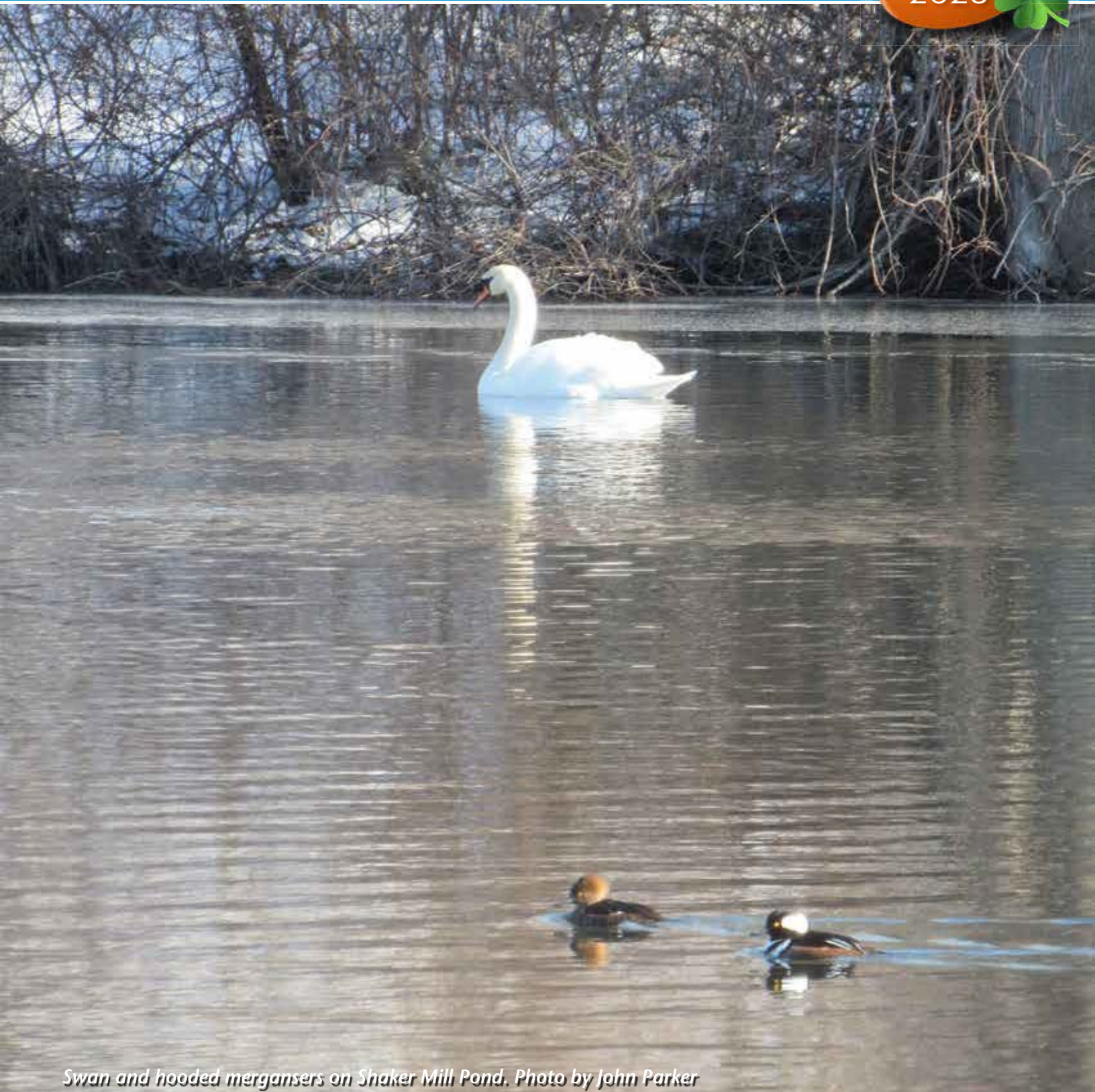


Local yokel

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

West
Stockbridge



Swan and hooded mergansers on Shaker Mill Pond. 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



PLEIN AIR LANDSCAPES by Walter Pasko at Art on Main Gallery

Walter Pasko, a longtime member of the Guild of Berkshire Artists, is a familiar figure in the Berkshires, outdoors with his easel and painting gear. He is frequently seen in West Stockbridge interpreting the local street scenes and familiar landscapes in the area and is quite famous for painting directly from nature, or “en plein air.”

This month, Walt’s elegant oil paintings will be shown in the guild’s Art on Main Gallery at 38 Main Street that will be open during two long weekends:

March 17–19, 11 to 4, Friday to Sunday

March 24–26, 11 to 4, Friday to Sunday

Walt says, “My inspiration for plein air painting comes from the works of the early 20th-century American impressionist painters, such as the New Englanders A.T. Hibbard and Emile Gruppe. Most of my paintings are done on location in New England, from the rolling hills of western Massachusetts and mountains of Vermont to the rugged coastline of northern Maine.”

