

# Local yokel

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

West  
Stockbridge

June  
2021



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005

Nectar, not caffeine, lures a bee to a flowering crabapple at No. Six Depot Roastery & Cafe. Photo by John Parker



## The West Stockbridge Historical Society Presents Lauren Henderson *Live at The Foundry*

Saturday, June 19 at 7 p.m.

(Rain date: Sunday, June 20 at 2 p.m.)



Internationally acclaimed jazz and Latin jazz vocalist Lauren Henderson and her ensemble headline the first of the West Stockbridge Historical Society's 2021–22 live jazz concert series. Henderson's distinct yet versatile sound was hailed by the *New York Times* as "somewhere between a comforting whisper and a cogent declaration . . . [that] blurs bossa nova, Cuban bolero, lounge jazz and low-lit R & B, reflecting Ms. Henderson's own mix of North American and Caribbean heritage." The recording artist, composer, and producer broke the *JazzWeek*–Top 5 chart with *The Songbook Session* (2020).

For more on Henderson, visit [laurenhendersonmusic.com](https://www.laurenhendersonmusic.com). Or watch Elizabeth Morse's interview with Henderson at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5OvXmWYk0p8>.

To order tickets, visit <https://thefoundryws.com/event/>. Table seating is sold out, but lawn tickets are available for \$25 to sit on The Foundry Green.

Coming soon in the series are performances from three diverse, greatly accomplished jazz musicians: Ned Rothenberg, Armen Donelian, and Yoko Miwa.

COVID-19 guidelines: To offer our patrons the safest and most enjoyable experience possible, social distancing policies will be in effect.

## Arrowhead to Host Guild of Berkshire Artists Show

Art @ Arrowhead: A Whale of a Show!

The Guild of Berkshire Artists is pleased to announce it will be hosted for an outdoor art show by Arrowhead, the home of Herman Melville and the Berkshire County Historical Society. The show will take place outdoors on Saturday and Sunday, July 24 and 25, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day at 780 Holmes Road in Pittsfield. A number of West Stockbridge artists are participating, including Margie Skaggs, who is the guild's president and the Arrowhead show chair, as well as Amy Pressman, who is working on the design to include a variety of tents as well as the barn at Arrowhead.



Howard Greenhalgh, *Clipper Ship*, oil on canvas

Margie Skaggs commented, "The Berkshires have long been a magnet for artists of all types—writers, painters, sculptors, performing artists, and more. And Arrowhead is an iconic symbol of the richness of art inspired by our glorious natural surroundings."

The underlying theme of the show is "stories in art." It was chosen to reflect the substantial creative thread running through both literature and art. Each writer is an artist, weaving their creative tales of love, passion, and the awe of nature. And each artist is a writer, telling their story by expressing their vision in their own individual, creative way. And, in the Berkshires, with its rich history of inspiring writers and artists of all kinds, the two threads will merge on July 24 and 25 when the guild holds "Art @ Arrowhead: A Whale of a Show!"

For further information, contact Carolyn Brancato: [rivergrp@comcast.net](mailto:rivergrp@comcast.net) or (410) 703-0532, or visit the guild's website, [www.berkshireartists.org](http://www.berkshireartists.org).

# Town Holds Annual Town Meeting: All but one warrant item passed

The annual town meeting in West Stockbridge had a very different look this year. On Monday, May 3, 58 registered voters gathered in vehicles in the parking lot of the Town Offices. Officials presided under a tent while voters listened to the proceedings using their car radios as a light rain fell.

Voters passed the proposed \$5.9 million FY 2022 operating budget and the town's \$3,072,350 share of the Berkshire Hills Regional School District's operating budget and \$85,865 capital assessment. Also approved were appropriations to resurface East Alford and Cobb Roads and to purchase a new plow truck.

Voters also approved a bylaw to form a committee to administer the Community Preservation Fund and authorized the Select Board to request special legislation allowing Fire Chief Steve Traver to continue in his post past the mandatory retirement age of 65. The same special legislation has already been approved by the town of Richmond, where Traver also serves as fire chief.

The one contentious issue was a measure that would have amended current bylaws regarding the issuance and renewal of vehicle business licenses (new, used, and junk), giving town officials greater authority to determine whether permit holders are in compliance. Several voters criticized the measure as unfair and urged further review. Select Board member Eric Shimelonis sought to explain the rationale behind the bylaw, saying it was an effort to "establish a fair and objective application process to create clear expectations for license holders" and for town authorities to "understand what the sites are supposed to look like [and] the number of cars allowable." After a vigorous debate, the article was finally voted down 39 to 13.

