

Local Yokel

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

West
Stockbridge

June
2023



*Flowering trees downtown.
Photo by John Parker*

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005



38 Main St. West Stockbridge
Guild of Berkshire Artists

“TWO FOLK ARTISTS” at ART on MAIN Gallery June 2023

Lou Coco and Jameson Currier, two guild members working in their own unique, colorful, and fanciful folk-art style, will collaborate in showing their work this month at Art on Main Gallery.

Weekends, June 8–18

Reception, Saturday, June 10, 2–4 pm

Both of these artists developed an interest in drawing and painting long before they were able to explore those interests seriously. Both pursued serious careers, Lou at GE and General Dynamics and Jameson at a New York City media company, before venturing into writing and publishing. Both Lou and Jameson are inspired by small towns and rural landscapes in the Berkshires, Catskills, and Hudson Valley.

For example, Jameson’s work *Backyard Gardens* combines clouds, hills, and trees in a flattened distance with a tranquil domestic garden scene, along with rocking chairs on a nearby deck waiting for the couple to sit and enjoy their labor. His colorful palette melds all these scenic elements together.

Lou’s painting *Let’s Dance* shows a fanciful woodland scene with pairs of animals, deer, foxes, and turkeys frolicking to the music, humorously provided by a red-hatted bear on her pink piano. Lou’s work embraces a pointillist style with small brushstrokes of paint dotting the canvas (similar to those of Georges Seurat).

The exhibit “Two Folk Artists” will be open:

- June 8–11, 15–18
- Thursday and Friday, 4–7 pm
- Saturday and Sunday 11–4 pm

Later in June at Art on Main Gallery, “Reflections,” a juried show open to all guild artists, will run from June 22 through July 9, with a reception on Saturday, June 24, from 2 to 4 pm.



Jameson Currier, *Backyard Gardens*, acrylic on wood panel



Lou Coco, *Let's Dance*, Original medium: Oil

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 July will 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 March 23, 2023

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

Kathleen called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the minutes from March 6, 2023.

All were in favor, minutes approved.

Citizen Speak:
None.

Approval of warrant for Annual Town Meeting

Marie read the subject of each article on the 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve the Special Financial Articles in the 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant. There was no discussion.

All were in favor, articles approved.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the Special Articles in the 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant. There was no discussion.

All were in favor, articles approved.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the Standard Business of the Town Articles in the 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant. There was no discussion.

All were in favor, articles approved.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the FY24 Budget Articles with a change to include a \$1000 increase in the Select Board Salary line item for a newly elected Select Board Member, rather than a \$1000 increase for all members as suggested by the Finance Committee.

All were in favor, articles approved with the noted change to the Select Board salary.

...continued on page 7

The West Stockbridge Historical Society presents:

WEST STOCKBRIDGE JAZZ SERIES



PAMELA KNOWLES
with Bob Albanese, Mike O'Brien, and Tim Horner

Saturday, 10 June 2023 - 7:30pm
The Old Town Hall at 9 Main Street
Tickets \$35

 weststockbridgehistory.org
With generous support from West Stockbridge and Alford Egremont Cultural Councils

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!

Celebrating Our 30th Year.

Garden Art, Mobiles, Jewelry, Crafts.

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DAILY 10-5PM SUN: 11-4PM

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2023 Annual Town Meeting and Election Results

By John Parker

The 2023 annual town meeting was held in the Town Offices Gym on Monday, May 1. Turnout included 84 voters, just 7% of the 1,218 registered.

With little discussion, voters approved the FY24 budget of \$6.5 million, an overall increase of approximately 5%, including a \$3.3 million assessment for the Berkshire Hills Regional School District. Other actions taken in the nearly two-hour meeting included establishing an Affordable Housing Trust aimed at attracting young families to the town and helping low- and moderate-income households.

Proposals to change the town clerk and town collector positions from elected to appointed by the Select Board drew vigorous debate and were ultimately tabled for future consideration. The questions remained on the election ballot (which were already printed), but those results are now meaningless because the measures were tabled.

The annual town election was held on May 8. Turnout was 33% with 406 voting of 1,218 registered. In a stunning development, the contest for Select Board between incumbent Kathleen Keresey and challenger Jon Piasecki ended in a tie, the first tie in a Berkshire County municipal election in over a decade. Following state law, a recount was held on Friday, May 19, and the same result was obtained. The process now goes back to square one, with a town caucus to be held on June 12 at 6 pm to select candidates including Keresey, Piasecki, and any others nominated and seconded by registered voters. The election is scheduled for July 17.

Thanks to our sources: Town Administrator Marie Ryan and the Berkshire Eagle.

Special Town Caucus

June 12, 6 pm

At the Town Offices,

21 State Line Road

To choose candidates for the

Select Board

Election to be held July 17



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a copy
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minimum annual
contribution of \$25.

