

# Local yokel

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

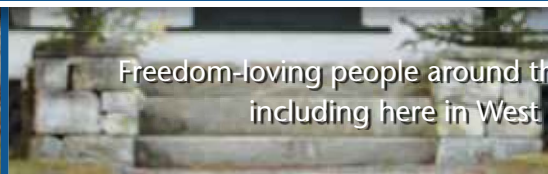
West  
Stockbridge

**April**

2022



S E R V I N G   O U R   C O M M U N I T Y   S I N C E   2 0 0 5



Freedom-loving people around the world are standing with Ukraine, including here in West Stockbridge. Photos by John Parker



# About the Artist: Amy Butterworth

My Berkshire roots are deep, having moved to Great Barrington in the 1960s. My husband Brian and I have lived on Main Street in West Stockbridge for 25 years. We raised our children, Tim and Jancy, here. We are delighted that Tim has returned to West Stockbridge after more than 10 years in Boston. Jancy lives a bit further away (Wyoming) but fortunately makes regular trips back home. I feel lucky that two of my sisters also live in West Stockbridge; the other two live over the border in Richmond!

I have always dabbled in one form of art or another. Calligraphy and quilt making were two of my earlier artistic endeavors. Although I haven't made a quilt in several years, I still can't bring myself to purchase a card when a homemade one is always so much better! Most recently I have found myself immersed in either clay or watercolors.

I was introduced to the wheel at IS183 Art School. I was hooked immediately and haven't looked back, but it took countless sleeves of clay to arrive at that first perfectly centered and less than 10-pound mug. I have filled my shelves, and those of my friends and relatives, with countless bowls, mugs, platters, tiny houses, and lots of little white rabbits. I have been fortunate to have exhibited in many Guild of Berkshire Artists shows, so I have had the opportunity to sell some of my work. I am looking forward to more shows this summer, not only to sell my work but also to see the beautiful art created by the other guild members.

Last year, I started taking watercolor classes at Berkshire Botanical Garden, where I work. It is a tricky medium for me, but the results can be beautiful.

I hope to always live an artful life and to be inspired to create something lovely!

Contact Amy Butterworth at [amykbutterworth@gmail.com](mailto:amykbutterworth@gmail.com).

All photos by John Parker



Watercolor



# 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 February 14, 2022

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

Eric called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and listed Select Board members present.

### Approval of Minutes:

Eric made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve the minutes from January 13, 18, 28 and 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022 as well as February 1, 2022.

Roll call vote:

Roger	Yes
Kathleen	Yes
Eric	Yes

All minutes are approved.

### Town Administrator Update:

Marie has been working with Roger, Joe Roy and Building Inspector Brian DuVal to review all the General Bylaws, which has been a time-consuming task. She suggests that the Board consider holding a Special Town Meeting in the future to approve the new bylaw updates, so that they are not rushed to make the deadlines for the Annual Town Meeting. She suggested that a possible Special Town Meeting could include all the General Bylaw updates as well as the changes to the Bylaws where the Select Board is the Special Permit Granting Authority, and possibly the Noise Bylaw.

### Noise Bylaw Draft – Eric Shimelonis

Kathleen thanked Eric for all his work on this draft. She expressed her concern that the public has not been able to read through the draft and comment on it. She feels that the draft reflects decibel levels are too restrictive and could negatively impact the businesses in the downtown area. Eric reiterated his hope that the current draft

goes out for public review as soon as possible, which can happen only after the Board reaches consensus on this starting draft.

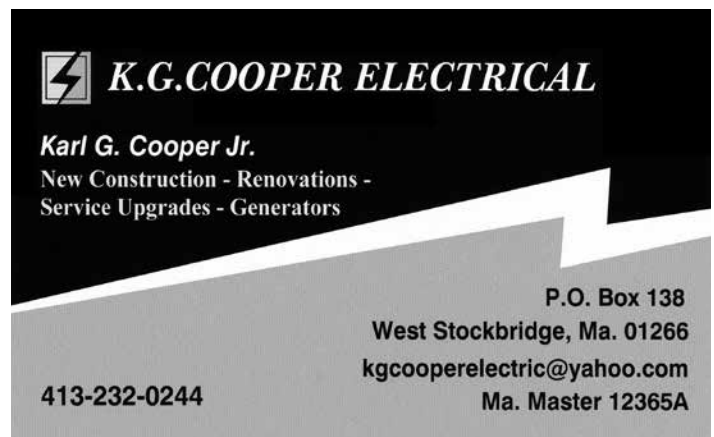
Kathleen would like to review some research to see what other towns have in their bylaws in regards to decibel levels and see if they are less restrictive. She feels the levels set in the draft bylaw could have significant negative consequences for local businesses. Eric clarified that though nighttime levels are rather restrictive, the daytime levels in this draft represent the less restrictive range of levels customary in noise ordinances throughout the state.

