

Local yokel

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

West
Stockbridge

November

2024

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2005

**Presidential
Election
Nov. 5
Details Inside!**

*Diffused Goldenrod.
Photograph courtesy of PappasBland*



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Saturday, November 23, 2024 at 3 p.m.

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WEST STOCKBRIDGE

Sparkles

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH
4-6PM

AT THE CHRISTMAS TREE
BEHIND THE TOWN OFFICES

SEASON OF LIGHT

A CONCERT FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES
WITH JOHN AND ANN MARIE FARRELL

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH AT 2PM

WEST STOCKBRIDGE VILLAGE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
45 MAIN STREET IN WEST STOCKBRIDGE, MA

Select Board Meeting Minutes

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

Select Board Meeting Minutes September 9, 2024

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

Others Present: Director of Public Works Curt Wilton, Highway Superintendent Jamie Boyer and Police Chief Marc Portieri.

Andy Potter opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Andy Krouss made a motion to approve the minutes from August 26 and August 28, 2024. Kathleen requested an amendment to the motion to only approve the minutes from August 26 because she would like more time to review the August 28th minutes. Andy Krouss seconded the motion, all were in favor. Kathleen then seconded the motion as amended to approve the minutes from August 26th.

All were in favor, minutes of August 26, 2024 approved.

Citizen Speak:

Joe Roy stated that the preferred 4 locations for the EV charging stations in town has been submitted to National Grid for approval. Once the Vision Committee gets a response from National Grid he will update the Board. The Vision Committee would like to assist in any way to create new Welcome signs to be placed at different locations in Town. He was not sure if the original money that was budgeted for these signs was still available but they would like to get this process started again.

Lori Santhay expressed her concern in regard to the large Knotweed plants that are growing at the Transfer Station. These plants are extremely invasive, very difficult to get rid of and can cause damage to structures. She encouraged the Board create a plan to eradicate these plants as soon as possible. Andy Potter made note of the issue and stated the board will ask Director of Public Works Curt Wilton to work on this issue.

...continued on page 5

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John M. D'Aniello

U.S. Army, 1968–1970

Fort Bliss, El Paso, TX

Vietnam

South Korea DMZ & Oceanfront

Rank: Specialist Fourth Class

What influenced you to join the service?

After high school, I started working at Troy's Garage, the business my parents, Victor and Amida D'Aniello, had bought in 1962. Then in September 1968, I got drafted and inducted into the army.

What was a memorable experience?

After basic training at Fort Dix, I was selected to train in advanced HAWK missiles at Fort Bliss in Texas. I was deployed to Vietnam to disassemble a HAWK missile that had never been used. The missile parts were shipped to the DMZ in Korea, where there was a missile unit in disrepair, and I was sent to make good out of the two. I also spent time oceanfront in Korea, testing sea-range HAWK missiles built to shoot down drones.

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

Great love for my country, honor for the flag, and respect for human life.

Life after the service

After discharge from the army in 1970, John returned to Troy's Garage. West Stockbridge had just extended the elementary school to include kindergarten, and one day while he was running Troy's minibus service to the school, he met the new kindergarten teacher, Lorraine Magadini. John and Lorraine eventually married and settled in Housatonic, where they raised five children. Two of their sons continue as the third generation of the D'Aniello family at Troy's Garage.

Last November, in commemoration of Veterans Day, the Local Yokel began a series of profiles of local veterans to honor their service. We invite West Stockbridge veterans and their families to share their stories. We will continue sharing these profiles as they become available. If interested, please contact Renee McCormick at drreemccormick@gmail.com or text her at (914) 629-6314. We look forward to hearing from you and telling your story!


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Town Administrator Update- Marie Ryan

The Berkshire Health Alliance will be holding two vaccination clinics at Town Hall. The dates are Tuesday, October 8th from 8 AM – 10 AM and Thursday, October 17th from 4 PM – 6 PM. There is a flyer on the website and posted on the bulletin boards at Town Hall for more information on pre-registering for an appointment.

Pan-Mass Challenge Bike event:

Glynn Hawley, Director of Operations of the Pan-Mass Challenge was unable to attend the meeting tonight but has requested permission to use several roads in West Stockbridge for the bike event during the morning of September 28th. Police Chief Marc Portieri discussed the event with the Board. The bike ride begins in Lenox and will run through West Stockbridge. The ride through West Stockbridge should be completed by 11 AM. Glynn has been in contact with Police Chief Marc Portieri and details for the event has been set up.

The Board all agreed to allow the event to run through West Stockbridge.

Department of Public Works Update:

Jamie Boyer, Highway Superintendent gave the following updates to the Board;

- He held a bid opening for paving on Deer Hill Road and Lenox Road. The winning bid came from Delsignore Paving. The paving project will begin in early October and portions of Lenox Road will be closed to through traffic for 3-4 days during that time.
- The West Road bridge in Alford has been closed by Mass DOT and needs a full replacement. Closing this bridge will limit access to Wilson Road in West Stockbridge. Access to portions of West Road in Alford and Wilson Road in West Stockbridge will require detours with up to 16 additional miles to be traveled. Jamie has been working on a plan in regard to winter plowing with the Alford DPW Superintendent and they will each share plowing on portions of West Road and Wilson Road during the winter months.
- Both of the new Highway vehicles have been purchased and received. The one-ton truck was ordered over a year ago and had

been backordered but is not here and suited up for use as well as the new pick-up truck which was purchased this fiscal year.

- National Grid has set up Asplund Tree Service and Northern Tree Service to trim several trees and remove up to 900 trees around West Stockbridge during the winter months. He has informed the Police Department and Chief Portieri will be scheduling Police details for National Grid.

