

Local yokel

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

West
Stockbridge

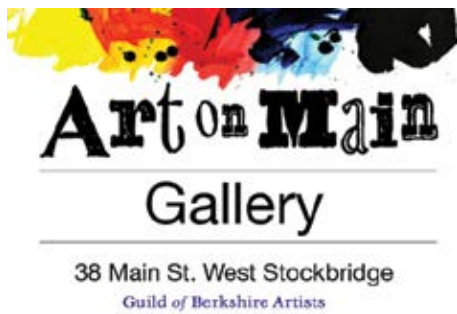
April
2025

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2004



Annual Town Cleanup Saturday, April 19

*Red Trillium, or Wake Robin.
Photo by Emily Weiland*



"Flora Fauna Stone"

Thursday, April 3, through Sunday, April 27

Opening Reception: Saturday, April 5, 2 to 4 pm

Touching each one of the six exhibiting artists in a unique way, the inspiration of the natural world can be seen in the variety of form and expression on display in "Flora Fauna Stone."

Anne Ferril. Increasingly aware of, and inspired by, the natural world since moving to the Berkshires, Anne's pieces in this show reflect her delight in that awareness.

Caryn King. Animals and the rich textures of nature inspire Caryn's sculptures. Crafting her own narrative, she invites viewers to interpret and create their own stories as well.

Moira O'Grady. Fascinated by leaves, nests, shells, and stones, Moira uses unique sculptural, woodcutting, and painterly techniques to create tiles, bowls, and other vessels.

Ingrid Raab. Drawing inspiration from historical pottery shapes, Ingrid's functional forms are altered by using shapes found in the plant world or glazes that are reminiscent of stone.

Barbara Roth. Walks through the woods inspire Barbara's sculptures that are "love letters" to the trees, mirroring a sense of calm and connectedness.

Paula Shalan. While creating her smoke-fired seedpods, Paula "hovers in that place between fact and inventiveness" to distill visual information into intuitively imagined artwork.



Left to right: Paula Shalan, Giant Yanugua Pod; Ingrid Raab, Flower Serving Tray; Caryn King, Raven



Left to right: Barbara Roth, Leaf Man Mask; Moira O'Grady, Storm Arrives Tile; Anne Ferril, Sea Anemone #1

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 February 18, 2025

The quorum was present remotely: Select Board members Andrew Krouss and Chair Andrew Potter, Kathleen Keresey, and Town Administrator Marie Ryan.

Others Present: Police Chief Marc Portieri and Police Officer Nicole Miller

Andy Potter opened the meeting at 6 PM.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the February 3, 2025, minutes.

All were in favor, and the minutes were approved.

Citizen Speak:

Attorney Bill Martin spoke on behalf of resident Joanna Yurman regarding Wiseacre Farm. He informed the Board that her neighborhood group had met with Wiseacre Farm owner Jon Piasecki, and the meeting went well. They requested that the Board hold a separate meeting to discuss Wiseacre Farm and the odor and sound mitigation plan. Attorney Martin stated that although the odor issue has decreased, it has come with a new problem regarding the fans' sound. Jon indicated that there are additional mitigation measures he could take; however, he does not have the funds to pay for them. The group urged the Board to use the Community Impact fees Jon gave to the Town, to purchase additional items to assist him with mitigation of sound and odor. Attorney Martin stated that the group looks forward to working with the Town and Jon on an additional mitigation proposal.

Dom Luchi, a resident of 8 Silvermine Lane, West Stockbridge, informed the Board that he has worked well with the current Building Inspector, Brian DuVal. He urged the Board to keep Brian as the Building Inspector.

Appoint Police Officer Nicole Miller to Full-Time: Chief Marc Portieri

Due to the resignation of Officer James Ryan, Police Chief Marc Portieri has requested that the Board appoint Part Time Officer

Nicole Miller to Full Time Officer.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to appoint Nicole Miller to Full Time Officer.

