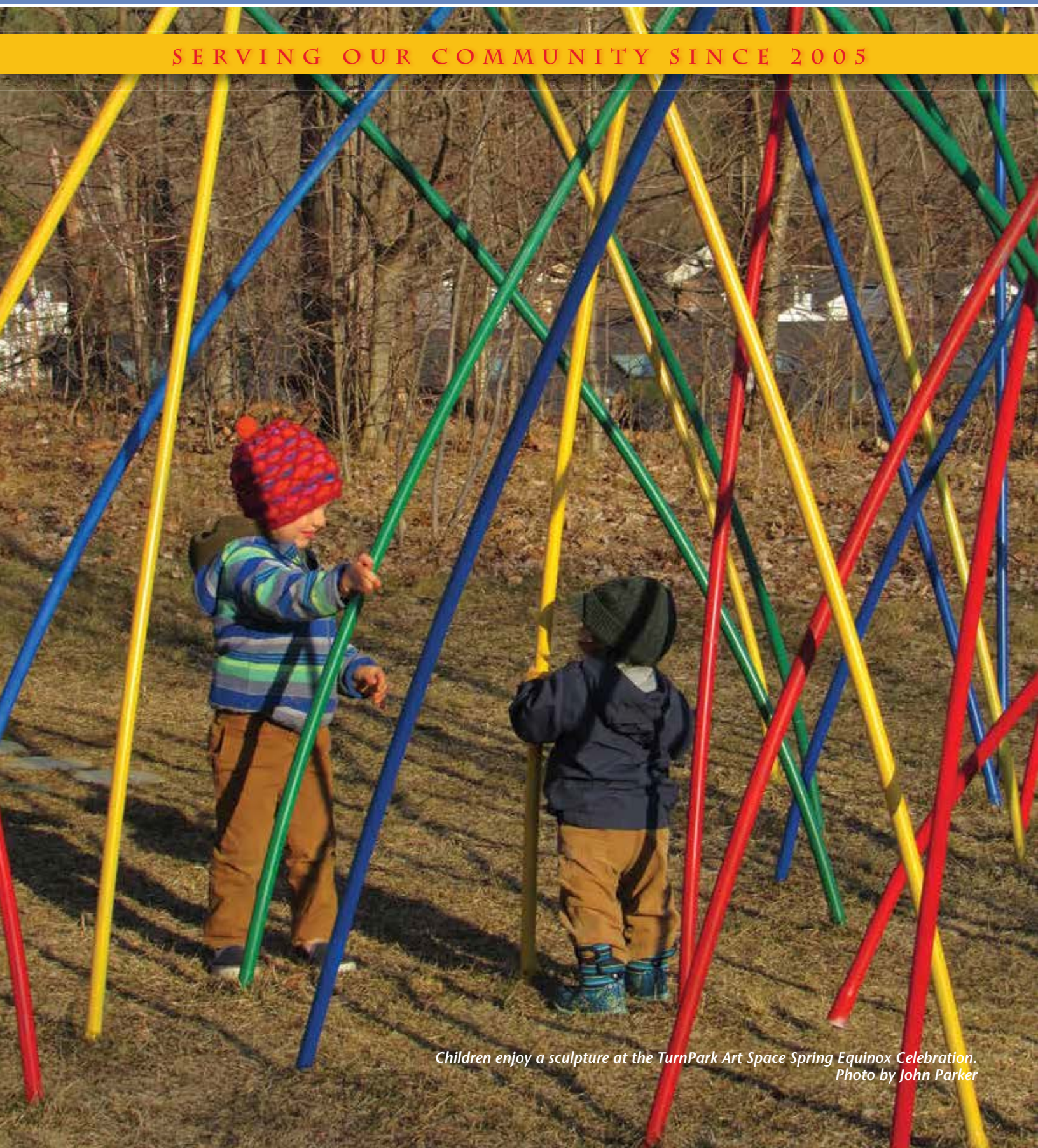
# Local yokel

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

West  
Stockbridge

April  
2021

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005



*Children enjoy a sculpture at the TurnPark Art Space Spring Equinox Celebration.  
Photo by John Parker*

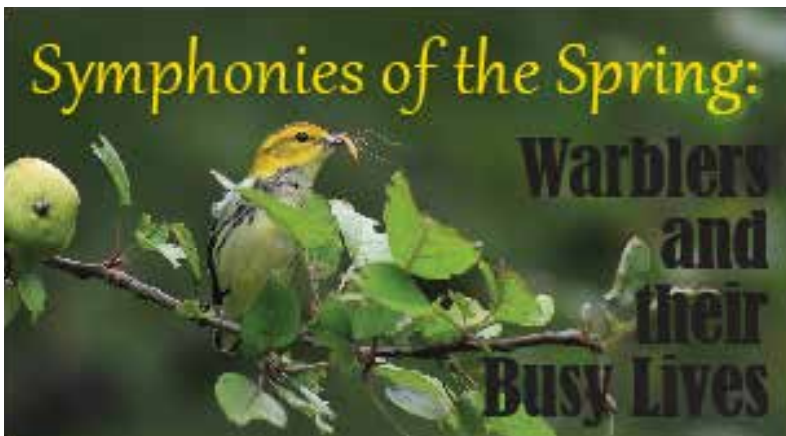


# Thank You!

We so appreciate the West Stockbridge Highway Department  
For keeping our roads safe and passable through another Berkshire winter



Highway Crew members:  
Curt Wilton, Superintendent; Jamie Boyer; John Lyford; Zachary Levesque



Join Zach Adams from Mass Audubon for a dive into the colorful array of spring warblers. Zach will discuss warbler identification, where to find them, their incredible migration, how they survive, and what makes them so exciting. This presentation will be an engaging look into the birds that brighten our forests through beauty and song.



**Virtual Slide Show and Lecture**  
Friday, April 23, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Participation is free to all  
To register, send an email to:  
[info@weststockbridgehistory.org](mailto:info@weststockbridgehistory.org)

A link will be provided the day before the program

**Presenter: Zach Adams.** Zach has been studying birds since his childhood when he fell in love with the sounds of wood ducks and redwing blackbirds in the marshes. He holds a B.S. in Environmental Science from Juniata College and has worked as an educator and program leader since the age of 16. From reptiles and amphibians to live talking sparrows, he enjoys teaching on any topic in nature. Zach has been a Teacher Naturalist for Mass Audubon's Berkshire Sanctuaries since November 2018, where he leads programs in birding, hiking, tracking, and canoeing. He is passionate about ornithology and the opportunity to share his love for birds with everyone around him. Each bird song is a glimpse into a different world, and nothing can defeat the awe when you hear your first warbler sing.

