

# Local yokel

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

West  
Stockbridge

May  
2023



*Annual Town Meeting & Election: Details Inside!*

*Zucchini Festival Is Back! Details Inside!*

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

*Mallards on Card Pond. Photo by Joe P. Roy*



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farmers market**

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## May Art Calendar

Guild of Berkshire Artists | [BerkshireArtists.org](http://BerkshireArtists.org) | [infoberkshireartists@gmail.com](mailto:infoberkshireartists@gmail.com) 2023

**Apr 27 - May 7, "For the Love of Land and Sea (from my window)"** at Art on Main Gallery, feat. **Jaye Moscarriello**. 38 Main Street, West Stockbridge, MA. See show flyer for times.

**May 2, Photo Editing Workshop, 1:30-2:30pm.** Mobile photo editing online.

**May 2, Intro to the Guild and Website, 4pm.** Overview and info on the Guild and our website. Online.

**May 2 & 16, Positive Critique, 7:30-8:30 p.m.** Join Michele Caplan for a positive critique session for Guild members via Zoom.

**May 10 - May 23, Natalie Tyler** at Art on Main Gallery. 38 Main Street, West Stockbridge, MA. See show flyer for times

**May 15, Procrastinator's Challenge, 10-11 a.m.** Start or work through a current project or art piece!

**May 23, Meet the Artist, 3pm.** Paula Shalan, Ceramicist.

**May 24-25, Plein Air Workshop w/Lori Bradley.** 9:30am-4pm, Berkshire South Community Center, 15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington, MA.

**May 26, Art Book Gathering, 10-11am.** Share a favorite book, artist, or process.

**May 28, Berkshire Photo Gathering.** See web: [berkshirephotogathering.com/online-meetings](http://berkshirephotogathering.com/online-meetings)

**Wednesdays, Art Together.** Join GBA artists together.

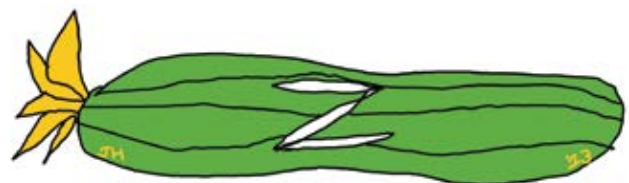
**Plein Air Workshop**  
*with Lori Bradley*  
May 24 & 25, 9:30-4:00pm  
at Berkshire South Community Center  
15 Crissey Road,  
Great Barrington, MA  
[www.berkshireartists.org/workshops](http://www.berkshireartists.org/workshops)



**Meet the Artist**  
*with Paula Shalan*  
May 23, 3pm  
See website or flyer for link.



**It's Back!**



**2023**  
West Stockbridge  
**Zucchini Festival**

**Saturday, August 12**





# 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>].

## Select Board Meeting Minutes March 6, 2023

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

Others Present: Dana Bixby, Planning Board Chair

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

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the minutes from February 21, 2023.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen	Yes
Andy Krouss	Yes
Andy Potter	Abstain – not present at that meeting

Minutes Approved.

## Citizen Speak:


Bob Salerno informed the Board that there has been a circle of old stones uncovered next to the Shaker Mill. He would like to have this real property secured and possibly on display as part of the Town's history. Bob will get more information and report back to the Board on a process to maintain these historical markers.

## Planning Board and Master Plan Update – Dana Bixby

Dana Bixby state that the Planning Board has been working on two zoning bylaws, the Short-Term Rental Bylaw and the Accessory Dwelling Bylaw. They are close to completion and will require further public input. Dana will be sending a draft to the Select Board, the Building Commissioner and the Zoning Board of Appeals for input as well.

The Planning Board is working on an update to the Accessory Dwelling bylaw. The original bylaw was voted on in 1992 which requires a special permit for an in-law apartment on the

*...continued on page 7*



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LGBT JEWS  
CREATIVE JEWS**

Please check our website [www.ahavathsholom](http://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  
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PASSIONATE JEWS  
HIGH-HOLY-DAY JEWS  
ARTISTIC JEWS  
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HAVEN'T-BEEN-IN-SHUL-SINCE-MY-BAR-MITZVAH-JEWS**

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[ahavathsholom.com](http://ahavathsholom.com) North St., Great Barrington

# 2023 Annual Town Meeting and Town Election: What You Need to Know

The annual town meeting will take place at the Town Offices gymnasium this year on May 1 at 6 pm.