Curt then reviewed the following report to the Board:

CEMETERY:

Work continues with the removal of the large and dangerous pine trees along our cemetery properties. These large trees have been part of a 10-year budgeting program in which we are now in our 7th year. Due to their life's cycle coming to an end they have become a costly burden when a storm topples them over and irreplaceable century old gravestones become damaged.

This summer we once again hired some local kids to work part time in the Cemeteries alongside our DPW crew. I would like to publicly thank Evan Alfonso, Owen Brennan and Evan Albert for all their hard work they have provided our Cemetery Department this past summer. Working together we put a lot of focus at our Rock-Dale Cemetery down on Great Barrington Road. We have completed some small tree trimming and brush maintenance along the entire property ownership. Over the years the unsightly over growth of brush and debris has been encroaching onto the grave stone areas and was making mowing and general maintenance difficult. Along the northern abutting property 13 large stumps were flush ground and topsoil, grass seed and straw was then applied to keep the area looking fresh and clean. Both the Vault and the shed buildings at the Village Cemetery have been repainted along with over 100 grave stone and monument repairs were completed in both Cemeteries.

PARKS/RECREATION:

The committee is working very hard and is committed to all the Town play grounds/beach/playing fields and community events.

This past summer season due to the high E.coli count at our beach it seemed the beach was closed more times than not. The main culprit in the high count was mainly due in part of the large number of adult geese defecating on our beach sand and shore line.

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Update from the West Stockbridge Dog Park Committee



A walking path and play area at the small dog area at the Pittsfield Dog Park that has a similar look and feel to the proposed design for West Stockbridge. Photo courtesy of West Stockbridge Dog Park Committee

Members of the West Stockbridge Dog Park Committee would like to encourage all interested parties to attend the public hearing for a special permit from the Planning Board on Monday, November 18, at 7 pm at the Town Offices.

Join us to learn more about park details, see the site plan, and share your support for this next important step in bringing the dog park to life.

Through the committee's efforts, the town of West Stockbridge has been awarded a grant of up to \$275,000 from the Stanton Foundation that will fund the design and construction of a beautiful woodland park with walking paths, to be enjoyed by dogs and humans alike.

The new park will span approximately 1.15 acres, made up of a "Small Dog" section and "All Dog" section, in a currently unused area along the western edge of the property of the Town Offices.



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...continued from page 5

These critters are a major problem throughout the State and numerous attempts have been made to keep them at bay from our swimming area. Unfortunately, every attempt failed this year. We will be working on other ways to try to convince them to find other suitable lodging locations.

There will be a new Pavilion erected here at Town Hall in the next couple months. The Committee has worked had securing CPA funds to pay for this great upgrade to our Town Hall grounds. The best fit for the structure was determined to be outside the Library windows more towards the playground equipment. This 16' x 32' structure is state of the art and will be installed and erected by professionals while the DPW crew will be doing the location preparation and final landscaping.

Sometime during the week of September 16th there will be some maintenance to our tennis court. Over the years cracks and been developing and some paint has lifted. Once a start date has been set we will be notifying any tennis players that there may be some closers of the court for a day or two.

SOLID WASTE TRANSFER STATION:

We are still on the docket to repave Day Farm Road and the Transfer Station area this fall before the snow flies. Once a start date is finalized the Contractor will need a total of 3-days to complete the project. Doing so, I will be seeking to close the Transfer Station either a Tuesday or Thursday to allow for a complete 3-day request. Once more information is gathered I will notify the Select Board and residents when this closure will be taking place well in advance.

Lastly, I have some GOOD-NEWS out of the Highway Department.

Jamie Boyer your Highway Superintendent along with John Lyford DPW Crew Member have both successfully completed all the

training and requirements from our Baystate Roads Scholar Program. Both men have earned the status of "Master Road Scholar". This level of achievement required a minimum of 110 contact hours of training and workshops. I would like to recognize and congratulate Jamie and John for demonstrating their continued interest in improving operations at the Town of West Stockbridge DPW by participating in these intensive training workshops. I am very proud of both these individuals for what they have accomplished and by doing so I can say we have the best Highway Department in the County.

Halloween Trick or Treat:

The Parks and Recreation Committee would like the Board to approve the date and time of Halloween Trick or Treat this year for October 31st from 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to allow Halloween Trick or Treat to be held on October 31st from 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM.

All were in favor, motion approved.

Select Board Speak:

Andy Krouss stated he would like to have new welcome signs created and posted throughout Town. Curt informed him that all signs outside of the center of Town would be under the control of Mass DOT and the Town would need to request a sign permit from Mass DOT. Kathleen reminded the Board that she and Curt had done a full survey of signs in Town and would include that survey in a future discussion. Curt is unsure if the money originally budgeted for the signs is still available and that again, this project will most likely require Mass DOT permissions. Andy Potter asked Marie to place this discussion as an agenda item for Monday, October 7th Select Board meeting.

Andy Potter mentioned that the State has recently passed new legislation in regard to housing. This will have an affect on the Planning Board's proposed new Short-term Rental (STR) and Accessory Dwelling Units bylaws as well as the Affordable Housing Trust Committee. Andy would like to have a joint meeting with the Planning Board, Affordable Housing Trust Committee, Community Preservation Committee Housing Representative Randy Thunfors, CJ Hoss from Berkshire Regional Planning, and KP Law Town Counsel Jonathan Eichman on October 23rd for a round table discussion on the new legislation. He also suggested that the Board have an additional agenda item to vote on the proposed STR so it can be referred back to the Planning Board for a Public Hearing and then a Special Town Meeting. The Board agreed on the joint meeting and adding the STR to that agenda.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to adjourn at 6:45 PM.

