

Local yokel

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

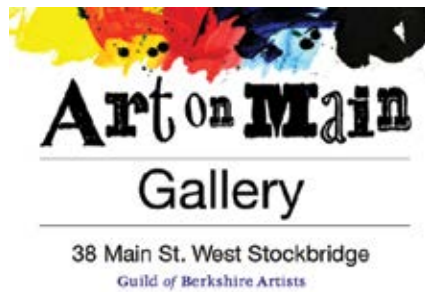
West
Stockbridge
December
2023

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005

happy holidays!



Walking Bridge all decked out. Photo by Emily Weiland



Small Works Shows

at ART on MAIN GALLERY, 38 Main Street
Continues in December: weekends through December 24
Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 11 am to 4 pm

The Guild of Berkshire Artists is presenting two **Small Works** shows in December 2023. The first, “**Small Works 1**,” began November 17 and runs through Sunday, December 3, 2023.

ART on MAIN Gallery is also participating in the West Stockbridge Holiday Market, along with other town merchants, artisans, and the Thorne family artists, who will present a variety of works in the Old Town Hall on Saturday, December 2, from 10 am to 4 pm.

“**Small Works 2**” begins Friday, December 8, and runs through Sunday, December 24, with a reception for the artists on Saturday, December 9.

Small Works 2 features abstract works in cold wax by Carolyn Abrams, ethereal landscapes rendered in oils by Lori Bradley, smoke-fired ceramics by Barbara Patton, encaustics by Amy Pressman, and birds in nature photography by Susan Sabino.

SMALL WORKS ARTISTS EXHIBITING at Art on Main:

December 1–3: Karen Carmean, Marion Grant, Nancy Harrod, Sarah Morrison, Margie Skaggs

December 8–24: Carolyn Abrams, Lori Bradley, Barbara Patton, Amy Pressman, Susan Sabino



top (left to right): Susan Sabino, Photography
Carolyn Abrams, Cold wax
Barbara Patton, Ceramics
bottom (left to right): Amy Pressman, "Diptych," encaustic
Lori Bradley, "Foggy Day," oils

Select Board Meeting Minutes

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

Select Board Meeting Minutes October 16, 2023

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

Kathleen opened the meeting at 6 PM.

Approval of Minutes:

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the minutes from September 18, September 28, and October 2, 2023.

All were in favor; minutes approved.

Citizen Speak:

Barry Girdler spoke in support of continuing hybrid Select Board.

In Memoriam for Bob Burke- Bernie Fallon, Past Select Board Member

Bernie spoke in remembrance of Bob Burke who recently passed away. He said that Bob was an inspiration to everyone and had

done so much for the Town through his years living here. He was a Selectmen for many years, a little league coach, served on several committees in Town, and was a friend to everyone and will be missed.

Department of Public Works Update - Director of Public Works Curt Wilton

HIGHWAY:

Summer Paving

Willson Road (Mill and Fill Asphalt Resurfacing): Total cost for project \$223,428.90.

State-Aid Chapter 90 allocation was \$160,000 and remaining balance of \$63,428.90 Town cost.

Smith Road/Woodruff and Maple View Drive (Chip-Seal, oil, and stone treatment): Total cost for project \$77,000; all costs funded through the State W.R.R.P.

Fall Paving

...continued on page 5


Wishing West Stockbridge
Peace, Happiness and
Health this Holiday
Season and Beyond


Welcome to
Loeb's
FOODTOWN
of Lenox, MA



Bernie and Isabel
Have a great day

WEST
STOCKBRIDGE



Sparkles



SUNDAY
DECEMBER 3RD
BEGINS at 4:30PM

Everyone is invited to meet in front of the West Stockbridge Village Congregational Church, to join Santa, Mrs. Claus, and a gathering of North Pole elves in a joyful, caroling parade to the town hall! This will be followed by a tree lighting, hot cocoa, and gifts from Santa for the kids!

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

...continued from page 3

Due to the heavy and frequent rains throughout the summer months, all contractors have a workload backup. For these reasons we have not begun our paving. The paving and resurfacing procedure of the following roads, Iron-Ore/Iron-Mine/Silver-Mine/ Bo-Bo Link/ Cone-Hill, and Furnace Roads have not yet begun. The Highway crew has been working in those neighborhoods in preparation for the start of the paving project. The tree canopy is near completion, and the leveling/shimming along selected areas will be taking place a.s.a.p. Storm water catch basins and waterways have been repaired and updated. Beginning in the next week or so, we will be milling the bridge deck on Cone Hill Road in preparation for the 1 ½' asphalt overlay. It is our intention to continue with scheduling these roads before the asphalt season ends by Thanksgiving.