This program 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.



FOR 15 YEARS THE LOCAL YOKEL  
HAS BEEN HERE FOR YOU —  
WITH NEWS, INFORMATION, AND  
FEATURES ABOUT WEST STOCKBRIDGE.

Due to the pandemic we, like many local businesses and organizations, are facing reduced income from advertising and donations. Please help us maintain our service to the community.

**SUPPORT THE LOCAL YOKEL**

See response form on p. 17 or use  
the address below. Thank you!

The Local Yokel

PO Box 238

West Stockbridge, MA 01266

# Select Board Meeting Minutes

[Editor's note: At the town administrator's request, the Select Board minutes here are reprinted verbatim with no editing of text. Official board minutes are available at the West Stockbridge Public Library and on the town website, <https://www.weststockbridge-ma.gov/>. Select Board meetings are on Zoom and may be viewed by clicking on the link in the meeting agenda posted on the town website calendar. Residents can receive e-mail notification of town events and meeting agendas by subscribing at <http://weststockbridgema.virtualtownhall.net/subscriber>].

## Select Board Meeting Minutes Meeting via Zoom January 27, 2021

### Open Meeting

**Quorum present:** Roger Kavanagh, Select Board Chair, Eric Shimelonis and Kathleen Keresey, Select Board Members, and Marie Ryan, Town Administrator.

Roger called the meeting to order at 11 AM. He stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Town Administrator Performance Evaluation. He said that the Performance Evaluation document each of them had been given was a compilation he had created using the performance evaluations prepared independently by each Board member. He asked Marie and the Board members if they had completed reviewing the document and they all confirmed that they had.

He spoke about the purpose of performance evaluations, which are regular (usually annual) occurrences in the public and private sectors. He emphasized that this process allows managers to recognize an individual's accomplishments during the performance evaluation period, to speak about the individual's strengths and to note areas that managers consider opportunities for growth and improvement.

He then gave Marie the opportunity to comment on the content of the evaluation and asked the Board members to do the same. After sharing their respective thoughts about the evaluation, Roger said that the next step in the process, now that collective expectations have been established, will be to create a development plan for Marie that focuses on skill building in areas the group evaluation identified as opportunities for growth and development.

Roger asked if there was any further questions on the evaluation or next steps in the process. Hearing none, he made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kathleen seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

**Eric, Yes      Roger, Yes      Kathleen, Yes**  
The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Roger Kavanagh, Chair, Select Board.

## Select Board Special Meeting Minutes Meeting via Zoom February 1, 2021

### Open Meeting

**Quorum present:** Roger Kavanagh, Select Board Chair, Eric Shimelonis and Kathleen Keresey, Select Board Members, and Marie Ryan, Town Administrator.

**Others Present:** Curt Wilton, DPW Director

Roger called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Minutes were not ready for approval.

### Town Administrator Updates:

- Moscow Road Update: Norbert Styblo, National Grid Legal Department is in the process of creating an agreement in regards to the

easement for National Grid equipment on Moscow Road. He hopes to have a final agreement in place next week.

- Cell Tower on Albany Road: Mark Reich, K-P Law Attorney, is currently working on the final details of the lease with Charter Attorney Scott O'Donnell.
- Food Pantry Refrigerators: Abigail Childs from Democratic Socialist of America, Berkshire County office, is going to place a Food Pantry refrigerator in the Town of West Stockbridge. She will work with private residents to find a logical location for the refrigerator to give residents access to fresh produce, milk, eggs, etc. Abigail will inform me of the location which I will then post on the Town website.
- Follow up on report of trash dumped on edge of the pond off Swamp Road: Board of Health Agent Earl Moffatt has located the owners of the parcel on Swamp Road that has trash placed along the edge of the pond. He sent them a certified letter informing them they are in violation of the State Sanitary Code which requires any parcel of land be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, free from garbage. Earl has requested a plan for clean up within 7 days.
- Annual Town Meeting, May 3, 2021: Cutting Edge Video has been booked to provide technical assistance for an outdoor Town Meeting in May due to the pandemic.

### DPW Director Curt Wilton Update:

- Traffic Calming: Curt suggested an in-person meeting with the community to discuss any issues with traffic calming on Main Street that could include someone from MassDOT. An outside meeting was suggested, when the weather gets warmer. Curt will discuss with his MassDOT contact.
- Letter to MassDOT: MassDOT suggested the Select Board write a letter to them requesting the State repair the sidewalk that leads to Card Pond. Roger will draft a letter and include photos and map of the area to be sent to MassDOT.
- West Center Road Project: The project has been completed.
- Fire House/Highway Facility: The new columns have been installed and the project came in under budget.
- Equipment Break Downs: The large plow truck has broken down and the repair bill will cost between \$10,000-\$12,000. This truck was scheduled to be replaced last year in FY21, however, the Finance Committee asked Curt to wait a year to replace it. Curt has requested an article be placed on the FY22 Town warrant for a new truck.
- Budget items for FY22:
  - Repaving Cobb Road and East Alford Rd. for total of \$294,032 (\$150,000 of it will be from Chapter 90 money)
  - New Truck \$240,000
  - Add Full-time Buildings/Grounds employee
- Town Buildings: The heating system in Town Hall needed several repairs this winter. Curt is stockpiling parts for a quicker repair time.
- Cemetery: A lot of work was done on monuments, stone repair and tree removal this past year. The Commission has kept their budget level funded for FY22.
- Parks and Recreation submitted a level funded FY22 budget.

*...continued on page 5*



# Governor Baker Announces Vaccine Timeline for All Residents

Governor Baker has announced the dates that all remaining residents and certain worker groups will be eligible for a vaccine. The commonwealth's detailed timeline adheres to the original timeline for the three phases announced in December.

All residents can preregister to book an appointment at a mass vaccination site at [mass.gov/COVIDVaccine](http://mass.gov/COVIDVaccine). [Editor's note: Emily Jarrett, RN, of the Community Health Association encourages Berkshire county residents to go to [www.getvaccinatedberkshires.org](http://www.getvaccinatedberkshires.org) for information and registration.]