All were in favor, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan
Town Administrator

**Winter Parking
Ban Begins
November 15**



The West Stockbridge winter parking ban will be in effect from NOVEMBER 15 to APRIL 1 between 11 pm and 7 am for all town roads. Violation may result in a \$25 fine for parking in a prohibited area, as well as a \$50 fine for impeding snow removal. The vehicle may also be towed at the owner's expense for impeding snow removal.

Municipal parking is located on Hotel Street and Center Street. Snow removal in these areas will take place between 7 and 8 am.

Thank you for your cooperation.
West Stockbridge Police Department
(413) 232-8500



West Stockbridge Village Congregational Church is

Hosting its Annual Harvest Dinner Sunday, November 10th

Dinner is sponsored and prepared by **Chef Justin Carafotes**
of Hand Crafted Catering & Events.

Dry Brined Roast Turkey with Herb Butter, Roasted Butternut Squash,
Char Roasted Brussel Sprouts with Local Honey Drizzle,
Berkshire Mountain Sourdough & Sage Stuffing,
Crispy Urban Roots Fingerling Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce with Orange Zest,
and homemade apple crisp for dessert!

BOTH IN-HOUSE seating AND TAKE-OUT are available by
PRE-PAID RESERVATION ONLY! Cost per meal is \$20

Buffet style dinner will be held at 5:30pm. Takeout is available for pickup
between 4:30 and 5pm at the rear entrance of church.

Reservation deadline is Sunday, November 3rd

by calling Joanne at 413-454-0054. Acceptable methods of payment are cash, check, or Venmo.

Look forward to seeing you there!



November History Quiz Question:

During the 1920s, America was changing its view of the "great outdoors" with a greater appreciation for its natural landscape. Thanks to the affordability of a family automobile and the expansion of passenger rail service, it was now possible to explore areas that were previously hard and expensive to visit. As the middle class grew, it also became practical and affordable to send children to an outdoor summer camp for a few weeks to enjoy fresh air.

The Berkshires, appreciated for its natural beauty and once a vacation destination only for the wealthy, was now more accessible and affordable from northeastern urban areas. By the mid-1920s the Berkshires became a destination for summer campers, as well as seasonal visitors. Now children could travel here to enjoy the outdoors and escape the hot and crowded cities.

West Stockbridge was part of that summer camp movement with two camps created during that period. Crane Lake Camp is still active and thriving in the town center. Silver Birch Camp was outside the town center and built on a property important to the town's history. What was it, and where was it located?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)



**West Stockbridge
Historical Society**
Incorporated in 1994

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.



On the Home Front

By Thom Lipiczky

Looking Back, Looking Forward

I was looking over the columns I’ve written since the first (who could ever forget that bit of deathless prose?) for the March issue of the *Local Yokel* in 2017. I’m sure both my readers will remember that I was musing over the “charmingly curmudgeonly and often just plain wrong” house maintenance advice given by the long defunct *Berkshire Eagle* “House Repair” column. I felt called on to “offer some of my experience about maintaining and improving what is likely your most valuable asset—your home.”

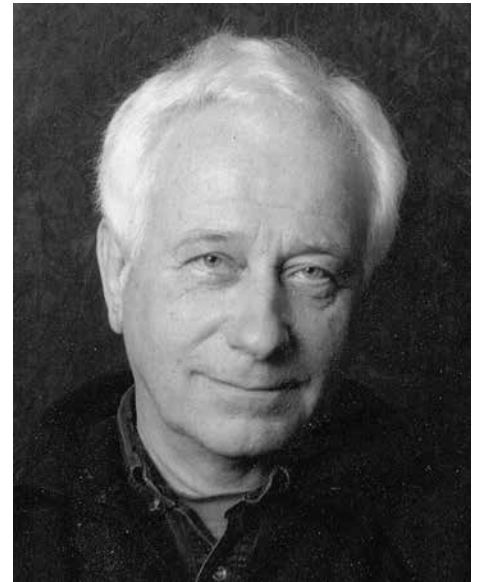
Well, here I am approaching 80 years (birthday on November 9; make sure you attend the parade and fireworks). I find myself becoming the (hopefully) charming curmudgeon I railed against ‘lo these many years ago that seems like maybe a few weeks.

In the past I’ve ranted and rambled about home energy efficiency, building science, mouse infestations, the history of house size, DIY repairs, kitchen design, and the joys of a garden, among other topics that crossed my mind. One series I was happy to write about was the process of designing and building our new house here on the shores of Majestic Mud Pond. I’m grateful to the staff of the *Local Yokel* for indulging me and to both of you—maybe there were even three—who commented favorably on this story when I’d run into them at the Public Market or at Baldwin’s Hardware.

So, it is with mixed emotions that I am announcing my semi-retirement from “On the Home Front.” I don’t plan to write a regular monthly column anymore but will gladly, when the spirit moves me, offer an occasional commentary on the passing scene.

I’m happy that several new voices have popped up on the pages of our town newsletter, and I encourage others to consider offering their thoughts and memories about living here in the bustling metropolis of West Stockbridge. Hey, if they let me do it for more than seven years, how hard could it be?

I plan to stick around, making furniture in my shop, puttering in my garden, listening to music, and enjoying life here in the nicest little town in the Northeast. See both of you on Main Street! Happy Thanksgiving!