Roger had a few items to discuss in regards to the draft. He asked whether Chapter 185, under definitions, should include language about the Village Center Overlay District. He is not sure it will affect any of the decibel levels since it is also within the commercial district but feels that it should be checked. He then had a question about Chapter 185 Section 2 (1). He asked who will be doing the sound measurement training and who will be getting trained. Eric responded that the bylaw will state that the Police Chief and Police Department are the ones who will be trained to take the measurements as per Massachusetts General Law (MGL). They will be trained, possibly by, a firm that specializes in this area. Eric also noted that he will need to add that information into the draft. Roger asked if this bylaw will completely replace Chapter 185, and Eric responded yes.

Roger stated this draft is silent on the process of collecting the measurements and enforcement. He would like to see a process in place and not for this process to be at the discretion of the Officer taking the measurements. Eric will research a process for taking the measurements and enforcement to be included in the draft.

Roger and Kathleen requested that this draft be aggressively put out into the public for comment and review as soon as possible to try to include this as an article on the Annual Town Meeting

...continued on page 5



# Town of West Stockbridge Results of Annual Town Caucus March 24, 2022

Elected Office	Term Length	Incumbent/Challenger
Moderator	1 year	Eugene Dellea
Select Board	3 years	Eric Shimelonis/Andrew Potter
Town Clerk	3 years	Veronica Barrett
Town Collector	3 years	Vacant
Board of Assessors	3 years	J. Edward Sporn
Finance Committee	3 years	Michael Skorput/J. Edward Sporn
Planning Board	5 years	Ryan Beattie
Board of Health	3 years	Earl Moffatt
Library Trustee	3 years	Sarah Schaeffer
Cemetery Commission	3 years	Marion Loring



*Save the Dates!*

**Annual Town Meeting**  
Monday, May 2, 6 pm  
Town Offices, 21 State Line Road

**Annual Town Election**  
Monday, May 9, 10 am–7 pm  
Town Offices Gym, 21 State Line Road



warrant. Eric asked the Board if a new draft with the additions discussed would bring us to a consensus on a public draft. All agreed. Eric committed to submitting the new draft tomorrow morning for review by the Board, followed by immediate public release.

**Zoning Correction/Changes for Annual Town Meeting 2022 – Planning Board Request**

The Board received a letter from Planning Board Chair, Dana Bixby requesting the Select Board to accept and refer two changes to the Zoning Bylaws and for the Planning Board to proceed with holding a public hearing as required by Massachusetts General Law. The following were the changes that are referred to in the letter from Dana;

1. Correct the number of days for ZBA decisions from 120 to 100 in section 7.6
2. Delete the second sentence of section 11.1.1

Eric made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to accept and refer these two Zoning Bylaw changes to the Planning Board and instruct them to proceed with a public hearing.

Roll call vote:

Roger	Yes
Kathleen	Yes
Eric	Yes

Motion Passed.

**Special Permit Granting Authority – Roger Kavanagh**

Roger suggested the Board have a joint meeting with the Planning Board to discuss each item where the Select Board is the Special Permit Granting Authority and make a collective agreement on any changes. He feels that this does not need to be rushed to try to get it ready for the Annual Town Meeting. These changes can be a slow process that could become an article for a Special Town Meeting in the future. Eric and Kathleen agreed.

**Select Board Speak:**

Roger reminded the Board that the due date for their Town Administrator evaluation is Tuesday. He would like to get them all back to compile the results so the Board can have a special meeting to review them with Marie.

Kathleen would like to have the Board discuss the grant opportunities for the Town to be included as an agenda item in the future. She said there are many grants out there that the Town could benefit from but we need to figure out a process to get them submitted. She suggested the Board brainstorm in the meantime for a discussion at a future meeting.

**Citizen Speak:**

John Masiero told the Board that Berkshire Natural Resources would like to ask for permission to use Town property on Samantha Lane for a hiking trail. Berkshire Natural Resources also has property in that area and would like to connect it through a hiking trail. Eric asked that John get some information for the Board and they can add this as an agenda item for the next meeting. John said that Berkshire Natural Resources informed him that if the Town would consider this idea, they would outline the details in a letter. This letter would be a proposal for the Board to review. John suggested that this process would also include a public input meeting for abutters comments.

Eric made a motion to adjourn at 6:59 PM, seconded by Roger.

