

Local yokel

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

West
Stockbridge

June

2024

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005

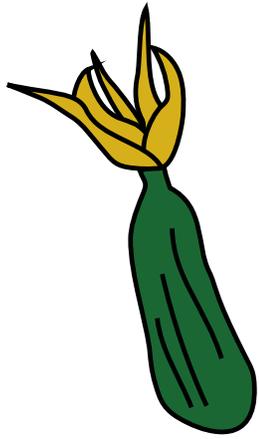


Annual Town Meeting

&

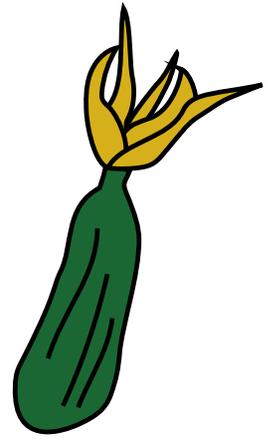
Election Results Inside

Photo by Emily Weiland



It's Back... AGAIN!

West Stockbridge Zucchini **20** Festival **24** Sat. August 10th



**SAVE Z'
DATE!**

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

More Info: www.wszucchinifest.org

How to Get Ready for WSZF?

Start Growing Your Zucchini NOW!

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

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 Food paywall and start concocting 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.

Follow the Fest on FB & IG
@wszucchinifest

Call for WSZF Volunteers!

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR ALL ASPECTS OF THE FESTIVAL!

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

- Painting & Building unique decor, signs, etc.
- Organizing, Acquiring Donations, etc.
- Set up tents & games the night before festival
- Day-of: booth & game attendants, direct traffic, helpers & runners, clean-up crew, etc.

To volunteer, please visit
wszucchinifest.org/volunteer

Call for WSZF Vendors!

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For more info, please visit
wszucchinifest.org/vendors
or contact
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**Sponsored by the West Stockbridge Cultural Council
& organized by volunteers, neighbors and friends** 🍷

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 June 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 April 9, 2024

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

Kathleen opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Potter, to approve the minutes from March 25, 2024.

All were in favor, minutes approved.

TurnPark Request to Amend 2024 Annual Entertainment License-

Jared Gelormino, Manager

Jared spoke on behalf of TurnPark to request that the Select Board amend their 2024 Annual Entertainment License. He asked the Board to approve their license to allow for entertainment events on Monday through Saturday from 10 AM until 10 PM with an allowance of up to 6 events with amplified music until 10 PM. Currently the Board had approved Monday through Saturday 10 AM until 9 PM.

Jared thanked the residents and the Board for their support of TurnPark. He stated that when the Board approved the Annual Entertainment Licenses there had been a question in regard to TurnPark's original Special Permit which was approved as a restaurant and museum and if entertainment is allowed. After speaking with Brian DuVal, Building Inspector, a museum has the right to have entertainment, therefore their Annual entertainment License is legal. Jared expressed that TurnPark always tries to be respectful to the neighbors and if they receive a complaint, they always turn down the sound. They also have measured sound at the property line several times during their events and their highest reading was 55 decibels. He noted that the only bylaw pertaining to sound is a one-day entertainment license which includes a sound limit of 70 decibels.

Jared said that TurnPark could limit their sound limit to 70 decibels, the same as the one-day entertainment license bylaw.

Andy MADE a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the amendment to TurnPark's 2024 Annual Entertainment License.

All were in favor, amendment approved.

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

Curt informed the Board that he held a bid opening recently for the paving of Iron Ore Road, Iron Mine Road, Bobolink Road, Cone Hill Road, Furnace Road and Silver Mine Road. The low bidder was DelSignore Paving with a total project quote of \$300,319. At the 2023 Annual Town Meeting the project was approved for \$422,267, therefore, the bid was under the budgeted cost.

Curt updated the Board that the employees of the Highway Department along with Marie and Elaine Markham, Town Accountant, completed two recent trainings. The trainings were for Confined Space and Hazardous Awareness and for Municipal & Capital Budgeting.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Grant Update –DPW Director Curt Wilton

Curt informed the Board that he and Marie have been working with Weston & Sampson Engineering to apply for two grants through the MVP Program. One of the grants will allow the Town to be shovel ready to repair the culvert on Willson Road. Once shovel ready, that would allow the Town to apply for any grant that becomes available to assist in the total cost to repair the culvert. Curt explained that the culvert on Willson Road is in such disrepair that the road floods about four to five times a year and need to be replaced.

Another grant they are applying for could cover the cost to conduct an assessment for construction of a new resilient multi-department facility to replace the current Highway Department and Fire Station which currently is located in a flood zone. The new facility would protect the departments from natural hazards and expand emergency shelter capacity.

The MVP Program requires the Town to pay for 10% of the total cost. If awarded these grants, the MVP Program would require the Town to cover a total of \$74,690. Curt explained that there is a warrant article for this coming Town Meeting on May 6th for the culvert asking the voters to approve \$100,000 which would cover the town's 10% cost. Curt asked the Board to sign a letter to state that the Town would cover the required 10% of the project and support the grant application. The Board agreed and thanked Curt and Marie for their work.

