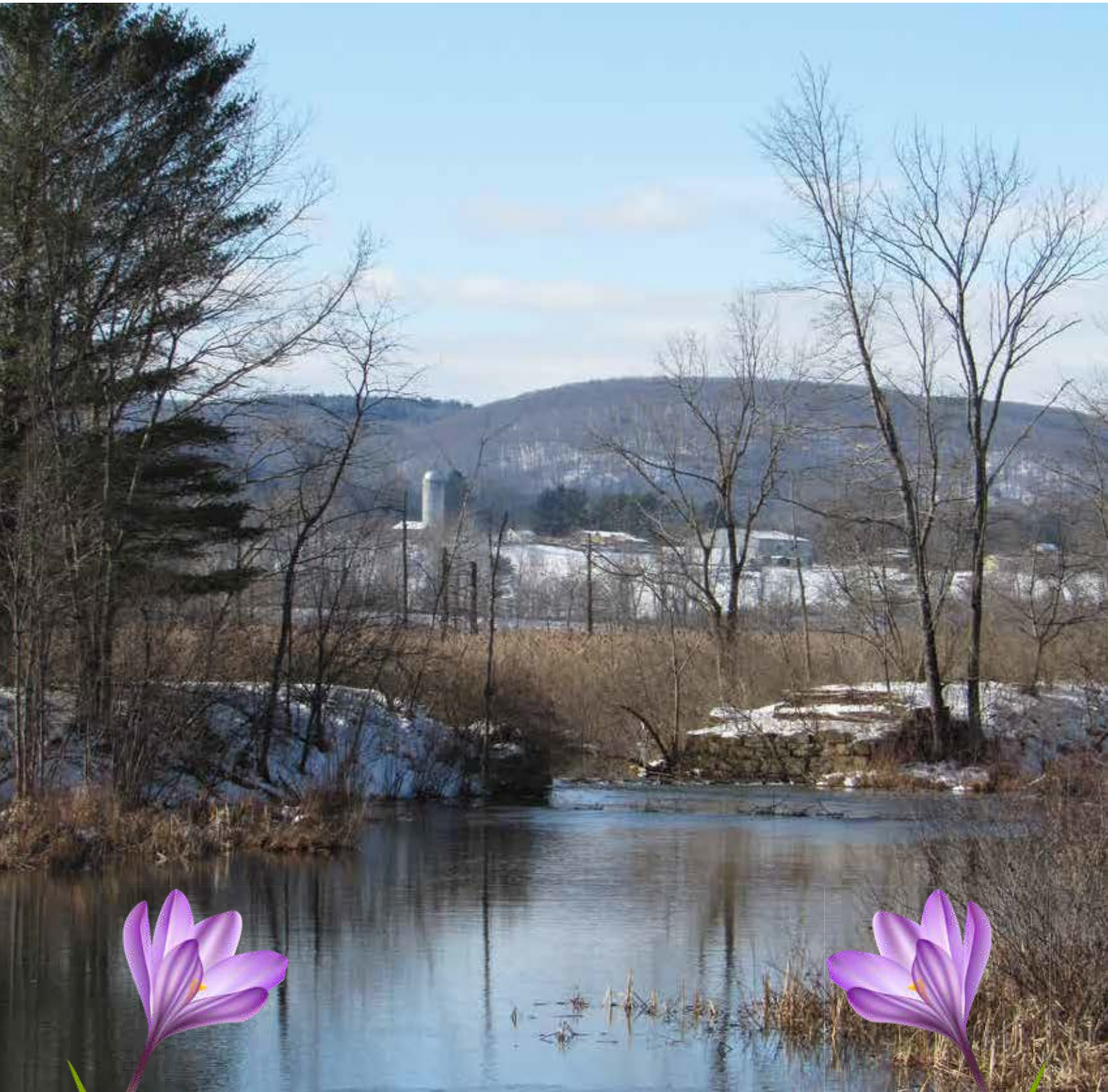


Local yokel

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

West
Stockbridge

April
2023



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005

Flat Brook. Photo by John Parker

Thanks to West Stockbridge
Highway Superintendent
Curt Wilton for sharing these photos.

Below is a great example of “community policing.” The police officer is Curt’s son Curt Wilton III, and riding next to him in the toy car is his nephew Hayden Wilton (Curt’s first grandson). Curt III was on patrol in the downtown area when Hayden rode his car down from his house on Moscow Road—no short trip!



The photo below shows what the town has to offer for folks in need of emergency shelter. During the recent record-breaking March snowstorm, the Town Offices gym was set up as a fully functional shelter with heat, electricity, hot and cold running water, restrooms, charging stations, microwave cooking units, and overnight sleeping accommodations for 30 people. Curt reports there were no overnight guests this time, even though some residents were without power for more than 56 hours. A hardy bunch indeed!



