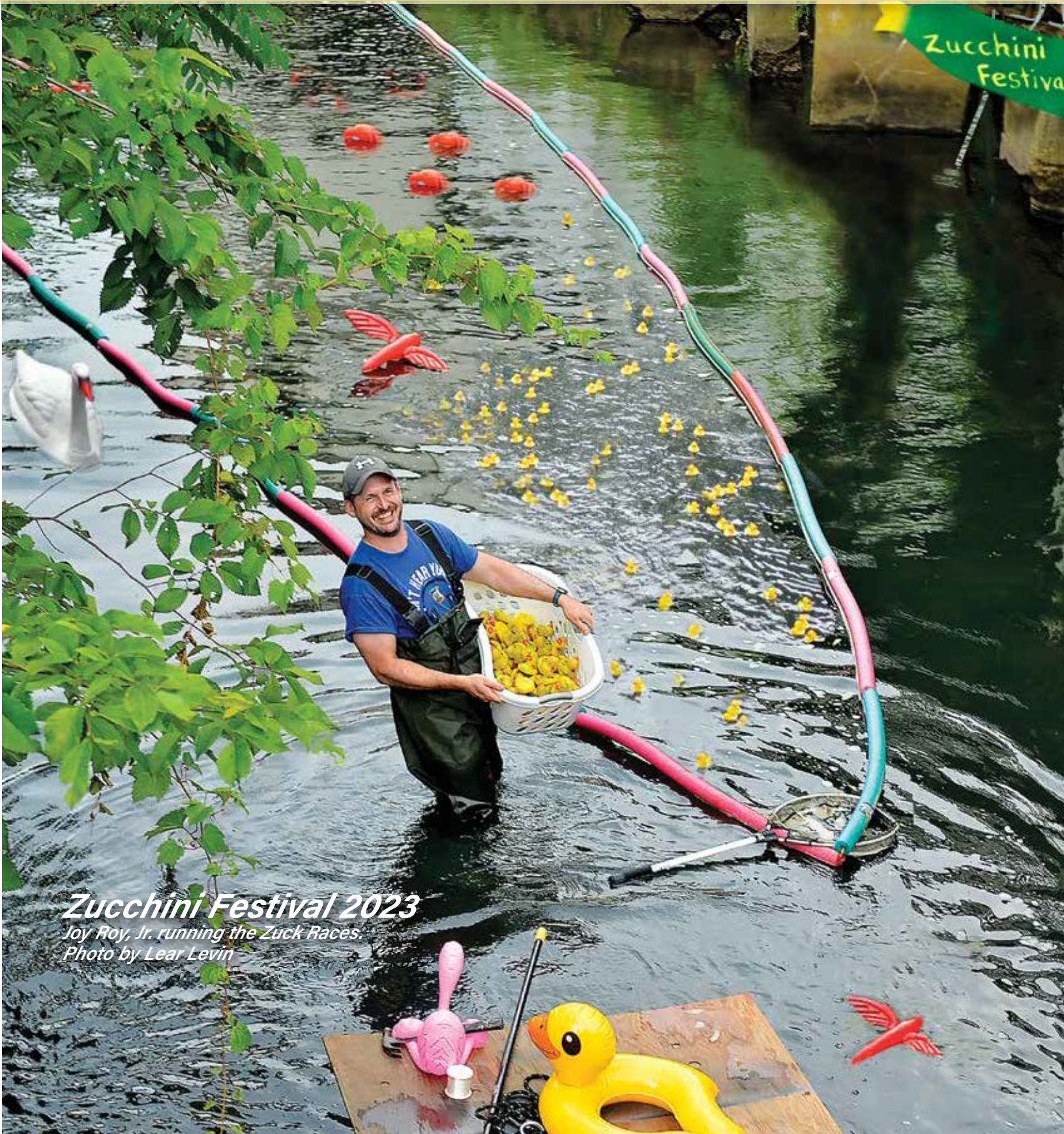


Local yokel

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

West
Stockbridge
September
2023

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005



Zucchini Festival 2023

*Joy Roy, Jr. running the Zuck Races.
Photo by Lear Levin*



Zucchini Festival 2023
 More photos on pages 12 and 13



Photo by Dorothy Bennett



Photos by John Parker unless otherwise noted.