Roll call vote;

Roger	Yes
Kathleen	Yes
Eric	Yes

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


*Marie V. Ryan*

Town Administrator

Documents:

- Minutes from January 13, 18, 28, & 31<sup>st</sup> and February 1, 2022
- Annual Entertainment License application – 5 Albany Road Cafe
- Draft of Noise Bylaw
- Letter from Planning Board in regards to Zoning Changes for 2022 ATM
- List of Special Permit Granting Authority for Select Board

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# “Back to School in West Stockbridge” Program Rescheduled for April 29

The West Stockbridge Historical Society program “Back to School in West Stockbridge,” postponed from February, is rescheduled for Friday, April 29, at 7 pm in the Town Offices gym at 21 State Line Road. This event will celebrate the history of the Village School when it was the grade school in West Stockbridge before elementary regionalization as part of the Berkshire Hills Regional School District.

You can participate by offering your personal memories or simply enjoy listening to those of former teachers and students. Group class pictures through the years will be displayed (as many as we can gather; more are still welcome) along with pictures, slides, and videos of special events and activities. On view also will be the bicentennial quilt made by Barbara Louison’s class of 1974 and pictures of the kids who created it.

If you have any school memorabilia you would like included in our program, we would welcome hearing from you. Please call Jill Pixley at (413) 232-4347 or email [jillpixley@hotmail.com](mailto:jillpixley@hotmail.com).

We hope you will join us for an interesting and fun evening!

*Photos courtesy of Jill Pixley and West Stockbridge Historical Society*

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\$1,000 to a Monument Mountain Regional High School graduating senior pursuing his/her education through a program providing a degree, license or certificate in a trade or skill. A wide range of pursuits and programs will be considered such as those offered at Springfield Technical Community College, Hudson Valley Community College, and other various technical and training school programs.

*Please apply through the guidance office at Monument Mountain Regional High School.*

***Editor's note: Selectman Roger Kavanagh, elected to the post two years ago, stunned his fellow board members by announcing his resignation at the March 14 Select Board meeting. His resignation takes effect on May 9 when the town holds its annual election. Here is the full text of the letter that Mr. Kavanagh shared with The Local Yokel:***

March 14, 2022

To the Residents of West Stockbridge and the members of the West Stockbridge Select Board

After months of consideration and deliberation with people whose counsel I value, I have decided that I will resign from the Select Board, effective May 9, 2022, the date of the next Annual Town election. Until that date I will continue to serve as an active member of the Select Board and will complete the specific assignments I have taken on independently or at the request of the Board.

I am providing notice of my resignation at this time, which is 10 days before the date of the Town Caucus, so that someone who is interested in serving the remaining two years of my term can step forward now and get their name on the 2022 election ballot.

This is not a decision that I made lightly. I was an active audience member at Select Board meetings from the time we moved here in 2016 until I ran for and was elected to the Select Board in 2020. I decided to run for office because I thought I could use the knowledge and experience I gained over my career in the private and public sectors to bring some much needed structure to the processes of governing and managing the Town of West Stockbridge. Since my first week on the Select Board and continuing through today, I have strived to ensure that the Town government is responsive to the needs of the whole community, that the business of the Select Board is conducted transparently and that decisions being made are fact based and considerate of the financial impact on all Town residents .

I have learned a lot in my 22 months on the Select Board. I've learned that prior Boards and Administrators, all with good intentions, have left behind a seemingly endless number of not quite finished tasks and poorly executed decisions that have plagued the Select Board from the start of my tenure. I've learned that the current structure of the Town government is a template for inefficiency, where everyone reports to the Select Board but the Select Board itself does not have the authority to oversee or coordinate the day-to-day administration of the Town. I've learned that the Town is slowly and not so quietly splitting into factions, one that wants "everything to be like it used to be" and one that sees "transformation as the only answer for the future". I believe the Select Board needs to actively bridge that divide and ensure that the voices of both groups are heard and their collective needs are recognized in all Select Board deliberations and decisions. From my point-of-view, that is not happening adequately today.

Finally, I have learned that in spite of the time and effort I have expended over the past 22 months, little has changed, and the prospect for making a meaningful impact seems no closer now than it did in May of 2020. In summary, these are the reasons I have chosen to step away now.

I wish the best for my successor, the Select Board and the Town, and will do everything I can to ensure a smooth transition.

Respectfully  
Roger Kavanagh

# Residents Invited to a Public Forum on Open Space Conservation and Outdoor Recreation

*By the West Stockbridge Open Space & Recreation Working Group*



The Town of West Stockbridge is developing its first Open Space & Recreation Plan, and we invite residents to attend an interactive public forum about the project. The presentation will be an in-person event held on April 13 at 6 pm in the gym at the West Stockbridge Town Offices.

