

Local yokel

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

West
Stockbridge

October
2022



*Bracket fungus on tree at Stevens Glen.
Photo by John Parker*

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

About the Artist: Doane Perry

Doane Perry has been taking photographs for decades. His grandfather used to vacation in Lenox and took photos on glass plates, some of which are now at the Lenox Library. His parents recorded their foreign trips with the Boston Symphony on a tiny Mamiya camera using movie film to make stills.

While in the Peace Corps in Uganda, Doane took pictures on vacation in the mountains there, and in Kenya, Tanzania, Zanzibar, and the Seychelles. Doane did a visual anthropological study of Areopoli, a small town in Greece.

Costa Manos, a Magnum photographer who had worked for the Boston Symphony, gave Doane lessons in cultural photography. He encouraged Doane to use Kodak Tri-X film that allowed good quality photos without using a flash to light up the photo. Costa's advice was to fill the frame and show some interaction. Doane developed many of his own photographs.

Doane exhibited his work at the Greek Institute in Cambridge, Massachusetts; in Rhode Island; and at the Cambridge Friends Meeting. Lately he has shown his work with the Guild of Berkshire Artists and has had several shows at TKG Real Estate on North Street in Pittsfield with First Fridays Artswalk. Doane wrote for the *Local Yokel* and the *Richmond Record* for many years until he was elected to the Select Board in West Stockbridge.

Doane always brought his camera wherever he went with several different lenses. For more than a decade now, he has used his iPhone. "The best camera is the one that is with you!" says Doane. "The eye is the most important element in picture taking."

Photos by Doane Perry



Select Board Meeting Minutes

[Editor's note: At the town administrator's request, the Select Board minutes here are reprinted verbatim with no editing of text. Official board minutes are available at the West Stockbridge Public Library and on the town website, <https://www.weststockbridge-ma.gov/>. Select Board meetings are on Zoom and may be viewed by clicking on the link in the meeting agenda posted on the town website calendar. Residents can receive email notification of town events and meeting agendas by subscribing at <http://weststockbridgema.virtualltownhall.net/subscriber>].

Select Board Meeting Minutes July 18, 2022

Quorum present: Select Board Members Kathleen Keresey, Chair, Andrew Potter and Andrew Krouss and Marie Ryan, Town Administrator.

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

Citizen Speak:

Curt Wilton suggested that in the future, TurnPark could coordinate parking for their events with the Police Chief, Sewer and Water Commissioners and the DPW. Jared Gelomino, TurnPark manager, agreed to set up a meeting to discuss appropriate solutions.

There was discussion about traffic concerns, specifically for school bus stops on Main Street and speeding on Great Barrington Road. Curt Wilton, Director of Public Works, stated that there is a traffic study of Great Barrington Road currently in progress. Kathleen agreed to speak with Chief Portieri about plans for traffic calming and safe school bus boarding.

Kathleen requested that Townspeople submit their concerns and complaints to the Board in writing.

Approve Minutes:

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss to approve the minutes from June 21, June 29 and July 5, 2022.

Vote:
Andy Krouss Yes
Andy Potter Yes
Kathleen Yes
Motion passes.

Town Administrator Updates:

Marie informed the Board that the State has extended the COVID 19 remote meetings. All meetings are allowed to be completely remote until March 2023.

Marie stated that a member of the Community Preservation Commission (CPC) is now unable to be involved. She requested that the Board appoint Peter Metz as a Member-At-Large on the CPC.

Andy Potter made a motion to appoint Peter Metz as a member of the CPC, seconded by Andy Krouss.

Vote:
Andy Krouss Yes
Andy Potter Yes
Kathleen Yes
Motion passes.

Guild of Berkshire Artists – Permission to post signs: Karen Carmean

Karen Carmean from the Guild of Berkshire Artists requested permission to post signs on Town property for a one-week period prior to each of two upcoming events. The events are on July 23 & 24 from 11 AM – 5 PM and August 20 & 21 from 11 AM – 5 PM.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve permission to the Guild of Berkshire Artists to post signs on Town Property for one-week prior to their events in July and August.

Vote:
Andy Krouss Yes
Andy Potter Yes
Kathleen Yes
Motion passes.

TurnPark – One-Day Liquor Licenses for two events – Jared Gelomino, Manager

Jared requested a One-Day Liquor License for each of two events at TurnPark. The events will be held on July 30, 2022 and August 5, 2022 and would be attended by approximately 50 people each. Jared agreed to work with the Town on parking for his events.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve the One-Day Liquor Licenses for the July 30, 2022 and August 5, 2022 events at TurnPark.