CEMETERY:

Work continues with the removal of some large and dangerous pine trees along our cemetery properties. The mowing/trimming and general care of our cemeteries is soon to be completed for the season as winter approaches. This past summer we were able to budget \$8,800 for the purpose of our stone and monument repairs. This funding allowed us to hire some part-time employees (Owen and Evan Alfonso) who have made over 200 repairs and adjustments to these pieces in our village cemetery.

PARKS/RECREATION:

The committee is working very hard and is committed to all the Town playgrounds/beach/playing fields and community events. One piece of equipment that has been updated was the large 4ft-quarter pipe ramp in the Skate Park Complex. This popular ramp was over 15 years old and was starting to show serious signs of wear. Through the help of one of the original Park designers, David Eddy and his son Brian have disassembled and rebuilt the entire ramp, saving the Town thousands of dollars and offering many more years of pleasure.

SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION:

We have finally worked out all the kinks in our Bottles/Cans compactor unit. The unit now gives us the ability to compact more tightly, and this allows us to increase the tonnage in the container which will cut down on the trucking frequencies which cost the Town \$200 every time a container gets pulled out. There are no more \$165-monthly rental fees as we now own all the equipment. This is good news as the cost per ton to dispose our trash went from \$93/ton to \$128/ton. I will have some actual cost savings within a few months.

Dog Park Committee- Michael Bolognino and Jana Sax

Michael explained to the Board that he and seven other residents have been investigating the potential of having a dog park in Town. They would like to have the support of the Board by becoming an appointed Advisory Committee which can then research the possibility of a dog park as representatives of the Town. Michael then gave their mission statement as follows:

Mission Statement

In partnership with the West Stockbridge Select Board and related Town Departments, Boards, and Committees, the West Stockbridge Dog Park Committee shall:

- Estimate costs for the park’s design, construction, insurance, and maintenance.
- Identify funding sources and secure funding for the dog park’s design, construction, and ongoing maintenance.
- Determine options and a final location for the park.
- Oversee the design, construction, and maintenance of the park.
- Research, establish, post, and maintain rules and regulations to promote safe park use.
- Create a plan for the long-term oversight and maintenance of the park, without creating a new tax burden on the town.
- Advise public officials, boards, committees, and residents about the benefits of dog parks.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to appoint the following residents to an Advisory Dog Park Committee:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Jana Sax | Lorri Santhay |
| Michael Bolognino | Paige Orloff |
| Heather Hicks | Renee McCormick |
| Roni Kramer | Sharon Vidal |

All were in favor.

Andy Potter also suggested the Committee look into the grassy area next to the Card Pond parking lot as well as applying to the Community Preservation Commission for funds in the future.

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Representative (BRTA)

Marie explained to the Board that a requirement of the Town being a member of BRTA is that West Stockbridge have a representative on the BRTA Board. Andy Potter volunteered to be the representative. Kathleen and Andy Krouss agreed and thanked Andy Potter.

Move Meeting to Remote Only in November:

Kathleen stated that in the past the Board had discussed moving the meeting during the winter months to fully remote due to the increase in COVID and Flu cases as well as poor weather issues. All agreed to keep the meetings hybrid.

Select Board Speak:

Andy Potter urged the voters to attend the upcoming Special Town Meeting on Monday, October 23, at 6 PM at Town Hall to vote on the 8 Town Regional School District Merger.

Kathleen made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session and not to return to open session:

“Anticipated executive session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(2), to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel (Police Chief).”