An avid student of the fleeting effects of light and shadow on the landscape, Walt’s works depict a fusion of current observation and past experience gained from a lifetime of direct observation and painting in the natural world. He values the total experience of searching for a composition in various weather conditions and seasons, working with the material and equipment on location

to capture the effect of light on the landscape, and then making final adjustments to the composition and color in the studio. He finds winter especially interesting because of the bold patterns created by the light snow and dark background of trees and buildings. Because snow reflects the light from surrounding objects, its color can vary with location and time of day.

The Berkshire Hills continue to provide Walt with the perfect home base from which to regularly scout the backcountry, looking for sawmills, sugarhouses, streams, and small villages as subject matter for his paintings. More about Walt Pasko is available at www.paskofineart.com.

For more details about this show, the Guild of Berkshire Artists, and Art on Main Gallery, visit www.berkshireartists.org.



Walt Pasco plein air painting in West Stockbridge.



Abandoned House Below Mt. Greylock.

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.virtuالتownhall.net/subscriber>].

Board Meeting Minutes January 9, 2023

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

Others Present: Building Commissioner Brian DuVal, Police Chief Marc Portieri and newly appointed Part-Time Police Officer Nate Sermini.

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

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the minutes from December 15 and December 19, 2022.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen	Yes
Andy Potter	Yes
Andy Krouss	Yes

Motion Approved.

Citizen Speak:

None

Building Commissioner Brian DuVal Update:

Brian reported that inspections have been slow but that he has been busy with zoning enforcement violations in the past few months. He informed the Board that the State adopted new guidelines requiring the use of the International Building Code standards in all municipalities in Massachusetts. The Town will need updated International Building code books, which will add about \$600 to Brian's FT24 budget.

Andy Potter asked Brian what his Town Hall office hours were. Brian responded that all permitting is completed in the online permitting system on the website, therefore, he has no set hours. However, by request, he will meet with people by appointment at Town Hall. Andy also inquired

about the zoning enforcement complaint process. Brian explained the process as follows:

- A written complaint is received.
- Verification is completed that the person complaining has standing to file a complaint and that the complaint is credible.
- Notification is sent to the complainant that Brian will be either begin an investigation or not.
- The property owner gets a written notification of the violation.
- The property owner has 30 days to either correct the violation or appeal.

The Board thanked Brian for his update.

Police Department Update and Appointment of Nate Sermini as Part-Time Officer:

Police Chief Marc Portieri gave an update of the Police Department from the past year. The Department has been very busy this past year. He stated that arrests, motor vehicle stops, fire calls, domestic abuse calls, disabled vehicle calls and road hazard calls were all up from the previous year.

Chief Portieri reported that the funding for traffic calming still has a balance to be used. This is due to new training requirements and staffing issues the past few months. The department began last year with 11 officers and currently has only 6. With only 6 officers remaining, shifts are not as easily filled to allow officers to attend trainings or work on traffic calming.

There have been new traffic control speed signs posted on Great Barrington Road which seem to be very effective. There have been a few complaints about the flashing lights by some residents which he and Curt Wilton, Director of Public Works, will address by changing the placement of the signs.

...continued on page 5



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

West Stockbridge Fire Department News

By Lt. Jim Hallock



*New Polaris Ranger ORV and trailer.
Photo courtesy of WSFD*

THANK YOU! The WSFD would like to thank all of the townspeople for their generous donations this year to our annual fund drive. We raised enough money to purchase a new Polaris Ranger Off-Road Vehicle (ORV). We also bought a new trailer for the unit. Early on, we realized the old trailer had issues and also wasn't tall enough to fit the new unit. We're ordering a skid unit for the Ranger that will have a water pump, hose, water tank, and a tank with foam. We invite anyone who would like to come by on a Monday night to see the new Ranger. Please contact me at (413) 329-2332 to arrange it.

VOLUNTEERS: We're still looking for members to join the department. Maybe you used to be in the department, or maybe you have never done anything like this and are looking for something new. Either way, come on down! Drills are Mondays at 6 pm.

MONTHLY TIP: Burning season is active until May 1, and as the snow melts, be aware that debris will begin to dry out. Make sure to fill out a permit online and have a hose ready in case the fire gets out of control. Permits are not available on windy days.

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March Donor Roll Call

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Andy Fenenbock
Lois Gennari
Zina Greene
Chris & Kate Meyer
Judith Nevins
Sharon & Irving Picard
Tingey & Joan Sewall

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.

...continued from page 3

Chief Portieri introduced Nate Sermini to the Board. Nate has worked in other local towns and has the experience and personality that Marc feels would be a good fit in West Stockbridge. Nate introduced himself to the Board and thanked them for the opportunity to serve in West Stockbridge. Marc requested that the Board appoint Nate as a Part-Time Police Officer.

