

# Local yokel

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West  
Stockbridge  
March  
2021

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*Cows in snowy field off Swamp Road.  
Photo by John Parker*



# Historical Society Announces Jazz Concert Series

*"Music is the art which is most nigh to tears  
and memory."*

— Oscar Wilde

The West Stockbridge Historical Society is thrilled to announce the resumption of its live jazz concert series this summer, depending on COVID-19 conditions.

Internationally acclaimed jazz and Latin vocalist Lauren Henderson is the first performer in the series. Her West Stockbridge Historical Society debut is currently scheduled for June 19, 2021. But now you can "meet" Lauren Henderson in a preview conversation with Elizabeth Morse, renowned harpist and music educator at Williams College. This interview, including some of Henderson's music, is offered as an escape from the wintry Berkshires. You will find it on the society's website, [weststockbridgehistory.org](http://weststockbridgehistory.org), in the Concerts section.

Discover Henderson's smoky, haunting voice, often accompanied by a velvety trumpet, keyboard, or acoustic solo. Her website, [laurenhendersonmusic.com](http://laurenhendersonmusic.com), includes videos of some of her memorable recordings including "Sabor a Mí," "Corcovado," "Love Is Here to Stay," "St. Louis Blues," and many others. Her album *The Songbook Session* broke the *JazzWeek* charts Top 5 in 2020.

Lauren Henderson's concert on June 19 will be followed by performances from these three diverse, greatly accomplished jazz musicians: Ned Rothenberg, Armen Donelian, and Yoko Miwa.

In the meantime, please enjoy this *complimentary* interview with Lauren Henderson for your winter viewing and listening pleasure. As soon as it is safe, we look forward to seeing you, in person, for a live performance by this incredible jazz talent.

As always, donations to the Old Town Hall Restoration Fund are most welcome. They can be sent to P.O. Box 266, West Stockbridge, MA 01266 or by going to [weststockbridgehistory.org](http://weststockbridgehistory.org).

The West Stockbridge Historical Society presents:

## WEST STOCKBRIDGE JAZZ SERIES



LAUREN HENDERSON ARMEN DONELIAN  
NED ROTHENBERG YOKO MIWA

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# 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 19, 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:** Lucy Prashker, Chair of Regional School District Planning Board, Peter Taylor, Vice-Chair of Regional School District Planning Board, Finance Committee Members: Bob Salerno and Dan Buehler, Building Inspector Brian DuVal and Police Chief Marc Portieri.

Roger called the meeting to order at 6: 04 PM.

Eric made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2020, December 21, 2020 and January 4, 2021, seconded by Kathleen.

Kathleen noted a change in some wording in the January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, Eric revised his motion to include the revised version of the January 4<sup>th</sup> minutes per Kathleen's revision.

Roll call vote:

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

Motion Passed.

**Regional School District Planning Board (RSDPB) Presentation:** Roger introduced Lucy Prashker, Chair of the RSDPB and Peter Taylor the Vice Chair. Lucy provided background information on the formation of the Planning Board and its statutory mandate to evaluate the educational and financial feasibility of consolidating the Berkshire Hills and Southern Berkshire Regional School Districts. Lucy shared the screen to review the letter the RSDPB sent to all 8 towns that covered RSDPB background, Phase 1 accomplishments, Phase 2 plans and the details of the estimated Phase 2 budget, which is \$183,700. She added that the RSDPB is requesting \$15,000 from each of the 8 member towns which would provide \$120,000 and that it is applying for a \$125,000 grant from

...continued on page 5

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## March History Quiz Question:

When the Historical Society bought the Old Town Hall from the town, the second floor was broken up into office spaces with partitions and walls. Ten years ago, we took down the partitions and cleared out the space to open up Vaber Hall. The cleanout was a fun, cathartic process and with a few surprises.

One of the biggest discoveries was the Soldiers Memorial plaque.

It was on the east wall, hidden in the former building inspector's office. It was in great shape, protected by old building plans and other detritus in his office when the town offices were upstairs. This plaque lists the names of the 23 men and boys from West Stockbridge who lost their lives in the Civil War.

Investigating this artifact, we found a number of unique features and "mysteries," but the oddest one is the term they gave the conflict. Hint: It isn't the Civil War. What did they call the conflict, and what did it say about the times?

(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.



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the State Regionalization grant program. Depending upon the funds received from the State, the \$15,000 funding request could be reduced before each town has to finalize the warrants for the May Town Meetings.

Eric thanked Lucy and the RSDPB members for their hard work and for the informative presentation. He gave his full support for the funding request as did Kathleen and Roger.

Finance Committee members, Bob Salerno and Dan Buehler added their enthusiastic support of the funding request.