Select Board Speak:

Andy Potter thanked Senator Paul Mark for the informational meeting he held in Lenox recently. Andy said in attendance were several Senate members and the Lieutenant Governor. The meeting was informative with news and updates on several issues involving municipalities. Andy will be attending a Massachusetts Municipal Association meeting this week on Policy for Energy & Environmental issues in Boston. He will update the Board with any information he receives at the meeting.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Potter, to adjourn at 6:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan
Town Administrator

...continued on page 7

2024 Annual Town Election Results

May 13, 2024

TOTALS

MODERATOR

Joseph Roy, Jr.	439
Write-ins	4
Blanks	48

Board of Health

Kathryn Korte	430
Write-ins	0
Blanks	61

Select Board

Andrew Krouss	275
Wayne Cooper	213
Write-ins	0
Blanks	3

Library Trustee

Beth Sack	413
Write-ins	0
Blanks	78

Board of Assessors

Susan Lupo	398
Write-ins	0
Blanks	93

Cemetery Commission

Earl Moffatt	397
Write-ins	1
Blanks	93

Finance Committee (2 for 3 years each)

Frank Landsberger	359
Mark Greenlaw	349
Write-ins	3
Blanks	271

Question 1: Adopt Chp 41 C 1/2

Yes	397
No	36
Blanks	58

Planning Board (1 for 2 years)

Jared Gelormino	373
Write-ins	4
Blanks	114

TOTAL VOTERS

TOTAL VOTERS	491
Total Registered Vot	1139
% Voted	43%

Planning Board (1 for 5 years)

Andrew Fudge	385
Write-ins	1
Blanks	105

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Town Meeting and Election Results: A Summary

By John Parker

Sources: *Town of West Stockbridge, The Berkshire Eagle, The Berkshire Edge*

West Stockbridge held its annual town meeting on Monday, May 6, in the Town Offices gymnasium, attended by 92 registered voters (8% of the town's total).

Presiding as moderator was Gene Dellea, who has served in that role for 58 years, the longest-serving moderator in the state. Former town administrator Mark Webber observed that the town was holding its 250th annual town meeting that night and joked, "Our good friend Gene Dellea has acted as town moderator for every one!" Dellea also served 10 years on the town's Select Board. Dellea was presented with citations from the State House of Representatives and Governor Maura Healy by state Representative "Smitty" Pignatelli, who called Dellea "Mr. West Stockbridge." Heartfelt tributes and multiple standing ovations greeted Dellea, who at age 88 is retiring from the role after this year.

Finance Committee chair Bob Salerno made a presentation about the tax rate process, explaining how the budget is developed, how the tax rate is calculated, the town's fiscal history, what is included in the budget, and how West Stockbridge's tax rate compares with other towns in Berkshire County. West Stockbridge has the 12th lowest tax rate of all 32 cities and towns in the county and the 5th lowest among the nine South County towns.

Although voters approved the town's \$6.9 million FY 2025 budget (up 6% from FY 2024) and all special articles, there was an extended discussion about a \$25,000 funding item for the planning and design of a dog park. The funds were finally approved with an amendment requiring final approval at a special town meeting. Other special articles included increasing the local lodging occupancy tax to 6% and adopting a 3% Community Impact fee on short-term rentals. Voters also approved a ballot measure providing a partial property tax relief for principal home residents at least 70 years of age.

In contrast to the low turnout for the annual town meeting, the annual town election on May 13 turned out 43% of registered voters. Only one post was contested: incumbent Select Board member Andrew Krouss faced a challenge from Wayne Cooper. Krouss came out on top with 275 votes to 213 for Cooper. Joseph Roy, Jr., received 439 votes to take over the town moderator's gavel from Gene Dellea, observing that he will have a "really, really tough act to follow." Mark Greenlaw was elected to a vacant seat on the Finance Committee, and Jared Gelormino was elected to a vacant seat on the Planning Board. Incumbents were reelected to all the remaining posts.

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PB

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 Dellea. 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

Mark your calendar!

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 5pm with cake on the Foundry Green.

weststockbridgehistory.com

facebook.com/weststockbridgehistoricalsociety

West 250th Stockbridge

Cutting our own path since 1774



**Select Board Meeting Minutes
April 24, 2024**

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

Kathleen opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve the Rent Control Board minutes from April 3, 2024.

All were in favor, minutes approved.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve the select Board minutes from April 9 and 11, 2024.

All were in favor, minutes approved.

Parks & Recreation Committee Appointment- Chair Cait Graham

The Parks and Recreation Committee requested that the Board appoint Kelli Bradbury to the Committee to fill the vacancy. Kelli is a longtime resident and has been attending their meetings. She is a very involved resident in the community and the Committee is happy to have her join them.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve the appointment of Kelli Bradbury to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

All were in favor, motion passed.