It Takes a Village . . . to Celebrate a Zucchini

By Marjorie Powell, West Stockbridge Cultural Council

After a nine-year hiatus, 2023 marks the successful comeback of the beloved Zucchini Festival. And what a day it was—a day filled with fun and games celebrating our community of friends, neighbors, local organizations, businesses, vendors, local entertainment, and, of course, the zucchini. It is hard to believe it also marks the 20th year since its inception. With much fanfare and new energy, the festival has returned to its place in the second week in August.

Aside from celebrating the zucchini in all forms, the festival represents the involvement of the whole community. This is what truly makes it so special. It is organized by volunteers, neighbors, and friends. Everyone in the community is encouraged to be part of it. Seeing old friends and meeting new neighbors was a joy!

There are so many thanks to go around that have made this festival possible: the Select Board for letting us bring back the festival; the highway, police, and fire departments; the Board of Health, town administrator, town treasurer, accountant, and many more.

This event would also not be possible without the generous sponsorships from local businesses and residents that help pay for the fireworks, entertainment, and goods needed and all the businesses in town that graciously provided gift certificates and use of their properties for activities.

Thanks to all the amazing volunteers who spent months building new games and recreating some old-time favorites. To the many volunteers who organized Zuck races, pet parade, zucchini decorating, games and events, and who worked the busy Cultural Council booth selling T-shirts, Zuck races, and raffle tickets to help fund the event—without your involvement this festival would not be possible.

Thank you to all the Berkshire vendors and organizations that participated in the festival; we hope you enjoyed it as well. A complete list of all of the volunteers, sponsors, and businesses that gave so much will be published in next month's *Local Yokel*.



Photo by John Parker

It was a wonderful West Stockbridge event put on by our community.

We hope to see you all the second week of August next year.

If you would like to be part of next year's festival,
please email us at zucchinifestival2023@gmail.com.

We will start up in January!

Remembering Joseph Giramma

By Kelly Clady-Giramma

This September marks a year since the passing of Joseph Giramma, resident of West Stockbridge. Joseph was a father, husband, teacher, world traveler, poet, painter, sculptor, and an aficionado of classical music and opera. Despite having lived abroad for many years and traveled extensively to exotic places such as Bangladesh, Egypt, and Burma, Joseph was in love with the small town of West Stockbridge, where he spent the last seven years of his life in his house on Lenox Road.

He was a regular at the West Stockbridge Library, where he taught a conversational Italian class, and good friends with librarians Rachel, Vickie, and Brad. Joseph loved sitting out back along the river at the Stanmeyer Gallery and Coffee House. He liked to play tennis and shoot baskets on the town playground with his son Robert and wife Kelly, regularly strolled the Farmers Market and TurnPark, and practically lived at Tanglewood most summers. Being full Italian, Joseph frequented Trattoria Vesuvio (owned by friend and fellow colleague at Pittsfield High School, Rino Coppola), as well as Amici. He would have been thrilled about the Zucchini Festival coming back this year and surely would have enjoyed meeting and greeting all his neighbors there.

For more insight into Joseph Giramma, see one of his paintings displayed at the West Stockbridge Library (and possibly others soon at the Lee Library). For those who knew him, he'd love it if you said a toast to him while drinking a Campari's Negroni or having a slice of tiramisu!

This is the link to his full obituary: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/berkshire/name/joseph-giramma-obituary?id=36600015>



Joseph Giramma with son Robert outside Baldwin's Extracts, Halloween 2017. Photo by Kelly Clady-Giramma

Goodbye Summer,
Hello Autumn!

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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.

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 July 10, 2023

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

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

Approval of Minutes:

Kathleen made a motion seconded by Andy Krouss to approve the minutes from June 20, 2023. Andy Potter abstained, Kathleen and Andy Krouss approved. Minutes approved.

Citizen Speak:

Truc Nguyen mentioned that she has ongoing concerns in regard to noise in the business district.

Dutch Pinkston and Jack Houghton, Zoning Board of Appeals members updated the Select Board about their current public hearing which was held on June 29, 2023 and has been continued to Monday, July 24th at 7 PM.

Annie Kilmer-Lockenwitz presented a letter to the Board with multiple concerns she has in regards to traffic issues. Police Chief Portieri responded that he is aware of ongoing traffic issues in Town and will continue to monitor them.

Employee Handbook – Policies and Procedures: Marie Ryan, Town Administrator

Marie informed the Board that she has been working with Sofia, the Town's Human Resource Employee, Town Counsel and the Police Union Counsel to put together all the Policies and Procedures already approved by the Select Board into one document, the Handbook. She asked the Board for their overall approval of this document to be given to all employees.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Kathleen to approve the Handbook for employees.