Outdoor distribution boxes: Visitors' Booth, Baldwin Hardware, Shaker Mill Books, The Floor Store, & the Transfer Station

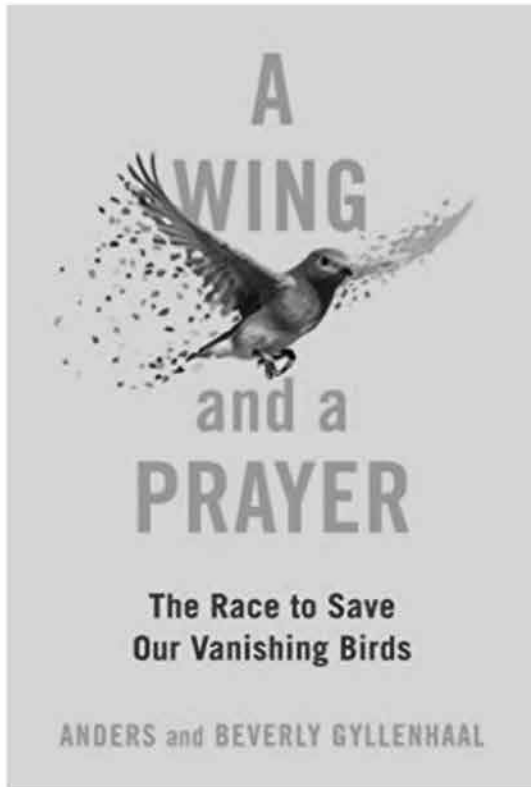
Town Election Results

Moderator	
Eugene Dellea	362
Write-ins	0
Blanks	44
Select Board	
<i>Caucus for runoff to be held June 12 at 6 pm</i>	
Kathleen Keresev	202
Jon Piasecki	202
Write-ins	0
Blanks	2
Board of Assessors	
Michelle Laramee-Jenny	329
Write-ins	0
Blanks	77
Finance Committee	
Robert Salerno	301
Steve Sautman	200
Write-ins	7
Blanks	304
Planning Board	
Christopher Tonini	295
Write-ins	2
Blanks	80
Board of Health	
David Finck	326
Write-ins	0
Blanks	80
Library Trustee	
Andrew Potter	299
Write-ins	6
Blanks	101

Cemetery Commission	
Mary Korte-Kinnmond	337
Write-ins	0
Blanks	69
Tree Warden	
Andrew Fudge	313
Write-ins	0
Blanks	93
Constables	
Karl Cooper	306
William Cooper	309
Elizabeth Digrigoli	302
Paul Faggioni	303
Write-ins	16
Blanks	794
Question 1: Town Clerk Appointed	
<i>Results invalid: proposal tabled</i>	
Yes	158
No	152
Blanks	96
Question 2: Tax Collector Appointed	
<i>Results invalid: proposal tabled</i>	
Yes	167
No	143
Blanks	96
Total number of voters	
	406



**Join us for an author talk and slide show
with two veteran journalists who take us
to the front lines of the fight to save our birds**



Over the last fifty years, one third of the birds of North America have disappeared. How did this happen? What can we do about it? Anders and Beverly Gyllenhaal will answer these questions and others as they discuss their new book *A Wing and a Prayer*. Their talk will include a slide show of their extraordinary 25,000-mile trek to investigate the perilous state of our birding population.

Thursday, July 6th at 7 p.m. at the Old Town Hall

9 Main Street, West Stockbridge

The event will be followed by a reception at Shaker Mill Books

corner of Depot Street and Route 102, West Stockbridge

Co-sponsored by the Friends of the West Stockbridge Library
and Shaker Mill Books

West Stockbridge Historical Society

weststockbridgehistory.org

Select Board Speak:

Andy Potter thanked the Select Board for including the Affordable Housing Trust Fund in the FY24 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Kathleen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andy Krouss at 6:29 PM.

All were in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan
Town Administrator

**Select Board Meeting Minutes
April 3, 2023**

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

Others in Attendance: Police Chief Marc Portieri
Caitlin Graham, Parks & Recreation

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

Approval of Minutes:

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2023 meeting.

Roll call vote:

Andy K. Yes
Kathleen Yes

Minutes approved.

Citizen Speak:

Bob Salerno asked that the minutes reflect that the mention of stone in the March 6, 2023 meeting is the actual millstone from the Shaker Mill, an important artifact from the Town's history.

Parks & Recreation Update:

-Caitlin reported about updates and activities planned for the year:

- Card Pond cleanup has begun.
- Lifeguard has been hired for Card Pond.
- Tennis Courts are now open.
- Memorial Day activities are being planned
- Parks & Recreation are working to support the Zucchini Festival.
- Planning into the Fall and next year:
 - Halloween
 - Holiday Sparkles
 - Dog Park – researching feasibility and location
 - Gazebo/Pavillion – researching feasibility and location
 - Easter Egg hunt

Police Department Update:

-Marc reported that Lucas Horn is leaving the PD to work full time teaching at the Police Academy and that a search has commenced for a replacement.

-There had been an unexpectedly large attendance at an event at TurnPark, resulting in the decision between the PD, DPW and TurnPark that planning for parking should be carefully considered in advance of events. Marc, Curt Wilton and Jared Gelormino from Turn Park met to establish a parking protocol for future events.

