

# Local yokel

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

West  
Stockbridge  
*February*  
2021

*This issue:*

*Virtual Jazz Series...*

*Backyard Bird Counting...*

*Bizarre Books...*

*Making a Living...*

*A reminder of fall, and hint of spring to come.  
Photo by Emily Weiland*

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005



*West Stockbridge  
Historical Society*

## West Stockbridge Historical Society Presents Free Virtual Preview of 2021–22 Jazz Series

While we are all looking forward to our 2021–22 musical season, we want to share some exciting news.

We all need music in our lives. Until we can relaunch our in-person concerts, we will be presenting a virtual Jazz Preview series of conversations with the talented musicians who will be performing live later in the season. Included will be links to some of their performances and recorded music.

We hope you agree that this is a terrific way to share our fabulous future plans as well as to continue to support performing artists while we all wait for live performances to resume.

Conversations will begin in February. Additional details will be posted on our website, [www.weststockbridgehistory.org](http://www.weststockbridgehistory.org).

Donations benefiting the Old Town Hall Restoration are always welcome.

The West Stockbridge Historical Society presents:

## WEST STOCKBRIDGE JAZZ SERIES



LAUREN HENDERSON



ARMEN DONELIAN



NED ROTHENBERG



YOKO MIWA

Live performances coming...  
Stay tuned!

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



## The Great Backyard Bird Count

*By John Parker*

As we endure these gray, damp, chilly days of mid-winter, wouldn't you like a splash of color? A little excitement? Maybe even a chance to participate in a real scientific endeavor? Well, you can! The National Audubon Society and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology are seeking participants for the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), described as a "free, fun, and easy event that engages bird watchers of all ages."

Anyone can take part, from beginner to expert, for as little as 15 minutes on one or more days during the four-day event. You can participate from your backyard, kitchen table (if you have a view of your birdfeeder), or anywhere else you happen to be. Checklists of bird observations submitted by participants provide valuable

data, telling researchers about bird populations and how they are doing, informing conservation efforts to protect them.

The 24th annual GBBC will be held Friday, February 12, through Monday, February 15. Visit the official website at [www.birdcount.org/](http://www.birdcount.org/) for more information and details on how to collect and submit your observations. If you're a little shaky with identification, there are some great phone apps such as Merlin Bird ID and eBird Mobile that are free and easy to use. And here's the link to a fascinating look at bird behavior at the birdfeeder: go to [www.allaboutbirds.org/news/](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/) and search for "Power struggles are playing out at your feeder." Give it a try and enlist as a citizen scientist—and let us know if you come up with any unusual sightings or good photos!



Thanks to James Ooley of  
Lee for these photos  
(clockwise from top left):  
Red-bellied woodpecker,  
Carolina wren, Tufted titmouse,  
Slate-colored Junco, Cardinal,  
Red-breasted Nuthatch



# 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.virtualltownhall.net/subscriber>].

## Select Board Meeting Minutes December 7, 2020

### Open Meeting

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

**Others Present:** Members of the Public

Roger called meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

### Meeting Minutes:

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Eric, to approve minutes from November 17, 20 and 23, 2020. A roll call vote was taken:

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

Motion Passed.

### Town Administrator Update:

- The Town Hall Security system is fully installed and working great. This purchase was approved at Town Meeting however, it was also included in the COVID Relief Act funding and was approved and paid for. The money approved at Town Meeting will now go back into the general fund.

- Sparkles Holiday event took place on Sunday, Dec 6 at Town Hall from 5 PM-7PM and it went well with about 40 people attending in a safe and socially distant environment.

### Other business/action items:

#### Alcoholic Liquor License Renewals:

Marie informed the Board that the Building Inspector and the Fire Chief have completed inspections of all Licensee premises and approved them for license renewal. All businesses are also up to date on taxes so there are no issues with approving license renewals.

Eric made a motion to approve all 2021 Alcoholic Liquor Licenses for the following businesses. Kathleen seconded.

#### Business Name

Truc Orient Express Inc.  
Walsh Boys Market LLC  
Grapes and Grains Inc.  
Rouge, Inc.  
Doers LLC  
Foundry West Stockbridge LLC

#### Doing Business As

Truc  
WS Public Market  
Queensboro Wine and Spirits  
Rouge  
Tap House at Shaker Mill  
The Foundry

The Board took a roll call vote:

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

Motion Passed.

...continued on page 5

Est. 1888

## Charles H. Baldwin & Sons

Manufacturers of

### Baldwin's Pure Vanilla Extract

Flavoring Extracts, Spices, Baking Supplies,  
Maple Table Syrup, Serious, Mushy & Hilarious  
Greeting Cards, Retro Toys, Candy  
& So Much More!

SWEET TREATS FOR YOUR SWEETIE!  
WE HAVE A DELICIOUS VARIETY OF  
BOXED BELGIAN CHOCOLATES  
AND ITALIAN TRUFFLES!  
NAUGHTY AND NICE  
VALENTINE CARDS!

*Happy Valentine's Day!*

Not just a store...  
It's an experience!

**1 Center Street  
West Stockbridge  
Massachusetts**

CURBSIDE PICK UP AVAILABLE.  
STORE HOURS: 10 TO 5 CLOSED WEDNESDAYS & SUNDAYS  
PLEASE CALL 232-7785 TO CHECK FOR ANY  
UPDATED COVID RESTRICTIONS.  
[www.baldwinextracts.com](http://www.baldwinextracts.com)




## PACK SHACK DOG DAYCARE

Cage & crate free exercise,  
socialization & fun. Certified Dog  
Trainer owned and operated.

**413-446-5423 & 413-446-5476**



 **K.G.COOPER ELECTRICAL**

**Karl G. Cooper Jr.**  
New Construction - Renovations -  
Service Upgrades - Generators

P.O. Box 138  
West Stockbridge, Ma. 01266  
[kgcooperelectric@yahoo.com](mailto:kgcooperelectric@yahoo.com)  
Ma. Master 12365A

**413-232-0244**



*Thank You,  
West Stockbridge!*

## *Santa's Wish List Donations*

*In our December issue, we included our annual appeal for donations to eight West Stockbridge organizations. The total received was \$8,955—\$2,330 more than last year! We thank all those who gave so generously to these important community groups that work very hard to make West Stockbridge such a special place to live. Here are the totals by organization:*

Community Health . . . . .	\$555
Friends of the Library . . . . .	\$1,255
Local Yoke! . . . . .	\$1,910
Pet Partners . . . . .	\$245
WS Beautification . . . . .	\$1,210
WS Farmers Market . . . . .	\$775
WS Fire & Rescue . . . . .	\$1,825
WS Historical Society . . . . .	\$1,180

Total: \$8,955

## February History Quiz Question:

The United States has always had strong political divisions. The Federalists and Anti-Federalists began the split during the drafting of the Constitution, and it has continued to modern times. The political turmoil in the mid-1800s over slavery, central banks, immigration, and more, was the most contentious in our history. This divisiveness led to the Civil War (also known as the War of Northern Aggression or the War for the Union, depending on where you lived in the country).

