

Local yokel

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

West
Stockbridge

July
2024

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005

250th Town Anniversary Celebration July 6
Details Inside!

Paddleboarding on Shaker Mill Pond. Photo by Emily Weiland

FREE WORKSHOP

Pick Up the Pen: Start Your Writing Project

with Lara Tupper

West Stockbridge Historical Society
9 Main St., West Stockbridge, MA

Wednesday, July 31
5:00-6:30 pm

Please preregister by sending a message:
www.laratupper.com/contact

This program is free for participants and is supported in part by a grant from the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.




ANNOUNCING THE 2024

Card Pond Party

SUNDAY, JULY 28TH
11AM - 1PM

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

THIS IS A FREE COMMUNITY EVENT
SPONSORED BY WEST STOCKBRIDGE PARKS & RECREATION

WEST STOCKBRIDGE FARMERS MARKET

ON THE FOUNDRY GREEN

**THURSDAYS
3-6PM**



LIVE MUSIC
Made possible by WS Cultural Council & Local Yokel Santa's Wish List donations

FARM FRESH
organic produce, meat, cheese, eggs, prepared food, baked goods, jams, flowers, ice cream, artisan goods + more.

WE DOUBLE SNAP, WIC + SENIOR COUPONS

WestStockbridgeFarmersMarket.org

SUMMER EVENTS AT THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY 2024

- STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER JULY 2
DROP OFF TUESDAY 2-6PM
PICK UP WEDNESDAY 10 AM-3 PM
- TUESDAY AFTERNOON STORY CRAFT
JULY 9, 16, 23, 30 AT 3PM
ALL AGES WELCOME
- READING BINGO- WIN PRIZES FOR READING
- FIND RIKA THE DOG AND WIN A PRIZE! THE REAL DOG RIKA WILL VISIT LATER THIS SUMMER!
- LIBRARY SCAVENGER HUNT

West Stockbridge Plans 250th Anniversary on July 6

On Saturday, July 6, West Stockbridge will celebrate 250 years since the town was officially organized in 1774 with a townwide celebration from 10 am to 5:30 pm. The day will focus on our West Stockbridge community and the history of the town.

The day will start with a small fife-and-drum parade on Main Street ending at the Old Town Hall. An opening presentation there will follow with the Select Board, Smitty Pignatelli, and Gene Della. Morning activities will center around the Old Town Hall, with historic exhibits inside and the adjacent parking lots with old machinery and vehicle displays. A reading for children and families will take place around 11:30.

Celebration souvenirs will be sold at the Old Town Hall; hats, bandanas, tote bags, and a poster are planned. At lunchtime, Parks & Rec will host a barbeque in the upper parking lot, along with food trucks in the lower lot and possibly on the Foundry Green. Other lunch options will be available in town, and Six Depot will serve coffee.

In the afternoon, we encourage people to circulate through town, visiting the Congregational Church, stores, and historic buildings. Each stop will offer a history of the building and photos of the historic building/early store. Visitors can get a stamp of the store or place in the back of their souvenir booklet for each stop. Volunteers will handle the history so the merchant can wait on customers.

For the closing, a community gathering is planned on the Foundry Green with music, coffee/refreshments, and a large sheet cake.

OPENING PARADE AND CEREMONY: Main Street and Old Town Hall, 10 am

MORNING: Old Town Hall and lower parking lot

- Historic West Stockbridge exhibits: photos and maps
- Antique vehicles and farm equipment
- Special story reading for children and families

MIDDAY: 12:30–2: Lunch

- Parks & Rec barbeque on upper parking lot
- Other lunch opportunities in town

AFTERNOON: Town Walkaround

- Visit historic spaces and local merchants
- History walk and talk: Old Great Barrington Road/Stockbridge Road
- Learn about quarrying at TurnPark with Vern Tower

LATE AFTERNOON: 4–5:30 pm

- Town gathering and closing reception with music and refreshments

Town Celebration Saturday, July 6th

Come one, come all!

Let's celebrate 250 years of our wonderful, historic home with a day of fun all over town. Starts 10am at Old Town Hall & ends at 4pm with cake on the Foundry Green.

weststockbridgehistory.com

facebook.com/weststockbridgehistoricalsociety

West 250th Stockbridge

Cutting our own path since 1774




**Congratulations
to these 2024
Monument Mountain
Regional High School
graduates!**

Nasciam Bowser
 Cody Campbell
 Hunter Curletti
 Garrett Curtin
 Benjamin Gross
 Amaya Ketchen
 Conrad Mathews
 Madeleine Rocheleau-Holmes
 Debbie Sanchez
 Annika Smedvig
 Liam Trask



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with us!**



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Friends & Neighbors

Come Celebrate with us!



8:30 Sunday Mass
 followed by
Coffee Hour

St. Patrick Church
 30 Albany Road
 West Stockbridge

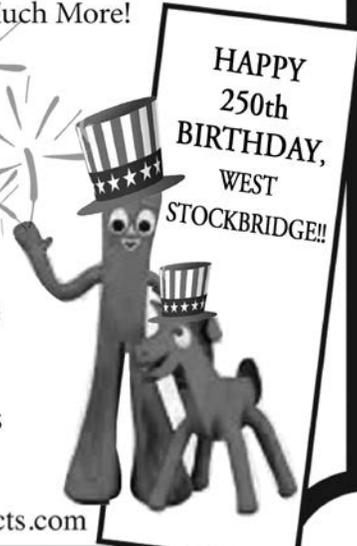
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Select Board Meeting Minutes

[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 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 May 14, 2024

Quorum present: Select Board Members; Kathleen Keresey (Remotely attended), Andrew Krouss, Andrew Potter, and Town Administrator Marie Ryan.