Parks & Recreation Committee Update on Pavilions- Joe Roy

Joe Roy informed the Board that the Parks & Recreation Committee submitted a request for Community Preservation money to purchase two pavilions for the Town. The Committee has approved the request and now will go to Town Meeting for approval. One of the pavilions will be located at Town Hall outside of the Library. This pavilion will be large, measuring 16x32 and can hold up to 8 picnic tables underneath it. The second one will be located at Card Pond behind the beach area and will be smaller, measuring 14x28 and can hold up to 3 picnic tables underneath it. Both pavilions will have vinyl siding and be made of pressured treated wood.

The pavilions could allow for community events, birthday parties and more at both the Town Hall and Card Pond.

Joe has met with Curt, Director of Public Works and Marie, Town Administrator, to review the locations as well as any concerns they may have. Both pavilions will have very low maintenance, requiring power washing maybe once a year. Curt stated that the Department of Public Works will be able to take care of that minimal maintenance.

The Parks & Recreation Committee wanted to reach out to the Select Board prior to Town Meeting to see if they had any further questions concerns.

The Board thought this was a great investment for the Town.

The West Stockbridge Farmer's Market – Entertainment License- Lily Davenport

Lily Davenport requested a 2024 Entertainment License for the West Stockbridge Farmer's Market. The entertainment would be

...continued on page 9

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Eulogy for Our Ash Tree

By Gerald Elias

Its bark was thick and tough and creased as the skin of a wise old African elephant. Its triple trunks had towered over our little house long before we owned it, long before I was born, probably before my great-grandfather was born.

But, like every other ash tree, it was not immune to the vicissitudes of time or the tenacity of the tiny emerald ash borer. Little by little, over the years, we pruned dying limbs, 20 feet off the ground, 30 feet, 40 feet, until all that was left was the tree's canopy that still cast shadows over a half acre of lawn. Sometimes, when limbs gave up on their own, we didn't need to prune. They would just snap off under their own dead half-ton weight and thud to the ground, shaking the earth like a dinosaur's footfall.

Now, for its swansong, its leaves were falling in its final autumn. It had been determined by more than one tree consultant that the tree's death spiral had made it dangerous, that a heavy limb or one of its three main trunks could split off and fall on our deck, on our roof, on us. No more therapeutic pruning would save it. It was time to cut it down. Time to cut down the tree that had provided our kids with a sturdy arm for their rope swing 30 years ago, that had provided us cooling shade in the hot, humid Berkshire summers; that had been home to countless birds, squirrels, and less friendly occupants; that had been the majestic centerpiece of our yard from the day we moved in over 40 years ago. It had become a member of our family.

I sat on the deck, peering way up to where, a couple of decades ago, we had a tree guy cable the three trunks together to prevent the tripartite base from splitting in strong winds. How many thousands of dollars we had spent caring for that tree, all of it worth every penny. Now, some of it would be cut up and split into firewood to keep us warm in winter as it burned in our woodstove, some more of it would be chipped into mulch to keep our vegetable garden tidy, and the rest would be hauled away.

I sat on the deck, communing with the tree for the last time. The tree guy would be here soon with his crew to dismember it, and I didn't want to be around to watch. I felt guilty. About a tree.

The tree climber with his spiked shoes, ropes, and chainsaw would clamber up the tree and start lopping off limbs from the top down. When they landed, they'd be loaded into the chipper and blown into the back of the truck. Little by little, the tree would be whittled down until nothing was left but a massive stump, four feet in diameter. Before nature takes over and the stump itself slowly but surely begins to rot, I'll count the rings in honor and in memory of its time on earth. Regardless, in another generation, no one will know this magnificent tree ever existed except for photos and stories.

As I looked up at the tree for the last time, a breeze stirred the tree's upper limbs, as if saying goodbye. I think it knew.

Photo courtesy of the author.

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only on Thursdays from 3 PM – 6 PM. The music will include a 3-piece band with amplified music. They currently have 22 vendors signed up for the Farmer’s Market this year.

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

All were in favor, motion approved.

Select Board Speak:

Andy Potter mentioned that the State has recently approved the Inflation Reduction Act. This would allow Towns to receive rebate money directly from the Internal Revenue Service for such items as new electric vehicles for the Police, Fire and Highway Department. These funds will also include covering some of the cost of the charging stations for these vehicles. Kathleen asked if this would dovetail with the Green Communities money that may be available. Andy is not sure but will look into that.

Andy also informed the Board that Marie has posted the information on the website for residents and businesses to sign up for CodeRED. This is an emergency alert system that will reach out to people and to get them important Town, weather, and emergency information by phone, cell phone, text or email. He encouraged everyone to sign up for this service.

Andy Krouss informed everyone that Carter White has passed away. Carter had a large presence in the Town and connected with many people in West Stockbridge.

Andy also informed everyone that there is a link on the website to complete a survey for the Massachusetts Broadband Institute through the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. He encour-

aged everyone to complete the survey as this will assist the Town in our eligibility to apply for grant money that can be used to increase internet availability and speed.

