

Local yokel

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

West
Stockbridge

December
2020

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005



Wishing you all a happy & safe Holiday Season!

*TurnPark sculpture Don Quixote by Nikolai Silis.
Photo by Emily Weiland*

WEST STOCKBRIDGE

Sparkles

Sunday, Dec 6th
★ 4-7pm

JOY
FIRE PITS
GOOD CHEER
TWINKLE LIGHTS
CHRISTMAS MUSIC
GIFTS FOR THE KIDDOS
BRING-YOUR-OWN S'MORES
ZOOM-WITH-SANTA STATION
SOCIAALLY DISTANCED AND SAFE
ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

At the Town Hall
21 State Line Road
West Stockbridge

Subject to change under MA COVID safety guidelines.
Check WS Facebook page for any changes.

Holiday Art Show
Treasures for the Season
an Online Art Show | Guild of Berkshire Artists | BerkshireArtists.org

www.berkshireartists.org



On Display Online:
October 30 2020 - January 22, 2021

The Covid 19 Pandemic has affected so many lives, it is because of this we would like to raise money for medical supplies and charitable food pantries.

Browse the show and purchase your favorite art directly from the artist. Each local sale donates 25% or more to the Covid-19 Emergency Fund of Berkshire United Way.

28 Artists
Showcasing 50 works in:
Painting
Mixed Media
Photography
Ceramics
Textiles



www.BerkshireArtists.org and
BerkshireArtists@gmail.com

Guild of Berkshire Artists

West Stockbridge Embraces New Halloween Traditions

By Caitlin Graham

The year 2020 has thrown us a lot of curve balls, but we still managed to pull off an incredibly popular Halloween event here in West Stockbridge. The Halloween Haunted Drive-Thru turned out to be incredibly spooky and exciting! After a snowy Friday made installation challenging, a volunteer team managed to have the site prepped to receive cars full of guests by 6:30 p.m. on Halloween. In less than three hours, 169 cars (and more than 700 people) made their way along Main Street, up Hotel and Maple Streets, and through the church driveway.



Left and right photos by John Parker
Center photo by Cait Graham

...continued on page 8

Help Keep Us Going!

The **Local Yokel**

... your free, monthly community newsletter, bringing you news, information, and features about what's happening in West Stockbridge

Like many other nonprofits—and businesses too—we are faced with lower donations and advertising revenues as a result of the challenging economic environment caused by COVID-19

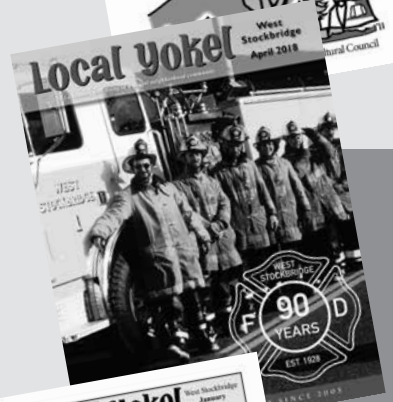
We are taking steps to reduce expenses (we're quite frugal as it is), but we need *your* support if we are to continue providing this service we know so many people enjoy and depend on

Please make a donation today, any amount will help, using the form on page 21 or Santa's Wish List on page 13

Thank you, and best wishes for a happy holiday!

The Local Yokel Team:

Kim Bradway, Paul Cunningham, Susan Fisher, Gail Garrick, Vicki Grayson, Anne Lesser, John Parker





Results of November 3 Election in West Stockbridge



I VOTED.



Thanks to Town Clerk Ronni Barrett for the numbers. Ronni says that this election drew the largest voter response since she started in 2010: ballots were cast by 975 of 1,157 registered voters (84%). The breakdown by method of voting was 515 in advance of Election Day by mail-in and in-person early voting, 449 on Election Day, and 11 ballots were e-mailed by registered voters living overseas. Note: only write-ins receiving more than 5 votes are reported by name.

President/Vice President

Biden/Harris 784
Hawkins/Walker 4
Jorgensen/Cohen 15
Trump/Pence 164
Write in 4
Blank 4

Senator in Congress

Markey 783
Kevin O'Connor 166
Write in 6
Blank 20

Representative in Congress

Neal 783
Write in 19
Blank 173

Councillor

Hurley 754
Write in 3
Blank 218

Senator in General Court

Hinds 785
Write in 4
Blank 186

Register of Probate

Patella 691
Write in 2
Blank 282

Representative in General Court

Smitty Pignatelli 821
Write in 5
Blank 149

School Committee

West Stockbridge: Write in, 45;
Write in Bonnie Buffoni, 13; Blank,
917

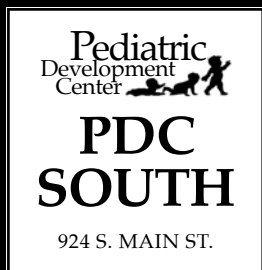
Ballot Question 1 (Vehicle Mechanical Data)

Yes 674
No 238
Blank 63

Question 2 (Ranked-Choice Voting)

Yes 505
No 397
Blank 73

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Select Board Meeting Minutes

[Editor's note: At the town administrator's request, the Select Board minutes here are reprinted verbatim with no editing of text. Official board minutes are available at the West Stockbridge Public Library and on the town website, <https://www.weststockbridge-ma.gov/>. Select Board meetings may be viewed on Spectrum cable local access channel 190. Residents can receive e-mail notification of town events and meeting agendas by subscribing at <http://weststockbridgema.virtualtownhall.net/subscriber>].

Select Board Meeting Minutes October 5, 2020 21 State Line Road, Town Hall

Open Meeting

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

Others Present: Curt Wilton, DPW Director, Marc Portieri, Police Chief and Joe Roy.

Roger opened the meeting at 6:00 PM. He said the warrants were signed and he made a motion to approve the minutes of September 14 and September 16, 2020. Eric seconded and all were in favor.