Marie opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Marie entertained a motion to appoint a new chair. Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to nominate Andy Potter as the new chair. All were in favor, Andy Potter to become chair.

Andy Potter explained that future agendas will contain a citizen speak at the beginning of the meetings for general concerns and that he has added a citizen speak after each agenda item in order for people to speak in regard to that specific item prior to the Board's vote.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the Rent Control Board minutes from February 28 and May 8, 2024. All were in favor, minutes approved.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the Select Board minutes from April 24, 2024. All were in favor, minutes approved.

Town Administrator Update:

Marie stated that the Department of Public Works along with herself have recently completed a CPR and first aid course at Town Hall.

The Cannon at the corner of Albany Road and State Line Road is currently being restored and repainted. This should be completed by Memorial Day.

Rachel Alter, Library Director, has recently applied for and was awarded a grant to pay for materials and labor to connect the Town Hall front door and the library doors to handicap accessible hardware. This will allow for easier access to Town Hall and the Library. Marie stated that the doors have been measured and work should begin shortly on this project.

...continued on page 7

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

The Chamber Players Spring Concert: A Rousing Musical Tribute to Our Town's 250th Anniversary

By Liza Bennett

Historical Society president Robert Salerno welcomed a sold-out house at the Old Town Hall on the Sunday afternoon of Memorial Day weekend, noting this was the 40th benefit concert given by the West Stockbridge Chamber Players, but the first with the building's new air conditioning system up and running. With the sun blazing through the high windows and the auditorium packed, the coolness claim proved to be only partially true, but it did nothing to dampen the celebratory mood.

Kicking off a summer full of festivities commemorating the town's 250th birthday, the Chamber Players took the stage, led by artistic director and clarinetist Catherine Hudgins, with violinists Sheila Fiekowsky and Jennifer Elowitch, violist Mary Ferrillo, and cellist Oliver Aldort. The first piece, Mozart's spritely March in D major, K. 237/189c (arr. Hudgins), was written in 1774, the same year West Stockbridge was founded, and it set the celebratory tone of the occasion. As Hudgins left the stage, violist Daniel Getz stepped up and introduced Mozart's String Quintet No. 1 in B-flat major, K. 174, written in 1773, another early work by the composer. "But you can hear the germs of the genius that was to come," he noted, "especially in the operatic adagio and playful menuetto movements."

The program concluded with the Quintet for Clarinet in E-flat major, Op. 102, by Robert Fuchs. Hudgins addressed the audience first, recalling the Chamber Players' inaugural concert in the hall 13 years ago. "Two things stood out to me that day," she told the crowd. "How hot the room was and how fantastic the acoustics were. I'm happy the first is no longer the case, but the second has never changed." The Chamber Players' brilliant interpretation of the rarely performed Fuchs quintet underscored Hudgins's point, with her soaring clarinet work filling the hall with pure musical joy.

During the reception downstairs after the concert, the audience was able to mingle and talk with the musicians who have become such an integral part of the Historical Society community.

Photos by Bob Salerno



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Open Space and Recreation Plan:

Andy Potter explained that the Select Board has been asked to approve the Open Space and Recreation draft plan. This will enable the Committee to proceed with applying for grants.

Andy Krouss made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve the draft Open Space and Recreation Plan. All were in favor, draft approved.

Shared Fire and Ambulance Discussion:

Andy Potter requested that the Board table this discussion. He would like the Board to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee that would report back to the Board with the best possible option to consider in regard to a shared Fire and EMS Department which may or may not include Stockbridge and/or Richmond. The Committee will be composed of the Town Administrator, Fire Chief, a Select Board member, a Fire Department member and a Citizen-at-large. Marie will post an invitation to apply for the Citizen-at-large position. Anyone interested will be required to send a letter of interest to Marie after which the Board will appoint someone at their next meeting.

Wisacre Farm and Tech Environmental Report:

Kathleen reported to the Board that Wisacre Farm and Byers Scientific have only recently received the Tech Environmental report. She requested that the Board table this discussion until all parties have had time to thoroughly review the report. Mike Lennan, Tech Environmental engineer, would also like more time to work with Byers Scientific on some specific items. Kathleen suggested that the Board have a separate meeting with a public presentation by Tech Environmental along with Town Counsel in the next few weeks. The Board agreed to table this agenda item.

Select Board Speak

Andy Krouss thanked everyone for participating in the Town Election. He looks forward to working for the Town for three more years.

Kathleen congratulated all the candidates, especially Andy Krouss for his win and to Wayne for running a great campaign.

Andy Potter also thanked everyone involved in the election and for the candidates who ran for these positions and were willing to serve the Town. He also thanked Kathleen and Andy for the nomination to become the chair. Andy mentioned that this is National Police Week and thanked the Police Department for their service to the Town.

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

All were in favor.

Open meeting adjourned at 6:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator

**Select Board Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2024**

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

Andy Potter opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Andy Krouss made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve the minutes from May 14, 2024. All were in favor, minutes approved.

There were no comments during Citizen Speak or Town Administrator Update.

**Use of Town Property for the Zucchini Festival Fireworks:
Marge Powell**

Marge requested the use of the Town property at the old dump off of Oak Street to launch the fireworks at the Zucchini Festival in August. She explained that she would work with the neighbors and will also need the approval of the Fire Marshall and the Fire Chief but she first would like permission use the location.

Barry Girdler, Oak Street resident, voiced his concern that the road might be blocked off during the Zucchini Festival; however, Marge stated that they would only block off the area during the fireworks for about 15 minutes.

Andy Krouss made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve the use of the Town property on Oak Street for the Zucchini Festival fireworks.

All were in favor, motion approved.