*By John Parker with details from the following: The Berkshire Eagle, Voters approve all but one article at West Stockbridge Annual Town Meeting, by Tony Dobrowolski, May 5, 2021; WAMC, West Stockbridge Holds Annual Town Meeting, by Josh Landes, May 4, 2021.*



*Town officials preside under a tent outside the Town Offices while voters attend in their cars.  
Source: <https://www.facebook.com/WestStockbridge/>*

## 2021 Annual Town Election Results

May 10, 2021

### Moderator One for 1 year

Eugene Dellea	81
Write in	1
Blanks	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>

### Board of Health One for 1 year

Earl Moffatt	69
Write in	4
Blank	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>

### Select Board Member One for 3 years

Roger Kavanagh	71
Write in	2
Blank	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>

### Board of Health One for 3 years

Write in - Kathy Korte	55
Write in	5
Blank	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>

### Board of Assessors One for 3 years

Susan Lupo	72
Write in	10
Blanks	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>

### Library Trustee One for 1 year

Gail Garrick	75
Write in	0
Blank	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>

### Finance Committee Two for 3 years

Daniel Buehler	71
Frank Landsberger	26
Write in	2
Blank	65
<b>Total</b>	<b>164</b>

### Library Trustee One for 3 years

Beth Sack	73
Write in	0
Blank	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>

### Planning Board One for 5 years

Sue Coxon	72
Write in	10
Blank	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>

### Cemetery Commissioner One for 3 years

Earl Moffatt	67
Write in	1
Blank	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>



**Thanks to the Community**  
*From the*  
**West Stockbridge Fire Association**

On behalf of the West Stockbridge Fire Association, we would like to thank each and everyone for the generosity of your donations for the year 2021.

—Sincerely, Members of the  
West Stockbridge Fire Association

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- Firewood

# 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 Meeting via Zoom April 12, 2021

### Open Meeting

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

**Others in Attendance:** Police Chief Marc Portieri, DPW Director Curt Wilton, Amy Brentano (Foundry Owner), Peter Thorne, Joe Roy, Jr., Carter White and Jeremy Kenny (Rouge Manager).

Roger called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Select Board Minutes from March 29, 2021 will be approved at the next meeting.

### Town Administrator Update:

Early Voting by mail will be available for the Annual Town Election, the applications are available on the Town Clerk page of the website. The Town Meeting will be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and Town Election on May 10<sup>th</sup>. The Town Meeting will be held rain or shine outside. More information will be posted on the website along with the warrant.

The State Department of Fire Services has awarded a Fire Safety Equipment grant for \$7,853.33 to our Fire Department to purchase a thermal camera.

### Annual Town Meeting Warrant:

Roger made a motion to approve the warrant, Eric seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion Passed.

**The Foundry:** Amy Brentano, The Foundry Owner

Amy Brentano gave an update of her opening plans for The Foundry. Part of the plan will have people dining on the green

space where there is normally parking available. A discussion ensued about the parking issues in Town. The Select Board will have a discussion in regards to parking solutions in downtown at a future meeting.

**Traffic/Speeding on Swamp Road:** Police Chief Marc Portieri & Resident Chris Kramek

Marc stated that the Police have added patrols on Swamp Road as well as the speed trailer and moving radar. Chris commented that he appreciates the hard work by the Police Department but was hoping that the Town could install a permanent flashing radar. He asked the Board how to get funding started for this type of radar. Roger will discuss with the Police Chief on how to proceed and have this as an agenda item in the future.

**Earth Day Town Cleanup:** Eric Shimelonis and Peter Thorne  
Peter Thorne explained for Earth Day, volunteers will be going around Town to cleanup trash. This will be held on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. He will be at the Fire Station to hand out neon vests and garbage bags provided by the DPW. He thanked Curt Wilton for allowing his crew to pick up all the bags on the side of the road the next day and for providing the bags.

Eric stated the McGraths, Swamp Roads residents, have accepted an offer from volunteers to clean up the garbage they have on the edge of the pond. Curt has also offered to help by picking up the garbage with the Town truck, once it is placed on the side of the road.

Peter will provide flyers and information to Marie to be posted on the website.

**Green Communities Designation:** Eric Shimelonis

Eric told the Board that the Town is close to obtaining the Green Communities Designation. Eric asked the Board for permission to sign off on the paperwork. Roger and Kathleen requested information for review from Marie, however, they both felt confident in Eric signing the paperwork.

**Land Trust – Vision Committee:** Carter White and Joe Roy, Jr.  
Carter White discussed what a Land Trust is, why the Town

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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).

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# Villages of the Berkshires Expands Services County-wide

By John Parker



Villages of the Berkshires (VOB) is a volunteer-based, membership-supported organization assisting older adults who wish to remain in their homes as they age. Part of the national Village to Village Network movement set in motion by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Village model has been adopted in over 200 communities across the country, with many more in development. The Village concept is that of a community of people pooling their resources by paying membership dues and/or volunteering their skills and time to assist one another.