#### **Town Administrator Updates:**

- Stuart Saginor, Executive Director of the State Community Preservation Coalition said there is no reason to hold a Special Town Meeting just to approve a CPA Bylaw, that it could wait for the Annual Town Meeting. He said if the Select Board would like to get a head start on this, they could appoint an Ad Hoc CPA Committee. This committee should include the people that will eventually be the permanent members on the CPA Committee once the bylaw has passed and is approved by the Attorney General's Office.
- Marie contacted Senator Hinds' office to ask about a railroad stop in West Stockbridge that had been mentioned as a possibility in the not too distant past by the Senator during a visit to West Stockbridge. An aide to the Senator said that it may have been a consideration in the past, but nothing is being discussed or proposed at this time.
- Most of the Town departments have submitted FY22 preliminary budgets and budget books are being put together. Marie is working on the Town Report and the departments are beginning to turn in their reports.

#### **Building Inspector Brian DuVal Update:**

The Board asked Brian to attend the meeting to talk about the process he follows in response to zoning violations. Brian explained that in order for him to investigate a zoning violation, he has to have a complaint in writing with the person's name on the letter and this person has to be someone who has standing, such as a neighbor or someone directly effected by the violation. He will also accept a written letter from the Select Board in regards to a resident's complaint. In response to questions regarding William Kie's property, Brian responded that as long as he has been in his position, things on that property have been let go.

Brian said he has sent numerous zoning violations to William Kie in the past regarding the storage of assorted vehicles / parts on a separate lot he owns which is not approved for anything but a single family home. He added that these violations have been ignored and even though he has brought these violations to the attention of Select Boards, including the current Board, they keep renewing his Class II / III licenses.

Roger asked Marie if she had received such a letter from Brian before the current Board approved his license renewal and she said she had not. Roger asked her to check to make sure and to advise the Board about what she found. He also asked Brian to send Marie another copy of the letter he sent previously and Brian said he would.

In a discussion about unregistered vehicles, Brian told the Board that is a civil violation of a town bylaw, not a zoning violation and therefore not part of his Zoning Enforcement responsibility. He suggested that a bylaw could be created for property maintenance and said that he has brought this to the attention of the Planning Board in the past but no action has been taken. Eric thanked Brian for attending the meeting and making the process clearer.

#### **Police Chief Marc Portieri update:**

- The department had 7,468 calls last year. Roger asked what constituted a "call" and Marc explained it is not just calls to the Police, but also all the activities that the Police log during their patrols, such as door checks when they make their rounds.
- Officer Brandon Messina is still at the Academy and is on track to graduate on March 5<sup>th</sup>.
- COVID concerns: Sergeant Rosario Messina and Officer Michael Renton both had positive COVID tests and were quarantined. Rosario returned after his quarantine and Michael will return tomorrow. All other officers were negative. Police vehicles were sanitized and an outside service was hired to sanitize the Police Department. All officers have gotten their vaccinations.
- Officer Michael Renton received the Life Saving Medal from the Town of Falmouth for saving two young boys from drowning in 2019. He is also a nominee for the Carnegie Hero Award and will be receiving a citation from the State for this lifesaving measure.
- The Judge in Ricky Klein's court case against Alan Becker has continued the case until February 11<sup>th</sup> to give Alan Becker more time to get an attorney. As soon as this case is over, Ricky Klein is planning to hold an auction to clean up the site.
- All Police Officers are preparing to take their required annual 40 Hour Inservice Class Training. This training includes responding to domestic violence events and how to handle mental health related issues. Eric asked if the Police have a mental health professional on call for assistance. Marc explained they do have someone from the Brien Center in the Great Barrington office who is available and has assisted them several times.

#### **Unregistered Cars update:**

In response to questions from the Board about the process followed and the outcome of the last Board directed effort to address unregistered vehicles, Marc provided the following update:

- January 2019 – Police conducted a drive by review of unregistered vehicles in Town. There were 36 addresses where they observed one or more unregistered vehicles. They gave each property owner a verbal notice and one month to comply with the Town Bylaw to register or remove the vehicles.
- February 2019 - Police gave another verbal warning to the owners and 30 more days to remove the vehicles. The winter months made it difficult for many owners to remove vehicles due to snow. Some cars were frozen to the ground.
- April 2019 -Police gave a written warning to those still not in compliance.

*...continued on page 7*

## Charles Richardson “Dick” Moffatt, 101, owner of Charles H. Baldwin & Sons

*For most of his working career, you could find Dick at his business, Charles H. Baldwin & Sons, making extracts from old family recipes, or engaging clients throughout New England and the Tri-State area.*

**BY EDGE STAFF**

**POSTED ON FEBRUARY 12, 2021**

Charles Richardson (Dick) Moffatt passed away at Kimball Farms on February 6, 2021. Although he lived to be 101 years old, a close family member says, “he was like a perpetual 24-year-old, always ready for an adventure ... always willing to learn something new and yet appreciate the old.”

Dick was an avid public servant, chairing the regional school board when Monument Mountain High School was designed and built, and active in Kiwanis, the West Stockbridge Congregational Church choir, Wisdom Lodge, and the Austerlitz and West Stockbridge Historical Societies. He was a very active member of the H.H. Franklin Club — if Dick wasn’t at community events, you could see him tooting around the Berkshires in one of his antique Franklin automobiles.