Vote:
Andy Krouss Yes
Andy Potter Yes
Kathleen Yes
Motion passes.

Shared Ambulance with Richmond:

Kathleen asked the Board if they had any further questions about the Shared Ambulance Agreement with Richmond. The Board had no further questions.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Potter to approve the shared ambulance agreement with Richmond.

Vote:
Andy Krouss Yes
Andy Potter Yes
Kathleen Yes
Motion passes.

Host Community Agreement (HCA): Jon Piasecki

Kathleen stated that she felt Jon Piasecki made a thorough presentation at the last Select Board meeting. She has reviewed the material and is ready to vote on entering into negotiations for an HCA with Jon.

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 Guild of Berkshire Artists

October at ART on MAIN Gallery

Continuing the series of small group shows in our new gallery, the Guild of Berkshire Artists is pleased to present "Soul Vision," opening September 29 and running through Columbus/Indigenous Peoples' Day, Monday, October 10.

Three artists using different media are coming together, soul to soul, in this exhibit to express their connection with nature and their environment.

Carolyn Abrams uses mediums such as cold wax and oil paint to explore her creative spirit and personal connections to nature.

MJ Marx applies a painterly style in her process of sculpting and glazing her rustic and earthy ceramics.



*Ceramic Bowl by MJ Marx.
 Photo courtesy of the artist*

Susan Sabino prefers natural light to illuminate the flora and fauna in her photography as she aims at capturing the hidden beauty in living creatures.

"Soul Vision" will run on weekends from Thursday through Sunday and will include Indigenous Peoples' Day on Monday, October 10. Reception for the artists on Saturday, October 1, 2 to 4 pm.

Show Hours: Thursday/Friday, 3–6 pm
 Saturday/Sunday, 12–4 pm
 Monday, October 10, 12–3 pm



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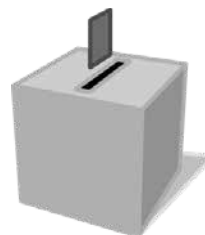
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State Election Tuesday, November 8



Voter registration deadline: October 29, 2022

Vote by mail application deadline: November 1, 2022

Early voting: October 22–November 4

Election Day polling hours: 7 am–8 pm

On the Ballot*: Representative in Congress, governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, state treasurer, state auditor, Governor's Council, state senator, state representative, district attorney, sheriff, county commissioner (only in certain counties), and statewide ballot questions.

*Ballots in some counties and communities may have additional local offices and questions.



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"We Remember When . . ."

Growing Up in West Stockbridge in the 1950s

A Series of Recollections by John Bormolini and Friends

Fragrant Memories of 1950s West Stockbridge, Part 2

*By John Bormolini with Louise and Paul Faggioni, Bruce Morelli, Judie Masiero (Bodnar),
Nissa Besaw (Asklipious), and Anita Zanconato (Norton)*

It occurred to me that in the 1950s, smoking was not taboo as it is today. Especially affected were veterans who were supplied with C-ration food packs while serving their country. Every box of C-rations had a four-pack of cigarettes, nonfiltered, of course. Those who did not smoke used cigarettes for bartering, even more than nylons! If you watch old black-and-white movies, almost everybody was smoking. In some ways, it was glamorized. As I recalled aromas in local bars and restaurants, the ever-present smell was cigarette smoke.

In that era, we had five restaurant-bars in town, beginning with the State Line Restaurant on Route 102 as you entered West Stockbridge from the west. It straddled the border of New York and Massachusetts. Town residents called it "The Line." Because the legal age for alcohol consumption in New York was 18 versus 21 in Massachusetts, town residents did their part when turning 18. On weekends, we enjoyed the pleasant aroma of home cooking, mostly Italian specialties. The owners, Eddy Tognini and Louie Parachi, prided themselves on preparing home-cooked meals, and the aroma was always present at The Line.



*Bocce ball and Parodi cigars: a perfect match.
Avanti Cigar company*

Near the bridge over the Williams River was the Square Rigger. It was mostly an after-work location, featuring burgers cooked on a grill behind the bar. The restaurant was open late on Friday nights when the school bus brought students back to West Stockbridge from a basketball game. The burger aroma enticed you as you got off the bus! That's when the burger tasted the best, along with a cold orange Nehi soda.