Roll Call Vote:

- | | |
|-------------|-----|
| Andy Krouss | Yes |
| Andy Potter | Yes |
| Kathleen | Yes |

The Board adjourned open session and entered into Executive Session at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan
Marie Y. Ryan
Town Administrator

...continued on page 7

~2023~

West Stockbridge Holiday Market

Saturday
Dec. 2nd
10a-4p



9 Main St.
Historical
Society

Molly Boxer Hand Sewn Clothing • Amy Butterworth Ceramics
• John Elling Sculpture • Lily Thorne Davenport Home Objects
• Larisa Garrett Art • John Hartcorn Furniture & Design • Caitlin
Hersey Hand Sewn Clothing • Thom Lipiczky Woodworking &
Design • Elizabeth Post Woolen Treasures • Peter Thorne Furniture
• Sarah Thorne Wreaths • Pour Things Coffee & Baked Goods

*Plus, enjoy special West Stockbridge merchant
events, sales & more holiday fun all day long!*

Festivities begin at dusk *Fri, Dec. 1* Town Luminary Walk

**Select Board Meeting Minutes
October 30, 2023**

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

Kathleen opened the meeting at 6 PM.

Approval of Minutes:

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the minutes from October 16, 2023.

All were in favor, minutes approved.

Citizen Speak:

None.

Introduction of New EMT Tanelle Ciempa- Austin White

Austin White, EMT Coordinator, introduced the new EMT Tanelle Ciempa to the Board. She has been an EMT for 3 years and on the Fire Department for 6 years. She is currently working on additional certifications which will allow her to assist Fire Chief Steve Traver with inspections.

The Board thanked Austin for hiring Tanelle and thanked Tanelle for joining our Department. Tanelle also thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve the community.

Public Hearing – Transfer of Liquor License for Public Market:

Kathleen opened the Public Hearing. Attorney Mark Brennan introduced himself and his client, Jugpal Singh, the new owner of the Public Market. He explained that Jugpal is asking for approval of a transfer of the Public Market Liquor License from Timothy Walsh. Jugpal has a lease in place with the owner of the building, Bernie Fallon. He also has a purchase and sale agreement with Tim Walsh. Jugpal has owned and operated JB Pipe and Tobacco in Pittsfield for 6 years. He also has over 17 years of experience in retail alcohol sales.

Andy Potter asked if there will be any changes in the operation of the business such as a continued deli counter and grocery sales. Attorney Brennan stated there are no plans for any changes in the business at this time.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve the transfer of the Liquor License to Jugpal Singh.

All in favor, motion approved.

Select Board Speak:

Andy Krouss informed the Board that the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission held a Kick-Off session to move forward on the broadband issues in Berkshire County. They have assigned a representative, Bob Ireland, to West Stockbridge. Andy stressed that the State needs more residents to fill out the survey. Marie will put the link back on the website again to try to get more responses. Andy said the more responses the State receives from our residents, the better they will be able to assist the Town.

Kathleen made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session and not to return to open session:

“Anticipated executive session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(2), to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel (Police Chief).”

Roll Call Vote:

Andy Krouss	Yes
Andy Potter	Yes
Kathleen	Yes

The Board adjourned open session and entered into Executive Session at 6:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan
Town Administrator

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Community News & Events

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

There will be no dinner in December.

Council on Aging

The Richmond/West Stockbridge COA Craft Group will meet at the West Stockbridge Town Offices on the second Tuesday of each month. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 12, at 10 am in the Community Room for a paper folding class making Holiday Ornament Balls. It is such a fun time—come and find out what you are missing! Hope to see you there.

West Stockbridge Plant Exchange

The West Stockbridge Plant Exchange meets on 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.*



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS
TAKE SOME FUN
HOLIDAY PICS
IN OUR
PHOTO BOOTH!

A cartoon character, possibly a beanbag or a similar soft toy, wearing a Santa hat with a pom-pom. The character is holding a sign that says 'HAPPY HOLIDAYS TAKE SOME FUN HOLIDAY PICS IN OUR PHOTO BOOTH!'. The character is standing next to a small, dark-colored toy horse.

Remembering Bob Burke, 1941–2023

By Bernie Fallon

Bob Burke, the longest serving West Stockbridge Select Board member, died recently. He was elected in 1976 and served 18 years.

I remember Bob's great sense of humor and confidence. Growing up as family friends, I played basketball with Bob, rode snowmobiles, and threw baseballs. He was a positive influence growing up and reminded me of TV personality Dick Van Dyke.

I visited Bob twice at Kimball Farms in Lenox the week before he passed away. His body may have been failing, but his confidence and sense of humor were still vibrant. He was holding court, telling story after story. Bob talked about his many positive memories of West Stockbridge with a twinkle in his eye. The loves of his life were his wife Ann and his three girls. Dawn, his oldest, was in my class, and then came Laurie and Tracy.

