

Local yokel

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West
Stockbridge

January
2022

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005



HAPPY
New Year

The Old Town Hall cupola at sunset. Photo by Bill Nappo

West Stockbridge Sparkles!

By Cait Graham, West Stockbridge Parks & Recreation

If you were out and about on the afternoon of Sunday, December 5, you couldn't have missed the parade of joyful revelers caroling their way through town! Led by the West Stockbridge Fire Department with trucks bedecked in colored lights, dozens of families sang their way to the Town Offices under the guidance of a number of enthusiastic North Pole elves. Of course, no holiday celebration would be complete without an appearance from Santa Claus. This year, the West Stockbridge Police Department provided a full security detail for Santa and Mrs. Claus, to ensure these important guests remained safe. Following the parade, everyone was invited to count down as Santa magically lit the town Christmas tree, and then he met with every child to hear wishes and offer gifts. It was truly a wonderful time, full of hot cocoa and good cheer!

In addition to those already mentioned, West Stockbridge Parks & Recreation would like to thank the following for their invaluable help in making Sparkles 2021 one for the books:

- * Select Board chair Eric Shimelonis, for help in procuring the town Christmas tree.
- * The Balestro Family Tree Farm (at 117 Great Barrington Road), for generously donating the town Christmas tree.
- * The Department of Public Works, for tons of behind-the-scenes assistance and for stringing thousands of lights!
- * The many community volunteers who led caroling, handed out candles, loaned decorations, and much more.
- * Members of the West Stockbridge Congregational Church, UCC for baking and handing out hundreds of Christmas cookies!

If you missed the event this year, stop by the West Stockbridge Community Board on Facebook. There you can find a full video of the event, lovingly created by our own Joe Roy Jr.

Keep sparkling, local yokels.
You are what makes this town so great!



Santa and Mrs. Claus. Photo by Jude Harrigan



Joe Roy Jr. and reindeer. Photo courtesy of Joe Roy



Santa and his entourage. Photo courtesy of WSPD

Santa and Mrs. Claus with WSPD. Photo by Courtney Rousseau



Santa and Mrs. Claus in vehicle. Photo courtesy of Joe Roy



Board of Health

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

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

BOARD OF HEALTH DIRECTIVE PERTAINING TO THE TRANSMISSION OF COVID-19

Recently, positive cases of Covid-19 and its variants have been on the rise in Massachusetts as well as closer to home here in Berkshire County. It has been shown, unquestionably, that use of facial coverings and social distancing have reduced or prevented the transmission of the virus between individuals. Data also shows that immunization is the most effective form of protection against the virus.

In light of these facts and in an effort to help keep the community healthy, the Board of Health, at their most recent meeting, and under authority granted by MGL Chapter 111, Section 31, voted in favor of upgrading their previous advisory regarding the use of masks and social distancing measures to the following *Directive*, effective as of November 19, 2021. The Board will review these directives in future meetings with an aim to amending or canceling them.

FACE COVERINGS IN PUBLIC SETTINGS INDOORS AND OUTDOORS

- Appropriate CDC approved masks or face coverings must be worn at all times by individuals entering all public indoor spaces in the Town of West Stockbridge. Public spaces shall include but not be limited to Town Municipal Buildings, Post Office, library, churches, entertainment venues, and retail establishments.
- Masks are not required for individuals seated at a table consuming food or drink. However, the tables must be situated six or more feet apart.
- A sign must be posted at the entrances to all indoor public spaces stating that masks are required for entrance.
- Food service employees must wear a mask or face covering when interacting with customers, both indoors and outdoors.
- Masks must be worn by employees who cannot maintain a six-foot distance from other employees or the public.
- At outdoor events, if the event does not allow individuals to maintain a six-foot distance from each other, masks or face coverings are required.
- Masks are not required for children under the age of two.
- Exceptions may be granted for individuals with a medical condition, with sufficient proof certified by a physician, that does not allow them to wear a mask.


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

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Growing Up in West Stockbridge in the 1950s

A Series of Recollections by John Bormolini and Friends

Working at Eastover, Part 1

I started working at Eastover in Lenox at the beginning of my sophomore year at Williams High School in the fall of 1957. My brother Joseph was a chef, and he asked me if I wanted to work in the kitchen on weekends as a pot washer. I started the following weekend. Getting to and from Eastover was a challenge. That first weekend, Joe picked me up at about 8:30 on Saturday morning and brought me back home after the dinner cleanup at about 8:30 pm. Same thing the next day, Sunday.