In 1850, political parties and elections were rough, and passions ran high. Probably the most oddly named political group was the Know Nothing Party (formally known as the Native American Party), a significant force in the mid-1850s. West Stockbridge was caught up in the Know Nothing movement, as were many of the towns in Massachusetts. Who was the local leader, and what made the support of the movement by townspeople here so ironic?

(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



The *Local Yoke!* is published monthly. Please mail submissions to: **The Local Yoke!, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266**, e-mail [info@thelocalyoke.org](mailto:info@thelocalyoke.org), or visit [www.thelocalyoke.org](http://www.thelocalyoke.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.

#### Entertainment License Renewals:

Kathleen made a motion and Eric seconded, to approve the 2021 Entertainment License for The Foundry.

The Board took a roll call vote:

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

Motion Passed.

#### Class II and Class III Auto License Renewals:

The license renewal for William Kie will be postponed until the December 14<sup>th</sup>, Select Board meeting.

Roger read portions of a letter of conditions previously attached to the Troy's Garage License. He asked the Board if they felt this letter is still appropriate since it focused on the cleanup of the used car lot, which had been completed some time ago. Eric felt that this attachment was no longer relative since the issues have been addressed. Kathleen asked if the Board felt a need to have an inspection done even though it is not required. The Board agreed this is something they would like to review and create a policy in place for next year for Auto Class II and Class III license renewals.

The Board discussed the idea of conducting an inspection of William Kie's business before license renewal and asked Marie to have the Zoning Enforcement Officer Brian Duval set up an informal inspection with William Kie this week and report back to the Board when they discuss the license renewal at the next Select Board meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

Kathleen questioned a possible "spillover" of vehicles into the private property next to Troy's Garage. Marie will notify Brian DuVal to check on this. The Board would like an update on Ricky Klein's property on Great Barrington Road. Marie will contact Ricky Klein for an update.

Eric made a motion and Roger seconded, to approve the 2021 Class II and Class III Auto License for Troy's Garage.

The Board took a roll call vote:

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

Motion Passed.

#### Solutions for purchasing items in a short timeframe:

Marie read a document prepared by Elaine Markham, Town Accountant that summarizes the results that she and Marie found after contacting other towns about their procedures in purchasing items.

Roger said the document repeats what we were already told about why Town credit cards are a bad idea but didn't offer a solution. Kathleen stated her concerns and frustrations in regards to not getting accounts set up in a timely fashion to help with purchases in a quick manner. Marie said she would be happy to help get accounts set up but that there are some vendors that only the Town Accountant is authorized to set up.

Eric advocated for support of the Town infrastructure. He understood the need to purchase items quickly during the last grant but suggested with this next round of grant submission, since we have more time, that we try to determine which vendors we might use and set up accounts. He feels the employees carry a heavy load when only working one day a week. He suggested the possibility of hiring more help when we receive a grant to spread out the work load. Marie will help Elaine and start working on setting up more vendor accounts.

#### Select Board Speak:

Kathleen discussed a concern with one of the recipients of the Shared Streets Grant items. She feels they are not in compliance and is worried about what this may mean for the Town. The Board discussed the situation and decided to have Kathleen meet with the recipient and discuss her concerns about compliance with the grant. She will then inform Marie of the outcome who will then see what the Board's next steps will be.

Kathleen discussed the make-up of the committee to work on the next grant application. She suggested one person from the Vision Committee, one from the Parks & Rec Committee, Curt Wilton and herself. The Parks & Rec and Vision Committee will have a representative chosen so that this committee can meet as soon as possible.

The last discussion item from Kathleen was the meeting night of the Select Board. Mondays are the same night of the week that the Planning Board meets and she would like the Board to have a discussion about this at the December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### Citizen Speak:

Joe Roy thanked the Board for recognizing all the work done at Troy's Garage and supports having inspections prior to license renewals in the future. He also is in support of any additional hired help that may be needed with grants that are awarded.

Eric made a motion to adjourn at 7:44 PM, Kathleen seconded.

Roll call vote:

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

Motion Passed.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie Y. Ryan*

Town Administrator

Documents:

Liquor License information

Summary of Information letter from Town Accountant, Elaine Markham

### Select Board Meeting Minutes December 14, 2020

#### Open Meeting

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

**Others Present:** Town Treasurer Karen Williams, Finance Committee Chair Bob Salerno and Members of the Public

Roger called meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

#### Meeting Minutes:

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Eric, to approve minutes from November 30, 2020 and December 2, 2020.:

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

Motion Passed.

#### Town Administrator Update:

- The following information was given in respect to holding a Town Meeting outdoors:
  - Voters check in at beginning of the driveway, park and stay in their cars.
  - Moderator and Select Board will have a microphone to read articles, make motions and second them. There will be one microphone that can be brought to voters who want to speak. They would need to exit their vehicle and stand next to it to speak.
  - Sam Sorrentino's company, Cutting Edge, can set up an FM transmission so that voters can listen to the moderator and other people speaking on their car radios. The cost for doing this at the Richmond Town meeting was \$400 for a 3-hour time frame.
  - Articles can be voted on by sounding their car horns or by using a colored card that the voters can hold outside their car windows, which would then be counted by Town Clerk's counters.

The Board will discuss a possible date for a Special Town Meeting at their Jan 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

- Update on unregistered vehicles at 44 Great Barrington Road:
  - In November, the Judge gave Alan Becker 60 days to get a lawyer. At the end of that time, the case will proceed whether or not he has a lawyer and decisions will be made. The property owner plans on holding an auction to clean up the property after the court has made its decisions.
- Class II and Class III license renewal for William Kie

...continued on page 6



- The Select Board had requested an inspection of Mr. Kie's proper by the Zoning Officer Brian DuVal prior to the license hearing. Brian stated he has no legal right to go on the property to do an inspection without a formal complaint having been filed.

After discussion, the Board agreed to move ahead with the license hearing. They also agreed that the by-law covering this process needs to be updated to include inspections and that update process needs to start now so we don't have the same issues next year. Eric said he would take the lead on this, starting with a call to Berkshire Regional Planning to see if they have developed sample bylaws that could be used to facilitate the update process.

- The next request for reimbursement of COVID related expenses will be submitted to the COVID Relief Act Funding in January. It is unclear at this time if the Town will be able to continue to submit COVID related expenses throughout 2021. Marie will keep the Board updated on this and what she submits in January for reimbursement.
- Forms and letters were sent to all Town Boards/Committees and Departments requesting their FY22 budget. The due date back to Marie is January 15<sup>th</sup>. Roger asked Marie to provide a timeline of the budget process at the next meeting.

**Other business/action items:**

**Conservation Commission New Member:**

Conservation Commission Chairman, John Masiero requested that the Board appoint Kathy Korte to the Commission to fill an open position.