All were in favor, motion approved.

...continued on page 7

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

West Stockbridge Police Department

Call Analysis by type 01/01/2023 – Present

911 Hang Up/Abandoned	64
Accidents	17
Animal Call	29
Arrests	14
Assault/Battery non-domestic	0
Assist Citizen	89
Burglar Alarms	56
Larceny/B&E	7
Domestic Disturbance	7
Medical/Fire Calls	151
Motor Vehicle Stops	213
Mutual Aid Police Related	20
Incidents/Investigations	22
Routine Patrol	703
Site Checks	461
Suspicious Activity	25
Wellbeing Check	17

TOTAL CALLS YTD- 2328

Call Analysis by type 01/01/2022 - 12/31/2023

911 Hang Up/Abandoned	115
Accidents	29
Animal Call	83
Arrests	16
Assault/Battery non-domestic	2
Assist Citizen	140
Burglar Alarms	110
Larceny/B&E	22
Domestic Disturbance	23
Medical/Fire Calls	208
Motor Vehicle Stops	264
Mutual Aid Police Related	18
Incidents/Investigations	32
Routine Patrol	1706
Site Checks	770
Suspicious Activity	82
Wellbeing Check	18

TOTAL CALLS FOR 2022- 4912

The West Stockbridge Historical Society presents:

WEST STOCKBRIDGE JAZZ SERIES



KRIS ALLEN

with Matt Dwonszyk and Richie Barshay

Saturday, 9 September 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

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Affordable Housing Trust – Next Steps: Marie Ryan, Town Administrator

Marie informed the Board that the Affordable Housing Trust article that was passed at the 2023 Annual Town Meeting has also been approved by the Attorney General, which means we need to discuss the next steps. Marie said the next steps would be to appoint the Board of Trustees so they can begin their work. She suggested that the Board allow her to post on the website and in the Local Yokel information for volunteers to send a letter of interest to be a member on this Board to her for the Select Board to then review and appoint the members. This will require the Select Board to appoint one Select Board member as well as 4 full-time residents of West Stockbridge. The Board agreed this was the correct next steps and asked Marie to post the request for volunteers on the website and send it to the Local Yokel as well.

Select Board Speak:

Andy Potter would like the Town to place all zoom recordings of meetings on the Town website. This would allow for easy access for members of the community without having to go through the request process.

Andy Potter suggested that all open positions for Boards and Committees be listed on the website for residents to know about and get involved if they are interested.

Kathleen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andy Potter at 6:51 PM.

All were in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator

**Select Board Meeting Minutes
July 24, 2023**

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

Others Present: Police Chief Marc Portieri

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

Marie asked for a nomination for the position of Select Board Chair. Andy Potter nominated Andy Krouss for the position of Chair, there was no second. Andy Krouss nominated Kathleen for the position. Kathleen 2nd and accepted. All were in favor.

Zoning Board of Appeals Request for Town Counsel:

The Zoning Board of Appeals has requested assistance from Town Counsel during their Public Hearing on July 24 regarding the Building Inspector's decision on the Foundry's Special Permit requirements.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Potter, to approve the use of Town Counsel Jonathan Eichman for the Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing.

All were in favor, motion approved.

Approval of Minutes:

Kathleen made a motion seconded by Andy Potter to approve the minutes from July 10, 2023. All were in favor. Minutes approved.

Citizen Speak:

Sheila Thunfors read a letter in regards to the Town healing after a contentious election cycle. She hopes that everyone can work together and get along.

Thom Lipiczky, member of the Vision Committee, stated that the Committee has been gathering information about electric vehicle charging stations. He asked the Board if they want the Committee to continue the process. Kathleen stated that this needs to be an agenda item to be able to discuss. Marie will place this as an agenda item on a Select Board meeting.

TurnPark request for One Day Liquor License on August 11, 2023 – Jared Gelormino, Manager

Jared requested approval from the Board for a One Day Liquor License for a Comedy Night at TurnPark on August 11, 2023. They expect 75-100 people to attend. Jared will have a parking attendant to assist with parking the cars. Andy Potter asked if there will be amplified sound and music and Jared responded yes, it will be amplified but there will not be music and the show should run from 7 PM until 9:30 PM.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve a One Day Liquor License for the TurnPark event on August 11, 2023.

All were in favor, motion approved.

Police Department Update – Chief Marc Portieri

Chief Portieri handed out a sheet to the Board with the following statistical information on the Police Department activity for 2023 to date.