38 Main St. West Stockbridge
Guild of Berkshire Artists

Jaye Alison Moscariello at Art on Main Gallery

By Margie Skaggs

Back in the late 1960s, when she first visited West Stockbridge, Jaye Alison Moscariello says she “immediately felt at home among the warmth of the people and the lovely landscape.”

Jaye has now returned to Berkshire County and become a member of the Guild of Berkshire Artists. Her new show, “For the Love of Land and Sea,” an exhibit of art honoring and interpreting the natural world, will be on display at Art on Main Gallery from April 27 through May 9. Two horizontal triptychs, “Crashing” and “Sunset,” will be featured in addition to landscapes painted in the Berkshires and in California.

...continued on page 8



Autumn. Image courtesy of the artist

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.virtualtownhall.net/subscriber>].

Select Board Meeting Minutes February 6, 2023

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

Others Present: Curt Wilton, Director of Public Works and Police Chief Marc Portieri

Kathleen called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM and listed Select Board members present.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Potter, to approve the minutes from January 23, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen	Yes
Andy Potter	Yes
Andy Krouss	Yes

Motion Approved.

Citizen Speak:

Joanna and Thom Yurman, residents of Baker Street, are concerned about the placement of new poles and wires, as approved by

the Select Board on January 23, 2023. The new poles and wires will be installed by National Grid to provide service to Wiseacre Farm. She and Thom strongly disagree with the placement of the new pole locations. They asked the Town to request National Grid look at either placing the wires underground or change the pole locations to run to Wiseacre Farm from the Rte. 41 side as opposed to Rte.102. Kathleen asked Curt Wilton will contact National Grid and inquire if the placement can be altered. Joanna thanked the Board.

Zucchini Festival One Day Entertainment License – Marjorie Powell, Cultural Council Member

Marjorie requested a one-day entertainment license to hold the Zucchini Festival in West Stockbridge on August 12, 2023. She included a long list of events in her application. She mentioned that she did not include fireworks on the list, however, that is also something she would like to include. Joe Roy will be contact the local businesses to involve them in the planning as well as their approval of the events. After much discussion, with none of the events listed as definite, Kathleen requested Marjorie come back to the Board with the final list of events once they are scheduled for approval.

...continued on page 5

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- House Checking/Caretaking
- Drainage & Driveway Repairs
- Lawn & Field Mowing
- Fall & Spring Cleanups
- Building & Maintaining Gardens
- Firewood

How Can We Help You?

All About SNAP, WIC, and Farmers Market Senior Coupons



**WEST STOCKBRIDGE
FARMERS MARKET**
ON THE FOUNDRY GREEN

April greetings from the West Stockbridge Farmers Market! We are busy gearing up for the 2023 season that begins May 25, and we look forward to seeing you!

As many of you know, we accept SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) that helps people supplement their food budget and purchase fresh healthy food. Thanks to a grant from Berkshire Agricultural Ventures, WSFM has a Market Match program that doubles SNAP coupons. We also have another fund so we can double WIC coupons and Farmers Market Senior Coupons.

A lot of people have heard of these programs but don't know if they are eligible or how to apply. Please see the information below. SNAP and WIC are ongoing programs. WIC Farmers Market Coupons and Farmers Market Senior Coupons are issued once a year, usually in July.

SNAP Benefits Doubled

SNAP, a federal nutrition program, offers monthly benefits. For eligibility guidelines and to apply for SNAP, visit <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-snap-benefits-food-stamps> where you will see the five ways to apply. One of them is to apply by phone via the DTA Assistance line at (877) 382-2363.

WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Farmers Market Coupons Doubled

WIC is a free nutrition and health education program for income-eligible pregnant women, breastfeeding women, and children under age five. For more information, call or visit the WIC Berkshire South office located at 444 Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:30 am to 5 pm, and Fridays, 8 am to 4 pm. You can apply online, by phone, or in person. Call first if you'd like to apply in person to get a list of the information you will need: (413) 528-0457. For guidelines and more info, go to: <https://chpberkshires.org/family/wic-berkshire-south/>.

Once you have WIC, you will also be eligible to receive the annual Farmers Market Coupons that can be used to buy fresh vegetables and fruit at the Farmers Market.

Farmers Market Senior Coupons Doubled

These coupons have just increased from \$25 to \$50 and are usually issued in July. They can be used to buy fresh fruits, vegetables, honey, and cut herbs. You don't have to apply ahead of time, but it would be helpful to see if you are eligible beforehand. For more information on eligibility guidelines, visit [mass.gov/service-details/are-you-eligible-to-receive-senior-farmers-market-coupons](https://www.mass.gov/service-details/are-you-eligible-to-receive-senior-farmers-market-coupons).