Eric made a motion to appoint Kathy Korte to the Conservation Commission, Kathleen seconded.

The Board took a roll call vote:

**Roger, Yes      Kathleen, Yes      Eric, Yes**  
Motion Passed.

**Accept Resignation from Town Treasurer, Karen William:**

Roger read the resignation and re-appointment letter from Town Treasurer Karen Williams. This letter explained that in order to meet the requirements for retirement she could not be employed by any other Town on the date of her retirement from Stockbridge. After that date she could be re-appointed to her position as Town Treasurer of West Stockbridge.

Roger made a motion to accept Karen Williams' resignation effective December 18, 2020 and Eric seconded.

The Board took a roll call vote:

**Roger, Yes      Kathleen, Yes      Eric, Yes**  
Motion Passed.

Eric made a motion to re-appoint Karen Williams as the Town Treasurer effective December 21, 2020 and Kathleen seconded,

The Board took a roll call vote:

**Roger, Yes      Kathleen, Yes      Eric, Yes**  
Motion Passed.

**Vote to Approve Advanced Funds in-Lieu of Borrowing:**

Karen Williams explained that due to the payment of large bills for the West Center Road project cash reserves are at a point where she is recommending a transfer of \$200,000 from the Stabilization Fund (an Advance of Funds in Lieu of Borrowing). This will be repaid by June 30, 2021, after tax revenues have been received.

Roger made a motion to approve the advance of funds in-lieu of borrowing from the Stabilization Fund and Kathleen seconded.

The Board took a roll call vote:

**Roger, Yes      Kathleen, Yes      Eric, Yes**  
Motion Passed.

...continued on page 7



**THE GROUSE HOUSE**  
— ALL OCCASIONS —  
**CATERING**  
*Weddings / Backyard BBQ / Private Party*

 **FOR RESERVATIONS**  
**413-269-4446/413-329-2332**

### **Class II and Class III Auto License Renewal:**

The Town Tax Collector informed Marie that William Kie has paid all the taxes due for 2020 and plans on paying the 2021 taxes this week. She suggested that the Board approve the licenses and sign them, then give them to her to hold until he has paid up to date. The Board agreed.

Eric made a motion to approve the 2021 Class II / Class III Auto License and the Taxi License for William Kie. Kathleen seconded.

The Board took a roll call vote:

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

Motion Passed.

### **Discussion Items:**

#### **Possible change of Select Board Meeting Night:**

The Board discussed changing their meeting night so that members would have the option of attending Planning Board meetings which are also scheduled on Mondays. They decided to keep Select Board meetings on Mondays and ask the Planning Board to consider holding their meetings on the Mondays when the Select Board does not meet. Marie will pass that request to the Planning Board Chair.

#### **Select Board Speak:**

Roger had a few items to discuss:

- He has asked Marie to update her job description in preparation for her performance evaluation. He is also developing a performance evaluation form based on the form used by the Richmond Select Board. He will share both documents at the next Board meeting.
- He met with Town Accountant Elaine Markham and Marie and discussed purchasing procedures and procurement challenges encountered with the Shared Streets & Spaces program. He will present a summary of that meeting to the Board at the meeting on Thursday, December 17
- He read a letter that he would like to send from the Select Board to all Departments, Boards and Committees asking that FY22 budgets stay flat to the FY21 budgets. The Board agreed and asked Marie to send the letter.

Kathleen noted that some Boards and Committees do not have updated minutes on the website. Marie will inform the Town Clerk and ask her to make sure all Boards and Committees are complying.

#### **Citizen Speak:**

Bob Salerno urged the Board to have the Special Town Meeting as soon as possible to get the Community Preservation Act (CPA) by-law set, since it will take some time to form a CPA committee and get them trained on their roles and responsibilities.

Kathleen made a motion to adjourn at 7:25 PM, Eric seconded.

Roll call vote:

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

Motion Passed.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie Y. Ryan*

Town Administrator

Documents:

Letter from John Masiero to Appoint Kathy Korte to Conservation Commission

Resignation/Re-appointment letter from Town Treasurer Karen Williams Advance of Funds in Lieu of Borrowing Report

Class II, Class III Auto License and Tax License renewal forms for William Kie

### **Select Board Special Meeting Minutes**

**December 21, 2020**

Open Meeting

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

**Others Present:** Jeff Reynolds from Regional Resource Group, Assessing Clerk Mary Stodden, Assessor Ed Sporn, Finance Committee Chair Bob Salerno, Finance Committee members Andrew Krouss and Dan Buehler, and Town Collector June Biggs.

Roger called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.

#### **Assessors Presentation on Tax Rate:**

Roger read the agenda items and asked Jeff to begin his presentation.

Jeff read and explained the FY21 Tax Classification document. The new tax rate will be \$13.91. He asked the Board to take a vote on a single tax rate for the Town.

Roger made the following motion, seconded by Eric:

The West Stockbridge Select Board votes in accordance with M.G.L., Ch. 40, Sec. 56, as amended, the percentage of local tax levy which will be borne by each class of real and personal property, relative to setting the Fiscal Year 2021 tax rates and set the Residential Factor at 1.0, with a corresponding CIP shift of 1.0, pending approval of the town's annual tax recap by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.

Roll call vote:

**Eric, Yes Roger, Yes**

Motion Passed.

#### **Shared Streets & Spaces Grant Purchasing Discussion Update:**

Roger explained that he had a meeting with Town Accountant Elaine Markham and Marie to discuss purchasing processes related to the Summer Shared Streets grant. The process of vendor set-up for small, more local vendors can be and has been completed by Marie because no additional bank account information is required. Elaine must set-up any large and chain type vendors that require more formal bank information. Several new vendor accounts were set-up during this grant purchasing process including a Home Depot card and an Amazon account.

Elaine told Roger she was not aware of the grant until the grant funds were received so she was not able to assist in setting up vendor accounts prior to receiving the grant. Roger suggested that we learn from our experience with this grant and include Elaine and others from the beginning of the grant application process. He also suggested that the Town reach out to MassDOT to learn about their offer to assist Towns with procurement for the Winter Shared Streets Grant. Roger noted he will be sending copies of his meeting summary to Elaine, Marie and the other Board members after the meeting.

With no further business to conduct, Roger made a motion to adjourn at 10:44 AM, Eric seconded.

Roll call vote:

**Eric, Yes Roger, Yes**

Motion Passed.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie Y. Ryan*

Town Administrator

Documents:

Fiscal Year 2021 Tax Classification Hearing information

...continued on page 9



**Many thanks**  
for the generous donations to  
*Santa's Wish List*  
& to the Local Yokel for all  
they do for our community!

**Your donations are much  
appreciated for the 2021 season!**

## **Queensboro Wine & Spirits**

26 Main Street ~ West Stockbridge

**The Best Variety of  
Wine, Craft Beer  
and Selected Spirits**

***For Curbside Pickup***  
***Please call Nick, Luke or Steve***  
**413-232-8522**



Monday to Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Sunday Noon - 6:00 p.m.