I think "who Bob was" naturally flowed into "how he was." I remember that the carpets in his house were always spotless. His yard was neatly manicured. He bought a new car every two years and washed it on Saturdays. He was a sharp dresser; he wanted clean and he wanted order.

When Bob saw sewage being dumped directly into the Williams River, he firmly said, "No, this is not acceptable." Bob worked hard for a resolution, but it was voted down more than once. The challenge back then (other than obstinance and simple resistance to change) was maybe because money was tight and the sewer treatment plant would cost.

Persistence eventually paid off, and the vote for the treatment plant passed, probably Bob's most significant accomplishment during his time on the Select Board. Bob became a bridge between the old-time politicians and the inevitable growth and changes ahead. The town's first full-time chief of police was appointed during Bob's run, as well as the first town administrator, which began the long, successful career of Mark Webber.

A baseball coach, an EMT, and a Scoutmaster, Bob worked at New England Telephone (later Verizon), where he had a relationship with National Grid. Through his leadership and insight about the needs of the town, a public restroom was built on property owned by the utility company. This later opened the door to the town buying that plot for a nominal price a few years ago.

Bob loved basketball. He said to me more than once, "I am going to play hoops until I am 40. Then said he'd play until 50. Well, he played until age 67 every Sunday morning in the old Village School gym. I would bet that Bob holds the record for most shots taken in the gym.

He also took a lot of shots from the locals as the town experienced that growth. Remember, this was an era when developer Gordon Rose was investing and making changes in town at a very exciting yet chaotic pace. The change around town disturbed the status quo.

With his great vision, Bob continued to help the town accept big changes with his confidence (and sense of humor) to make West Stockbridge what it is today. He helped build a framework for people in this special town to be successful. Bob Burke was a wonderful guy and a big reason why West Stockbridge is so great today. Thank you, Bob. Rest in peace.



Bob Burke. Photo courtesy of Laurie Burke Mahoney



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.



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
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- Building & Maintaining Gardens
- Firewood



William Negrini

U.S. Army, 1946–1947

Served in
Occupation of Japan

Rank: Private



What influenced you to join the service?

“When I graduated from high school in 1945, I was a marine engineer with the Merchant Marines, helping transport soldiers discharged after the war from France back to the US. I resigned after that assignment, and six months later I was drafted into the army.”

What was a memorable experience?

“I was in Yokohama, Japan, and I went to the store to get some sweets and bumped into Marshall Gaston, a friend from West Stockbridge. He was the chauffeur of General Douglas MacArthur. Marshall took me to Tokyo, where I met and saluted General MacArthur.”

What was an important life lesson you took from your time in the service?

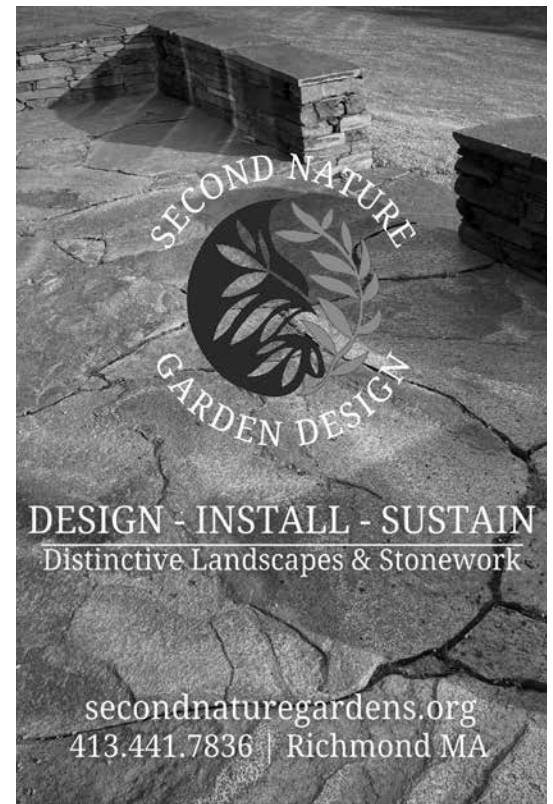
“In the Merchant Marines, I crossed the Atlantic, and in the army, I crossed the Pacific. I saw a lot of the world. Pictured here is the USS *General Morton* transporter ship William sailed, arriving in San Francisco from Yokohama, Japan, via Honolulu in March 1947.”