**250th Town Anniversary Update & One Day Entertainment License:
Bob Salerno**

Bob Salerno informed the Board that the 250th Anniversary Celebration of the Town will be held on July 6, 2024. The main focus will be on the history of the Town with a small parade, opening ceremony and displays at the Old Town Hall. They plan to have antique automobiles in the parking lot, a special reading and a barbeque put on by the Parks & Recreation Commissioners. He showed the Board a sample of an old picture of the Town which he plans on creating several on mesh banners to display around Town. They will need a police presence on Main Street for about 45 minutes for the parade. He invited the Select Board to be present to accept a plaque on behalf of the Town. He requested a One Day Entertainment License for the event.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the One Day Entertainment License for the 250th Anniversary celebration.

All were in favor, motion approved.

Fire Department Update: Chief Steve Traver

Chief Traver informed the Board that he has hired two new Fire Department members. He has one truck in need of repair and is in the process of being fitted for new parts. The Fire Department will be conducting testing on the hoses on July 26th.



WE LOVE OUR COMMUNITY

*We are pleased to award
The 36th Annual Stone House Properties LLC Scholarships to*

Benjamin Gross CONGRATULATIONS and BEST WISHES!!

We'd like to extend continued Best Wishes to past West Stockbridge Recipients:

Joshua Barnes
Laura Hudson
Lam Nguyen
Ali Viola
Anthony Dellea
Dawn Costerisan
Jason Scibek
Claudia Masiero
Nathan Guss
Shane Miner
Emma Wolfe
Peter Thunfors
Andrea Sartori
Matthew Lopez

Sarah Guss
Kerry Biggs
Francesca Anderegg
Peter Anderegg
Jennifer Losaw
Amanda Hanley
Joshua Kohler
Kristin Kruszyna
Joseph Barrett
Kelly Susan Allen
Whitney Shook
Sam Grauly
Ethan Oberwager
John Kruszyna

Brian Webber
Corey Baldwin
Riley Baldwin
Anna Lucia Lister
Tara Korte
Lily Michaels
Shawna Norton
Keegan Baldwin
Anna Campetti
Dylan Cole-Kink
Candice Slosek
Peter Oggiani
Juri Kiin
Brianna Davis

Hannah Korte
Tristan Alston
Robert Baldwin
Aubrey Blanchard
Adam Boscarino
Charles Medeiros
Sophia Tenuta
Olivia Thiemann
Gabriella Thierling
Liam O'Gara
Madison Mullen
Brian Cella
Marcella Tenuta
Isabella Viola

Isaiah Brown

PATHWAY TO THE TRADES SCHOLARSHIP

Awarded to a Chatham High School graduate who is continuing their education and training in the trades.

Hunter Curletti

PATHWAY TO THE TRADES SCHOLARSHIP

Awarded to a Monument Mountain Regional High School graduate who is continuing their education and training in the trades.

Daniella Barry

SOULES-ASTORE SCHOLARSHIP

Katie Soules and Jeff Astore award to a Wahconah High School graduate who has maintained a high academic record and has made significant contributions in sports, arts, leadership, volunteering, internships, or work



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(518) 392-0332 6 MAIN STREET, CHATHAM, NY 12037



Annual Board and Committee Appointments:

Andy Potter noted that the Board will be asked to vote on all of the Annual Appointments on the list except for the Zoning Board of Appeals Alternates. Zoning Board of Appeals Chair, Randy Thunfors has requested the Select Board give them more time to determine the most appropriate residents for those positions and to vote on those specific positions at the next Select Board meeting.

Office	Name	Term Length
Deputy Collector	Arthur Jones Inc.	1 Year
Building Inspector	Brian DuVal	1 Year
Zoning Enforcement	Brian DuVal	1 Year
Animal Control Officer	John Drake	1 Year
Veteran's Agent	Tom Beasley	1 Year
Gas Inspector	Robert Gennari	1 Year
Oil Inspector	Larry Morse	1 Year
Plumbing Inspector	Robert Gennari	1 Year
Asst Plumbing Inspector	Bob Krupski	1 Year
Wire Inspector	Karl Cooper	1 Year
Asst Wire Inspector	Ted Piontek	1 Year
Asst Wire Inspector	Lawrence Ray	1 year
Town Counsel	Kopelman- Paige	1 Year
Smoke/Fire Alarm Inspector	Steve Traver	1 Year
Board of Registrars	Ronni Barrett	3 Years
Conservation Commission	Kathy Korte	3 Years
	Lori Rose	3 Years
Official Weighers	Marc Portieri	1 Year
	Faith Libardi	1 Year
Veteran's Grave Officer	Wayne Cooper	1 Year
Zoning Board of Appeals	Robin Bankert	5 Years
ZBA Alternates	Toby Casey	1 Year
	Gunnar Gudmunson	1 Year
Emergency Mgt. Director	Louis Oggiani	1 Year
Right to Know Officer	Steve Traver	1 Year
Consultant to Veteran's Agent	Wayne Cooper	1 Year
ADA Coordinator	Brian DuVal	1 Year
Parks & Rec Committee	Ashley Daigle	1 Year
	Joe Roy	1 Year
	JP Boscorino	1 Year
	Caitlin Graham	1 Year
	Kelli Bradbury	1 Year
Cable TV Commission	Alexander Stein	1 Year
	George Cox	1 Year
Town Historian	Bob Salerno	1 Year
Historical Committee	Bob Salerno	1 Year
	Earl Moffatt	1 Year
	Scott Sawyer	1 Year
Sewer & Water Commission	Steve Sautman	5 Years
Council on Aging	Paula Farrell	5 Years
Agricultural Commission	Shannon Mulholland	3 Years
Agricultural Com Alternates	Peter Negrini	3 Years
	Curt Wilton	3 Years
Community Preservation	Randy Thunfors - Housing	2 years
	Vacancy-Planning Board	1 Year
	Steve McMahon - Citizen at large	1 year
Cultural Council	Curtis Thierling	3 Years
	Julia Erickson	3 Years
Shared Fire/EMT Ad Hoc	Joann MacQuarrie - Citizen -at-Large	