I didn't have a driver's license, or a car for that matter, and there was no one else to drive me to Eastover. Getting back home was easy; Joe took care of that. My solution was to hitchhike to Eastover. At that time hitching was not frowned upon. My route was West Stockbridge to the Four Corners on the way to Stockbridge, then on to Lenox, and from there to Eastover. It usually took about an hour because most of the time people would go out of their way and take me where I needed to go.

In addition to transportation, Joe arranged for a place for me to stay overnight. At first, I rebelled, but as time went on I liked it. I arranged to sleep in a cabin on weekends where the full-time workers lived. Joe would drive me home on Sunday night. I still hitchhiked on Saturday mornings, but I was there early on Sunday mornings, now that I had a bunk there. My mother didn't have to worry about my hitchhiking, I had a steady weekend job that paid at least minimum wage, and I made a ton of new friends. I even hooked up with another worker and went to 7 o'clock Mass in Lenox.

Little did I know that this was the beginning of a long-term relationship working at Eastover, lasting until March 1965 when I reported to the U.S. Army at Fort Benning, Georgia. I worked most weekends in the fall, during the Christmas school vacation, and most weekends in the winter until early spring, and it was a summer job when June rolled around. Life was good.

At that time, Eastover consisted of a large mansion, a beautiful horse barn, and a stable converted to a recreation facility. Lodging at first was in the large mansion. Later, motel-like structures were built that accommodated guests as well as some private homes in the vicinity. Eventually more lodging was added as the number of guests kept growing, mostly because of an article in the *Saturday Evening Post* sometime in the mid-1950s. The *Post* described Eastover as a “young adult facility appealing to those 21 and over.” That launched the popularity of the resort with young people from New York, Boston, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. It was an all-inclusive payment plan during weekends and the summer—a real bargain with breakfast, lunch, dinner, and a hamburger bar at the dance hall about 11 in the evening. The band played well into the night, and no one had to drive after drinking. It was a paradise for young adults and a smattering of middle-age adults. Many couples found their soulmates there.

As previously mentioned, I started as a weekend pot washer in the kitchen. That lasted about two years. I worked as an assistant cook one summer, and the following season I became the salad chef, helping in the kitchen when needed. One summer I became a waiter. That was my best opportunity to earn money for college, and I was also able to buy a 1957 Ford Fairlane after I got my driver's license. It was a great schedule and allowed me to play softball on the summer squad when we challenged the “guest teams.” We won all our games because we had a few so-called ringers, not including me. I was the catcher for George Bisacca, who always pitched. He could play any position he wanted since he was the owner of Eastover!



*New friends. After returning from ROTC training at Fort Devens, Massachusetts in June 1963. John is second from left, with the short hair.
Photo courtesy of John Bormolini*

I was always able to get my job back during the summer after enrolling at Boston College in the fall of 1960. In Part 2, I'll describe my experiences up to 1965 when I left for the army as a second lieutenant having earned a commission at Boston College.

January History Quiz Question:

In the 1800s, there obviously was no Netflix, YouTube streaming, movie theaters, and the many other forms of entertainment we enjoy today. West Stockbridge, a small farming community with one church in the center of the village, did not have a theater or music hall like larger cities such as Pittsfield. In farming communities, work took up most of everyone's life with possibly a social gathering on a Saturday night in the local tavern (of which we had many, but that's for a later question).

Thus early in the 19th century, the church and local taverns were the center of social activity. After the Civil War, communities became more social, the burgeoning industrial economy allowed people a little more free time, and newer forms of public entertainment came about. Theater performances, concerts, public lectures, and itinerant circuses became more common and traveled to smaller venues like West Stockbridge.

One of the chief forms of entertainment was the community brass band. Modeled after the military brass bands from the Civil War units, almost every town had one, and the tradition lasted through World War II and on into the 1950s. What band or bands did West Stockbridge host during that era, and where did they perform?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)

When friends, neighbors, or relatives move, downsize, or just clean house, *please* ask them to think of the West Stockbridge Historical Society before they discard any old books, pictures, postcards, letters, or memorabilia of the Town of West Stockbridge. Email info@weststockbridgehistory.org or call (413) 232-4270.