Copies of the warrant are available on the town website, [weststockbridge-ma.gov](http://weststockbridge-ma.gov). Town reports will also be on the website and handed to voters as they arrive at the meeting. They will also be available at the annual town election and at the town library.

The annual town election will be held in the Town Offices gymnasium on Monday, May 8, from 10 am until 7 pm. If you qualify for an absentee ballot for the election, or if you have any questions, please contact Town Clerk Ronni Barrett at (413) 232-0300, ext. 300, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30 to 3:30 pm.



## Annual Town Budget and Warrant Highlights FY 2024

By Kathleen Keresey, Select Board Chair



### To the Townspeople of West Stockbridge:

The Select Board and Finance Committee have worked extensively with the various town departments to control costs. Many thanks to those department heads who took great care to be as frugal as possible while striving to maintain the excellent services our townspeople expect.

The FY 24 total budget increased approximately 5% over last year's budget, mostly due to items beyond our control. School assessment, contract requirements, debt service increase, and rising costs for fuel and supplies added to the increase.

Where possible, we rolled over previous expenses, so the tax base wouldn't be charged again for items not spent. We also used free cash to ease capital costs where practical.

We have invested some of the budget to maintain the service level in the Protection, Personal & Property section. We are working on grants to offset those increases. We are also working to forecast and budget in the capital areas and thus avoid greater future capital costs for items like roads and equipment. This year will show a concerted effort to tap into new grant opportunities, as available.

A few articles in the town meeting warrant are new.

Article 10 asks for a vote to establish a special-purpose fund, called the Opioid Stabilization Fund. It allows the town to use money received in litigation against opioid manufacturers or distributors to counteract the opioid crisis affecting many of our communities.

Article 36 asks the town to make the first expenditure from the Community Preservation Fund. The current recommendation from the committee is to appropriate \$22,500 to the Historical Society to renovate two bathrooms in the Old Town Hall.

Article 41 calls for a vote to create an Affordable Housing Trust in West Stockbridge.

We look forward to a discussion of all of these topics at the annual town meeting on May 1.



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

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

# Town Election 2023

## The Candidates: In Their Own Words

The *Local Yokel* invited each candidate for a contested town office on May 8 to provide a written statement, limited to 300 words, and a photograph. These are all the statements received by the deadline for publication.



### Kathleen Keresey

#### Candidate for Select Board

I was born and raised in West Stockbridge, a proud fifth-generation resident. Following family tradition, it has been a privilege to serve the town as a Select Board member. As many before me, I have worked hard to help determine how best to shepherd West Stockbridge into the future, while also respecting the town's history and traditions. I hope to continue this work and ask for your support.

Prior to my tenure on the Select Board, I served on the Finance and Vision Committees, experiences which provided important preparation for work with the Select Board. Some highlights from my last three years:

- Overseeing shared-services agreements with the town of Richmond, including paid professional EMT staffing and a shared Fire Department. These shared services make our town safer and stronger, while also saving money.
- Publicly standing in support of town residents of Housatonic who are subject to difficulties in procuring clean water from the Housatonic Water Company.
- Making a concerted effort for public funding, resulting in a Green Communities grant of \$127,000 making our town operations more efficient. During the pandemic, I secured a \$140,000 Shared Streets grant, which allowed our restaurants and cultural institutions to operate outside and offering many improvements to the downtown.
- After a 3-year+ process, the town has identified 15 potential projects to improve overall safety and accessibility in our downtown and we have applied for a Massachusetts Complete Streets grant of up to \$500,000 to cover costs.
- We are near completion on the first Master Plan since 1959, supported by another \$50,000 grant, addressing important issues like open space and recreation, reliable broadband service, transportation, and the pressing need for elderly and affordable housing.

Thank you for your support, as I hope to continue to represent the best interests of the town fairly, independently, and respectfully.



### Jon Piasecki

#### Candidate for Select Board

I am excited to be running for your Select Board. I live in Williamsville. I served on your Conservation Commission and on your Planning Board. My most important town role was as the Official Zucchini Weigher.

I worked as a landscape architect and stone mason for two decades. I pivoted to become a licensed cannabis farmer. It is an absolute blast and has allowed me to contribute financially to the new Zucchini Festival!