July Art Calendar

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

2024

July 5 - 14, "Imagining Heaven & Earth"
featuring Pat Frik & Anne Ferril. Art on Main Gallery, West Stockbridge, MA.
Reception: Saturday July 6, 2-4PM

July 5 - 30, "ALCHEMY"
An exhibit of transformations" featuring seven Berkshire artists. Welles Gallery, Lenox Library, Lenox, MA.
Reception: Saturday July 5, 3-5PM

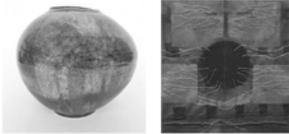
July 13, 9-11am, Urban Sketching Meetup
Hosted by Jill Gustavis. Downtown Pittsfield, MA. Free, RSVP for more info. **RSVP:** jill@jillgustavis.com

July 18 - 28, "Nature of Our Mind: Art of Gail Gelburd" featuring Gail Gelburd. Art on Main Gallery, West Stockbridge, MA. **Reception:** Saturday July 20, 3-6PM **Artist Talk:** July 27, 4PM.

June 28, Berkshire Photo Gathering.
See web: berkshirephotogathering.com /online-meetings

July 30, Meet the Artist, 3pm.
TBD. Link to watch to be shared on website.

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



Imagining Heaven & Earth

Pat Frik & Anne Ferril

July 5 - 14

Reception July 6, 2-4pm



Nature of Our Mind: Art of Gail Gelburd

July 18 - 28

Reception July 20, 3-6pm



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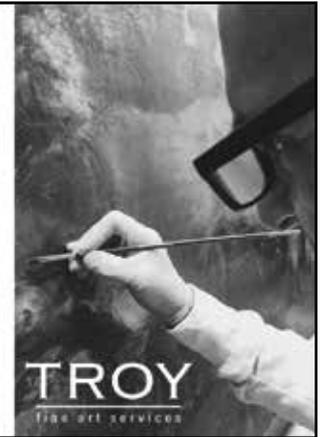
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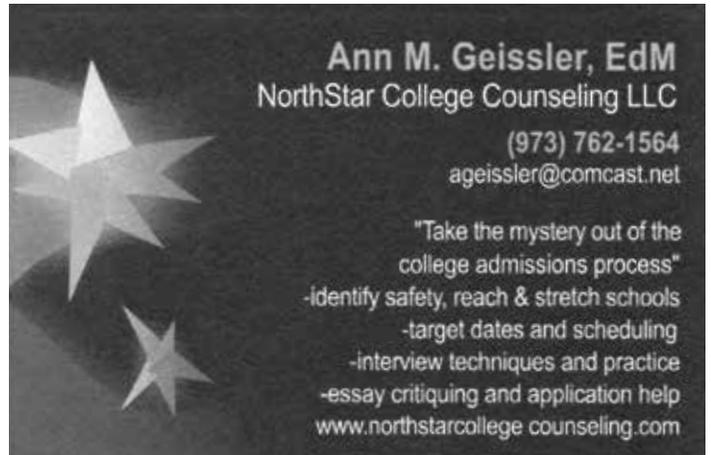


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July History Quiz Question:

July 1774 was a significant month in the formal establishment of West Stockbridge. Our first official town meeting was held on July 4, 1774. Local citizens were elected to town government positions, operating committees appointed, and a budget set for schools and preaching. Town meetings and other gatherings were forbidden without previous approval by the royal governor, as required by the new Royal Commonwealth Charter. This charter didn't go into effect until August 1, 1774, so we just made it in time.

The provisions of the new charter, along with the Coercive Acts, which raised taxes and closed the Port of Boston, caused a major uproar in the Commonwealth. Two days after our initial town meeting, West Stockbridge actively participated in a significant action that led to the American Revolution. Who participated, and what was that action?

(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.



**West Stockbridge
Historical Society**
Incorporated in 1994

...continued from page 9

Andy Krouss made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve the following list of appointments.

All were in favor, appointments were approved.

Remaining ARPA Money: Andy Potter

Andy Potter suggested to the Board that the remaining money left in the ARPA funds given to the Town should be transferred to the Affordable Housing Trust. He stated that the Town Accountant, Elaine, does not have the exact amount of remaining funds at this time. Kathleen asked that the Board table this item until the amount has been certified by Elaine. The Board all agreed to table this agenda item.

Select Board Speak

Andy Krouss thanked everyone for participating in the Memorial Day celebrations in Town.

Kathleen also thanked everyone for their efforts in making the Memorial celebrations both fitting and meaningful.

Andy Potter said he regrets that he was not in attendance and was happy it went well.

Andy Krouss made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to adjourn at 6:31 PM.

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator



Art on Main
Gallery

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Guild of Berkshire Artists

OPEN EVERY WEEKEND
THURSDAYS - SUNDAYS 11AM TO 4PM
THROUGH END OF DECEMBER, 2024.

- "Imagining Heaven and Earth" - Ceramics by Anne Ferril and Fiber Art by Pat Frik (July 4 - 14)
- "The Nature of Our Mind" - An Installation by Gail Gelburd (July 18 - 28)
- "Glory Days" - Paintings by Don Sexton and Karen Carmean, plus Sculptures by Natalie Tyler (August 1 - 11)
- "Real, Surreal, Mannequins and More" - Works by Richard Lerman and Julie Wosk (August 15 - 25)

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— Jackie Moffatt at C. H. Baldwin & Sons

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The Smoking Brisket Conspiracy

By Gerald Elias

Gerald Elias, a former Boston Symphony violinist and author of the acclaimed Daniel Jacobus mystery series, has had a home in West Stockbridge since 1976.