Villages of the Berkshires is a tax-exempt nonprofit based in Lenox with a local board of directors who set policy and direction. In an interview with the *Local Yokel*, VOB President Howard Shapiro and Program Director Carolyn King explained that the focus on providing elder support is driven in part by statistics showing that older adults comprised 50% of Berkshire County's population in 2010, and this number is projected to increase to 60% by 2030. Clearly, the need for support to our elder population is substantial and growing.

Memberships are available for individuals at \$300 per year and dual households at \$540 per year. Monthly payments and scholarships are available, and a partnership with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Berkshire Community College (BCC) provides discounts for members of one group joining the other. Benefits include service requests, member events, a service provider database, social activities, and more. For example, members can request companionship visits; local transportation for shopping, errands, and events; basic home maintenance; seasonal chores (such as installing window screens and air conditioners, yard cleanup); and technology help. According to a recent newsletter, programs and activities offered include creative writing and fall prevention classes with BCC students, socially distanced "6 Ft Strolls," and walks led by volunteers.

VOB also seeks volunteers who have skills or time to offer to help others while creating connections and friendships. Volunteers do not have to be members of VOB, but they must be age 18 or older and undergo a background check. Medical, administrative, and financial services are not provided.

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would want to have it, how to get it set up and how much it would cost the Town.

The Land Trust would take into repository any land in Town which the Committee felt is important to keep in its natural state if that is what is the best use of the land. The Land Trust would work to maintain the character of the Town. The cost would be a loss of tax income if taken into repository but would enhance and maintain open spaces. He explained Land Trusts at times, will have fund raisers where they give the funds back to the Town to help replace lost tax revenue.

Joe stated that the Vision Committee is in the very beginning of the process. Carter said that the first step is to see if the Town and/or Select Board have any interest in pursuing this before going any further.

Eric said he would pass on the information to the Master Plan Committee and the Planning Board.

**Center Street Closure:** Eric Shimelonis

Eric stressed that this conversation is to discuss possible solutions to parking and public safety in the downtown area. The Board has already approved the continuation of the Center Street closure to allow Rouge to have outdoor dining on the street and this conversation does not change that approval.

Jackie Moffatt asked Jeremy (Rouge Manager) if Rouge could hold off on the road closure until 5:30 PM instead of 5 PM and he agreed he could do that.

Some merchants expressed their concern for the appearance of the items used for the street closure. They would like to see the street look more attractive with the barriers. A discussion continued. Jeremy stated they now have planters to use as more attractive barriers.

Kathleen stressed these are uncertain times and that in order for businesses to survive, they need the support of the Town. She feels they still need that ability to have outdoor dining. The pandemic is not over and that the Shared Spaces and Streets Grant did provide many planters to help with barriers.


Eric summarized that Rouge has offered to change the time they close the street as well as use more planters as barriers. This was a long process last year and there was a lot of thought put into the road closure for public safety.

Roger noted that the Board has several logistical challenges with the parking, traffic, and public safety in the downtown area but that they will continue to work on the issues at a future meeting.

**Select Board Speak:**

Roger reminded the Board that the Community Preservation Committee Bylaw is on the warrant for the 2021 Annual Town Meeting and the Board will need to appoint committee members in the near future.

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# Grange Presents Award to Lisa Parker

At a meeting at the Stockbridge Grange Hall on May 10, the West Stockbridge Grange #246 presented the National Grange Community Award to landscape designer Lisa Parker. The award recognized her many years of service to West Stockbridge, “planting and caring for the beautiful gardens and planters in public spaces around town, making it an inviting place to visit.”

The National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry is a fraternal



*Tending the Route 41 island planting. Source: <https://www.facebook.com/WestStockbridge/>*

association founded in Washington, D.C., in 1867. Its original aim was to advance the political, economic, and social interests of the nation’s farmers. Grange actively lobbies state legislatures and Congress for political goals, such as lowering the rates charged by railroads. Its purpose is to advance methods of agriculture and promote the social and economic needs of farmers. Family is at the heart of the organization, with full membership beginning at age 14 (a Junior Grange serves ages 5 to 14).

The foundation of the organization is the Community Grange, found in rural, suburban, and urban communities. All Grange activities support personal growth and offer thousands of volunteer hours in the communities of the members. Grangers speak for the rights of all Americans, especially those who work in agriculture and produce our food, fuel, and fiber.