Appointments will be offered based on eligibility and available appointments nearby. It is expected that more sites will come online as part of the preregistration process in April.

## Timeline for remaining groups:

- March 22: Residents 60+ and certain workers
- April 5: Residents 55+ and residents with one certain medical condition
- April 19: General public ages 16 years of age and older

The full timeline is available at [mass.gov/COVIDVaccinePhases](http://mass.gov/COVIDVaccinePhases).

The administration has received assurances from the federal government that an increased vaccine supply will be available to states soon.

Depending on supply, it could take weeks for people to be notified that an appointment is available at a mass vaccination site.



## BALDWIN HARDWARE

Depot Street  
West Stockbridge, MA 01266

Henry Baldwin

(413) 232-7757



## Home Range Winery & Vineyard

Peter Bartlett & Susan Powell

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146 Flints Crossing Road, Canaan, NY 12029



## Kevin Holden Inc. Tree Trimming & Removal

Richmond, MA (413) 698-2696  
[www.khtree.com](http://www.khtree.com)

**A Little About Us:** Established in 1976, we have been in the art and science of tree care for over 40 years.

Using state-of-the-art equipment we provide safety for our employees. We offer a wide range of tree care services and our meticulous work on clients' property ensures a beautiful and safe landscape every time.

- |                     |                              |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| ■ Stump Removal     | ■ Tree Removal               |
| ■ Land Clearing     | ■ Tree Pruning               |
| ■ Cabling & Bracing | ■ Tree & Shrub Fertilization |
| ■ Crane Rental      | ■ Storm Damage Clean-up      |

## All Types of Tree Work Insured



Member International Society  
(New England Chapter)

ISA Certified Arborist

NE 6430A



- Solid Waste Transfer Station: New fencing, gate repairs, and a new roof were projects that were completed within budget. New signs have been received and will be posted soon. The large blue container for the transfer station was purchased, however, not able to be installed. A fabricator company is making the necessary alterations to the container for it to be installed soon.

**Host Community Agreement:** Roger proposed the Board review the draft of the HCA from Town Counsel, and let him know of any changes. Once he receives the suggested changes, he will update the draft and have it posted on the website for 30 days for community input/comment. At the end of the 30 days, the Board will discuss any comments they received. Roger and Eric discussed changes to the first paragraph to give a more precise explanation for the purpose of the policy. Roger will update the policy prior to having it posted on the website.

**Updated Draft of Chapter 240 of the Town Code:** Eric read his proposed draft of an updated Chapter 240 of the Town Code, Vehicles and Traffic, that creates an application process, regulations and requirements, and enforcement framework for the issuance of Class I, II, and III vehicle licenses. The board did not propose any changes to the draft, but Roger would like to review again prior to submitting to Town Counsel for their review. The current Class II and Class III license holders will be notified of a future discussion prior to Town Meeting, where the new bylaw will be considered for adoption through a town vote.

**Select Board Speak:**

Kathleen planned on a January 29<sup>th</sup> submission date of the Shared Winter Streets Grant, however, it was not ready. They plan on submitting the application for the grant at the end of February.

Eric has submitted a grant to the State for a thermal imaging camera for the Fire Department and to FEMA, with Marie's help, for \$128,000 for Fire Department equipment.

**Citizen Speak:**

Joe Roy noted that the Board should keep in mind that if the Town is awarded the Shared Winter Streets grant, it will mean more equipment and facilities that will require additional maintenance costs, which may require a budget increase.

Frank Landsberger mentioned that the Berkshire Hills Regional School Committee has proposed an FY22 budget that has an overall increase of 5% and that the Board should keep this in mind when working on the Town's FY22 budget.

Roger made a motion to adjourn at 7:23 PM, Kathleen seconded.

Roll call vote:

**Eric, Yes                      Roger, Yes                      Kathleen, Yes**

Motion Passed.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie W. Ryan*

Town Administrator

Documents:

DPW update from Director Curt Wilton

Sample Host Community Agreement from Town Counsel

Draft of Chapter 240, sections 7-10 from Eric Shimelonis

...continued on page 7

# JT & Landscaping Tree Services

Fully Insured - Free estimates

**413-329-8200**

- Tree and Brush Removal
- Tree Pruning
- Stump Grinding
- Plowing & Sanding
- House Checking/Caretaking
- Drainage & Driveway Repairs
- Lawn & Field Mowing
- Fall & Spring Cleanups
- Building & Maintaining Gardens
- Firewood



## Winter Parking Ban

The "Winter Parking Ban" is in effect from November 15, 2020 to April 30, 2021 between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. for all streets in West Stockbridge. Violations of this ban may result in a \$25 fine for parking in prohibited areas, or a \$50 fine for impeding snow removal. In addition, if the vehicle is impeding snow removal, it may be towed at the owner's expense.

The Municipal parking lot across from the Public Market and the parking area on Moscow Road, where the public bathrooms are, may be used for overnight off-street parking. However, vehicles in those lots must be moved by 8:00 a.m. to allow the Department of Public Works to manage snow and ice removal.

Anyone having questions about off street parking or the winter off-street parking ban can call Marc Portieri, Chief of Police at 413-232-8500.

## Burning Permits Free, Available Online Only

Since January 15, all burning permits will be available online at no cost. Please visit the Berkshire County website, [www.bcburnpermits.com](http://www.bcburnpermits.com). Please note the following changes:

- Permits are only issued between 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.
- Permits are only issued *on the day* you wish to burn.
- No permits are issued *in advance* due to the potential for changing weather conditions.
- Burning permits will no longer be available at Baldwin's Hardware or the Public Market.
- If you have any concerns or issues, please contact Fire Chief Traver at (413) 531-8837 for assistance.



**WEST STOCKBRIDGE  
FARMERS MARKET**  
ON THE FOUNDRY GREEN

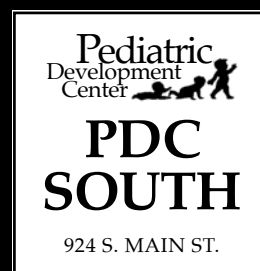


**SUPPORT  
OUR FARMERS**

**Opening Day  
May 27, 3-6pm**

**SEE YOU ON THE FOUNDRY GREEN**

## Concerned about your Infant or Toddler's development?



Give us a call and we can set up an appointment to talk with you about any concerns you may have.