The plan envisions a rural West Stockbridge landscape that maintains and protects beloved natural and recreational landscapes for current and future generations. These natural landscapes can include key wildlife habitats, forests, farmland, drinking water supplies, and wetland resources. Outdoor recreation lands provide an array of public benefits, from enjoying the quiet contemplation of nature to hiking, biking, boating, fishing, hunting, and snowshoeing. It can also mean enjoying the use of public parks, playgrounds, beaches, and walking routes.

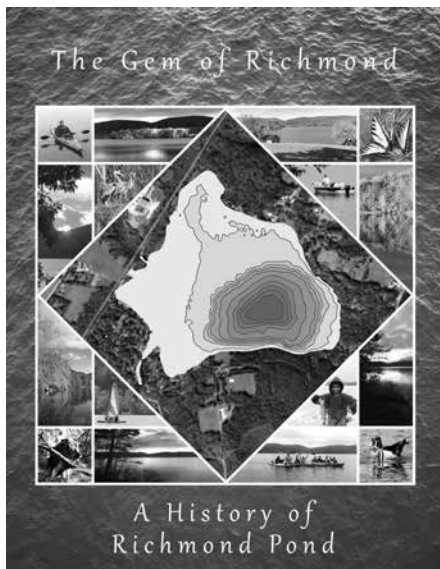
The Working Group is a volunteer committee made up of representatives from the Parks & Recreation Committee, Conservation Commission, and Select Board. We are working with members of the West Stockbridge Master Planning Committee, who are updating the town's Master Plan. We want to ensure the town's plans reflect the needs and desires of West Stockbridge residents. At the public forum, you will learn about the Working Group's activities so far that include the following:

- Summary of the great natural resources in West Stockbridge: you might be surprised to learn what we've got
- Description of publicly accessible places in West Stockbridge to enjoy the great outdoors—there are probably places you've never been to
- Opportunity to view a series of poster-size maps created for the project
- Results from the Open Space & Recreation public survey offered last year: what received high marks and what more is needed
- Unveiling a set of strategies designed to conserve our rural character and improve enjoyment of our public spaces

Attend the forum and share your thoughts about our work and our strategies. We look forward to seeing you on April 13 and hearing your suggestions.

## *The Gem of Richmond - A History of Richmond Pond,*

is a collectors' edition of the rich and deep history of the life and times of Richmond Pond, MA.



Books are available for purchase for \$20—now at **Shaker Mill Books in West Stockbridge**, as well as Bartlett's Orchard and Balderdash Cellars in Richmond, and The Bookstore in Lenox.

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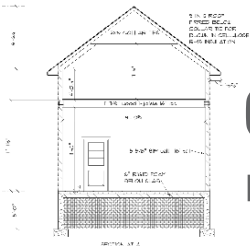
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# On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky

## The Housing Challenge

So it's been two years since the pandemic has uprooted our lives—the way we do business, the way we eat, and, most importantly, the way we connect with each other. Or not. And—usually the subject of this monthly rant—the way we inhabit our homes.

One big change for us here in the Berkshires is the increasing difficulty that many of us have to find a place to call our own, even if we rent. According to *Redfin News*, a nationwide realtor newsletter, the stock of available houses for sale has diminished by half over the past two years. Fewer homes for sale means higher prices, and the number of homes nationwide selling for more than \$1 million has doubled in the past two years, as reported in *Axios* on March 14. That trend is seen hereabouts. The *Berkshire Eagle* on March 12 had a story about the sale of “luxury homes” continuing to increase over the past two years, with several properties going for over \$4 million in the past year.

**“One big change for us here in the Berkshires is the increasing difficulty that many of us have to find a place to call our own, even if we rent.”**

Finding a home to buy—or rent long term—has been made more difficult by the increase in the number of properties that are mainly being used for short-term rentals through Airbnb or VRBO. Towns around the county, including West Stockbridge, are trying to work out a balance between homeowners’ right to make some income from their homes and the needs of people who work here to find an affordable place to live.

I’ve written about this situation before, and it’s a topic I continue to be concerned about. How can our kids—or our parents on fixed incomes—afford to live here? Be aware that our own Planning Board is hard at work on solutions for workforce and older adult housing. Our Zoning Board is considering ways to keep residential neighborhoods free of ad hoc hotels. Our Vision Committee is studying viable ways to attract and keep young families in town.

World events like the pandemic, inflation, and now the Russian invasion of Ukraine (oops—mentioning this will mean my column won’t be carried in Moscow!) all have an effect on how we live here, tucked away in the hills of western Massachusetts. It’s a reminder of how interconnected the world is and how we have to balance our views and choices between the wider world and our own little sitcoms.

I’ll continue to explore this issue as I also bravely delve into the arcane depths of replacement windows, low-flow toilets, new countertop options, and energy efficiency in building science.