*When you drink, plan ahead and do not drive !!*

# **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



**Select Board Special Meeting Minutes  
Meeting via Zoom  
January 4, 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:** William Barth, West Stockbridge Representative on the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee

Roger called the meeting to order at 6 PM.

Roger made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 7, 2020, seconded by Eric.

Roll call vote:

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

Motion Passed.

**Town Administrator Updates:**

- FY22 Budget Calendar has been approved by both the Finance Committee and the Select Board and has been posted on the Town website calendar
- Albany Road Cell Tower Lease – Charter Communications has sent certifications to Town Counsel. He can now initiate lease negotiations.
- Burning Permits – A notification about the new on-line burning permit procedure has been posted on the website. Flyers with the same information were provided to Baldwin's Hardware and the Public Market. The burning season begins on January 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The Shared Street Grant has been closed out. Almost all of the money was used. Marie, Kathleen and Curt met last week to go over the spreadsheet and ordered a few more garbage bins and benches.

**Green Communities Energy Reduction Plan Update:**

Using screen share on the Zoom application, Eric reviewed the Energy Conservation Scoping Report prepared by Commonwealth Electrical Technologies and the Town of West Stockbridge Energy Reduction Plan.

He then made the following motion, seconded by Roger:

To adopt the Town of West Stockbridge Energy Reduction Plan, as part of the Green Communities Criterion Three.

Roll call vote:

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

Motion Passed.

**Town Administrator Job Description and Evaluation Form:**

Roger said that he had created a performance evaluation form for the Town Administrator modeled on the form used by the Select Boards in Richmond and Great Barrington and that he and Marie had reviewed and updated the Town Administrator job description.

He said he would send both documents to the Board the following day. He asked the Board to set a date to meet and discuss any questions they might have with the evaluation form and the job description and another date to conduct the performance review. The Board agreed to meet on Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM to go over the evaluation form and job description (but only if needed) and to meet on Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM to conduct the evaluation.

**Host Community Agreement:**

Roger would like the Board to discuss the HCA sample document provided by Town Counsel. They agreed to do so at the next Select Board meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Town Appointed Positions:**

The Board agrees to start discussions about the list of Town appointed positions at their February 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Other Items:**

Eric said he will begin to work on updates to the Town unregistered

vehicle bylaw and to develop procedures for the annual renewal of Class II/III Licenses.

**Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA) Membership**

Bill Barth proposed that the Town consider joining the BRTA Advisory Board. He said that becoming a member town will enable West Stockbridge to have a seat at the table when discussions are held and decisions are made about the future of mass transit in Berkshire County.

He noted that there are a number of specific steps that the Town needs to take to join the BRTA, including an article that would have to be voted on at a Town Meeting, but there is no cost to the Town to become a member. The Board agreed that being a member town would be beneficial, as long as there is no cost to do so. Bill agreed to provide information to Marie so she can advise the Board on next steps to get the process started.

Related to the mass transit discussion, Kathleen asked Marie to gather information about a proposed railroad station in the State Line area.

**Special Town Meeting Date:**

Roger led off the discussion, stating that he thinks the articles that were not considered because the Special Town Meeting on November 18, 2020 was canceled could wait until the next annual Town Meeting in May 2021. Eric was concerned about waiting until May because he thought it was important to get the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Bylaw in place as soon as possible.

Based on input from the audience, the Board discussed looking into what organizational steps can be taken before the CPA Bylaw is passed so that the CPA Committee would be formed and ready to start working immediately after the Bylaw is passed. Marie said she will reach out to contacts she has at the State level and advise the Board about the steps that can be taken before the CPA bylaw is approved.

**Select Board Speak:**

Eric asked the Board for approval to assist Fire Chief Steve Traver with writing and processing grant applications for the Fire Department. Roger and Kathleen said they had no issues with Eric performing that role.

Kathleen asked Joe Roy if the Vision Committee has discussed the Noise Ordinance yet. He said he would give an update during Citizen Speak. She also asked about the process of requesting inspections of properties by the Building Inspector. The Board asked Marie to ask Brian DuVal, Zoning Enforcement Officer, to attend the next meeting to discuss this matter.

Kathleen asked about the proper procedure to report what looks like a dumpsite behind a home that borders the east side of Shaker Mill Pond. Marie said she would notify the Board of Health and asked Kathleen to provide some details on the exact location of the possible dump site.

Roger asked Kathleen if she had anything to report on the status of Winter Shared Streets Grant application. Kathleen said she is in the process of forming a committee to work on the grant and will be meeting with Joe Roy and Karen Kavanagh to get started. She has already contacted Kittenelson, the consultants provided by a Barr Foundation grant, to get their support with the development of the grant.

**Citizen Speak:**

Joe Roy reported that the Vision Committee met on December 29<sup>th</sup> and discussed the Noise Ordinance. They are looking into other Towns' by-laws and will give a report to the Select Board after the Vision Committee has their next meeting.

Roger made a motion to adjourn at 8 PM, Kathleen seconded.

Roll call vote:

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

Motion Passed.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie Y. Ryan*

Town Administrator

Documents:

FY22 Budget Calendar

Town of West Stockbridge Energy Reduction Plan

Commonwealth Electrical Technologies Energy Conservation Scoping Report

# Grist from the Mill

by Kelt Wilska

*Musings on Books and Writing*

## You Can't Make This Up (Well, Someone Actually Did!)

Needless to say, it was a tough January, and some levity is in order this month. At Shaker Mill Books, we've seen some quite "out there" titles over the years. But nothing can compete with the overflowing bibliography of bizarre books that is Russell Ash's raucous read, called, well, *Bizarre Books*. These are bound to give you a chuckle.

- *Correct Mispronunciations of Some South Carolina Names* by Claude and Irene Nuffer, 1984
- *Swine Judging for Beginners* by Joel Simmonds Coffey, 1915
- *Flattened Fauna: A Field Guide to Common Animals of Roads, Streets, and Highways* by Roger M. Knutson, 1987
- *Proceedings of the Second International Workshop on Nude Mice*, ed. T. Nomura, N. Ohsawa, N. Tamaoki, and K. Fujiwara, 1978
- *Of the Irritability of Vegetables* by Robert Lyall, 1809
- *Water, Not Convex: The Earth Not a Globe!* by William Carpenter, 1871
- *The Zen of Bowel Movements: A Spiritual Approach to Constipation* by Kathy A. Price, 1995
- *The Inheritance of Hairy Ear Rims* by Reginald Ruggles Gates and P.N. Bhaduri, 1961
- *My Prostate and Me* by William Curtis Martin, 1994
- *An Essay on Diseases Incidental to Literary and Sedentary Persons* by Samuel Auguste André David Tissot, 1768
- *How to Be Happy Though Married* by Rev. Edward J. Hardy, 1885
- *Scientific Bag Punching* by Harry Seebach, 1905
- *Queen Victoria and Ping-pong* by Gwendolen Freeman, 2004
- *Collect Fungi on Stamps* by D.J. Aggersberg, 1997
- *Build Your Own Hindenberg* by Alan Rose, 1983
- *Frog Raising for Pleasure and Profit* by Dr. Albert Broel, 1950
- *How to Cook Husbands* by Elizabeth Strong Worthington, 1899
- *Not Worth Reading* by Sir George Compton Archibald Arthur, 1914
- *A Selected Bibliography of Snoring or Sonorous Breathing* by Marcus H. Boulware, 1967

And finally, the longest for last. Take a deep breath!