I love West Stockbridge. I raised my kids here. I think our town is the best place to live in the Berkshires. But COVID has taken a toll. The unity and civility I recall has abruptly diminished. One business is vacant now. A number are struggling. We miss the restaurants.

The downtown schism requires new solutions because sadly, the direction of the current Select Board leadership has utterly failed. We have a lawsuit. Select Board actions have negatively impacted businesses. A sizable portion of our residents are burdened by their taxes. Some of our older folks need help. We need to draw and retain more young families. We need employment and opportunity. Traffic problems plague all our roads. There needs to be space for blue-collar working folks as well as for the wealthy.

We have so much in common and so much collective creativity. Our history is a guide. Old-school New England civility can still be spoken here. Mutual respect, caring for our neighbors, appreciating the humanity of others, and creating a level playing field in town government without preference will help. These will be my guiding principles to try to resolve the current divide, and they will provide a road map to my tenure should you be kind enough to elect me to your Select Board. I humbly ask for your vote on May 8. Thank you.

# Annual Town Election

## May 8, 2023

Elected Office	Term Length	Incumbent (I)/Challenger (C)
Moderator (1)	1 year	Eugene Dellea
Select Board (1)	3 years	Kathleen Keresey (I) vs. Jon Piasecki (C)
Board of Assessors (1)	3 years	Michelle Laramee-Jenny
Finance Committee (2)	3 years	Robert Salerno Steve Sautman
Planning Board (1)	5 years	Christopher Tonini
Board of Health (1)	3 years	David Finck
Library Trustee (1)	3 years	Andrew Potter
Cemetery Commission (1)	3 years	Mary Korte Kinmond
Tree Warden (1)	3 years	Andrew Fudge
Constables (5)	3 years	Karl Cooper Wayne Cooper Elizabeth DiGrigoli Paul Faggioni, Sr.

*You're Invited . . .*

**Community Preservation Committee Town Meeting**  
**Tuesday, June 6, 2023, 6 pm**

Town Offices Gymnasium  
 Join us for an informal informative meeting  
*We hope to see you there!*

property. The updated bylaw would allow a detached structure of limited size, within a limited distance from the main dwelling.

When the Planning Board has a draft of all of their changes, Dana will forward them to the Select Board for review.

The Master Plan Committee has a draft Plan, which includes an Open Spaces & Recreational Plan, thanks to the assistance of the Community Compact Grant and the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. The Master Plan will also require public input. Dana said that there is a need for a paid consultant to take the lead and give a final push to get this completed.

Dana informed the Board that the Planning Board has also been working on revising the Sub-Division Control Regulations. The document is almost complete and will need to be adopted by the Planning Board.

**Affordable Housing Trust Fund – Andy Potter**

Andy Potter requested that the Select Board include an article on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant to adopt Chapter 44, Section 55C, the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. The Town may use funds from this Trust to create housing on Town owned property. The Trust Fund can provide money for building new housing, rehab existing housing and renter insurance for low-income families. The funds can build up over time and the Trustees could also work alongside the Master Plan Committee on housing issues in Town.

The Trustees are an independent board, appointed by the Select Board consisting of 5 voting members including one Select Board. The Town Administrator will serve as an ex-officio member.

The Board agreed this was a good idea and Marie will include this article in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

**Select Board Speak:**

Andy Krouss informed the Board that he attended a meeting of the Municipal Digital Equity Planning Board and Berkshire Regional Planning Commission in regards to broadband. Several towns are applying for grant money together as a joint application to assist in improving broadband locally. He will keep the Board updated.

Kathleen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andy Krouss at 7:32 PM.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen Yes  
Andy Krouss Yes  
Andy Potter Yes

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie Y. Ryan*

Marie Y. Ryan  
Town Administrator

# Timmons Landscaping & Tree

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- Fall & Spring Cleanups
- Building & Maintaining Gardens
- Firewood

# Merger Model Under Consideration for Berkshire Hills and Southern Berkshire School Districts

*By Andy Potter, RSDPB Representative*

The Regional School District Planning Board (RSDPB), composed of community members from the Berkshire Hills Regional School District (BHRSD) and the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD), is diligently working toward strengthening public education across the eight towns it represents. The RSDPB, formed in early 2020 in accordance with Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 71, Section 14, has been actively engaged in conducting research, soliciting feedback from the community, and exploring collaboration and consolidation possibilities.