For most of his working career, you could find Dick at his business, Charles H. Baldwin & Sons, making extracts from old family recipes, or engaging clients throughout New England and the Tri-State area.

Dick was born on March 30, 1919, in Manchester, N.H. His family has roots in West Stockbridge dating back to the 1870s, when his grandfather ran a business on Center Street and Main Street. Dick grew up in Summit, N.J., graduated from Newark Academy, and then attended college at Rensselaer Polytechnic in Troy, N.Y. He graduated in 1941 with a mechanical engineering degree, and shortly thereafter joined the Merchant Marines, taking voyages to ship supplies to Casablanca, Italy, the Persian Gulf, and the Philippines during WWII.

In 1953, Dick married Elaine Baldwin, also originally from West Stockbridge. Dick and Elaine were married for more than 50 years, Elaine teaching kindergarten in Richmond, and later home economics in the Berkshire Hills Regional School System. The pair traveled extensively through Europe and across the U.S., where they visited most of the presidential libraries. The much-loved Elaine died in 2005, and Dick moved his residence to Kimball Farms.

Dick is survived by his five children, Craig, Tricia Gans, Earl, Miles, and Melissa Ferrara; daughters-in-law Laurie Norton Moffatt, Jackie Moffatt, and Amy Moffatt; and son-in-law Phil Gans. He is also survived by seven grandchildren, Sara, Mika, Max, Daniel, Hillary, Samantha, and Leigh; and six great-grandchildren, Tucker, Henry, Kennedy, Levi, Hattie, and Poppy.

Those wishing to, may make donations in his memory to the West Stockbridge Congregational Church c/o Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230. To send remembrances to his family, please go to [www.finnertyandstevens.com](http://www.finnertyandstevens.com)



*Charles Richardson “Dick” Moffatt*

- June 2019 - Police wrote criminal complaints for the remaining owners not in compliance and they had another 30 days to comply.
- July 2019- there were only 5 property owners that were not in compliance. These cases went to Magistrate Court. The Magistrate held hearings for these five owners. Three showed up at court and have since complied.
- The remaining two property owners are out of state companies. Neither have responded to letters or calls, so the court has dropped those cases for now.

Marc believes the next time the Town goes through this process it should be handled differently. He suggested that the Town consider having a Town Code Enforcer who would be able to go on all properties to ensure compliance with Town Bylaws, which the Police and Zoning enforcement officer cannot do.

Roger stated that it's clear that the Town does not have a working process to deal with unregistered vehicles. Marc said he will get more information on a Town Code Enforcer and get back to the Board.

**Select Board Speak:**

Eric inquired about the issue raised by a resident last fall concerning the increase in truck traffic on Great Barrington Road. At the

time, the Police Chief and DPW Director attributed some of the increased traffic to trucks from Formel Salvage in Housatonic and the Board sent a letter to the company asking for a meeting. The company, through it's Attorney, agreed to speak to the Board but not at a public meeting. The Board suggested a meeting with the Board Chair and the DPW Director which is in the process of being scheduled. Roger apologized for the delay in setting up this meeting and said he would make it a priority.

Eric said there is a real need to create a bylaw that addresses issuing and renewing Class II and Class III licenses and that he hopes to have one ready to be voted on at this year's Annual Town Meeting.

**Citizen Speak:**

None

Roger made a motion to adjourn at 7:51 PM, Eric seconded.

Roll call vote:

**Eric, Yes**

**Roger, Yes**

**Kathleen, Yes**

Motion Passed.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie W. Ryan*

Town Administrator

Documents:

Letter from the Regional School District Planning Board

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## West Stockbridge Farmers Market Celebrates Its 10th Year!

### Opening Day Is Thursday, May 27

We are so happy to announce we are gearing up for our tenth year on The Green! The 2020 season was challenging, but with everyone's cooperation, we did it! There was so much positive feedback from our customers, really showing us how much the WSFM is an appreciated part of our community. Between our vendors, who were amazing, and all of you who came to the market and were so patient, kind, and cooperative, we made it work.

We look forward to the 2021 season and hope it will be less challenging, but whatever it brings, we will rise to the occasion and bring you the best we can. As it stands, we will be following the same safety protocols as we did last year and will make changes when and if necessary. We care about everyone's safety and will continue to make the market as safe as possible for everyone. And once again we will bring you the best of the best, the freshest produce, delicious baked goods, meats, cheeses, fresh flowers, maple syrup, artisanal bread, and much more.

This year we could really use some help at the market. If you have any free time, we ask you to consider becoming a volunteer. It's a great way to be involved in your community and to help a worthy cause, on whatever level is comfortable for you. Please contact us if you would like to know more about ways you can help. We would be very glad to hear from you (e-mail us at [WSFarmMarket@gmail.com](mailto:WSFarmMarket@gmail.com)).

We hope you are all staying safe and healthy. Spring will be here before you know it, and we look forward to seeing you on The Foundry Green on Thursday afternoons.