All were in favor, and the motion was approved.

Shared Inspectional Services:

Marie stated that at a previous meeting, the Board agreed to pursue being included in a shared inspectional service with Lee, Lenox, Stockbridge, and Great Barrington. She said that the other Towns have offered to include West Stockbridge in these shared services, which would allow for full-time coverage by a Building Inspector and one dedicated day of office hours. The Board agreed to move the Town in this direction and was inclined to join the shared services.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to join the shared inspectional services with Lee, Lenox, Stockbridge, and Great Barrington.

All were in favor, and the motion was approved.

Wiseacre Farm:

Andy Potter asked Attorney Aaron DuBois, who represents Jon Piasecki, Wiseacre Farm owner, to give a general update on the report that Jon sent to the Board. Attorney DuBois stated that Wiseacre Farm has not received their new license from the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) as of this time. Wiseacre has installed fans to assist with odor mitigation this past growing season, along with screening and aromatic plantings to help with odor mitigation. He said that the CCC received a complaint regarding the noise from the fan. They came out here to hear firsthand how loud the fans are. They measured the sound to be 44-46 decibels at the time, which is lower than the ambient noise. Attorney DuBois noted that the CCC is pleased with Wiseacre Farm's plans and odor and noise mitigation performance.

Andy Potter said that Attorney Martin stated that the neighborhood group met with Jon and inferred that the meeting went well and that there was good conversation and proposals. He then asked

...continued on page 5



Save the Dates!

Annual Town Meeting: Monday, May 5, 6 pm

Annual Town Election: Monday, May 12, 10 am–7 pm

Location: Town Offices, 21 State Line Road

The West Stockbridge Public Market

“It’s Like a Grocery Store in Here!”

When a **7-year-old boy** walked in, looked around wide-eyed, and blurted out, **“It’s like a grocery store in here!”**—We loved it.

Since **1932**, the Market has been a **cornerstone of West Stockbridge**. We’ve **adapted** over time- from a full grocery store with fresh produce and a butcher shop with full liquor license adding **coffee, sandwiches, and dinners**. There is a feeling behind our service.

We feel **a single item is just as important** as a full shopping cart. Because when a **neighbor has a need**, there’s a feeling of true satisfaction in saying: **"Yes, we have that."**

Think about it. **You’re at home, making a dish, and suddenly**—you’re out of something. Or maybe you **get a craving for just one thing. Ice cream! You call the Market or you visit.**

This past week alone some random items we have been asked about:

Fresh Dinners	Mozzarella Cheese	Almond Milk
Berkshire Mountain Bakery	Rao’s Marinara Sauce	Granola
Gluten-Free Pasta	Marshmallows	Sesame Oil
Brown Rice	Polenta	Chicken Broth
Frozen Dinners	Minced Clams	Pet Food
Diced Tomatoes	Fresh Produce	High Lawn Farm
Batteries	Tissue Paper	Great Employees

The response. **Yes, we have that** 😊

**A Market thrives on reflecting
and satisfying community needs.**

Suggest your favorite items.



Grab a **FREE COFFEE**. Let’s chat.

So, we can say, **“Yes, we have that!”**

"Whether you're grabbing one thing or stocking up, we hope you walk in, look around, and feel that same enthusiasm of a 7-year-old—'**It’s like a grocery store in here!**'"

Public Market • 8 Main Street, West Stockbridge, MA 01266 • (413) 232-8595

...continued from page 3

Attorney DuBois if he and Jon felt the same about the meeting. Andy Potter said it sounds like there has been positive progress. Attorney DuBois responded that it went well amongst reasonable people, but noise is subjective. Jon said he believes he can adjust the fan system by adding more noise-reduction parts for the fans. He also mentioned that some people were having issues using the online reporting system and that he would be training on using this system in the late spring and early summer to assist users in reporting any problems or complaints.

