

Local yokel

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

West
Stockbridge
October
2021



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005

Autumn garden with black-eyed susans. Photo by John Parker

THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE CHAMBER PLAYERS

Harvest Concert

Sunday, October 10, 2021 at 4 pm

Old Town Hall, Main Street, West Stockbridge

Musicians:

ANDREW PRICE, oboe • CATHERINE HUDGINS, clarinet
RONALD HAROUTUNIAN, bassoon • JASON SNIDER, horn
SHEILA FIEKOWSKY, violin • LISA CROCKETT, violin • DANIEL GETZ, viola
JIYOUNG LEE, cello • EDWIN BARKER, bass

Music:

Eric Shimelonis: *A Place in Time* (World Premiere)
Franz Schubert: Octet in F major, D. 803

TICKETS \$35

Available at weststockbridgehistory.org

PURCHASE ADVANCE TICKETS ONLINE
www.weststockbridgehistory.org



THIS PROGRAM IS A BENEFIT
PERFORMANCE FOR THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

October Art Calendar

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

2021

Workshops and Events

October 1, First Fridays Artwalk at TKG, Pittsfield, 5-8 p.m. For more info on what will be on display, visit www.berkshireartists.org.

October 4 & 18, Procrastinator's Challenge!, 10-11am. GBA members can join Diane Firtell for a jumpstart on their creative productivity via Zoom.

October 5 & 19, Snapseed Workshop, 1:30-2:30pm. Work on mobile photo editing with others via Zoom.

October 11, Collage & Mixed Media Workshop, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Join Carolyn Abrams for Collage & Mixed Media.

October 12 & 26, Procreate Workshop, 1:30-2:30pm. Work on digital art and editing with others via Zoom.

October 12 & 26, Positive Critique, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Join Michele Caplan for a positive critique session for Guild members via Zoom.

October 24, Berkshire Photo Gathering, 2-4pm. Online. See following webpage for more information: berkshirephotogathering.com/online-meetings

October 28, Art Book Gathering, 9:30-11am. Share a favorite book: artist, or process. Visit www.berkshireartists.org for more info.

Procreate Workshop

Online

2nd & 4th Tuesdays

1:30-2:30pm



Live Model Workshop

Online (\$15/\$20)

Wednesdays 2-5pm

(More info on our site!)



Weekly Programs

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

WEDNESDAYS, Live Model Drawing, 2-5pm. Live model sketching, painting, and portrait painting. Cost @ \$15/session with a two session minimum. Please see the website for more info.

MON, WED, & FRI, Art Together: Join GBA artists together online using Zoom. See website for times.

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

WEST STOCKBRIDGE HALLOWEEN

Sunday, October 31st

Trick-or-Treat
4-6pm*

*Please turn on your porch light if you will receive revelers.

Halloween Haunts Drive-Thru
7-9pm

Located at the WS Town Hall at
21 State Line Road

This is a FREE community event.

Brought to you by West Stockbridge Parks & Recreation

West Stockbridge Parks
& Recreation seeks

HALLOWEEN HAUNTS VOLUNTEERS

Join in the fun of this year's
Halloween Haunts Drive Thru!
Volunteers are needed for:

- pre-event set up
- costumed characters on 10/31
- post-event wrap up

Halloween Haunts will take place
Sunday, October 31st from 7-9pm
at the West Stockbridge Town Hall

Contact Cait Graham at
weststockbridgeparks@gmail.com

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 email notification of town events and meeting agendas by subscribing at <http://weststockbridgema.virtualltownhall.net/subscriber>].

Select Board Meeting Minutes July 26, 2021 Via Zoom

Open Meeting

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

Others in Attendance: Police Chief Marc Portieri, Police Sergeant Rosario Messina, and Public Works Director Curt Wilton

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

Kathleen made a motion to approve the minutes from July 12 and July 14, 2021, seconded by Roger.

Roll Call vote:

Kathleen Yes Roger Yes Eric Yes

Eric began the meeting with the Excessive Noise Enforcement agenda item.

Excessive Noise Enforcement: Janelle Austin, Attorney from KP Law

Eric stated there have been complaints of excessive noise at the Foundry and Turn Park which were discussed at the last meeting. The Board has asked Town Counsel Janelle Austin to attend this meeting.

Janelle gave an overview of excessive noise regulations

1. The State Noise Regulations apply only to commercial and industrial matters not entertainment industry.
2. The Town Noise Bylaw limits decibel levels in residential areas only and don't apply to the commercial district.
3. Excessive Noise complaints are handled by the local authority, such as the Select Board.

Janelle stated that the local authority decides if there is an excessive noise issue on a case by case basis. The local authority needs to take account of all the evidence such as the location of the business and zoning district at a public hearing with the establishment and the complainant. She also stated that an Entertainment License allows the local authority to decide what it considers excessive noise and attach restrictions with the license.

Eric mentioned that there are many towns similar to West Stockbridge that have a more complete noise bylaw. He will research this and the Board can create a bylaw that best fits our Town. He recommends the Board work through a process and move forward with creating a new bylaw.

Roger asked how the Board should move forward with the current complaint. Eric suggested that the next step is for the Board to create the text of a new bylaw for the next Town Meeting. Roger would like to see a method in determining the excessive noise level as well as the limits. Eric agreed and will research other similar bylaws for the Board to begin working on this.

Police Union - MassCOP: Police Sergeant Rosario Messina and MassCOP Representative Bobby Murphy

Roger asked Bobby Murphy why would the Board sign off on Voluntary Recognition of the Union instead of going through the normal process mentioned in a letter from Jennifer Smith, Attorney at MassCOP.

Bobby Murphy responded that no matter which process is used, the end result is the same. The Voluntary Recognition takes less time to complete. Roger's concern is if the Board signs the Voluntary Recognition, then the Part-time officers will not be properly consulted about joining the union. He does not want the Town to discriminate against the Part-time officers and be at risk of a lawsuit. Bobby stated that the Department of Labor Relations (DLR) has determined that only Part-time officers that have a regularly scheduled permanent work schedule are able to join the union. Bobby said the Board could go through the normal process, include the Part-time Officers who want to sign up and let the DLR determine if they are eligible to join.

Roger asked if a union representative would be the person to work with the Board when it comes time to negotiate the officers' contract. Bobby said it is up to the officers if they want to do it themselves but the union will step in if asked by them.

After this discussion, Eric said the Board would like the Police Department to go through the normal process to join the union. Rosario thanked the Board for their time.

Berkshire Cider Project at Farmer's Market: Kat Hand

Kat Hand, owner of Berkshire Cider Project, requested the Board approve a

...continued on page 5



K.G.COOPER ELECTRICAL
Karl G. Cooper Jr.
New Construction - Renovations -
Service Upgrades - Generators

P.O. Box 138
West Stockbridge, Ma. 01266
kgcooperelectric@yahoo.com
Ma. Master 12365A

413-232-0244



Select Board

21 State Line Road PO Box 525 West Stockbridge, Mass. 01266-0525

An Open Letter to the People of West Stockbridge

At the end of the Select Board meeting on Tuesday September 7, 2021, a group of so called "Zoom bombers" burst into the proceedings and started making inflammatory statements that were openly anti-Asian, they stated that all the meeting participants should be dead, and they wrote sick, depraved and profane text messages in the Zoom Chat room, making these messages appear like they were actually being written by other meeting participants. This outburst only lasted a few minutes before they were blocked from the meeting, but the damage had already been done.