WSFM, which celebrates its 10th season, is located on The Foundry Green, Harris Street, and will run every Thursday, May 27 through October 7, 3 to 6 p.m. For more information, please see our website, [WestStockbridgeFarmersMarket.org](http://WestStockbridgeFarmersMarket.org), and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

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# "We Remember When . . ."

## Growing Up in West Stockbridge in the 1950s

*A Series of Recollections by John Bormolini and Friends*

### Living on Washington Street: Part 2

*By John Bormolini*

#### Modernizing the House

Ma and Pa had saved enough to "modernize" the house by the late 1940s. The dirt underneath the living room of the house was dug out by hand with a shovel and wheelbarrow. After enough dirt was removed for the new cellar (nobody had a "basement" in those days), a concrete floor was laid and the walls were lined with cinder blocks. A new furnace for heat arrived, along with radiators installed in all of the rooms. A 200-gallon tank was placed in the cellar for the fuel oil.

The construction plan included an indoor bathroom, but first the septic system had to be enlarged. The workers didn't install a tank but instead dug a hole about 8 feet deep and 7 to 8 feet wide, lined it with rocks, and covered the hole with planks. The sandy soil provided a good leach field. A pipe was laid to drain the sinks, shower, and toilet. We never had a problem!

The bulk of the work was probably done over a 12-month period in the late 1940s, but there was always more to do. Pa was very proud of the work accomplished to modernize the house, making life easier for all of us.

#### Then the World Changed

Our world changed in 1951 when my father died at age 54. It was the end of wine making and keeping a large garden. My mother became the sole provider. Her meager income was supplemented by Social Security death benefits. My brother Joe chipped in when he could. He was serving a two-year tour of duty in the army at Fort Dix, New Jersey, and then at Camp Drum in Watertown, New York. He learned to cook in the army, which became a lifetime vocation when he was discharged. Joe loved to cook.

Sadly, I didn't get to know my father very well. His work schedule and chores took up most of his time. He would go to bed early and get up early. Since we had no car, someone would pick him up and drive him to and from the lime quarry.

Two customs from that time remain vivid in my memory. When someone passed away, a small bouquet of flowers was attached to the front door, and the deceased would be embalmed and returned to the house. So it was with Pa. He was brought home, and the casket was set up in the living room where people could come pay their respects. The funeral would then move from the house to the church and then to the cemetery. He died in March, and it was one of those cold winters. Amen.

When Joe was discharged, he immediately looked for a job cooking. He soon began working at the Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth in Canaan, New York. A few years later, he landed a position in the kitchen at the Eastover resort in Lenox. He moved into a small apartment in Lenox that put him closer to his work. Little did I know at the time that Eastover would become a pivotal experience for me when I started working there in the fall of 1957.

#### Ma Takes in Boarders

With a couple of empty rooms and a heavy demand for housing due to construction of the Mass Pike, Ma decided to take in weekly boarders to earn additional money for our family, which now consisted of just the two of us. Ma loved to work, and she was loved by those she took in. The money was good, and we had the weekends for ourselves. Included with the room was an evening meal. We were sort of a family again.

One of the boarders was Gerard Ange, a Frenchman. He was in town working construction while his family stayed down in New York City. He was quite the gentleman. He did quite a few funny things. Ma was generous with supper and always trying to get the guys to *mangia* (that's "eat" in Italian) and would feed them even if they had enough. One time, Mr. Ange got up from the table with his plate and ran outside because he was full and couldn't eat another forkful. Ma reluctantly relented.

Another time, Mr. Ange had a headache and swallowed an Alka-Seltzer, thinking it would remedy the headache. Foam started to come out of his mouth like a geyser! He ran outside to avoid the laughter. Mr. Ange was an affable gentleman, and we stayed in touch with him after he left our house. He remained in West Stockbridge, built a house, and moved his family to town.

The other two boarders were brothers from the Poughkeepsie area. They took to me, and Cliff, the younger brother, tried to teach me how to drive. He knew I liked to hunt and sold me a single-shot bolt action .22 rifle for \$10. My .22 and I spent a lot of time together. I used it mostly for target shooting. I still have it to this day, 66 years later.

I always wonder where the years have gone. I fondly recall growing up in the 1950s like they were yesterday.

*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).*



*The house I grew up in was sold in 1986 after my mother passed away. This photo was taken in 2019. The original structure was the two larger buildings. The mowed area was part of the pasture owned by Vasco Zanconato, where he grazed two "milkers." Photo by Anita Norton*

## 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 Yoke, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266, e-mail [info@thelocalyokel.org](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org), or visit [thelocalyokel.org](http://thelocalyokel.org).



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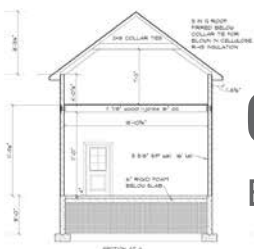
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# On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky

## How COVID-19 Has Changed Trends in House Design

It's been just a year since all (well, sadly, not *all*) of us have been hunkered down in our self-isolating pods, working from home, managing schoolchildren in virtual electronic classrooms, Zooming with business associates and friends, shopping online for *everything*, and having piles of packages delivered to our houses.