In April 2022, the RSDPB voted 16 to 6 to continue developing a merger model recommended by their research team. The proposed merger model entails combining the BHRSD and SBRSD into a single pre-K–12 district while maintaining the existing elementary and middle schools. However, the plan also involves creating a new merged 9–12 high school to be built on the Great Barrington campus. This proposed consolidation would streamline and optimize educational resources across the eight towns, ensuring that students receive the best possible education.

A key focus of the RSDPB is to enhance Career Vocational and Technical Education (CVTE) opportunities for students in South County. Currently, South County has only two Chapter 74 CVTE programs, namely automotive and horticulture, both offered at Monument Mountain, and serving approximately 47 students. In contrast, North County and Central County boast more than 500 students enrolled in Chapter 74 CVTE programs. The RSDPB believes a merged district could significantly expand the CVTE offerings in South County, potentially offering six to eight comprehensive CVTE programs that would cater to local workforce needs, student interest, available partners, space requirements, and earning capacity.

To further develop their educational vision, the RSDPB has been working with skilled facilitators, supported by the Barr Foundation, to gather input from community members. Through site visits, interviews, focus groups, and community gatherings, the facilitators have been seeking input on the strengths and gaps of the two districts, as well as exploring opportunities for collaboration and innovation. The RSDPB held an interactive in-person community session at the Sheffield Senior Center on January 21, with a second session held at the Great Barrington Senior Center on March 18. A larger community meeting is targeted for mid-May, providing ample opportunities for community engagement and input.

The RSDPB has also been actively working on the governance and operational provisions of an 8 Town regional agreement. The finance subcommittee has been analyzing various options for assessment methodologies for operating and capital costs and is presented recommended approaches for consideration to the full board in the first week of April. The timeline for a board vote has been adjusted to May/June due to the complexity of the assessment methodology work. This timing aligns with the recommendation of Select Board members to present the merger recommendation to voters at special town meetings in the fall, allowing sufficient time for presentation and discussion.

The RSDPB remains committed to its mission of strengthening public education across the eight towns by exploring opportunities for collaboration, consolidation, and innovation. The proposed merger model and focus on enhancing CVTE opportunities aim to provide students in South County with a comprehensive and robust education that prepares them for success in the workforce and beyond. As the RSDPB continues its work, community engagement and input remain crucial in shaping the future of education in the region.

West Stockbridge is represented on the board by Sarah Bourla, Marie Ryan, and Andy Potter.

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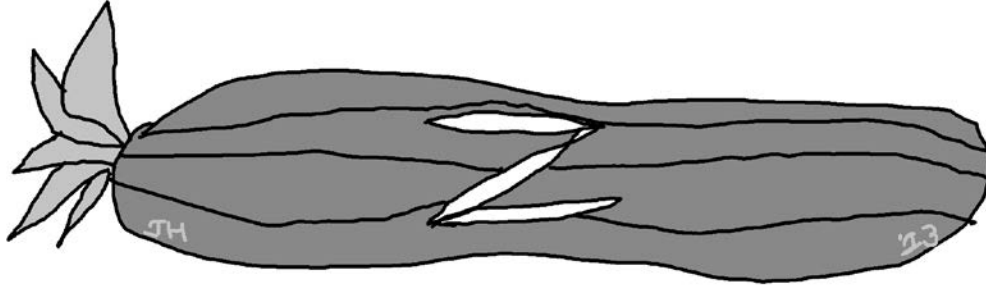


**Monday to Saturday 10am to 9pm  
Sunday Noon to 6pm**

*When you drink, plan ahead and do not drive !!*



# It's Back!



## 2023 West Stockbridge Zucchini Festival

### Zucchini Festival Fact Sheet

**What?** A great community day and evening of ZUCCHINI FUN!

**When?** August 12, 2023

**Where?** Downtown West Stockbridge on Depot and Center Streets

**Why?** To celebrate the zucchini and our wonderful community!

**How to help:** Contact us at [wszucchinifestival2023@gmail.com](mailto:wszucchinifestival2023@gmail.com)

#### VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR ALL ASPECTS OF THE FESTIVAL:

- Creative minds: building unique games, signs, etc.
- Acquiring donations
- Ticket sales
- Setting up tents and games the night before the event
- Cleanup crew
- Directing parking

Be part of your community pre-Festival and day of Festival!  
Any time you can give is welcome!

WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL HELP, TOO! Please mail us your contribution:

Town of West Stockbridge Zucchini Festival  
Attention: Cultural Council  
21 State Line Road  
West Stockbridge, MA 01266

*THANK YOU!*

### CALL FOR ARTISTS! FOOD VENDORS!

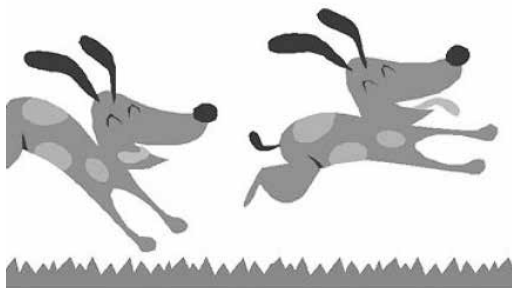
#### SELLERS OF ALL FUN OR UNIQUE ITEMS!

Reserve space now for a booth at the Zucchini Festival in West Stockbridge on August 12, 2023:

- Open to all Berkshire craftspeople, artists, and vendors
- We are looking for a variety of vendors selling fun and/or unique items
- Anything related to zucchini especially welcome
- Booth fees: \$100 for 10 × 10 space; food court \$250
- If received by June 1, booth fee \$75; food court \$225
- Note: West Stockbridge businesses and residents have priority
- Location: Downtown West Stockbridge: vicinity of Depot and Center Streets

For booth registration information,  
email [wszucchinifestival2023@gmail.com](mailto:wszucchinifestival2023@gmail.com).

# Parks & Recreation: Dog Park Update



A few months ago, Parks & Rec reached out to the community about adding a Dog Park and Community Garden to the town grounds. We asked for volunteers to help start a new committee to manage these two projects with the help and resources of Parks & Rec. The Community Garden did

not get any response, and we have decided to table our efforts on that front for now. However, the Dog Park has piqued quite a bit of interest.

A handful of people have volunteered to be part of the new committee to head up this project, but more help is needed. We are reaching out again to see if two or three more people are interested in starting up the new Dog Park Committee.

Parks & Rec has already done quite a bit of research on dog parks. And one of our members (JP Bosacrino) is also a member of the Community Preservation Committee. He shared the idea with the rest of that committee, and the other members have shown interest.

Please email Parks and Rec at [weststockbridgeparks@gmail.com](mailto:weststockbridgeparks@gmail.com) if you would be willing to lend a hand in this new project.

The Parks & Rec Team



## May History Quiz Question:

Before electricity and smart refrigerators that alert you when you need milk and dump ice cubes out of the front door, keeping food cold was a challenge. Rural areas had outdoor cold cellars, but towns rarely had the space for an outdoor cold cellar and tried to keep perishables cool in the basement. Throughout the 19th century, ice blocks were an important commodity for food preservation and summer relief. By the early 20th century, before electricity, the icebox became a popular kitchen appliance. An early refrigerator, using blocks of delivered ice, kept milk and meat cool, particularly in the summer.

Harvesting ice blocks to supply the iceboxes could be a profitable business, especially in the warmer months. Fresh water and proximity to a railroad were key to a successful ice business, and West Stockbridge had both. Where were our three known icehouses?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)

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



**West Stockbridge  
Historical Society**  
Incorporated in 1994

# Berkshire Lyme Alliance Meetings Planned

*Ticks Are Pandemic: Learn How to Survive Them!*

Please note that 68% of TICKS, ANY SIZE, carry disease. There are 100 strains of Lyme disease in the United States, more than 300 Lyme strains worldwide, and more than 350 co-infections, as well as parasites, pathogens, and viruses, many yet to be named.

## Prevention Is Key

Learn how to protect yourself against tick bites.

## Learn What to Do If Bitten

Know when and how to safely remove a tick yourself, if not embedded, and if embedded to have it removed by a professional.

## Never Throw a Tick Away

Instead, learn how to preserve your tick and send it in for analysis to UMass Lab ([www.tickreport.com](http://www.tickreport.com)). What the tick was carrying can save you time and money if you were infected by informing you what you need to be treated for.

## Get the Facts

Bull's-eye rashes appear only 35% of the time. Rashes can have all kinds of shapes and sizes. Photograph all changes in your body. Document all symptoms. It is information for determining treatment.