Everyone in attendance was in shock. Select Board members condemned what had just happened, stating that it was "shameful beyond belief" and that it was "devastating that this is happening in a public meeting in this Town". While it is obvious that this was both shameful and devastating, there is more that has to be said and done.

This incident, unlike other Zoom hacks that have occurred here and elsewhere, was not a silly prank. It was a planned and coordinated vicious verbal and personal attack on people doing nothing more than participating in the routine process of governing our community.

Hate is poison. Our society and our country have been riven by haters and the incident at this Board meeting brought that reality a little too close to home. We cannot allow hate to plant its seed and grow here.

Let's stand together and state that there is no place here for hate and intolerance, that we respect and support, without distinction, all people who live in, work in or visit our community, and let's pledge to model the behaviors that we all believe are critical to the future of our community and our society – respect, tolerance, kindness, open-mindedness, forgiveness and trust, to name a few.

Doing this is how we will snuff out hate, before it ever gets a chance to grow.

West Stockbridge Select Board

Eric Shimelonis, Chair
Kathleen Keresey
Roger Kavanagh

Town of West Stockbridge Announcements



Hazardous Waste Collection Day

The Hazardous Waste Collection Day will be held on Saturday, October 16, 2021, from 9 am to 1 pm at the Great Barrington Recycling Center at 601 Stockbridge Road (Route 7), Great Barrington.

Planning Survey Opportunity

As part of our town's Master Planning process, the West Stockbridge Planning Board is developing an Open Space & Recreation Plan, and your input is vital! Please visit this site and participate in this important survey: surveymonkey.com/r/WestStockbridgeOSRP.



The Board of Health strongly encourages everyone to wear a mask when indoors.

Due to the highly contagious COVID-19 variants, the West Stockbridge Board of Health is strongly encouraging everyone to wear a mask while inside any public building regardless of your vaccination status.

Farm Winery License for Berkshire Cider Project to sell cider at the Farmer's Market on Thursdays for the 2021 season. They were able to sell their cider last year at the Farmer's Market and did well.

Eric made a motion to approve a Farmer Winery License for Berkshire Cider Project for 2021, seconded by Kathleen.

Roll Call vote:

Kathleen Yes Roger Yes Eric Yes

Hiring of New DPW Employee: Public Works Director Curt Wilton

Curt informed the Board that he has advertised for a new Buildings and Grounds Superintendent. He received two applications, both of whom were interviewed last week by Curt, Marie and Jamie. One applicant dropped out over the weekend. Curt explained that the remaining applicant has skills that will benefit the DPW and would be a great fit.

Curt said that the applicant has accepted the position upon the approval and appointment of the Board. He requested that the Board appoint Frank Alfonso to the position of the new Buildings and Grounds Superintendent.

Roger asked if this new employee works Monday through Friday, who will be cleaning the public restrooms on the weekends. Curt said he has someone who cleans the public restrooms on the weekends and that arrangement is working out well.

Eric made a motion to approve the appointment of Frank Alfonso to the position of Buildings and Grounds Superintendent, seconded by Kathleen.

Roll Call vote:

Kathleen Yes Roger Yes Eric Yes

Marked Parking Spots: Director of Public Works Curt Wilton

Eric explained that, at a previous meeting, the Board discussed with Curt the possibility of marking parking spots on Old Great Barrington Road, Oak Street and Moscow Road. A letter was sent to residents on those roads and the Town has received many responses expressing opposition to this idea. Eric stated that this idea was brought forth at a time prior to the discussion of a possible municipal parking lot behind Berkshire Bank. The Board agreed that the idea of marked parking spots on these should be dropped since the Town is pursuing a license agreement to lease and maintain the parking lot owned by 6 Six Depot and Werkshires to create municipal parking.

Harris Street Extension Bids: Director of Public Works Curt Wilton

Curt met with three firms to request bids to perform a feasibility study of a project to extend Harris Street to Moscow road. Once Curt receives the plans from the firms, he will present them to the Board.

Roger asked Curt if he had given the firms a written Scope of Work for the feasibility study. Curt responded, no, he met with the firms at the site in order for them to view the access issue and to be able to come up with ideas and options.

License Agreement for Leased Parking Lot: Eric Shimelonis

Eric said that he had incorporated changes to the License Agreement for the parking lot owned by 6 Six Depot and Werkshires that were suggested at the last Board meeting. Roger and Kathleen had no further changes. Town Counsel will be asked to review the agreement and then the Board will be able to send it to the owners of the property for their comments and review. Roger inquired about the possible increase in the cost of insurance. Marie had asked the insurance company if there would be an increase cost and they responded that there may not be an increase but they will need to see the finalized agreement before determining that.

Roger asked the Board if there should be a public hearing or notification to the abutters of the parking lot. The Board agreed to do some outreach. Kathleen asked to have a letter mailed to the abutters explaining that the Town will be improving and maintaining the parking lot and there is no change of use. Roger and Eric agreed.

Town Administrator Update: Marie Ryan

Marie has been working with representatives from Great Barrington, Monterey, New Marlborough and Sheffield on the hiring a shared Human Resource Director. An ad for the position was published and they are currently receiving applications. The group will meet on Tuesday, August 3rd to discuss who they would like to interview. On Monday, August 9th the group will complete the interviews and determine who they choose to hire. The Town of West Stockbridge's share of this resource will be approximately 2 hours per week.

On Wednesday, July 28th, Marie and Police Chief Marc Portieri will be attending a meeting in Great Barrington with State Officials and representatives from Stockbridge and Great Barrington and to discuss the dangerous entrance at the High School. She will report back to the Board at the next meeting.

Select Board Speak:

Eric expressed his concern about the vaccination rate in Berkshire County, which currently has one of the lowest vaccination rates in the state. He urged people to get vaccinated and noted there will be a clinic at Bartlett's Orchard on Thursday, July 29 from 4-7 PM.

Roger mentioned an email the Board received from Finance Committee Chair, Bob Salerno about ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. Bob suggested the Board discuss this funding in future capital budgeting meetings. Roger asked Marie to get more specific information about this funding.