Kathleen noted that she did not have enough time to review the report since she just received it this morning and would like to continue the discussion at another meeting. Andy Potter also noted that any noise complaints should be reported to the Zoning Enforcement Officer. Andy then asked Attorney DuBois when he felt Wiseacre would get their new license from the CCC. Attorney DuBois responded that he did not know for sure.

Andy Potter agreed with Kathleen that the discussion should continue at another meeting in the future.

Select Board Speak:

Kathleen asked if the issue with media storage for the Conservation Commission had been addressed. Marie stated that she and Conservation Commission Chair Kathy Korte are working on the issue and that they will have space on the server for their documents. She also mentioned that she has been looking into additional shared services and future planning for different positions

within the Town due to the upcoming retirement of Curt Wilton and possibly other employees. She would like to pursue further information to update job descriptions and other ideas with the board's support. Andy and Andy agreed.

Andy Krouss informed the Board that he and Marie had met with Wylie Goodman from Berkshire Regional Planning regarding digital equity and are working on adding additional hot spots for the Town residents and increasing library technology. He will keep the Board updated.

Speaking as a School Committee member, Andy Potter encouraged everyone to attend the School Committee budget hearing on February 28th. He said the budget is incredibly tight this year and will include cutting a 3rd-grade teaching position, the Industrial Design course at the middle school, and a Physical Education teacher at the high school.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to adjourn at 6:39 PM.

All were in favor, and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan
Town Administrator

...continued on page 8

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

West Stockbridge Police Chief Marc Portieri Announces Retirement

The career officer has nearly three decades of experience in police service.

Written by **Leslee Bassman**

March 5, 2025

West Stockbridge Police Chief Marc Portieri announced March 3 he will retire after almost three decades of service to the public. Photo by Leslee Bassman.

West Stockbridge — With almost 30 years under his badge, West Stockbridge Police Chief Marc Portieri informed the town's Select Board on March 3 that he plans to retire, stating that May 7 will be his last day on the job.

Portieri has served in his current role for eight and a half years following two decades with the Becket Police Department. "When I came here, it was pretty much a two-person, part-time department," he said in an interview with The Berkshire Edge. "And now, as I'm stepping out the door, we have four full-time officers plus myself."

At the start of his West Stockbridge tenure in 2016, the department was just about on the chopping block, Portieri said, leaving the town to rely on state police services. "I've built it up, over the years, to what we're at now," he said.

The 53-year-old Portieri grew up in Lee and moved to Becket in 1990. Although he pursued several different jobs including working security detail at the Columbia Mill, he found law enforcement as a career in 1993 when a part-time position opened up on the local police department. It was a natural segue after Portieri enjoyed a criminal justice course at the University of Massachusetts. After a six-month training course, he was on the job with a partner. "It started out as something very, very exciting to do, so I stuck with it," Portieri said.

A year later, he advanced to become Becket's first full-time police officer, with that position funded by grant monies. In 2000, Portieri rose to the rank of sergeant in Becket, where he remained for 16 more years.

The ability to help others struck a chord with Portieri, and he cited the support received from state police officers who "basically showed you the ropes" as his stalwart resources.

"It was old-school policing," Portieri said of the era he served in before the advent of computers and cell phones. "We're handcuffed as police in doing [our] job now by society. It's changed so much. We had a thing called 'community policing' back in the day. You drove around. You talked to people in the neighborhood. You had contacts in the neighborhood. I solved a lot of cases in the neighborhood this way—you were very easily approachable. They would say, 'Hey, we saw the neighbor kids down the road and the front door is open.' Nowadays, no one approaches you."

Today, the public's view of police officers has turned negative, he said, and "put a bad mark on us and it's unfortunate." "You get a bad officer and then that just leaks down to 'everybody is this way,'" Portieri said. "You didn't have that problem back 20 years ago. People respected you. You respected them."