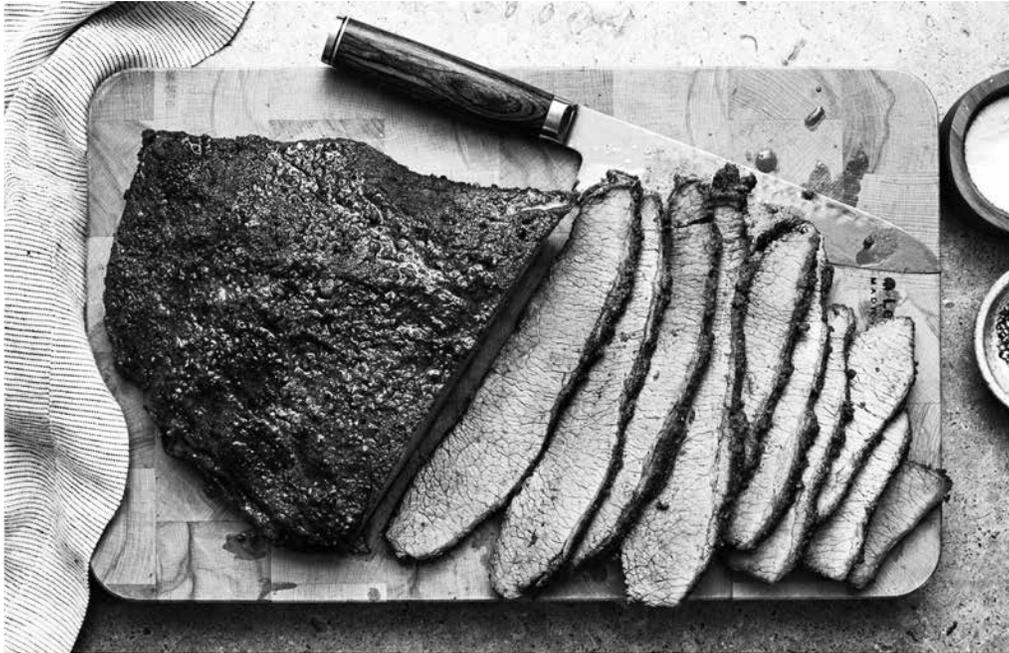


Photo of beef brisket from Downshiftology.com

Ever had a sneaking suspicion that we're being subtly manipulated by evil, sophisticated marketing geniuses, converting us from presumably sentient beings into veritable retail slaves? Sound extreme? Maybe not.

When a slew of visiting family members recently descended on our Berkshire domicile, I wanted to grill something to satiate a slew's various tastes. What better than smoked brisket! After all, Southern-style smokehouses have multiplied faster than boll weevils. Suburbanites swarm to big box stores to purchase extravagant smokers to keep up with, or to out-smoke the Joneses. (Remember the hibachi era of the '70s? Where have *they* all gone?)

I felt the first inkling of being subliminally manipulated when I googled smoked brisket recipes. Half of them insisted that one could not properly smoke a brisket sans a super-duper, whoop-de-do outdoor smoker. As the proud owner of a certified, vintage El Cheapo gas grill that has yet to explode on me, I wasn't prepared to spend the family fortune to cook a slab of meat, so I didn't bother further with those recipes.

The problem was, even those that didn't mandate state-of-the-art gizmos listed more ingredients than the number of zucchinis catapulted at the Zucchini Festival and recommended a prerequisite in culinary alchemy. For example, the quasi-mystical concoction, called The Rub, required fractions of grams of rare and exotic powders only obtainable in Timbuktu. Then, there followed The Sauce, a potion involving yet more esoteric compounds. Where, I ask you, does one find aged persimmon vinegar? (A slight exaggeration for dramatic purposes.)

In an epiphany, I threw caution and my computer to the wind. I determined to smoke my brisket *without any recipe whatsoever* on my El Cheapo! And I lived to tell the tale! Some even remarked that it was the best brisket ever. What's more, my foolproof non-recipe can be successfully executed even by the proverbial dolt who can't boil water, because, for the most part, *it doesn't matter what you do!*

To make a Great Smoked Brisket, there are only two things you need: (1) a brisket, and (2) smoke. Everything else is optional and variable, including the smoke. For example, to simulate The Rub, I rummaged around my kitchen and, tucked behind the Cheerios, discovered a vial of Montreal Steak Seasoning. How and when it got into my cupboard is anyone's guess; regardless, I suspected it might be good. I also found chili powder and ground mustard, both of which had pleasing colors. Stirring up arbitrary amounts in a bowl, I massaged them onto the meat with fervor. My guess is, other than salt and pepper, you don't need any seasonings whatsoever, but rubbing it in felt great, so I recommend it.

Some recipes stated that it's absolutely essential to refrigerate brisket overnight. (CAUTION: If you seriously want to take this step, first you may have to purchase a larger refrigerator.) But letting meat sit on a counter overnight might attract some members of the animal

...continued on page 13

...continued from page 12

kingdom you hadn't invited. After weighing the pluses and minuses, I disregarded these concerns entirely.

Next, making smoke. Get whatever woodchips your supermarket has on the shelf, the cheaper, the better. Some recipes say mesquite, others hickory. Whatever. It makes no difference. Just follow the instructions on the bag . . . or not. Some say to soak the chips for 1½ millennia, but you don't need to soak them at all. If the store is out of woodchips, don't worry, you don't really need them; but if you have fun making smoke and you feel like you're doing something "authentic," go for it.