Citizen Speak:

Frank Landsberger inquired about the status of the Main Street pedestrian crossing concerns. Roger stated that he has started to do some research on this issue and has been in contact with the consulting firm that studied crosswalks in Lenox and Great Barrington. He said there is a possibility that some of the work could be funded under the Complete Streets Program but more work needs to be done to determine if that is possible. Frank asked

...continued on page 7



BALDWIN HARDWARE

Depot Street
West Stockbridge, MA 01266

Henry Baldwin

(413) 232-7757

Girdler Electric

MA Master License 16255

Barry Girdler

owner

P. O Box 20
West Stockbridge MA 01266

413-237-5957

barry@girdlerelectric.com
girdlerelectric.com



The Transformational Power of Literacy

By Amanda Giracca for Literacy Network of South Berkshire

When the Literacy Network of South Berkshire, commonly known as LitNet, was founded 30 years ago, its intention was to serve adults with learning disabilities or those who had fallen through the cracks of the educational system.

Now in its 30th year of operation, LitNet's mission remains steadfast: to transform the lives of adult learners through the power of literacy, education, and advocacy. Just as in the beginning, LitNet tutors meet with their learners once a week, moving at the pace of the learner. What's changed, however, is the overall demographic of the organization's learners. Now that educators are better equipped to detect learning disabilities, fewer students slip through the cracks compared with 30 years ago. But Berkshire County has seen a large influx of immigrants over the past few decades, encouraging LitNet to add teaching English to speakers of other languages (ESOL) to its core offerings, and this caveat to its mission statement: to transform the lives of adult learners, *both immigrant and U.S.-born*.

As of today, about 90% of LitNet's active learners are immigrants studying to improve their English-language skills, the majority from Central and South America. Most recently, LitNet added U.S. citizenship test preparation as a service, offering Berkshire County's first scholarship for citizenship applicants, the Matthew and Hannah Keator Family Scholarship for New Americans.

"What LitNet offers is an amazing array of tutoring services that matter and make a world of difference in the lives of the people we serve," says Leigh Doherty, LitNet's executive director.

To celebrate its 30th birthday, LitNet's anniversary party debuted a photography and storytelling exhibit that is set to travel to Berkshire-area venues throughout 2021 and into 2022. The exhibit, "Transforming Lives for 30 Years," features several large-format black-and-white portraits of learners (donated by local photographer Julie McCarthy) and the learners' personally written stories.

Although each story is a little bit different—from one American-born learner who came to LitNet as an illiterate adult and who is now an avid reader, to a Chinese-born learner who thought reading and speaking English were impossible for her but recently passed her High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) and gained admission to a nursing program at Berkshire Community College—all resound with notes of gratefulness, pride, and transformation. You can see the exhibit at Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) throughout October. A complete schedule will soon be posted on our website.

"Tutoring is so rewarding in getting to know really good hardworking people," said tutor Nancy Walters in a recent episode of LitNet's cable TV show. Tutor Marc Hurel agreed: "It is extremely rewarding and empowering. Instead of sitting and ruminating about the world as it exists today, you're actually doing something to make a life better."

Interested in becoming a tutor? Email Leigh Doherty at ldoherty@litnetsb.org or call (413) 243-0471. Find out more about LitNet and see past episodes of its cable TV show by visiting www.litnetsb.org.



LITERACY NETWORK OF SOUTH BERKSHIRE

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Literacy Network of South Berkshire provides 1:1 tutoring in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), adult basic education (GED prep), or for citizenship prep. In person or virtual tutoring.

Interested volunteers should contact Leigh Doherty at ldoherty@litnetsb.org www.litnetsb.org



Home Range Winery

& Vineyard

Peter Bartlett & Susan Powell

 HOMERANGEWINERY
 HOMERANGEWINERY

518-610-6821
146 Flints Crossing Road, Canaan, NY 12029



PACK SHACK DOG DAYCARE

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

Pack Member Charley

413-446-5423 & 413-446-5476

about a proposal for a Land Trust that was brought up at a previous meeting by Carter White. Eric told him that Carter's discussion was an informal preliminary presentation.

Mitch Greenwald stated that Town Counsel's discussion about excessive noise bylaws was not proven with cited cases or any references to regulations. He urged the Board to look at similar Towns and comparable situations when researching what other Towns have for noise bylaws.

Mitch Greenwald stressed to the Board that they gave the Foundry their Entertainment License for 2021, and they can re-open the approval and include regulations with noise limits and restrictions.

Truc Nguyen stated that at a previous meeting Curt Wilton offered signs for her to use for parking. At the time, she did not feel the need for those signs. She asked Curt if she may use those signs as temporary signage until she can order some of her own for parking. Curt agreed to provide temporary signs.

Roger made a motion to adjourn at 8:08 PM, Kathleen seconded.

Roll Call vote:

Kathleen Yes Roger Yes Eric Yes

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator

Documents: Minutes: July 12 and July 14, 2021; Brochure for MassCOP; Berkshire Cider Project Application for Farmer Winery Liquor License

August 9, 2021

Open Meeting

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

Others in Attendance: Curt Wilton, Director of Public Works and Peter Dillon, Berkshire Hills Regional School District Superintendent

Eric called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Eric then moved up the discussion with Peter Dillon to the first agenda item.

Response to residents' questions about the value the Town is getting for the money going to the BHRSD budget- Superintendent Peter Dillon

Roger asked Supt. Dillon to attend the meeting to address the broad topic of value derived for the funds contributed by the Town to the BHRSD budget and to answer some specific questions that he had sent to Supt Dillon beforehand.

On the topic of the impact on student education due to the pandemic, he said that it was a difficult year for students at all levels but he believes that with they are prepared to address the issues students may have as they return to school and they will get everyone back on track academically.

He spoke to the calculation of cost per student and how it can't be derived by dividing the number of students into the total school budget. He explained numerous factors that impact the cost per student, citing examples of incremental costs attributable to developing and monitoring individual education plans and accommodating students with a broad range of special

...continued on page 8

Queensboro Wine & Spirits

26 Main Street ~ West Stockbridge

**Offering the finest in Rare,
Medium-Rare and
Well-done Wines,
Beers and Spirits**

**Don't see what you're looking for?
Just ask and we can get it in for you!**

413-232-8522



**Monday to Saturday 10am to 9pm
Sunday Noon to 6pm**

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



Kevin Holden Inc. Tree Trimming & Removal

Richmond, MA (413) 698-2696
www.khtree.com

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

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

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

All Types of Tree Work Insured



Member International Society
(New England Chapter)

ISA Certified Arborist

NE 6430A



needs, concluding that the true cost per student calculation is approximately 25% lower than the \$30K derived by dividing the budget by the number of students. He said the District supports approximately 10% of the budget with grants. He also pointed out that State aid for education has been steadily decreasing over time, and this reduction has a direct impact on the amount Towns in the district have to contribute to fund the district budget.

He closed his comments by adding that the District will be producing an annual report in a few months which will answer some of the questions posed about how the District compares on a number of benchmarks against other School Districts in the county and across the State. He offered to come back after the report comes out and respond to questions the townspeople may have on the content of the report.

Eric opened the floor to questions from the audience. There were no questions from the audience so the Board thanked Peter for attending and said that they will follow up with him after the annual report has been released.

Approval of Minutes:

Roger made a motion to approve the minutes from May 24, 2021, seconded by Kathleen, all were in favor. The minutes from the July 26, 2021 meeting will be approved at the next meeting.