Thom Lipiczky. Photo by Dominick Avellino

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Moose in the Meadow

By Carol McKenna



*Young moose in a West Stockbridge backyard.
Photo by John Parker*

Just after dawn, as the sun's heat was quickly working to dissipate the patchy fog hovering over the field, the large moose calf trotted onto West Center Road near the outdoor chapel. It ran behind the house across from mine, delighting my two-year-old neighbor, who was looking out her back window as she ate breakfast. The sighting also excited my husband, who reported it to me a few years ago after coming inside from an early morning walk with our dog. To say I was jealous is an understatement.

I have seen a few moose, most while living in Vermont, but I have badly wanted to see one in the Berkshires. I still do. I am hopeful because October is a good moose-spotting month. That's because it's breeding (or rutting) season, and bulls travel widely in search of cows.

May is another good month to spot a moose. Moose give birth in late May or early June. A calf stays with its mother for one year. The next spring, when she births a new calf, the yearling will be driven away to live on its own. My husband saw the moose calf on West Center in early May, so it was likely such a yearling. If it was healthy, that calf probably weighed between 500 and 600 pounds.

There is magic in seeing an elusive animal. It's more thrilling to see a scarlet tanager than the much more common northern cardinal, for example, even though these two birds share similarly beautiful coloring (and are, in fact, cousins). Moose conjure notions of untamed wilderness, which appeals to the imaginations of many of us who deeply appreciate the plentiful mountains, forests, and lakes of the Berkshires.

It's hard to believe moose remain as elusive as they do, given their enormous size. They can weigh over 1,000 pounds and, at shoulder height, stand over 6 feet tall. The male's elaborate, iconic antlers, which can measure up to 6½ feet from tip to tip, are the largest antlers carried by any mammal, worldwide.

In the 1600s, moose were plentiful in Massachusetts. By the early 1700s, however, forest clearing for farming and pasturing pushed the population well to the north. Moose began to appear again in the state in greater numbers in the 1980s. Today, 1,000 to 1,500 moose live in Massachusetts, which is once again a heavily forested state, with a little over 60% tree cover.

Moose eat large amounts of leaves, twigs, buds, and bark, as well as aquatic vegetation. They strip off bark and browse (the leaves and twigs of woody plants), rather than snipping it cleanly. Land recently logged or disturbed by beavers or weather events provides ideal moose habitat because these sites contain new plant growth that moose love. A healthy adult moose can eat 40 to 60 pounds of browse daily.

In the summer, moose seek out wetlands for food, as well as relief from bugs and heat. There, they feed on aquatic plants, such as duckweed, pondweed, horsetail, and water lilies. In the spring, moose are often seen alongside roads because they love to lick up the de-icing salt that accumulates there. This helps explain the many moose sightings along the Mass Pike, especially from Becket to Worcester.

Like deer, moose are crepuscular animals, meaning they are most active at dawn and dusk. Lower light conditions at these times of day present risks for driving, so be cautious. Thirty to 50 moose are killed by vehicles in Massachusetts each year. Also negatively impacting the local population in recent years are stressors including winter tick (shorter winters have fueled its surge), deer brainworm, and liver flukes.

The most likely place to spot a moose in Massachusetts may be in the woodlands and ponds around Quabbin Reservoir, located in neighboring Hampshire County. But if you ask Berkshire County folks about moose sightings, plenty will report that they or family members have encountered the massive mammal locally over the last few decades—often in preferred moose habitat, such as wetlands or at the edge of a forest—but also in town centers. In recent years, the *Berkshire Eagle* has reported on sightings in the downtowns of Lenox, Great Barrington, and Pittsfield.

If you are lucky enough to spot one of these majestic creatures, stay a respectful distance away and keep your dogs under control. Although usually docile, moose can be unpredictable and move remarkably fast. In the highly unlikely event that you are charged by a moose, run and get behind something solid, such as a tree.

A surefire way to *safely* see a moose in Massachusetts is to follow wildlife tracking sites on social media, such as CR Wildlife Cams on Instagram (@crwildlifecams) or Facebook. CR Wildlife Cams' videographer Sally Nase has set up more than 40 tracking cameras in the north, central, and western parts of the state, including many in the Berkshires' moose habitat, and she regularly posts videos.

Tuesday, November 5, Is Election Day!

Polls open at the
Town Offices gymnasium
7 am–8 pm

~ *Be Sure to Vote!* ~



On the ballot:

- Electors of President and Vice President
- Senator in Congress
- Representative in Congress
- Councillor
- Senator in General Court
- Representative in General Court
- Register of Deeds
- Clerk of Courts

Ballot Questions:

Question 1: State Auditor's Authority to Audit the Legislature

Question 2: Elimination of MCAS as High School Graduation Requirement

Question 3: Unionization for Transportation Network Drivers

Question 4: Limited Legalization and Regulation of Certain Natural Psychedelic Substances

Question 5: Minimum Wage for Tipped Workers



ZUCCHINI FESTIVAL 2024

THANKS for GIVING!

Thanks to all who have given in so many ways to make the Festival happen!

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Jennifer Hallock
Kelly Kaiser
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Continued...