- *Light and Truth. Martin's invention for destroying all foul air and fire damp in coal pits, and making the foulest pits as pure as the surface of this earth, etc. Martin proving the Scriptures to be right which learned men are mystifying, and proving the orangu-tang, or monkey, the most unlikely thing under the sun to be the serpent that beguiled our first parents.* by Jonathan Martin, 1838

Happy New Year from Shaker Mill Books. May we all find some humor this year in the most unlikely of places, or better yet, on the most unlikely of bookshelves.

**Shaker Mill Books – 3 Depot St – 413 232 0251**  
**Shakerb@verizon.net – SHAKERMILLBOOKS.COM**

## Mill Brook Sugar House


New Lenox Road

Lenox, MA

[www.millbrookmaplestore.com](http://www.millbrookmaplestore.com)



*From Tree... to Table  
and everything in between.*

Find us on 

Local Delivery  
&  
Shipping available

## SECOND NATURE GARDENS DESIGN/INSTALL/SUSTAIN

ADAM WEINBERG  
MASS CERT HORTICULTURIST

STONEWALLS, PATIOS, PATHS  
FRUITTREE PRUNING, VEGGIE GARDENS

RICHMOND, MA

413-441-7836

[SECONDNATUREGARDENS.ORG](http://SECONDNATUREGARDENS.ORG)

[ADAM@SECONDNATUREGARDENS.ORG](mailto:ADAM@SECONDNATUREGARDENS.ORG)

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

Pediatric  
Development  
Center 

**PDC  
SOUTH**

924 S. MAIN ST.

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

**Certified Therapists offer Evaluation, Home Visits,  
and currently Telehealth to eligible children.**

Dept. of Public Health Certified Early Intervention Program.

924 Main Street

Great Barrington

413-717-4083

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



# WEST STOCKBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

21 State Line Rd | West Stockbridge, MA 01266 | In the Town Offices

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

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

Greetings from the West Stockbridge Library! All of us here invite anyone in town to join us in enjoying a little time to read books and articles, listen via CDs or streaming audio, and view films and TV shows. Contact us for a library card if you need one and are ready to join. Librarians are busy preparing loans for pickup and providing assistance to our users via phone calls and online.

Lots of free electronic materials are available for everyone, whether or not you are a K-12 or college or graduate student. Please ask us any questions about how to access these materials.



Look for online postings for a fun Winter Birds program we are hosting on Zoom with our friends at the West Stockbridge Historical Society. The Audubon Society promises to wow us! The program was sponsored by the ever-generous local chapter of the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Our thanks for everyone who is making this possible!

Rachel, Brad, and Vicky

\*\*\*\*\*

## NEW ADULT FICTION

Akthar, *Homeland Elegies*  
Cline, *Ready Player Two*  
Harmel, *The Book of Lost Names*  
McBride, *Deacon King Kong*  
Miller, *Monogamy*  
O'Farrell, *Hamnet*  
Rozan, *Art of Violence*  
Smiley, *Perestroika In Paris*  
Smith, *How to Raise an Elephant*  
Wiener, *Uncanny Valley: A Memoir*  
Williams, *Liar's Dictionary*

Obama, *Promised Land*  
Sedaris, *The Best of Me*

## NEW ADULT DVDs

*Emma*

## NEW YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Jeffers, *What We'll Build: Plans for Our Together*  
Kimmelman, *Eight Knights of Hanukkah*  
Meyer, *Midnight Sun*  
Prasadam-Halls, *Rain Before Rainbows*  
Pumphrey, *Old Truck*  
Willems, *I Want to Sleep Under the Stars!*  
Wolk, *Echo Mountain*

## NEW ADULT NONFICTION

Betts, *Ruin and Renewal: Civilizing Europe After World War II*  
Burks, *All the Young Men*  
Fox, *No Time Like the Future: An Optimist Considers Mortality*  
Griffin-Nolan, *Nobody Hitchhikes Anymore*  
Irby, *Wow, No Thank You: Essays*  
Kingsolver, *How to Fly (in Ten Thousand Easy Lessons)*  
MacMillan, *War: How Conflict Shaped Us*



## Scrapbook February 2021: TEST YOUR TRIVIA KNOWLEDGE!

1. Which West Stockbridge (W.S.) student was named to the Dean's List at UMass Lowell for the fall 2011 term?
2. Who was the W.S. resident who owned Loeb's Foodtown in Lenox during 2012?
3. How long had Loeb's Foodtown been family owned in 2012?
4. Who was the gentleman that started "The Attraction Agency" in W.S.?

1. William Prescott David 2. Earl Albert 3. Forty-four years 4. Christopher Buono



# Town of West Stockbridge Announcements



## **FY21 Third-Quarter Real Estate/ Personal Property Tax Bills Mailed**

The third-quarter real estate and personal property tax bills were mailed on December 31, 2020. They are due on February 1, 2021. The Town Offices are closed, but payments can be left in the drop box to the left of the main entry doors.

## **Burning Permits Only Available Online Beginning January 15**

Brush burning season in Massachusetts begins January 15. Residents of West Stockbridge can burn brush (nothing over 4 inches) from January 15 through the end of April, weather permitting.

Beginning 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).

Permits are only issued between 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. 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 Hardware or the Public Market. If you want to burn, you must obtain a burn permit online. If you do not have access to a computer, call the fire chief at the number below on the day you would like to burn. Hours of burning are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and there is no fee.

If you have questions about the procedure or concerns about someone burning, you can speak to Fire Chief Traver directly at (413) 531-8837.

For more announcements and information, visit [www.weststockbridge-ma.gov/](http://www.weststockbridge-ma.gov/).

*Town announcements addendum:*

## **WSPD Officer Renton receives Life Saving Medal**

We are proud to announce that Michael Renton, one of our part-time police officers, has received the Life Saving Medal from the Town of Falmouth for his thoughtful and quick response to aid two young children who were in danger of drowning. Officer Renton worked there as a seasonal officer in 2019. For details, see the announcement from the Town of Falmouth posted at [www.weststockbridge-ma.gov/home/news/good-news-police-department](http://www.weststockbridge-ma.gov/home/news/good-news-police-department). Congratulations, Officer Renton!