Andy Potter made a motion, 2nd by Andy Krouss to appoint Nate Sermini as a Part-Time Police Officer for West Stockbridge.

Roll call Vote:

Andy Potter Yes
Andy Krouss Yes
Kathleen Yes

Motion Approved.

Vision Committee Update- Joe Roy, Jr.

Joe stated that the Vision Committee meets once a month and has been discussing many topics. Some of these topics include:

- Sound Control/possible sound ordinance
- Traffic, pedestrian, parking & crosswalk safety
- Livability in West Stockbridge
- Ways to sustain residents, young and old
- Improvement of education due to the pandemic
- Coordinate with all Boards/Committees
- Indexing/listing of all permits needed in various zoning districts

Joe stated that there are two major items he wanted to bring before the Board today;

1. Negative effects that the pandemic has had on the education in the schools
2. EV charging stations in town

Joe informed the Board that the Vision Committee is requesting feedback from the Select Board if they have any interest in either of these topics for further research. If the Select Board is interested, the Vision Committee is happy to research further and bring information back to the Board.

The Vision Committee would like to get information on how the schools are handling the education effects due to the pandemic. The Committee suggested that the Select Board have a meeting with the School Committee Representatives from West Stockbridge, School Superintendent Peter Dillon and the principals at the schools to see what is being done and what the towns could do to assist. The Board agreed this was a good idea and will do so in the near future.

Vision Committee member, Thom Lipiczky, has completed some research on EV charging stations and related that the cost will be approximately \$6,000-\$10,000 per station, which does not include the electrician costs. The stations would need to be located on Town property and have a specific type of electrical pole. There is still more research to be done. The Board agreed that this could be a good idea but they had concerns about the financial impact on the tax payers. The Board agreed they need more solid information before bringing this to a town meeting vote.

Kathleen mentioned that this type of project fits well with the planning being done by the Master Plan Committee, Complete Streets and Community Preservation Committee. She suggested that all the Committees keep working together.

Joe thanked the Board for their time and looks forward to continued productive meetings like this one.

Select Board Speak:

Andy Krouss informed the Board that Marie has submitted an application through Berkshire Regional Planning that will allow for more progress in Western Massachusetts on the broadband issues. He would also like to have the new HR person attend a meeting and give the Board for an update.

Kathleen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andy Potter at 7:05 PM.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen Yes
Andy Potter Yes
Andy Krouss Yes
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan
Town Administrator

...continued on page 7

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The town of West Stockbridge has an aggregation agreement through Colonial Power.

Most residents were automatically enrolled in this cost-saving program. If you weren't, you can proactively enroll rather than wait for the next sweep mailing. Anyone from West Stockbridge can join at any time by completing the form on Colonial's website or calling the company at (866) 485-5858 or Dynegy at (866) 220-5696. For information about the program including the opt-in form, visit <https://colonialpowergroup.com/west-stockbridge/>.

When West Stockbridge negotiates a new rate for renewal in November 2023, all those currently enrolled in the program will automatically be renewed. No action will be required.

Comparison of current Colonial Power rate versus current National Grid rate:

Colonial Power Program Rate:

Term: November 2020–November 2023

Rate: \$0.09950/kWh

Renewable energy: MA requirement + 5% MA Class I Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs)

National Grid Basic Service Rate:

Term: November 1, 2022–April 30, 2023

Rate: \$0.33891/kWh

Renewable energy: Meets MA requirement

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- Building & Maintaining Gardens
- Firewood

**Select Board Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2023**

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

Others Present: Rachel Alter, Town Librarian and Donald Taggart, National Grid Representative.

Kathleen called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM and listed Select Board members present.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the minutes from January 9, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen Yes
Andy Potter Yes
Andy Krouss Yes

Motion Approved.

Citizen Speak:

None

Berkshire Velo Bike Club: Phil Gentile, Member

Phil Gentile requested permission from the Select Board to host a recreational bike ride on Saturday, April 22nd starting between 10 am and noon. They have held this event which begins on Moscow Road for the past couple of years. This is a self-guided bike ride with approximately 100 riders.

Kathleen made a motion to approve permission for the bike event to be held on April 22nd beginning on Moscow Road, seconded by Andy Potter.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen Yes
Andy Potter Yes
Andy Krouss Yes

Motion Approved.

Library Update: Rachel Alter, Town Librarian

Rachel reported that the attendance and use of the library is almost back to pre-pandemic levels. There has been a lot of traffic through the library this past year. The Community Health Children's Play Group Program has been

meeting in the Library on Monday mornings which promotes use of the Library by new young families. Rachel also The Library has a high school intern, Francesca, who has been a tremendous help and will be earning community service credit for her work. The Friends' of the Library have been a huge help with the book sale and supporting the use of museum passes. Overall, Rachel is happy to report that the Library is thriving.