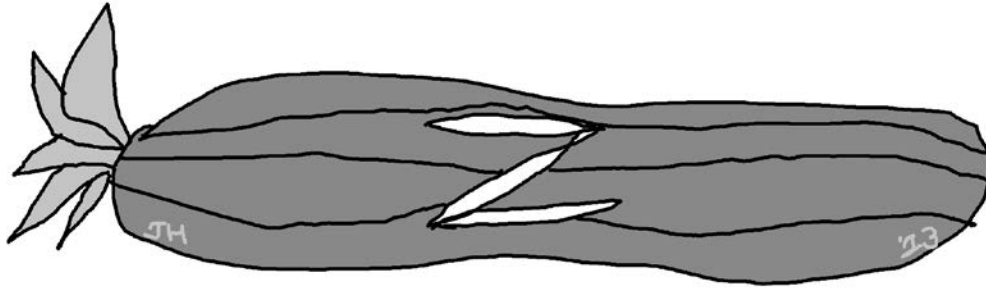
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- Lawn & Field Mowing
- Fall & Spring Cleanups
- Building & Maintaining Gardens
- Firewood

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:wzucchinifestival2023@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:wzucchinifestival2023@gmail.com).

...continued from page 7

-Andy K. asked Marc about traffic calming and Marc said that traffic calming efforts are continuing to good effect. His department have been following the school busses as frequently as they can insuring safety for school children.

Select Board Speak:

Kathleen expressed appreciation to the DPW, PD and FD for their outstanding response to the mid-March storm. The departments worked tirelessly until all roads were clear of snow and fallen trees, and power was restored.

Kathleen mentioned that she and Bob Salerno had met with State Representative Smitty Pignatelli with a routine update about the Town, and to hear his thoughts of matters of importance to small towns in general and West Stockbridge in particular. Topics discussed included:

- housing as a major concern for all,
- grant opportunities,
- regionalization of services with other towns,
- the ongoing problems with the Housatonic Water Company for our Town residents who still do not have reliably clean water,
- possible establishment of a Charter Review Committee
- the acquisition of the former National Grid property on Moscow Road
- The Old Town Hall
- establishment of a Cultural Arts District
- future appointment by Governor Healy of a rural affairs director. There has not been a job description for this position, nor has this position been filled.
- Representative Pignatelli is looking to increase Chapter 90 funds to cover dirt roads, which they currently don't. This would be an advantage to West Stockbridge as approximately 25% of our roads are dirt.

Kathleen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andy Krouss.

Roll call vote:

Andy Krouss	Yes
Kathleen Kersey	Yes

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathleen Kersey

Select Board Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2023

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

Others Present: Curt Wilton, Director of Public Works, Marc Portieri, Police Chief and Steve Traver, Fire Chief.

Kathleen called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Fire Department Update:

Fire Chief Steve Traver informed the Board that the Fire Department has recently added three new members. The Department will complete the testing of the fire hoses in June. Several fire hydrants have been repaired in the past few months. He stressed the need for more volunteers and encouraged people to apply to be a member of the Fire Department and as an EMT.

Approval of Minutes:

Andy Krouss made a motion, seconded by Andy Potter, to approve the minutes from April 3, 2023.

Kathleen and Andy Krouss were in favor, Andy Potter abstained.

Minutes approved.

Citizen Speak:

Peter Thorne thanked everyone who assisted in the very successful Earth Day Clean-up around the Town on Saturday, April 22.

Curt Wilton, speaking as a resident, brought attention to the parking situation during the recent bike event in Town on Saturday. He was extremely pleased with the process in which the group parked 127 cars at the Wastewater Treatment Plant in a very organized fashion. He was most appreciative of their efforts and hopes that all groups in the future follow their lead. The event holders made sure to have parking attendants which make the process seamless and very respectful to the Town.

Zoning Board of Appeals Appointment:

Zoning Board of Appeals Clerk, Joe Roy requested that the Board appoint Gunnar Gudmundson as an ZBA Alternate Member. Gunnar has been a Planning Board Member for many years and his experience with zoning on that board will be extremely helpful as a ZBA member. Gunnar said he is happy to be able to continue to serve the Town.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to appoint Gunnar as a Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate Member.

All were in favor, motion passed.

...continued on page 11



**Municipal
Vulnerability
Preparedness:**

**Take the Survey to Help
Our Community Prepare for
Extreme Weather**

Natural hazard events and climate change have the potential to impact the community's health and safety, infrastructure assets, and natural resources. Completing the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) designation process will help West Stockbridge build a more resilient future by being eligible for state funding for key projects. We need your input to complete the process, so **please respond to our project survey at tinyurl.com/Survey-WS by Monday, June 5.**

“Celebrate Our Watershed” This June with the Housatonic Valley Association

By Kelley Hall, Housatonic Valley Association

Registration is open for Celebrate Our Watershed with Housatonic Valley Association (HVA), a fun and free event that helps protect waterways and lands across the nearly 2,000-square-mile Housatonic River Watershed.