Kathleen informed everyone that longtime resident Larry Tonini also has passed away. Larry served with the West Stockbridge Fire Department from 1968 to 2003, the last 20 years as Chief. He was also a Select Board Member for nine years, and served the Town on several other committees as well. He will be greatly missed.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Potter, to adjourn open session.

All were in favor.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Potter, to enter into executive session and not to return to open session for reason of:

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

Roll call vote:

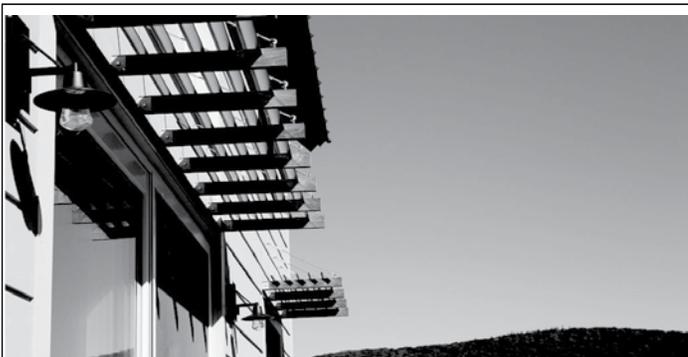
Kathleen	Yes
Andy Potter	Yes
Andy Krouss	Yes

Open meeting adjourned at 6:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan
Town Administrator



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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@annelesserscommunications.com; Designer: **Kim Bradway**, kim@bloominarts.com.

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

St. Patrick Church Invites Worshipers

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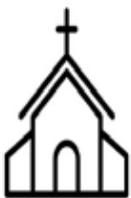
At St. Patrick Church, we believe in the power of coming together in worship, prayer, and communion. Whether you're a lifelong parishioner or seeking to reconnect with your faith, please consider joining us for mass each Sunday at 8:30 am, immediately followed by coffee hour in our parish center. Look for more news from the pews here in the *Local Yokel!*



Photo courtesy of St. Patrick Church

Friends & Neighbors

Come Celebrate with us!



8:30 Sunday Mass
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Municipal Broadband Institute Survey:

Completing the survey will help improve and expand Internet access

By completing this survey from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, you will help the town become eligible to apply for grant money to increase both Internet availability and speed in West Stockbridge.

MBI is using a BEAD Challenge Process to identify unserved and underserved locations in town that could be funded for high-speed fiber. Please complete the survey by clicking on this link: <https://form.fillout.com/t/1aRWBsaj4Kus>. For more information on the BEAD Challenge Process, click this link: <https://broadband.masstech.org/bead-challenge-process>.

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Second Nature Garden Design, Windy Hill Farm



WestStockbridgeFarmersMarket.org

June History Quiz Question:

June 1774 was a crucial month for the revolutionary movement in Massachusetts. The Boston Tea Party took place six months earlier in December, and the Parliament and the king were unhappy. As the colony rebelled against taxes and trade restrictions, Parliament became more restrictive and limited the colony's government. The tax on tea was a big grievance raised by the colonists, but a larger issue was the changes in government structure, judges, sheriffs, and the General Court members.

Governor Thomas Hutchinson didn't want the job. The colony was too troublesome, and he was in a tough place between the king and Parliament and the colony. He was eager to leave for England. He had been asking for a replacement, and by June 1st was on a ship to England. His replacement, General Thomas Gage, had just arrived, with instructions to be strict and tolerate no opposition.

During the turmoil, this little town far out west was being formed, previously known as Queensborough. How did West Stockbridge fit into this tumultuous scene?

(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.



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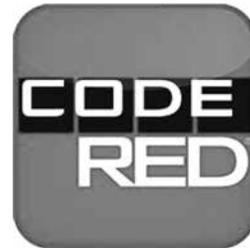


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Please sign up for the town's new
emergency notification system.



CodeRED is an emergency notification system that enables local public safety personnel and town officials to notify residents and businesses by telephone, text message, and email for time-sensitive information, emergencies, or urgent alerts. The system can reach hundreds of individuals in minutes to ensure that information such as evacuation notices, missing persons, inclement weather advisories, and more, are quickly shared. Only authorized officials have access to send alerts using the CodeRED system.

Enroll online: <https://accountportal.onsolve.net/weststockbridgema> or use the QR code here to register through the app on your smartphone.

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Community News & Events

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

On Sunday, June 9, the Stockbridge Grange will serve a takeout-only dinner at the Grange Hall, 51 Church Street, Stockbridge. The dinner entrée will be baked ham, with chocolate and lemon pie for dessert. Cost is \$15. PLEASE ORDER BY FRIDAY, June 7. To place an order, call (413) 243-1298 or (413) 443-4352. Pickup time is 12 to 1:30 pm.