We will have more information about coupon availability as we near July. We will post this info on Instagram, Facebook, the West Stockbridge Community Board Facebook page, our website, in our newsletter, and on the Town Offices bulletin board. You can also email us at wsfarmmarket@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Do you follow us on Facebook? Instagram? Do you receive our newsletter? You can sign up for it on our website. The information here is also on our website. If you don't go online, write to us at PO Box 148, West Stockbridge, MA 01266, or call Robin Schmitt at (413) 274-1166 and let us know how we can reach you with more information.

We look forward to seeing you when the market opens. Visit the Welcome Table at the market for more information and say hello.

www.WestStockbridgeFarmersMarket.org

wsfarmmarket@gmail.com

...continued from page 3

Andy Potter made a motion to resolve that the Zucchini Festival may be held on August 12, 2023 in West Stockbridge, seconded by Kathleen. This approval will allow Marjorie to proceed with scheduling events and come back to the Board with updates for approval.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen	Yes
Andy Potter	Yes
Andy Krouss	Yes

Motion Approved

Department of Public Works Update – Curt Wilton, Director
Curt presented the following Department of Public Works update:

DIRECTOR’S REPORT
2/6/2023

Dear Select Board members Kathleen, Andy and Andy,

Unlike other reports and updates I wanted to share a few brief summaries of what has been the focus during the last few winter months.

HIGHWAY

On December 8, 2022 the “Speed Feedback Signs” were installed by the DPW on Great Barrington Road down in the Williamsville section of Town. There was a slight adjustment to the north bound original installation. It was discovered the constant flashing from the warning signal was problematic for some residents who lived along the area. The DPW along with the PD found a more suitable location where it would not be so bothersome for these residents. This new placement was completed on January 12, 2023. The signs sole purpose is to make driving motorists aware of the speeds they are going and warn them of an approaching speed limit zone change ahead. Falling under the jurisdiction of the Police Department, the information these signs gather can help them in their quest to enforce motor vehicle speed violations. The units can provide accurate traffic counts and vehicle speeds in real time. When used as a tool they can pinpoint the time of day when most violations occur and possibly adjust their patrols in hopes of catching these habitual offenders. The total cost for these signs were \$6,519.00. The units were split between the Highway and Police operating budgets.

The Town has received a Grant from Mass.DOT. for 2 more “Speed Feedback Signs.” Back in late fall Marie and myself applied for a

F.O.R.R.R.D. (**F**ocusing **O**n **R**educing **R**ural **R**oadway **D**eparture) Grant. This Grant is 100% funded by the State along with installation to place 2 more of these signs on a section of Swamp Road near the intersection of Cone-Hill. The anticipated installation is early summer 2023.

Although this winter seems relatively mild as far as snow accumulations the frequent warm temperatures bringing mostly rain, are more costly than a good old fashion snow storm event. The rapid freeze/thaw of our streets and gravel roadways force us to apply more chemicals/salts and stone aggregates to prevent premature failure of these assets. Black ice/freezing temperatures and muddy quagmire conditions are keeping the crews busy.

The Snow/Ice Operations Budget (\$80,000) has a current balance of \$4,232.66.

The Gasoline and Diesel Fuels operating Budget (\$22,000) will be over extended by the next delivery.

The Over-Time operating Budget (\$14,600) remaining balance is \$2,367.97.

M.V.P (Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness)

M.V.P is another federally funded funding source for cities and Towns. The funding criteria they look for needs to focus on Town wide flooding issues and storm water resiliency. I feel seeking this type of funding is vital for West Stockbridge as we experience these events more frequent than not. To be eligible for this type of funding you must first be M.V.P. Status. Marie and I are working with Weston & Sampson Engineering who will aid the Town in becoming a M.V.P status Town. We are currently in a partnership as a guest with Town of Richmond who are MVP status. Both Towns have targeted a culvert replacement in hopes of being awarded M.V.P. Funds. A culvert on Baker Street has been chosen for replacement in West Stockbridge.

Complete Streets Program

The Complete Street Program offers Massachusetts municipalities funding incentives to adopt policies and practices that provide safe and accessible options for all travel modes. West Stockbridge has adopted our Complete Streets Policy back in 2016 and we are a few months away from completing our Tier II task. With the aid of Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, we have outlined at least 15 eligible projects programed over a 5-year period. As we

...continued on page 7

YOUR VOTE COUNTS

Save the Date!