Town Administrator Update:

- Marie told the Board that she has added the State's COVID-19 update to the Town website. She will update the website as new updates are received.
- She will be applying for a Community Compact IT Grant to offset the costs of cleaning up the server area in the basement.
- The State Elections Division has worked with the vendors that provide election voting equipment and is allowing the Towns to purchase a spare voting machine for only \$150. She has accepted the offer and will purchase the spare machine which was already on site as a spare for the upcoming elections.

- The Board of Health, Parks Commissioners, Police Department and Fire Department have advised the Town not have Trick or Treat this year. As an alternative, the Parks Commissioners will be holding a parade and a drive-thru Haunted House. The Select Board supported the decision.
- Marie proposed that the Board conduct all future Board meetings, at least through the winter months, as virtual meetings via Zoom beginning on October 19th. The Board agreed.
- Beth Sack, Library Trustees Chair, Rachel Alter, Librarian and Karen Williams, Town Treasurer, have agreed to bring the Library Accounts back into the control and oversight of the Town Treasurer and Accountant.
- The Intermunicipal Understanding for the Fire Chief with Richmond still has one issue to be resolved and Marie hopes to have a final copy for signatures at the next meeting.
- Bob Salerno clarified the statement on the agenda regarding the timing of the Audit report. He said the Town would be better served, particularly in the development of the annual budget, if the audit report was available by Jan 1 each year. The Board agreed. Marie will ask Accountant to notify the Auditor of this change.

Master Plan Agreement with Berkshire Regional Planning: Dana Bixby, Planning Board Chair, requested that the Board formally approve the structure and process she proposed for executing the Master Plan project.

...continued on page 7



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

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Art Guild's Holiday Show Is a West Stockbridge Showcase

By Carolyn Kay Brancato

West Stockbridge serves as an inspiration for numerous artists in the Guild of Berkshire Artists' holiday art show "Treasures for the Season." Twenty-eight artists from the guild's 160 Berkshire-area members are exhibiting 50 works of photography, ceramics, and painting/drawing in oil, watercolor, acrylics, or mixed media. The virtual show runs until January 22 and can be viewed at www.BerkshireArtists.org. With the guild's commitment to give back to the community, artists pledge a minimum of 25% of their sales to the charity of their choice, most giving to the United Way's COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund for Berkshire County.

The guild's current president, Margie Skaggs, notes, "Prior to the pandemic, the town's 1854 Historic Town Hall on Main Street housed our annual show that attracted hundreds of visitors each week." During the pandemic, the guild generally switched to virtual shows, although it held one in-person outdoor show in October, "Six Feet Apart, Zero Degrees of Separation," at the innovative TurnPark Art Space on Moscow Road in West Stockbridge.

One of the guild's goals, as explained by past president and West Stockbridge resident Karen Carmean, is to hold various programs to educate the public about our glorious Berkshires. The nexus between the artists' work in the holiday show and the beauty of West Stockbridge is particularly evident in the work of three of the artists.

Carolyn Newberger is a signature member of the New England Watercolor Society and represented by Galatea Fine Art in Boston and the Artful Mind Gallery in Lenox. She uses watercolor painting, mixed media, and collage, specializing in drawing from life in real time—in both the natural world and in darkened performance halls. Her drawing in pen, ink, and pastel, "Linda Toote, Flute," portrays a BSO and West Stockbridge Chamber Players musician. It is in the vein of her illustrations that accompany music reviews in the *Berkshire Edge*. Carolyn says, "The challenge is to keep a receptive ear and a loose hand to capture both performer and sound, with their rhythm, flow, and intensity." The West Stockbridge Chamber Players has for many years performed concerts to benefit the restoration of the Old Town Hall.

In her home in West Stockbridge, Margie Skaggs produces elegant hand-built ceramics. Although she majored in art and art history in college, she didn't pursue ceramics until several years after graduation. Pottery classes at the Craft Students' League in New York City led to an appreciation of 20th-century Japanese design and to the tradition of the *Mingei*, or Japanese folk pottery. This aesthetic was further developed by Americans who studied in Japan, returned to the states, and produced functional, beautiful, and affordable work. Margie recently traveled to Japan to deepen her knowledge of this art form for both her wheel-thrown and hand-built creations. Her "Tea Bowl" was inspired by the American *Mingei* tradition.

Finally, Lear Levin's photo giclée archival print, "Berkshire Winter," shows a snow-covered barn belonging to his neighbor in West Stockbridge. A former filmmaker, Lear now devotes his time to fine art photography. For nearly four decades, he worked as a film director and director of photography for feature-length documentaries, short films, TV specials, and thousands of commercials. His television work, including on Martha Stewart's lifestyle show, received numerous Emmys. The Museum of Modern Art and the George Eastman Library hold his work in their permanent collections. Lear says, "While carrying a motion picture camera on my shoulder, I always kept a still camera around my neck." This allowed him to capture a range of diverse images for exotic locations as well as ballet dancers, rodeo cowboys, and prize-fighters. We are fortunate to have Lear in our midst to capture the matchless beauty of West Stockbridge.



From the top:
Margie Skaggs, "Tea Bowl," Ceramics
Lear Levin, "Berkshire Winter," Photography
Carolyn Newberger, "Linda Toote, Flute,"
Drawing

Select Board Meeting Minutes ...continued from page 5

After Board discussion, Roger made the following motion:

I make a motion that the Select Board approve the Master Plan organization proposed by Dana Bixby and authorize her to modify the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission consulting agreement as she sees fit.

He then took a roll call vote:

Kathleen Yes
Eric Yes
Roger Yes

Bike Share Feasibility Study Agreement: Roger told the Board that he had been in touch with Eammon Coughlin, the Berkshire Regional Commission contact for the Bike Share study and had informed him that the Town's \$3,000 matching fund commitment was not funded in the FY21 budget. As such, the Town was withdrawing its commitment to participate in the Bike Share Study. After Board discussion, Roger made the following motion:

I move to rescind the motion passed by the Board at the September 9, 2020 meeting which stated that the Town would commit \$3,000 to fund its share of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Bike Share Feasibility Study and to authorize Town Counsel to draw up a letter to BRPC stating that West Stockbridge is withdrawing its funding commitment and will not be participating in the Bike Share Feasibility Study.