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Local Yoke!: advertising/publicity
Meadow Farm: dumpster
Jackie Moffatt: Bard artwork for poetry corner
Les Losaw and Joe Roy, Jr.: use of forklift & trailer
Liam O'Gara: Zucchini mural
Troy's Garage: golf carts
David Vartanian: poetry corner sign
West Center Construction: night lighting
West Stockbridge Village Congregational Church: tables

Donations of Zucchini

Big Y
Jenni, Jim, & Ash Hallock
Hancock Shaker Village
Hilltop Orchards
Denise & Gordon Kincaid
Market 32
Red Lion Inn
Stop & Shop
Taft Farms
Three Maples Market Garden
West Stockbridge Public Market

Zucchini Decorating Donations

Katherine Dumais
Jenni, Jim, & Ash Hallock
Marjorie & Bob Powell
Red Lion Inn
Anne Roy

Gift Certificates & Prizes

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Berkshire Botanical Garden
Berkshire South Regional Community Center
Big Y
Blue Q/Michael D'Aniello
Charles H. Baldwin & Sons
Ella May's Ice Cream
Flourish Market
Great Barrington Bagel Company
Guido's Fresh Marketplace
Hart GB
Kripalu Center for Yoga & Health
No. Six Depot Roastery & Cafe
Once Upon a Table
Pawsh Buddies
Purple Plume
Queensboro Wine & Spirits
Shaker Mill Books
Simon's Rock
SoCo Creamery
The Gifted Child
Tom's Toys
Ward's Nursery & Garden Center



A SPECIAL THANKS TO CHRIS POWELL

Design/Artwork Creation of Zucchini Festival Logo
Zucchini Festival website
Zucchini Festival online store
Zucchini Festival Instagram and Facebook pages
Posters & Advertising
Coordinator of Volunteer Signup
Zucchini Festival Coordinator

Thanks to all the volunteers who took on coordinating a segment of the festival: Paint & Build, Pet Parade, Games, Zucchini Decorating, Baking Contest, Poetry Corner, Duck Races, Parking/Signage, Weigh-Off.

Thanks to all of the creative people of the Paint & Build Crew, who contributed so much of their time and talents that makes this festival so unique and special . . . and fun!

THANKS TO ALL THE RESIDENTS AND VISITORS WHO PURCHASED ZUCCHINI FESTIVAL MERCHANDISE! THE PROCEEDS ALSO HELP FUND THE FESTIVAL.

**AND LAST, BUT CERTAINLY NOT LEAST,
MANY THANKS TO:**

**The Town of West Stockbridge, Select Board,
Town Administrator, Board of Health,
Town Accountant & Treasurer, Parks & Recreation,
Highway Department, Police and Fire Departments**

PLEASE ACCEPT OUR APOLOGIES FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS

To donate or volunteer for next year's Zucchini Festival please contact us at wszucchinifest@gmail.com

~2024~

West Stockbridge Holiday Market

Saturday, Dec. 7th | 10a-4p



Historical Society, 9 Main St.

- Handmade Gifts • Ceramics • Metal Ornaments & Sculptures •
- Hand Sewn Clothing • Wreaths • Wooden Home Objects • Shaker Boxes • Turned Bowls • Handmade Jewelry • Woolen Treasures
- Fine Woodworking • Pies & Baked Goods • and Baldwin Farms Food Truck

Plus, enjoy special West Stockbridge merchant events, sales & more holiday fun all weekend long.

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Manufacturers of

Baldwin's Pure Vanilla Extract

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Maple Table Syrup, Serious, Mushy & Hilarious
Greeting Cards, Retro Toys, Candy
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AND MORE ARRIVING DAILY!
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AVOID THE CROWDS!

HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!
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IS
BACK!!!



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Massachusetts

Tuesday - Saturday 10-5
Sunday and Monday - call for hours

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November Donor Roll Call

Martha Hamilton
Roger & Karen Kavanagh
Robin Lazarow
Bob Lee
Louise Wasserberg
John & Liz Whitehead

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



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

When you drink, plan ahead and do not drive !!



November 2024 News

By Margie Skaggs

November in Art on Main Gallery features multifaceted artist Alice Dugan, who works in both two- and three-dimensional media and says about her art, “Whether applying oil to canvas or shaping clay, I feel a sense of wonder at the myriad shapes and colors in our beautiful world.”

ART on MAIN Gallery:
“Canvas and Clay: Paintings and Pottery” by Alice Dugan

Show dates: November 14–December 1, 2024

Gallery dates and hours:

Open 1–4 pm on these dates:

Nov. 14–17 (Thursday–Sunday)

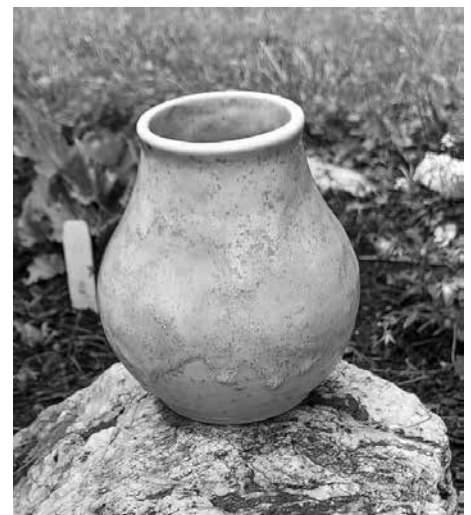
Nov. 21–24 (Thursday–Sunday)

Nov. 29–Dec. 1 (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday)

Reception date and hours: Saturday, Nov. 16, 1–4 pm

Alice Dugan has been an oil painter for 30 years, both in the United States and Costa Rica. As a visual artist, she has always been fascinated by the way light and color affect mood. She was mentored by several Impressionist/Realist painters and was able to pursue her passion for painting full time 25 years ago in Costa Rica. Her work has been shown in solo and group exhibitions in Costa Rica, California, and North Carolina. Her favorite themes are orchids, waterscapes, and still life.

Four years ago Alice moved to a small town in New York State and pursued her other passion: making colorful clay objects through her appreciation of the tactile quality of clay, and love of hand glazing and painting her pieces.