The Chief stated that the Department has been extremely busy this year. There has been an increase in heroin issues which concerns him.

The weekend of August 10-12 will be very busy in Town and all officers will need to be working. On August 10th, the Crane Lake Camp will be closing which will create a lot of traffic throughout that day, August 11th will be the TurnPark event which will require a Police Officer for traffic and safety issues, and finally on August 12th is the Zucchini Festival, which will also require several Police Officers on duty. The Department has been working on Traffic Calming with an extra officer working 4 hour shifts during the day to address different traffic violations throughout the Town.

Andy Potter inquired about the percentage of Mutual Aid calls that are from Richmond. Marc stated that about half of them are Richmond calls. Andy Potter suggested that the Board try to have a joint meeting with the Richmond and, possibly, Alford Select Boards to discuss sharing Police resources. The Board agreed and will try to set up a meeting for a discussion.

Marc then handed the Board a letter and information on the status of the Police Chief's salary. The letter requests an increase that is comparable to other Chiefs' in the surrounding towns. He requests that the Board read through the material and discuss it at the next meeting.

September History Quiz Question:

Every day, we walk or drive by buildings and spaces in town without giving them much thought. The scenery is familiar and comforting, and we give it nicknames of someone's house, or a store's owner, usually when we first became aware of it. Main Street buildings have many colloquial names like that (e.g., Barber Shop, Village Oven, coffee shop, Aggies, store, etc.).

One of the most common spaces on Main Street is the Masonic Lodge building and the parking lot in front of it. These two lots were linked together at one time and served a most important role in town life. What was there, and what was their function?



West Stockbridge Historical Society
Incorporated in 1994

(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) 232-4465.



SUMMER 2023 TAKE OUT MENU

Truc Orient Express Restaurant
3 Harris Street, West Stockbridge, MA 01266
TEL: 413.232.4204

Thursday - Sunday from 4:30pm until 8:30pm

ADVANCE ORDERING - LIMITED TAKE-OUT SPOTS PER DAY
OUTDOOR TABLES AVAILABLE TO DINE HERE
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Follow us on Facebook for updates @TrucRestaurant

SOUPS		MAINS	
Canh Chua Tom ~ Hot & Sour Shrimp Soup (gf)	\$7.50	Banh Hoi Thit Nuong ~ BBQ Pork on Rice Noodles w/ crushed peanuts (gf)	\$25.00
Vegetable Soup (v)	\$6.00	Ga Xao Hot Dieu ~ Stir Fry Chicken, Mix Vegetables w/ cashews (gf)	\$25.00
Sup Chua Cay ~ Hot & Sour Vegetable Soup (gf, v)	\$6.50	Tom Xao Rau ~ Shrimp w/ Stir Fry Vegetables (gf)	\$28.00
		Banh Xeo ~ Happy Pancake (choice of pork, or chicken) (gf)	\$25.00
		Banh Xeo ~ Happy Pancake with shrimp (gf)	\$28.00
STARTERS		Tom Chua Ngot ~ Sweet & Sour Shrimp	\$28.00
Cha Gio ~ Vietnamese Egg Rolls (2 rolls, gf)	\$12.50	Ga Chua Ngot ~ Sweet & Sour Chicken	\$25.00
Cha Gio Truc ~ Truc's Special Shrimp Rolls (2 rolls, gf)	\$13.50	Ga Xoi Mo ~ 5 Spiced Whole Cornish Hen (gf)	\$28.00
Cha Gio Chay ~ Vegetarian Spring Rolls (3 rolls) (gf, v)	\$11.50		
Ga Nuong ~ Grilled Lemon Chicken (gf) (2 skewers)	\$12.50	VEGETARIAN MAINS	
		Tofu Sa Ot ~ Tofu with Lemongrass w/crushed peanuts (gf, v)	\$22.00
SALADS		Tofu Xao Hot Dieu ~ Stir Fry Tofu, Mix Vegetables w/ cashews (gf, v)	\$22.00
Goi Bui ~ Grapefruit Salad w/toasted sesame seeds (gf, v)	\$9.00	Rau Xao Chay ~ Stir Fry Mixed Vegetables (gf, v)	\$20.00
		Banh Xeo Chay ~ Vegetarian Happy Pancake (gf, v)	\$22.00
		Banh Hoi Chay ~ Marinated Tofu on Rice Noodles (gf, v)	\$22.00
SPECIAL FOR SAT. and SUN. ONLY (order before 3pm)			
Goi Cuon Tom ~ Shrimp Summer Rolls (2 rolls, gf)	\$13.00		
Goi Cuon Chay ~ Vegetarian Summer Rolls (2 rolls, gf, v)	\$11.50	RICE	
		Com Chien Heo ~ Truc Special Pork Fried Rice (gf)	\$18.00
		Com Chien Chay ~ Vegetarian Fried Rice (gf, v)	\$13.00
gf - gluten free			
v - vegan		DESSERT ~ Frozen Lemon Mousse (gf)	
			\$12.00

No Substitutions. Please let us know of any food allergies.