Pole Location on Baker Street by National Grid: Donald Taggart, Representative

Don explained to the Board that there is a requirement to place 8-9 poles on Baker Street to supply electricity to the new Wiseacre Farm. They will place the poles on both sides of the road to minimize tree trimming. Kathleen asked if there was any consideration of placing the lines underground. Don stated that trying to place the wires underground would be extremely expensive, would take a lot of time and could present an issue if any portion of the lines have to go in wetlands. Don said that the best option is to place the wires overhead on the poles.

Andy Potter made a motion to approve the pole location by National Grid on Baker Street as requested, seconded by Kathleen.

Roll Call Vote:

Andy Krouss Yes
Andy Potter Yes
Kathleen Yes

Motion Approved.

Select Board Speak:

Kathleen reported that it has been a busy week in the Town. There was a fire at the Amici Restaurant and she thanked the Fire Department, Police Department and the Highway crew for all their work during this event. She also mentioned that there were up to 15 other towns that responded as mutual aide and she thanked them all for their support. Kathleen thanked the Highway crew, who did a terrific job taking care of the roads during the recent storm keeping everyone safe. There was also a water main break on Swamp, Road Curt Wilton and Mark Viola got the water running within a couple of hours.

Andy Potter gave an update to the Board in regards to the 8 Town School District Planning Board. He informed the Board that the Planning Board is expecting to ask each Town to hold a Special Town Meeting in the Fall of 2023 when they feel they will have all the information needed to go forward on a vote to merge the school districts. There will be a monkey survey posted on the Town website to get input on the name for the new district.

Andy reported that the Complete Streets working group will be meeting on Thursday at 10 AM to discuss the 15 ranked projects. He will update the Board at the next meeting. He also stated that there will be a meeting on Tuesday, January 24th at Town Hall at 6 PM for anyone interested in working on the Zucchini Festival which he plans to.

Andy Krouss told the Board that he and Joe Roy are working on collecting more information about broadband in West Stockbridge. The Town currently does not have adequate broadband coverage for our residents. Their next step will be to reach out to Smitty Pignatelli to assist them in a process that will increase coverage. He will keep the Board updated.

Andy Potter made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andy Krouss at 6:44 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
and Open Hearing
on the FY24 Draft
of the Town Budget
Thursday, March 23,
6 pm
at the Town Offices**



Cultural Council Announces Grants for FY2023

By Margie Skaggs

The West Stockbridge Cultural Council is pleased to announce the awards for FY2023. For this cycle we received 43 applications and provided funds for 10 of them. All of these met our top criteria for funding: supporting quality programs in the humanities, practical sciences, and the arts. We give priority to the needs of our local area and those applicants that appeal to our diverse constituency, including schools, library and nature programs, and music, dance, theater, and arts events.

These are the organizations receiving funding for 2023:

- Baseball in the Berkshires, Inc.: “Sliding Baseball”
- Festival Latino of the Berkshires
- Flying Cloud Institute: “Maker Spaces”
- Friends of the West Stockbridge Public Library: cultural site passes
- Miranda Fern Katz: Dance performance
- *The Local Yokel*: Unique and timely reporting about our town
- West Stockbridge Farmers Market: Music at the market
- West Stockbridge Historical Society: Spring chamber concert
- West Stockbridge Historical Society: Jazz concert series
- West Stockbridge Public Library: Therapeutic animal program

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

For more information about the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the local grants process for 2024, visit www.massculturalcouncil.org and click on Grant Programs and then Local Cultural Council.

March History Quiz Question:

West Stockbridge in the early 1800s was a different place than our current town, considering both the obvious, like physical structures, roads, and the landscape, but also what things were called. We were a farming community on the edge of a “howling wilderness” with dirt paths linking to New York State and the Hudson River. Unfortunately, not too many detailed maps show names and places You didn’t need a map because you didn’t travel far from your farm, plus everyone knew where everyone lived. But by 1838, when the railroad was built, that began to change.

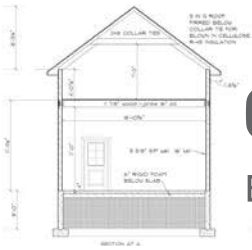
When you do find an early map, it is interesting to see the differences in place-names and actual features. Things people found important then might not be seen the same way now, nor how they were known. Two major bodies of water in the village center show differently in 1841 than now. What are they, and what are the differences?

(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
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On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky

Random Thoughts and Crumpled Ravings on Mud Season



*Rutted roads – part of the Mud Season experience!
Photo by John Parker*

It's the annual mud season column from "On the Home Front"! As our climate gradually shifts, this period shows up on our calendars a week or so earlier than it used to—even 20 years ago. Back in the day (I get to say this since I'm officially an old codger), I remember an excavator friend who calculated April 8 as the day the frost left the ground. Nowadays excavation can be done pretty much through the winter. This past winter, as of mid-February when I'm writing this deathless prose, we've had 14 inches less snow than "usual" (a moving target, no doubt.)