Council on Aging

The Richmond/West Stockbridge COA Craft Group will meet at 9:30 am on Tuesday, June 4, in the Community Room at the West Stockbridge Town Offices. Our project will be making a Shadow Box Frame 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.*

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June Donor Roll Call

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Hal & Jill Gaffin

Joel & Carol Kaufman

Kujawski Family

Paula & Jimmy Law, in memory
of Michael Skorput

Nanci McConnell

Tom Platten

Kathryn & Sean Wilson

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.)



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

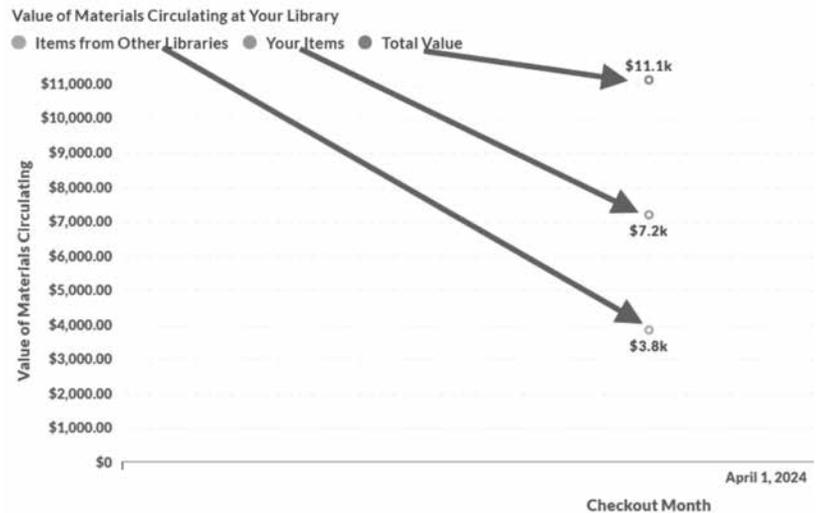
Hello from all of us at the library. We hope your summer is off to a fun start! For all of you who may be looking for things for kids to do, we invite them—and you!—to enjoy this year’s summer reading program at the library during the whole month of July. Our unique and wonderful Miss Vicky has once again cooked up some great activities!

In other news, our sincere thanks to the people of our town for supporting the library on the town warrant for the coming year. For your reference, here is a look at the borrowing statistics for the month of April. From April 1 through April 30, we loaned 404 items to our patrons, plus 263 renewals of those items. If our patrons had purchased these books and DVDs, the total cost would have come to \$11,100.

In addition, a total of 310 eBooks and streaming audiobooks were borrowed by WSPL cardholders, for a total of 977 items borrowed.

We always welcome your reading requests. Remember that the library can provide items from all over the state and even the nation.

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



NEW ADULT FICTION

- Bannalec, *Death of a master chef*
- Barrett, *Wild houses*
- Bohjalian, *Princess of Las Vegas*
- Chancy, *Village weavers*
- Davies, *Clear*
- de Witte, *Noodles, rice, and everything spice*
- Freudenberger, *The limits*
- Hillerman, *Lost birds*
- Hughes, *The alternatives*
- Jacobs, *The stars turned inside out*
- Obreht, *The morningside*
- O'Connor, *Whale fall*
- Reid, *Come and get it*
- Simonson, *The Hazelbourne ladies motorcycle and flying club*
- Solvinic, *The hunter's daughter*
- Toibin, *Long Island*

NEW ADULT NONFICTION

- Hemming, *Four shots in the night*
- Ingrassia, *A fatal inheritance*
- McKinnon, *Tenderheart: a cookbook about vegetables*
- Montell, *The age of magical overthinking*
- Rivera Garza, *Liliana's invincible summer*
- Schapira, *Lessons from the climate anxiety counseling booth*
- Wikelski, *The internet of animals*
- Yang, *Where rivers part*

NEW YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS

- Abiké-Iyimidé, *Where sleeping girls lie*
- Dockrill, *Gray*
- Eggers, *The eyes and the impossible*
- Lin, *Song of the six realms*
- Lowry, *Tree. Table. Book.*
- Valasse, *Shine*



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

1. Who was the real estate agent that took out papers to replace Carol Kuller on the School Committee in 2014?
2. Six Depot formed a relationship with what Lenox food scene in 2014?
3. When did A.W. Baldwin Hardware celebrate 150 years in business?
4. School choice came about as a result of the 1993 Education Reform Act that overhauled how education was funded in Massachusetts. How did it affect tuition?

4. It was flat funded for 20 years
 3. 2014
 2. Tanglewood
 1. Kristin Piascki



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.