## **Food Pantry Remains Open**

Town Administrator Marie Ryan reminds us that the Food Pantry at the Town Offices is still open any time of day or night by going to the Police Station. The police will give anyone access to the Food Pantry, which is fully stocked. She adds they are also accepting donations, either food or money. It is in a safe and sanitized area.



Marc J. Portieri Chief of Police  
21 State Line Road, P.O. Box 90  
West Stockbridge, MA 01266  
ma.gov

Tele: 413-232-8500  
Fax: 413-232-7938  
E-mail: [chief@weststockbridge-ma.gov](mailto:chief@weststockbridge-ma.gov)

## WINTER PARKING BAN November 16, 2020

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.

# Bark Mulch Topsoil Compost

Delivery

413-243-4111

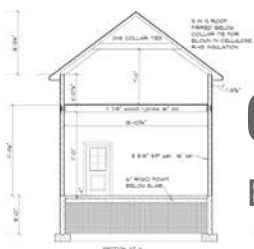
Meadow Farm LLC

PO Box 393

1125 Meadow Street

South Lee, Ma 01260

*Compost Facility Accepting Yard & Wood Waste*



# On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky

## Environmental Regulations

With the building boom going on, many people are thinking about adding on to an existing house or putting up a new structure on their land. They're often daunted by the permitting process. It may be complex, but it's there for a reason.

Last summer I was asked to design a new house in a South County town and help get the permitting process underway. Because the house is on a river, the regulations concerning environmental protections are more stringent than if it was elsewhere. This is because as a commonwealth, our elected representatives agree that protecting vulnerable wetlands and river areas is something that benefits *all* of us. Regulations exist to protect these resources for the larger community for generations. (I know, I know—jackbooted government thugs in black helicopters, yada yada yada.)

As it turns out, the property has an existing house on it that the new owner wants to demolish. Because of the proximity of the existing house to both the road and the river, we are limited to building a new house on the existing footprint. We'll need to get a special permit from the Board of Selectmen in this town because the property is "nonconforming" to the current zoning requirements. And because we're within 200 feet of a river, we fall within the "riparian" (i.e., riverfront) area of concern. So we need to contact the local Conservation Commission.

Each town in the commonwealth has a local Conservation Commission whose duty is to ensure that areas of environmental concern are protected for the good of the entire community. These areas certainly include riverfronts and wetlands.

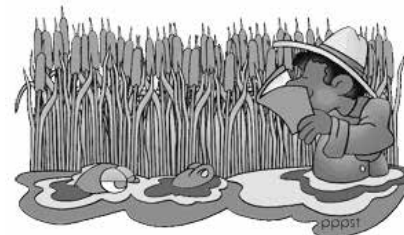
Our first step in getting approvals for building a new house is to ask the Conservation Commission for input. We have the option of an RDA (Request for Determination of Applicability) in which the commission decides whether the protective regulations apply to our situation. This includes filing an application, notifying abutters of our plan, and having the commission do a site visit to see for themselves what things look like. If they decide that no areas of environmental concern are affected by our plans, they issue a negative determination.

In our case, because we are clearly within 200 feet of the river and there are other environmental concerns (protected species of flora and fauna) involved, we will file a Notice of Intent (NOI) that also involves the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The NOI is a process requiring a much more thorough investigation of the site and our proposed plans. To help us through the paperwork, we hired a wetlands specialist who has years of expertise helping towns and prospective builders to navigate the regulations. Once the NOI is filed and processed, the Conservation Commission (along with the DEP) can issue an "order of conditions" that describes protective measures during the building of the new house.

Conservation commissions in the commonwealth are largely staffed by volunteers who have an interest in protecting our natural resources. These are not faceless bureaucrats. They are neighbors who care about their towns and the larger areas. We're grateful for their concern. Nevertheless, it's not a quick process getting to the point where we can apply for a building permit. I'll keep you posted as we move along.

*Questions, comments, rants can be sent to [info@localyokel.org](mailto:info@localyokel.org).*



## A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE



**STONE HOUSE  
PROPERTIES LLC**

38 Main Street  
West Stockbridge, MA  
(413) 232-4253

[www.StoneHouseProperties.com](http://www.StoneHouseProperties.com)



WEST STOCKBRIDGE • \$745,000

## February Donor Roll Call

Bill Barth  
 Robert & Lucy Bellville  
 Richard Brophy  
 Kathy & Doug Davis  
 Constance Eagan  
 Paula Farrell & Digger Lockenwitz  
 Friends of the Library  
 Kathryn & Henry Gallitano  
 Ricki Gardner & Will Cavanagh  
 Nancy & Walter Howell  
 Stan & Sandy Kleiner  
 Steven Knott  
 Ilana Krishnamurti  
 Lorrin & Andrew Krouss  
 Carol & Stuart Kuller  
 Sheila & Wally Lehman  
 Madeline & Martin Litz  
 Steve & Marsha McMahon  
 Cecelia & Thomas Meade  
 Chris & Kate Meyer  
 Sharon & Irving Picard  
 Joe & Anne Roy  
 Steve & Erika Sautman  
 Gordon Soule  
 Edward Stein  
 Stockbridge Grange  
 William & Jeannie Zox  
 Anonymous: 2

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.)



## 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



WANDERING JEWS  
 WONDERING JEWS  
 CULTURAL JEWS  
 MIXED MARRIAGE JEWS  
 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.



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

## The Floor Store

**413-232-7175**

[www.the-floorstore.com](http://www.the-floorstore.com)

12 Main Street  
West Stockbridge, MA 01266

Come see our variety of hardwood, ceramic, glass, carpet, bamboo and more!

We have been flooring people since 1983!



# **"We Remember When . . ."**

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

*A Series of Recollections by John Bormolini and Friends*

### **Part 1: Living on Washington Street**

*By John Bormolini*

#### **Making a Living**

While writing these articles, I have thought about many related issues that still haunt me today, like how we lived on a meager income. We didn't have a lot in the 1940s and 1950s, but at the time I didn't know that. Support was provided by my father, who worked in the lime quarry in town, and my mother, who was a "domestic," someone who cleaned houses. She later supplemented that with babysitting, often taking me with her.

Ma also took in laundry, especially during the summer months when Crane Lake Camp was in session. She started off with a clothes washer with a wringer and hung the clothes out to dry all year round. I still remember the frozen bed sheets on the lines. I will say that they sure smelled clean and fresh when we went to bed. That's how the winters were back then. We were not the only family to hang out laundry; everyone had a clothesline or two. Ma was in seventh heaven when she bought an automatic washer and dryer combination in the mid-1950s. She still hung out the laundry in the warmer months. Old habits die slowly!

In addition, my brother Joseph, who was 10 years my senior, always had a job, and he too helped support the family.