He then took a roll call vote:

Kathleen Yes
Eric Yes
Roger Yes

Host Community Agreement: Roger stated that the Board had been contacted by Sean Sheridan, a cannabis entrepreneur, who asked to speak to the Board about developing a Host Community Agreement (HCA) for a cannabis retail store in West Stockbridge. He told Mr. Sheridan that the Board would listen to his proposal and then discuss next steps. He asked Mr. Sheridan to tell the Board about his business background and experience and to share his ideas about establishing a business in West Stockbridge.

Mr. Sheridan said that he had owned and operated a cannabis dispensary in Colorado. He said he was interested in West Stockbridge because of its location near the NY State line and the Mass Turnpike. There was a lengthy discussion about licensing, location, traffic and the Town's very restrictive marijuana bylaws. The Board members asked if Mr. Sheridan if he could provide any details about the business he is thinking about establishing in West Stockbridge. He shared that he has a broad range of business ideas but nothing specific at this time. He said he would develop specifics if the Town was interested in working with him to develop an HCA.

Roger said that the next step for the Board would be to meet and begin discussions about developing a process and an HCA application, similar to those developed by other towns in Massachusetts, that would guide the Town and potential vendors through the development of an HCA. Mr. Sheridan thanked the Board for their time.

Special Town Meeting: Marie stated that there are a few items that needed to be acted on at a Town Meeting. Specifically, the approval of the Community Preservation Committee Bylaw, the re-appropriation of funds approved at the 2020 Annual Town Meeting for fire department Gear

Racks to be used instead to purchase other essential fire department equipment, and corrections/amendment to Chapter 135 of the General Bylaws per the Building Inspector. The date proposed for a Special Town Meeting is Wednesday, November 18th at 6 PM.

The Board approved the proposed date by roll call vote:

Kathleen Yes
Eric Yes
Roger Yes

Select Board Speak:

Roger informed the Board that he spoke with the Attorney for Ivan Barros at Formel's Salvage in regards to the truck traffic on Great Barrington Road. Mr. Barros is willing to meet and discuss this issue but does not want to do it in an open session. Roger suggested that he and Curt could meet him. Eric and Kathleen said they were OK with that.

Kathleen reported that the Shared Streets and Spaces project is progressing well. Most of the restaurants have the items they requested but there is still more work to do and she is concerned about completing the project by the October 9 deadline. She asked the Board for assistance with the work that remains and Eric agreed to help out with whatever she needs.

Citizen Speak:

Joe Roy read a letter he had sent to the Board about a recent incident where a car turning into Center street kept executing the turn even though his children were crossing Main Street in the crosswalk to board the school bus which had its yellow lights flashing. He provided a picture of the incident captured by his store security camera and several other pictures illustrating the difficulty motorists have actually seeing a pedestrian in the crosswalk. He also spoke about drivers not observing the speed limit downtown. He suggested either speed bumps and/or additional police presence.

Kathleen stated that the Shared Streets grant program provides funds to be used for "traffic calming" and that she and Curt have discussed speed bumps. Curt agreed that seasonal speed bumps would be effective in slowing traffic but there is a risk of additional noise as large vehicles pass over them, so it would be prudent to have a discussion with business owners and residents in regards to this issue. Curt added that the best deterrent to speeding would be a reputation of WSPD ticketing speeders so drivers will drive slow through town.

Marc Portieri, Police Chief believes there are issues with this crosswalk that make it difficult for drivers to see. He said there has been an increase in traffic lately and he thinks a flashing sign would help. A patrol car could help but there is really no place for them to park on Main Street to do this in order to be effective. His department is doing what they can right now to try to slow the traffic down going through Main Street.

Kathleen reminded the Chief that this isn't just a downtown issue and she would like to see traffic controlled on the streets outside of the center of Town as well. Marc said they do radar and observe on all the roads in Town.

After hearing from other citizens on this matter, Roger made a motion to adjourn, a roll call vote was taken. Roger, Kathleen and Eric were in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

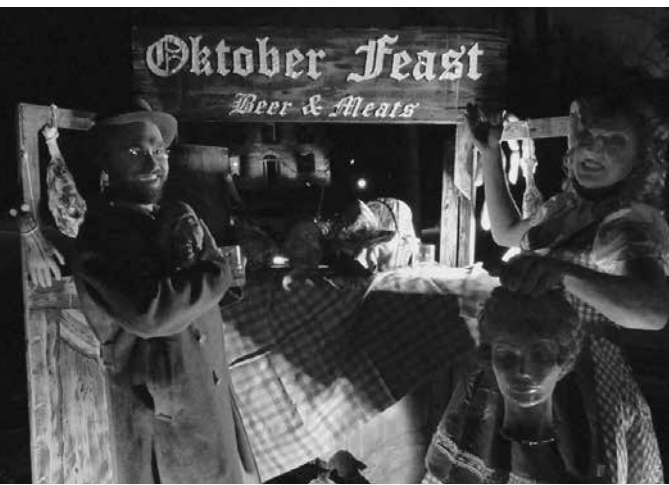
Marie W. Ryan
Town Administrator

...continued on page 9

Town Offices Closed to the Public Beginning Thursday, November 19

Unfortunately, once again, due to the increase in positive COVID-19 cases and the holidays coming up, we are closing the Town Offices to the public beginning Thursday, November 19, until further notice.

The library will also be closed to browsing and computer use at this time.



Photos by John Parker

Guests encountered a wide variety of chilling scenes ranging from fortune-tellers and a vampire funeral to a coven of witches and a macabre Oktober Feast. The grim reaper made an appearance, as did a living scarecrow, Jason Voorhees, and a mad scientist in a lab gone wrong. The volunteers all enjoyed seeing the faces of thrilled, laughing, scared, amused, and often screaming guests of all ages!