*West Stockbridge Grange President Stuart Shapiro presents the Grange Community Citizen Award to Lisa Parker. Photo by John Parker*

## June History Quiz Question:

The arrival of the railroad lines south from Connecticut and east-west from Boston and Albany fueled the growth of West Stockbridge in the late 1800s. Trains enabled the commercial success of the iron and lime industries and allowed our farmers to ship fresh milk to the cities. The town center grew around the depot, and there were even plans to develop suburban-type development in the 1840s on the property behind the current location of Truc’s Orient Express.

The railroads also helped the State Line neighborhood grow to become an important commercial center and major outlying district of the town. Population growth and social activity rivaled the village center and Williamsville, a far cry from what State Line is now. What happened to State Line and when? What caused it to change?

(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**  
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**Citizen Speak:**

Joe Roy thanked the Board for listening to the information about the Land Trust. He also expressed his hope that the Board will continue to explore the downtown parking issue.

Frank Landsberger asked the Board to look into receiving more information from the School Committee on what our tax dollars from West Stockbridge are paying for. Roger said he would take up this issue..

Kathleen made a motion to adjourn at 7:50 PM, Eric seconded.

Roll call vote:

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

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie Y. Ryan*  
Town Administrator

Documents:

The Foundry 2021 Summer/Fall Season COVID19 Control Plan



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# Town of West Stockbridge Announcements



## Town to Hold Memorial Day Parade

West Stockbridge will be having a Memorial Day Parade this year! The parade will be on Monday, May 31, and begin at 10 a.m. at South Street and continue on through Main Street. The parade will end at the Town Offices where there will be a short ceremony at 10:30 a.m. in front of the War Memorial to honor all of our military men and women.

## West Stockbridge Designated a Green Community

*Baker-Polito Administration Designates Nine New Green Communities*

*87% of the Commonwealth's Population Now Resides in a Green Community*



As part of the Baker-Polito Administration's celebration of Earth Week in the Commonwealth, state and local officials traveled to the Town of Clinton to announce the designation of nine Massachusetts cities and towns as Green Communities. The municipalities have committed to clean energy and energy efficiency goals to reduce energy usage and lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through the program and are now eligible for grants totaling over \$1.4 million. Green Municipalities receiving funding as newly designated Green Communities include West Stockbridge, awarded \$127,556.

The 280 Green Communities range from Great Barrington to Newburyport and are home to 87% of Massachusetts' population, in municipalities as large as Boston and as small as Peru. All Green Communities commit to reducing municipal energy consumption by 20% each. This new group of nine cities and towns have committed to reducing their energy consumption, saving, in five years, energy use equivalent to heating and powering nearly 673 homes, and reducing GHG emissions equivalent to taking 1,222 cars off the road. Proposed projects include high-efficient LED lighting upgrades in schools and municipal buildings, electric vehicles for town and school fleets, and renewable thermal technologies such as air source heat pumps.

Since its inception, the Green Communities program has awarded over \$137 million in grant funding to the Commonwealth's cities and towns through designation and competitive grant rounds. The goal of the Designation Grant Program is to support communities' investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that further the clean energy goals determined by the designated communities.

## Town Offices Open to the Public

Welcome back! On Monday, May 10, the Town Offices reopened to the public. Masks and social distancing are a requirement while in the building. Please check the website for the working hours of the office/staff you plan to visit for availability.

We hope everyone stays safe and healthy, and we are happy to see you all in person again!



## Committee Members Needed

Do you want to make a difference in your community? Do you have a little free time?

The town is looking for volunteers to get involved and become a member of a committee. We have these openings available:

- Conservation Commission associate member
- Cable TV Commission member
- Agricultural Commission member

If you are interested in any of these committees, please contact Marie Ryan, Town Administrator, by e-mail at [admin@weststockbridge-ma.gov](mailto:admin@weststockbridge-ma.gov) by June 7.

Thank you for your interest in volunteering.



# "We Remember When . . ."

## Growing Up in West Stockbridge in the 1950s

*A Series of Recollections by John Bormolini and Friends*

### Helping with the Haying

*By John Bormolini with Helen Zanconato (Nolan) and Bobby Romeo*

Haying usually took place in June or July. It depended on the weather, especially after the fields were cut. Two or three days were needed to dry the mowed grass and another couple of sunny days to move the mowed grass (hay) to the hayloft in the barn. The hay was for Vasco Zanconato's two milk cows. The hay fed the cows, and sometimes a calf, during the winter months when they could not be taken to a pasture. They were hand-milked twice a day, 365 days a year, in the morning and evening, and were usually kept in the barn at night.

A lot of kids living in the neighborhood looked forward to haying with Vasco. A very old Model A truck with an open bed in the back was used to tow the hay rake and carry the hay from the fields to the barn. The truck had been used for haying for many years, and it gave us kids the opportunity to learn to drive! We took turns driving the truck with the rake behind it, and from the field to the barn.