## Have a Plan in Place Before You Get Bitten

Determine which ER to go to for tick removal or which Lyme-literate medical professional you will see. You can find Lyme-literate doctors at [lymenet.org](http://lymenet.org), [ilads.org](http://ilads.org), or [lymediseaseassociation.org](http://lymediseaseassociation.org), or email [berkshirelyme@yahoo.com](mailto:berkshirelyme@yahoo.com).

Learn treatment protocols for healing swiftly to avoid chronic Lyme disease and other tickborne illnesses multiplying inside you.

## Upcoming Berkshire Lyme Alliance Meetings at the Pittsfield Public Library

Wednesdays, 6–8 pm: May 10 upstairs in the Athenaeum Room and June 14 in the library's auditorium at 1 Wendell Ave., Pittsfield, MA. *First to arrive wins the door prize!*

Contact: Elizabeth Kulas at (413) 443-5348.



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## West Stockbridge Historical Society

### *Saint-Saëns, Stewart and the BSO A Personal Discovery*

Friday, May 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

West Stockbridge Historical Society  
Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street  
West Stockbridge, Massachusetts



A presentation, with music, by **Ronald Barron**, retired Principal Trombonist of the Boston Symphony. This research highlighted connections in the evolution of bands and orchestras in the United States.



## Community News & Events

### Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, May 14, the Stockbridge Grange will serve a takeout-only dinner at the Grange Hall, 51 Church Street, Stockbridge. The dinner will be roast pork with chocolate cream and lemon meringue pies for dessert. Cost is \$15. PLEASE ORDER BY FRIDAY, MAY 14. To place an order, call (413) 243-1298 or (413) 443-4352. Pickup time is 12 to 1:30 pm.

### Council on Aging

We will have our next Council on Aging lunch at noon on Wednesday, May 12. Weather permitting, we may be outside, so bring a chair and your lunch. If it is too cold, we will meet in the Town Offices Community Room. We will look for you then.

### 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.

### Get the Facts About Ticks

Learn how to protect yourself against tick bites, what to do if bitten, and more. Berkshire Lyme Alliance meetings, Berkshire Athenaeum, 1 Wendell Ave., Pittsfield, Wednesdays, 6-8 pm, May 10 and June 14. Contact: Elizabeth Kulas, (413) 443-5348.

*Send your notices for Community News & Events  
to the Local Yokel,*

*P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266,  
email [info@thelocalyokel.org](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org), or visit [thelocalyokel.org](http://thelocalyokel.org).*



*Happy 75th  
Anniversary*



*Angie & John Korte  
May 8*

*We Love You!  
Your Family*





# Building a More Climate Resilient West Stockbridge

By Joanna Nadeau, Weston & Sampson, Inc.

Spring showers, flooding, and dry summers all make maintaining yards and roads difficult. They also cause problems for our wetlands and waterways. Richmond and West Stockbridge are developing an action plan to identify locations for nature-based solutions to mitigate flooding, now and in the future, across both communities. *Your input on the draft plan and proposed solutions will be needed soon. Please sign up today at <https://tinyurl.com/RWSSignup> for future updates and to receive notice of a public presentation in May.*

How we manage our landscapes can be effective, not just in your yard but for the health of our community. Using landscaping techniques with nature-based solutions can support pollinators, improve water quality, and reduce road and waterfront erosion while helping you save on maintenance.

As you tidy up your yard from winter debris and beautify your landscape for the upcoming summer months, consider making it a climate resilient, nature-based lawn and yard. Many suggestions on climate resilient landscaping were included in recent "Landscaping for Climate Change" webinars. To receive the slide deck or the link to the recorded webinars, contact Alison Dixon at [adixon@hvatoday.org](mailto:adixon@hvatoday.org) or call (413) 298-7024.



The webinars were offered by Housatonic Valley Association, Mass Audubon, and Weston & Sampson, Inc. as part of a climate resilience project led by Richmond and West Stockbridge. This project is generously funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Grant program that helps cities and towns plan for climate change and implement projects to build local resiliency. For more information about the MVP program, visit <https://resilientma.mass.gov/mvp/>.