Then came the Card Lake Hotel on Main Street owned by Tedla and Chisso Marzatto. Something was always being prepared in the kitchen that made your mouth water. Home cooking was their specialty, particularly when hosting a wedding or other social event. The air was redolent with the ever-present smell of garlic.

Next came the Italian American Social Club tucked behind the river and over a small bridge. Like the other bars in town, it was an after-work venue: one or two beers and off to home. Weekends featured live music and dancing. I remember bar foods like pickled hard-boiled eggs, beets, and pig's feet. You could also enjoy a grilled burger with onions and cheese. Cigarette smoke mingled with the pungent smell of Parodi cigars, about 4 inches long. You could not mistake the odor of a Parodi while playing bocce. The social club had multiple bocce alleys behind their building. There were even lights, so the alleys could be used when it was dark, and there was always someone playing.

The bar and restaurant farthest from town was the Hideaway on Great Barrington Road, about 4 miles from town, owned by Louie and Edie Raspuzzi. I've been told that the owners would take orders from workers at Balgen Machine Company and deliver for lunch. Burgers were always on the menu. And of course, the aroma of grilled burgers topped with lettuce and tomato and cheese was enticing. The Hideaway, although compact, was patronized primarily by the locals, mostly from Williamsville, about 2 miles to the south.

Three markets thrived in the center of town, each with its own characteristics and aromas. Fallon's Market (now The Public Market) was the first as you rounded the corner after the bridge, as it is today. The Fallon brothers, Tom and Francis, purchased the property in the 1930s. It quickly became known for quality meats. They always employed a butcher, and you could smell fresh meat as you entered the store.

The next market was Masiero's Market, owned and operated by Carlo and Mary Masiero, who lived upstairs. Judie Masiero (Bodnar) shared her thoughts:

"Every Friday night my father mixed some good Italian red wine with spices like fennel, salt, pepper, cloves, garlic, and anise seed. This was the recipe for the Italian sausage that he made every week and always sold out. My mother would cook up a small patty for tasting. I vividly remember the aroma in the store once my parents got to running the mixture through the machine into the casing. Anyone coming into the market knew that Italian sausage smell, and, boy, do I miss the taste of that sausage today."



Masiero's Market as it is today (center building with awning). Source: WCVB.com

The third market was Frana's Market. It was small, but Mr. Frana took pride in getting the best produce, meats, and rounds of cheeses, including parmesan. He would travel every Friday to his suppliers in Albany. As a kid, Paul Faggioni would accompany Mr. Frana to Albany. His customers bought the cheese by the chunk and made their own grated Parmesan—none of that premade, dried-out canned stuff! The market was always awash in cheese and salami aromas.

Finally, a couple of friends recalled smells that were brought into the home or originated there. Nissa Besaw's father worked for Baldwin Hardware, delivering heating oil and feed for livestock. When he got home at night, she remembers the pungent odor of heating oil and feed on his coveralls. Nissa said she remembers it like it was yesterday. Anita Zanconato (Norton) recalls the aroma

of baking chicken every Sunday when her father came home from working on the railroad.

I want to wrap up Part 2 with a "Do you remember?" quiz: Where was the town dump? It was on fire 365 days a year, emanating "dumpy" smells!

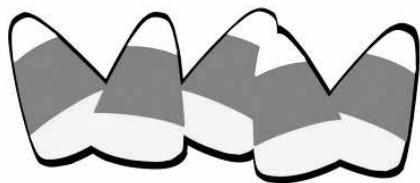
John Bormolini is a West Stockbridge "ex-pat," now residing in Leavenworth, Kansas. Readers who would like to share their stories of 1950s West Stockbridge are invited to email John at johnbormo@aol.com.

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Parks & Rec Update

By Cait Graham

Parks & Recreation has been very busy over the past month and looks to an even busier autumn! Card Pond closed for the season on Labor Day, and we wish our lifeguard Max a wonderful year in college. Although the umbrellas, dock, and lifeguard have gone until next June, we still encourage everyone to enjoy the beauty of Card Pond year-round!

If you've been walking around the Town Offices grounds, perhaps enjoying our playground and skate park, you have probably noticed the wonderful upgrades to the tennis court. This was a nearly year-long effort, made possible by support from our local community, and the results were worth the wait. We hope that our friends and neighbors enjoy the court and are careful to use it only for tennis purposes.