Roll call vote:

Roger – Yes Kathleen – Yes Eric – Yes

Motion approved.

Town Administrator Update:

Marie informed the Board that she will attend a webinar on Wednesday to learn more about the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) money the Town may be eligible to receive. She will give an update on ARPA money at the next meeting.

Josh Billing Runaround on Town roads – Patty Spector

Patty requested permission from the Board for use of the Town roadways

for the 45th Annual Josh Billings Runaround on September 19th. There will be a safety meeting tomorrow with the Police and Fire departments of the Towns involved. Roger asked if there was a cost to the Town. Patty responded no, there is no cost to the Towns, the Josh pays for the Police details. Patty noted that the event is non-profit and that all money raised will benefit the Berkshire Humane Society and the Berkshire United Way.

Eric made a motion to allow the Josh Billings use of the Town roads on September 19, seconded by Roger.

Roll call vote:

Kathleen – Yes Roger – Yes Eric – Yes

Motion approved.

Sign Permit for Parks and Recreation at Card Pond – Curt Wilton, Director of Public Works

Curt explained that the Parks & Rec Committee needs to replace the single-sided sign hanging near the fence at Card Pond. They ordered a new double-sided sign which will be placed near the driveway. He apologized that he did not get a permit prior to ordering the sign but would like to get this approved by the Select Board.

Roger said that he would like to ask the Brian Duval, the Zoning Enforcement Officer to review this sign, and the sign requested by Truc's Orient Express to ensure that they both comply with Sign regulations in the Zoning Bylaws. Marie noted that review by the Zoning Enforcement Officer prior to Board approval is not current practice but that it could be in the future. Roger said that rather than delay these approvals to the next Board meeting, he would be willing to approve both signs on the condition that Brian certifies that they are in compliance with Zoning regulations. Eric and Kathleen agreed.

Roger made a motion to approve both sign permit applications if Brian DuVal confirms that they are compliant with Zoning regulations. Eric seconded.

...continued on page 9

October History Quiz Question:

Residents of West Stockbridge participated heavily in World War II. More than 15% of the U.S. population were in the military including many women. Given the demographics of the town at the time, the percentage of participation was considerably higher. Many service members were of Italian heritage, as was the nature of the town.

All of those who served were heroes in their own way. Of the 153 who served, 6 paid the ultimate sacrifice and did not come home. One of those who died is honored both here and in Italy where he was killed. Who was that service member, and what were the circumstances of his death?

(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. Email info@weststockbridgehistory.org or call (413) 232-4270.



**West Stockbridge
Historical Society**
Incorporated in 1994

Local yokel

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



**Berkshire Bank
Charles H. Baldwin & Sons
Flourish Market
Library
Public Market
Town Offices**

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

**Outdoor distribution boxes: Visitors' Booth, Baldwin Hardware,
Shaker Mill Books, The Floor Store, & the Transfer Station**

Roll call vote:

Kathleen – Yes Roger – Yes Eric – Yes

Motion approved.

Truc asked the Board if she needs to wait until the approval from the Building Inspector prior to hanging the signs. Roger answered that she should wait until Brian gives his approval for the signs.

Select Board Speak:

Eric said he is working on new Town sign designs and he is seeking a design that all Town Committees will be able to consider in order to make all Town signage consistent.

Citizen Speak:

Joe Roy said he had a conversation with Curt about the merchant's sign located at the exit of the Turnpike. Since it is very old and falling apart, he suggested having it taken down and thrown away. He said he discussed the old sign with the Village Association and all the merchants agreed it was time to get rid of it. They hope that at some point the Town will be able to put up a "Welcome to West Stockbridge" sign there. Eventually the Village Association hopes for a new directional signs for their businesses. Curt agreed to take down the sign and dispose of it.

Kathleen made a motion to adjourn at 6:51 PM, Roger seconded. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator

Documents: Minutes: May 24, 2021; Letter from Patty Spector in regards to Josh Billings; Sign Permit applications from the Parks & Rec Committee and Truc Orient Express

Select Board Meeting Minutes August 23, 2021

Open Meeting

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

Others in Attendance: Marc Portieri, Police Chief and Steve Traver, Fire Chief

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

Approval of Minutes:

Roger made a motion to approve the minutes from July 26, 2021 and August 9, 2021, seconded by Kathleen.

Roll call vote:

Roger – Yes Kathleen – Yes Eric – Yes

Motion approved.

Town Administrator Update:

-Frank Alfonso, new Department of Public Works employee, started work at Town Hall last week and is doing a great job so far.

-Marie and Elaine continue to seek guidance from the State about the distribution of ARPA funds.

-The ad has been published for bids for the resurfacing project of Cobb Road and East Alford Road project. The Bids are due on September 7, 2021. Curt will report to the Board the bids he received and recommend which Bid the Board should award the project to.

-Marie asked the Board for their preference on the location for the Monday, August 30th public hearing. All Board members agree to hold the hearing in the gym.

TurnPark Events – Jared Gelormino

Jared requested a one-day Liquor License and a one-day Entertainment License for two events at TurnPark. One event is on September 18, 2021 with a Brass Quartet playing from 5 PM until 7 PM for a small group of patrons. The other event will be held on September 24, 2021 for a Comedy Night from 7 PM until 10 PM for approximately 70-100 patrons.

Eric made a motion to approve the one-day Liquor License and one-day Entertainment License for TurnPark for September 18 and September 24, seconded by Kathleen.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen – Yes Roger – Yes Eric – Yes

Motion Approved.

Donation of Obsolete Surplus 4 Inch Fire Hose – Steve Traver, Fire Chief

Fire Chief Steve Traver requested that the Board declare the Town's obsolete 1300 feet of 4-inch fire hose as surplus which allows him to donate this hose to another Fire Department.

Eric made a motion to declare the obsolete 1300 feet of 4-inch fire hose as surplus in order for it to be donated, seconded by Roger.

Roll call vote:

Roger – Yes Kathleen – Yes Eric – Yes

Motion approved.

Select Board Speak:

Roger informed the Board that he still working on his Right of Way project for the Town. He is gathering information, such as deeds and official paperwork, on all property where the Town uses the land as a right of way. As he finds the maps, deeds and other documentation for each Right of Way he would like to submit it to Town Counsel to have the information "certified" to make sure it is all in order. Roger told the Board that this request to Town Counsel to get all the Rights of Ways in order will cost money. Eric and Kathleen agreed this was important work and that this clean-up is needed for the Town.

Citizen Speak:

Joe Roy thanked the Board for pursuing the Rights of Way in the Town and Jared for addressing the noise issue, capacity and parking when applying for his licenses.

Eric made a motion to adjourn at 6:25 PM, Roger seconded.