Here's the only important thing to do: You have to cook the brisket. And cook it really, really slowly. Otherwise, it'll be as tough as three-week-old road-kill goat. So, what I did on my El Cheapo was this: I turned on the left burner to the lowest setting and put the smoking packet on the grill above it. Then I set the meat on the unlit right grill, closed the cover, drank beer for about eight hours, and voilà! (If, by accident, you step on your watch or the brisket changes time zones, don't worry; an extra hour or two will only make it more tender.) You can also roast brisket in the oven on the lowest setting and it'll do just fine, but if you feel more "manly" (or "womanly") doing it on a grill, then do it on the grill. Also, occasional poking and prodding is easier on the grill than in the kitchen, unless it's raining.

I almost forgot to discuss The Sauce, probably because, like everything else, you really don't need it. But if you want barbecue sauce, anything from the supermarket will taste as good as something that takes three hours of mess to prepare. And, if brushing it on the meat an hour before it's done makes your life more meaningful, who's to stop you? Or you can pour it on afterward. Either way.

A final thought. Powerful invisible forces are at work to convince you that if you don't visit a "real" Texas or Kansas City or North Carolina BBQ restaurant where you wait in a long line, pay top dollar for two slices of meat and two sides "traditionally" served on a paper plate with paper towel napkins and sit at a Formica table on which your forearm sticks to the surface, you'll have to choose between sending your kids to college or buying a smoker that you'll use once a decade.

If resisting these forces makes you feel inadequate, even un-American, I say, *Rise up! Buck the system!* My recipe-free brisket could be the first step in liberating yourself from the insidious marketer's vicious cycle. Ignore this advice at your peril, though, because once you succumb to the smoker, it's only a matter of time before they'll nail you with the outdoor wood-fired pizza oven.

That's about it, but if you forget any of the details I've painstakingly offered, don't worry. It doesn't matter.

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Friends of the Library Say Thank You!

I want to extend a big shout-out to the great Friends of the West Stockbridge Library for all their support, assistance, and schlepping coolers with ice on Saturday, May 25, for a Memorial Day event at the West Stockbridge Library.

Our champion was Bernie Fallon, the new owner of the Public Market. When one of our members went into the store to purchase more ice, she found out that they were short on ice as well. However, Bernie was contacted at his Lenox store, and when he returned to town, he delivered ice directly to the outside event. This rescue definitely helped keep our supply of ice cream from melting at our community event in support of the library.

Thank you, everyone!
With appreciation,
Lorin Krouss

Community News & Events

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

There will be no Grange Dinner in July and August.

Council on Aging

The Richmond/West Stockbridge COA Craft Group will meet at 9:30 am on Tuesday, July 2, in the Community Room at the West Stockbridge Town Offices. Our project will be a Star Shaker Card. Preregister to reserve your space and materials by calling Heather at Richmond Town Hall, (413) 553-7793. The class is free to residents of Richmond and West Stockbridge. It's a fun time—hope to see you there!



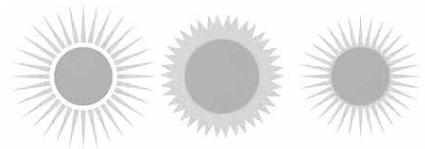
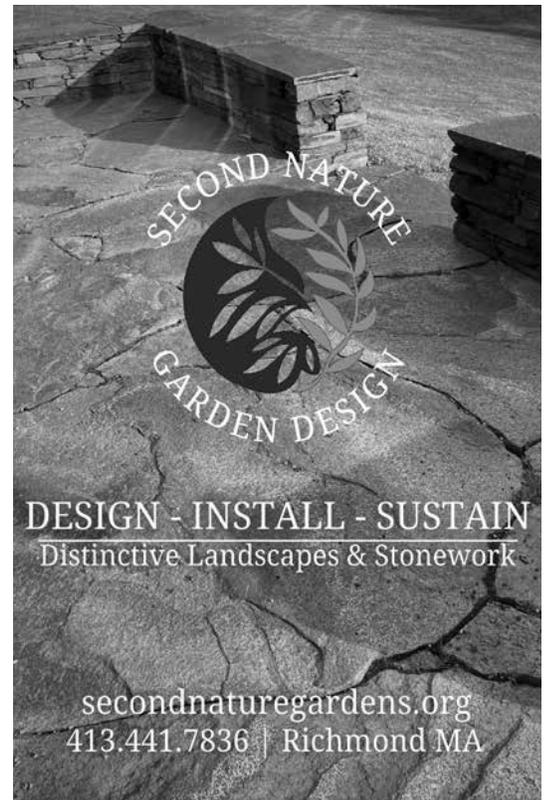
The Knitters Group

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.

*Please 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.*



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.



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

Greetings from WSPL!

If you are reading this on July 1, hurry to participate in our second annual **Stuffed Animal Sleepover!** Kids may drop off a stuffed animal (not one you need for bedtime at home) on July 2 from 2 pm to 6 pm, and they will have the library all to themselves for fun and games overnight! Pickup is Wednesday, July 3, from 10 am to 3 pm. This event is the start of our summer reading program, and we would love to have you join us!