*Ideas, questions, and comments can be directed to [info@thelocalyokel.org](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org).*

### April History Quiz Question:

Williamsville is the one of our five neighborhoods/hamlets in town. In the late 1700s and beginning of the 1800s, it was the largest and most active with booming industrial and farming activity. Several important families had settled there and operated various fulling mills, a machine shop, forges, and sawmills along the river. The road through Williamsville was a major north-south thoroughfare.

Thinking about Williamsville, a question comes to mind. How did Williamsville get a family name (Williams) while the other town hamlets didn’t have a family/proper name (West Center, State Line, Rockdale)?

(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](mailto:info@weststockbridgehistory.org) or call (413) 232-4270.



**West Stockbridge  
Historical Society**  
Incorporated in 1994

## Community News & Events

Due to the coronavirus health situation, 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](mailto:Emilie@charws.com).

### Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, April 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 chocolate and lemon pies for dessert. Cost is \$14. Pickup time is 12 to 1:30 pm. To place an order, call (413) 243-1298 or (413) 443-4352. The deadline for ordering is April 7.

### Council on Aging

The COA will meet at noon on Wednesday, April 13, in the Community Room at the Town Offices, weather permitting. Bring your own lunch or a food item we can all share. Any questions, email Paula at [mrsdigger@live.com](mailto:mrsdigger@live.com).

### The Knitters Group

The Knitters Group meets every Wednesday from 2 to 4 pm in the Community Room at the Town Offices. All crafts are welcome.

### Agricultural Commission Seeking Volunteers

The town of West Stockbridge has two open volunteer positions for the Agricultural Commission. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Town Administrator Marie Ryan at [admin@weststockbridge-ma.gov](mailto:admin@weststockbridge-ma.gov) by April 29. We look forward to working with you!

*Send your notices for Community News & Events to the Local Yokel, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266, email [info@thelocalyokel.org](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org), or visit [thelocalyokel.org](http://thelocalyokel.org).*



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

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

# **Aimee Van Dyne CD Release Party April 29 at The Foundry**

Local folk/Americana singer-songwriter Aimee Van Dyne hails from Brooklyn but currently calls Berkshire County her home. In New York, she has performed at venues such as The Bitter End and Rockwood Music Hall. Her original songs have been described as characterized by “catchy choruses and melodies that frequently evoke the thoughtful, George Harrison side of the Beatles,” a distinctive blend of folk/Americana and pop/rock.



Aimee’s upcoming CD, *Broken Love Songs*, was produced by multi-instrumentalist Jim Henry (Eliza Gilkyson, Tracy Grammer) and recorded by David Chalfant of The Nields. It features a first-class team of musicians: Jon Carroll (Mary Chapin Carpenter), Paul Kochanski (Lori McKenna), and the Berkshires’ very own Ben Kohn (Misty Blues Band).

Aimee began writing songs while still a student at Brown University and then continued to write and record while studying architecture at The Cooper Union. In 2001, she released her first extended play (EP), *Owning Up*, while working as an architect in New York City. After taking time off to raise her twin daughters, Aimee embarked on a major life transformation, moving up to the Berkshires to pursue a career in music full time.

Aimee is thrilled to be celebrating her CD Release Party at The Foundry. She will be joined by her five-piece band, featuring local musicians Jim Caron, violin; Sarah Mitchell and Francine Ciccarelli, vocals; Fran Tokarz, upright bass; and Dave Lincoln, drums. Sarah Mitchell and Francine Ciccarelli will open the event.

For more information about Aimee, visit <http://www.aimeevandyne.com/>. For tickets, visit <https://thefoundryws.com/event/>.

*Photo by Tricia McCormack Photography*

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# West Stockbridge Cultural Council Announces Grants for FY 2022

By Margie Skaggs

The West Stockbridge Cultural Council recently completed its granting process for FY 2022. For this cycle we received 35 applications and provided funds for 15 of them. All of these met our top criteria for funding: supporting programs in our local area that appeal to our diverse constituency, including schools; library and nature programs; and music, dance, theater, and arts events.

These are the organizations receiving funding for 2022:

- Alliance for a Viable Future (Indigenous Peoples' Day)
- Arts in Recovery for Youth (AIRY)
- Berkshire Theatre Group
- Berkshire Wildlife Sanctuaries (Mass Audubon)
- Flying Cloud School Science Program: The Moving Mantle
- Friends of the West Stockbridge Public Library: museum passes
- Greenagers: Environmental Stewardship & Education
- Music in Common: The Black Legacy Project
- Pittsfield Shakespeare in the Park
- *The Local Yokel*
- WAM Theatre 2022 Season of Events
- West Stockbridge Farmers Market
- West Stockbridge Historical Society: Chamber Concerts
- West Stockbridge Historical Society: Jazz Concert Series
- West Stockbridge Public Library: Mary Pope Osborne program

Current members of the West Stockbridge Cultural Council are Marjorie Powell (chair), Susan Leo, Jackie Moffatt, Miki Reuchlin, Scott Sawyer, Rebecca Scheir, Margie Skaggs, and Curtis Thierling (treasurer). We always welcome comments and suggestions from our West Stockbridge neighbors.