West Stockbridge's offer presented a new opportunity, "a change of pace" for Portieri as the town's full-time chief of police. His first challenge in the role was to assemble a police department, and he used his 22 years of law enforcement contacts to do so. "We started building on what we had," Portieri said. "In the policing world, unfortunately, it's a continuous build. It's not just, 'You build and you're all set.'"

To bring in officers, he created an internship at Monument Mountain High School, resulting in staffing one candidate who entered the department at age 18, becoming a full-time staffer two years later. Although that officer is now with the Stockbridge Police Department, Patrol Officer Curt Wilton III was developed through the internship and continues to serve the department today.

Portieri recalled police incidents that he "wished he never had to attend." The Becket Home Alone Case in 1995 involved a young boy who was sick at home when two individuals kicked the door in, robbing the house while the youngster hid in the kitchen. The child called 911 and, with Portieri en route, the criminals discovered him. However, they left him unharmed and departed. As Portieri approached



the residence, he could see the perpetrators' car tracks in the light snow. With the youth's description, a trooper in Otis spied the vehicle, pursued the car, and apprehended the criminals who had prior offenses and a history of jail time.

In an odd turn of events, Portieri became acquainted with the homeowners and eventually purchased that house, living in it for about 10 years before selling it.

With so many Becket cases, a number of investigations—discovering an infant's death and nabbing the top dog in a string of home burglaries—still gnaw at him.

In West Stockbridge, Portieri cites domestic relations issues, drug possession and motor vehicle stops for speeding, or equipment violations as current policing issues. He said his department has stepped up police stops in town. "From when I first came here in 2016 to now, people know we're out there on patrol," Portieri said.

For instance, from January 1 to February 28 of this year, West Stockbridge officers have stopped 242 vehicles, he said. In comparison, in 2023, town officers posted 680 motor vehicle stops and, in 2024, more than 850 motor vehicle stops, according to Portieri.


Portieri reasoned that interstate drivers pulling through West Stockbridge may not be aware of local speed limits. Even so, his officers sometimes dole out just a warning.

With those increasing vehicle stops, Portieri said police patrols are encountering drug or heroin possession incidents.

"The more you stop, the more work you're going to get," he said. "[Drug trafficking] is definitely here because you have the [Massachusetts] Turnpike [nearby]. New York borders us, [Route] 102, [Route] 20, and Pittsfield. I'm sure there's a lot more here than we see." The local statistics for breaking and entering violations are way down, year over year, he said.

A conflict over contract negotiations and the desire to spend more time with his family pushed Portieri's decision to retire, a choice that will allow this avid outdoorsman additional hunting and fishing opportunities. He also might pick up a patrol detail here and there for a local community.

"I've enjoyed [serving as police chief]," Portieri said. "There's a lot of nice people in town. Going forward, they have a good core group of police officers here."



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8:30 Sunday Mass
followed by
Coffee Hour

St. Patrick Church
30 Albany Road
West Stockbridge

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9-10AM FOR VESTS, BAGS
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...continued from page 5

Select Board Meeting Minutes March 3, 2025

The quorum was present remotely: Select Board members Andrew Krouss and Chair Andrew Potter, Kathleen Keresey (participated remotely), and Town Administrator Marie Ryan.

Others Present: Fire Chief Vinny Garofoli and Police Chief Marc Portieri

Andy Potter opened the meeting at 6 PM.

Andy Krouss made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve the minutes from February 18 and executive session minutes from February 26, 2025.

Roll Call Vote:

Kathleen	Yes
Andy Potter	Yes
Andy Krouss	Yes

All were in favor, minutes were all approved.

Andy Potter then allowed Chief Garofoli to update the Fire Department because he had another appointment at 6:30 PM.