History Quiz Answer:

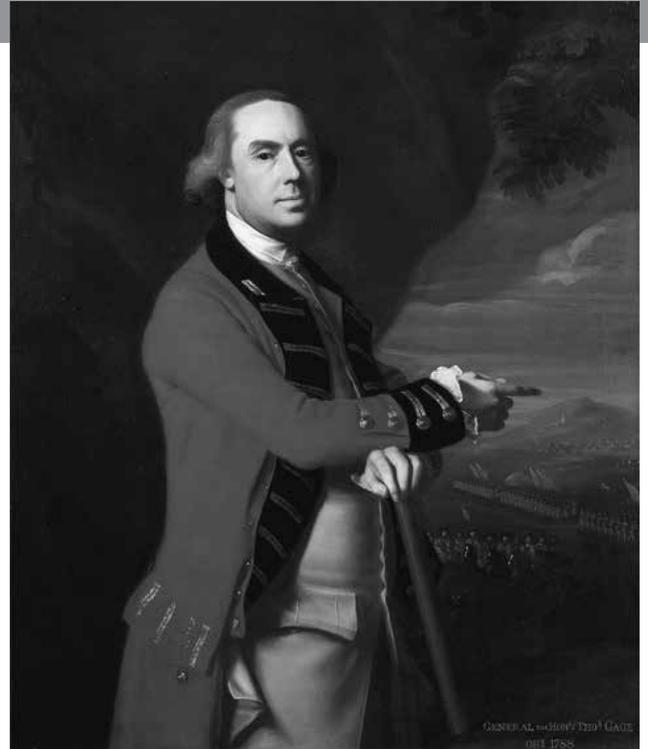
The General Court was an assembly of prominent citizens elected by their towns. Created by the original charter of the Bay Colony, it was the colony's legislature and primary governing body. The original proposal incorporating West Stockbridge was enacted by the General Court in February 1774 and approved by Governor Hutchinson. The boundaries were inaccurate, set as only a mile from the New York border that wouldn't include the Williams River watershed and the village center. The error was recognized, and a second proposal was made in March correcting the boundaries further east to the current West Stockbridge Mountain. Given the distances and travel, the General Court didn't formally pass the act until June 17.

While the mundane action of correcting the boundary of a small western town was happening, General Gage was clamping down on this rebellious and disrespectful colony. The Parliament had passed a new charter for the colony called the Massachusetts Government Act. It dissolved the General Court, banned town meetings, and made all the courts and sheriffs responsible to the governor. This change was essentially martial law and not at all well received.

The day the new act correcting the border with Stockbridge and creating the new West Stockbridge was the same day the General Court elected representatives to the new Continental Congress in a closed-door session. It was also the day that General Gage dissolved the General Court. We were one of the last acts voted on by the General Court before it was dissolved.

The Coercive Acts included the Boston Port Act that closed the Boston port, banned town meetings and gatherings, and dissolved the Massachusetts Charter of 1681. Although they weren't to go into effect until August 1, General Gage jumped the gun, dissolving the General Court, shutting down the judiciary, and starting to appoint his own people as constables and judges. Town meetings were discouraged if not outright banned.

During this clampdown and in spite of the rule by General Gage, West Stockbridge held its first town meeting on July 4. We chose a moderator (not Gene Dullea yet!) and other officials. Ten days later, we enacted local taxes and created the first town pound. Although we weren't the first, we were one of many towns that ignored the restrictions set by Parliament and led to the Declaration of Independence.



British general Thomas Gage, who commanded the British military machine in North America. Painting by John Singleton Copley.

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NEWS from ART ON MAIN GALLERY

June 2024

The Guild of Berkshire Artists and ART on MAIN Gallery are pleased to present two exhibitions of work by guild artists. Both shows feature three artists each and include both two- and three-dimensional works.

June 6–16: “Artistic Feast”

Reception: Saturday, June 8, 2–4 pm

Artist Talk: Saturday, June 15, 2 pm

Serena Granbery works in clay and other media and with ecology as her theme, finding inspiration in the natural forms in the woodlands and oceans of her travels. Her artwork in this show evokes sea creatures and earthy mineral formations.

Doane Perry started making photographs in black and white as a cultural anthropologist in the southern Peloponnese Mani region of Greece in 1974. Later he switched to color, focusing on the natural beauty and small communities of the Berkshires.

Gary Schieneman began making art 50 years ago while living and working in Paris where he enjoyed depicting a rich variety of historical subjects. Over the years he has made work in pastels, oils, and watercolor, first focused on still life and later on local Berkshire scenes.

June 20–30: “Of Earth & Sky”

Reception: Saturday, June 22, 2–4 pm

Kay Lerner’s inspiration for her art comes from her everyday world, such as the creatures and objects she finds in her environment including animals, people, and scenic views of the natural world. She has a way of noticing quirky details thereby adding an element of humor—from the expressions on faces of beings to the juxtaposition of their forms and bodies.

Pattie Lipman’s art derives from her teaching of drawing and printmaking, and her love of art history—first by looking at prints and paintings, and then through the making of both. Working in oils of still life, portraits, and landscape, she focuses on color first and then engages in private dialogue with artists from the history of art.

John Huffaker shows selections from two recent series, horses and angels, that are modeled directly in wax and then cast in bronze. Working at this size in wax allows him to pick up and handle the pieces as he models them. This approach often results in a series of sculptures on a common motif. One work can lead to another, although the path may not be linear. “My hands have wisdom that my head does not, and I enjoy surprising myself.”