Getting the Model A started each year was almost a miracle because it wasn't used for anything but haying. Vasco had to work very hard to get it going. When it finally "fired up" after a lot of coaxing, there was a cloud of smoke and cheering, signifying it was good for one more year.

The helpers were Vasco's daughters Anita, Helen, Lenora, and Linda, plus neighbors Mary and Sally Korte, and Elizabeth D'Aniello (Digrigoli). The guys who showed up, mostly to drive the Model A, were Bobby Romeo, Till Zanconato, Jimmy and Bernie Fallon, and me. Of course, there was Vasco and his father, Angelo, known to all as Nonno ("grandfather" in Italian), who kept things going. Mrs. Zanconato (Helen) made lemonade for when the work was done.

Bucky Viola would cut the pastures two days before the "big day," which was usually a Saturday. The grass would lie in the sunny fields most of the day on Thursday and all day on Friday drying out. On Saturday, the cut grass was raked into furrows with the rake towed by the truck. One of the kids would drive the truck, and another would operate the rake.

The hay furrows were piled into mounds. When that was done, the Model A would pull up alongside the mound, and loaders with pitchforks would load the hay onto the truck until it was too high to reach. Then the truck drove to the barn, and the hay was unloaded from the truck into the barn loft, again with pitchforks.

One or two kids were in the loft moving the hay from the front to the back of the barn. This was probably the least favored job! The process continued until all of the hay was in the barn ready to feed the cows during the cold winter months. Then it was lemonade time, and Mrs. Zanconato brought us peanut butter cookies fresh from the oven.



*Hay rake. <https://www.antiquefarmequipment.com>*



*Hay mounds in field. <https://www.coam.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/haycocks-in-Grays-Field-Jul16-2-600px.jpg>*

By the end of the day, everyone, including some of the girls, got a turn driving the truck around the fields, and to and from the barn. Those of us who got our first chance to drive this way still remember the day. Bobby Romeo and I recently reminisced over the phone about helping with the haying and how it was one of the first times that we got to "get behind the wheel."

Haying made for a very long but satisfying day. We worked hard and felt proud that we had completed the chore in one day. If the Zanconato family had to do it all by themselves, it might have taken a week or more—all the while hoping it wouldn't rain.

It was always a mystery whether the old Model A would fire up one more time, having been faithful for many years. Helping with the haying was an event that brought us kids all together, at least for a day.

*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 Foundry Announces Outdoor Summer Performance Series

After a long winter of online programming, The Foundry announces its outdoor summer performance series. A diverse array of events including music, theatre, and dance will take place every Friday and Saturday night. Tickets are on sale now at [thefoundryws.com](http://thefoundryws.com).

**Friday, June 4, 2021, 7:30 p.m., \$20**

**OR Projects – *THESE THINGS ARE HARD TO SPEAK AT HOME***

This event is an evening of dance and film showcasing the work of artistic director Olga Rabestkaya and her collaborators in OR Projects. These works are inspired by Olga's experiences in Belarus, her home country.

**Saturday, June 5, 2021, All-Day Registration Required  
*Berkshire Music School Performathon***

Join the Berkshire Music School in celebrating the talents of its students of all ages and backgrounds with the annual BMS Performathon!

**Friday, June 11, 7 p.m., \$18–\$25**

***Dayna Kurtz***

Dayna has toured and opened for the likes of Elvis Costello, Richard Thompson, Mavis Staples, Rufus Wainwright, B.B. King, Dr. John, Richie Havens, Keren Ann, Chris Whitley, and the Blind Boys of Alabama.

**Saturday, June 12, 7 p.m., \$18–\$25**

***Dust Bowl Faeries***

A faerie-tale fusion of circus, post-punk, gypsy, and psychefolk music founded by Ryder Cooley & Hazel, a taxidermy ram who performs with the band as their spirit animal. Ryder & Hazel are joined by musicians Rubi LaRue, Jon B. Woodin, Liz LoGiudice, and Andrew Stein.

**Saturday, June 19, 7 p.m., \$25–\$35**

***West Stockbridge Jazz Series – Lauren Henderson***

Internationally acclaimed jazz and Latin jazz vocalist Lauren Henderson and her ensemble headline the first of The West Stockbridge Historical Society's 2021–22 live jazz concert series.

**Friday, June 25, 7:30 p.m., \$20**

***VEERdance – FROM THEIR BODIES***

With this piece, VEERdance comes to terms with their origin stories of womanhood. They reject the control of men, they dissent, move on, and break through to something more wild and free. They created something from their bodies; they fashioned this dance from the contents enclosed within their own ribs.