Roll call vote:

Roger-Yes Kathleen – Yes Eric- Yes

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator

Documents: Minutes: July 26, 2021 and August 9, 2021; Application for one-day Liquor License and one-day Entertainment License for Sept. 18 and Sept. 24, 2021 for TurnPark



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

The *Local Yokel* is supported in part by a grant from the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Latest Exhibitions at TurnPark Art Space

The second pair of exhibitions at TurnPark Art Space this year are now on view in the Gate House and Garage Galleries. *FITCH&HEGNER: Wildebeest*, a multimedia collaboration between Doug Fitch and Chehalis Hegner, is in the Gate House Gallery. Uta Bekaia's *The Longest Day*, a showcase of the elaborate and colorful costumes from the summer solstice event held at the park earlier in the summer, are on display in the Garage Gallery.

"One of our goals in offering concurrent exhibitions on the grounds is to give visitors the opportunity to consider the breadth of expression that can be achieved from multiple artistic formats within the same space," says TurnPark co-founder and director Igor Gomborg. "*The Longest Day* both preserves and contextualizes a moment of celebration from earlier in the season through Uta's intricate creations; *FITCH&HEGNER: Wildebeest* invites us into a mixed-media space, employing common objects as a source of creativity and joy."

Both exhibitions continue through Sunday, October 31, the final day of the 2021 TurnPark Art Space season. For more information, visit <https://www.turnpark.com>.

WANDERING JEWS
WONDERING JEWS
CULTURAL JEWS
MIXED MARRIAGE JEWS
MIXED UP JEWS
NON-JEWS
LGBT JEWS
CREATIVE JEWS

Please check our website www.ahavathsholom for information about our Zoom services, events and updates.

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

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

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



RECONSTRUCTIONIST
CONGREGATION AHAVATH SHOLOM
THE CREATIVE SPIRIT DWELLS HERE
ahavathsholom.com North St., Great Barrington

October Donor Roll Call

Stephen Bazil & Susan Harlap
Marsha & Larry Bernstein
C.C. Cave & Peter Rothstein

Pam & Phil Lockenwitz
Susan Newson
Carole O. Sanders

Molly & Chris Vreeland
Louise Wasserberg
Anonymous: 1

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.)

Annual Harvest Dinner Takeout

Sunday, November 7, 2021

West Stockbridge Congregational Church, 45 Main Street

Drive-Thru Pickup Between 4:30 and 6 pm

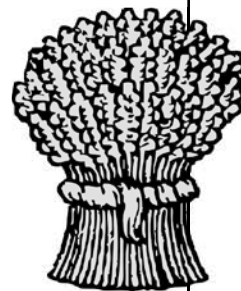
Menu: Turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, squash, peas, roll with butter, and slice of apple pie

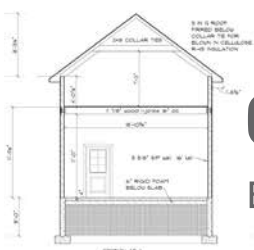
Adult meal: \$15/Child meal: \$8

Cash, check, credit cards, and Venmo accepted!

Note: All meals must be pre-ordered and pre-paid by Friday, October 29

Please call (413) 454-0054





On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky



Anne and Thom's Excellent Adventure, Continued

As both of you who read this column regularly (you know who you are) are aware, I've rattled on about the features of our no-longer-so-new house, aka "Anne and Thom's Excellent Adventure, Part One." In several rattles I've extolled the virtues of solar power.

The 34 panels on our house provide heat, power, and AC for virtually no cost (now that we've paid off the installation price). So the obvious next idea for us was an all-electric vehicle that we could charge off our solar power system. And that's just what we did, continuing our excellent adventure.

We bought a 2021 Ford Mustang Mach-E recently. This is not your father's Mustang. Or more accurately, not my Uncle Charlie's, who bought a sporty little two-seater Mustang in 1963, I think. This new Mustang is an all-wheel drive so-called crossover SUV with lots of classy design features. The car is basically a gaming-computer-on-wheels. And when I had it inspected, the tailpipe emissions section on the report says, "NA." *No* greenhouse gases are being emitted into the atmosphere from this car!

Given how those greenhouse gases are wreaking havoc, we're happy not to be contributing more. In 2019, according to the EPA, transportation contributed about 29% of total greenhouse gases. So the question arises, why not have all vehicles run on electric? Wouldn't this reduce the causes of climate change? The answer is, "It's complicated, dear."

A similar proportion (ca. 25%) of greenhouse gas emissions is caused by *making* electricity. But as we begin to phase out coal-, oil-, and other fossil fuel-burning power plants, this percentage should start to drop. Solar, wind, hydro, and even a new generation of nuclear power production can begin to replace higher pollution-producing methods. Biden's plan is to have half of our electric produced via solar by 2050.

Certainly most of the car manufacturers understand this. Ford, GMC, VW, and many other companies are developing EV (electric vehicle) technologies, and some hope to switch entirely to electric in the next decade or so. The electric Ford F-150 pickup truck hasn't even gone into production yet, and more than 200,000 people have already ordered one. And the major energy companies in Europe are already investing heavily in renewable power.

Why is this important? Remember the winter storm in Texas earlier this year that knocked out power across wide stretches of the state? Oh yeah, then there was a little event called Hurricane Ida, which did *enormous* damage to the infrastructure and power grid in the Gulf states and inundated the Northeast with record rains. The previous record had been set just two weeks before. Last year was the hottest on record, fueling stronger storms, droughts, wildfires, ocean current shifts, and rising sea levels. Even the most ardent climate-change deniers are having to recognize what's happening.

So the next chapter in our excellent adventure features an electric vehicle. People considering EVs want to know about range first and foremost. Our all-wheel-drive with a 68-kW battery gets about 180 miles on a full charge. That's fine for us because we don't travel that much, but there are plenty of charging stations from the central part of the state to the east and to the south. If we needed a charge closer than that, we just use the one in our garage.

With 240-volt capacity (that required a 50-amp breaker and 10-gauge wire!), we can charge about 21 miles of range per hour. So we can charge the battery fully overnight. On the highway, fast chargers can give us, say, 40 or 50 miles of range in under 30 minutes (certainly slower than just topping off the gas tank, but—hey, what's the hurry?). Or with an adapter, we could use the Tesla chargers. And Electrify America chargers are getting easier to find. The computer in the car locates chargers by proximity when we're on the road.

We're hoping the solar panels on our house will power our new car with minimal stress on our overall power infrastructure. It's hard to tell just yet. Our choices will affect what happens next.

And as West Stockbridge mechanic John D'Aniello says, "We've got to adapt!"

OCTOBER FLU CLINIC SCHEDULE

The Community Health Association is offering free flu shots for Richmond and West Stockbridge eligible residents older than 19 years of age. No appointment is necessary. For information about influenza, visit www.cdc.gov/flu.

Please remember to wear a short-sleeve shirt. Face coverings are required. Home visits are available. We do not carry the high-dose influenza vaccine.

RICHMOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, State Rd., Richmond, MA

Friday, October 1, noon–2 pm

Every Thursday in October, 9–10 am

WEST STOCKBRIDGE TOWN OFFICES GYM, 21 State Line Rd., West Stockbridge, MA

Saturday, October 2, noon–2 pm

Tuesday, October 5, 5–7 pm

Every Monday and Wednesday in October, 9–10 am

No clinic on Monday, October 11, due to the holiday

RICHMOND CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL GYM, State Rd., Richmond, MA

Wednesday, October 6, 5–7 pm

For more information, contact Emilie Jarrett, RN, BSN; Tel.: (413) 232-0122; email: Emilie@charws.com

21 State Line Rd., West Stockbridge, MA 01266. Tel.: (413) 232-0122. Fax: (413) 232-0199.

Website: www.rwstcomhealth.com. Email: emilie@charws.com.

JT & Landscaping Tree Services

Fully Insured - Free estimates

413-329-8200

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



WEST STOCKBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

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

Mon., Wed., Thurs., and Sat. 10 am–3 pm | Tues. and Fri. 2–6 pm | Sun. Closed

Happy Halloween, everyone! Readers of all ages are invited to stop in and borrow a scary book this month—and we aren't just talking about books on current events!



BORROW INTERNET SERVICE WITH A LIBRARY HOTSPOT!

If you would like to use the Internet at home, we can loan you a hotspot! Please call or come in to see if one is available for a two-week loan. The hotspot provides a connection to the Internet anywhere you are.

We look forward to seeing you soon! Brad, Vicky, and Rachel

NEW ADULT FICTION

Gregory, *Dark Tides*, 2
Groff, *Matrix*

Macallister, *Arctic Fury*
Patterson, *Noise: A Thriller*

NEW ADULT NONFICTION

Cully, *Dear Highlights: What Adults Can Learn from 75 Years of Letters and Conversations with Kids*
Ferrer, *Cuba: An American History*
Gallagher, *New Women in the Old West: From Settlers to Suffragists, an Untold American Story*
Levin, *American Marxism*
Moyn, *Humane: How the United States Abandoned Peace and Reinvented War*
Sampson, *Two-Way Mirror: The Life of Elizabeth Barrett Browning*
Treuer, *Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to the Present*
Whitlock, *Afghanistan Papers: A Secret History of the War*

NEW YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS

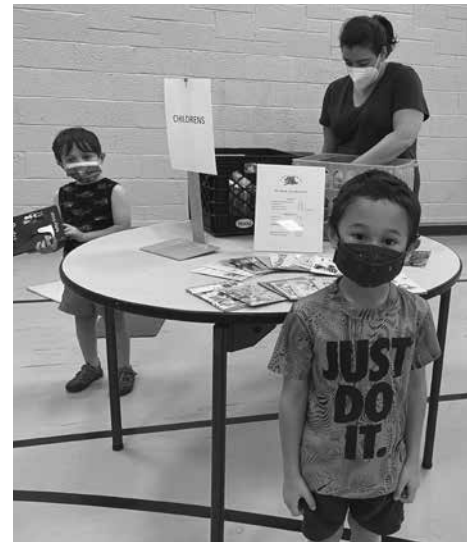
Becker, *Forestborn*
Lester, *John Henry*
Patterson, *Jacky Ha-Ha: A Graphic Novel*
Patterson, *Jacky Ha-Ha: My Life Is a Joke*
Steig, *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble*
Talbott, *Walk in the Words*

The library has expanded hours, effective July 1, 2021



Monday	10 AM – 3 PM
Tuesday	2 PM – 6 PM
Wednesday	10 AM – 3 PM
Thursday	10 AM – 3 PM
Friday	2 PM – 6 PM
Saturday	10 AM – 3 PM

FOL Book Sale Supports Library



Friends of the West Stockbridge Library held a masked and socially distanced book sale on Saturday, August 28, in the Town Offices gym. It featured the cookbook collection of the late Gina and Roland Dudley. In spite of the pandemic, turnout was good, and money was raised to support the efforts of the town library.

Photo by Carol Kuller



Scrapbook October 2021: TEST YOUR TRIVIA KNOWLEDGE!

1. Where could you find farm animals at the Zucchini Festival?
2. Where can you find marble from the Astore Quarry?
3. Who owns the building that houses the Public Market?

1. The petting zoo
2. On the floor of legislative buildings in Albany, Boston, and Philadelphia, as well as at Chesterwood, the steps to the Lincoln Memorial, and the U.S. Senate building.
3. Bernie Fallon

West Stockbridge Cultural Council Invites Grant Proposals for 2022

The West Stockbridge Cultural Council has set an October 15, 2021, postmark deadline for local organizations, schools, and individuals to apply for grants that support cultural activities in our community.

The West Stockbridge Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils (LCCs) serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, applied sciences, and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community. *In West Stockbridge, our priorities are to provide a variety of cultural resources for our diverse community, from preschoolers to older adults.*

Our grants can support many kinds of cultural projects and activities, such as performances, lectures, school programs, workshops, and festivals. Subsidies may also be available for school-age children to attend field trips to local museums and other cultural sites. The council typically grants around \$4,800 annually. Previously funded projects include the West Stockbridge Farmers Market, the *Local Yokel*, Chester Theatre Company, Fall Festival of Shakespeare, Greenagers, and the West Stockbridge Chamber Players.

For specific guidelines and complete information on the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, contact Marjorie Powell at ladyeasland@gmail.com or (413) 232-0222. Application forms and more information about the LCC program are available online at www.mass-culture.org (click on "application process").



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 clinic schedule: every Wednesday from 9 to 10 am at the Town Offices, 21 State Line Road, West Stockbridge, and every Thursday from 9 to 10 am at the Richmond Congregational Church, State Road, Richmond. Info: Emilie Jarrett, RN, (413) 232-0122, or Emilie@charws.com.

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, October 10, the Stockbridge Grange will serve a takeout-only dinner at the Grange Hall at 51 Church Street, Stockbridge. The dinner will be roast pork, with apple or chocolate pie for dessert. Cost is \$14. Pickup time is 1 pm. To place an order, call (413) 243-1298 or (413) 443-4352. The deadline for ordering is October 7.

Council on Aging

Council on Aging meetings remain suspended until further notice.

The Knitters Group

The Knitters will meet on Wednesdays from 2 to 4 pm in the Community Room at the Town Offices.

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

Bark Mulch Topsoil Compost

Delivery

413-243-4111

Meadow Farm LLC

PO Box 393

1125 Meadow Street

South Lee, Ma 01260

Compost Facility Accepting Yard & Wood Waste

"We Remember When . . ."

Growing Up in West Stockbridge in the 1950s

A Series of Recollections by John Bormolini and Friends



*Buddy Holly and his band, The Crickets.
Source: <https://discover.hubpages.com>*

Music in Our Lives

It was the 1950s, and some of the most popular artists were just starting to make it in the world of music. This was not lost to us kids growing up at that time. Television was in its infancy; there was not the plethora of programming available today, and not everyone could afford a good old black-and-white 12-inch TV. To get any reception, most users purchased an antenna and mounted it on the highest point on their roof. In West Stockbridge, we were among a lot of trees, and reception was a crap shoot.