Our beautiful shop, **Out of Vietnam** is open from Thursdays to Sundays from 11am until 4pm, or when the restaurant closes.

...continued from page 7

Select Board Speak:

Andy Potter informed the board that the 8 Town Regional School District Planning Board voted to approve a draft regional agreement which supports the merger of the two school districts. The next steps will include a State review of the agreement for any changes, presentation of the agreement to the 8 Towns' Select Boards and finally a Special Town Meeting in each of the 8 Towns for a vote for the merger in the fall.

Andy Potter has been working on a document of FAQ's (frequently asked questions) which he hopes to have the proper departments review and then have available on the Town website.

Kathleen has worked with Marie and Curt to create a list of tasks to be worked on with different people responsible for each task. She will update it and bring to a Select Board meeting for discussion.

Kathleen thanked Sheila Thunfors' for her letter and hopes that everyone can begin working together for the sake of the Town. Andy Potter agreed that when you work in the public life, there is always an assumption of good intent which is needed.

Kathleen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andy Potter at 6:46 PM.

All were in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator

**Select Board Meeting Minutes
August 7, 2023**

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

Public Hearing of Transfer of Liquor License for Public Market:

Andy Krouss opened the Public Hearing for the transfer of the All Alcohol Liquor License for the Public Market at 6:00 PM.

Matthew Porter, attorney for Stockbridge Market LLC stated that the new owners would like to have the liquor license transferred to them for the Public Market. They are TIPS certified and will require all employees to be as well. There are no plans to change the hours of operation or the building itself. They plan to complete a few upgrades to the inside of the store, a face lift to the store and the merchandise inventory. Matthew stated there will be no major changes to the business.

Andy Potter asked if they expect to have an increase in alcohol sales over the general grocery items. Matthew Porter stated that is not their plan but they will let the business dictate that as time goes on.

Hearing no other questions, Andy Krouss closed the Public Hearing.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the transfer of the Liquor License to Stockbridge Market LLC.

All were in favor, transfer of the Liquor License was approved.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the pledge of the license for the Public Market with Eastern Funding.

All were in favor, motion approved.

Approval of Minutes:

Andy Potter requested a correction to a typographical error in the name of Thom Lipiczky in the minutes.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the minutes from July 24, 2023 with the correction noted.

All were in favor. Minutes approved.

Citizen Speak:

Karden Rabin and John Cambell, residents in West Stockbridge, requested that if there are any future discussions in regards to decommissioned streets or roads in Town that the residents be included. Andy Potter informed them that the discussion in regards to this issue is a process and that residents would be included.

Conservation Commission Member David Evans:

Marie explained to the Board that a member of the Conservation Commission has resigned and that the Commission is requesting the Board appoint David Evans, a current Alternate Member, to a Full Member status.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to appoint David Evans as a Full Member of the Conservation Commission.

All were in favor, motion approved.

Zucchini Festival Update: Marge Powell:

Marge Powell informed the Board she has over 40 volunteers for the Zucchini Festival this Saturday. She has met with the Police Chief and Fire Chief as well as the Department of Public Works for planning purposes. Her volunteers plan beginning set up on Friday. The Police will make sure that there is 20-minute parking available on Main Street in front of the businesses for their customers during the day. The parking lot on Main Street will be used as a handicap accessible parking lot. There will be a shuttle running all day from the Town Hall, the cemetery on Albany Road, Card Pond, the Church parking lot and Main Street.

Marge requested approval from the Board to have the DPW assist them with moving some picnic tables on Depot and Center Streets, they agreed.

The Board thanked Marge for all her hard work on this event for the Town.

Select Board Speak:

Andy Potter made note that Sarah Schaeffer is now working part-time for the Library and has resigned as a Trustee. He will submit a name to the Board at the next meeting for an appointment of a new person to fill that Trustee position until the next Annual Town Election.

Andy Potter made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Andy Krouss at 6:28 PM.