Images courtesy of the artists.



*Serena Granbery The Egg –
White Stoneware*



*Doane Perry Fiery Sunset –
Photography*



*Gary Shieneman Barn in
Columbia County –
Oil on canvas*



Kay Lerner, Sky 1 – Oil on canvas



*Patti Lipman, The Sugar Bowl –
Oil on board*



*John Huffaker,
The Guardian – Bronze*

West Stockbridge Historical Society's
Berkshire Nature Talk Series

TRACKING BEARS AND OTHER MAMMALS

Inside the MassBears and MassMammals Research Projects



Photo: Henry Godek

**Friday, June 14th
at 7 p.m.**

**at the Old Town Hall
9 Main Street
West Stockbridge**

Join Dr. Thea Kristensen from Amherst College as she talks about the MassMammals project, including its subsidiary MassBears, which explores black bear distribution and behavior in Massachusetts.

Working with community participants to collect various forms of sightings data and collaborating with local schools and organizations, MassMammals provides a fascinating range of information about local wildlife.

Learn about the origins of this important project, its current research directions, and how you can get involved.



Free for West Stockbridge Historical Society members;
\$10 suggested donation for nonmembers
Please register at: weststockbridgehistory.org

WEST STOCKBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

WEST STOCKBRIDGE FARMERS MARKET

ON THE FOUNDRY GREEN

THURSDAYS
3-6PM



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June Art Calendar

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

2024

May 23 - June 2, "Interludes" featuring Lisa Townson & Sue Aiken. Art on Main Gallery, West Stockbridge, MA.

June 12, Monthly Meeting, 4-6pm.
TBD. West Stockbridge Town Hall, Community Room.

June 20 - June 30, "Of Earth and Sky" featuring John Huffaker, Kay Lerner & Pattie Lipman. Art on Main Gallery, West Stockbridge, MA.

Reception: Saturday June 22, 2-4PM

June 23, Berkshire Photo Gathering.
See web: berkshirephotogathering.com/online-meetings

June 25, Meet the Artist, 3pm.
Pat Frik, fiber artist. Link to watch to be shared on website.

June 31, Art Book Gathering, 10-11am.
Share a favorite book, artist, or process.

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



Interludes

Lisa Townson & S.R. Aiken

May 23 - June 2



Of Earth & Sky

*John Huffaker, Kay Lerner
& Pattie Lipman*

June 20 - 30

Reception June 22, 2-4



38 Main Street, West Stockbridge

**Every issue costs us about \$1,300 to print and distribute!
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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 Yoke!. For your donation of at least \$25.00 per year we will mail each issue to you (unless you prefer otherwise). The Local Yoke! 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 Yoke!, 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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- Yes, please do send me a YKL Bumper Sticker for my donation of \$35 or more.



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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.

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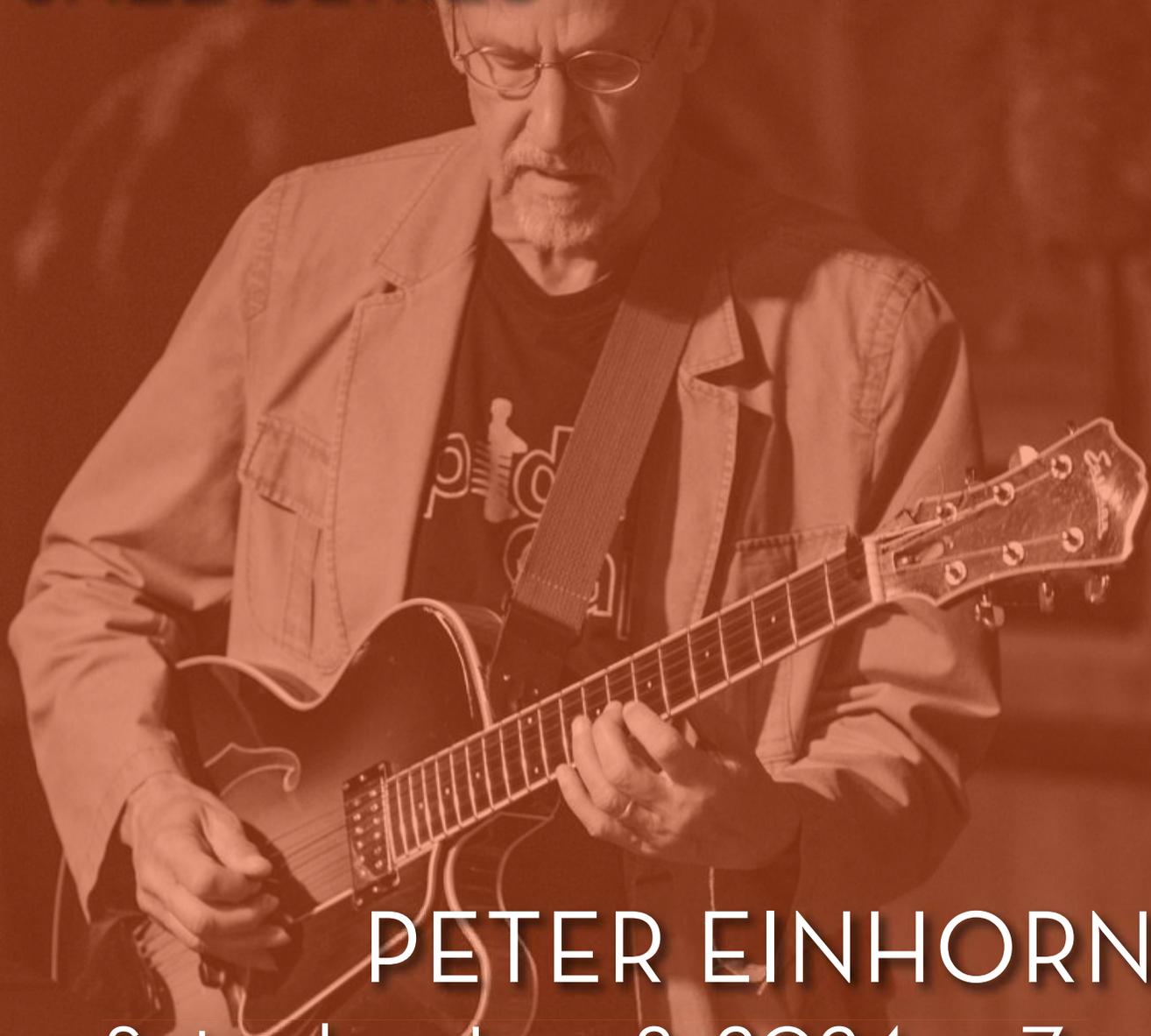
Town Government Boards and Commissions, Phone Directory, and Office Hours Town Offices Main Number (413) 232-0300 · Fax 232-7195