Finally, we are prepping for the upcoming holidays: Halloween and Sparkles. You can find all of the information for Halloween in this issue, and we hope it will be a fun and memorable time. Mark your calendar for October 31! For Sparkles, we are excited to announce that a new town evergreen tree will be planted on the grounds of the Town Offices (outside of the library) for all to enjoy! This will give everyone a fun, safe location at which to gather.

As always, we thank our friends and neighbors for their input, ideas, and enthusiasm. You can always reach us at weststockbridgeparks@gmail.com.

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Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve entering into negotiations for an HCA with Jon Piasecki.

Vote:

Andy Krouss	Yes
Andy Potter	Yes
Kathleen	Yes

Motion passes.

Select Board Speak:

Andy Potter stated that at the last meeting, during Citizen Speak, the Vision Committee made a request to have a discussion with Town Counsel about the Noise By-law currently being written and reviewed. Andy felt this was appropriate and he feels that the Board should allow this. Town Counsel protocol is that they do not have discussions with the public or Committee members. Kathleen suggested that the Vision Committee put something in writing and that she and Marie will then communicate with Town Counsel.

Kathleen made a motion to adjourned, seconded by Andy Potter.

Vote:

Andy Krouss	Yes
Andy Potter	Yes
Kathleen	Yes

Meeting adjourned at 6:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator

Select Board Meeting Minutes August 1, 2022

Quorum present: Select Board Members Kathleen Keresey, Chair, Andrew Potter and Andrew Krouss.

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

Citizen Speak: None

Appointment of Daniel Hamill as Full-Time Police Officer-Marc Portieri

Police Chief Marc Portieri introduced Daniel Hamill to the Board. He stated that Dan has 13 years of experience as a Police Officer and he has completed the Police Academy and Bridge Training. Marc said that Dan will be a great fit in his Department.

Kathleen made a motion to appoint Daniel Hamill as a Full-Time Police Officer, seconded by Andrew Potter.

Roll Call Vote:

Andy Krouss	Yes
Andy Potter	Yes
Kathleen	Yes

Motion approved.

Select Board Speak:

Andy Potter mentioned that Molly Thomas will not be running for re-election as the West Stockbridge Representative on the Berkshire Hills Regional School Committee. Andy also noted that the Town needs to fill the position which Roger Kavanagh held on

the 8 Town Regional School District Planning Board. Roger has moved and resigned from that position.

Kathleen made a motion to adjourned, seconded by Andy Potter.

Roll Call Vote:

Andy Krouss	Yes
Andy Potter	Yes
Kathleen	Yes

Meeting adjourned at 6:18 PM.

Select Board Meeting Minutes August 16, 2022

Quorum present: Select Board Members Kathleen Keresey, Chair, Andrew Potter and Andrew Krouss and Town Administrator Marie Ryan

Also Present: Curt Wilton, Director of Public Works, Marc Portieri, Police Chief and Roger Kavanagh, past Select Board Member.

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

Citizen Speak: None

Approval of Minutes:

Kathleen requested more time to review the minutes and asked for the approval to be postponed until the next meeting. All Board members agreed.

Town Administrator Update:

Marie informed the Board that the Attorney General has approved all bylaw articles from the 2022 Annual Town Meeting, which includes the approval of the Marijuana Zoning Bylaw changes.

Introduction of Shared Human Resource Employee:

Marie introduced Sophia Beltsos, the new Human Resource Director. Marie explained that Sophia will be working for Monterey, Sheffield, New Marlborough, Great Barrington and West Stockbridge and will be on site in West Stockbridge in the afternoons of the first Tuesday of the month. She will continue to work remotely for the Town as well. Sophia is currently working on updating job descriptions. She thanked the Board for opportunity to work for West Stockbridge.

Kathleen and the rest of the Board welcomed Sophia and look forward to working with her.

Friends of the Library Sign Request:

Lauren Krouss requested permission from the Board to post signs around Town for the Library Book Sale. The Sale will be held on Saturday, August 27th and Sunday, August 28th in the Town Hall Gymnasium. The Board approved.

Josh Billings Runaround-Permission to use Town Roads:

Patty Spector requested permission for the Josh Billings Runaround to use Town roads at their event on Sunday, September 18th. The Board approved.

Appointment of new DPW employee:

Curt explained to the Board that one of his employees has resigned from his position. Curt posted an advertisement in the Berk-

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Yoko Miwa Trio Enchants Crowd at The Foundry

Presented by the West Stockbridge Historical Society's 2022 Jazz Series, the Yoko Miwa Trio enchanted a sold-out crowd at The Foundry on August 27. Internationally acclaimed pianist and composer Yoko Miwa is one of the most powerful and compelling performers on the scene today.