You'll not be surprised to learn that designers, architects, and builders have risen to the challenge of how to make houses more amenable to the "new normal." Large open floor plans that accommodated big social gatherings are no longer in demand. Instead, home offices, quiet nooks, multifunctional spaces, and larger kitchens are what people need now. Spaces for kids to set up on laptops and do schoolwork have become much more important than a great room for entertaining.

More people are gardening and cooking for themselves than before, so family-oriented kitchens with room to prepare meals are needed. And with many people doing fewer but larger grocery forays to supermarkets, food storage space is at a new premium.

As more people realize they can work remotely as well—and sometimes *more* efficiently—from their own home offices, and as the trend for city folks to move to less congested areas like Berkshire County increases, the home office has become the most requested feature in new homes and in remodeling projects.

Sometimes the so-called home office is just a clear space in an existing room like the kitchen, bedroom, or even the dining room during the day. Or it can be a converted room with a door to separate the space from the other activities of a family confined inside. In any event, a good broadband connection is one of the main requirements. Electronic range extenders are useful in providing more WiFi access throughout the house. Another hot item these days is a standing desk with a motorized lift so sedentary workers can move from sitting (actually dubbed the "new smoking") to standing with a push of a button.

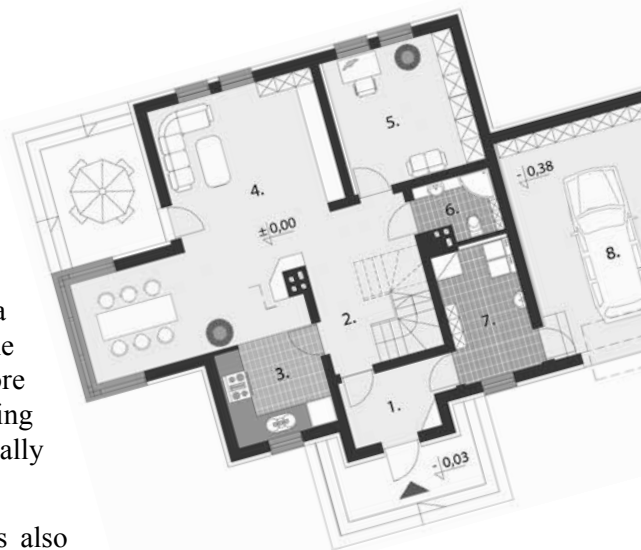
Streaming shows on Netflix, Amazon Prime, and many other outlets has also become very popular during the pandemic. It's another golden age of TV, with even first-run movies released to streaming services to help the industry make up for the lack of movie theater patrons.

One suggestion from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for social interactions is to avoid gathering with non-household members inside. So even in winter, people are getting together outside in new ways. You've probably seen the propane heaters for outdoor dining, even at Rouge and Six Depot right here in town. But these heaters are also in high demand for backyards, decks, and patios outside people's homes. The firepit, a throwback to 20,000 years ago, has become popular again. There's something very primal and comforting about huddling with loved ones around an outdoor fire.

Other outdoor activities like bird feeding and watching have gained a huge following. John Parker's article about the annual bird count in last month's *Local Yokel* attested to that. Sales of bird feeders and birdseed have increased enormously in the last year.

It remains to be seen whether these trends will continue once enough of us are vaccinated and the danger of the pandemic lessens. But I suspect that working remotely and home cooking will be with us for years to come.

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





# Town of West Stockbridge Announcements



*Note: This column is edited for space and timeliness. For more information, visit <https://www.weststockbridge-ma.gov/>.*

## **Select Board requests public input on proposed Host Community Agreement**

To ensure the town is prepared to deal effectively and equitably with a potential request from an Adult Use Marijuana and/or Medical Marijuana Dispensary operator, the Select Board asked our town counsel for a template of a Host Community Agreement (HCA) Policy and Procedure that West Stockbridge could use as a model. Town counsel provided the Draft HCA Policy and Procedure (available on the town website) that includes language and provisions very similar to HCA policies currently used by several other communities in the commonwealth.

The Select Board has reviewed the draft document and made some minor changes to just the introductory paragraph. We believe the rest of the document defines a thorough and comprehensive process that will enable the town to manage any potential requests submitted in the future.

Before taking final action to approve this policy, the Select Board is asking the public to review the draft and provide feedback we can consider and potentially incorporate into the final policy document.

Please send your comments and feedback no later than March 12 to Marie Ryan via letter or e-mail ([admin@weststockbridge-ma.gov](mailto:admin@weststockbridge-ma.gov)).

## **Excise Tax due in full by March 4**

The first commitment of motor vehicle excise tax bills for 2021 was mailed on January 28. Payment is due in full by March 4. Because the Town Offices are closed, payments may be mailed, paid online at [www.weststockbridge-ma.gov](http://www.weststockbridge-ma.gov), or placed in the drop box to the left of the front doors at the Town Offices.