Life after the service

William went to Kansas City to study plumbing before returning to West Stockbridge. In 1948, he married Lucy Sartori at St. Patrick’s Church. William eventually started his own plumbing business and went on to build a house on Great Barrington Road, across the street from his childhood home. The house cost \$14,000 in 1960, and William and his brother John did much of the construction, including, of course, the plumbing.

An Invitation to West Stockbridge Veterans

Last month, in commemoration of Veteran’s Day, the *Local Yokel* began a series of profiles of local veterans to honor their service. We invite West Stockbridge veterans to share their stories. We plan to continue sharing these profiles as they become available. If interested, please contact Renee McCormick at drreneemccormick@gmail.com or text her at (914) 629-6314 so we can include you in future issues. All it takes is a short meeting to discuss four aspects of your service: *why you joined, a memorable event, what lessons you took away, and life after the service.* We look forward to hearing from you and telling your story!



The New Immigrant Experience: A Unique Collaboration and Concert

By Jeff Nestel-Patt

The audience at the beautifully restored Colonial Theatre in Pittsfield was treated to a moving and memorable concert on Saturday evening, October 21, by the Felipe Salles 18-piece jazz orchestra performing their 90-minute multimedia program, "The New Immigrant Experience." This special event was a collaboration sponsored jointly by the West Stockbridge Historical Society, Berkshire Immigrant Center, and Berkshire Theatre Group.

Inspired by interviews with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, the concert featured the video stories of nine immigrants describing their life experiences since arriving in this country. Music accompanied each of the very personal stories shared with the audience. It was a moving and heartfelt tribute that offered insight into the lives of motivated and ambitious young immigrants who struggle with building the life they want to make for themselves against the realities of an immigration system that throws up roadblocks, making it difficult or impossible to achieve those dreams.

At the reception after the performance, audience members and the musicians both expressed the impact of their personal experiences and the high quality of the accompanying jazz arrangements. It was a unique and impactful evening.

The concert received tremendous support from the Berkshire County business community and other charitable organizations that helped offset the cost of producing and promoting the event.



Photos by John Parker

Santa's Wish List

Dear Readers,

It's that time of year again! This is our 16th annual Santa's Wish List appeal. Last year we distributed \$10,810 to support local organizations and agencies that offer important programs and services to our community.



We hope you will donate to one or more of these great organizations: Friends of the West Stockbridge Library, Pet Partners of the Tri-State Berkshires, West Stockbridge Farmers Market, West Stockbridge Fire and Rescue Services, West Stockbridge Historical Society, West Stockbridge Parks & Recreation, West Stockbridge Plants & Gardens (formerly Beautification), West Stockbridge Zucchini Festival, and, of course, the *Local Yokel*.

These organizations need your help to continue making our town such a special place to live. Your donations are very much appreciated. Gifts of even a few dollars add up and make a real difference.

To donate, use the gift tag at the right, fill out your name and the amount on the reverse side, and mail it with your check or checks to:

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

IMPORTANT: Please make your check out as instructed on the back of the gift tag.

Thanks for your support, and we wish you the happiest of holidays!

The WSLY Staff



To: *Friends of the
West Stockbridge
Library*



To: *The Local Yokel*



To: *Pet Partners of the
Tri-State Berkshires*



To: *Town of West Stockbridge
Parks & Recreation*



To: *Town of West Stockbridge
Plants & Gardens*



To: *Town of West Stockbridge
Zucchini Festival*



To: *West Stockbridge
Farmers Market*



To: *West Stockbridge Fire
and Rescue Services*



To: *West Stockbridge
Historical Society*

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The Local Yokel

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*Pet Partners of the
Tri-State Berkshires*

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Parks & Recreation*

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Zucchini Festival*

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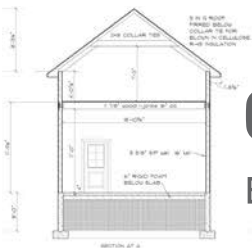
*West Stockbridge
Farmers Market*

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On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky

What's Cookin'?