All were in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator

Community News & Events

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, September 10, the Stockbridge Grange will serve a takeout-only dinner at the Grange Hall, 51 Church Street, Stockbridge. The dinner will be roast pork with apple and chocolate pies for dessert. Cost is \$15. PLEASE ORDER BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8. To place an order, call (413) 243-1298 or (413) 443-4352. Pickup time is 12 to 1:30 pm.

Council on Aging

There will be no COA meeting in September.

West Stockbridge Plant Exchange

The West Stockbridge Plant Exchange will meet on Sunday, September 10, 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.*

BRUCE LAIRD



Push the Talk

NEW WORK | Mixed Media
September 7 — September 18, 2023

Reception for Artist
Saturday September 9
2–4pm

ART on MAIN
38 MAIN ST, WEST STOCKBRIDGE, MA

Five Weekends of Free Guided Regional Interpretive Tours

The Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area announces the 21st annual autumn Housatonic Heritage Walks on these five weekends: September 2/3, 9/10, 16/17, 23/24, and September 30/October 1. More than 80 free guided interpretive tours will be offered throughout Berkshire County and Litchfield County, Connecticut.

The public is invited to participate in these family-oriented interpretive walks, offered in partnership with our region’s historic, cultural, and outdoor recreation organizations and the National Park Service. The Heritage Walks are an ideal opportunity to experience and learn about our region’s rich and varied local history.

Historians, naturalists, and environmentalists lead participants on explorations through historic estate gardens and town districts, behind-the-scenes cultural site tours, nature walks, trail hikes, and tours of many industrial-site ruins that were once thriving local industries. There will be Native American and African American history walks and a bike tour on scenic country roads.

Detailed Heritage Walks brochures are available at local libraries, post offices, restaurants, and grocery stores. The schedule is also available at <https://housatonicheritage.org/events/heritage-walks/>. To request a brochure by mail, email programs@housatonicheritage.org.

September Donor Roll Call

Larry & Marsha Bernstein
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 Liz Foulser & Richard Svoboda
 Pam & Phil Lockenwitz
 Jan & Bill Reid
 Sandy Smith
 Lou & Nancy Trionfo
 Louise Wasserberg
 Carter White
 Anonymous: 1

Thanks to everyone who has donated to WSLY.
 We couldn't do it without your support!
 Keep the *Local Yokel* coming. Please send your gift today!
 (See response form on page 21.)

Touring the Neighborhoods of West Stockbridge: The Village Center

Saturday, September 23, 10 am




Explore the back streets of West Stockbridge’s Village Center with Bob Salerno from the West Stockbridge Historical Society on Saturday, September 23. Our walk will view the lesser traveled areas, an eye to the mid-1800s when the village center was being developed and home to many of the prominent movers and shakers who created the town we see today. The walk is approximately an hour and will cover about a half mile. Reception will follow at the Old Town Hall. To register, email info@weststockbridgehistory.org. We will meet at the Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street, at 10 am.

Do you enjoy writing or photography?

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.





Zucchini Festival 2023



Photo by Chris Powell





See You Next August!



Photos by John Parker unless otherwise noted.

Transportation for All in West Stockbridge

The TriTown Connector is a new transportation service for everyone in the towns of Egremont, Great Barrington, and Stockbridge, now also with service to West Stockbridge and Monterey. *This service is not restricted to older adults.* And it serves residents and nonresidents alike.

Hours of operation:

- ⇒ Egremont, Great Barrington, and Stockbridge: 6 am to 9 pm weekdays; 7:30 am to 8 pm weekends
- ⇒ Service to Monterey: 8 am to 6 pm weekdays; 10 am to 4 pm weekends
- ⇒ Service to West Stockbridge: 7:30 am to 8 pm weekdays; 9 am to 7 pm weekends

Just call (413) 591-3826. Tell them where you are and where you want to go. A TriTown Connector van will pick you up and take you where you want to go within the participating five towns.

One-way fares:

- ⇒ Travel within one town: \$2
- ⇒ Travel between towns: \$4
- ⇒ Children under 5 ride free when accompanied by a paying adult

Discounted tickets for 10 one-way rides can also be purchased by residents of all five towns (Egremont, Great Barrington, Stockbridge, West Stockbridge, and Monterey) at the Claire Teague Senior Center transportation office in Great Barrington, weekdays from 8 am to 4 pm. Tickets may also be purchased on the vans and at local senior centers.

Prices for these discounted tickets are \$15 for travel within one town, a 25% discount, and \$25 for multi-town trips, a 38% discount.