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[www.pediatricdevelopmentcenter.org](http://www.pediatricdevelopmentcenter.org)

**Select Board and Finance Committee Joint Meeting Minutes  
Meeting via Zoom  
February 8, 2021**

Open Meeting

**Quorum present:** Roger Kavanagh, Select Board Chair, Eric Shimelonis and Kathleen Keresey, Select Board Members, and Marie Ryan, Town Administrator.

Finance Committee: Bob Salerno, Frank Landsberger, Andrew Krouss and Dan Buehler.

**Others Present:** Curt Wilton, DPW Director

Roger called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

Roger stated all who were in attendance. The purpose of the meeting is for the Finance Committee to review with the Department of Public Works their FY22 Budget request and then guide the Select Board at a future meeting on the FY22 budget.

Curt Wilton, DPW Director reviewed his budget requests. The following are requested increases to his budget:

- Increase in Town Buildings Salary for an additional Full Time Employee to replace Wayne Cooper as Town Custodian.
- Increase the Solid Waste Transfer for the Transfer Station by 5% due to the increase in population in Town as a result of the pandemic causing a large increase in trash.

Curt suggested a fee structure for stickers/access to the Transfer Station and will get more information on this.

Curt also is requesting a warrant article to purchase a new plow truck.

Andrew Krouss made a motion to adjourn at 7:33 PM, Bob Salerno seconded.

Roll call vote:

<b>Eric, Yes</b>	<b>Roger, Yes</b>	<b>Kathleen, Yes</b>
<b>Bob, Yes</b>	<b>Andrew, Yes</b>	<b>Frank, Yes</b>
<b>Dan, Yes</b>		

Motion Passed.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie Y. Ryan*

Town Administrator

**Select Board and Finance Committee Joint Meeting Minutes  
Meeting via Zoom  
February 10, 2021**

Open Meeting

**Quorum present:** Roger Kavanagh, Select Board Chair, Eric Shimelonis and Kathleen Keresey, Select Board Members, and Marie Ryan, Town Administrator.

Finance Committee: Bob Salerno, Frank Landsberger, Andrew Krouss and Dan Buehler.

**Others Present:** Marc Portieri, Police Chief and Steve Traver, Fire Chief

Roger called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

Roger stated all who were in attendance. The purpose of the meeting is for the Finance Committee to review with the Police and Fire Departments their FY22 Budget request and then guide the Select Board at a future meeting on the FY22 budget.

Marc Portieri, Police Chief, reviewed his budget requests. The following is an increase request to his budget:

- Increase in the Full Time Salary for an additional fulltime officer. Marc would like to send part time officer, Michael Renton, to the fulltime academy in September. The fulltime salary line will then include Sergeant Messina, Brandon Messina and Michael Renton. This would increase the fulltime officer salary line, while slightly decreasing the part time salary line.

Steve Traver, Fire Chief, reviewed his budget requests. The following are significant changes to his budget:

- Create a salary for the Chief. If the salary is approved, the Chief will no longer receive the fees from inspections which can supplement the salary (approximately \$5000 per year).
- Decrease in training line and increase in stipend line. The members are now paid per call they attend and not for training attended, therefore, training was decreased and stipend increased.
- Supply line decreased. This line item was used for office supplies.

Andrew Krouss made a motion to adjourn at 7:27 PM, Bob Salerno seconded.

Roll call vote:

<b>Eric, Yes</b>	<b>Roger, Yes</b>	<b>Kathleen, Yes</b>
<b>Bob, Yes</b>	<b>Andrew, Yes</b>	<b>Frank, Yes</b>
<b>Dan, Yes</b>		

Motion Passed.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie Y. Ryan*

Town Administrator

**Select Board Special Meeting Minutes  
Meeting via Zoom  
February 16, 2021**

Open Meeting

**Quorum present:** Roger Kavanagh, Select Board Chair, Eric Shimelonis and Kathleen Keresey, Select Board Members, and Marie Ryan, Town Administrator.

Roger called the meeting to order at 6: 00 PM.

Kathleen made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2021, seconded by Eric.

Roll call vote:

<b>Eric, Yes</b>	<b>Roger, Yes</b>	<b>Kathleen, Yes</b>
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Motion Passed.

**Town Administrator Updates:**

- Illegal trash placed near edge of the pond off of Swamp Road: Since the Board of Health Agent Earl Moffatt sent a certified letter to the property owners on Swamp Road who are in violation of the State Sanitary Code, he has not had a response as of today. He will try to reach out to the owners to work with them to correct the violation.
- Status of the Host Community Agreement (HCA) Policy: The draft HCA policy has been posted on the Town website for community input. The Town has received three responses to date which will be sent to the Board for review.
- Marie read an e-mail shared by the Berkshire County Sheriff's office in which a West Stockbridge resident thanked our first responders for their outstanding service to a resident in their time of need.

**Review of appointed positions in Town:**

Eric will work with Marie on reviewing all the appointed positions in Town. The information will then be presented to the Board for their review and discussion.

...continued on page 9



## April History Quiz Question:

Main Street in West Stockbridge is architecturally a fairly traditional 19th-century New England village. Mostly Greek revival architecture with mid-20th-century commercial buildings and an occasional colonial era structure are all clustered together. What we don't have is the village green or common found in many towns we may now describe as "quaint." West Stockbridge was practical and industrial, developed after the prerevolutionary English village model.

Instead of a town common, we have a rather large expanse of lawn next to the Congregational Church in the center of town. It's a great space for easy sledding in the winter and church events (ice cream sundaes) in warmer weather. It was not always that open, and its use played a vital role in our town until the 1940s. What was there, and why was it important?

(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](mailto:info@weststockbridgehistory.org) or call 232-4270.



**West Stockbridge  
Historical Society**  
Incorporated in 1994

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WONDERING JEWS  
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MIXED UP JEWS  
NON-JEWS  
LGBT JEWS  
CREATIVE JEWS

Please check our website [www.ahavathsholom.com](http://www.ahavathsholom.com) for information about our Zoom services, events and updates.

See our new Marketplace section featuring a selection of books, craft items and art works by our members. A portion of each purchase will be donated by the synagogue to the Southern Berkshire area People's Pantry.