*My house in the mid-1940s. At right, my mother, brother Joe, father, and me.  
Photo courtesy of John Bormolini*

#### **Our House**

Ma and Pa were always saving for something, and by the early 1940s they had saved up enough money to buy our house that we had been renting. It came with about an acre of land and a large barn that was in poor shape but usable. There was also an outhouse in the barn!

Home heating and warm water were provided by a stove in the kitchen with a vent up to the upper floor. There was a hot water tank behind the stove with pipes that ran through the stove. Of course, the stove had to be burning either wood or coal to heat the water, a little inconvenient in the heat of summer! Lots of jokes have been made about people taking a bath once a week on Saturday nights in a wash tub in the middle of the kitchen. For me, it was real!

The stove had an oven and burners fueled by propane from a tank outside of the house. We even had an ice box for small perishable items like butter, cream, and milk that was delivered to the door and even into the house. We bought a refrigerator in the late 1940s. We were on par with many others who had saved to buy a house and continued to improve it when they had enough money saved. That was life.

#### **Heat for the Winter**

Another annual chore was to put up enough wood to last through the winter. This required going to a designated location in the forest, usually in early spring, and cutting down trees that would be left to dry until fall. The logs were moved from the woods to our house and cut into chunks by Bucky Viola and his tractor and later split so they would fit into the stove. This was not free. It came with a price tag, although I don't know how much. In the fall we ordered a load of coal from Baldwin's Hardware that was used to heat the house overnight in the winter. It lasted longer than wood and gave off better heat. We heated the upstairs through a register, or vent, that was part of the layout of the house. In winter I remember that we stoked the stove in the evening before going to bed. The upstairs bedrooms did not get much heat from the stove, so lots of blankets were in order.

#### **The Work Never Ended**

Pa worked very hard in the garden during the spring, summer, and fall. There was a small dirt cellar where potatoes, cabbage, and carrots were stored for winter. It was also where the wine was made for the year. I remember when the grapes arrived from California in October that heralded the wine-making season. Homemade wine was a year-round staple. I used to love eating the grapes—they were super sweet!

Like most families, we bought a young pig in the spring and fed it until fall. The pig lived in a sty inside the barn until late November or early December and then was butchered. Again, we did not have all of the resources to do it ourselves. We had to hire some locals, usually Italians from the lime quarry. I believe their payment was in the form of sharing some of the meat and a couple of beers after the work was done. The salami and sausages, made from the pig, were hung to age in the small dirt cellar. They were the best!

*To be continued in the March issue . . .*

*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).*

## History Quiz Answer:

The Native American Party was a nativist group that strongly opposed the Irish and German immigrants, and also Catholics. It started as a secret society with rituals, lodges, and passwords. When its members were asked about the organization, they responded by saying they "know nothing." Hence the common name became the Know Nothing Party.

The party's core tenet was a mixture of populism, overt bigotry, and foreign racism. They focused on an anti-immigrant (i.e., anti-Irish) and anti-Catholic, pro-Protestant program. A key plank was prohibiting Catholics from holding any political office and endorsing legislation requiring a wait of 21 years before any immigrant was allowed to vote. Although the party was anti-slavery and against child labor, they were hostile to the wealthy, elites, and any science or expertise. They regarded all Irish as drunk, lazy, criminal, and worse, Catholics controlled by the pope.



*Image courtesy of Bob Salerno*

The Know Nothings were the most prominent third party in American history. In the 1854 election they took the Massachusetts statehouse and governorship. West Stockbridge elected Morgan L. Boughton, a Know Nothing candidate, to the legislature. Morgan was a tinsmith and had his shop in the Baldwin Hardware building. He was also a farmer and master carpenter who built the family house on Great Barrington Road, just south of Hoffman Pottery. Morgan was middle class with real estate and personal property worth about \$90,000 in today's dollars. Born in West Stockbridge, he was a well-known successful tradesman who married a Rees, one of the earliest families.

The Know Nothing legislators enacted sweeping anti-Irish and anti-Catholic laws. They also endorsed prohibition of alcohol, directed against the immigrant community. Schoolchildren were required to read the Protestant bible in class, for example, and militia units with Irish volunteers were disbanded. One of their laws was to shun any Irish immigrants who were "weak, feeble, or insane." There was no mention of who was to judge the immigrant's condition, and the Know Nothings considered all Irish in that category—a loaded deck, for sure.

You will realize the irony of this policy when you consider that West Stockbridge in the 1850s was about 20 to 25% Irish immigrants. They worked in the lime and iron quarries and served as farmhands and domestic servants. The town was at its peak of industrial and farming growth, and immigrant labor made it happen. Also ironic was that Morgan's oldest son was listed as "idiotic and feeble" in the federal and state censuses. His great-grandfather was a poor immigrant from England.

Morgan's political career lasted just two years. The Know Nothing Party split over the issue of slavery, and their presidential candidate, Millard Fillmore, lost in 1856. Northern remnants of the party joined the newly created Republican Party, and the southern members later created what became known as the Ku Klux Klan.

**Local Yoke!**

Pick up  
a copy  
**FREE**  
AS ALWAYS  
at these locations  
around town:



Charles H. Baldwin & Sons  
Flourish Market  
Public Market  
Queensboro Wine & Spirits

Or you can choose  
to have the  
*Local Yoke!*  
mailed to you for a  
minimum annual  
contribution of \$25.

**Outdoor distribution boxes: 2 Main St., Baldwin Hardware,  
Shaker Mill Books, The Floor Store, & the Transfer Station**

# 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*.  
Enclosed is my donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
made payable to WSLY.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (as you want it to appear in acknowledgments)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address (location you would like the *Local Yokel* and/or bumper sticker sent)

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail

Check any that apply:

- ☐ I would like my contribution to remain anonymous.
- ☐ Thanks, but don't mail the *Local Yokel* to me. Save the postage; I'll pick it up myself.
- ☐ Yes, please do send me a YKL Bumper Sticker for my donation of \$35 or more.



Please mail this form with your check to:

WSLY  
P.O. Box 238  
West Stockbridge, MA 01266

## 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).

### Stockbridge Grange Dinner

The dinners at the Grange have been suspended indefinitely due to the health crisis.