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The Old Town Hall Gets a New Roof

In 1914, George Bartlett, a local tinsmith, plumber, and entrepreneur, installed the metal roof on the Town Hall. Many of our village buildings have metal roofs from that era, and George likely installed them as well. Fast forward to 2009. The West Stockbridge Historical Society bought the Old Town Hall from the town and commissioned an engineering study of the structure. One of the issues the report identified was the failing metal roof. They estimated it had about five years left on its life, or the 100-year anniversary since George installed it.

With support from a matching grant from the Mass. Cultural Council and contributions from many of our donors, the Historical Society is now able to replace the metal roof. We look forward to the next 100 years, free of leaks!



Photo by John Parker



Photo by Jerri Buehler

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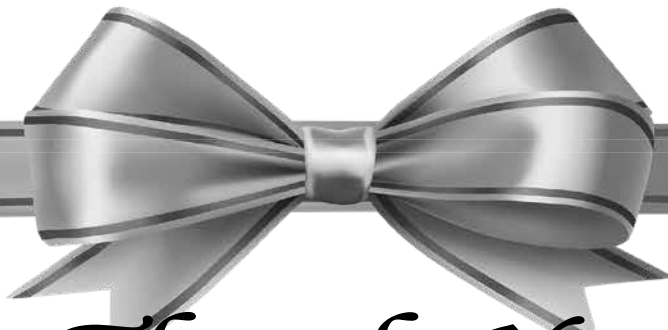


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Thank You!

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Santa's Wish List:

- ❖ Friends of the West Stockbridge Library
- ❖ The *Local Yokel*
- ❖ Pet Partners of the Tri-State Berkshires
- ❖ West Stockbridge Farmers Market
- ❖ West Stockbridge Fire and Rescue Services
- ❖ West Stockbridge Historical Society
- ❖ West Stockbridge Parks & Recreation

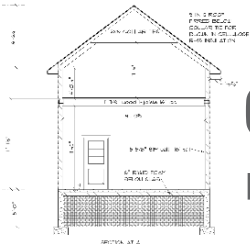
*Gift totals will be reported
in our February issue!*

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On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky

Building Science Makes a Better House

In an effort to find something to write about this month, I looked back over previous columns and was surprised to see that I'm coming up on the fifth anniversary of my first column! (Oddly, the Pulitzer committee has chosen to overlook this bit of immortal prose.) And one of the things I mentioned in that first column is something I come back to time and again: advances in building science over the past 20 or 30 years.

When I started in the building trades in the mid-1980s, the industry was finding its way through the changes brought about by the oil embargo of the 1970s that meant heating costs had gone sky high. So everyone was insulation crazy, thinking the only factor we had to worry about was heat loss. The problem was that heat loss was just part of the many other aspects of the building system, and it took a while for practices to catch up with the physical realities of how a house works.

In the 1980s and 90s, engineers and building scientists, guided by measurable data, began to design systems that addressed the interconnectedness of components in building a house. The Passivhaus movement, started by Germany's Wolfgang Feist, and others, like American engineer Joe Lstiburek, the founding principal of Building Science Corporation, led the way. What these folks tried to do was rethink how a house works and come up with better construction solutions, which—one hoped—would lead to better building codes.

The resulting model, driven by the desire to make a comfortable and easy-to-heat living space, is based on simple physics. The “perfect” wall (or roof or floor—any barrier to the outside of the building envelope) provides control of water, air, vapor, and thermal conditions—in *that order*. In other words, it's more important to control water movement than it is to control air, but air control is more important than vapor, which is more important than heat movement.

Certainly the old-timers knew that a rain-proof roof was really a good idea. But some still insist that a house has to “breathe,” a condition that explains a lot of ice dams, mold, and leaky houses. We now know, through testable data, that unless we can keep water out of the entire envelope (walls with penetrations like windows and floors/slabs) and control air leakage, we're in for problems.