SEARCHING JEWS  
OBSERVANT JEWS  
NON-HEBREW-READING JEWS  
PASSIONATE JEWS  
HIGH-HOLY-DAY JEWS  
ARTISTIC JEWS  
AGNOSTIC JEWS  
HAVEN'T-BEEN-IN-SHUL-SINCE-MY-BAR-MITZVAH-JEWS

Sound like you? We invite you to call our Rabbi, Barbara Cohen, at 413-528-4197. Or visit us to learn more.



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THE CREATIVE SPIRIT DWELLS HERE  
[ahavathsholom.com](http://ahavathsholom.com) North St., Great Barrington



The *Local Yoke!* is published monthly. Please mail submissions to: **The Local Yoke!**, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266, e-mail [info@thelocalyokel.org](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org), or visit [www.thelocalyokel.org](http://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](mailto:john.j.parker53@gmail.com); Vicki Grayson, 232-6131, [vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com](mailto:vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com); Susan Fisher, 232-4443, [suefish12@gmail.com](mailto:suefish12@gmail.com); Anne Lesser, 717-0277, [anne@annelessercommunications.com](mailto:anne@annelessercommunications.com); Designer: Kim Bradway, [kim@bloominarts.com](mailto:kim@bloominarts.com).

The *Local Yoke!* 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.



**Cultural District Designation:**

Eric asked the Board if they had an interest in the Town pursuing the Cultural District designation for our downtown through the Mass Cultural Council program. Local business owners participated on the zoom meeting, all stating their support and offering their assistance with the application process. Eric will get more specific information on the application process and bring it to the Board for further review.

**Select Board Speak:** No additional comments.

**Citizen Speak:** No comments.

Roger made a motion to adjourn at 6:40 PM, Kathleen seconded.

Roll call vote:

**Eric, Yes      Roger, Yes      Kathleen, Yes**

Motion Passed.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie Y. Ryan*

Town Administrator

Documents: Cultural District Designation application information

**Select Board and Finance Committee Joint Meeting Minutes  
Meeting via Zoom  
February 22, 2021**

Open Meeting

**Quorum present:** Roger Kavanagh, Select Board Chair, Eric Shimelonis and Kathleen Keresey, Select Board Members, and Marie Ryan, Town Administrator.

Finance Committee: Bob Salerno, Frank Landsberger, Andrew Krouss and Dan Buehler.

**Others Present:** Curt Wilton, Public Works Director, Elaine Markham, Town Accountant and Beth Sack, Library Trustee.

Roger called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Roger stated all who were in attendance. The purpose of the meeting is for the Finance Committee to review the FY22 Budget request for General Government and all departments other than Police, DPW and Fire.

Marie explained the history of the Town Counsel line item has been \$18,000 for the past 5 years. The expended amount for this line item has been between \$18,000 and \$25,000 every year. The increased requested budget amount is \$25,000 to insure a more accurate budget.

Bob Salerno asked Marie to review the Special Articles.

- New Copier – The current Town Hall copier is used by everyone and is over 10 years old. The parts for this copier are no longer available for repairs.
- New Phone System in Town Hall– The current phone system is the original phone system put in place when the Town Hall was renovated. This system is no longer compatible with the new technology of the Town Hall computer server and needs to be upgraded.
- Fire Chief New Vehicle – The Town will be sharing the cost of a new vehicle for the Fire Chief with Richmond.
- Curt discussed the last two special articles, the DPW Large Plow Truck and the East Alford Road/Cobb Road resurfacing project.
- DPW Large Plow Truck – The current large plow truck is 10 years old and has needed expensive repairs over the past two years. Curt intends on keeping this truck as a backup.
- East Alford Road/Cobb Road Resurfacing Project – Curt received a letter from Mass DOT confirming certification of \$151,282 from Chapter 90 money. There is a remaining balance of approximately \$30,000 from this past year's Chapter 90 money to use towards this project.

Andrew Krouss made a motion to adjourn at 7:04 PM, Dan Buehler seconded.

Roll call vote:

**Eric, Yes      Roger, Yes      Kathleen, Yes**  
**Bob, Yes      Andrew, Yes      Frank, Yes**  
**Dan, Yes**

Motion Passed.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie Y. Ryan*

Town Administrator

**Select Board and Finance Committee Joint Meeting Minutes  
Meeting via Zoom  
March 3, 2021**

Open Meeting

**Quorum present:** Roger Kavanagh, Select Board Chair, Eric Shimelonis and Kathleen Keresey (entered the meeting a few minutes after it started), Select Board Members, and Marie Ryan, Town Administrator.

Finance Committee: Bob Salerno, Frank Landsberger, Andrew Krouss and Dan Buehler.

**Others Present:** Curt Wilton, Public Works Director and Marc Portieri Police Chief

Roger called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Roger stated all who were in attendance. The purpose of the meeting is for the Finance Committee and the Select Board to review and approve the final FY22 Budget.

Approval of Minutes from the February 8, 2021, February 10, 2021 and February 22, 2021 Select Board and Finance Committee joint Budget meetings:

SB: Eric made a motion to approve all three sets of minutes, Roger seconded.

Roll Call vote:

**Eric, Yes      Roger, Yes      (Kathleen not in attendance at this point)**

FC: Frank made a motion to approve all three sets of minutes, Bob seconded.

Roll Cal vote:

**Bob, Yes      Andrew, Yes      Frank, Yes      Dan, Yes**

Bob reviewed each section separately of the Draft FY22 Budget and allowed discussion on any questions from the Finance Committee or the Select Board. The Finance Committee made a positive recommendation on all sections to the Select Board who also approved of the Draft FY22 Budget.

The following items were noted for future discussion:

- Hiring a Human Resource Consultant to create a baseline salary survey.
- Possible fees for use of the Transfer Station.
- Payment to the Local Yokel for publishing the Select Board minutes.

Andrew Krouss made a motion to adjourn at 7:42 PM, Dan Buehler seconded.