One of the comforting activities making up for the cold and darkness that descends on us this time of year is being inside cooking! Here on the shores of Majestic Mud Pond, we're avid cooks who enjoy making a wide variety of foods. We also love reading cookbooks and books about food.

As both of my faithful readers will remember, I've written in this column about how the kitchen hearth was often the center of the home. As Stephen Frye, the British actor and writer reminds us, "The word 'hearth' shares its ancestry with 'heart,' just as the modern Greek for 'hearth' is *kardia*, which also means 'heart.'"

In the kitchens before the 19th century, the hearth was usually the area around the fireplace. Sometimes a pot was suspended on an apparatus over the fire. And it might feature a niche created in the stonework around the fire for making bread and other baked goods.

I came across an interesting site (timetoast.com/timelines) that shows a graph illustrating the history of stoves. According to this graph, the first woodburning stove appeared in 1490. (There are no details, but I suspect it was a Tuesday.) Iron stoves show up in 1730, coal stoves in 1833, electric stoves in 1892, and the gas cabinet range stove in 1910. (We had at one point a fully working 1926 Magic Chef six-burner, two-oven gas-fired cooker that was terrific!)

Various types of electric stoves and ovens were common throughout the mid-20th century, competing with gas-fired appliances. The heat was produced by passing electricity through filaments like those metal spirals on the cooktop. This took a lot of "juice," as they say, but back when the electric companies told us the power would soon be "too cheap to meter," energy efficiency was not a concern.

The original home-use microwave oven ("Radarange" by Raytheon) came out in 1946. It was big and expensive. But the first microwave oven with a turntable was introduced by Sharp in the mid-1960s. Microwave ovens heat food by bombarding it with electromagnetic radiation that jiggles the water molecules, causing friction and thus heat. This is not radiation in the sense of radioactivity, so it's perfectly safe. Some folks still think microwave cooking will create mutations.

Two appliances we've recently added to our kitchen are the "air fryer" and the induction cooktop. They both save time and (more importantly) energy. They're highly efficient in terms of the electricity they use.

The air fryer is really just a jazzed-up toaster oven that is a convection oven. That is, it has a fan to circulate the heated air around the food. Commercial kitchens have used these for years because they cook food quickly and evenly. Our little air fryer has become a second oven for us. Food from the freezer to the plate can happen in 10 to 15 minutes. And it can crisp up veggies and proteins without using a lot of fat. We appreciate its ability to produce the Maillard reaction (where food gets that toasty caramelized color), a feature microwave ovens can't match.

And we swapped out our propane-fired cooktop for an induction cooktop. These flat glass-ceramic-surfaced stovetops can boil a pot of pasta water in half the time as a gas flame, and they cool off as quickly when the power is turned down. And the smooth top makes cleaning easy. Professional chefs increasingly prefer these. And they're common throughout Europe where attention to energy efficiency far surpasses our wasteful ways here in the United States.

Induction cooktops use copper coils to generate an electromagnetic field that heats pans quickly and efficiently. The only downside is that not all cookware works on induction tops. Aluminum and copper, for instance, don't respond to the electromagnetic field. You need cookware that a magnet will stick to its bottom. Most modern pans will indicate if they can be used on induction tops. And our trusty old cast-iron pans work just fine too.



Induction stove. <https://pirg.org/edfund/resources/market-new-stove-consider-induction/>

Sending best wishes (to both of you) for a cozy and delicious end of 2023!

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

Girdler Electric

MA Master License 2406 A1

Barry Girdler

owner

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413-237-5957

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Participants at the November class (left to right): Meg Williamson, Cindy Faggioni, Paula Farrell, May McClelland, and Paula Esposito. Photo by John Parker