For example, we know what a leaky roof will do: Air leakage is a source of drafts, moisture movement into the insulation layer, and rot and mold when the moisture in the air hits the cold surfaces of the underside of the roof membrane, for instance. So making a so-called tight house that minimizes air movement is now understood to be a really important element. In the 1970s, building codes required air changes per hour (ACH) to be no more than 7. What that meant was a relatively drafty house, but if you were paying 30 cents a gallon for heating oil, it wasn't a big deal. Current codes require no more than 3 ACH. Less is better. Especially when heating oil is more than \$3.25 a gallon.

These changes in thinking about how houses are built and how the components interact means new materials and building practices are evolving quickly. And these developments are partly the reason why it costs about three times as much to build today as it did in the 1970s and 80s. Watch this space!

Please send comment, questions, and rants to info@thelocalyokel.org.



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

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Marc J. Portieri Chief of Police
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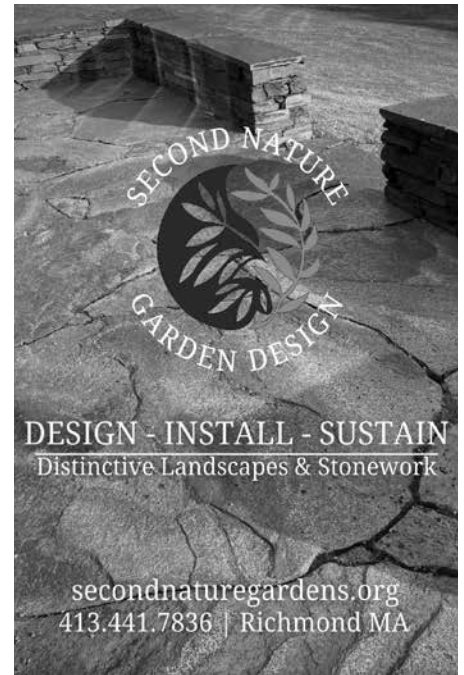
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WINTER PARKING BAN November 1, 2021

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.



Do you enjoy writing or photography?

The *Local Yokel* needs regular and occasional contributors.

Please call John Parker at (413) 394-4368, email info@thelocalyokel.org, or visit www.thelocalyokel.org for more information.



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Welcome to 2022, everybody! All of us at the library are happy to help you find something good to read on one of these winter days. Come on in and pick up a library card if you don't already have one.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BORROWING A CHROMEBOOK? The Friends of the WSPL have generously gifted us with two Google Chromebooks in memory of Ginna and Roland Dudney. The Dudneys were wonderful supporters of the library for many years. **WE ALSO HAVE WIFI HOTSPOTS TO LOAN YOU** if you need internet service with the Chromebook!

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

NEW ADULT FICTION

- Erdrich, *Sentence*
- Follett, *Never*
- Gabaldon, *Go Tell the Bees That I Am Gone*
- Grisham, *Judge's List*
- Le Carré, *Silverview*
- McConaghy, *Migrations*
- Winman, *Still Life*
- Yun, *O Beautiful*

NEW YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS

- Kubo, *Burn The Witch, Vol. 1*
- McGovern, *Welcome Back, Maple Mehta-Cohen*
- Owen, *Little Thieves*
- Pearson, *Hilda: The Wilderness Stories*
- Pfeffer, *Log's Life*

NEW ADULT NONFICTION

- Brands, *Our First Civil War: Patriots and Loyalists in the American Revolution*
- Offerman, *Where the Deer and the Antelope Play: The Pastoral Observations of One Ignorant American Who Loves to Walk Outside*
- Philbrick, *Travels with George: In Search of Washington and His Legacy*
- Rinaldi, *Patented: 1,000 Design Patents*
- Stevenson, *How to Slay a Dragon: A Fantasy Hero's Guide to the Real Middle Ages*
- Winchester, *Land: How the Hunger for Ownership Shaped the Modern World*
- Woodward, *Peril*

The library has expanded hours, effective July 1, 2021



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



Scrapbook Questions/created by Paula Farrell

TEST YOUR TRIVIA KNOWLEDGE!

1. What would the cost of a new Monument Mountain Regional High School have been in 2012?
2. How much did the high school building's structural deficiencies, as well as enhancing the educational program, cost in 2012?
3. What café did Scott Cole own in West Stockbridge, and what store did he open in September 2012?
4. How much did our new pumper fire truck cost in 2012?