**Saturday, June 26, 7 p.m., \$18–\$25**

***Brasskill***

Brasskill is a lively 15-piece party brass band whose mission is to get you out on the dance floor.

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

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

Hello everyone! Our seasonal passes are arriving! At this writing, we have passes to the Clark Art Institute, Chesterwood, Norman Rockwell Museum, and Mass MOCA.

Do you like to go walking at October Mountain State Forest? The library has parking passes for your next day trip that will save you the \$8 parking fee. Come on in or call if you want to reserve a pass for this or any other Massachusetts state park.

We also have passes for the Trustees of Reservations properties if you want to go to Naumkeag or any other TOR property this season. For all fans of children's books and the beautiful illustrations and messages, watch for our June Story Walk that our very own Miss Vicky is setting up around the new playground equipment this month!

Also, watch our social media sites for how to sign up for a Zoom program on June 24 from 6 to 7:30 p.m., about the International Space Station and Careers and Diversity at NASA, with Bernadette Manning, a math and science teacher in Cambridge, MA.

## THE LIBRARY IS OPEN! FIVE VISITORS AT A TIME

**Tues. 10-2; Wed., Thurs., Fri. 2-6; Sat. 10-2**

**WestStockbridgeLibrary@gmail.com  
or 232-0300, ext. 308**

## BOOKS-TO-GO ARE STILL AVAILABLE

### NEW ADULT FICTION AND AUDIO CD

Backman, *Anxious People*  
Kelly, *Lost Roses* [audio CD]  
Kelly, *Sunflower Sisters*  
Leon, *Trace Elements*  
Leon, *Transient Desires*  
Penner, *Lost Apothecary*  
Sandford, *Ocean Prey*  
Scottoline, *Eternal*  
Steadman, *Something in the Water* [Audio CD]  
Theroux, *Under the Wave at Waimea*

Isaacson, *Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race*  
Lamott, *Dusk, Night, Dawn: On Revival and Courage*

### NEW YOUNG ADULT [YA] AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Elliott, *Place Inside of Me*  
Goodman, *Once in a Full Moon*  
Tahir, *Ember in the Ashes; Torch Against the Night Reaper at the Gates; Sky Beyond the Storm* [YA]

### NEW ADULT NONFICTION

Batalion, *Light of Days: The Untold Story of Women Resistance Fighters in Hitler's Ghettos*



### Scrapbook June 2021: TEST YOUR TRIVIA KNOWLEDGE!

1. Can anyone remember the name of the trumpeter at the 2012 W.S. Memorial Day ceremony?
2. The village of State Line in W.S. was established with the opening of what?
3. The State Line store and post office was operated by whom?
4. What did Anissa Marie Esoldi and Eric Scott Borezoski of W.S. do on May 19, 2012?

1. Ariel Shrum. 2. The Hudson and Berkshire railroad in 1838. 3. Joseph Callahan from 1935 until his retirement in 1971. 4. They got married.



# Juneteenth Now a Legal Holiday in Massachusetts

On July 24, 2020, Gov. Charlie Baker signed a bill recognizing June 19, Juneteenth, as an observed annual state holiday in Massachusetts.

As reported on MassLive.com,

*Juneteenth has long been celebrated by Black communities, both locally and nationwide. Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, the state's first Black governor, signed a proclamation in 2007 to recognize Juneteenth. The year 2021 will mark the first year Juneteenth is an observed holiday in the state.*

*June 19 falls on a Saturday in 2021. Under state law, a legal holiday that falls on a Sunday is observed on the following Monday, and a legal holiday that falls on a Saturday is observed on Saturday.*

*The annual commemoration marks the day when Union General Gordon Granger reached Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and enslaved people were free. That day—June 19, 1865—was more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed by President Lincoln.*

Source: <https://www.masslive.com/news/2020/09/massachusetts-public-schools-to-recognize-juneteenth-as-official-holiday-give-students-and-staff-day-off.html>.

## Community News & Events

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

### Community Health Association

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

### The Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, June 13, the Stockbridge Grange will serve a takeout-only dinner at the Grange Hall at 51 Church Street, Stockbridge. The dinner will be baked bean and ham, with lemon meringue or chocolate cream pie for dessert. Pickup time is 12 to 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$12. To place an order, call (413) 243-1298 or (413) 443-4352. The deadline for ordering is June 10.

### Council on Aging

Council on Aging meetings remain suspended indefinitely due to COVID-19.

*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).*

## June Donor Roll Call

John Angelini  
Richard & Pauline Arienti  
Nissa Asklipious  
Dorothy S. Hotchkiss  
Nanci McConnell  
Anonymous: 3

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.)



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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.