Weekly Workforce Passes are available for residents, providing travel between any of the communities for \$15/week. This pass provides one daily round trip for 7 consecutive days.

Visit the Tri-Town Connector website, www.tritown.org, for more information and alerts.

To book a ride, call (413) 591-3826, every day but Sunday, 8 am to 4 pm.

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**Carefully curated wines,
unusual spirits and
awesome beers**

***Don't see what you're looking for?
Just ask and we can get it in for you!***

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

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

September greetings to all!

Many young visitors enjoyed the library summer programs this year. Thanks to all who joined us for some fun! As we head into the new school year, please note that a world of information is available for free on the statewide databases, found at this link: https://www.galepages.com/mlin_w_weststock

Here's just one example: the Gale Elementary database:



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

NEW ADULT FICTION

- Benedict, *First ladies*
- Cosby, *All the sinners bleed*
- Hilderbrand, *Five-star weekend*
- Macomber, *Must love flowers*
- McBride, *Heaven & earth grocery store*
- Napolitano, *Hello beautiful*
- Patchett, *Tom Lake*
- Patterson, *Obsessed*
- Ware, *Zero days*
- Whitehead, *Crook manifesto*

NEW ADULT NONFICTION

- Blackhawk, *The rediscovery of America: Native peoples and the unmaking of U.S. history*
- Hartman, *Battle of ink and ice: A sensational story of news barons, North Pole explorers, and the making of modern media*

DVDs

- 1923; *Avatar: The way of water*



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

1. What first-ever event occurred in West Stockbridge on April 12, 2014?
2. How many residences on Albany, Swamp, Stockbridge, and Lenox Roads were connected to the \$1.2 million sewer expansion?
3. Why was there a whopping 13.16% increase in taxes in 2015?
4. West Stockbridge experienced a major resurgence in the number of new businesses in 2014. What were some of them?

1. National Library Week 2.62 3. Our portion of the school tax went up 4. The Black Leg Tavern, Card Lake Inn (renodeled into apartments), Berkshire Antique Emporium, and Sandy Kempner @ Home



This program is supported in part by a grant from the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



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— Jackie Moffatt at C. H. Baldwin & Sons

“Mothing” in West Stockbridge

By Chelsea Simmons, BEAT Programs Director

Moth enthusiasts gathered at the MassWildlife Flat Brook Wildlife Management Area in West Stockbridge on Saturday, August 5, for a tutorial on using a light sheet for mothing (i.e., using a light to attract moths and observe them at night). This tutorial was led by Matthew Ramkiewicz and organized by Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT) to help spread awareness and admiration for these essential insects and pollinators, whose global populations are rapidly declining. Some of the highlights from that evening were the small-eyed sphinx moth and the painted lichen moth. BEAT hopes to make “Moth Nights” a new tradition by hosting one every July during National Moth Week. Learn more about BEAT at www.thebeatnews.org.



Photos courtesy of BEAT

Moth enthusiasts gather for BEAT Moth Night.



Small-eyed sphinx moth.



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History Quiz Answer:

The corner of Hotel and Main Street was the hub of commercial aspirations when the railroad first came to West Stockbridge in the early 1840s. The current Card Lake Inn was built as a hotel for the expected business and tourist travelers who would come by rail to visit the town. Although we had other inns in town (including the current Stone House Properties realty office), and West Center had five at one time, this location was the largest place to stay.

According to an old story, a Mr. Jones, who owned the hotel, was refused permission to have a bar in it because of its proximity to the church and school. So he opened the "West Stockbridge Hotel" on the lot on the northeast corner of the street. (An early map labels it as the West Stockbridge Railroad House.) This building was larger and grander than the Card Lake Inn, four stories tall with a carriage house in the rear on Hotel Street.

The hotel building was the largest structure on Main Street. Its footprint covered most of what is now the town parking lot. It served as a hotel, barroom, and commercial space through the 19th century and, most importantly, included the town's only funeral parlor. This location was very convenient because the town's hearse was kept in a barn further up Hotel Street. By the early 1900s, the building became a residence on top and fully commercial on the lower floors. It housed the Battastoni furniture store, a grocery and other merchandise, and even a travel agency.

The smaller building in the back, on Hotel Street, is now the Masonic Lodge. It was built to be the carriage house and barn for the hotel. Early maps show the structure connected to the hotel building, although by 1904, it appears as a separate building. Construction is estimated between 1858 and 1876. Some of the visible foundation is leftover marble and lime from the quarries, and the six-over-six windows on the front and west sides are not regularly spaced like they would be if it was constructed as a residence or shop.