1. \$75 million; 2. \$54 million;
3. Caffè Pomo d'Oro and the Monterey General Store;
4. \$379,000



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January Art Calendar

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

2022

Events and Workshops

Dec 3 - Jan 21, Holiday Art Show On display in person during business hours at at TKG Real Estate, 137 North Street, Pittsfield or online, at www.berkshireartists.org.

January 3 & 17, Procrastinator's Challenge!, 10-11am. GBA members can join Diane Firtell for a jumpstart on their creative productivity via Zoom.

January 4, Snapseed Workshop, 1:30-2:30pm. Work on mobile photo editing with others via Zoom.

January 7, Meet the Artist, 5 - 6pm. Laurie Rando, Oil Painter.

January 10, Collage & Mixed Media Workshop, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Join Carolyn Abrams for Collage & Mixed Media.

January 11 & 25, Positive Critique, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Join Michele Caplan for a positive critique session for Guild members via Zoom.

January 18, Best Practices, 3pm. "To Lease or Not to Lease", Panel discussion with Susan and David Honneus.

January 23, Berkshire Photo Gathering. Online. See following webpage for more information: berkshirephotogathering.com/online-meetings

January 27, Art Book Gathering, 9:30-11am. Share a favorite book: artist, or process. Visit www.berkshireartists.org for more info.



Diane Firtell

Mary Davidson

Mike Coyne

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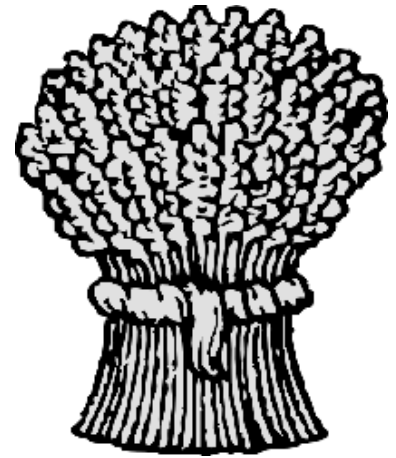
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MON & FRI, Art Together: Join GBA artists together online using Zoom. See website for times.

The West Stockbridge Congregational Church Says ***Thank You!***

The West Stockbridge Congregational Church would like to thank the community, members, and friends for supporting our annual Harvest Takeout Dinner held on Sunday, November 7, 2021. We received wonderful feedback from many of you who enjoyed the meal that was sponsored and prepared by Chef Justin Carafotes, proprietor of Hand Crafted Creations in Stockbridge. Hand Crafted offers farm-to-table off-premises catering for weddings and other events or gatherings in the Berkshires and beyond.



Thank you to everyone for another successful fundraising event. For info or questions, contact Joanne Wodecki at (413) 454-0054 or j_wodecki@yahoo.com.

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History Quiz Answer:



THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE BAND — 1930.

1st Row: Angelo Zanconato, Sam Dellea, Al Sinico, Jim Delmaso, John Modolo, Aldo Delmolino, Vasco Gennari, John Gattasso, Milio Delmolino. 2nd Row: Joe Balestro, Mario Chiorgno, Jarvis Gennari, Felix Chiorgno — leader, Pete Delmolino, Steve Gatti, Vincent Chiorgno, Tilio Zancanato. 3rd Row: John Astore, Guy Dellea, Peter Roviario, Angelo Balestro, Constantine Delmolino, Frank Dellea, Ollas Pellegrini. 4th Row: Anthony Pellegrini, Unidentified, Azzo Delmolino, Joe Smachetti.

The West Stockbridge Band, ca. 1930. From Berkshire Bands, by Alan Grieve

According to Alan Grieve's book *Berkshire Bands*, from the late 1800s through the 1950s, 27 of the 32 communities in Berkshire County had a musical group or band of some type. Many originated with the support of immigrants who brought their musical traditions from their native country; others had gained musical experience in military units in the Civil War. Brass instruments were affordable, available, and relatively easier to learn than strings and woodwinds.

Our earliest record of a band concert in West Stockbridge is the Mahaiwe Brass Band of Great Barrington, performing in the Old Town Hall in 1854, the year the building opened. We don't know if the concert was part of an opening celebration or a regular performance.