For more than a decade, Miwa's Trio has played regularly at major jazz clubs in their home city of Boston and New York, as well as at venues around the world. Miwa was accompanied by bassist Brad Barrett and drummer Scott Goulding. The 2022 Jazz Series concludes with a concert by the Rick McLaughlin Trio at the Old Town Hall on September 24.

Photos by Bob Salerno



Pianist and composer Yoko Miwa



Bassist Brad Barrett



Drummer Scott Goulding

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shire Eagle for two weeks in a row and had two applicants. Both applicants were qualified and were interviewed by Curt, Highway Superintendent Jamie Boyer, Buildings & Grounds Superintendent Frank Alfonso and Town Administrator Marie Ryan. After the interviews concluded, they all voted to hire Tim Magner. Tim told the Board he is looking forward to working for the Town and he appreciates the opportunity.

Andy Potter made a motion to appoint Tim Magner as the new DPW employee, seconded by Andy Krouss.

Roll Call Vote:

Andy Krouss Yes
Andy Potter Yes
Kathleen Yes

Motion approved.

Police Union Contract:

Roger Kavanagh, past Select Board member, had been working on the Police Union contract from the beginning and told the Board he believes the final version is a good and fair contract. The Board thanked Roger for his time and effort working on this contract.

Andy Potter made a motion to approve the Police Union Contract, seconded by Andy Krouss.

Roll Call Vote:

Andy Krouss Yes
Andy Potter Yes
Kathleen Yes

Motion approved.

Police Department Update:

Police Chief Marc Portieri thanked the Board for their support of his reorganization efforts, resulting in the PD now having four full-time officers. Marc stated this has made a positive impact on the productivity of the Department.

Marc has updated safety equipment in all of the Police vehicles. Calls have decreased this current year as compared to last year. However, last year there were 7 arrests but so far this year, the Department has already had 17 arrests. Due to full-time staffing, they are able to complete more investigations and patrols.

Kathleen asked Marc how information about public safety could be shared with the public. Marc will produce some information that can be posted on the website for residents.

Marc informed the Board that the Department will be participating in Active Shooter trainings on August 22th at Town Hall and on August 29th at the Richmond School. Officer Lukas Horn will be assisting in the trainings.

Marc gave the following updates:

-Crane Lake Camp has closed for the season. Everything went well this summer with no issues.

-The Department has given out 78 tickets in the past three months.

-Marc is working with Massini Bus Company on safety issues on Main Street for school pick up when school begins.

-The Department has made 17 arrests this year.

-The have stopped 77 cars for speeding this year.

-There have been 18 accidents so far this year, which is about average.

Kathleen then inquired about traffic calming efforts to date. Marc responded that he has had extra patrols out on the roads, especially on Great Barrington Road. With school starting, the Officers will be out on the roads more frequently.

Kathleen requested an updated list of the stats with a breakdown and Marc said he had just run a report from the Sherriff's Office for review.

Marc will continue to inform the Board of staffing changes/issues, provide statistical reports and update the Board about Traffic Calming.

Marc again thanked the Board for allowing the new structure of the Department with added Full Time Officers.

Select Board Speak:

Andy Potter stated that he believes the Board should begin meeting in person with video available, in hybrid meetings. Andy Krouss suggested that could be possible, but requested that attendees wear masks. The Board agreed that this will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

Andy Potter suggested that the Board look into creating a policy to hold all public meetings in the evening so that there could potentially be more participation from the general public. The Board agreed that this will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

Andy Potter asked about the process for determining what is going to be on the agenda Kathleen explained that any Board Member can contact Marie for any item they want to place on the agenda and she will forward it on to the Chair.

Andy Potter made a motion to adjourned, seconded by Andy Krouss.

Roll Call Vote:

Andy Krouss Yes
Andy Potter Yes
Kathleen Yes

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie U. Ryan

Town Administrator

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October History Quiz Question:

In the early 19th century, West Stockbridge came into some prominence with some notable residents achieving statewide and national importance. Daniel Spencer (Mormon religion), Anson Clark (daguerreotypes), and Charles Boynton (abolitionist movement) were all born or lived in West Stockbridge.