For more information about the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the local grants process, visit [www.massculturalcouncil.org](http://www.massculturalcouncil.org) and click on Grant Programs and then Local Cultural Council.



## Board of Health

21 State Line Road PO Box 81 West Stockbridge, Mass. 01266-0525

Tel. (413) 232-0300  
Fax. (413) 232-7195

March 5, 2022

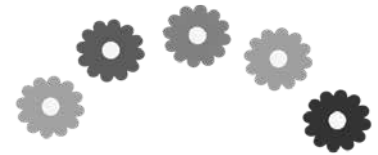
### RE: Covid 19 masking requirement update

At a duly posted meeting of the West Stockbridge Board of Health held on March 3, 2022 at 6:00pm, with a quorum present, a motion was made and seconded to lift the masking advisory issued August 12, 2021 concerning use of facial coverings in public buildings. There will no longer be a requirement to use facial covering while in a public building with the following recommendations:

- Individuals who are not fully vaccinated should continue to wear facial covering while indoors.
- Individuals who are fully vaccinated should continue to wear a facial covering while indoors if they have a weakened immune system or are at risk of severe disease because of age or underlying medical condition *or* if someone in the same household has a weakened immune system, is a risk for severe disease, or is unvaccinated.

By: West Stockbridge Board of Health

Earl B. Moffatt *Agent*



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

Greetings to all from your town librarians, trustees, and friends!

**MARY POPE OSBORNE/MAGIC TREE HOUSE EVENT!** Please join us in the Town Offices gym to see renowned children’s author Mary Pope Osborne at 11 am on April 16. We sincerely thank the West Stockbridge chapter of the Massachusetts Cultural Council for awarding us a grant to hold this very special event.

**YOU CAN BORROW THE INTERNET** via a hotspot, and you can **BORROW A CHROMEBOOK** to use with the hotspot.

**BORROW A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT!** Our very generous library user, musician Eric Shimelonis, has shared a ukulele and a children’s classical guitar for loans and learning. Please call or come in to pick one up!

**LITTLE FREE LIBRARY:** As the weather gets warmer and you stroll around town, consider stopping at the Little Free Library in front of the Old Town Hall. The perfect book might just be waiting for you to take it home!

**TAKE AND MAKE:** Children’s art activities continue. Please help yourself to the latest craft fun created by the tireless Miss Vicky.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## NEW ADULT FICTION

- Cumming, *Box 88*
- Evison, *Small World*
- George, *Something to Hide: A Lynley Novel*
- Gonzalez, *Olga Dies Dreaming*
- Mohamed, *The Fortune Men*
- Moore, *Battle of the Linguist Mages*
- Picoult, *Wish You Were Here*
- Shteyngart, *Our Country Friends*
- Willingham, *Flicker in the Dark*
- Zgheib, *No Land to Light On*

## NEW ADULT NONFICTION

- Schulz, *Lost & Found: A Memoir*
- Selvaratnam, *Assume Nothing: A Story of Intimate Violence*
- Walter, *How Civil Wars Start: And How to Stop Them*
- Wecht, *JFK Assassination Dissected: An Analysis*

## NEW DVDs

- Belfast*
- The Eyes of Tammy Faye*
- House of Gucci*
- King Richard*
- Spencer*

## NEW YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN’S BOOKS

- Reynolds, *Ain’t Burned All the Bright*
- Waters, *African Town*



**FREE** AUTHOR PRESENTATION AND BOOK SIGNING

Where: West Stockbridge Town Gym  
When: Saturday April 16, 2022  
Time: 11:00AM

\*Thanks to the Local Massachusetts Cultural Council



## Scrapbook Questions/created by Paula Farrell TEST YOUR TRIVIA KNOWLEDGE!

1. What was the population of West Stockbridge in 2012?
2. What does the sign over Joe Roy’s office say? (Joe owns The Floor Store.)
3. What building on Main Street was renovated to be level and square, and why?
4. What is in Baldwin’s Hardware Store that probably will never be moved?

1. 1,600 residents
2. “Because Nice Matters”
3. Card Lake Inn, to make apartments
4. A 3,000-pound safe



This program is supported in part by a grant from the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

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## April Donor Roll Call

Jeanne & James Bill in memory of Ronald Bill

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Mary & Bob Edwards

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Penny Pitts

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Architects

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Anonymous: 4

Thanks to everyone who has donated to WSLY. We couldn't do it without your support! Keep the *Local Yokel* coming. Please send your gift today! (See response form on page 17.)