Fire Department Update: Chief Garofoli

Chief Garofoli explained that he has completed many tasks in the short time he has been chief trying to get everything up to date at the Fire Department. The following is a list of the tasks completed to date:

- Updated Fire Tones for West Stockbridge pagers
- IAM Responding application up and running for West Stockbridge
- Completed FY26 Fire Department budget and Annual Report
- All keys updated in the lockbox and given to the proper personnel
- Reviewed and addressed building concerns with Superintendent Frank Alfonso
- Replaced all expired epi-pens and medications
- Rescue truck #3 and Engine #2 have been repaired and passed inspection
- Joint drills have been ongoing with the Stockbridge Fire Department
- Two Fire Department members are enrolled in the EMT course and have taken over maintaining all the medical supplies and medications
- The chief has been working with all Town departments for better communication
- All paperwork has been scanned and uploaded to the Town server

He thanked the Board for all of their support and feels the Fire Department is on a soundtrack. The Board thanked him for his continued organization of the department.

Citizen Speak:

None

Town Administrator Update:

Marie informed the Board that she has received a letter from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation stating that the Town will receive \$269,076.75 in Chapter 90 money in Fiscal Year 2026.

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...continued from page 8

Previously, the Town only received \$150,000. This is a large increase and will assist the Town in maintaining the roads on a regular basis with less borrowing required.

Planning Board Accessory Dwelling Unit Draft Bylaw:

Marie explained to the Board that the Planning Board had requested support and approval to proceed with a public hearing regarding a drafted Accessory Dwelling Unit bylaw. They also requested the Board allow for an additional article to petition the legislature for a special act to allow the elected Planning Board to have two appointed associate members.

Andy Krouss made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to support and approve the Planning Board's proceeding with a public hearing on their draft accessory dwelling unit bylaw and allow the petition for special legislation article to be placed on a warrant.

Roll Call Vote:

Andy Krouss	Yes
Andy Potter	Yes
Kathleen	Yes

Motion Approved.

Police Department Update: Chief Marc Portieri

Marc informed the Board that the Lexipol online system for policies and procedures is up and running. This system allows for real-time updates for the officers and is working well. He stated that the officers have begun their training for this year. The officers have had an increase in calls to tend to so far this year and 242 traffic stops since January. They had encountered a few language barrier issues that Officer Wilton has been able to assist with.

Chief Portieri informed the Board that the AED units have been replaced and updated. He will give the old AEDs to the Southern Berkshire Ambulance for training.

Officer Nicole Miller has been working full-time and is doing a great job. She has already been engaged with the Parks Commissioners to hold some community events shortly.

Chief Portieri then handed a resignation letter to the Board, informing them that his last day would be July 7th. He thanked them for his time in West Stockbridge. He has worked in law enforcement for 29 ½ years and said it is time to retire. The Board then thanked him for his years of service.

Select Board Speak:

Andy Krouss and Kathleen thanked Marc for his service to the Town.

Andy Potter read a press release he created about West Stockbridge joining Stockbridge in support of requiring Housatonic Water Company to abide by its agreement with the Attorney General.

The Town of West Stockbridge has formally joined the Town of Stockbridge in its motion to enforce the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities' (DPU) Order on the Joint Motion to Approve Settlement Agreement with Housatonic Water Works (HWW). The motion, filed with the DPU on February 5, 2025, seeks immediate action regarding the Company's failure to meet its obligations under the settlement.

Housatonic Water Works is required to construct filtration upgrades to address excessive manganese levels in its Long Pond supply source, as mandated by an October 8, 2024, Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO) issued by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Despite receiving DEP approval for the necessary filtration system on December 13, 2024, HWW has now signaled that it will not begin construction by the required March 13, 2025 deadline.

"The continued delay by Housatonic Water Works leaves our residents with no choice but to pay for discolored, non-potable water at significantly increased rates," said Andy Potter, Chair of the West Stockbridge Select Board. "We stand with Stockbridge in demanding enforcement of the settlement agreement to ensure that residents receive safe and affordable drinking water."

The Town of West Stockbridge is also requesting that the Department of Public Utilities engage with DEP to address the ongoing water quality crisis and investigate HWW's efforts—or lack thereof—to secure financing and comply with the terms of the agreement.