Readers may remember when West Stockbridge was well known for its night of Halloween fun. Locals recounted memories of “cabbage night” and sneaking into their neighbors’ gardens. Others reminisced about Halloween parades, hayrides, and the haunted hallways and costume contests at the Village School. More recently, the Congregational Church has hosted a well-attended Haunted Sanctuary and costume party, the Fire Department has taken kids on a Halloween Parade, and the Police Department engaged kids in a fun obstacle course. West Stockbridge has a long-standing tradition of embracing the spooky fun of Halloween, and 2020 proved that the town was eager and willing to support a new, COVID-safe celebration.

The Haunted Drive-Thru was made possible by more than 45 costumed community volunteers from the West Stockbridge Congregation Church, UCC, the West Stockbridge Fire Department, Parks & Recreation, the Wisdom Lodge A.F. & A.M., the Village Association, high school kids, and helpful folks just looking for a safe way to bring happiness during this difficult year. The traffic was handled by the West Stockbridge Police Department officers, who are always ready and happy to lend a hand. The Haunted Drive-Thru was directed by Cait Graham, community outreach coordinator for the Congregational Church, and Sam Reilly, vice president of the Ghent Playhouse.


If you didn’t get a chance to visit the event, you can check it out on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=__kvR0KHdeU. The link will also be on the town’s Facebook page (thank you to Joe Roy for putting it together for us). This was a wonderful way to give our local families a safe and unique Halloween event, and to show folks that here in West Stockbridge we’re a heck of a fun town!

Girdler Electric
MA Master License 16255

Barry Girdler
owner

P. O Box 20
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413-237-5957

barry@girdlerelectric.com
girdlerelectric.com



Dana Bixby ■ Architecture
www.danabixby.com 413-232-7834

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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.

Select Board Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2020
Via Zoom Meeting

Open Meeting

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

Others Present: Marc Portieri, Police Chief and Rosario Messina, Police Sergeant.

Roger opened the meeting at 6:00 PM. He stated that the warrants were signed by a quorum and he made a motion to approve the minutes of September 21, 2020. Eric seconded and a roll call vote was made:

Kathleen Yes
Eric Yes
Roger Yes

Motion passed.

Town Administrator Update:

- Albany Road Cell Tower update – Town Counsel has been working with Charter’s attorney to undo changes they made to forms that can’t be changed per Mass General Law. He is confident that these changes will be made and that they will come to agreement on the terms of the land lease.
- Moscow Road Property with National Grid – Town Counsel Kate Klein is working with National Grid to clarify the easements they want on both sides of the overhead lines that border Moscow Road. Kathleen asked Marie to arrange a meeting with Kate to go through the details of the agreement.
- At the request of Fire Chief, Steve Traver, the Town will begin a new burn permit process in January. Burn permits will be requested using an online process. A phone number will be provided to enable residents who don’t have access to the online system to call and request a burn permit. The new process eliminates the burn permit fee. Information about the new process will be posted on the Town website and in the Local Yoke.

Board of Health Update:

Board of Health Agent Earl Moffatt was not able to attend the meeting. This item will be rescheduled.

Traffic Safety Solutions- Police Chief Marc Portieri

Chief Portieri told the Board that he has changed the hours of the day shift to 7AM – 4PM. This will allow him to assign a patrol officer to monitor traffic on Main Street in the AM and PM when school buses are picking up and discharging children.

He offered two other suggestions for improving traffic safety on Main Street:

1. Add seasonal speed bumps.
2. Add new bright lime green crosswalk signage and lights.

He added that the crosswalks at Center Street and Main Street are not effective because they don’t stand out and drivers don’t notice them. He suggested painting them so they look more like other crosswalks and drivers will be more likely to see them. After discussion about options for new signage and/or warning lights at the crosswalks, the Board asked Marc to work with Curt Wilton to develop solutions they could both support and to bring those to Marie for consideration by the Board.

Intermunicipal Agreement for Fire Chief with Richmond:

Roger reviewed several key items within the agreement and proposed that a copy of the agreement, along with two other intermunicipal agreements between West Stockbridge and Richmond, should be posted to the Town website.

A roll call vote was taken on a motion to post the agreements.

Kathleen Yes
Eric Yes
Roger Yes

Motion passed.

Order of Taking of Silver Mine Lane:

Roger explained that the “Order of Taking of Silver Mine Lane was the last step in the process of making Silver Mine Lane a Town road. The article to take Silver Mine Lane as a Town road was approved at the 2020 Annual Town Meeting.

Roger made a motion to accept and approve the Order of Taking for Silver Mine Lane. Eric seconded and roll call vote was taken:

Kathleen Yes
Eric Yes
Roger Yes

Motion passed.

Fleet Vehicles Policy – Green Communities – Eric Shimelonis

Eric explained to the Board that this is one of the steps that the Town needed to take to meet the requirements of the Green Community grant. He reviewed the key elements of the Fleet Vehicle policy, pointing out that the vehicles the Town currently owns (fire trucks, DPW trucks, Police cruisers) are all exempt from this policy but if the Town were to purchase a fleet vehicle in the future it would have to meet the efficiency guidelines in the Policy.

After Board discussion, Eric made a motion to accept the Fleet Vehicle Policy, Kathleen seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Kathleen Yes
Eric Yes
Roger Yes

Motion passed.

Host Community Agreement – Potential next steps

This item was a follow up to the discussion at the October 5, 2020, Board meeting about a Host Community Agreement for a retail marijuana establishment. Roger proposed that the Board begin working on developing a Host Community Application and Process so that the Town would be prepared to deal with vendors who may approach the Town in the future looking to establish a Host Community Agreement for a marijuana establishment.

He added that the HCA Application that was in the Board packet for tonight’s meeting was a sample provided by Town Counsel that could possibly be used “as is” or modified by the Board to become the West Stockbridge HCA application. Kathleen and Eric both agreed that the sample document was very comprehensive and supported the idea of reviewing the document at future meetings and finalizing a version that would be adopted as the standard HCA application for West Stockbridge.