But March is still mud season (despite the 50+ degree days we've had in February). I've had to clean up tracked-in mud from my shoes on more than one occasion already. And the lower part of my driveway has some serious ruts in it. The topping is "driveway mix," or "airport mix," an amalgam of crushed gravel and stone dust. For most of the year it's a hard solid surface. But this time of year, as the frost leaves the ground, it's a mix of quicksand (on warm days) and hard-as-concrete ruts on cold ones.

Many of the unpaved roads in our town have the condition, and our stalwart highway crew does its best to keep these passable. Sometimes these roads have to be closed to all but residents. I once remember driving north on Pixley Hill Road with my left tires stuck in a hard deep rut. And then, coming south, heading right toward me, I noticed a very large truck whose left tires were also traveling in the same rut. It was exciting.

Potholes are another feature of this time of year. The freeze-thaw cycle has its way with small holes, widening them as frozen water expands. You may have followed the lively exchanges about potholes in neighboring

Pittsfield in the *Berkshire Eagle*. Entertaining unless you happen to pop a tire or break an axle or lose a filling.

Frost heaves are caused by the same freeze-thaw cycle wherever water runs under the surface of the road. They can make the roadway as rippled as a washboard.

And as tempting as it is to fantasize about planting my vegetable garden, I try not to walk on my plots so as not to compact the soil. This past fall I followed the advice of master gardener and West Stockbridge resident Ron Kujawski and planted winter rye, which I plan to till under once mud season is past. Then I'll leave the crop to decay and release its nitrogen before planting, once danger of frost is past.

Here are some other mud season chores:

- Check gutters to clear them of winter debris so they'll operate well when the spring rains come.
- Tap your maple trees and boil down the sap for syrup. I think it takes about 40 gallons of sap for a gallon of syrup. (The freeze-thaw cycle of the days helps the sap rise.)
- Take off your snow tires as soon as the roads start to firm up.
- Watch the change in light! It's becoming much more noticeable now, with the sun rising and setting a bit higher in the sky each day. Groundhog Day (February 2) was the cross-quarter day, roughly midway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. No matter whether the furry animal saw his shadow, the earth has traveled about half of the way between winter and spring, so to my final point:
- Celebrate spring, even if it might snow!

Send questions, comments, and rants to info@thelocalyokel.org.

8 Town Regional School District Planning Board



Looking for community input on naming the new school district

If you haven't weighed in yet, fill out a brief survey and let us know what you think about a potential name for the new district if Southern Berkshire and Berkshires Hills regional school districts merge.

Visit the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8towns-name>.

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8 Town Regional School District Planning Board Update

GET THE FACTS. BE INFORMED. YOU DECIDE.

Merger Model under Consideration: In April 2022, the 8 Town Board voted (16 to 6) to continue developing the model recommended by our research team: merging the Berkshire Hills Regional School District and the Southern Berkshire Regional School District into a single PreK–12 district, maintaining the existing elementary and middle schools as they are but creating a new merged 9–12 high school to be built on the Great Barrington campus.

CVTE Focus: Enhancing Career Vocational and Technical Education (CVTE) opportunities for South County students continues to be a high priority. In 2022, South County had only two Chapter 74 CVTE programs (automotive and horticulture, both offered at Monument Mountain), serving about 47 students. By comparison, more than 500 students are served by Chapter 74 CVTE programs in both North County and Central County.

Fifty percent of our high school graduates do not earn a college degree, and upon graduation, most of those do not earn a living wage. An 8-town merged district could more than triple our current Chapter 74 offerings, with up to six to eight comprehensive CVTE programs. A CVTE advisory group drawn from our local employers, schools, workforce/economic development groups, and colleges is evaluating over 16 possible CVTE programs, looking at local workforce needs, student interest, available partners, space requirements, and earning capacity. We expect to report that group's recommendations later this spring (For more information about CVTE, look for a link to the video on the RSDPB website home page, <https://8towns.org>.)

Educational Visioning: With support from the Barr Foundation, we have been working with two skilled facilitators to explore what possibilities community members see for a merged high school. At site visits, interviews, focus groups, and community gatherings, our facilitators have asked these questions:

- What are the strengths of the two districts?
- Where are the gaps?
- What might we be able to do better together? What innovations are possible?

An interactive in-person community session was held at the Sheffield Senior Center on January 21; a second session is scheduled at the Great Barrington Senior Center on March 18. A larger community meeting is targeted for mid-May. To register for the March 18 meeting, visit the RSDPB website home page, <https://8towns.org>.