Annual Town Meeting – May 1, 6 pm

Annual Town Election – May 8, 10 am – 7 pm

Town Offices, 21 State Line Road

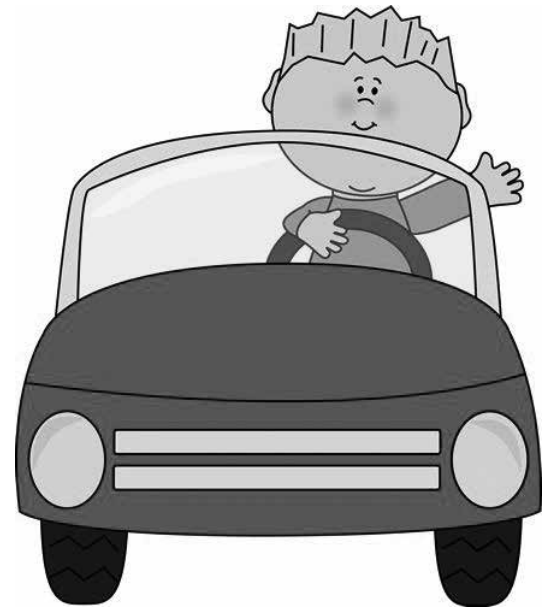
YOUR VOTE COUNTS

RICHMOND COA URGENTLY SEEKING VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

If you have free time during the week and are looking for a way to pay back to your community, volunteering for the Council on Aging (COA) transportation service is a very rewarding way to do it.

The Richmond COA desperately needs people willing to drive local older adults to appointments. The drivers are volunteers and can drive either their own vehicle or the one owned by the COA (the town maintains it and keeps the gas tank full). In addition, drivers are compensated at the end of the year at \$15 per hour spent driving to and from an appointment. Volunteers become employees of Richmond, providing them with liability insurance coverage from the town.

Please call Phyllis LeBeau at (413) 441-1106 or email her at coa@richmondma.org if you are interested or have any questions.



32nd ANNUAL WEST STOCKBRIDGE TOWN CLEAN UP SAT. APRIL 22

**COME TO THE FIREHOUSE
9-10AM FOR VESTS & BAGS**
BRING YOUR GLOVES! BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

Call Lily @ 413-429-6371 for more info

begin Tier III the Town will be submitting these projects to Mass Dot for potential funding. Up to \$500,000 is available in construction yearly through this program. This document along with the 15 projects will soon be available on the Town's Website.

This concludes my brief report,
Thank You,
Curt

Select Board Speak:

Andy Potter informed the Board that the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Superintendent's Forum is holding a forum with their School Committee in regards to the 8 Town Regional School District Planning Board's work on combining their school district with Berkshire Hills Regional School District.

Kathleen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andy Potter at 7:19 PM.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen	Yes
Andy Potter	Yes
Andy Krouss	Yes

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan
Town Administrator

**Select Board Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2023**

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

Others Present: Mark Webber, Simon Davenport, Mike Buffoni, Joe Roy, Jr. and Peter Rothstein.

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

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy, to approve the minutes from February 6 and February 15, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen	Yes
Andy Krouss	Yes

Minutes Approved.

Citizen Speak:

None

Appointment of Simon Davenport to Sewer & Water Commissioners- Mark Webber

Sewer and Water Commission Chair, Mark Webber, requested that the Select Board appoint Simon Davenport as a new commissioner. Mark explained there is currently 4 members of their 5-member commission.

Simon thanked the Board for the opportunity to service the Town.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy, to appoint Simon Davenport as Sewer & Water Commissioner.

Community Preservation Committee Town Meeting in June

As many citizens will remember, in 2020 West Stockbridge voted to adopt the Community Preservation Act (CPA). The CPA is a Massachusetts state law that enables adopting communities to supplement up to 3% of town property taxes specifically to fund open space preservation, preservation of historic resources, development of affordable housing, and the acquisition and development of outdoor recreational facilities. The contribution from the town is supported by a state match.

The potential of this program to preserve and strengthen our community from within cannot be understated. The town voted to dedicate 2% of the property taxes to the CPA fund and has more than \$100,000 in its fund. Historic restoration, housing, and open spaces each are required to have at least 10% of the budget for the CPA fund specifically designated for projects in those categories.

Citizen input is essential to our mission. With the public's guidance, the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) can focus on seeking the projects we all feel are important to preserve our community and recommending them for funding.

The CPA requires our committee to hold a town meeting each year to provide citizens of West Stockbridge the opportunity to share their thoughts about what the CPC should focus on in the future. This year's meeting will be on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, at 6 pm in the gymnasium at the Town Offices. We hope to see you there!

CPC members: Sue Coxon, Randy Thunfors, Jared Gelormino, John Masiero, John Boscarino, Peter Metz, and Earl Moffatt.

Jaye Alison Moscardiello at Art on Main Gallery
...continued from page 2

The daughter of two social activists, Jaye's concern for society and the environment largely inspire her works that she executes in varied media: watercolor, acrylic, gouache, latex, and graphite. Her rapid brushstrokes provide evidence of an active mind that is constantly working and observing the natural world. In her own words, "I feel as if I must bear witness to the fragility of the landscape, and I fear that it may vanish one day."

She has studied various art media, including painting and printmaking, in Germany, New York, Connecticut, and California and has exhibited her work internationally in both group and solo shows. Her large body of work on the environment includes writing, teaching, public art, film, and community action projects.