Noise Ordinance Bylaw:

While there was discussion at the last Select Board meeting about adding an updated Noise Ordinance to the warrant for the Special Town meeting on Nov 18, the Board agreed that this wasn’t feasible. As an alternative, the Board agreed that forming a citizen’s committee to take on the task of updating the Noise Bylaw would be a good approach. They also asked Marie to contact Town Counsel and ask if they had sample noise by-laws that could be used to help with the Noise by-law update process.

Select Board Speak –

Roger said that the process of ordering items that had been approved as part of the Shared Streets and Spaces grant revealed that the Town might need to think about getting a Town Credit Card to use when ordering from on-line vendors. Since this was not on the agenda for this meeting he said it would be a discussion item for the next meeting.

...continued on page 11

December History Quiz Question:

West Stockbridge has had limited connections with national governance or major political figures. We are not on the normal travel paths for campaigns or tours. We do not have a big voting population or a major defense industry that would make us attractive to any candidate or politician to stop by.

West Stockbridge does have two connections, although tenuous, at the presidential level. What might they be?

(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 or call 232-4270.



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Citizen Speak –

Frank Landsberger’s comments:

- Credit card/debit card is a good idea but would need a process in place.
- A light activated by pedestrians at the Main Street crosswalk would work great
- The town should talk to National Grid about putting utility wires underground as part of the Moscow Road purchase
- The Town should use electronic signatures for documents if possible

Joe Roy, Jr.’s comments:

- He thinks the cannabis entrepreneur who spoke at the last Board meeting wanted the Town to commit to an HCA before giving a detailed proposal, so he is happy the Select Board is taking their time to create an HCA application and process.
- The Town needs to evaluate the need for a Town credit card.

Roger made a motion to adjourn, Eric seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Kathleen Yes
 Eric Yes
 Roger Yes

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Marie W. Ryan

Town Administrator

Documents: Intermunicipal Agreement with Richmond for Fire Chief
 Order of Taking for Silver Mine Lane
 Fleet Vehicle Policy for Green Communities
 Host Community Agreement sample from Town Counsel

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 HEALTH
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Select Board Special Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2020

Via Zoom Meeting

Open Meeting

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

Others Present: Amy Brentano, Owner of The Foundry

Roger called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

He asked the Board if they had reviewed the copy of the Entertainment License application for the Foundry. Eric and Kathleen both confirmed that they had.

Roger asked the Board if there was any discussion.

Eric said he was in favor of approving the license. He also spoke about lending his professional expertise in sound engineering to help Amy figure out how to address two excessive noise complaints sent to the Town Administrator by a downtown resident during outdoor performances at the Foundry. He believes the major source of the problem is bass tone amplification and that the problem can be addressed by changing the position of those amplifiers. He committed to work with Amy when she opens in the Spring of 2021 to help her determine the best locations for outdoor amplification equipment to reduce the risk of excessive noise from amplified outdoor events.

Kathleen stated she was also in favor of approving the license as long as the Foundry is willing to work with neighbors to address any issues that arise.

Roger made a motion to approve the Entertainment License application for the Foundry. A roll call vote was taken:

Roger Yes
 Eric Yes
 Kathleen Yes

Motion passed.

Amy thanked the Board for their support

Roger made a motion to adjourn. Roll call vote to adjourn:

Kathleen Yes
 Eric Yes
 Roger Yes

Meeting adjourned at 10:39 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie W. Ryan

Town Administrator

Documents: Entertainment License Application from The Foundry

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Marc J. Portieri Chief of Police
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 West Stockbridge, MA 01266
 ma.gov

Tele: 413-232-8500
 Fax: 413-232-7938
 E-mail: chief@weststockbridge-
 ma.gov

WINTER PARKING BAN November 16, 2020

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

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

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



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Christmas Eve open 9:30 AM - 7:00 PM

Christmas Day CLOSED

New Years Eve OPEN regular hours

New Years Day OPEN 12:00 - 6:00 PM

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

Sunday Noon - 6:00 p.m.

When you drink plan ahead and do not drive !!

Santa's Wish List

Dear Readers,

It's that time of year again, and we are making our 13th annual Santa's Wish List appeal.



When you are making out your gift lists, we hope you will consider a donation to one or more of these great organizations: Community Health Association, Friends of the West Stockbridge Library, Pet Partners of the Tri-State Berkshires, West Stockbridge Beautification, West Stockbridge Farmers Market, West Stockbridge Fire and Rescue Services, West Stockbridge Historical Society, and, of course, the *Local Yokel*.

Without your help, none of these organizations could do the wonderful things they do to make our town such a special place to live. Your donations are very much appreciated, and gifts of even a few dollars add up and make a real difference.

To make a donation, just use the gift tag at the right, fill out your name and the donation amount on the reverse side, and send it with your check or checks (**made out to the recipient organization**) to:

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

Thanks for your support, and we wish you the happiest of holidays!

The WSLY Editors



To: Community Health Association



To: Friends of the West Stockbridge Library



To: The Local Yokel



To: Pet Partners of the Tri-State Berkshires



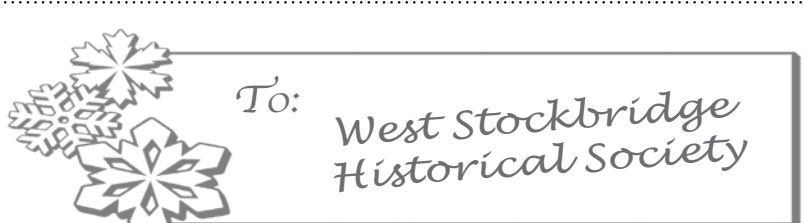
To: West Stockbridge Beautification



To: West Stockbridge Farmers Market



To: West Stockbridge Fire and Rescue Services



To: West Stockbridge Historical Society

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From: _____

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The Local Yokel

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Tri-State Berkshires*

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*West Stockbridge
Historical Society*

Grist from the Mill

by Kelt Wilksa

Musings on Books and Writing

Post-Presidency: Publish or Perish

The election is over. It may have happened a bit... differently than usual, but it's over. And as it happens, we have both a new president-elect and a soon-to-be former president. Regardless of your thoughts on the current occupant of the White House, perhaps we can all agree that, like many presidents past, he will likely soon be writing a book.