Continued Work on an 8 Town Regional School District Agreement: Our 8 Town board continues to make solid progress on the governance and other operational provisions of an 8 Town regional agreement. The finance subcommittee continues to analyze various options for assessment methodologies for operating and capital costs, and that subcommittee expects to present recommended approaches to the full board in March.

Timeline: The complexity of the assessment methodology work has pushed our targeted date for a board vote back to April/May. This new timing works well with the input of Select Board members that if the RSDPB makes a recommendation to merge, it could be put before the voters at special town meetings this fall (rather than at the annual meetings in May/June) to allow sufficient time for presentation and discussion.

Lucy Prashker, Chair of the 8 Town Regional School District Planning Board

Jake Eberwein, RSDPB Project Manager



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**RECONSTRUCTIONIST
 CONGREGATION AHAVATH SHOLOM**
 THE CREATIVE SPIRIT DWELLS HERE
ahavathsholom.com North St., Great Barrington





WEST STOCKBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

21 State Line Rd | West Stockbridge, MA 01266 | In the Town Offices
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

Adams, *Thing in the snow*
Bennett, *Better the blood*
Doerrfeld, *Beneath*
Harper, *Everybody knows*
Hawkins, *Villa*
Hemon, *World and all that it holds*
Hendrix, *How to sell a haunted house*
Jha, *The laughter*
Johns, *Bad Cree*
Koontz, *Big dark sky*
Koontz, *House at the end of the world*
Jones, *Don't fear the reaper*
Jones, *Essex dogs*
Meltzer, *Lightning rod: A Zig & Nola novel*
Patterson, *House of wolves*
Pylväinen, *End of drum-time*
Reyes, *House in the pines*
Robb, *Encore in death: An Eve Dallas novel*
Winslow, *Decent people*

NEW ADULT NONFICTION

Bolstad, *Windfall*
Brown, *Vanity Fair diaries*
Dawidziak, *A mystery of mysteries: The death and life of Edgar Allan Poe*
Lamya H, *Hijab butch blues: A memoir*
Liming, *Hanging out: The radical power of killing time*
Meltzer, *Nazi conspiracy*
Orenstein, *Unraveling*
Pinkney, *Just Jerry: How drawing shaped my life*
Potter, *Flower philosophy*
Prince Harry the Duke of Sussex, *Spare*
Regan, *Fieldwork: A forager's memoir*
Strassmann, *Slow birding*
Whitaker, *Saying it loud: 1966—The year Black power challenged the civil rights movement*

NEW FOR YOUNGER READERS

Alkaf, *Queen of the tiles*
Benway, *Year to the day*
Black, *Stolen heir: A novel of Elfhame*
Cousins, *Maisy's Chinese New Year*
Hammonds, *We deserve monuments*
Johnson, *Nine liars*
Richards, *Nubby*
Taylor, *Flag for Juneteenth*

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. State funding for the Berkshire Hills Regional School district high school renovation had to pass by what date?
2. What happened to a separate measure to fund the renovation project?
3. What was the compromise town officials offered for the mobile home rent dispute?
4. Who presented their annual Winter Concert at the West Stockbridge Congregational Church?

1. July 31, 2012
2. It was defeated by Great Barrington taxpayers
3. The West Stockbridge Board of Selectmen, acting as the Rent Control Board, proposed bylaws regulating rent at the Mill Pond Mobile Park
4. West Stockbridge Chamber Players



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.

March Art Calendar

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

2023

March 5, Studio Visit with Mark Mellinger and Shany Porras, 1:30-3:30pm. Visit artists' studios. Sign up on the website.

March 7, Photo Editing Workshop, 1:30-2:30pm. Mobile photo editing online.

March 7, Intro to the Guild and Website, 4:30-5:30pm. Overview and info on the Guild and our website. Online.

March 7 & 21, Positive Critique, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Join Michele Caplan for a positive critique session for Guild members via Zoom.

March 13, Mixed Media Workshop w/Mark Mellinger, 1:30-3:30pm. Online.

March 17-26, Walt Pasko at Art on Main Gallery. 38 Main Street, West Stockbridge, MA.

March 20, Procrastinator's Challenge, 10-11 a.m. Start or work through a current project or art piece!

March 21, Best Practices, 3pm, "How to Price Your Art". Join a discussion hosted by David Honneus.

March 28, Meet the Artist, 3pm. Sally Lebwohl, Pastel.

March 26, Berkshire Photo Gathering. See web: berkshirephotogathering.com /online-meetings

March 31, Art Book Gathering, 10-11am. Share a favorite book, artist, or process.

Wednesdays, Art Together. Join GBA artists together.