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## History Quiz Answer:

Elijah Williams was the youngest son of the second marriage of Ephraim Williams. Ephraim was the patriarch of one of the four so-called model families that John Sergeant brought to Stockbridge to show the Mohicans what a good Christian family should be. Some example!

In 1765, the General Court allowed the Mohicans to sell their lands to pay debts, and Elijah quickly took advantage. He successfully petitioned the court to turn over the land along the river in the Williamsville area to him. In return, he would pay James Rusk, a baptized Mohican, one barleycorn a year for a 999-year lease on the land. As the entrepreneur, Elijah then built an early iron forge on the river near the end of Water

Street. (The river was called the Williams Mill Brook at the time.) Although Elijah never lived there, he "owned" the property and the forge, and ever the real estate dealer, Elijah sold off the property and business. By 1800, he was on to other projects. As a successful promoter, he did manage to get his name on the hamlet and the river.

Once Elijah was out of the picture, the Williamsville settlement and industry flourished. The area was developed by three families: Barnes, Brown, and French. By the 1820s, in addition to the forge, there were two sawmills; a nail factory; paper, woolen, and grist mills; and a machine shop, all powered by the Williams River. Later, two other prominent families settled there, Comstock and Spencer. Comstock built a woolen mill on the river, and the Spencers constructed a machine shop that lasted until 1890. The farming and industry in the area made it as populated and active as the village center.

By the 1890s, Williamsville lost its industrial prominence with the advent of the railroads and better roads. Transportation was easier from other locations. Larger and better rivers were being developed, and eventually electricity replaced water power. The hamlet became a quiet rural neighborhood. Many of the original houses built by the founding families are still there, but the name of the first real estate developer who never lived there, Elijah Williams, has stuck to this day.



*Williamsville ca. 1877. Photo courtesy of West Stockbridge Historical Society*


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3-6 PM RAIN OR SHINE**



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

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

**WINTER PARKING BAN**  
**November 1, 2021**

The "Winter Parking Ban" is in effect from November 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022 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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ALL**



# 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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Check any that apply:

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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.



Please mail this form with your check to:  
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**P.O. Box 338****West Stockbridge, MA 01266****(413) 232-4349****Town Government Boards and Commissions, Phone Directory, and Office Hours****Town Offices Main Number (413) 232-0300 • Fax 232-7195**

<b>Animal Control</b>	<i>John Drake</i>	464-2148		As Needed
<b>Assessors Office</b>	<i>Mary Stodden</i>	232-0300	ext. 303	Tues. 1–5 pm; Thurs. 9 am–1 pm
<b>Board of Health</b>	<i>Earl Moffatt</i>	232-0300	ext. 314	Fri. 9 am–4 pm, or by appt.
<b>Select Board</b>	<i>Roger Kavanagh, Kathleen Keresey, Eric Shimelonis</i>	232-0300	ext. 319	
<b>Town Administrator</b>	<i>Marie Ryan</i>			Mon.–Thurs. 7 am–3 pm Fri. 7–11 am
<b>Building Inspector</b>	<i>Brian Duval</i>	232-0300	ext. 313	Leave Message for Inquiries
<b>Conservation Commission</b>	<i>John Masiero</i>	232-7063		Leave Message for Inquiries
<b>Council on Aging</b>	<i>John Zick</i>	232-0300	ext. 340	Leave Message for Inquiries
<b>Emergency Management</b>	<i>Louis Oggiani</i>	528-2175		
<b>Fire Department</b>	<i>Steve Traver</i>	911 or 329-7153 (non-emergency)		Mon. 6:30–9 pm
<b>Highway Department</b>	<i>Curt G. Wilton</i>	232-0305		Leave Message for Inquiries
<b>Library</b>	<i>Rachel Alter</i>	232-0300	ext. 308	Mon., Wed., Thurs., and Sat. 10 am–3 pm; Tues. and Fri. 2–6 pm; closed Sun.
<b>Police Department</b>	<i>Marc Portieri</i>	911 or 232-8500 (non-emergency)		24 hours, 7 days/week
<b>Post Office</b>	<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
<b>Sewer &amp; Water Commission</b>	<i>Michael Buffoni</i>	232-0309		
<b>Town Accountant</b>	<i>Elaine Markham</i>	232-0300	ext. 317	Leave Message for Inquiries
<b>Town Clerk</b>	<i>Ronni Barrett</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	Tues. & Thurs. 1:30–3:30 pm
<b>Town Collector</b>	<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
<b>Town Historian</b>	<i>Robert Salerno</i>	232-4465		
<b>Town Treasurer</b>	<i>Karen Williams</i>	232-0300	ext. 316	Thurs. 9 am–4 pm
<b>Transfer Station</b>	<i>Wayne Cooper</i>	232-0307		Tues. & Thurs. 10 am–6 pm and Sat. 8 am–6 pm
<b>Tree Warden</b>	<i>Andrew Fudge</i>	212-9206		
<b>Veterans Agency</b>	<i>Laurie Hills</i>	528-1580		
<b>Zoning Board of Appeals</b>	<i>C. Randolph Thunfors</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	