From May 26 until July 4, we invite people of all ages to “Celebrate Our Watershed” by registering online to explore and enjoy the outdoors. People can share photos and updates from their adventures and activities or attend an HVA-led event like a hike along the Appalachian Trail, river day for kids at Troutbeck, or a hands-on session about HVA’s Follow the Forest initiative.

Participants can also join friendly competitions either solo or with a team, such as most miles hiked or biked or best team photo, and compete for exciting prizes like a guided river rafting trip for four, REI daypacks, Patagonia prize pack, Helinox Chair Ones, and more.

“This event is all about bringing people together to explore and celebrate the Housatonic River Valley from the Berkshires and eastern New York through western Connecticut to Long Island Sound. By getting out there and sharing your experiences online, whether it’s paddling your favorite stream, hiking a local land trust trail, or photographing wildlife, you’ll be raising awareness about how special this area is and why we’re all working so hard to protect it,” said Lynn Werner, HVA’s executive director. “And best of all, it’s fun, free, and open to everyone.”

To learn more and register today, visit www.hvatoday.org.

About HVA

As the conservation organization dedicated to the entire 2,000-square-mile tristate Housatonic Watershed, HVA acts to protect the natural character and environmental health of the valley from the Berkshires to Long Island Sound for this and future generations. HVA works in three ways to establish climate-ready conditions across the region by 2040: “Follow the Forest” to conserve a 50,000-acre woodland and wildlife climate corridor for wildlife habitat, clean water, and carbon and temperature moderation; “Clean, Cold and Connected” to restore and protect 500 miles of rivers and streams and drinking water sources; and “Education and Equitable Representation” to engage the watershed’s diverse people and communities in equitable participation in and access to a clean, healthy, and climate-ready Housatonic Watershed. Learn more at www.hvatoday.org.



Farmer's Market Annual Entertainment License:

Lily Davenport requested that the Board approve an Annual Entertainment License for the Farmer's Market. She stated that they will have 1-3 musicians that will play low volume folk music during the Farmer's Market on Thursdays.

Andy Krouss made a motion, seconded by Andy Potter, to approve the Entertainment License for the Farmer's Market.

All were in favor, motion passed.

Zucchini Festival One Day Entertainment License:

Marjorie Powell, Zucchini Festival Chair requested that the Board approve a One Day Entertainment License for the Zucchini Festival on August 22, 2023. They plan on having low impact, reduced noise fireworks at the end of the festival at 10 PM. She has met with the State Fire Marshall for placement and security for the fireworks. She requested that the Town to get an umbrella policy under the Town Insurance Policy for the event. Director of Public Works Curt Wilton will assist with the parking locations, using Town Hall, Card Pond, Wastewater Treatment Plant and the cemetery. There will be shuttles to assist getting people to and from the parking lots to the downtown area. The Berkshire Bank parking lot will be reserved for vendor parking. All parking lots will have an attendant to assist with parking. The Festival will have music and dancing that will end by 10 PM prior to the fireworks. Marjorie spoke with Police Chief Marc Portieri and secured Police Detail coverage and with Fire Chief Steve Traver for Fire Department coverage for the fireworks. Marjorie also received approval from the Conservation Commission to have a duck race.

Joe Roy, as a representative of the West Stockbridge Village Business Association, has informed all local businesses about every aspect of the Festival. He has not received any responses back from anyone, but he assured the Board that everyone has been informed.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the One Day Entertainment License for the Zucchini Festival.

All were in favor, motion passed.

Marjorie thanked the Board and she will come back to the Board and keep them updated as plans progress.

Department of Public Works Update:

Curt Wilton presented an update of the Complete Streets Program. The Committee submitted 15 total projects for approval to proceed with attaining grant funding from Mass DOT. All 15 projects have been approved as feasible for grant funding. The next step will include public input by way of surveys and an open meeting. Then the Committee can determine which projects they will submit for grant funding in the fall with assistance from Nick Russo from Berkshire Regional Planning.

Curt also discussed the roads in Town that he feels should no longer should be Town roads. Curt stated there were 7 roads that he felt should be abandoned by the Town and no longer maintained by the Town. Curt believes to maintain these roads is not cost-effective, they are essentially driveways. The roads being considered are:

- VanShaak Road
- Oak Street
- Moscow Road
- Beach Street
- South Street

- Bryan Road
- Easland Road

He suggested that the Board allow he and Marie begin the process of deleting these roads from the list of Town roads by contacting Town Counsel. The Board agreed this was a good idea.

Municipal Officials April Meeting Update:

Andy Potter attended a Municipal Officials Meeting in April. One of the main discussions at this meeting was in regards to the inequalities between the funding given to eastern Massachusetts towns versus western Massachusetts towns. He specifically mentioned the PI-LOT program where towns receive money for state owned land. In the eastern part of the state some towns receive \$1000 per acre while towns in the western part receive only \$129-200 per acre.