### 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).

### Girdler Electric

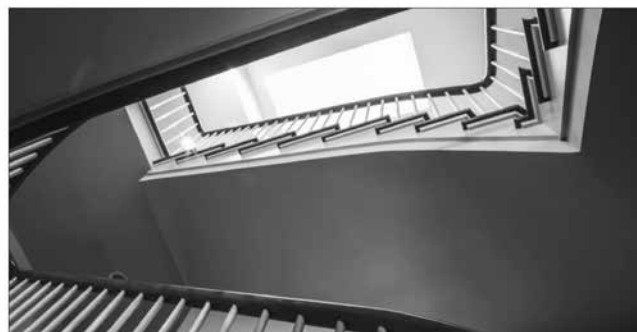
MA Master License 16255

### Barry Girdler

owner

P. O Box 20  
West Stockbridge MA 01266  
413-237-5957

[barry@girdlerelectric.com](mailto:barry@girdlerelectric.com)  
[girdlerelectric.com](http://girdlerelectric.com)



Dana Bixby ■ Architecture

[www.danabixby.com](http://www.danabixby.com) 413-232-7834





# Home Range Winery

& Vineyard

Peter Bartlett & Susan Powell

 HOMERANGEWINERY

 HOMERANGEWINERY

518-610-6821

146 Flints Crossing Road, Canaan, NY 12029



# BALDWIN HARDWARE

Depot Street  
West Stockbridge, MA 01266

Henry Baldwin

(413) 232-7757

## Town Government Boards and Commissions, Phone Directory, and Office Hours Town Offices Main Number 413-232-0300 • Fax 232-7195

Animal Control	<i>Brian Hoskeer</i>	232-0300	ext. 335	As Needed
Assessors Office	<i>Mary Stodden</i>	232-0300	ext. 303	Tues. 1–5 p.m.; Thurs. 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Board of Health	<i>Earl Moffatt</i>	232-0300	ext. 314	Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m., or by appt.
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.
Town Administrator	<i>Marie Ryan</i>			
Building Inspector	<i>Brian Duval</i>	232-0300	ext. 313	Leave Message for Inquiries
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>Steve Traver</i>	911 or 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>	911 or 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](http://weststockbridge-ma.gov) • Community and Business Website: [visitweststockbridge.com](http://visitweststockbridge.com)

# February Art Calendar

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

2021

**Jan - Apr, Light Up the Season: A Winter Wonderland of Art:** Online. Running January - April. Visit [www.berkshireartists.org](http://www.berkshireartists.org)

**Feb 8, Collage & Mixed Media Workshop, 1-3 p.m.** Join Marion Grant for Collage & Mixed Media online using Zoom. More details online.

**Feb 9 & 23, 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. More details online.

**Feb 25, Art Book Gathering, 9:30-11am.** Share a favorite book: artist, or process. RSVP: [berkshireartists@gmail.com](mailto:berkshireartists@gmail.com)

**Feb 28, Berkshire Photo Gathering, 2-4pm.** Online. See following webpage for more information: [berkshirephotogathering.com/online-meetings](http://berkshirephotogathering.com/online-meetings)

**TUESDAYS, Demonstration, 3pm.** Watch an artist demonstrate their creative process each week via Zoom. More details online.

**Art Together:** Join Eva Schuster and other GBA members making Art Together online using Zoom. More details online.

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

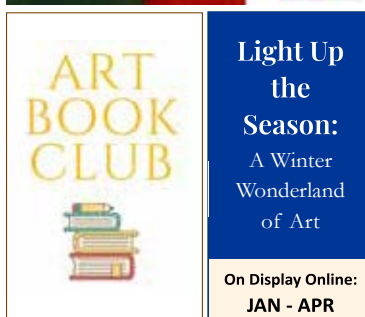
**WEDNESDAYS, 6:30 - 8:30pm**

**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. More details online.

Don't forget to join in on one of our wonderfully engaging and creative programs!

**Collage & Mixed Media | Art Together  
Positive Critique | Art Book Club!**



## Winter Wings

Explore the lives of the hardy birds that endure our Berkshire County winters with Zach Adams from Mass Audubon's Berkshire Sanctuaries. From birds at your feeder to the sparrows in the field, we will explore the world of birds in winter. Zach will discuss the benefits and struggles that birds face throughout the chilly Berkshire County winters as well as species found in our fields, forests, and back yards.

### Virtual Slide Show and Lecture

Friday, February 5, 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 BS in Environmental Science from Juniata College and has worked as an educator and program leader since the age of 18. From reptiles and amphibians to live skulking sparrow, 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 deflate the smile 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.

## COVID-19 Vaccine

Your need-to-know details about the COVID-19 Vaccine\*

### It is **SAFE**

The available COVID-19 vaccines are approved and recommended by the FDA and the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices following standard testing and approval processes.

By prioritizing resources and efforts, the vaccines were developed quickly and never at the expense of safety. For more on vaccine safety visit [mass.gov/COVIDVaccineSafety](http://mass.gov/COVIDVaccineSafety)

### It is **FREE**

The COVID-19 vaccine is being administered free of charge to all individuals by the federal government.

Insurance information may be asked for by those administering the vaccine in order to bill-back to insurance. However, you will not be charged. If you do not have insurance, you are still eligible to receive the vaccine free of charge.

### You need **TWO** doses to be **FULLY** vaccinated

Until you are fully vaccinated, you can still contract and spread COVID-19.

Not everyone will be vaccinated when you are. And while we know it dramatically reduces severe cases and symptoms, we are still learning about the protection that COVID-19 vaccines provide under real-life conditions. Continue to wear a mask, wash your hands, keep distance and avoid groups between doses and even after your second dose.

### Your two doses need to be administered from the **SAME SITE**

You must receive your second dose of the same vaccine at the same site as your first.

- **Pfizer vaccine: 21 days** following first dose
- **Moderna vaccine: 28 days** following first dose

Second doses should be administered **within 4 days** following the 21 or 28 day mark.

Before leaving your first dose appointment, schedule or confirm how to setup your next appointment.

### Find out when you can get vaccinated at [mass.gov/covidvaccinephases](http://mass.gov/covidvaccinephases)

Massachusetts developed a phased COVID-19 vaccine distribution timeline focused on equity and safety. The timeline focuses on maintaining health care system capacity, addressing inequities in health care access and the COVID-19 burden, and protecting vulnerable populations. Each phase has priority groups within them. For regularly updated priority groups and eligible jobs and medical conditions, visit [mass.gov/COVIDVaccinePhases](http://mass.gov/COVIDVaccinePhases)

\* This information was last updated 1/14/21 and applies to the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines.

For more information on the COVID-19 vaccine, phases, and more visit [mass.gov/COVIDVaccinePhases](http://mass.gov/COVIDVaccinePhases)



## 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](http://thelocalyokel.org)**

West Stockbridge  
**Local Yokel**

P.O. Box 238  
West Stockbridge, MA  
01266

**thelocalyokel.org**

February 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						



**February 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.

2/1	Select Board meeting	6 p.m.	See town website for details
2/2	Groundhog Day		
2/8	Select Board / Finance Committee joint budget meeting	6 p.m.	See town website for details
2/8	Planning Board meeting	7 p.m.	See town website for details
2/10	Select Board / Finance Committee joint budget meeting	6 p.m.	See town website for details
2/14	Valentine's Day		
2/15	Presidents' Day		
2/15	*** Deadline for the next Local Yokel ***		Send to <a href="mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org">info@thelocalyokel.org</a>
2/16	Vision Committee meeting	6 p.m.	See town website for details
2/17	Ash Wednesday		
2/22	Select Board / Finance Committee joint budget meeting	6 p.m.	See town website for details
2/25	Purim (begins at sundown)		