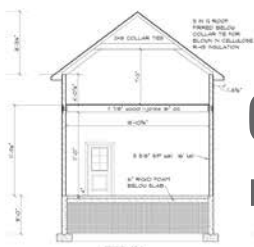
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ARTISTIC JEWS  
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# On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky

## How Can Our Kids Afford to Live Here?

As the pandemic winds slowly down and the “Main Street” (as opposed to Wall Street) economy struggles back, we’re seeing a few disturbing trends. Real estate sales in Berkshire County (and neighboring areas) have gone—I believe the technical term is—“gazongas.” *Berkshire Eagle* columnist and Lenox resident Clarence Fanto noted in his column on May 8 that the typical number of houses on the market is down by more than half compared to the year before the pandemic. The Berkshires have become a highly desirable place for those who live in New York City, Boston, and other urban areas who can also work remotely. I’ve heard of houses being bought sight unseen, with bidding wars driving the sales costs well above the asking price.

I wrote here about short-term rentals last month (ah, who could forget?). Fanto’s article says, “A factor in the shortage of homes for sale is the surge in Airbnb, VRBO and other online vacation rental properties removed from the real estate sales market. That’s a boon for travelers who prefer privacy, especially with COVID still lurking, but a setback because those houses are no longer available for purchase by residents.” Some people are buying one- and two-family homes just to rent out for vacationers. All this puts a squeeze on the market, as well as zoning issues in some towns.

Fanto continues, “[The VRBO effect] demonstrates the concern that full-time residents earning Berkshire wages, especially young people in the service industries or municipal government, education and health care, are increasingly priced out of homeownership. This also affects retirees seeking to relocate from spacious family homes.”

Some communities (e.g., Great Barrington, Pittsfield, Williamstown, and Lenox) are trying to pay attention to this issue. But clearly “workforce housing” and starter homes are in short supply here. And given the all-important hospitality and arts/entertainment sectors in our local economy, there’s a high demand for workers in these reemerging areas. But are wages for young people and retirees, who often fill these jobs, sufficient to provide housing? Highly unlikely, even with the Massachusetts minimum wage at \$13.50/hour. (The rising cost of food is another stressor on the workforce.)

One possible bright spot: Recently a program to assist first-home buyers was advertised. The Affordable Housing Trust Fund is offering income-qualified households (up to 100% of Area Median Income) an interest-free loan of 10% of the purchase price, up to \$25,000. The loan does not need to be repaid until the house is sold or transferred. More details are available at [gbhousing.org](http://gbhousing.org).

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates the 2019 population of Berkshire County at just under 130,000, which follows the decrease in the past 20 years. It’ll be interesting to see if this trend shows a slight reversal after the pandemic. But any increase in the population is most likely not due to our kids sticking around and having kids of their own!

Watch this space, as they say. More shall be revealed.

*You may send questions, comments, and/or rants to [info@localyokel.org](mailto:info@localyokel.org).*

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## History Quiz Answer:

With the arrival of the railroads in the 1840s, State Line grew from a few farms and a sawmill on Flat Brook to a transportation center surrounded by a full-fledged community. The Western Railroad (later Boston & Albany/New York Central, Conrail, and now CSX) ran through from Boston to Albany and points west, and to Hudson and the river. The break in the Taconic range at State Line was the lowest and most direct point for many miles, hence easier to build tracks and cheaper to run trains through. The north-south route along the Williams River had a similar appeal as the Housatonic Railroad (New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad). The connection with the two was a natural meeting spot.

Both railroads developed their infrastructure there. There were two rail yards for storing and switching freight cars. The Housatonic had a service facility with an engine house, turntable, and coal ash pit. Two locomotives were stationed for switching and maintenance and kept cabooses on site for crews to use as dormitories. The Boston & Albany line had a water tower, a cattle pen, and a large two-story switching tower that controlled the lines in all directions. Railway Express had a freight office at State Line with a large freight house to receive and send packages.

For passenger service, a station, deemed modern for the times, was equipped with coal heat, a waiting room, and ticket office. In 1884, daily service would leave New York's

Grand Central Station at 8 a.m. and arrive at State Line by 1:30 p.m. Passengers could either change trains for Pittsfield or Albany or be met by a horse and carriage. The State Line community had a school, a chapel, social club, brewery, and hotel. It even had its own float in the 1924 bicentennial parade. The place was humming.

The transportation factor that built State Line was also its downfall. The Housatonic Railroad built a shorter, higher capacity line to interchange directly with the Boston & Albany in Pittsfield through the other Stockbridge and Lee, bypassing West Stockbridge and State Line. Pittsfield had more industry and freight traffic than our area, and it could connect further north to Adams and North Adams. As our lime and iron quarries played out, a branch line through West Stockbridge to State Line wasn't much needed. In 1923, passenger service from State Line was abandoned.