Intro to Cold Wax

Workshop with Carolyn Abrams

Tuesdays in March 7, 14, 21, and 28

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

at Berkshire South

15 Crissey Rd, Great Barrington, MA

To Learn More and Sign Up Visit:

<https://www.berkshireartists.org/workshops>



Walt Pasko

at Art on Main Gallery

March 17-19, 11am to 4pm

March 24-26, 11am to 4pm

38 Main Street, West Stockbridge, MA



WEST STOCKBRIDGE
FARMERS MARKET
ON THE FOUNDRY GREEN

OPENING DAY

Thursday, May 25, 3-6pm

Introducing Our New Market Manager

Lily Thorne Davenport grew up in West Stockbridge and is thrilled to be working with our wonderful community of farmers, makers, bakers, growers, healers and creators!

**WE ACCEPT SNAP +
OFFER MARKET MATCH**

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM + FB
WESTSTOCKBRIDGEFARMERSMARKET.ORG



WINTER PARKING BAN



The West Stockbridge "Winter Parking Ban" will be in effect from NOVEMBER 15TH to APRIL 1ST between 11pm and 7am for all Town roads. Violation of the ban may result in a \$25 fine for parking in a prohibited area as well as a \$50 fine for impeding snow removal. The vehicle may also be towed at the owner's expense for impeding snow removal.

Municipal parking is located on Hotel Street and Center Street. Snow removal in these areas will be between 7am-8am.

Thank you for your cooperation

West Stockbridge Police Department

(413) 232-8500

Your business need a little exposure?

**As low as
\$15!**

If you've got a new business idea, updated business plan, or still chuggin' along, advertise in the *Local Yoke!* to let readers know what your business is up to!

Visit thelocalyokel.org for our rates or email Vicki for more information at info@thelocalyokel.org.

*"You can't get any more local than advertising in the Local Yoke!
Stay safe and shop local!"*

— Jackie Moffatt at C. H. Baldwin & Sons

MUSIC THEATRE DANCE

THE FOUNDRY

thefoundryws.com
West Stockbridge MA

Bark Mulch Topsoil Compost

GRAVEL
PRODUCTS

413-243-4111

Meadow Farm
1125 Meadow Street, Lee
meadowfarmorganics.com

Compost Facility Accepting Yard & Wood Waste

Community News & Events

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, March 12, the Stockbridge Grange will serve a takeout-only dinner at the Grange Hall, 51 Church Street, Stockbridge. The dinner will be corned beef and cabbage with lemon and chocolate cream pies for dessert. Cost is \$15. PLEASE ORDER BY MARCH 9. To place an order, call (413) 243-1298 or (413) 443-4352. Pickup time is 12 to 1:30 pm. Please call if the weather is iffy.

Council on Aging Offers Free Paper-Folding Class

Join us for a free paper-folding class, Tuesday, March 14, at 11 am at the Parish Hall of St. Patrick's Church on Route 41 in West Stockbridge. Just in time for St. Patrick's Day you will learn an easy and fun way to create beautiful baskets. If the class is successful, a follow-up on April 14 will teach you how to add Easter decorations to your basket. Coffee and snacks will be served and all materials provided. To make this happen, we need sufficient interest. Please call Phyllis Lebeau, (413) 441-1106, or email coa@richmondma.org and let us know you would like to be part of this new program.

West Stockbridge Plant Exchange

The West Stockbridge Plant Exchange meets the first Sunday of each month (next meeting on March 5) 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.*

History Quiz Answer:

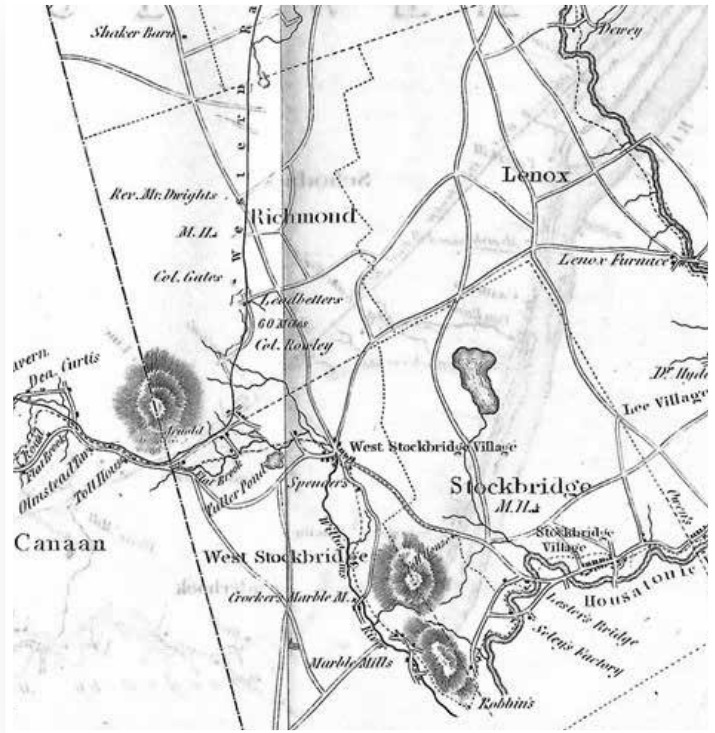
We recently came across an 1841 map of the Western Railroad, the main line from back east through Pittsfield, Richmond, and connecting to the Albany and West Stockbridge Railroad at State Line. The map (shown here) is fascinating. The few maps from that time just showed the rail line and station stops. This is one of the earliest maps showing details of West Stockbridge when the town had begun to transition from a farming to a quarrying center. Unlike other maps place-names, physical features and their major owners are listed.