The large "Battastoni" building burned in a major fire in the 1930s, one of two large fires on Main Street in that era. The space has been a parking lot ever since.



Masonic Lodge today. Images courtesy of West Stockbridge Historical Society



Battastoni Store circa 1915. Images courtesy of West Stockbridge Historical Society

September Art Calendar

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

2023

August 24 - September 4, "Oil, Water, Clay" Art Show featuring Mike Coyne and Bruce Shickmanter. Art on Main Gallery, 38 Main Street, West Stockbridge, MA.

September 2, Urban Sketching Meetup, 9-11am. Create and socialize around Pittsfield's downtown. See website for how to register.

September 6, Studio Visit with Paula Shalan, 2pm. Visit artist studio. Sign up on the website.

September 24, Berkshire Photo Gathering. See web: berkshirephotogathering.com /online-meetings

September 26, Meet the Artist, 3pm. Leslie Alfin, multi-media artist. Link to watch to be shared on website.

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

Mon-Sat, 10am-1pm, Berkshire Plein Air. See website for days and locations. Ends in October.

Wednesdays, Art Together. Join GBA artists together online

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



Oil, Water, Clay

Art Show
Featuring *Mike Coyne*
& *Bruce Shickmanter*
at Art on Main Gallery
38 Main Street, West Stockbridge
Last Day September 4th!



Meet the Artist:

Leslie Alfin

September 26, 3pm

Program hosted over Zoom

Link to watch to be listed on website.

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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



SEPTEMBER OPENINGS & NEW SHOWS

ART on MAIN Gallery continues to bring interest and excitement to downtown West Stockbridge at 38 Main Street, with new displays of unique and beautiful art by members of the Guild of Berkshire Artists. The shows and artists change every two weeks, offering a broad spectrum of styles, media, and subject matter for public perusal and enjoyment.

Mike Coyne and Bruce Shickmanter opened “Oil, Water, Clay” on Thursday, August 24, and display their work through Monday, September 4 (Labor Day). Both artists are retired physicians who formerly worked at Berkshire Medical Center. And both are avidly engaged with outdoor activities and nature. Mike’s work, in ceramics, painting, and other media, is also inspired by music, travel, and his love of color. Bruce is drawn to interesting shapes and light patterns that he comes across while hiking or biking in the Berkshires or elsewhere.

Bruce Laird is planning a solo show, “All New Work/Mixed Media,” opening on September 7 and running until Sunday, September 17. Bruce Laird is an abstract artist who creates works in both two and three dimensions that reveal a fascination with geometry, color, and juxtapositions. To him, it is all about the work, which provides surprising results, both playful and thought provoking.

Reception: Saturday, September 9, 2–4 pm.



(From top)
Watercolor by Bruce Shickmanter.
Oil Painting by Mike Coyne.
Ceramic Piece by Mike Coyne.

(Left) Mixed Media by Bruce Laird.

Photos courtesy of the artists

West Stockbridge
Local Yokel
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

September Calendar of Events	9/4			
	9/4	Labor Day: Town Offices closed		
	9/5	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices, 21 State Line Rd.
	9/6	Zoning Board of Appeals: Continued public hearing	7 pm	Town Offices, 21 State Line Rd.
	9/7	WS Farmers Market	3-6 pm	The Foundry Green, Harris St.
	9/9	WSHS Kris Allen Jazz Concert	7:30 pm	Old Town Hall, 9 Main St.
	9/10	Grandparents' Day		
	9/10	Plant Exchange meeting	2-4 pm	Community Room, Town Offices
	9/10	Stockbridge Grange takeout dinner		See Community News for details
	9/13	Friends of the Library committee meeting	3:30 pm	Community Room, Town Offices
	9/14	WS Farmers Market	3-6 pm	The Foundry Green, Harris St.
	9/15	*** Deadline for the next <i>Local Yokel</i> ***		Send to info@thelocalyokel.org
	9/15	Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown		
	9/18	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices, 21 State Line Rd.
	9/21	WS Farmers Market	3-6 pm	The Foundry Green, Harris St.
9/23	First Day of Autumn			
9/23	Touring the Neighborhoods Walk: The Village Center	10 am	Old Town Hall, 9 Main St.	
9/24	Yom Kippur begins at sundown			
9/28	WS Farmers Market	3-6 pm	The Foundry Green, Harris St.	