Andy also recently attended a meeting in Pittsfield at the Berkshire Innovation Center involving discussions about green energy and potential funding. The USDA representatives were also in attendance and they specifically talked about funding to assist with water treatment infrastructure. Andy will gather more information about their rolling applications for grants and long-term low interest loans for treatment plants.

Select Board Speak:

Andy Krouss informed the Board he is still working on the broadband issue and will update the Board when he gets new information.

Andy Potter mentioned that he would like to discuss changing the agenda process at their next meeting by including Citizen Speak during the meeting to enable people to be involved as the Board discusses each item.

The 8 Town Regional School District Planning Board has come up with equity formulas for paying for the new high school and how that will work to allow fair payments by each town. The Board has done some great work and will be presenting that information soon to the Towns.

Kathleen asked the Board if they would be open to having a joint meeting with the Select Board of Great Barrington and Stockbridge to discuss the Housatonic Water Company issues. The Board agreed and Marie will set the meeting up.

Kathleen asked the Board if they would be interested in the possibility of being involved in the joint Stockbridge and Lee Fire Department which is in the early process of forming. The Board agreed this maybe a good idea to look into if this is feasible for West Stockbridge to join them. Kathleen will write a letter of interest to be sent to Stockbridge and Lee.

Kathleen recently meet with Representative Smitty Pignatelli and discussed different shared services. He would like to attend a Select Board meeting for further discussion. Marie will reach out to Smitty to get some possible dates for a meeting.

Andy Potter made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andy Krouss at 7:30 PM.

All were in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan
Marie Y. Ryan
Town Administrator



What's New from the West Stockbridge Vision Committee

By Joe Roy, Jr.

This past year, WSVC has focused on these topics:

- Traffic and pedestrian safety (especially downtown: parking and crosswalks)
- Sound control (possible ordinance or bylaw)
- West Stockbridge “livability”
- Sustaining residency of young adults and seniors
- Improving access to information about education
- Coordinating with other town boards
- Indexing permits needed in various zoning districts

Many other timely subjects were on our posted agendas this year too. Just to name a few:

- Creating “Welcome to West Stockbridge” signs
- Erecting a pavilion (or two)
- Researching new sidewalks and parking
- Learning more about EV charging stations
- Studying the long-term consequences of the pandemic on our school system

Our most recent involvement was closely following the accomplishments of the town’s Complete Streets Committee that has successfully submitted 15 projects approved by the state for future applications related to our parks, sidewalks, traffic calming and speed control, pedestrian and intersection safety, bus stops, town beach area, and municipal parking opportunities. These are all topics that the Vision Committee has an interest in improving.

WSVC currently has eight full-time voting members: Chair Joe Roy Jr., Vice Chair Bill Barth, Clerk and Webmaster Steve Graham, Karen Carmean, Champika Fernando, Frank Landsberger, Thom Lipiczky, and Doane Perry. Carter White and Peter Thorne are emeritus members.

We are all appointed by the Select Board, but anyone can attend our meetings and/or offer suggestions. We would love to hear from you! For links to our Zoom meetings, see our page on the town website: <https://www.weststockbridge-ma.gov/vision-committee>.

June History Quiz Question:

We learned from the recent “Baseball in the Berkshires” exhibit and talk at the Old Town Hall that from the late 1880s through World War II, baseball was a major form of entertainment in West Stockbridge. No Netflix, streaming, ESPN, or other amusements were invented yet. Baseball was a way for people to get outside and communities to gather and be entertained. Traveling teams, local teams, Negro teams, semi-pro, professional, college, and all levels of teams came through town to play here. Crowds were large, and people came from all over to watch the games.

Most prominent was the Troy’s Garage team, a semi-pro team prominent in the 1930s. The recently dedicated Keresey Field on Route 41 was the home of Garrett Troy’s team. But there were other baseball fields in town. How many existed in town, where was baseball played, and where are they?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)

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



**West Stockbridge
Historical Society**
Incorporated in 1994

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Happy Graduation Day!
Happy Summer!!

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Complete Streets Committee Nears Finish Line, Needs Public Input