Official Town Government Website: [weststockbridge-ma.gov](http://weststockbridge-ma.gov) • Community and Business Website: [visitweststockbridge.com](http://visitweststockbridge.com)

**31<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL  
TOWN CLEANUP  
SAT. APRIL 16  
COME TO THE FIREHOUSE  
9-10AM FOR VESTS & BAGS  
BRING YOUR GLOVES! BRING YOUR FRIENDS!**

Call Lily @ 413-429-6371 for more info

## April Art Calendar

Guild of Berkshire Artists | [BerkshireArtists.org](http://BerkshireArtists.org) | [infoberkshireartists@gmail.com](mailto:infoberkshireartists@gmail.com) 2022

- April 5, Snapseed Workshop, 1:30-2:30pm.**  
Work on mobile photo editing with others via Zoom.
- April 10, Potluck, 4-5pm.** Join hosts Freya Segal and John and Linda Mancina over Zoom. See website for more details.
- April 11, Collage & Mixed Media Workshop, 1:30-3:30 p.m.** Join Carolyn Abrams for Collage & Mixed Media.
- April 13, Monthly Meeting, 4-6:30pm.** Golden Paints Demonstration with Adria Arch. West Stockbridge Old Town Hall. In-person with Zoom access available. Sign up required, see the Website for more details.
- April 14, Workshop, 10am-2pm.** Monoprint with Gel Plates and OPEN Acrylics w/Adria Arch. West Stockbridge Old Town Hall. \$125/person, see more info or sign up on the website.
- April 19, Best Practices, 3pm.** "Your Future as an Artist" Panel discussion with Susan and David Honneus.
- April 21, Meet the Artist, 4-5pm.** Peggy Reeves. *Replay* of her Meet the Artist. See website for viewing information.
- April 24, Berkshire Photo Gathering.** Online. See following webpage for more information: [berkshirephotogathering.com/online-meetings](http://berkshirephotogathering.com/online-meetings)
- April 27, Demonstration, 4-5pm.** TBD. See website for more information.
- April 28, Art Book Gathering, 9:30-11am.** Share a favorite book: artist, or process. Visit [www.berkshireartists.org](http://www.berkshireartists.org) for more info.



**Workshop: Monoprint with Gel Plates and OPEN Acrylics**  
**Thursday, April 14, 10am-2pm**

Learn how to make uniquely beautiful, layered prints on paper using GOLDEN's OPEN acrylics. We'll learn the basics of this easy and addictive method of printing while exploring transparent colors and striking imagery. Learn more on the website!

**Mon & Wed, Art Together.** Join GBA artists together online using Zoom. See website for times.

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

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

## MARY POPE OSBORNE

Presented by  
Richmond Free Public Library, Stockbridge Library and West Stockbridge Library



FREE

AUTHOR  
PRESENTATION  
AND BOOK  
SIGNING

**Where:** West Stockbridge Town Gym

**When:** Saturday April 16 2022

**Time:** 11:00AM

\*Thanks to the  
Local Massachusetts Cultural Councils

West Stockbridge  
**Local Yokel**  
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[thelocalyokel.org](http://thelocalyokel.org)



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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

<b>April 2022 Calendar of Events</b>	Due to the coronavirus health situation, 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.		
	4/2	Ramadan (begins at sundown)	
	4/2	Annual Town Meeting	7 pm Town Offices
	4/9	Annual Town Election	10 am–7 pm Town Offices Gym
	4/10	Palm Sunday	
	4/10	Stockbridge Grange takeout dinner	See Community News for details
	4/11	Select Board meeting	6 pm See town website for details
	4/11	Planning Board meeting	7 pm See town website for details
	4/12	Parks & Recreation Committee meeting	5 pm See town website for details
	4/15	Good Friday	
	4/15	Passover (begins at sundown)	
	4/15	*** Deadline for the next Local Yokel ***	Send to <a href="mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org">info@thelocalyokel.org</a>
	4/16	Annual Town Cleanup	9–10 am for vests & bags Firehouse, 24 Albany Rd.
	4/17	Easter	
	4/18	Patriots' Day (town offices closed)	
4/22	Earth Day		
4/25	Select Board meeting	6 pm See town website for details	
4/29	Arbor Day		