## **Important COVID-19 vaccine information**

To register for a vaccination appointment, visit [www.maimmunizations.org](http://www.maimmunizations.org) and search for a clinic or <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccination-locations-for-ind...> and click on one of the locations to get to the registration page. If you do not have Internet access, you can call the Council on Aging in Williamstown, Adams, North Adams, Dalton, Pittsfield, Lenox, Lee, Stockbridge, Great Barrington, or Sheffield for assistance.

For those who are not yet eligible for vaccination, you can learn more about the phases and when you might be eligible for a vaccination at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/when-can-i-get-the-covid-19-vaccine>. This webpage is updated at least twice a week. If you are a veteran, you may be able to get a vaccination at the VA clinic in Northampton. Call (413) 584-4040 for more information and an appointment. All veteran vaccinations are administered in Northampton. The VA is prioritizing veterans by age, starting with those 85 and older and moving to lower age groups as they get vaccine supplies.

Phase 2 priority groups for those age 75 and older have changed. The second priority group will now be those 65 and older, and those with two or more health conditions that put them at high risk of severe COVID disease, followed by a large group of essential front-line workers. To see a list of essential workers, visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/when-can-i-get-the-covid-19-vaccine>.

You cannot register for an appointment if you are not yet eligible for the vaccination; you will be contacted by your physician or notified via the media, your municipality, or your employer when registration information is available.

More individuals are eligible for vaccination in Massachusetts than there is vaccine. The Berkshire County Vaccine Team will continue to add appointments and new clinic dates as more vaccine becomes available. We ask for everyone's patience as we get to everyone in turn. Please remember to help keep the community safe until we are all vaccinated by wearing a mask and continuing to socially distance.

*Editor's note: Community Health Association Director Emilie Jarrett adds, "There is now a Berkshire County website dedicated to the COVID-19 vaccination roll-out. It is very comprehensive and has lots of good information." The link is [www.getvaccinatedberkshires.org](http://www.getvaccinatedberkshires.org).*

## **Burning permits available online only**

Residents of West Stockbridge can obtain permits to burn brush (under 4 inches) from January 15 through the end of April, weather permitting. Burning permits will be available online only and 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 (413) 531-8837 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 call Fire Chief Traver directly.



# Home Range Winery

& Vineyard

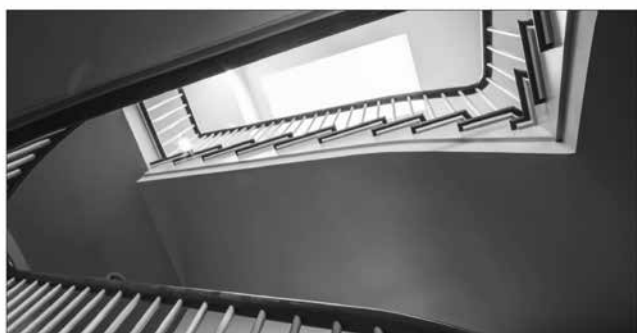
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Please check our website [www.ahavathsholom.com](http://www.ahavathsholom.com) for information about our Zoom services, events and updates.

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.

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## Grist from the Mill

by Kelt Wilska

*Musings on Books and Writing*

### No Longer Bound for the Dust Bin: A Brief History of Dust Jackets

On a pleasant afternoon browsing at your local independent bookstore, you decide to treat yourself to the newest title from your favorite author, bound in a sleek and tastefully illustrated dust jacket. You bring it home, crack it open with a cup of tea in hand, and . . . #\$\$%! How did the jacket get torn in the hour since buying it? Afternoon ruined. But why? The book itself hasn't even been touched. Why have we come to care so much about a shiny piece of paper that is loosely wrapped around a bound bundle of . . . paper?

When exploring bibliographical history, it's important to remember that books were not always mass-printed for common folk. In the Middle Ages, literature was a luxury largely for the wealthy. Few knew how to read, and making a book was a painstaking process of hand-printing and sewing. For protection, scrolls were often wrapped in animal skin, and early religious texts were sometimes enclosed in a leather cover that could be hung from a belt.

The first real papery precursor to the dust jacket was created in the early 1800s to shield the gilded boards of leatherbound texts. Originally called a dust wrapper, this was simply a piece of paper wrapped around the book as we do for a gift. And, like wrapping paper, it was promptly thrown away. At first, these dust wrappers were blank, but over time, more and more text was added to them. The first titled wrapper was printed in 1829 for an English annual called *Friendship's Offering*. Then came advertisements for other books, and, hey, how about an ad from your local pharmacy? No joke!

By the early 1900s, full dust jackets with flaps were commonplace. This again was tied directly to socioeconomic trends. As more and more people learned to read and printing technology advanced rapidly, mass-produced books needed protection against the elements if they were to be hocked on the streets. Illustration was minimal. That is, until the Roaring 20s, when frivolous and colorful lifestyles leached right onto the dust jackets, outshining the books themselves.