Roll call vote:

**Eric, Yes      Roger, Yes      Kathleen, Yes**  
**Bob, Yes      Andrew, Yes      Frank, Yes**  
**Dan, Yes**

Motion Passed.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie Y. Ryan*

Town Administrator



# HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE



For Residents of:

Alford Becket Egremont Great Barrington Lee Lenox Monterey Mount Washington  
New Marlborough Otis Richmond Sheffield Stockbridge Tyringham West Stockbridge

**When:** Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021: 9 AM – 1:00 PM

**Where:** Town of Lee WasteWater Treatment Plant  
379 Pleasant Street, Lee

## What to Bring

### From The Yard/Garden

Pesticides, Fungicides  
Herbicides  
Insect Sprays  
Rodent Killers  
Muriatic Acid  
Flea Powder  
No-Pest Strips  
Chemical Fertilizers  
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# **"We Remember When . . ."**

## **Growing Up in West Stockbridge in the 1950s**

*A Series of Recollections by John Bormolini and Friends*

### **The Great Barrington Fairgrounds – Part 1**

**By John Bormolini**

The Great Barrington Fairgrounds opened during the late 19th century as a place where local farmers could trade and showcase their goods to the rest of the community in September each year. Horse racing was introduced sometime later and quite literally took off.

Over the next 100 years, the Great Barrington Fairgrounds became well known around the region as one of the biggest and best around. It hosted the longest running harvest fair in all of New England. The fair became prominent in the 1940s when interest in horse racing spiked to an all-time high. But, over the next few years, interest in the Great Barrington Fairgrounds began to decline steadily.

In 1995 the fair took a catastrophic hit from a rare tornado, damaging many of the buildings and the racetrack. It never recovered from Mother Nature's wrath, and the grounds finally shut down in 1983. There was an attempt to revive the facility in 1997, but it was short lived.

The following are a few recollections about the Great Barrington Fair, or "the Barrington Fair," as we all said back then.

Peter Angelini remembers:

*Our family always went on Friday night, and it was one of the two days in the year—the other being Christmas Eve—when my dad came home from work early. After we entered the fairgrounds, my dad went to the racetrack, betting \$2 on his favorite horse, while my sister, brother, and I went with Mom to the 4H agricultural exhibitions. I was amazed by the prize-winning vegetables, especially the tomatoes and pumpkins, which were huge. Also, the animals; I remember seeing some truly massive hogs.*

*After Dad rejoined us, I remember watching the horse drawing contests in the agricultural hall. This was the 1950s version of today's tractor-pull with horses instead of tractors. There were two teams of four Morgan horses, like the Budweiser Clydesdales, hauling heavily loaded sleds, competing to see which team could pull the sled the farthest in three minutes.*

*Next, we went to the Midway, where the fun stuff was: the rides and games of chance. Our first ride was the merry-go-round, which we all did. Then my older sister, Jan, and I would stay with Dad and go on the swings, Ferris wheel, tilt-a-whirl, the Bullet, and others, while my mom took my younger brother, John, to ride the little boats, cars, and airplanes.*

*After an hour or so, we regrouped and went to the games of chance, where I aspired to win a giant teddy bear but never did. How could it be so hard to knock over one milk bottle with three softball tosses or to land the ring on the post when it looked so easy? I never saw lots of folks leaving with giant teddy bears, so I don't think it was just me having bad luck. Somewhere along the way, we kids would get cotton candy, a once-a-year Barrington Fair exclusive. After that, we trekked to the parking lot and went home, tired but happy.*

Bruce Morelli remembers:

*A valuable but little-known by-product of the fair was horse manure mixed with hay. The mixture was the basic ingredient for growing mushrooms after being cured or composted for about a month.*

*During the mid-1950s, I worked for Tony Skorput at his mushroom plant in West Stockbridge. My friend Tony (Galento) Verschot and I made many trips to the fairgrounds with Mr. Skorput to stock up on the manure mixture. It was a win-win situation: the stables had to be cleaned, and the mushroom growers needed the manure-hay mixture. One hand washes the other!*

I didn't have a readily available means of transportation to the fair, but I was able to connect with friends Bruce Morelli, Denny Raspuzzi, and Bruce's father, who worked at the fair. He dropped us off, and we were on our own until it was time to go home. Bruce told me that he played the horses a few times. He usually had to find someone to buy the ticket. In those days, a \$2 bet was big money. The three of us hung together, for the most part, touring the midway and eating hotdogs and getting sucked into playing some games that had a stuffed animal for the prize. The \$10 that my mother gave me (big money!) never lasted the whole time we were there. At that point, we wandered through the animal, vegetable, and handiwork displays until it was time to go home. Chalk up another year at the fair!

*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](mailto:johnbormo@aol.com).*



*Great Barrington Fair racetrack and viewing stands, circa the 1960s. From the collection of the Great Barrington Historical Society*

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Thanks to everyone who has donated to WSLY. We couldn't do it without your support! Keep the *Local Yokel* coming. Please send your gift today! (See response form on page 17.)

## Community News & Events

Due to the coronavirus health emergency, many meetings and events are being cancelled or postponed. We are including all information available to us up until publication, but with the likelihood of changes, readers should check with the office, department, or organization for the latest information.

### Community Health Association

Weekly blood pressure clinics are by appointment only: 9 to 10 a.m. every Wednesday and Thursday, at the Town Offices, 21 State Line Road, West Stockbridge. Info: Emilie Jarrett, RN, 232-0122, or [Emilie@charws.com](mailto:Emilie@charws.com).

### The Stockbridge Grange Dinner Returns!

On Sunday, April 11, the Stockbridge Grange will serve a takeout-only dinner at the Grange Hall at 51 Church Street, Stockbridge. The dinner will be roast pork and a choice of apple or chocolate cream pie. Pickup time is 12 to 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$12. To place an order, call (413) 243-1298 or (413) 443-4352. The deadline for ordering is April 7.

### Council on Aging

Council on Aging meetings have been suspended indefinitely due to the health crisis.

*Send your notices for Community News & Events to The Local Yokel, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266, e-mail [info@thelocalyokel.org](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org), or visit [thelocalyokel.org](http://thelocalyokel.org).*



## Do you enjoy writing or photography?

The *Local Yokel* needs regular and occasional contributors.

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



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## Grist from the Mill

by Kelt Wilska

*Musings on Books and Writing*

### Vanity, Humanity, and a Little Insanity: Print on Demand

Our high school English teachers taught us to appreciate the intrinsically high literary value of novels like *The Great Gatsby* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. These are supposed to be “good” books, filled with complex arcs of character development and hidden allusions to countless other classics. But what about the Vietnam memoir that Uncle Bill wrote a few years ago and self-published? Could we ever include it in the coveted canon of “good” books alongside the likes of Hemingway, Angelou, and Wharton? Welcome to the utterly eclectic world of print on demand.