In the 1840s and 1850s, Henry Walbridge Taft was another resident who is less known now but also had county and statewide standing. Who was he, and what role did he play in the 19th-century political world?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)



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Incorporated in 1994

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

Greetings! The library is open 6 days a week. All are invited to come and do some reading, use the public computers or Wi-Fi, and use or get a new library card to borrow books in print, audiobooks on CD, movies on DVD, plus eBooks and eAudio.

October events include a Halloween Story Walk around the playground, along with some spooky take-and-make crafts, courtesy of Miss Vicky. Also, please drop in during the week of October 17 through October 22 to receive a Berkshire Library Crawl passport you can bring to 11 other libraries around the county to have stamped. You will find friendly faces and activities at each stop. Stay tuned for more details.

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

NEW ADULT FICTION

Babalola, *Honey and Spice*
 Billingham, *The Murder Book*
 Burton, *House of Fortune*
 Dean, *Book Eaters*
 Emrys, *A Half-Built Garden*
 Ford, *The Many Daughters of Afong Moy*
 Hokeah, *Calling for a Blanket Dance*
 Iglesias, *The Devil Takes You Home*

Irwin, *A Lady's Guide to Fortune-Hunting*
 Hamid, *The Last White Man*
 Martin, *The Librarian Spy: A Novel of World War II*
 Moreno-Garcia, *The Daughter of Doctor Moreau*
 Oates, *Babysitter*
 Wiggins, *Properties of Thirst*
 Wiseman, *The Lost Girls of Willowbrook*

NEW ADULT NONFICTION

Gregg, *If Nietzsche Were a Narwhal: What Animal Intelligence Reveals About Human Stupidity*
 Sanders, *Everything, Beautiful: A Guide to Finding Hidden Beauty in the World*
 Yong, *Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us*



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



We're Celebrating National Friends of Libraries Week October 17–22, 2022

Monday, Wednesday,
 Thursday, Saturday:
 10–3

Tuesday and Friday:
 2–6

Visit the Town Offices Community Room
 where the bookshelves are filled with
 terrific sale books for readers of all ages.

Drop in, browse, and walk away with
 an armful of terrific bargains!

History Quiz Answer:

Henry Walbridge Taft was born into a wealthy family in Sunderland, Massachusetts, in 1818. As was common at the time, Henry was prepped for attending Amherst but never made it to college. Instead, he went to work for the probate clerk in Franklin County and became involved in politics. Through the connection of a relative, he then moved to Lenox and became the editor of the *Massachusetts Eagle* that later became the *Berkshire Eagle*. While serving as editor, he studied law under a local judge (no law school or bar exams then) and set himself up in business as an attorney.

In 1841, Henry Taft joined Robbins Kellogg, a lawyer and major community leader in West Stockbridge. His timing was good. Four months later, Robbins died, and Henry took over the practice. He became the town's only lawyer and an important civic leader. Five years later, he served as our town's representative in the state legislature. He stayed in that role until the mid-1850s when he became the county's probate clerk in Lenox. He ruled on all wills, trusts, and inheritances, a very powerful position.

Henry Taft was a political activist, a leader on Berkshire County's Whig Committee. The Whigs were the traditional conservative force at the time and controlled all political appointments. A letter in the 1850s responding to a request by Taft for the registered voter rolls in West Stockbridge village center listed 16 Whigs, 4 Abolitionists, 20 Locofocos, and 3 Doubtfuls. (The Locofocos were a Jacksonian group who split from the Democratic Party. They were pro-Polk and Texas, generally anti-government. They disbanded in the early 1840s.)

When the Know-Nothing party took over the state legislature in 1854, Henry lost his new job as probate clerk. The Know-Nothings were anti-immigrant, anti-Roman Catholic, and against any form of conversion to citizenship unless the person was a native-born white man. Henry refused to sign on to the new party, and he was dismissed.

The Know-Nothings lasted only one term, the Whigs resumed power, and Henry became county clerk in Pittsfield. He served until retirement in 1897. He was one of the most powerful people in Berkshire County, ruling on many estate settlements, wills, and other inheritances.

Henry collected autographs as a hobby. Two volumes of his collection reside with the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston. He was described as "calm and gentle in temperament, yet firm, decided and industrious." Well respected by other lawyers, his portrait was placed in the county courthouse in Pittsfield.