Here are our monthly lending and borrowing statistics for May:

- 574 items borrowed and renewed
- \$9,800 saved if library users bought the books or DVDs
- 334 eBooks and streaming audiobooks borrowed
- 908 items borrowed

We always welcome your reading requests. Remember the library can provide items from all over the state and even the country. We look forward to seeing you soon! Vicky, Rachel, Sarah, and Francesca

NEW ADULT FICTION

Andrews (Clancy), *Tom Clancy act of defiance*
 Baldacci, *A calamity of souls*
 Coben, *Think twice*
 Foley, *The midnight feast*
 Fuentes, *Malas*
 Grisham, *Camino ghosts*
 Henry, *Funny story*
 Kim, *Relative strangers*
 King, *You like it darker: stories*
 Luna, *Tell me who you are*
 McPhillips, *When we were silent*
 Reichl, *The Paris novel*
 Roberts, *Mind games*
 Sandford, *Toxic prey*
 Smith et al., *A cage went in search of a bird: ten Kafkaesque stories*
 Talty, *Fire exit*
 Towles, *Table for two: fictions*
 Turton, *The last murder at the end of the world*
 Van Der Wouden, *The safekeep*

NEW ADULT NONFICTION

Cech, *The catalyst: RNA and the quest to unlock life's deepest secrets*
 Dubb, *Birding with benefits*
 Figgenger, *My life with sea turtles*
 Goodwin, *An unfinished love story: a personal history of the 1960s*
 Haidt, *The anxious generation: how the great rewiring of childhood is causing an epidemic of mental illness*
 Higginbotham, *Challenger: a true story of heroism and disaster on the edge of space*
 Prickett, *The unclaimed: abandonment and hope in the City of Angels*
 Satow, *When women ran Fifth Avenue: glamour and power at the dawn of American fashion*
 Stephanopoulos, *The situation room*
 Vignola, *Rewire: break the cycle, alter your thoughts and create lasting change*
 Waters, *The other Olympians: fascism, queerness, and the making of modern sports*

NEW DVDs

The Beekeeper
Killers of the flower moon



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

1. Who designed the house "defying gravity" on Lenox Road? Who was the builder?
2. What is the cantilevered house made out of?
3. What material was missing in the house?
4. Caring people in town created road signs in August 2014. What did they say?

1. Warren Schwartz, Chris May
2. Concrete, steel, and glass
3. Not a speck of wood
4. "Turtle Crossing"



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.



It's Back... AGAIN!

West Stockbridge Zucchini 20 Festival 24 Sat. August 10th



Follow the Fest on FB & IG
[@wszucchinifest](#)



WSZF 2024 Fact Sheet

What & Why? The West Stockbridge Zucchini Festival is an all-day, family-friendly event that celebrates our unique Berkshire community and of course everyone's favorite staple, summer squash! Sponsored by the W.S. Cultural Council and organized by volunteers, neighbors and friends. **Come One, Come All!**

When? August 10th, 2024 - 10am to 10pm

Where? Downtown W.S. on Depot & Center Street

Festival Info: www.wszucchinifest.org

How to Get Ready for WSZF?

Start Growing Your Zucchini's NOW!

Rome wasn't grown in a day! So roam into the garden and start tending a laurel-worthy Zuke for the **WSZF Zucchini Weigh-Off Competition!** Home-grown zucchinis of all shapes and sizes welcome.

Whisper & Wash Your Pets!

Are we doing 'Paw' or 'Shake'? Train up Wishbone, Fitz or Woodstock to get ready to kick off the festival with the **WSZF Pet Parade!** All species welcome and zucchini costumes very highly encouraged. Well-behaved pets & owners only.

On Your Marks... Let Proof... Bake!

Quit trying to trick the NYT Cooking paywall and start baking your own original Zucchini Cuisini for the **WSZF Zucchini Baking Contest!** Gluten-free, glutenous or gluttonous, Sweet or Savory--so long as its got zucchini, all baked edibles are welcome.

Competition registration info available soon at:
wszucchinifest.org

Be a Real Zucchini & Voluntini! West Stockie Folks, Sign Up Now to Volunteer!

Hang out with friends, neighbors and meet some new folks too by pitching in to prepare and run this year's festival! WSZF is only made possible when you and all of the great folks in our community come together. Any time you can give is welcome!

- **Big Need for Day-of Volunteers!**
Booth & game attendants, direct traffic, helpers & runners, clean-up crew, etc.
- Set up tents & games the night before festival
- Painting & building unique decor, signs, etc.
- Organizing, Acquiring Donations, etc.

To volunteer, please visit
wszucchinifest.org/volunteer

Call for WSZF Vendors & Performers!

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For Vendor info & application, please visit
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For Performers & Entertainers, please email
wszucchinifest@gmail.com



Sponsored by the West Stockbridge Cultural Council
& organized by volunteers, neighbors and friends



July 2024 News

By Margie Skaggs

Onward with Art on Main: Presenting Two Shows in July 2024

The gallery is open every weekend from Thursday to Sunday, 11 am to 4 pm.

Imagining Heaven and Earth: July 4–14

Reception: Saturday, July 6, 2–4 pm

Pat Frik began her path to fiber art after many years as a hand weaver, as evidenced by the emphasis on process and surface texture in her current work. In these small-scale works, she brings the natural world to life using hand stitching to enhance and often reinterpret imagery, sometimes in whimsical ways. Sometimes she uses multicolored threads and stitching techniques combined with photo transfers on layers of fabric. In other pieces, she dyes natural cotton fabric to form a base for imaginary landscapes using the sewing needle to stitch a path along contours connecting mountains to coastlines.

Anne Ferril looks to the sky for inspiration and made her first moon jar nine years ago after moving to the Berkshires. The shadows and patterns of trees, swaying and dancing in the moonlight, became the guiding light for her work in clay. They also heightened her appreciation of the moon's beauty and its significance to life here on earth, especially before the invention of electricity. The work in this show reflects her delight in the magic of the moon through a complex firing process that includes smoke, wood fire, soda fire, gas reduction, and finally electric oxidation, each process leaving its distinct mark.