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For Residents of:

Alford Becket Egremont Great Barrington Lee Lenox Monterey Mount Washington New Marlborough  
Dalton Otis Richmond Sandisfield Sheffield Stockbridge Tyringham Washington West Stockbridge

**When:** Saturday, May 20th, 2023, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

**Where:** Lee Wastewater Treatment Plant  
379 Pleasant Street, Lee, MA, 01233

## What to Bring

### From The Yard/Garden

Pesticides, Fungicides  
Herbicides  
Insect Sprays  
Killers  
Muriatic Acid  
Flea Powder  
No-Pest Strips  
Chemical Fertilizers  
Lighter Fluid  
Moth Balls

### From The Workbench

Rust Proofers  
Wood Preservatives  
Wood Strippers & Stains  
Paint Thinners  
Lead & Oil-Based Paint  
Varnish  
Full Aerosol Cans  
Sealants  
Adhesives  
Solvents

### From The House

Drain Cleaners  
Oven Cleaners  
Floor Cleaners  
Metal Polish  
Arts & Crafts Supplies  
Photo Chemicals  
Chemistry Kits  
Rechargeable Batteries

### From The Garage

Fuels/Gasoline/Kerosene  
Brake & Transmission Fluids  
Car Wax, Polish  
Engine Degreaser/Motor Oil  
Swimming Pool Chemicals  
Driveway Sealer  
Antifreeze  
Car-Lead Acid Batteries

### Mercury Products:

Thermometers  
Thermostats  
Other mercury Rodent  
Button Batteries

### **DO NOT BRING**

**Latex Paint, Standard Batteries, Asbestos, Fireworks & Explosives, Ammunition, Construction Debris, Propane/Gas Cylinders, Smoke Detectors, Radioactive Material, Fire Extinguishers, Fluorescent Lamps, Electronics, PCB's, Medications, Medical Wastes, Medical Sharps**

### **Pre-Registration is required.**

Please register online at [www.tritownhealth.org](http://www.tritownhealth.org)

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

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## May Donor Roll Call

Bill Loeb

John Tremblay & Eileen Quinn

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.)

# Public Library Brings Back Museum and Cultural Passes for Patrons

*By Andrew Potter, Library Board of Trustees*

The West Stockbridge Public Library is thrilled to announce the return of Museum and Cultural Passes for library patrons. Made possible by the generous support of the Friends of the West Stockbridge Public Library and a grant from the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, this program provides access to various institutions and parks in the region.

Library patrons can now enjoy complimentary access to a wide range of cultural attractions and natural parks with the Museum and Cultural Passes program. The 2023 program offers passes to these institutions and parks:

- ✓ Berkshire Botanical Garden
- ✓ Berkshire Museum
- ✓ Clark Art Institute
- ✓ Hancock Shaker Village
- ✓ Mass MoCa
- ✓ Norman Rockwell Museum
- ✓ DCR Mass State Parks (free day parking)
- ✓ Trustees of Reservations properties
- ✓ Chesterwood
- ✓ The Mount
- ✓ TurnPark Art Space in West Stockbridge

To qualify for the Museum and Cultural Passes, patrons must have a library account and be older than age 18. One pass may be borrowed per family per day, allowing families to enjoy these cultural experiences together. Passes are loaned for two days and must be returned to the library before it opens on the due date to avoid late fees. A \$10 late fee will be assessed daily for overdue passes, and patrons are responsible for the replacement cost if a pass is lost.

The West Stockbridge Public Library is proud to offer this program, encouraging community members to explore and appreciate the rich cultural heritage of the region. The Museum and Cultural Passes help patrons learn, discover, and create lasting memories with their families and friends. For more information about the Museum and Cultural Passes program and other offerings at the library, visit our website at [www.weststockbridgepl.org](http://www.weststockbridgepl.org) or contact the library at (413) 232-0300, ext. 308, or [weststockbridgelibrary@gmail.com](mailto:weststockbridgelibrary@gmail.com).

About the West Stockbridge Public Library

The West Stockbridge Public Library is a community hub for education, recreation, and exploration. With a wide range of programs and resources, the library serves as a valuable resource for the West Stockbridge community, offering opportunities for learning, discovery, and enrichment for all ages. The library is supported by the Friends of the West Stockbridge Public Library, a dedicated group of volunteers, and grants from local agencies like the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

<b>Local yokel</b>	<p>Pick up a copy <b>FREE</b> AS ALWAYS at these locations around town:</p> 	<p>Berkshire Bank Charles H. Baldwin &amp; Sons Flourish Market Gallery on Main Library Public Market Town Offices</p>	<p>Or you can choose to have the <i>Local Yokel</i> mailed to you for a minimum annual contribution of \$25.</p>
<b>Outdoor distribution boxes: Visitors' Booth, Baldwin Hardware, Shaker Mill Books, The Floor Store, &amp; the Transfer Station</b>			



## History Quiz Answer:

West Stockbridge has five freshwater ponds or lakes (plus the Williams River and numerous streams). Two have good access to the railroad or the main streets. Ice was harvested from the ponds, cut into blocks, separated with sawdust, and stored in an icehouse until ready to be shipped.