Jaye has been enamored of West Stockbridge for a long time. As a teenager, she was fortunate to spend summer and spring holidays with a school friend whose father built a stone and wooden house near State Road where Richmond and West Stockbridge meet. Now, having relocated from the West Coast to escape the wildfires, she and her husband Bill Taylor have settled in Berkshire County. Bill is the pianist for the West Stockbridge Village Congregational Church, and he will be playing at the opening reception of Jaye's show.

The reception for "For the Love of Land and Sea," is scheduled for Saturday, April 29, from 12 noon to 4 pm. Art on Main Gallery is located at 38 Main Street in West Stockbridge.

For more information: jaysite.com and jayealison.com; (310) 970-4517.



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CREATIVE JEWS

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

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

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

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

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**MUSIC
THEATRE
DANCE**

THE FOUNDRY thefoundryws.com
West Stockbridge MA

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen Yes
Andy Krouss Yes

Motion Approved.

Discussion/Vote for use of ARPA Funds for Wastewater Treatment Plant Items (WWTP) – Mike Buffoni

Sewer & Water Treatment Plant Operator, Mike Buffoni discussed the urgent need of certain items for the WWTP. He stated that the Generator is 30 years old and has broken down many times, requiring the rental of another generator. The software system used for billing is outdated and no longer supported by the company. The final request is for two new Outfall Collectors, the current ones are 30 years old.

Kathleen asked if there was an option to get the generator repaired. Mike responded that they have tried many times and the parts are no longer available for this old generator. She also asked Mike if the WWTP would be in good shape after these purchases and he responded yes, very good shape, other than routine maintenance.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy, to approve the use of ARPA funds to purchase two RBC Outfall Collectors, a new generator and a new software package for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen Yes
Andy Krouss Yes

Motion Approved.

EV Charging Stations – Joe Roy and Peter Rothstein

Joe read his letter to the Select Board from the Vision Committee on their research of EV Charging Stations as follows;

From: WS Vision Committee
Re: Proposal for Electric Vehicle Charging Station in town

What: Level 2 charging station set up in town parking lot
Date: February 20, 2023

Why:

- Encourage clean energy
- Promote town’s profile as forward-thinking
- Provide attractive service for visitors to town and locals

Where:

- Most likely locations being explored in town owned lots
 - Across from Post Office
 - Next to Historical Society
 - Lot above Historical Society

Cost to town:

- Without incentives or grants, cost for a Level 2 charger = c. \$25,000 including infrastructure
- With National Grid grant or with MA DEP Electric Vehicle Incentive Program, **potentially no cost** to town
- After installation, there might be a yearly maintenance fee
- Potential revenue source to town for charging

Next steps:

- Get SB approval to proceed or to have SB appoint a separate committee to develop proposal
- Investigate grant sources and incentive programs from National Grid and from State

- Solicit proposals from local electrical contractors and contractors with experience installing and standing up EV charging stations to be considered for providing infrastructure.
- Present proposal to Select Board

Questions:

- Will proposal need to be voted on at Annual Town Meeting or can it be handled administratively (especially if the work can be paid for by grant)?
- Does the SB want to take over the proposal? Have town DPW or town administrator handle it?
- Will National Grid granting program require that the location be paved?
- Does it make sense to consider a Direct Current Fast Charger rather than a slower Level 2 charger?

Peter and Joe explained their next steps will depend on how the Select Board would like them to proceed. They both realize that funding will be a major issue in this process and they will continue to investigate the possible funding sources. Kathleen suggested that they include the Master Plan Committee in the process.

Andy asked if the charging stations would be for one vehicle or will they have two ports to support two vehicles at a time. Peter said that they hope to be have stations that can accommodate two vehicles at a time.

Kathleen and Andy thanked Joe and Peter for their work on this issue and both agreed they would like them to continue their research on EV charging stations and return to the Board in the future with more information while also working with the Master Plan Committee.

Joe and Peter thanked the Board for their time and consideration on this project.

Appoint Town Administrator as Signatory for Berkshire Aggregation – Marie

Marie explained to the Board that three years ago she signed a contract with Colonial Power to be part of an aggregation to keep the cost of electricity for the West Stockbridge residents to \$.09/kw. This contract is ending in November this year. Colonial Power has requested that each Town Administrator have their Boards vote to approve them as the signatory for the next contract.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy, to appoint Marie as the signatory for the Colonial Power Berkshire Aggregation.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen Yes
Andy Krouss Yes

Motion approved.

Select Board Speak:

None.

Kathleen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andy at 6:44 PM.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen Yes
Andy Krouss Yes

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan
Town Administrator

“Hitting to All Fields in West Stockbridge”

Historical Society Presents Exhibit on Baseball in West Stockbridge

“Hitting to All Fields in West Stockbridge” is a multimedia display on the history of baseball in the Berkshires presented by *Baseball in the Berkshires* and the West Stockbridge Historical Society. The exhibition will focus on the history of baseball in West Stockbridge including the famous semi-pro Troy’s Garage team.