Animal Control	<i>John Drake</i>	464-2148		As Needed
Assessors Office	<i>Mary Stodden</i>	232-0300	ext. 303	Tues. 1-5 pm; Thurs. 9 am-1 pm
Board of Health	<i>Earl Moffatt</i>	232-0300	ext. 314	Fri. 9 am-4 pm, or by appt.
Select Board	<i>Kathleen Keresey Andy Krouss Andy Potter</i>	232-0300	ext. 319	
Town Administrator	<i>Marie Ryan</i>			Mon.-Thurs. 7 am-3 pm Fri. 7-11 am
Building Inspector	<i>Brian Duval</i>	232-0300	ext. 313	Leave Message for Inquiries
Conservation Commission	<i>Kathy Korte</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	Leave Message for Inquiries
Council on Aging	<i>John Zick</i>	232-0300	ext. 340	Leave Message for Inquiries
Emergency Management	<i>Louis Oggiani</i>	528-2175		
Fire Department	<i>Steve Traver</i>	911 or 329-7153 (non-emergency)		Mon. 6:30-9 pm
Highway Department	<i>Curt G. Wilton</i>	232-0305		Leave Message for Inquiries
Library	<i>Rachel Alter</i>	232-0300	ext. 308	Mon., Wed., Thurs., and Sat. 10 am-3 pm; Tues. and Fri. 2-6 pm; closed Sun.
Police Department	<i>Marc Portieri</i>	911 or 232-8500 (non-emergency)		24 hours, 7 days/week
Post Office	<i>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

The West Stockbridge Historical Society presents:

WEST STOCKBRIDGE JAZZ SERIES



PETER EINHORN

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The Old Town Hall at 9 Main Street

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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

June Calendar of Events

6/3	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices and on Zoom
6/4	Council on Aging Craft Group meeting	9:30 am	Community Room
6/5	Knitters Group	2–4 pm	Community Room
6/6	WS Farmers Market	3–6 pm	Foundry Green, Harris Street
6/8	WSHS Jazz Series concert: Peter Einhorn	7 pm	Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street
6/9	Stockbridge Grange takeout dinner		See Community News for details
6/11	Shavuot begins at sundown		
6/12	Knitters Group	2–4 pm	Community Room
6/12	Friends of the Library meeting	3:30 pm	Community Room
6/13	WS Farmers Market	3–6 pm	Foundry Green, Harris Street
6/14	Flag Day		
6/14	WSHS Nature Series: Tracking Bears & Other Mammals	7 pm	Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street
6/15	*** Deadline for the next <i>Local Yokel</i> ***		Send to info@thelocalyokel.org
6/16	Father's Day		
6/16	Eid al-Adha begins at sundown		
6/17	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices and on Zoom
6/19	Juneteenth: Town Offices closed		
6/20	First Day of Summer		
6/20	WS Farmers Market	3–6 pm	Foundry Green, Harris Street
6/21	Library Trustees meeting	5 pm	Town Offices
6/26	Knitters Group	2–4 pm	Community Room
6/27	WS Farmers Market	3–6 pm	Foundry Green, Harris Street

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