Looking specifically at West Stockbridge, Crane Lake was called Tuller Pond after William Tuller, one of the early farmers in town. He was the first "fence viewer" when the town government was founded in 1774. (The fence viewer inspects new fences and settles disputes arising from trespass by livestock that have escaped enclosure. This was like our current Planning Board or building inspector?) William owned the land around most of the lake that was an important source of water for the early steam engines.

An earlier map of Indiantown (i.e., Stockbridge) shows Crane Lake as Great Quapuakuk. That roughly translates from Mahican into "at the place before the pond" or perhaps "at the pond before." It can also be translated, "as far as the pond." The first map with the name Crane Pond is the Woolford map of 1855. We have no record of who or how "Tuller" became "Crane," and the pond didn't become a "lake" until the 1900s.

The second noteworthy feature on the map is the shape of Shaker Mill Pond. The map shows it as a long skinny waterway with no label, not as wide as it is now. On the 1838 Barber engraving of the town, it is barely shown. On some of the early maps, it was titled "Mill Pond," and not until 1904 was it shown as "Shaker Mill Pond," long after the Shakers sold the mill.

Looking at the few early maps available, we find other roads, physical features, and inns that were deemed essential. They give us vital clues about what our town looked like and how it functioned 200 years ago.



Western RR 1841 Map

Do you have an extra hour a week?

The *Local Yokel* is looking for distributors to deliver the publications to our spots around town, then check back a few times that month.

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



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



The *Local Yokel* meets the 21st Century!

Visit our website for past issues, plus information about how to support your West Stockbridge community newsletter, submit material for publication, advertise, contact us, and more!

thelocalyokel.org




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Lenox, MA
www.millbrookmaplestore.com



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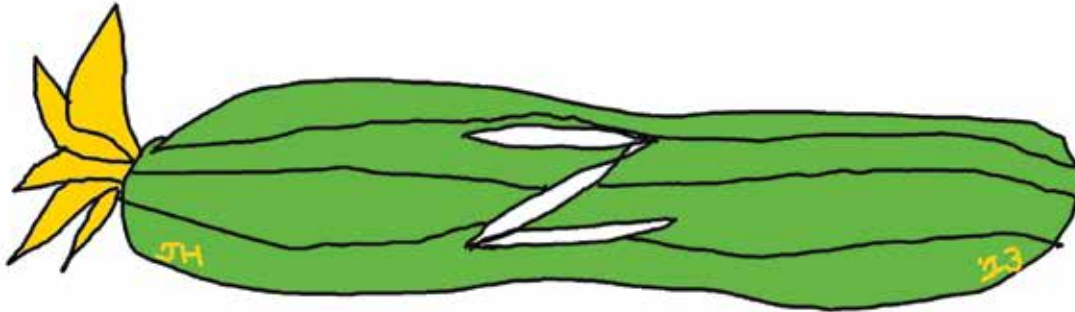
P.O. Box 138
West Stockbridge, Ma. 01266
kgcooperelectric@yahoo.com
Ma. Master 12365A

413-232-0244

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

It's Back!



2023

West Stockbridge **Zucchini Festival**

Add August 12 to your calendar!

**To volunteer and/or donate,
please email wzucchinifestival2023@gmail.com**

More details to follow. . . .

West Stockbridge
Local Yokel
 P.O. Box 238
 West Stockbridge, MA 01266

thelocalyokel.org



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

March 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.

3/5	Plant Exchange	2-4 pm	Community Room, Town Offices
3/6	Purim begins at sundown		
3/6	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices, 21 State Line Road
3/8	Friends of the Library committee meeting	3:30 pm	Community Room, Town Offices
3/12	Stockbridge Grange takeout dinner		See Community News for details
3/12	Daylight Savings Time begins (set clocks ahead 1 hr)		
3/14	Council on Aging Paper-Folding Class	11 am	St. Patrick's Church Parish Hall, Route 41
3/15	*** Deadline for the next <i>Local Yokel</i> ***		Send to info@thelocalyokel.org
3/17	St. Patrick's Day		
3/20	First Day of Spring		
3/20	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices, 21 State Line Road
3/22	Ramadan begins at sundown		
3/23	Select Board meeting & open meeting on the budget	6 pm	Town Offices, 21 State Line Road
3/30	Town Caucus	7 pm	Town Offices, 21 State Line Road