The exhibit will be held in the Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street, home of the West Stockbridge Historical Society, on Thursday, April 27, through Sunday, April 30. This exhibit is supported by the West Stockbridge Cultural Council.

A special program, “Baseball in the Berkshires and Troy’s Garage,” will be presented on Friday, April 28, from 6:30 to 8 pm by Larry Moore, director of *Baseball in the Berkshires*, and Kevin Larkin, author of *Big Time Baseball in a Small Berkshire Town: A History of Troy’s Garage Semi-Pro Baseball Team*.

In addition, on Saturday and Sunday there will be hands-on presentations on the history of baseball gloves and bats. On Saturday, visitors will see the evolution of gloves from the earliest days of the game. At first, the ball was caught with bare hands because the ball was soft and smaller, but as it got harder, more protection was needed, thus the need for a

glove. Visitors can try real and replica gloves and see what it was like to play baseball in the 1900s (or if your name happened to be Ruth or Gehrig).

On Sunday, visitors will be able to handle replica bats from the 1860s up to today’s modern bats, including replicas of bats used by Jackie Robinson, Babe Ruth, David Ortiz, Aaron Judge, Miguel Cabrera, Mookie Betts, Bryce Harper, and others. They will learn why they were different in wood, handle, barrel, weight, and length.

Schedule of Events

Thursday April 27

⇒ Opening reception and exhibit open to the public, 5–8 pm

Friday April 28

⇒ Exhibit open 5–8 pm

⇒ Special program: “Baseball in the Berkshires and Troy’s Garage,” 6:30–8 pm, presented by Larry Moore, director of *Baseball in the Berkshires*, and Kevin Larkin, author of *Big Time Baseball in a Small Berkshire Town: A History of Troy’s Garage Semi-Pro Baseball Team*

Saturday April 29

⇒ Exhibit open noon–4 pm

⇒ Ongoing presentation on the history of baseball gloves (suitable for all ages)

Sunday April 30

⇒ Exhibit open noon–4 pm

⇒ Ongoing presentation on the history of baseball bats (suitable for all ages)



Troy’s Garage baseball team sometime in the 1930s. Photo courtesy of *Baseball in the Berkshires Museum*



WEST STOCKBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

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

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

NEW ADULT FICTION

- Benedict, *Mitford affair*
- Berry, *Last kingdom*
- Box, *Storm watch*
- Greaney, *Burner*
- Moyes, *Someone else's shoes*
- Rose, *Cold-blooded liar*
- Schine, *Künstlers in paradise*
- Todd, *Cliff's edge*

NEW ADULT NONFICTION

- Darkshire, *Once upon a tome: The misadventures of a rare bookseller*
- Hagerty, *Still life with bones: Genocide, forensics, and what remains*
- Kazdin, *What's eating us: Women, food, and the epidemic of body anxiety*
- May, *Enchantment: Awakening wonder in an anxious age*
- Montroll, *Origami fold-by-fold: Building skills one step at a time from beginner to advanced*
- Obama, *The light we carry: Overcoming in uncertain times*

NEW BOOKS FOR YOUNGER READERS

- Barlow, *Little Rosetta and the talking guitar*
- Natterson, *The care & keeping of you 2*
- Natterson, *American girl puberty: Girls body guide*
- O'Neill, *The Moth Keeper (A Graphic Novel)*
- Shufu-no-Tomo, ed. *Practical origami: Folding your way to everyday accessories*
- Schaefer, *The care & keeping of you: The body book for younger girls (revised ed.)*
- Tran, *She is a haunting*
- Zhuang, *Rainbow shopping*

DVDs

- All Creatures Great & Small: Season 3; The Fabelmans; The Inspection; A Man Called Otto; Tár; The Whale; Women Talking*

FREE FREE FREE

Visit the Community Room in the Town Offices during library hours and take home a stack of *free* CDs and DVDs to liven up a dull winter day or night.

- Suitable for adults and children
- Movies you wanted to see but just did not get around to
- Or movies you loved and want to see again

Come on down—no online fees to deal with and no need to return!

Sponsored by the Friends of the WS Library



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

1. Who is the artistic director of the West Stockbridge Chamber Players?
2. How was the West Stockbridge Public Library able to add 38 award-winning hardcover books for children?
3. Who was the library director when these books were added to its collection?
4. What is the Libri Foundation?

1. Catherine Hudgins
2. Library received a grant from the Libri Foundation
3. Lee Appelbaum
4. Nonprofit organization that provides new quality children's books to small rural libraries in the United States



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.

April History Quiz Question:

A form of slavery existed in the late 1700s and early 1800s in New England, even though it was legally banned in Massachusetts in 1781. Although the practice of owning persons as chattel ended, it existed as indentured servitude. The so-called owner had control over the indentured servant's labor and, in many cases, his or her freedom, until the debt or servitude was paid off. This was a common practice in the eastern part of the state and Connecticut Valley. Most indentured servants were Africans, originally brought here as slaves.