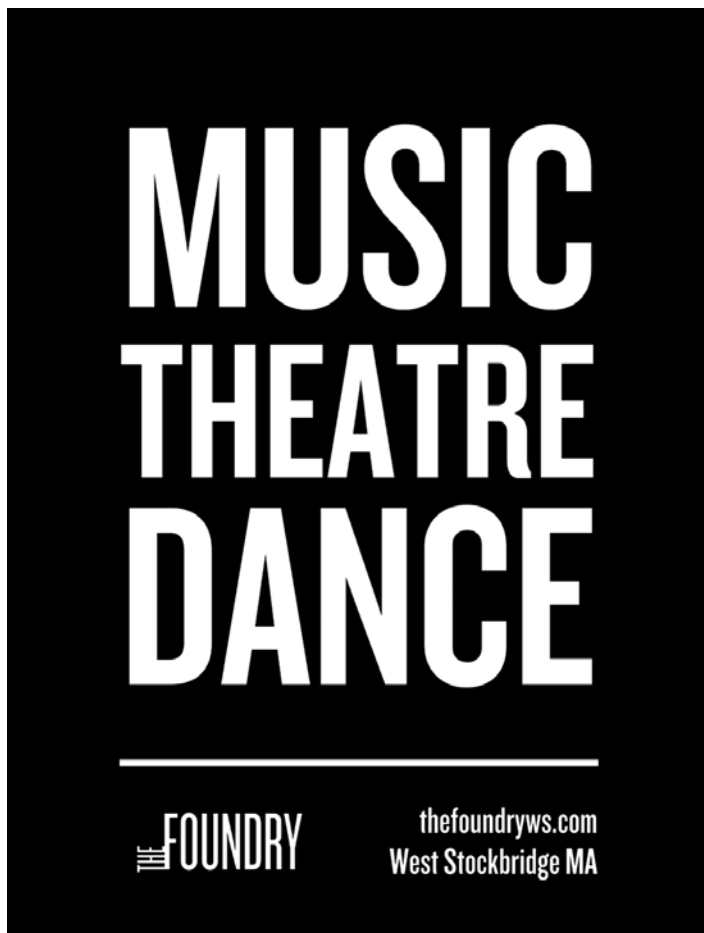
By Andy Potter, Select Board Member

West Stockbridge is committed to pedestrian-oriented planning through the Commonwealth's Complete Streets program. With technical assistance from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, the town has identified 15 projects to enhance transportation for locals and visitors. These projects prioritize safety, public health, livability, equity, and usability for all street network users. The town seeks public input to prioritize the projects for potential construction funding of up to \$500,000 in four-year cycles. With state approval of the proposed projects, West Stockbridge is progressing toward creating a safer and more accessible community for all.

Complete Streets represents a commitment to providing safer and more accessible means of travel between home, school, work, recreation, and retail destinations. Complete Streets envisions roadways designed to accommodate all users safely and comfortably, regardless of age, ability, or mode of transportation. In addition to providing safety and access for all users, Complete Street design treatments consider accommodations for disabled persons as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Complete Streets Committee of West Stockbridge submitted a Tier 2 list of projects to MassDOT that includes only town projects. The state determined that all 15 proposals met its criteria, marking a significant step forward for West Stockbridge's Complete Streets initiative. The committee prioritized the projects based on factors such as safety, public health, increased livability, equity, and usability for all users of the street network, as well as overall budgeting based on an anticipated \$500,000 for construction funding.

The next step in the process is for public outreach, allowing the community to provide input on which of the 15 projects the town should prioritize. This effort is an important opportunity for the residents of West Stockbridge to help shape the town's Complete Streets program and ensure that it meets the needs and priorities of the community. With the state's approval of the proposed projects, West Stockbridge can make its streets safer and more accessible for all residents.

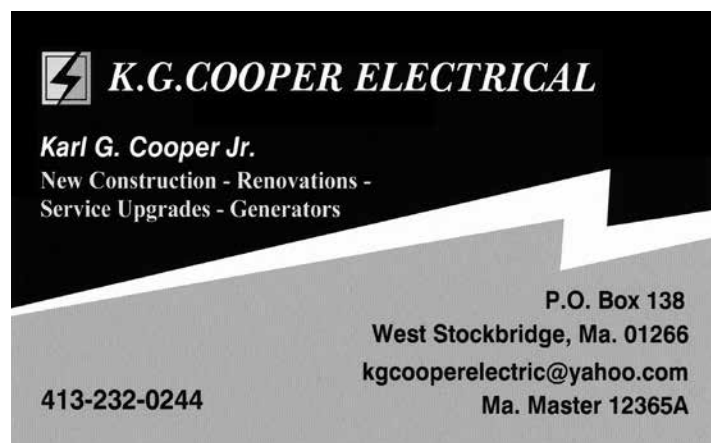


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Friends of the Library Invite Residents to Borrow Museum and Cultural Passes This Summer

Welcome, Summer! When preparing your to-do lists, please include some local visits using the numerous museum and cultural passes available to West Stockbridge library patrons. The passes are loaned to CWMARS cardholders older than age 18 who are in good standing.

The passes are provided by the generous support of the West Stockbridge Friends of the Library and a grant from the West Stockbridge Cultural Council. Although some passes do have a small copay, and the number of people covered by each pass is limited, the passes can be borrowed for two days, then returned to the library on the morning of the due date to avoid a late fee. All very simple and so worthwhile!

Here's the list of venues and parks:

- Berkshire Botanical Gardens
- Berkshire Museum
- Chesterwood
- Clark Art Institute
- Hancock Shaker Village
- Mass MoCa
- DCR Mass State Parks (Free day parking)
- Norman Rockwell Museum
- The Mount
- Trustees of Reservations GO PASS: Naumkeag, Mission House, Ashley House, Ashintully Gardens, and Bartholomew's Cobble (visit <https://thetrustees.org/places> for additional sites)
- TurnPark Art Space (in West Stockbridge)

For more information about the museum and cultural pass program, visit the library's website at www.weststockbridgepl.org or contact the library staff at (413) 232-0300, ext. 308, or weststockbridgelibrary@gmail.com.