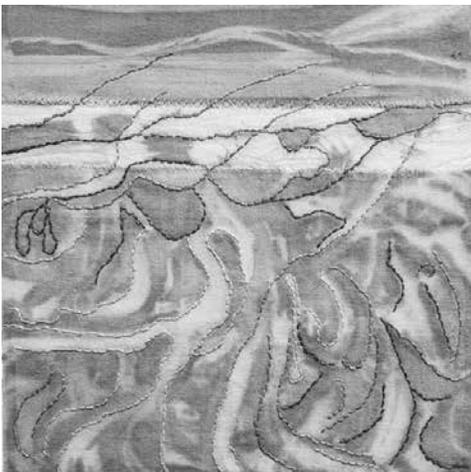
The Nature of Our Mind: July 18–28

Reception: Saturday, July 20, 2–4 pm

Artist Talk: Saturday, July 27, 2 pm

Gail Gelburd mounts a solo installation at Art on Main gallery and invites visitors to step into and experience her creative concepts. Gail believes that the Nature of Our Mind can be likened to the strength of a tree, a bubbling brook, an endless river, or a gentle pond. But when a storm rages, she notes, "It is not our physical being that can fight or tame the torrent . . . it is up to each viewer/participant to find a balance between terror and strength, power and peace." These moments are found in Gail's photography with encaustic, layered collage and drawing, and life-size sculptures. Together, they create an environment of sights and sounds that visualize nature and our mind.

Images courtesy of the artists.



Pat Frik, Dune - Fiber art



*Anne Ferril, Moon Jar -
Wood-fired stoneware #2*



*Gail Gelburd, Don Tien in the Tsunami -
Mixed media with photography*

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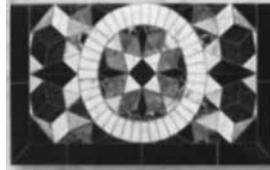
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History Quiz Answer:

On July 6, 1774, two days after the initial West Stockbridge town meeting, Berkshire County held a "congress," or conference, in Stockbridge to consider the new Royal Charter and the impact of the Coercive Acts. The congress was the first time any towns in the Commonwealth had gathered to work together. Before this meeting, each town had acted on its own, protesting or engaging in civil disobedience against the heavy-handed actions taken by Parliament.

The king and Parliament were reacting to the Boston Tea Party the previous December, and their solution was to "teach the colonists a lesson." (Note: Both the king and members of Parliament had personal investments in the tea trade.) The new charter took away the town's ability to self-govern, appoint and pay sheriffs and judges, and administer the courts directly. Among other restrictions, the Coercive Acts closed the Port of Boston, the largest in the colonies and a major source of goods in and out of the Commonwealth.

West Stockbridge fully supported this countywide conference in Stockbridge by sending two important citizens to represent it. Elisha Hooper, our local tax collector, lived on Austerlitz Road (and even had a nearby hill named after him). Benjamin Lewis was our new town clerk. Plus he headed the ministerial and education committees and was the "sealer of leather" (elected official authorized to affirm that all sellers of leather had made honest claims about quality and quantity). Both these men were prominent in local circles and well respected.

The conference lasted two days. This gathering to respond to the Parliament's actions was new and potentially risky. Massachusetts did not always have support from other states, and even in the state, all the towns weren't united. Yet Berkshire County towns including West Stockbridge voted to ban imports from Britain, a direct blow to the commercial interests of the king and members of Parliament. More importantly, it laid the foundation for what would become the grievances listed in the Declaration of Independence.

The conference stated that the colonists were the equals of the residents of Great Britain. As such, they should be treated the same way with respect to property rights, trial by a jury of their peers, use of taxes, and other "franchises and liberties." The Parliament took away these rights without their consent or a trial. Because these acts were "arbitrary and oppressive it is the duty of all inhabitants to enter into an agreement not to purchase or consume manufactures of Great Britain."

Not only was this the start of what we now call a "trade war." Nine other counties adapted the nonimportation clauses over the next five months, which shocked Londoners when they heard the news. Samuel Adams and others traveled to other colonies to gain support and organize the first Continental Congress. The king and Lord North responded by sending more troops to Boston and trying to be more repressive. Governor Gage attempted to take over the judiciary and General Court. As we know now, it didn't work. The result was the Declaration of Independence and the Revolutionary War.



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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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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>Marissa Mullen</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

West Stockbridge Zucchini 20 Festival 24

**August 10th, 10am to 10pm
Downtown WS at Depot St. & Center St.**

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For festival news
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	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

July Calendar of Events

7/1	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices and on Zoom
7/2	Council on Aging Craft Group meeting	9:30 am	Community Room
7/3	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room
7/4	Independence Day		
7/6	250th Anniversary Celebration	10 am-5:30 pm	See details inside
7/7	WS Farmers Market	3-6 pm	Foundry Green, Harris Street
7/10	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room
7/10	Friends of the Library meeting	3:30 pm	Community Room
7/11	WS Farmers Market	3-6 pm	Foundry Green, Harris Street
7/15	*** Deadline for the next <i>Local Yokel</i> ***		Send to info@thelocalyokel.org
7/15	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices and on Zoom
7/17	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room
7/18	WS Farmers Market	3-6 pm	Foundry Green, Harris Street
7/24	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room
7/25	WS Farmers Market	3-6 pm	Foundry Green, Harris Street
7/28	Annual Card Pond Party	11 am-1 pm	Card Pond
7/29	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices and on Zoom
7/31	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room
7/31	Lara Tupper Writing Workshop	5-6:30 pm	Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street

Note: Town Offices (including Community Room and Library) are located at 21 State Line Road, West Stockbridge.