Elijah Williams, the nominal founder of West Stockbridge, bought a slave in New Jersey. He then brought Frank Duncan here to work in the Williamsville forge as his "indentured servant" for 10 years. Then Duncan would be given his freedom, two oxen, and 10 acres of land. It didn't quite work like that (as with many of Williams's deals).


How did Frank Duncan's indenture with Elijah Williams actually turn out?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)

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



**West Stockbridge
Historical Society**
Incorporated in 1994

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

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

413-232-0244



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

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Meadow Farm
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Community News & Events

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, April 16, the Stockbridge Grange will serve a takeout-only dinner at the Grange Hall, 51 Church Street, Stockbridge. The dinner will be stuffed breast of chicken with lemon and chocolate cream pie for dessert. Cost is \$15. PLEASE ORDER BY APRIL 13. To place an order, call (413) 243-1298 or (413) 443-4352. Pickup time is 12 to 1:30 pm.

Council on Aging

Our next meeting will be with the Richmond COA. We will meet at our Town Offices on Monday, April 3, at 11:30 am and then go to the Richmond School to meet up with a third-grade class for a storytelling program with the children at noon. You can bring your lunch or buy it at the school. Please let me (Paula) know if you will be attending this program, (413) 232-4394, and if you want to buy lunch.

West Stockbridge Plant Exchange

The West Stockbridge Plant Exchange meets the first Sunday of each month to exchange seeds, cuttings, plants, and advice. It's a great way to meet people in the community and exchange indoor and outdoor gardening knowledge. We meet in the Community Room at the Town Offices from 2 to 4 pm. For further information, please contact Alisa Desmond at (561) 235-4392.

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.

Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library Committee meets every second Wednesday of the month from 3:30 to 4:30 pm in the Community Room at the Town Offices. All are welcome.

*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.*

April Donor Roll Call

Kathy & Larry Bolanowski
Hilary & Jay Cohen
Mary & Bob Edwards
Paul & Louise Faggioni
Lea & David Finck
Friends of the Library
Wendy Laurin & Jeff Konowitch
Martin Litz
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John & Marci Miner
Marie Rudden & Pete Lazes
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Anonymous: 1

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



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@annelesserscommunications.com; Designer: **Kim Bradway, kim@bloominarts.com**.**

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

History Quiz Answer:

What happened to Frank Duncan eventually wound up in court, offering us insight into what life was like for an "indentured servant" and for the founder of our town. In 1817 the town of Stockbridge sued the town of West Stockbridge in Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court over care of a "pauper." Stockbridge claimed that Frank Duncan was really a resident of West Stockbridge and should be supported by our town. The court agreed, and West Stockbridge had to support him.

Elijah Williams bought Frank Duncan from a slave broker in New Jersey for 100 pounds in 1770. Williams stated in his earlier deposition that he was opposed to slavery and set Duncan up as an indentured servant, a practice common in the state. These servants had limited freedom, and although not technically owned by the master, they had few options in life. Williams agreed to have Duncan work at the furnace in Williamsville, and after 10 years grant him his freedom, along with two oxen and 10 acres. The idea was to give the servant the opportunity to establish a life after the indenture.

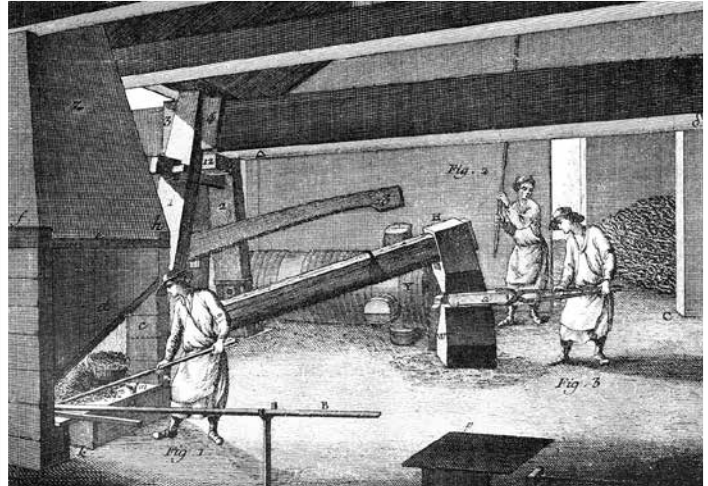
Duncan enlisted in the Revolutionary Army in 1779 as one of the original volunteers from West Stockbridge. He served at West Point and was discharged in 1781. Williams then released Duncan from his indenture after only 7 years when Duncan paid Williams the remaining 30 pounds from his discharge in the Revolutionary Army.