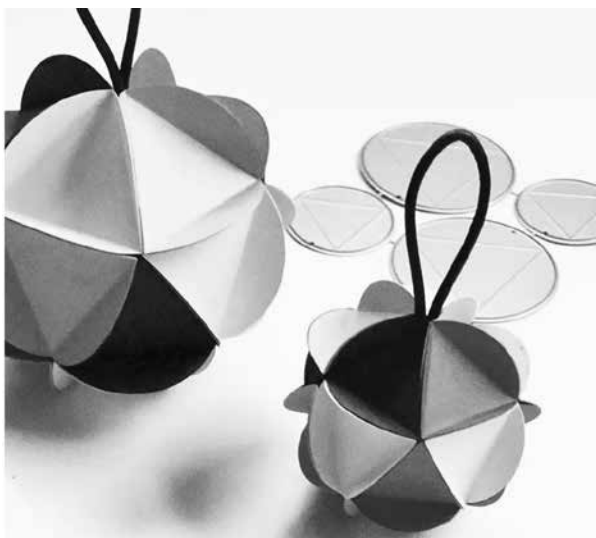
Council on Aging Offers Craft Workshops

By John Parker

The Richmond/West Stockbridge Council on Aging Craft Group is hosting a series of free craft workshops, held monthly in the West Stockbridge Town Offices Community Room. Each workshop features a different craft. A paper-folding class, “Holiday Ornament Balls,” will be the focus of the workshop on Tuesday, December 12, at 10 am.

The classes are led by COA staff member Cindy Faggioni, a physical therapist, who cites the positive effects of making crafts on manual dexterity and the social benefits of older adults coming together to enjoy common interests and share experiences.

Past projects have included making witch hats for Halloween and a tabletop pumpkin centerpiece for Thanksgiving. Following the December meeting making ornament balls, the January craft will be a gingerbread mug.



Holiday ornament balls will be the featured craft on December 12. Photo: source unknown



Cindy Faggioni shows how to do it! Photo by John Parker

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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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December Art Calendar

Guild of Berkshire Artists | BerkshireArtists.org | infoberkshireartists@gmail.com 2023

September 19 - December 23, "Near & Far", Art show at the Colonial Theatre. Featuring 10 works from 8 local artists. See Website for hours.

November 17 - December 3, "Small Works". Reception Nov 18th. Group art show featuring 5 local artists. Art on Main Gallery, West Stockbridge, MA.

December 8 - December 24, "Small Works". Reception December 9th, 2-4pm. Group art show featuring 5 local artists. Art on Main Gallery, West Stockbridge, MA.

December 26, Meet the Artist, 3pm. TBD. Link to watch to be shared on website.

December 29, Art Book Gathering, 10-11am. Share a favorite book, artist, or process.

See www.berkshireartists.org for all the in-person and online events offered by the Guild of Berkshire Artists!

**Happy Holidays
& See You Next Year!**



38 Main Street, West Stockbridge

Small Works

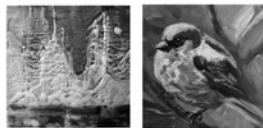
December 8th - December 24th

Amy Pressman | Lori Bradley

Barbara Patton

Carolyn Abrams | Susan Sabino

Reception December 9th



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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>Kathy Korte</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	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>Benjamin Gelb</i>	232-0300	ext. 316	Tues. 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>Tom Beasley</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

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CHAMBER PLAYERS**

Winter Concert

Thursday, December 28, 2023 at 5pm

West Stockbridge Congregational Church, 45 Main Street, West Stockbridge

Brahms: Scherzo de la Sonate FAE

Brahms: Viola Sonata in F minor, Op. 120, No. 1

Beethoven: Violin Sonata No. 1 in D major, Op. 12, No. 1

Mozart: Trio in E-flat major, K. 498, *Kegelstatt*

Catherine Hudgins, clarinet

Sheila Fiekowsky, violin

Daniel Getz, viola

Brian Locke, piano

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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December Calendar of Events	December Calendar of Events			
	12/1	Luminary Walk	Starts at dusk	Downtown
	12/2	Holiday Market	10 am–4 pm	Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street
	12/3	Plant Exchange meeting	2–4 pm	Community Room, Town Offices
	12/3	Sparkles holiday event	4:30 pm	Congregational Church, Town Offices
	12/4	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices, 21 State Line Road
	12/7	Hanukkah begins at sundown		
	12/12	Council on Aging Craft Group meeting	10 am	Community Room, Town Offices
	12/13	Friends of the Library meeting	3:30 pm	Community Room, Town Offices
	12/15	*** Deadline for the next <i>Local Yokel</i> ***		Send to info@thelocalyokel.org
	12/18	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices, 21 State Line Road
	12/21	First Day of Winter		
	12/24	Christmas Eve		
	12/25	Christmas Day: Town Offices closed		
12/26	Kwanzaa begins			
12/28	Chamber Players Winter Concert	5 pm	Congregational Church	