Presidents cementing their legacies through the written word is by no means a new trend. The first to do so was our country's second president, John Adams, and suffice it to say he had a lot of scores to settle after losing his run for a second term to Thomas Jefferson. In his book *Author in Chief*, presidential literature historian Craig Fehrman describes Adams's unpublished memoir as "extraordinarily personal and pathologically petty." Ouch.

Yes, we've had presidents who have been good writers, bad writers, and perhaps not really writers at all. If Pulitzer Prize-winning *Profiles in Courage* by President John F. Kennedy happens to be your favorite presidential work, we've got some bad news. In the years since its publication, historians have concluded that the book was written almost exclusively, if not entirely, by Kennedy's aide, Theodore Sorensen. OK, you say your favorite JFK book is his first, *Why England Slept*. Alas, more bad news: it was largely rewritten by Arthur Krock of the *New York Times*, says historian Fehrman.

Sometimes, though, presidents want to write about something besides history or their own legacy. Interested in learning more about fishing as a popular presidential pastime? See *Fishing for Fun—and to Wash Your Soul* by Herbert Hoover, *An Outdoor Journal* by Jimmy Carter, or *Fishing and Shooting Sketches* by Grover Cleveland. Incidentally, Cleveland took special interest in the streams and brooks of Berkshire County, visiting often and catching plenty of fish. Maybe more than plenty. One of his favorite spots was Hop Brook in Tyringham, where he was once fined two dollars for catching too many trout. Unsurprising coming from the guy who felt compelled to write an essay called "A Defense of Fishermen."

From tales of humble roots to details of military exploits, our presidents have written voluminously. Shaker Mill Books has an entire shelf dedicated to presidential literature, many signed, from Hoover to Carter to Obama (his new massive tome, *A Promised Land*, arrives on Tuesday, November 17). Stop in and take a look. Stay safe and healthy, and enjoy the holidays.

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OBSERVANT JEWS
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PASSIONATE JEWS
HIGH-HOLY-DAY JEWS
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— Jackie Moffatt at C. H. Baldwin & Sons

New Process for Burn Permits in 2021

According to Town Administrator Marie Ryan, beginning January 2021 all burn permits will be available online through the town website or by phone for those without a computer. Applying for a permit must to be done on the same day of the requested burn to ensure that weather conditions are favorable. The permits will now be free. The online information and phone number will be announced at a later date.



West Stockbridge Has Grant Money to Spend: *We Need Your Ideas!*

What improvements would you like to see in our outdoor spaces, as we continue to live together through a pandemic? Please join the Select Board for an idea-generating Zoom meeting on Wednesday, December 2 at 6 p.m.

Visit <https://www.weststockbridge-ma.gov/> for links and further info; or call the Town Administrator at 232-0300 ext. 319 to ask about submitting ideas the old-fashioned way.

December Donor Roll Call

Louise Dalmaso (Dean)
Robin Lazarow & Jeanne Kangas
Sid & Vivian Schwartz
Joan Sewall
John & Liz Whitehead
Richard Ziter

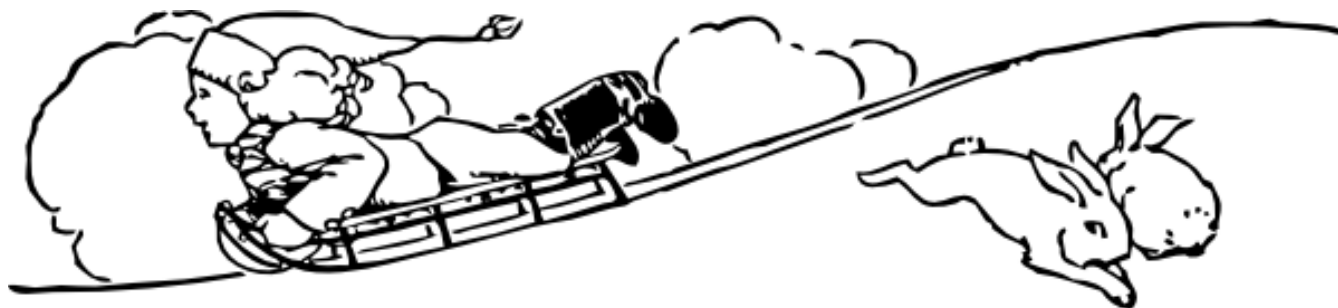
Thanks to everyone who has donated to WSLY. We couldn't do it without your support! Keep the *Local Yokel* coming. Please send your gift today! (See response form on page 21.)

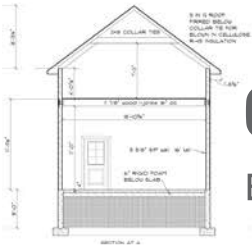
Birthdays & Anniversaries

12/1	Steve Seward
12/20	Susan Fisher
12/20	Robin Lazarow
12/20	Connor Bagel EpsteinKraus

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? To be sure your listing gets in the *Local Yokel*, please send it in by the 15th of the month before the desired issue each year.

The *Local Yokel*, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge MA 01266,
e-mail info@thelocalyokel.org, or visit www.thelocalyokel.org





On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky

End of 2020 Wrap-Up

That was the year that was (actually, it still is). But as we wrap up the year with another *On the Home Front* article, I can say without exaggeration that we've not had a year like this ever! The COVID-19 pandemic (with periodic lockdowns), the extremely contentious presidential campaign and election, as well as the second hottest year on record, the busiest hurricane season in years, floods, droughts, and forest fires have put us all in the red zone as far as stress.