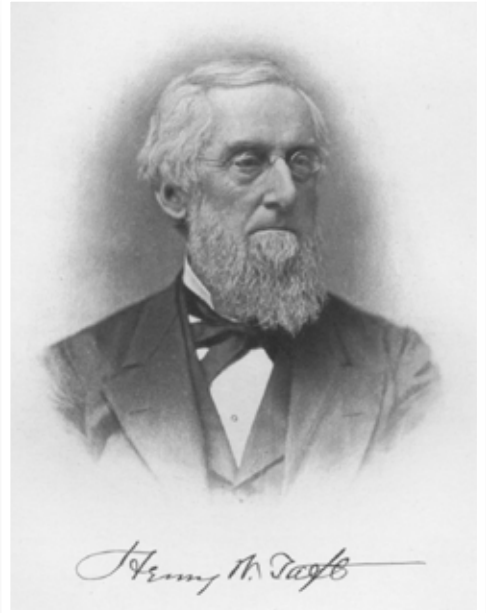


Photo courtesy of West Stockbridge Historical Society



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DOES YOUR FAMILY NEED A

Helping Hand



THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON?

If your family is struggling, and you're worried about your ability to provide a full Christmas dinner and presents under the tree, West Stockbridge Helping Hands is here to help.

Send a letter to:
West Stockbridge Helping Hands
PO Box 90
West Stockbridge, MA 01266

or
Send an email to:
WStockHelpingHands@gmail.com
no later than November 1st

Include the following:
Your full name, phone number, email address, residential address, age(s) of your child(ren), and a brief explanation of your situation.

We have room for 7 families, and will contact you by November 5th to let you know if your family has been selected. You can send us a wishlist at that time.

All information is handled privately and respectfully.

Any questions? Contact Cait Graham at
WStockHelpingHands@gmail.com



LAST MARKET IS OCT. 6

WE WISH TO THANK EVERYONE
who has made another season possible!
We wouldn't be here without you all— our wonderful vendors, shoppers, musicians, donors, supportive neighbors & others

MANY THANKS TO
WS Cultural Council & to Local Yokel
Santa's Wish List donations for making
Live Music possible

SPECIAL THANKS TO
The Foundry for the generous use of
The Green and Truc Orient Express for
providing parking to our vendors

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU ALL!

See you next year!

Community News & Events

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, October 9, the Stockbridge Grange will serve a takeout-only dinner at the Grange Hall at 51 Church Street, Stockbridge. The dinner will be stuffed breast of chicken, with apple and chocolate cream pie for dessert. Cost is \$15. 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 Friday, October 7.

Council on Aging

The Council on Aging will meet Wednesday, October 12, in the Community Room at the Town Offices at noon. Please bring your lunch and some good conversation about the "new normal." We will be looking forward to seeing all of you.

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.

Reminder from the Board of Health

Responding to recent complaints, the West Stockbridge Board of Health would like to remind the public, while exercising their pets, to clean up after they have defecated. Please be respectful of public and private property while preserving the natural beauty of our town and preventing a public health hazard.

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

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West Stockbridge
Massachusetts**

Monday through Saturday

10am - 5pm

Closed Sundays

413-232-7785

www.baldwinextracts.com



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

Please help us keep the *Local Yokel* coming!

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

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

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

Name (as you want it to appear in acknowledgments)

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

City State Zip

Email

Check any that apply:

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



Please mail this form with your check to:

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

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

Town Government Boards and Commissions, Phone Directory, and Office Hours Town Offices Main Number (413) 232-0300 • Fax 232-7195				
Animal Control	<i>John Drake</i>	464-2148		As Needed
Assessors Office	<i>Mary Stodden</i>	232-0300	ext. 303	Tues. 1–5 pm; Thurs. 9 am–1 pm
Board of Health	<i>Earl Moffatt</i>	232-0300	ext. 314	Fri. 9 am–4 pm, or by appt.
Select Board	<i>Kathleen Keresey Andy Krouss Andy Potter</i>	232-0300	ext. 319	
Town Administrator	<i>Marie Ryan</i>			Mon.–Thurs. 7 am–3 pm Fri. 7–11 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. 2–6 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. 1:30–3:30 pm
Town Collector	<i>Kellie Bradbury</i>	232-0300	ext. 302	Tues. 3–7 pm; Wed. 7 am–12 pm; Thurs. 1–6 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				



WEST STOCKBRIDGE HALLOWEEN


Monday, October 31st

4-6pm Trick-or-Treat
Please turn on an outside light if you will be receiving revelers.