Fast-forward another hundred years, and dust jackets seem to have become ever more elaborate. A flimsy piece of paper once made to be disposable has ingrained itself in our literary culture. And yet that ephemeral quality is exactly what draws collectors and everyday bibliophiles alike—a treasured glimpse into a different time. Thus the difference in value. A first edition of *To Kill a Mockingbird* without a dust jacket is currently valued at \$1,000. With a dust jacket, \$20,000. Are these odd paper creations really still necessary? Probably not. But as so many tactile traditions fall away in the digital age, it is refreshing to see one stubbornly hanging on.

Shaker Mill Books – 3 Depot St – 413 232 0251

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



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The *Local Yokel* is published monthly. Please mail submissions to: **The Local Yokel, P.O. Box 238,**  
West Stockbridge, MA 01266, e-mail [info@thelocalyokel.org](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 Yokel* is supported in part by a grant from the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.





# WEST STOCKBRIDGE 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

Warm greetings to all from Rachel, Brad, and Vicky at your community library. We are all hoping to follow a rainbow to the proverbial pot of gold this month . . . or maybe a pot of vaccines?

We are presenting a thought-provoking Zoom event on Saturday, March 6, 1 to 2:30 p.m., and we invite everyone to join the conversation. Share your views and hear from others. Please contact the library at 232-0300, ext. 308, or [weststockbridgelibrary@gmail.com](mailto:weststockbridgelibrary@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.

\*\*\*\*\*

This month we bring you this year's Newbery Awards for excellence in children's literature along with the Caldecott Award winners and newer awards such as the Coretta Scott King awards. You don't have to be a kid to enjoy the truths and beauty that overflow these award-winning books that were carefully chosen.

## NEW YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Bradley, *Fighting Words*  
Cabrera, *Me & Mama*  
Elliott, *Place Inside of Me: A Poem to Heal the Heart*  
Keller, *When You Trap a Tiger*  
Kelly, *We Dream of Space*  
Lewis, *Chronicles of Narnia Box Set: 7 Books*  
Lindstrom, *We Are Water Protectors*  
Shamsi-Basha, *Cat Man of Aleppo*  
Soontornvat, *All Thirteen: The Incredible Cave Rescue*  
Soontornvat, *Wish in the Dark*  
Weatherford, *Box: Henry Brown Mails Himself to Freedom*  
Underwood, *Outside In*

You are invited to hear the Powerful and Uplifting

## RACE AMITY ZOOM PRESENTATION

Lecture and Media Presentation  
by Award-Winning Race Relations Media Producer,  
Writer, Author, and Documentarian  
William H. "Smitty" Smith, Ed.D.

Co-presented by:



March 6  
1-2:30  
on Zoom

Preregistration is required:  
[bit.ly/raceamity](https://bit.ly/raceamity)

This program is funded by a grant from  
the Central Berkshire Fund of  
the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

413-623-5483 [info@bwlibrary.org](mailto:info@bwlibrary.org)  
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[bit.ly/WestStockbridgePublicLibrary](https://bit.ly/WestStockbridgePublicLibrary)

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## Scrapbook March 2021: TEST YOUR TRIVIA KNOWLEDGE!

1. What was the mission of the Attraction Agency?
2. Which West Stockbridge resident purchased the Monterey General Store?
3. What store had an electrical fire and one resident rescued from a second-floor overhang?
4. What were the names of the two hound dogs missing from our town who made their way to North Adams?

1. It was connecting clients to significant others without the impersonal, potentially dangerous unknown posed by the Internet;  
2. Scott Cole; 3. Public Market; 4. Jilly and Moose

## History Quiz Answer:

The Soldiers Memorial plaque was installed in the Old Town Hall to honor the soldiers from West Stockbridge who died during what we now call the Civil War. It was put up in 1881 at a cost of \$100, a significant sum for the town at that time. Many of the more than two hundred veterans from the town had returned home 15 years earlier, but the sentiment about the war was still high. The experience was not easily forgotten. Two of the members of the Select Board and many town officials were former veterans.

The memorial plaque doesn't call the conflict the Civil War. The large heading is "Soldiers of the War of 1861," and the text below describes it as "The War for the Union." Nowhere is it referred to as the "American Civil War" or the "Civil War." These terms on our memorial reflect the sentiment at the time, many years after the war ended.

The "War of 1861" was the army's official name for the conflict. It didn't offend the southern states or refer to the underlying political split between the southern states and the North. It was a safe term. In 1881, reconstruction was abandoned by the Hayes administration with "quasi-slavery" and repression reinstated in the South. The Hayes administration didn't want to upset the current order, and words have meaning.

The "War for the Union," in contrast, was strictly used by the northern states. It came from an 1861 abolitionist lecture by Wendell Phillips. The term reflected our town's view, and Massachusetts in general, that this was not a squabble between two family members but a more significant fight to preserve the "United States" and put down a rebellion over slavery. It was as much a political statement as a description of the conflict.