L to R: Family Flowers, *Oil*; Scarborough Sunset, *Oil*; Waterfall, *Glazed White Stoneware*

Community News & Events

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

This month's Stockbridge Grange Dinner will be on Sunday, November 10, with a takeout-only dinner at the Grange Hall, 51 Church Street, Stockbridge. Dinner entrée: roast pork; dessert: apple and chocolate pies. Cost: \$15. PLEASE ORDER BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 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 in the Richmond Library history room at 9:30 am on Tuesday, November 12. We will be making Thanksgiving cards. 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!



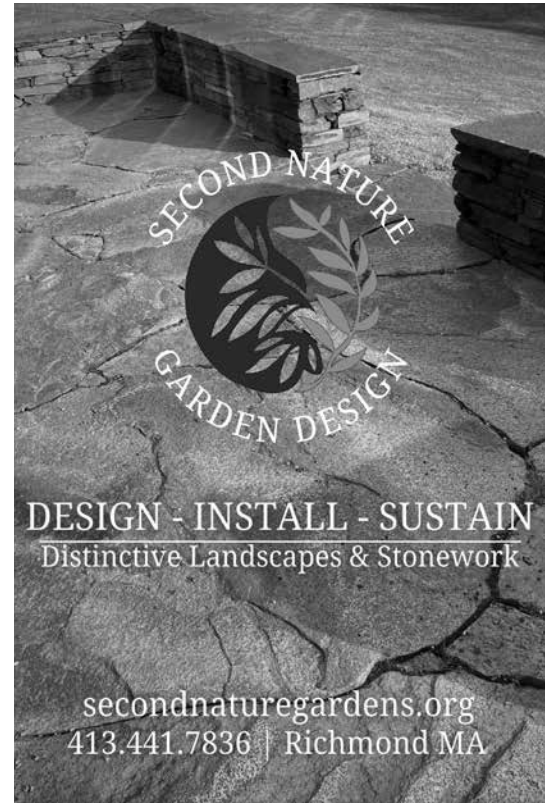
The Knitters Group

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.



Your business need a little exposure?

If you've got a new business idea, updated business plan, or still chuggin' along, advertise in the *Local Yokel* to let readers know what your business is up to!

**As low as
\$15!**

Visit thelocalyokel.org for our rates or email Vicki for more information at info@thelocalyokel.org.

*"You can't get any more local than advertising in the Local Yokel!
Stay safe and shop local!"*

— Jackie Moffatt at C. H. Baldwin & Sons

Do you enjoy writing or photography?

The *Local Yokel* needs regular and occasional contributors.

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

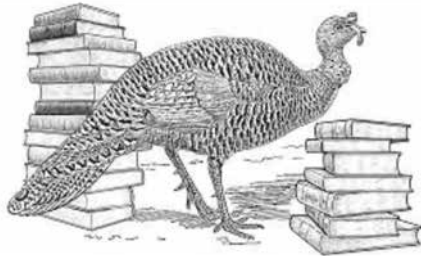




WEST STOCKBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

21 State Line Rd | West Stockbridge, MA 01266 | In the Town Offices
weststockbridgepl.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 the library, and happy November! Our gratitude and best wishes go out to all for a warm and delicious Thanksgiving!

Here are our monthly lending and borrowing statistics for September:

- 844 items borrowed and renewed
- \$14,000 saved by library users because they borrowed instead of buying!
- 338 eBooks and streaming audiobooks borrowed
- 437 library visitors

We are very thankful for Francesca and her team for holding a small book sale on October 12 that required a large amount of work. The proceeds added up to a very generous donation to the library.

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

NEW ADULT FICTION

- Erdrich, *The mighty red*
- Flynn, *Capture or kill*
- Haig, *The life impossible*
- Korelitz, *The sequel*
- Maden (Clive Cussler), *Ghost soldier*
- Moore, *The God of the woods*
- Osman, *We solve murders*

NEW YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS

- Cham, *Volcanoes are hot!*
- Kanata, *Chi's sweet adventures 2*
- Kurtz, *Bakery dragon*
- Sharp, *Bog Myrtle*

NEW ADULT NONFICTION

- Ackerman, *What an owl knows*
- Chung, *Connie: A Memoir*
- Cline-Ransome, *They call me Teach: lessons in freedom*
- Clinton, *Something lost, something gained*
- Coates, *The message*
- Purnell, *Kingmaker: Pamela Harriman's astonishing life of power, seduction, and intrigue*

NEW DVDs: *Despicable me IV; Horizon: an American saga; Kingdom of the planet of the apes; True detective: night country*



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

1. What was question 2 on the November ballot in 2014?
2. Our town moderator Gene Dellea's mother Josephine Dellea died on November 6, 2014, at what age?
3. What did the Public Market introduce in November 2014?
4. When was the first snowfall in West Stockbridge in 2014?

1. A yes vote would expand the present bottle bill to include plastic water and juice bottles to be recycled.
2. She was 103 years old. The next time you go into the Town Offices, look for the plaque by the front doors that reads, "The Town of West Stockbridge Proudly Acknowledges its Oldest Citizen, Josephine Dellea, Born September 21st, 1911, 'May you Stay Forever Young.'"
3. Sourdough take-and-bake pizza
4. November 14



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.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE



For Residents of:

Alford Becket Egremont Great Barrington Lee Lenox Monterey Mount Washington New Marlborough
Otis Richmond Sandisfield Sheffield Stockbridge Tyringham Washington West Stockbridge

When: Saturday, November 9th, 2024, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Where: Great Barrington Transfer Station

601 Stockbridge Road (Route 7), Great Barrington, MA 01230

What to Bring

From The Yard/Garden

Pesticides, Fungicides
Herbicides
Insect Sprays
Killers
Muriatic Acid
Flea Powder
No-Pest Strips
Chemical Fertilizers
Lighter Fluid
Moth Balls