Many farmers likely harvested ice from small ponds on their property for personal use. The earliest known town building identified specifically as an icehouse is on the 1855 Woodford map. It was located on Albany Street, in the lot currently housing Soma Catering and Flourish Market and adjacent to the railroad tracks. There are no remains of the structure or foundation, and we don't have a record of who owned it or sold the ice.

On the northwest corner of Crane Pond, buried in the weeds, are the remnants of a large icehouse that once harvested from the pond and shipped via the railroad. We don't have a record of who owned and managed it, but it was likely part of the Keresey farm that operated on that property.

The third icehouse was located right on Main Street, just east

of the bridge over the Shaker Mill Pond dam. The building on the left in the photo was also an early icehouse. The structure shows up on the 1855 map. The house next to it is dated circa 1848, and it's likely the icehouse was built around that time. We don't know when the building came down or what caused its collapse. It possibly lasted until the 1920s when ice harvesting was beginning to be replaced by refrigeration.

The availability of ice and icehouses helped our local dairy industry in the early 1900s. Fresh milk could be stored and shipped out (but that's another history question). By the 1930s, electricity became available in homes. Ice harvesting, delivery by the iceman, and the home icebox all ended. The icehouses are all gone now, with no signs of that earlier era.



*Ice Cutting*



*Ice House at 1 Main St*

*Photos courtesy of West Stockbridge Historical Society*



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*.  
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<b>Town Government Boards and Commissions, Phone Directory, and Office Hours</b>				
<b>Town Offices Main Number (413) 232-0300 • Fax 232-7195</b>				
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 Keresev 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

**THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE  
CHAMBER PLAYERS**

# *Spring Concert*

**Old Town Hall, Main Street, West Stockbridge  
Sunday, May 28, 2023 at 6 pm**

**Catherine Hudgins, clarinet • William Hudgins, clarinet  
Sheila Fiekowsky, violin • Lisa Ji Eun Kim, violin  
Mary Ferrillo, viola • Daniel Getz, viola  
Oliver Aldort, cello • Adam Esbensen, cello**

**Eric Shmelonis:**

*For the Love of Music: An Invocation Dedicated to Stuart Kuller*

**Bohuslav Martinů:**

*Serenade for Violin, Viola, Cello, and Two Clarinets*

**Johannes Brahms:**

*String Sextet No. 2 in G major, Op. 36*

**Johann Sebastian Bach:**

*Largo from Sonata No. 3 in C major for Solo Violin*

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

**May Calendar of Events**

Due to the coronavirus health situation, some meetings and events may be canceled, postponed, or held online. We are including all information available to us up until publication, but readers should check with the office, department, or organization for the latest information.

5/1	Annual Town Meeting	6 pm	Gym, Town Offices, 21 State Line Road
5/7	Plant Exchange meeting	2-4 pm	Community Room, Town Offices
5/8	Annual Town Election	10 am-7 pm	Gym, Town Offices, 21 State Line Road
5/9	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices, 21 State Line Road
5/10	Friends of the Library committee meeting	3:30 pm	Community Room, Town Offices
5/12	Council on Aging	11 am	See Community News for details
5/14	Mother's Day		
5/14	Stockbridge Grange takeout dinner		See Community News for details
5/15	*** Deadline for the next Local Yokel ***		Send to <a href="mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org">info@thelocalyokel.org</a>
5/20	Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day		Pre-registration required: See flyer with details in this issue
5/22	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices, 21 State Line Road
5/25	WS Farmers Market: Opening Day	3-6 pm	The Foundry Green, Harris St.
5/25	Shavuot begins at sundown		
5/28	WS Chamber Players' Spring Concert	6 pm	Old Town Hall, Main Street
5/29	Memorial Day: Town offices closed		