But virtually every family had a radio, and most were quite fancy. Radio stations were easier to come by, and there was a variety of programming. Lots of music stations also featured story programming, such as "The Lone Ranger and Tonto." There was one Pittsfield radio station that aired Polish and polka music. It was a tradition for many families to turn on the radio after church. Louise Faggioni went to her sister's house recently, and when she walked into the garage, the radio was tuned to the same station that aired polka music more than 70 years ago!

Closer to home, Williams High School offered country and western music with square dancing. There were two or three square dances during the school year, mostly in the fall. The janitors even spread sawdust on the floor for that "western aroma." Participants were encouraged to wear their

best western regalia. There was a live band and a caller for the square dancing, and country and western tunes were played between dances. My recollection is there were six sets of square dancers with four couples per set. The caller would do a quick rehearsal to get all the dancers going in the right direction. A fun night was had by all. Many first-time square dancers got into the swing of things, and the veteran dancers showed off their stuff.

While I was working on this story, I received a phone call from Helen Zanconato. It's always fun to receive a call from one of your readers because it lets you know that you are reaching your audience. She reminded me that in the Dr. Persing article, I failed to attribute her prior names (Wilton, Nolan). Helen and I talked about square dancing, and she recalled that our seventh- and eighth-grade classes held square dances in the big gym at the elementary school on many occasions. Most of all, she recalled that "Subby" Viola, the school janitor, would join in. Helen told me she has a collection of 45 and 78 rpm vinyl records, including from the 1950s, and a Victrola to play them. Finally, I had to tell her that one of our beloved elementary and high school classmates, Judith Frana (Forster, Linscott), passed away on September 12 after a hard-fought battle with cancer. She was loved by everyone, and her passing was a shock to all of us. Louise Faggioni called Judy daily to console her and help her through the hardest time of her life. Rest in peace, Judy.

Square dances lost their popularity when the music changed. A few of the artists who skyrocketed to fame in those years and their hits include Buddy Holly, "That'll Be the Day"; Elvis Presley, "You Ain't Nothin' But a Hound Dog"; Jerry Lee Lewis, "Great Balls of Fire"; The Everly Brothers, "Wake Up, Little Susie"; Carl Perkins, "Blue Suede Shoes"; Chuck Berry, "Sweet Little Sixteen"; Johnny Cash, "Folsom Prison Blues"; and Chubby Checker, "Let's Twist Again Like We Did Last Summer." Square dances gave way to the twist and hula hoops and what became known as rock 'n' roll.

This new music thrilled the kids but aggravated parents and traditionalists who loved Big Band music, such as Tommy Dorsey. Other memories of those times include the show *American Bandstand*, hosted by Dick Clark, and sadly, February 3, 1959, "the day the music died," when Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and "Big Bopper" J.P. Richardson, along with pilot Roger Peterson, perished in a plane crash. A tragic end, but their rockin' legacy lives on.

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 email John at johnbormo@aol.com.

The Floor Store

413-232-7175
www.the-floorstore.com
12 Main Street
West Stockbridge, MA 01266



Come see our variety of hardwood, ceramic,
glass, carpet, bamboo and more!
We have been flooring people since 1983!

Scott Wilton

*Restoration & Conservation
Fine Furniture & Interiors*

*Restore & revitalize old finishes
Repairs, re-gluing, veneers, replacements
varnishes, shellacs, Japan colors*

**P.O. Box 338
West Stockbridge, MA 01266 (413) 232-4349**

History Quiz Answer:

Joseph A. Libardi was the oldest son of the six children of Guiseppe Libardi (also known as Joseph) and his mother, Rose Merci. The family rented a home on Great Barrington Road, and both father and son worked in the lime quarry, as did many of the Italian families at the time. Joe was drafted in the U.S. Army in October 1942, along with many of our town's young people.

In 1943, Joe was assigned to the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the forerunner to the CIA, and stationed in Algeria for potential missions in Italy. That summer Sicily had been invaded by the Allies, and by the fall, the war had moved to the Italian mainland. The military needed soldiers fluent in Italian, particularly for dangerous missions, and Joe was a perfect fit for that role. As the war moved up the Italian peninsula, the German army dug in with strongly defended lines efficiently supplied by the rail lines from the north. The lines had to be broken to shorten the war and free Italy.

In March 1944, Joe Libardi's OSS unit embarked on Operation Ginny, a very dangerous mission to go ashore far behind enemy lines to blow up the railroad tunnels near La Spezia. Operation Ginny was part of the plan to severely hamper German resupply efforts and ease the pressure on the ground forces. The OSS team were all fluent Italian speakers, trained for secret missions just like this one.

However, like most of the OSS missions in Europe, it did not go well. (Despite Hollywood movies, the OSS success rate was very low and the death rate of its members high.) The PT boats that brought them ashore were discovered and battled with the German navy. The army on shore was alerted, and two days later, all 15 members in the landing party were captured. They couldn't get near the rail tunnels to finish their mission.

Two days after they were captured, Gen. Anton Dostler, a career military officer with 35 years of service to Germany and the Nazi regime, was told by his superiors to follow Hitler's illegal commando order of 1942. It called for the immediate execution of any troops taking part in sabotage. When he relayed the message to the local unit, their commander attempted to delay it, saying it would violate the 1929 Geneva Convention. Dostler was adamant, going as far to have a member of his staff fired for insubordination for refusing to sign off on the execution orders. On March 26, all 15 members of the unit (in their U.S. uniforms) were marched to a beach and executed.

In May 1945, Dostler was captured and subsequently found guilty at the Nuremburg trials. His defense was that "he was just following orders" (even though they were illegal and not allowed under the Geneva Convention). The tribunal rejected that defense (the first of many attempts to use it), convicted Dostler, and he was executed.

Joseph Libardi received the Silver Star for his heroism. His body, along with the rest of his unit, was recovered, and all were buried in the U.S. Military Cemetery and Memorial in Florence. His father, Joseph Sr., died in October 1944, not long after being notified that his son was missing in action (which could have contributed to his premature death). Joseph Libardi is remembered in West Stockbridge by the naming of the American Legion Post in his honor.



*Joseph A. Libardi, Jr.
(1921-1944).*

Photo source: findagrave.com


Mill Brook Sugar House

New Lenox Road
Lenox, MA

www.millbrookmaplestore.com



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

Find us on 

Local Delivery
&
Shipping available



**The Best Pottery
to Fall For**

Hoffman Pottery
works that dance with energy

103 Great Barrington Rd/Rt 41 • West Stockbridge, MA 01266
413.232.4646 • www.EHoffmanPottery.com

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

Please help us keep the *Local Yokel* coming!

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

☐ **Yes!** I want to support the *Local Yokel*.

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____
made payable to WSLY.