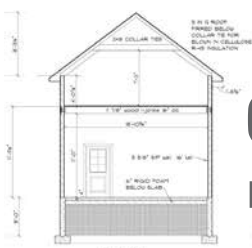
In the old days, if you were an amateur writer with no connections to the publishing world, you had one path to greatness: the vanity press. So-called because it takes a certain type of, err, personality to think that your musings on antique stamps just *need* to be seen by others, these businesses capitalized on egos. Indeed, they weren’t cheap. Hungry egos spent thousands of dollars to print far too many (often bad) books, most of which ended up in dollar sales, dumpsters, lakes, and incinerators.

But fear not, aspiring writer. With rapidly advancing technology, greedy vanity presses have become largely a relic of the past. As digital files became prevalent in the late 1990s, so did print on demand, or POD. Send a digital .doc of your book to your local POD, pick among a few easy templates, choose the number of copies (no wasteful minimum orders), and boom . . . your book has arrived, binding and all. It’s only gotten easier, with one-stop-shop machines now ubiquitous in many independent bookstores. Interested in cutting costs further? Skip straight to an eBook platform, where readers can subscribe to tens of thousands of self-published books like yours, available only in the digital cloud.

As audio was democratized with podcasts, so too was literature with POD. Half of the nearly 1 million books published in the United States last year were self-published, and the industry only continues to grow. Some critics of the medium will inevitably squawk that true literature is diluted by the work of often mediocre and unpolished writers. And while some self-publishers do make it big (Andy Weir self-published *The Martian*), perhaps hitting the bestseller list isn’t always the point. OK, Uncle Bill wasn’t exactly a wizard with words, but he was able to share his story, and to someone—be it family, friend, or perhaps another veteran—it was a welcome and worthwhile addition to their bookshelf.

Shaker Mill Books – 3 Depot St – 413 232 0251

[Shakerb@verizon.net](mailto:Shakerb@verizon.net) – [SHAKERMILLBOOKS.COM](http://SHAKERMILLBOOKS.COM)



# On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky

## A Sense of Place

It's not exactly breaking news to say this past year has been *disorienting*. As a result of the pandemic, many of us feel a sense of being out of place and time, disconnected from the people and places that help us feel moored. Like many people, I have looked for that sense of connection with where I live, seeking my sense of place and time.

Those of you following my columns (both of you!) in the past know that we designed and built a new house two years ago. After living south of town for 43 years in the old "Spencer" farmhouse (probably built by Sylvester Spencer around 1812), we relocated to a spot north of town along Albany Road in what was for many years the town gravel pit, on the shores of the majestic Mud Pond. (I wonder if 200 years from now, someone will be telepathically beaming a version of "On the Home Front" and describing what it's like to live in the old "Lipiczky/Lesser" house. "Solar panels on the roof—how quaint!")

The place on the surface of the planet I live on right now was under a mile of ice just a mere 40,000 years ago. The glaciers slowly ground up the rocks over which they moved, and the gravel that people in town mined even in my own lifetime was thus produced. The glaciers moved over "my" property long before members of our own species lived here. Humans probably didn't live on this spot until about 10,000 years ago, well before the pyramids and written language and widespread understanding of where places were in relation to one another. And yet people likely called this very spot "home," just as I do now.

Sometimes I look over the patch of land I call "mine" and wonder what it looked like, say 400 years or even 4,000 years ago. As far as the flora and fauna, there probably wasn't a huge difference, except for the obvious. But even way back then, people farmed a little and hunted and foraged here, and raised families, and visited neighbors.

Back then there were probably fewer aspens in "my" front yard. Aspens are called pioneer species. They take over where other native species have left the scene, as in clear-cutting trees to get at all that valuable gravel.

Back then there were certainly lots of chestnut trees. Even as recently as 400 years ago, chestnuts were so numerous east of the Mississippi that a squirrel could go hundreds of miles hopping from one to another. Now the only viable chestnuts are the ones Craig Moffat is trying to nurse along, a hybrid of several subspecies that will make them impervious to the chestnut blight of 1908. Don't get me started on elm trees or ash trees.

We have been planting trees, hoping to replace with hardier species those 25 or 30 aspens that have been victims of the windstorms over the past two years. It's humbling to know that we certainly won't be alive to see the maples, birches, and—yes—chestnuts we planted come even into their "teenage" years, tree-wise, that is.

But planting trees helps us feel connected to a sense of place and time. And we really need that right now.

*Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant an apple tree today. —Martin Luther*

Comments, questions, rants can be sent to [info@localyokel.org](mailto:info@localyokel.org).



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## Greetings from the West Stockbridge Library. We have good news! Yes—the library is opening!

We are ready to lend our two WiFi hotspots to residents of the town. The hotspots will be lent for two weeks. You must be 18 or older to borrow one. For anyone who is new to this, a hotspot provides online access to up to 10 devices—smartphones, tablets, laptops, and PCs—everywhere you take it as long as the service provider reaches that area.

The wonderful Friends of the Library have funded our purchase of two Chromebooks that will be ready to lend to you by May. The terms of the loan will be the same as for the WiFi hotspots. We want to express our enthusiastic thanks to the FOL for this generous gift.

Please watch for some very fun spring events in May: we're planning a story walk on the grounds behind the library, and we look forward to another Zoom nature program like the one we shared with the Historical Society a short time ago. Huge thanks to the good people at the WSHS, Mass Audubon, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Rachel, Brad, and Vicky

## THE LIBRARY IS NOW OPEN BY APPOINTMENT

**Please contact us to make a 30-minute appointment:  
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**Books-to-go will still be available  
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\*\*\*\*\*

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Berry, *Kaiser's Web*  
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Hannah, *Four Winds*  
Harper, *Survivors*  
Jemisin, *City We Became*  
Kellerman, *Serpentine: An Alex Delaware Novel*  
Mbue, *How Beautiful We Were*  
Nguyen, *Committed*  
Patterson, *Russian*  
Schweblin, *Little Eyes*

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Green, *Last Call: A True Story of Love, Lust, and  
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Kendi, *Four Hundred Souls: A Community History of  
African America, 1619–2019*  
Loughery, *Dorothy Day: Dissenting Voice of the American  
Century*  
Ngo, *Unmasked: Inside Antifa's Radical Plan to  
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## Scrapbook April 2021:

### TEST YOUR TRIVIA KNOWLEDGE!

1. The town meeting voters weighed in on a proposed four month-experiment to add what to the Police Department?
2. Who was the 2012 chair of the West Stockbridge Democratic Town Committee?
3. How long was the Public Market closed after the fire in 2012?
4. Who was the architect hired to redesign the interior of the Public Market?