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



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

Hello to everyone in the West Stockbridge community! In May, librarian Vicky and volunteer Francesca visited Muddy Brook Elementary School with a free book for each and every third and fourth grader. We thank Principal Retzel and her staff for hosting us. The free books were curated by Miss Vicky as a lead-in to an exciting visit from the mini-horses of High and Mighty Stables from Ghent, NY, planned for Saturday, May 27. Our sincere thanks to the West Stockbridge Cultural Council for helping us fund this joyful event.

We want to highlight just a few amazing free things on offer, thanks to the Massachusetts Library System.

To begin, go to weststockbridgepl.org. Scroll down to find two buttons:

1. For anyone who wants to begin finding their family roots, click on **HeritageQuest**. It's just one of many **Statewide Databases** free for you to explore, including newspapers and even games and learning activities for all ages.



2. The **Get an eCARD** button takes you to an easy registration, leading to so many things including the **Kanopy** streaming service. All are free through the state library system for residents of Massachusetts. Huge appreciation to Boston Public Library for hosting this gem!



Come visit us or get in touch with any of your questions about fun reading. We can also help you with any information-gathering project.

All the best from Vicky, Rachel, and Tess



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

1. What photojournalist made the "Out of Eden Walk" with journalist Paul Salopek?
2. Who was the West Stockbridge resident and Berkshire County district attorney who gave an opening statement at Adam Lee Hall's trial in 2013?
3. What event did No. 6 Depot host on January 17, 2014?
4. Who represented the Berkshire chapter of the NAACP at the Martin Luther King Day community service on January 20, 2014?

1. John Stammerger 2. David F. Capless 3. The "Session," a hip-hop showcase 4. Lucy Leonard



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.

Coming Soon, We Hope!



According to their latest posting on Facebook, Amici Berkshires is “pleased to announce that construction is moving along! We expect to be open by early summer! Thank you to everyone who has supported us through these difficult times and Amici cannot wait to open its doors again.”

Amici, a casual Italian restaurant located at 5 Albany Road in West Stockbridge, is recovering from a fire on January 19. We’re sure fans of dining out in West Stockbridge will join the *Local Yokel* in wishing them future success.

Follow Amici on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/amiciberkshires/>.

June Donor Roll Call

Robert Burke

Nomie & George Frelinghuysen

Joel & Carol Kaufman

Roni Kramer

Helen Nolan

Sean & Kathryn Wilson

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 21.)

Community News &

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, June 11, the Stockbridge Grange will serve a takeout-only dinner at the Grange Hall, 51 Church Street, Stockbridge. The dinner will be baked ham with lemon and chocolate pies for dessert. Cost is \$15. PLEASE ORDER BY FRIDAY, JUNE 9. To place an order, call (413) 243-1298 or (413) 443-4352. Pickup time is 12 to 1:30 pm.

Council on Aging

The Council on Aging will meet on Wednesday, June 14, at noon in front of the Town Offices, weather permitting, otherwise in the Community Room. Please bring your chair and lunch. Join us for a lovely day outside!

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 meeting Wednesday, June 14, 6–8 pm, Berkshire Athenaeum, 1 Wendell Ave., Pittsfield. For more information, contact Elizabeth Kulas at (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, or visit thelocalyokel.org.*

History Quiz Answer:

Keresey Field on Route 41 was the main stadium (as it were) through the 1930s with semi-pro and pro teams regularly coming through to play Garrett Troy's team of paid college and post-college athletes. It helped promote Garrett's large Ford dealership in town too. West Stockbridge also had one softball field (60-foot baseline) and three other hardball fields (regulation 90-foot baseline) in town.

The small softball field was located between the village and Catholic cemeteries and active after the Second World War. Known as Veterans Field, likely some people are around who remember playing there or know about relatives and friends who played there.

As for hardball, amateur teams regularly played baseball in the open field across Route 41 from Keresey Field, south of and next to the town cemetery. This land is now occupied with new homes. Another baseball field is behind the Town Offices and still in use. It also serves as a soccer field, skateboard park, and one winter even had a cross-country ski track around the perimeter.

The fourth hardball field was a surprise. We learned at the exhibit that during the early 1900s, a major ball field called Blinn's Field was located next to Card Pond. According to the 1900 census, Charles Blinn was a farmer. The 1904 map shows his house on the west side of Great Barrington Road. The field next to Card Pond was larger than it is now. The pond was altered to accommodate the MassPike when it was built in the late 1950s. Blinn's neighbors were all listed as laborers or tradespeople, so he probably owned and farmed the land on both sides of the road. The baseball field was a large flat, open space, perfect for a summer game.

The *Eagle* reported that on May 23, 1903, the West Stockbridge second team beat the Stockbridge second team, 45 to 9, at Blinn's Field. The article also reported that "the Village Baseball Club will give a social and dance at the Town Hall Friday evening."