6:15pm Costume Parade
Begins across from the Congregational Church and ends at the Town Hall

6:45-8pm Halloween Party
Located at the Town Hall gym.
Costume Contest at 7pm. Prizes will be awarded for:
Scariest, Most Unique, and Coolest Group Costume

This is a free community event, sponsored by West Stockbridge Parks & Recreation, with help from WSPD and WSFD



PUBLIC FLU/COVID VACCINATION CLINICS

...at no out-of-pocket charge to you!

presented by the Berkshire Public Health Alliance
through a public health nursing contract with the Town of West Stockbridge

Tuesday, October 4, 2022
9:00am-12:00pm
Town Hall
21 State Line Rd
West Stockbridge, MA 01266
<https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/berkshire>
ALL ARE WELCOME

- The flu/covid vaccine is available at no charge to individuals ages 6 months and older. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- If you have insurance, please bring your insurance card(s) with you.
- Please wear short sleeves, or a shirt that has easily rolled-up sleeves.

If you have any questions regarding this program, or are interested in other flu clinics in your area, please call (413) 442-1521 x 52, or e-mail ldrager@berkshireplanning.org

To learn more about the Berkshire Public Health Alliance, go to:
<http://berkshireplanning.org/major-initiatives/berkshire-public-health-alliance/>



October Art Calendar

Guild of Berkshire Artists | BerkshireArtists.org | infoberkshireartists@gmail.com 2/22

October 1, Soul Vision Reception, 2-4pm.
at Art on Main Gallery. Featuring Susan Sabino, MJ Marx, and Carolyn Abrams. 38 Main Street, West Stockbridge, MA. See show flyer for gallery times.

October 4, Photo Editing Workshop, 1:30-2:30pm. Work on mobile photo editing with others via Zoom.

October 7, TKG First Friday Reception, 5-8pm. TBD. TKG Realty in Pittsfield. Zoom link available.

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

October 12, Monthly Meeting, 4-6:30pm.

October 11, Potluck.

October 25, Meet the Artist, 3pm. Featuring Natalie Tyler, Sculptor.

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

Wednesdays, Art Together. Join GBA artists together online using Zoom.




Susan Sabino

MJ Marx



Carolyn Abrams

Soul Vision

featuring: Susan Sabino, MJ Marx,
& Carolyn Abrams
September 29 - October 10
at Art on Main Gallery
38 Main Street, West Stockbridge, MA
Reception:
October 1, 2-4pm

THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE CHAMBER PLAYERS

Harvest Concert

Sunday, October 9, 2022 at 4 pm
Old Town Hall, Main Street, West Stockbridge

Musicians:
LINDA TOOTE, flute
CATHERINE HUDGINS, clarinet
SHEILA FIEKOWSKY, violin
DANIEL GETZ, viola
ALEXANDRE LECARME, cello

Music:
Zoltán Kodály: Intermezzo for String Trio
W. A. Mozart: Quartet for Flute and Strings in D Major, K. 285
Natalie Hunt: Quartet for clarinet, violin, viola and cello
Rezső Kókai: Quartettino for Clarinet, Violin, Viola and Cello

TICKETS \$35
Available at weststockbridgehistory.org
PURCHASE ADVANCE TICKETS ONLINE
www.weststockbridgehistory.org



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

West Stockbridge
Local Yokel

P.O. Box 238
West Stockbridge, MA 01266

thelocalyokel.org



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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

October 2022 Calendar of Events

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.

10/4	Yom Kippur begins at sundown		
10/4	Flu / COVID Vaccination Clinic	9 am–12 pm	Town Offices, 21 State Line Road
10/6	Farmers Market (last one this season)	3–6 pm	The Foundry Green, Harris Street
10/6	Special town meeting	6 pm	Town Offices, 21 State Line Road
10/9	Chamber Players Harvest Concert	4 pm	Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street
10/9	Stockbridge Grange takeout dinner		See Community News for details
10/10	Columbus Day / Indigenous Peoples' Day		
10/11	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices, 21 State Line Road
10/12	COA luncheon	12 noon	Town Offices, 21 State Line Road
10/15	*** Deadline for the next <i>Local Yokel</i> ***		Send to info@thelocalyokel.org
10/17–21	National Friends of the Library Week		
10/24	Diwali		
10/24	Select Board meeting	6 pm	See town website for details
10/31	Halloween:		
	* Trick or Treat	4–6 pm	Downtown
	* Costume parade begins	6:15 pm	Across from the Congregational Church
	* Halloween party	6:45–8 pm	Town Offices Gym, 21 State Line Road