The economic impact of a less than coherent federal response to the pandemic will be with us for years. And downplaying the seriousness of COVID has spurred another (predicted) flareup with over 140,000 daily cases over the past week that will hit older people and communities of color especially badly. My daughter-in-law is a schoolteacher, but don't get me started on the impact on schools and kids.

So if we're all going to be staying home this holiday season (Happy Divali, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Beethoven's 250th birthday, Winter Solstice, Christmas, Kwanza, y'all), then I guess we might as well put some attention toward making our houses a bit more comfortable for the winter.

- Let's start with those leaf-filled gutters, kids. Once the snow and ice build up in them and tear them off your houses, you'll be sorry you didn't listen to me and clean them out.
- Windows and doors: make sure they close tightly. If you have storm windows, get them up now! Winter is coming. (Reruns of *Game of Thrones* start soon.) If you have leaky windows, you can seal them with inexpensive plastic that is applied with double-stick tape and made practically invisible with a hair dryer that shrinks them tight. Clean out the drains (weep holes) on those storm windows.
- If you have foundation vents, close them up! Most of our heat loss, after windows that don't shut properly, is from air infiltration around the foundation.
- Take out window air conditioners or at least cover them up, and make sure there's a gasket around them if you can't remove them.
- Sump pump plugged in and working? Believe me, you don't want a flood in the basement during winter. Or anytime, really.
- If your eaves are susceptible to ice dams, put up some heat tape and get a snow rake. And make an appointment with an insulation specialist for next spring!
- Check your mailbox post. Our intrepid Highway Department workers don't mean to knock yours down with heavy wet snow the next time they plow.
- Snow shovels! Kitty litter! Flashlights and batteries! Flu shots—especially *this* year!
- Small plastic bottles of hand sanitizer make great stocking stuffers!

Huddle together for warmth 6 feet apart. Check on your neighbors. Be kind to everyone you meet. We'll get through this!

Comments, questions, and rants can be directed to info@localyokel.com.

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New Deadline for Cultural Council Grant Applications

The Massachusetts Cultural Council has extended the FY21 local Cultural Council grant application deadline to December 14, 2020, at 11:59 EST. To apply, go to www.mass-culture.org and click on Applicants. There is an online application form at mcc.smartsimple.com. For questions, call 232-0222.

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Please send your Birthdays & Anniversaries to the Local Yokel

We are happy to include them in the next issue.



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Happy Holidays!



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WEST STOCKBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

21 State Line Rd | West Stockbridge, MA 01266 | In the Town Offices
weststockbridgelibrary.org | 413-232-0300 ext. 308

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

Greetings from the West Stockbridge Library!

BOOK AND MOVIE PICKUP CONTINUES

Tuesday 11–2; Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 3–6; and Saturday 11–2

Please note: Due to the closing of the Town Offices (as of November 19), we can no longer offer browsing appointments to come into the library. Also, we are not accepting book donations right now. Thank you.

Best wishes to everyone for a warm and joyful holiday season,
Rachel, Brad, and Vicky

NEW ADULT FICTION

- Beatty, *Sellout*
- Braithwaite, *My Sister, The Serial Killer*
- Child, *Sentinel: A Jack Reacher Novel*
- Delillo, *Silence*
- French, *Searcher*
- Grisham, *Time for Mercy*
- Hilderbrand, *Troubles in Paradise*
- Macomber, *Jingle All the Way*
- Schwab, *Invisible Life of Addie Larue*
- Sparks, *Return*

NEW ADULT NONFICTION

- McConaughey, *Greenlights*

NEW ADULT DVDs

- The Crown, Season 3*
- Ken Burns: Country Music*

NEW YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN’S BOOKS

- Barnes, *I Am Every Good Thing*



Scrapbook December 2020:

TEST YOUR TRIVIA KNOWLEDGE!

1. Larry Vaber was noted for many accomplishments. What did he do for the blind?
2. What company did Gary Quadrozzi work for before they closed their doors and he became a robotics specialist?
3. What building in West Stockbridge was badly damaged after a “fatigued driver” drove into it?

1. For over 55 years he volunteered as a reader of recorded student textbooks. 2. Sheaffer Eaton. 3. The Shaker Mill.

History Quiz Answer:



Charles Brandon Boynton.
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/78895925/charles-brandon-boynton>

Our first presidential connection was back in 1915. The State Line Social Club was formed then, and one of its first members was Calvin Coolidge (honorary status). Coolidge was president of the state Senate at the time and moving up in his political career. There is some evidence that "Silent Cal" even gave a talk at the State Line Lyceum later during his presidency. He was a complicated character, anti-immigration from southern Europe but in favor of Asian immigration. Also he favored suffrage and integration but opposed anti-lynching laws.

The other connection with West Stockbridge and the presidency is more indirect. Charles Brandon Boynton was born in West Stockbridge in 1807 and became a Congregational minister and an ardent abolitionist. In 1864, he became chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives and a minister of the First Congregational Church in Washington, D.C. Charles, along with nine other white abolitionists, formed Howard University in 1867. He briefly served as its first president. Howard University is the alma mater of Kamala Harris, our first soon to be female vice president. This is the West Stockbridge connection, tenuous, but a connection nonetheless.

Charles was a character in many ways. His career with the church was checkered by his apparent inability to get along with others. His tenure as president of Howard only lasted five months. It ended when he argued with the founder, Otis Howard. Charles favored voluntary segregation where black churches existed and strengthening those institutions. Otis Howard was for strict and full integration with the Congregationalist Church and society at large. His name was over the door, so to speak, and this difference led to Charles resigning as president.

There are many other interesting and complicated facets to Charles's history, but those will be for a later history question. In any case, we can view him as our connection to current events.

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.

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

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

Council on Aging

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

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

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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E-mail

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- 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.



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

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

December Art Calendar

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

2020

Dec 14, Collage & Mixed Media Workshop, Monday December 14, 1-3 p.m. Join Marion Grant for Collage & Mixed Media online using Zoom. Details on how to watch are posted on our homepage and Events > Classes & Seminars.