By the late 1950s, the railroads had removed the switching tower, rail yards, and storage facilities. The station

was taken down in 1959, and in July of that year, the last train traveled south from State Line. The other major blow to the area was the opening of the Mass Pike in 1957. At first, the pike ended in State Line, so there was some activity as passengers exited to the more rural Routes 102 and 22. But by 1959, I-90 was complete, enabling through traffic to Albany without stopping at State Line. It's now a quiet community with an entrance to the interstate to go somewhere else.

Photos courtesy of West Stockbridge Historical Society



*State Line train station.*



*State Line float in 1924 parade.*

# Every issue costs us about \$1,300 to print and distribute!

## Please help us keep the *Local Yokel* coming!

With increased printing and postage costs, we need your help more than ever. To get the latest town news, please contribute to the *Local Yokel*. For your donation of at least \$25.00 per year we will mail each issue to you (unless you prefer otherwise). The *Local Yokel* will continue to be available free at selected locations as long as possible, but we hope you will contribute anything you can. The West Stockbridge Local Yokel, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization, and all contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Please check with your employer, or former employer if retired, for matching gift programs.

☐ **yes!** I want to support the *Local Yokel*.  
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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)

# June Art Calendar

Guild of Berkshire Artists | BerkshireArtists.org | infoberkshireartists@gmail.com

2021

**May 26 - Sept 22, Into the Light. Online Art Show:** Visit [www.berkshireartists.org](http://www.berkshireartists.org) for more info.

**June 7 & 21, Procrastinator's Challenge!**  
10-11am. GBA members can join Diane Firtell for a jumpstart on their creative productivity via Zoom.

**June 14, Collage & Mixed Media Workshop,**  
1-3 p.m. Join Marion Grant for Collage & Mixed Media online using Zoom.

**June 8 & 22, Positive Critique, 7:30-8:30 p.m.** Join Michele Caplan for a positive critique session for Guild members via Zoom.

**June 27, Berkshire Photo Gathering, 2-4pm.** Online. See following webpage for more information: [berkshirephotogathering.com/online-meetings](http://berkshirephotogathering.com/online-meetings)

**June 24, Art Book Gathering, 9:30-11am.** Share a favorite book: artist, or process. RSVP: [berkshireartists@gmail.com](mailto:berkshireartists@gmail.com)

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

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

**Art Together:** Join 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.

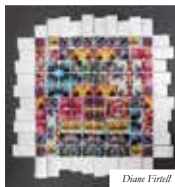
## Into the Light: An Online Art Show

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

On Display Online:  
May 26 - Sept 22



Mary Davidson



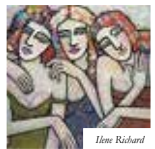
Diane Firtell



Jonny Hunsell



Bruce Plamack



Ilene Richard



Dana Goodenough

## Mark your calendar and buy your tickets for Lauren Henderson *live* at The Foundry

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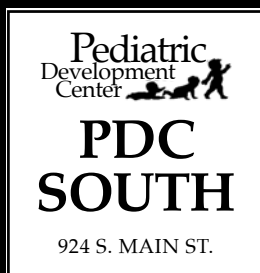
[www.weststockbridgehistory.org](http://www.weststockbridgehistory.org)

To order tickets go to:  
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This program is supported in part by grants from the Richmond Cultural Council and the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, local agencies which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.



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

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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			



June 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.

6/2	Special Select Board meeting	6 p.m.	See town website for details
6/3	WS Farmers Market	3–6 p.m.	The Foundry Green, Harris Street
6/7	Select Board meeting	6 p.m.	See town website for details
6/8	Parks & Recreation Commissioners meeting	5:30 p.m.	See town website for details
6/10	WS Farmers Market	3–6 p.m.	The Foundry Green, Harris Street
6/13	Stockbridge Grange Takeout Dinner (preorder by 6/10)	12–1:30 p.m.	Grange Hall, 51 Church St., Stockbridge
6/14	Flag Day		
6/14	Parks & Recreation Committee meeting	5:30 p.m.	See town website for details
6/15	*** Deadline for the next Local Yokel ***		Send to <a href="mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org">info@thelocalyokel.org</a>
6/15	Vision Committee meeting	6 p.m.	See town website for details
6/17	WS Farmers Market	3–6 p.m.	The Foundry Green, Harris Street
6/18	Juneteenth (town offices closed)		
6/19	Juneteenth (observed MA holiday)		
6/20	Father's Day		
6/21	First Day of Summer	6 p.m.	See town website for details
6/24	WS Farmers Market	3–6 p.m.	The Foundry Green, Harris Street
6/28	Select Board meeting	6 p.m.	See town website for details