From The Workbench

Rust Proofers
Wood Preservatives
Wood Strippers & Stains
Paint Thinners
Lead & Oil-Based Paint
Varnish
Full Aerosol Cans
Sealants
Adhesives
Solvents

From The House

Drain Cleaners
Oven Cleaners
Floor Cleaners
Metal Polish
Arts & Crafts Supplies
Photo Chemicals
Chemistry Kits
Rechargeable Batteries

From The Garage

Fuels/Gasoline/Kerosene
Brake & Transmission Fluids
Car Wax, Polish
Engine Degreaser/Motor Oil
Swimming Pool Chemicals
Driveway Sealer
Antifreeze
Car-Lead Acid Batteries

Mercury Products:

Thermometers
Thermostats
Other mercury Rodent
Button Batteries

DO NOT BRING

Latex Paint, Standard Batteries, Asbestos, Fireworks & Explosives, Ammunition, Construction Debris, Propane/Gas Cylinders, Smoke Detectors, Radioactive Material, Fire Extinguishers, Fluorescent Lamps, Electronics, PCB's, Medications, Medical Wastes, Medical Sharps

Pre-Registration is required.

Please register online at www.tritownhealth.org

For additional questions, call Tri-Town Health Department at 413-243-5540




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Nov. 29 - Dec. 1

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

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

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

Sound like you? We invite you to call our Rabbi, Barbara Cohen, at 413-528-4197. Or visit us to learn more.



RECONSTRUCTIONIST
CONGREGATION AHAVATH SHOLOM
THE CREATIVE SPIRIT DWELLS HERE
ahavathsholom.com North St., Great Barrington

History Quiz Answer:

In 1758, John George Easland traveled from Hudson looking for arable land to farm. Good land in the Hudson River Valley was all taken and generally under the control of Dutch families. It was still a feudal system left over from the earlier Dutch patroon system. However, the east side of the Taconic Range and the Housatonic Valley was relatively undeveloped. In the mid-18th century, land was taken by the white settlers, divided and "bought" from the Stockbridge Indians. They were "encouraged to resettle into the Stockbridge Mission."

Earlier, the New York colony had claimed its land extended from the Hudson over to the Connecticut

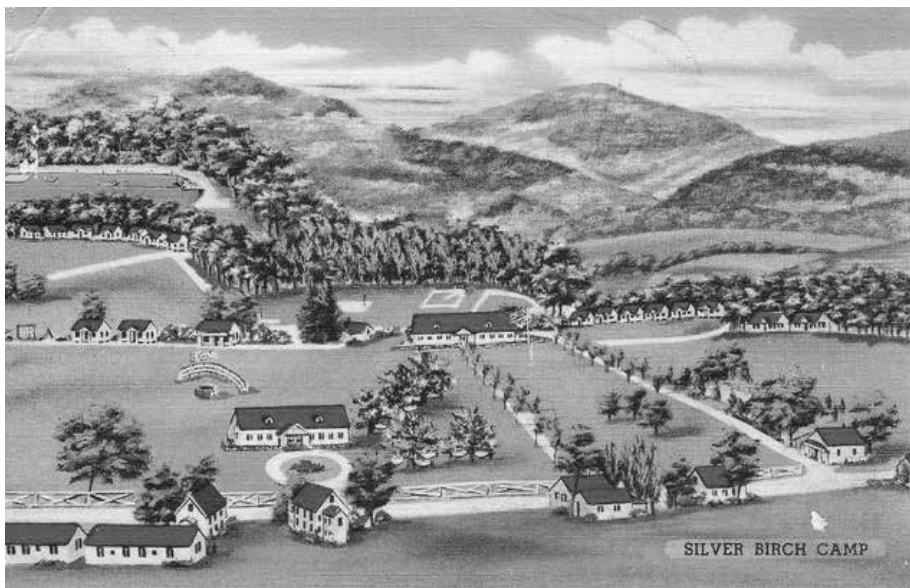
River. Later they eased off but still claimed land to the Housatonic River and called it "The Patent of Westenhook." Massachusetts, in contrast, said its colony went all the way to the Pacific Ocean. But by the early 1700s, both colonies had backed off their land grabs and tried to settle the boundary, although both claimed land up to the Housatonic or close to it.

When Easland came over from Hudson, he found a relatively level piece of land on the eastern slope of the Taconic Range, now known as West Center. He established the first white-owned farm here in West Stockbridge. It was a large piece of property, likely more than 200 acres along the now West Alford Road and extending up the side of Harvey Mountain. Easland thought he was still in New York territory, and because this purchase occurred eight years before he could legally settle here according to the Massachusetts General Court, it helped thinking he was in New York.

Fast forward 172 years to the summer of 1930, the farm, now called the Chittenden Farm, was bought by Phillip Howse of New York City to develop as a summer camp (Floyd Chittenden was an optometrist in Great Barrington). The new camp was designed for 100 boys. In addition to traditional camp buildings, a kitchen, and a dining hall, it was designed to offer a 5-acre artificial lake, a hospital building, and camper bungalows that would include a shower and bathroom. This was intended to be a higher class camp than the normal tent and outhouse Berkshire camp.

Timing is everything. The project began at the height of the Depression, and obviously 1930 was a difficult year for financing and attracting campers. A few structures were started, and then everything was put on hold. Two years later, the project changed hands, and work began to finish the camp. By the summer of 1933, it first opened for campers, both boys and girls.

Silver Birch Camp was active until 1971 when it was sold and became Camp Kingsmont (a History Question for another time). Silver Birch Camp had a strong culture. Many campers came back year after year. Even today, former campers remain in touch with each other via informal reunions and have an active Facebook page.