Dec 21, Art Book Gathering: Monday December 21, 12:30 - 2pm. Share a favorite book: artist, or process.
RSVP: berkshireartists@gmail.com

DECEMBER, Holiday Art Show: Online. Running October 30 - January 22. Visit www.berkshireartists.org/holidayartshow.

TUESDAYS, Demonstration: Variable time with many at 3pm. Watch an artist demonstrate various mediums and techniques each week via Zoom. Details on how to watch are posted on our homepage and Events > Classes & Seminars.

Art Together: Join Eva Schuster and other Guild of Berkshire Artists making Art Together online using Zoom. Details on how to watch are posted on our homepage and Events > Classes & Seminars.

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. Every Friday evening at 5pm. Featured artists and details on how to watch are posted on our homepage and Events > Meet the Artist.

Berkshire Photo Gathering. No gathering this month, see you in 2020!



Holiday Art Show

www.berkshireartists.org

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October 30, 2020 - January 22, 2021





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

Animal Control	<i>Brian Hoskeer</i>	232-0300	ext. 335	As Needed
Assessors Office	<i>Mary Stodden</i>	232-0300	ext. 303	Tues. 1–5 p.m.; Thurs. 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Board of Health	<i>Earl Moffatt</i>	232-0300	ext. 314	Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m., or by appt.
Select Board	<i>Roger Kavanagh, Kathleen Kersey, 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 • Community and Business Website: visitweststockbridge.com

“We Remember When . . .”

Growing Up in West Stockbridge in the 1950s

A Series of Recollections by John Bormolini and Friends

This article is dedicated to my friend, Billy Pixley, who passed away several years ago.

Making Christmas Wreaths

As I've been writing these articles, different topics have popped into my head. From the beginning, I had vague recollections of making Christmas wreaths. As time passed, the memory became more vivid, so here goes!

One of my friends was Billy Pixley. He was a year or two older than me. He lived behind our house on Pittsfield Road, and I got to his house by crossing through our garden. One of my activities with Billy was to help him feed the chickens at Mooney's chicken farm (see “We Remember” in the October 2020 *Local Yokel*).

One brisk November day, Billy and I went with his dad, Ed, to Dean Hill, which is off Pittsfield Road going north. His dad was an avid deer hunter, and he was “scouting” some property there. As we entered the woods, I looked down and noticed what turned out to be a large patch of running pine, which made me think of Christmas wreaths. Thus began our entrepreneurial adventure making Christmas wreaths and selling them as the holiday approached.

We gathered up several burlap bags that Mr. Pixley had in his truck and filled them with running pine, and off we went back home, full of enthusiasm and dollar signs in our heads. I asked my mother if we could set up a workshop on the porch. Of course, she said yes, even though she knew there would be a mess.

Next, we needed some metal coat hangers, so I searched all of our closets for hangers. There were plenty to be found because my mother kept many items that “may come in useful some time.” By now, it was getting dark and late, so we paused for the night.

Billy arrived the next morning, and we set about unloading the bags of running pine and laying out the stringers around the floor. It didn't take long to make a half dozen wreaths. However, they didn't look like the wreaths in the Christmas catalogs. Ours were flat, not fluffy. In those days, there was no Google site to instruct you how to make Christmas wreaths. Well, to us, a “wreath was a wreath,” so we just continued making them by wrapping several layers of running pine around the coat hanger.

Mr. Pixley drove us back to Dean Hill to get more running pine. We filled up our burlap bags, returned to the porch, and made more wreaths, this time adding a red bow that seemed to improve the quality of the wreaths.

Our next job was to sell the wreaths. We sold most of them to merchants in town and then went to our neighbors. We priced the wreaths at somewhere between \$3 and \$5. Most of our customers gave us the benefit of the doubt and surmised that “they are just kids trying to earn a few dollars.”



Lycopodium clavatum.

Photo by Jason Hollinger, CC BY 2.0
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We went into the wreath-making business again the next Christmas. We found running pine in the same location; some had even regrown. We had plenty of coat hangers, leftover red ribbons, and the porch was a perfect workshop. This time, we had done some research on the art of wreath-making. We no longer used the “wrap it around the hanger” technique. We removed the sprigs of running pine from the stem and, holding the sprigs in our hand, tied them with green twine, layering the running pine on the coat hanger until it was fully covered, giving it the fluffy look seen in catalogs.

This technique took more running pine and more time to make a quality wreath. We were much prouder of these “Wreaths Made by Johnny and Billy” than our first year's effort. The merchants were once again our best customers; you could tell they approved of the new look and workmanship we put into the wreaths. I think we charged \$4 or \$5 for the new, improved wreaths. We offered Billy's dad some gas money for the trips up to Dean Hill, but he refused, saying, “I'm happy you kids found something to keep you occupied while earning spending money.”

According to Google, running pine (Lycopodium clavatum), also known as club moss or stag's horn moss, has creeping stems about 10 feet long with ascending branches with scaly green leaves about 4 inches high. Running pine is native to open, dry woods and rocky places. So, the next time you take a walk in the woods, keep an eye out for running pine.

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.

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Local Yokel
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December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



Photo by Lynn M. Knott

December 2020 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 latest information.

12/6	West Stockbridge Sparkles holiday event	4–7 p.m.	Town Offices
12/7	Select Board meeting	6 p.m.	See agenda on town website for details
12/10	Hanukkah (begins at sundown)		
12/14	Deadline for WS Cultural Council grant applications		See announcement in this issue
12/14	Parks & Recreation Committee meeting	5:30 p.m.	See agenda on town website for details
12/14	Select Board meeting	6 p.m.	See agenda on town website for details
12/15	*** Deadline for the next <i>Local Yokel</i> ***		Send to info@thelocalyokel.org
12/15	Vision Committee meeting	5:30 p.m.	See agenda on town website for details
12/21	First Day of Winter		
12/24	Christmas Eve		
12/25	Christmas Day		
12/26	Kwanzaa begins		
12/31	New Year's Eve: Welcome 2021!		