Semi-pro and local club baseball was a major social activity during the turn of the century, growing until the Second World War. Changing lifestyles replaced it with school and Little League teams.



SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE CHAMP in the Babe Ruth Baseball League was Bill's Cleaners of West Stockbridge which captured the top berth with two straight victories over Sucray Farms of Sheffield in a best of three series. Players, in usual order, are: bottom row, Phil Lockenwitz, Randy Klein, Ted Sheldon, Robert Desaulniers, Rich McDonnell and coach Larry Moore; second row, Robert Verchot, Louis Raspuzzi, Ray Smith, Mike Skorput, George Springstube, coach Paul Skorput; top row, Francis Moore, John Korte, John Gennari, Tom Callahan, manager Jim O'Brien.

Photo Credit: West Stockbridge Historical Society



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@annelessercommunications.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.

THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE FARMERS MARKET ON THE FOUNDRY GREEN

May 25 - October 5, 2023

Thursdays, 3-6 pm

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Every issue costs us about \$1,300 to print and distribute! Please help us keep the *Local Yokel* coming!

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

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
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Your business need a little exposure?

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— Jackie Moffatt at C. H. Baldwin & Sons

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

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

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

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The Local Yokel needs regular and occasional contributors.

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



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

June Art Calendar

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

2023

June 6, Photo Editing Workshop, 1:30-2:30pm. Mobile photo editing online.

June 6, Positive Critique, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Join Michele Caplan for a positive critique session for Guild members via Zoom.

June 10, Urban Sketching Meetup, 9-11am. Sketch & paint around Pittsfield's downtown. See website for how to register.

June 13-15, Plein Air Workshop w/Chris Morel. Various Berkshires locations. See website to sign up!

June 18, Studio Visit with Virginia Bradley and Chris Malcomson, 1pm. Visit artists' studios. Sign up on the website.

June 19, Procrastinator's Challenge, 10-11 a.m. Start or work through a current project or art piece!

June 20, Intro to the Guild and Website, 4pm. Overview and info on the Guild and our website. Online.

June 22 - July 9, "Reflections" Juried Art Show at Art on Main Gallery, 38 Main Street, West Stockbridge, MA. Reception June 24, 2-4pm.

June 27, Meet the Artist, 3pm. TBD.

June 25, Berkshire Photo Gathering. See web: berkshirephotogathering.com /online-meetings

June 30, Art Book Gathering, 10-11am. Share a favorite book, artist, or process.

Wednesdays, Art Together. Join GBA artists together.

Reflections

Juried Art Show

at

Art on Main Gallery

38 Main Street, West Stockbridge

June 22- July 9

Reception: June 24, 2-4pm



Urban Sketching Meetup

Free Gathering w/Jill Gustavis

9-11am in Pittsfield, MA

June 10 | July 1 | Aug 5 | Sept 2

See website or flyer for sign up instructions.

ANNOUNCING THE 2023

Card Pond Opening Party

SUNDAY, JUNE 25TH

11AM - 1PM

*live music . hot dogs . ice cream
sunshine . watermelon . cookies
beach and yard games*

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The Local Yokel meets the 21st Century!

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thelocalyokel.org

Everyone's welcome!

Open House at the Old Town Hall



Saturday, June 17th
from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Old Town Hall
9 Main Street
West Stockbridge

- ✓ Learn how to research house histories
- ✓ Preview our new ADA-compliant bathrooms
- ✓ See new additions to our collection
- ✓ Get an update on the restoration progress
- ✓ Live music
- ✓ Refreshments and good friends

West Stockbridge Historical Society
Restoring the past, building for the future
www.weststockbridgehistory.org

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

thelocalyokel.org



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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	

June 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.

6/1	WS Farmers Market	3-6 pm	The Foundry Green, Harris St.
6/4	Plant Exchange meeting	2-4 pm	Community Room, Town Offices
6/5	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices, 21 State Line Road
6/6	Community Preservation Commission annual meeting	6 pm	Town Offices, 21 State Line Road
6/8	WS Farmers Market	3-6 pm	The Foundry Green, Harris St.
6/11	Stockbridge Grange takeout dinner		See Community News for details
6/12	Special Town Caucus	6 pm	Town Offices, 21 State Line Road
6/14	Council on Aging	12 noon	See Community News for details
6/14	Friends of the Library committee meeting	3:30 pm	Community Room, Town Offices
6/15	*** Deadline for the next Local Yokel ***		Send to info@thelocalyokel.org
6/15	WS Farmers Market	3-6 pm	The Foundry Green, Harris St.
6/17	Old Town Hall Open House	1:30-4 pm	Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street
6/18	Father's Day		
6/19	Juneteenth: Town Offices closed		
6/20	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices, 21 State Line Road
6/21	First Day of Summer		
6/22	WS Farmers Market	3-6 pm	The Foundry Green, Harris St.
6/28	Eid al-Adha begins at sundown		
6/29	WS Farmers Market	3-6 pm	The Foundry Green, Harris St.