Silver Birch Camp 1942. Image courtesy of West Stockbridge Historical Society



The *Local Yokel* is published monthly. Please mail submissions to: **The Local Yokel, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266**, email info@thelocalyokel.org, or visit www.thelocalyokel.org. Copy deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the publication. Editors: **John Parker, 394-4368, john.j.parker53@gmail.com; Vicki Grayson, 232-6131, vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com; Susan Fisher, 232-4443, suefish12@gmail.com; Anne Lesser, 717-0277, anne@annelessercommunications.com; Designer: **Kim Bradway, kim@bloominarts.com**.**

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

November Art Calendar

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

2024

October 10 - November 3,
"ab-strac-tion: Through Media, Process and Symbol" featuring Karen Dolmanisth, Virginia Bradley, & Chris Malcomson. Art on Main Gallery, West Stockbridge, MA. **Closing Reception:** Saturday, November 2, 3-6 pm

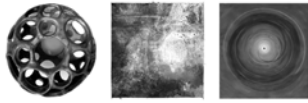
November 13, Monthly Meeting, 4:30-6pm. Featuring demo/talk. Meeting Room of the West Stockbridge Town Hall. See website for more info closer to date.

November 14- December 1, "Canvas and Clay: Paintings and Pottery by Alice Marie Dugan" featuring Alice Dugan. Art on Main Gallery, West Stockbridge, MA. **Reception:** Saturday November 16, 1-4PM

November 24, Berkshire Photo Gathering. Last of 2024! See web: berkshirephotogathering.com /online-meetings

November 26, 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!

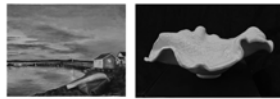


ab-strac-tion

Through Media, Process and Symbol

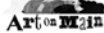
Karen Dolmanisth, Virginia Bradley,
 & Chris Malcomson

October 10 - November 3
Closing Reception: Saturday,
 November 2, 3-6 pm



Canvas and Clay: Paintings and Pottery by Alice Marie Dugan

November 14 - December 1
Reception: Saturday,
 November 16, 1-4 pm



38 Main Street, West Stockbridge

Friends & Neighbors

Come Celebrate with us!



8:30 Sunday Mass
 followed by
Coffee Hour

St. Patrick Church
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 West Stockbridge

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

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 Flourish Market Library
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 Queensboro Wine & Spirits
 Town Offices
 Transfer Station

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 You may choose to have the Local Yokel mailed to you for a minimum annual contribution of \$25.
 Just contact us to start your issue coming right to your door (or wherever you'd like).

Read Us Online
 You can now read our back issues at your convenience, on any device.
 We are busy at work archiving from past years and will soon have all of our back issues up online.

The Local Yokel meets the 21st Century!

Visit our website for past issues, plus information about how to support your West Stockbridge community newsletter, submit material for publication, advertise, contact us, and more!

thelocalyokel.org

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2017

2016 coming soon...

Previous years still to come...

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

With increased printing and postage costs, we need your help more than ever. To get the latest town news, please contribute to the Local 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.

Yes! I want to support the Local Yoke!.
Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____
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Name (as you want it to appear in acknowledgments)

Address (location you would like the Local Yoke! and/or bumper sticker sent)

City State Zip

Email

Check any that apply:

- I would like my contribution to remain anonymous.
- Thanks, but don't mail the Local Yoke! to me. Save the postage; I'll pick it up myself.
- Yes, please do send me a YKL Bumper Sticker for my donation of \$35 or more.



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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>Randy Bates</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 Historical Society's
Berkshire Nature Talk Series

**THE MUSHROOMS OF
BERKSHIRE COUNTY**



Photo: courtesy of John Wheeler

**Talk and slide show
by John Wheeler**

**President of the
Berkshire Mycological
Society**

**Friday, November 8th
at 7 p.m.**

**Old Town Hall
9 Main Street, West Stockbridge**

Free for West Stockbridge Historical Society members;
\$10 suggested donation for nonmembers

Please register at: weststockbridgehistory.org

WEST STOCKBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

West Stockbridge
Local Yoke!
 P.O. Box 238
 West Stockbridge, MA 01266

thelocalyokel.org



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					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

November Calendar of Events

11/1	Diwali		
11/2	Simon Winchester talk	7 pm	Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street
11/3	Daylight Savings Time ends (set clocks back 1 hour)		
11/4	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices and on Zoom
11/4	Planning Board meeting	7 pm	Town Offices
11/5	Election Day		
11/6	Knitters Group	2–4 pm	Community Room
11/8	Mushrooms of Berkshire County	7 pm	Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street
11/9	Household Hazardous Waste event	9 am–1 pm	Great Barrington Transfer Station
11/10	Stockbridge Grange Takeout Dinner		See Community News for details
11/10	Annual Harvest Dinner	5:30 pm	Congregational Church, 45 Main Street
11/11	Veterans Day		
11/12	Council on Aging Craft Group meeting	9:30 am	Richmond Library History Room
11/13	Knitters Group	2–4 pm	Community Room
11/13	Friends of the Library meeting	3:30 pm	Community Room
11/15	*** Deadline for the next <i>Local Yoke!</i> ***		Send to info@thelocalyokel.org
11/18	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices and on Zoom
11/18	Planning Board public hearing on Dog Park	7 pm	Town Offices
11/20	Knitters Group	2–4 pm	Community Room
11/23	HVA Auction for the Environment	3 pm	South Farms in Morris, CT
11/27	Knitters Group	2–4 pm	Community Room
11/28	Thanksgiving Day		
Note: Town Offices (including Community Room and Library) are located at 21 State Line Road, West Stockbridge.			