The most famous West Stockbridge Band, pictured here, was formed in 1925 with Felix Chigorno from Pittsfield as band leader. It was made up of local Italians, with many familiar names such as Delmolino, Dellea, Astore, Zancanato, and Sinico. They rehearsed in the Zancanato building on Main Street that later burned down and subsequently in the Italian-American Club building, now the Orient Express. This group performed in Berkshire County and at some statewide events in addition to here in West Stockbridge. It lasted until 1941 when many of the band members joined the military.

West Stockbridge also had other active musical groups. The most colorfully named one was George "Pop" Sweet and his Huckleberry Pickers. It began in 1923 and lasted until 1950. (George was a "stationary engineer" by day.) Two other groups were Smith's Orchestra and Carlotto's Orchestra, both active beginning in the 1950s.

In addition to the Town Hall, these bands and others performed in the Card Lake Hotel, Grange Hall, Williamsville Inn, and the Crane Lake Pavilion. Our musical tradition continues today with multiple venues, groups, and styles, both indoors and out.

Community News & Events

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

Community Health Association

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

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, January 9, the Stockbridge Grange will serve a takeout-only dinner at the Grange Hall at 51 Church Street, Stockbridge. The dinner will be baked beans and ham, and apple or chocolate pie 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 January 6.

Council on Aging

Weather permitting, the Council on Aging will meet at noon on Tuesday, January 11, in the Community Room at the Town Offices. Don't forget to bring your own lunch!

The Knitters Group

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

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

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Every issue costs us about \$1,300 to print and distribute! Please help us keep the *Local Yokel* coming!

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

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Save the Date: "Back to School in West Stockbridge" February 4, 2022

By Jill Pixley



The West Stockbridge Historical Society will present a program on Friday, February 4, on the history from 1950 to 2006 of the West Stockbridge Village School when it was on State Line Road. The building, now our current Town Offices, was the K-6 grade school before elementary regionalization and becoming part of the Berkshire Hills Regional School District. It will be an evening of memories from former teachers and students, including pictures and exhibits.

For this program, the Historical Society is asking anyone who would like to share school memorabilia saved over the years to please contact Jill Pixley at (413) 232-4347 or email jillpixley@hotmail.com. Class group pictures are especially welcome. We will scan what you have and you will keep the originals. Or you can donate the items to our town history archives. We are also interested in anything pertaining to the old school on Main Street that was in use before 1950.

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!



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Assessors Office	<i>Mary Stodden</i>	232-0300	ext. 303	Tues. 1–5 pm; Thurs. 9 am–1 pm
Board of Health	<i>Earl Moffatt</i>	232-0300	ext. 314	Fri. 9 am–4 pm, or by appt.
Select Board	<i>Roger Kavanagh, Kathleen Keresey, Eric Shimelonis</i>	232-0300	ext. 319	
Town Administrator	<i>Marie Ryan</i>			Mon.–Thurs. 7 am–3 pm Fri. 7 am–11 am
Building Inspector	<i>Brian Duval</i>	232-0300	ext. 313	Leave Message for Inquiries
Conservation Commission	<i>John Masiero</i>	232-7063		Leave Message for Inquiries
Council on Aging	<i>John Zick</i>	232-0300	ext. 340	Leave Message for Inquiries
Emergency Management	<i>Louis Oggiani</i>	528-2175		
Fire Department	<i>Steve Traver</i>	911 or 329-7153 (non-emergency)		Mon. 6:30–9 pm
Highway Department	<i>Curt G. Wilton</i>	232-0305		Leave Message for Inquiries
Library	<i>Rachel Alter</i>	232-0300	ext. 308	Mon., Wed., Thurs., and Sat. 10 am–3 pm; Tues. and Fri. 2 pm–6 pm; closed Sun.
Police Department	<i>Marc Portieri</i>	911 or 232-8500 (non-emergency)		24 hours, 7 days/week
Post Office	<i>Colleen A. Wich</i>	232-8544		Lobby: 7 am–7 pm; 7 days/week; Window: Mon.–Fri. 9 am–4:30 pm; Sat. 9 am–12 noon
Sewer & Water Commission	<i>Michael Buffoni</i>	232-0309		
Town Accountant	<i>Elaine Markham</i>	232-0300	ext. 317	Leave Message for Inquiries
Town Clerk	<i>Ronni Barrett</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	Tues. & Thurs. 1:30–4 pm
Town Collector	<i>June A. Biggs</i>	232-0300	ext. 302	Wed. 3–6 pm; Thurs. and Fri. 10 am– 2 pm; Sat. 10 am–1 pm
Town Historian	<i>Robert Salerno</i>	232-4465		
Town Treasurer	<i>Karen Williams</i>	232-0300	ext. 316	Thurs. 9 am–4 pm
Transfer Station	<i>Wayne Cooper</i>	232-0307		Tues. & Thurs. 10 am–6 pm and Sat. 8 am–6 pm
Tree Warden	<i>Andrew Fudge</i>	212-9206		
Veterans Agency	<i>Laurie Hills</i>	528-1580		
Zoning Board of Appeals	<i>C. Randolph Thunfors</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	