Name (as you want it to appear in acknowledgments)

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

City State Zip

Email

Check any that apply:

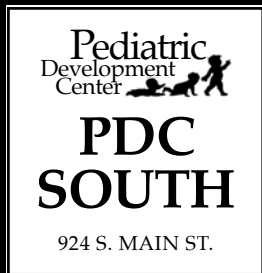
- ☐ I would like my contribution to remain anonymous.
- ☐ Thanks, but don't mail the *Local Yokel* to me. Save the postage; I'll pick it up myself.
- ☐ Yes, please do send me a YKL Bumper Sticker for my donation of \$35 or more.



Please mail this form with your check to:

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

Concerned about your Infant or Toddler's development?



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

**Certified Therapists offering evaluations & visits
at your home, in our center, or through telehealth**

Dept. of Public Health Certified Early Intervention Program

924 Main Street
Great Barrington
413-717-4083

www.pediatricdevelopmentcenter.org

Est. 1888

Charles H. Baldwin & Sons

Manufacturers of

Baldwin's Pure Vanilla Extract

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

CHECK OUT OUR EAGLE, DUCK,
DOVE, GUINEA PIG, WOLF AND
SKELETON MASKS!!

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

1 Center Street
West Stockbridge
Massachusetts

CURBSIDE PICK UP AVAILABLE.
STORE HOURS: MON-SAT 10-5 & SUNDAYS BY CHANCE
PLEASE CALL 232-7785 TO CHECK FOR ANY
UPDATED COVID RESTRICTIONS.

www.baldwinextracts.com





38 Main Street | West Stockbridge, MA
(413) 232-4253
www.StoneHouseProperties.com



WEST STOCKBRIDGE | \$700,000
Converted Barn on 8 Acres in a Private, Beautiful Setting

Town Government Boards and Commissions, Phone Directory, and Office Hours

Town Offices Main Number (413) 232-0300 • Fax 232-7195

Animal Control	<i>John Drake</i>	464-2148		As Needed
Assessors Office	<i>Mary Stodden</i>	232-0300	ext. 303	Tues. 1–5 pm; Thurs. 9 am–1 pm
Board of Health	<i>Earl Moffatt</i>	232-0300	ext. 314	Fri. 9 am–4 pm, or by appt.
Select Board	<i>Roger Kavanagh, Kathleen Keresey, Eric Shimelonis</i>	232-0300	ext. 319	
Town Administrator	<i>Marie Ryan</i>			Mon.–Thurs. 7 am–3 pm Fri. 7 am–11 am
Building Inspector	<i>Brian Duval</i>	232-0300	ext. 313	Leave Message for Inquiries
Conservation Commission	<i>John Masiero</i>	232-7063		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 329-7153 (non-emergency)		Mon. 6:30–9 pm
Highway Department	<i>Curt G. Wilton</i>	232-0305		Leave Message for Inquiries
Library	<i>Rachel Alter</i>	232-0300	ext. 308	Mon., Wed., Thurs., and Sat. 10 am–3 pm; Tues. and Fri. 2 pm–6 pm; closed Sun.
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 am–7 pm; 7 days/week; Window: Mon.–Fri. 9 am–4:30 pm; Sat. 9 am–12 noon
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 pm
Town Collector	<i>June A. Biggs</i>	232-0300	ext. 302	Wed. 3–6 pm; Thurs. and Fri. 10 am– 2 pm; Sat. 10 am–1 pm
Town Historian	<i>Robert Salerno</i>	232-4465		
Town Treasurer	<i>Karen Williams</i>	232-0300	ext. 316	Thurs. 9 am–4 pm
Transfer Station	<i>Wayne Cooper</i>	232-0307		Tues. & Thurs. 10 am–6 pm and Sat. 8 am–6 pm
Tree Warden	<i>Andrew Fudge</i>	212-9206		
Veterans Agency	<i>Laurie Hills</i>	528-1580		
Zoning Board of Appeals	<i>C. Randolph Thunfors</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	

Official Town Government Website: weststockbridge-ma.gov • Community and Business Website: visitweststockbridge.com

Welcome to "The Overlook," the Beautiful New Outdoor Space Behind the Old Town Hall

By Liza Bennett

When the West Stockbridge Historical Society purchased the Old Town Hall from the town for a dollar in 2009, the parking lot and a badly overgrown area in the rear came with it. We had been concentrating so hard on restoring the building, it took us until last year to realize what was sitting in our own backyard. But we began to see the area's potential after a state grant allowed our resourceful Highway Department crew to rip out the overgrowth, flatten the uneven surfaces—exposing a magnificent boulder in the process—distribute picnic tables and benches, and install a split-rail fence that helped secure the area. A huge slab of historic marble that came from Mark Gouren and a quarry on Lenox Road was moved in by the Highway Department and now has pride of place on the now level and grass-covered lawn.

Lisa Parker's award-winning floral arrangements in the planters and pots give the space, which the Historical Society is calling "The Overlook," a sense of harmony and peace. The weekend after Labor Day, a group of Historical Society board members and volunteers planted a row of hydrangea bushes along the path that leads from the parking area to the rear entrance of the Old Town Hall. We offer heartfelt thanks to Curt Wilton and the Highway Department for their advice and expert work in building an extension to the stone wall, putting in pavers to create a long raised bed for the shrubs, and doing the heavy lifting on compost and mulch distribution.

The Historical Society is delighted to welcome everyone to "The Overlook." Bring a picnic or a book and enjoy the view!

Photos by Bob Salerno



Rear entrance to Old Town Hall showing plantings and pavers edging raised bed.



WSHS volunteers who installed the plantings from left to right Liza Bennett, Sybil Pollet, Becky Sorrentino, Peter Sorrentino, Curt Wilton, Dan Buehler, John Masiero.



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



Many thanks

to the vendors, shoppers, volunteers, musicians, lawn mowers, police officers, board members & business owners who have generously donated their parking lots and green spaces & to the Local Yokel.

Many thanks

to those who have made generous monetary donations.

It truly takes a village to run the West Stockbridge Farmers Market. Thanks so much for helping make this happen for the past ten years.

We are very grateful!

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

thelocalyokel.org



October

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					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						

October 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.

10/4	Select Board meeting	6 pm	See town website for details
10/7	WS Farmers Market: Last Day of Season	3–6 pm	The Foundry Green, Harris Street
10/10	Stockbridge Grange Dinner (pre-order; takeout only)	Pickup at 1 pm	Stockbridge Grange, 51 Church St.
10/11	Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day		
10/11	Parks & Recreation Commissioners meeting	5:30 pm	See town website for details
10/15	*** Deadline for the next <i>Local Yokel</i> ***		Send to info@thelocalyokel.org
10/16	Hazardous Waste Collection Day	9 am–1 pm	Great Barrington Recycling Center, 601 Stockbridge Rd. (Route 7)
10/18	Select Board meeting	6 pm	See town website for details
10/19	Vision Committee meeting	6 pm	See town website for details
10/31	Halloween:		
	Trick or Treat	4–6 pm	Around downtown
	Halloween Haunts Drive-Thru	7–9 pm	Town Offices, 21 State Line Rd.