The southern states had different terms for the war. The "War Between the States" is common. You can even see a monument referring to the "War of Northern Aggression" (Savannah), a 1950s pro-segregation term. Historians such as James McPherson criticized the name because the Confederacy "took the initiative by seceding in defiance of an election of a president by a constitutional majority" and "started the war by firing on the American flag."

Words on memorials and monuments are important and reflect the times. Our Soldiers Memorial mirrors the attitudes and sentiments expressed 140 years ago.



*War of 1861 Memorial. Photo by Bob Salerno*

# 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.

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- ☐ Yes, please do send me a YKL Bumper Sticker for my donation of \$35 or more.



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## 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**

## March Donor Roll Call

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<b>Town Government Boards and Commissions, Phone Directory, and Office Hours</b> <b>Town Offices Main Number 413-232-0300 • Fax 232-7195</b>				
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: <a href="http://weststockbridge-ma.gov">weststockbridge-ma.gov</a> • Community and Business Website: <a href="http://visitweststockbridge.com">visitweststockbridge.com</a>				

## Massachusetts timeline for COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution

Most people will be vaccinated in phase 3 of Massachusetts' vaccine timeline. Learn how the plan was developed and why specific groups have been prioritized.

### Each state has their own plan

The CDC created high-level recommendations. Each state then developed their own plan based on this guidance and their own needs and communities.

### Our timeline achieves **key priorities** for MA

1. Maintaining health care system capacity
2. Addressing inequities in health care access and COVID-19 burden
1. Protecting vulnerable populations

### It was developed after consulting key community leaders

The Baker-Polito administration and Department of Public Health developed the phases with the Massachusetts Vaccine Advisory Group, which includes leaders from:

- Health care
- The faith community
- Community organizations
- Local government

### Learn when you can expect to be vaccinated at [mass.gov/covidvaccinephases](https://mass.gov/covidvaccinephases)

Massachusetts has three phases with priority groups within them. Most people will be vaccinated in phase 3.



### Information will be regularly updated as we move through phases

You may be contacted by your employer, place of residence, or primary care if you are in one of the phase 1 or phase 2 priority groups when it is eligible or actively vaccinating, otherwise check [mass.gov/covidvaccine](https://mass.gov/covidvaccine) for updates or any action you might need to take.

No action is required at this time for phase 3, but check [mass.gov/covidvaccine](https://mass.gov/covidvaccine) for all updates.



## Light Up the Season:

### *A Winter Wonderland of Art*

an Online Art Show | Guild of Berkshire Artists | [BerkshireArtists.org](https://BerkshireArtists.org)

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



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[www.BerkshireArtists.org](https://www.BerkshireArtists.org) | [Guild of Berkshire Artists](https://www.GuildofBerkshireArtists.org) | [BerkshireArtists@gmail.com](mailto:BerkshireArtists@gmail.com)

## 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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://mass.gov/COVIDVaccinePhases)



## March Art Calendar

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

2/21

### Feb 5 - Apr 30, Light Up the Season: A

Winter Wonderland of Art: Online.

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

### Mar 8, Collage & Mixed Media Workshop,

1-3 p.m. Join Marion Grant for Collage & Mixed Media online using Zoom.

### Mar 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.

### Mar 25, Art Book Gathering, 9:30-11am.

Share a favorite book: artist, or process. RSVP: [berkshireartists@gmail.com](mailto:berkshireartists@gmail.com)

### Mar 21, Berkshire Photo Gathering, 2-4pm.

Online. See following webpage for more information: [berkshirephotogathering.com/online-meetings](https://berkshirephotogathering.com/online-meetings)

### TUESDAYS, Snapseed Workshop,

1:30-2:30pm. Work on mobile photo editing with others via Zoom.

TUESDAYS, Demonstration, 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](https://www.berkshireartists.org)

On Display Online:  
February 5 - April 30



Marilyn Omer



Larry Vranek



Carolyn Abrams



Katherine Ladington



Lorraine Klageson



Chris Mond

West Stockbridge  
**Local Yokel**  
 P.O. Box 238  
 West Stockbridge, MA  
 01266

**thelocalyokel.org**



Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## March 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.

3/1	Select Board meeting	6 p.m.	See town website for details
3/3	Select Board / Finance Committee joint budget meeting	6 p.m.	See town website for details
3/5	Cemetery Commissioners' meeting	9:00 a.m.	See town website for details
3/8	Parks & Recreation Committee meeting	5:30 p.m.	See town website for details
3/8	Select Board / Finance Committee joint budget meeting	6 p.m.	See town website for details
3/14	Daylight Savings Time begins (set clocks ahead 1 hour)		
3/15	*** Deadline for the next Local Yokel ***		Send to <a href="mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org">info@thelocalyokel.org</a>
3/15	Select Board meeting	6 p.m.	See town website for details
3/16	Vision Committee meeting	6 p.m.	See town website for details
3/17	St. Patrick's Day		
3/20	First day of spring		
3/27	Passover begins at sundown		
3/28	Palm Sunday		
3/29	Select Board meeting	6 p.m.	See town website for details