The 1817 court case shows Duncan living in West Stockbridge, although no record of him appears in the census or town records. There is also no record of him ever receiving the 10 acres or the oxen from Williams (perhaps due to Williams's own troubles with the law). Duncan did apply for a Revolutionary War soldier's pension. He swore he was a pauper for a long time, had no family, and only "owned the necessary clothing." This was attested by Agrippa Hull, a prominent free Black landowner in Stockbridge.

The court case found West Stockbridge liable for Duncan and even questioned Williams's anti-slavery motive. Even though the original contract occurred before West Stockbridge existed as a town, Stockbridge was liable, not Stockbridge.

Most interesting, the court saw through the indenture status as akin to slavery. The court stated that "Frank was to every intent Williams's slave. Williams had the legal right to keep him in service for life: and in sickness or inability to labor, his master must support him at his own expense." Indenture was another form of slavery but politically less toxic.

Frank Duncan died a pauper in 1828 in Stockbridge. The lack of records or listing in town records questions his status as "free citizen." We don't even know where his grave is located.



Trip hammer forge. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finery_forge



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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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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>Kelli Bradbury</i>	232-0300	ext. 302	Tues. 1–5 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

April Art Calendar

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

2023

April 2, Studio Visit with Caroline Kelley and Sally Tiska Rice, 1:30-3:30pm. Visit artists' studios. Sign up on the website.

April 4, Photo Editing Workshop, 1:30-2:30pm. Mobile photo editing online.

April 4, Intro to the Guild and Website, 4pm. Overview and info on the Guild and our website. Online.

April 5, Best Practices, 3pm, "How to Price Your Art". Join a discussion hosted by David Honneus.

April 4 & 18, Positive Critique, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Join Michele Caplan for a positive critique session for Guild members via Zoom.

April 10, Mixed Media Workshop w/Marion Grant 1:30-3:30pm. See flyer or website for sign up info.

April 17, Procrastinator's Challenge, 10-11 a.m. Start or work through a current project or art piece!

April 23, Berkshire Photo Gathering. See web: berkshirephotogathering.com /online-meetings

April 25, Meet the Artist, 3pm. Gail Gelburd.

April 28, Art Book Gathering, 10-11am. Share a favorite book, artist, or process.

Wednesdays, Art Together. Join GBA artists together.

Mixed Media Workshop

In-person and Online Workshop with Marion Grant

Monday April 10, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

at Clocktower Artists

75 South Church Street,
Pittsfield, MA

See flyer to learn more and sign up.



Meet the Artist

with Gail Gelburd

April 25, 3pm

See website or flyer for link.



and the West Stockbridge Historical Society
present

"Hitting to All Fields in West Stockbridge"

A multimedia exhibit of the history of baseball in West Stockbridge

Thursday, April 27–Sunday, April 30

Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street, West Stockbridge

The Lineup

Thursday, April 27: Exhibit open 5–8 pm; opening reception; public welcome

Friday, April 28: Exhibit open 5–8 pm
6:30–8:00 pm: "The History of Baseball in West Stockbridge and Its Semi-Pro Team, Troy's Garage." Presented by Larry Moore, director of Baseball in the Berkshires, and Kevin Larkin, author of *Big Time Baseball in a Small Berkshire County Town—A History of the Troy's Garage Semi-Pro Baseball Team*.

Saturday, April 29: Exhibit open noon–4 pm
Ongoing hands-on presentation on the history of baseball gloves: appropriate for all ages

Sunday, April 30: Exhibit open noon–4 pm
Ongoing hands-on presentation on the history of baseball bats: appropriate for all ages.

COME JOIN US FOR THIS WEEKEND OF BASEBALL IN WEST STOCKBRIDGE!



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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Saturday, 22 April 2023 - 7:30pm

The Old Town Hall at 9 Main Street

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weststockbridgehistory.org

With generous support from West Stockbridge and Alford Egremont Cultural Councils

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

April 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.

4/2	Palm Sunday		
4/2	Plant Exchange meeting	2-4 pm	Community Room, Town Offices
4/3	Council on Aging	11 am	See Community News for details
4/3	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices, 21 State Line Road
4/5	Passover begins at sundown		
4/7	Good Friday		
4/9	Easter, Orthodox Palm Sunday		
4/12	Friends of the Library committee meeting	3:30 pm	Community Room, Town Offices
4/15	*** Deadline for the next <i>Local Yokel</i> ***		Send to info@thelocalyokel.org
4/16	Orthodox Easter		
4/16	Stockbridge Grange takeout dinner		See Community News for details
4/17	Patriot's Day: town offices closed		
4/18	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices, 21 State Line Road
4/21	Eid al-Fitr begins at sundown		
4/22	Earth Day		
4/22	Town Cleanup Day		9-10 am: Pick up vests & bags at the firehouse
4/27-30	"Hitting to All Fields" baseball history exhibition		Old Town Hall: See story in this issue
4/28	Arbor Day		