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

The Armen Donelian Trio Performs for Sold-Out Crowd

Concert Concludes West Stockbridge
Historical Society's 2021 Jazz Series

By Jeff Nestel-Patt

"The song is ended, but the melody lingers on." Those words from the 1927 Irving Berlin song of the same name capture the feeling of the masked and sold-out crowd at the end of the Armen Donelian Trio jazz concert on Saturday, November 13, at The Foundry in West Stockbridge. Sponsored by the West Stockbridge Historical Society, and graciously hosted by Amy Brentano in The Foundry's black box theater, the audience was treated to a beautifully curated 75-minute set of songs ranging from familiar jazz standards to originals from Donelian's oeuvre.

The trio, consisting of Donelian on piano, David Clark on bass, and George Schuller on drums, played with the ease and familiarity gained from numerous past performances together. Joining them was special guest jazz vocalist Dominique Eade, who added her richly textured voice as a fourth instrument to the ensemble.

The set began with a beautiful rendition of Joe Henderson's "Recorda Me" (Remember Me). The melody of this 1963 standard came to life on Donelian's piano, supported by Clark's bass, and Schuller's drums. It felt as if the musicians were finishing each other's melodic sentences, as the solos passed among these trusted old friends. Next up was a beautiful rendition of Victor Young's "Stella by Starlight" that showcased Eade's silky vocal range.

Two other songs from the set, both Donelian originals, stood out: "Mexico," a hauntingly beautiful solo piano that evokes the stark beauty of the landscape of the Southwest, and "King of Cathay," a song from Donelian's brilliantly written and produced double-CD album, *Sayat-Nova: Songs of My Ancestors*, on which Clark and Schuller played for the original 2014 recording sessions. The songs on the album bring to life the original melodies of Sayat Nova, an 18th-century Armenian poet, and highlight Donelian's interpretative creativity in fusing these ancient melodies with modern jazz sensibilities to deliver powerful and compelling music.

"Tonight's concert is a great example of putting our mission into action," said Bob Salerno, president of the West Stockbridge Historical Society. "In addition to the ongoing renovation of the Old Town Hall, we are committed to producing events such as tonight's concert that add to the richness and vibrance of the region's cultural heritage for the benefit of our community and the surrounding area."

The concert concluded the 2021 season for the West Stockbridge Historical Society's Jazz Program. Planning for the 2022 season has already begun with the first concert scheduled for the spring. Look for details about the upcoming season on the society's website early next year: www.weststockbridgehistory.org.

All photos by David Finck



Armen Donelian on piano



George Schuller on drums



Guest vocalist Dominique Eade



Bass player David Clark

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January 2022 Calendar of Events

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

1/1	New Year's Day		
1/3	Select Board meeting	6 pm	See town website for details
1/5	Master Plan Steering Committee meeting	5 pm	See town website for details
1/9	Stockbridge Grange Takeout Dinner		See Community News for details
1/11	Council on Aging (COA) luncheon meeting	12 noon	Town Offices Community Room
1/15	*** Deadline for the next Local Yokel ***		Send to info@thelocalyokel.org
1/17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Town Offices closed		
1/18	Select Board meeting	6 pm	See town website for details
1/31	Select Board meeting	6 pm	See town website for details