1. A midnight to 8 a.m. police patrol shift 2. Shelia Murray  
3. Less than four months 4. John Fulop

## History Quiz Answer:

The "great lawn" started its relevant role in 1843 when the first church building was constructed. The lawn was the site of the church's cemetery. Before then, congregants were buried out in the West Center Cemetery. The in-town cemetery lasted until 1877 when those buried there were moved to the Village Cemetery on Route 41.

The cemetery was relocated because the town constructed what was for the time a state-of-the-art four-room schoolhouse on the lawn. It was desperately needed to service our growing immigrant population working in the iron mines and lime quarries. At that time, the town had ten one-room schoolhouses in seven districts. All ages were in one room, heated by wood, with one teacher and an outhouse. The buildings were expensive to maintain, costly to heat, and the village center was growing rapidly as a commercial district. Something had to be done.

Much debate ensued about changing from a "district" system (all ages in one class) of education to a "graded" system, which the state was encouraging. Economics finally won out, and the new building was constructed for \$4,000 (less than the total annual school budget and the funds needed to maintain the one-room buildings). This modern new building featured coal heat, blackboards, four separate rooms for age groups, and a cupola with a school bell. Most importantly, it had indoor plumbing.

The accompanying picture is likely the first ever taken of the building. Listed on the back of the photograph is Mr. French, principal; Mrs. Julia Bostwick, who taught grammar and intermediate; and Mrs. Bell Boynton, who taught the primary level. Teaching was not easy. The annual school committee report lists 50 pupils at the grammar level, 60 at intermediate, and 81 at primary. The one-room schoolhouses had similar class loads. The burden might have been eased a little, given the 30% absentee rate. It's no wonder that the school committee reported Mr. French left in 1880 to seek work in another town for "a more pleasing and lucrative situation."

By the 1930s and 1940s, however, the schoolhouse was cited by the state as unsafe and inadequate for education. It was replaced in January 1950 by the new elementary school (now the Town Offices) on State Line Road. High school students went to Stockbridge. Balgen Machine Company used the building for a short while, and then it was taken down. The bell now graces the top of the Old Town Hall. For 75 years, the village school had been the largest and most prominent structure in the center of town.



*The "old" Village School, 1877–1950. Photo courtesy of West Stockbridge Historical Society*



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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>Roger Kavanagh, Kathleen Keresey, Eric Shimelonis</i>	232-0300	ext. 319	Mon.–Thurs. 7 a.m.–3 p.m. Fri. 7 a.m.–11 a.m.
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Conservation Commission	<i>Jennifer Kujawski, Lori Rose</i>	232-0300	ext. 338	Leave Message for Inquiries
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Sewer & Water Commission	<i>Michael Buffoni</i>	232-0309		
Town Accountant	<i>Elaine Markham</i>	232-0300	ext. 317	Leave Message for Inquiries
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# April Art Calendar

Guild of Berkshire Artists | [BerkshireArtists.org](http://BerkshireArtists.org) | [infoberkshireartists@gmail.com](mailto:infoberkshireartists@gmail.com)

2021

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Visit [www.berkshireartists.org](http://www.berkshireartists.org)

**Apr 12, Collage & Mixed Media Workshop, 1-3 p.m.** Join Marion Grant for Collage & Mixed Media online using Zoom.

**Apr 13 & 27, Positive Critique, 7:30-8:30 p.m.** Join Michele Caplan for a positive critique session for Guild members via Zoom. Artworks to discuss due 24hrs in advance.

**Apr 29, Art Book Gathering, 9:30-11am.** Share a favorite book: artist, or process. RSVP: [berkshireartists@gmail.com](mailto:berkshireartists@gmail.com)

**Apr 25, Berkshire Photo Gathering, 2-4pm.** Online. See following webpage for more information: [berkshirephotogathering.com/online-meetings](http://berkshirephotogathering.com/online-meetings)

**TUESDAYS, Snapseed Workshop, 1:30-2:30pm.** Work on mobile photo editing with others via Zoom.

**TUESDAYS, Demo or Talk, 3pm.** Watch an artist demonstrate their creative process each week via Zoom.

**Art Together:** Join Eva Schuster and GBA artists together online using Zoom.

**WEDNESDAYS, 9 - 11:30am**

**WEDNESDAYS, 6:30 - 8:30pm**

**FRIDAYS, 2 - 4:45pm**

**FRIDAYS, Meet the Artist, 5 - 6pm.** Join a different artist each week to gain an insight into their processes and art.

## Light Up the Season: *A Winter Wonderland of Art*

[www.berkshireartists.org](http://www.berkshireartists.org)

**On Display Online:**  
February 5 - April 30



Marilyn Orner



Larry Frankel



Carolyn Abrams



Katherine Ludington



Lorraine Klagsbrun



Chris Morel



West Stockbridge  
**Local Yokel**

P.O. Box 238  
 West Stockbridge, MA  
 01266

**thelocalyokel.org**

April 2021

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	



**April 2021 Calendar of Events**

Due to the coronavirus health emergency, many meetings and events are being canceled, postponed, or held online. We are including all information available to us up until publication, but with the likelihood of changes, readers should check with the office, department, or organization for the latest information.

4/2	Good Friday		
4/4	Easter		
4/5	Planning Board meeting	7 p.m.	See town website for details
4/8	Zoning Board of Appeals	7 p.m.	See town website for details
4/11	Stockbridge Grange Takeout Dinner (preorder by 4/7)	12-1:30 p.m.	Grange Hall, 51 Church St., Stockbridge
4/12	Ramadan begins at sundown		
4/12	Parks & Recreation Committee meeting	5:30 p.m.	See town website for details
4/12	Select Board / Finance Committee joint budget meeting	6 p.m.	See town website for details
4/15	*** Deadline for the next Local Yokel ***		Send to <a href="mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org">info@thelocalyokel.org</a>
4/19	Patriots Day	6 p.m.	See town website for details
4/20	Vision Committee meeting	6 p.m.	See town website for details
4/22	Earth Day		
4/26	Select Board meeting	6 p.m.	See town website for details
4/30	Arbor Day		