West Stockbridge remains committed to advocating for its residents and holding Housatonic Water Works accountable for its obligations.

Kathleen and Andy Krouss both agreed to the press release.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to enter into executive session and not return into Open Session.

- Anticipated executive session in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A Paragraph 21 (a)(3), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, as meeting in open session would have a detrimental impact on the Board's negotiating position (Director of Public Works, Town Administrator and Police Chief Contract renewals)

Roll Call vote:

Andy Potter	Yes
Kathleen	Yes
Andy Krouss	Yes

Open meeting adjourned at 6:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator

Baker Street Bridge Closing

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation will be conducting maintenance on the Baker Street bridge in West Stockbridge. The bridge will be closed to traffic, beginning Wednesday, February 12, through August 2025. Please make alternative travel plans in that area.



West Stockbridge Village
Congregational Church



Holy Week Services



Sunday, April 13th: 10am
Palm Sunday Service in the
sanctuary at 45 Main Street

Friday, April 18th: 5:30pm
Good Friday Supper and Worship
in the social room at 45 Main Street
Includes a soup and sandwich supper
followed by a service of worship

Sunday, April 20th:

Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m.
Outdoor Chapel at
141 West Center Road
Breakfast following Sunrise Service
in the social room at 45 Main Street

Easter Festival Worship at 10am
in the sanctuary at 45 Main Street

April Donor Roll Call

Denise Glasser
William & Catherine Hudgins
Martin Litz
Judith Nevins
Kathy Rehm
Anonymous: 1

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Please send your gift today! (See response form on page 21)

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Resource Guide Released for Southern Berkshire County

Providing Resources for Food Assistance, Housing Support, Mental Health, Special Needs Services, and Transportation

Through a collaboration with the Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative (SBPHC), Families Like Ours Inc., and the Tri-Town Health Department, we are excited to announce the release of the *Southern Berkshire County Resource Guide*, a comprehensive and vital tool designed to connect individuals and families with essential services across Southern Berkshire County. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all participating organizations for their support and partnership in making this resource possible.

The *Southern Berkshire County Resource Guide* is an invaluable reference for everyone—from emergency personnel to community members—helping to navigate essential services such as food access, housing support, mental health support, special needs services, and transportation options. Additional sections are being developed for future printings of the guide, and the Resource Guide will be regularly updated online throughout the year.

The *Southern Berkshire County Resource Guide* is available both in print and digital formats. The printed version will be distributed in March 2025 to first responders, town clerks, libraries, boards of health, and Council on Aging offices. Online versions were available at <https://southernberkshirehealth.com/southern-berkshire-county-resource-guide/> or familieslikeoursinc.com. To make suggested changes or additions or to request a printed copy, please contact Rania Markham at Rania@familieslikeoursinc.com. This resource is free of charge, and we encourage you to share it with others who might benefit from it.

This guide was initially developed to ensure that first responders, public health officials and other service providers had a printed tool to help their citizens and clients navigate vital services, but what we found is that it is a valuable tool for everyone. The guide not only lists actual resources but also links to other existing online resource guides to ensure that people can get the help they need as quickly as possible. —Jayne Smith, SBPHC

SBPHC is a shared services arrangement providing support to the local boards of health in their 12 member towns: Alford, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Marlborough, Otis, Sandisfield, Sheffield, Stockbridge, and Tyringham. Services provided by SBPHC to member towns include comprehensive public health nursing, inspectional and health agent services, car seat fittings, sharps disposal, and community collaboration to help ensure the health of people living, working, and visiting Southern Berkshire County.

Families Like Ours is a nonprofit that exists to support families of individuals with special needs in Berkshire County by addressing the daily challenges they face. We help connect families with community resources through our dedicated staff. Our goal is to reduce feelings of isolation and create a sense of unity among families. By doing so, we aim to make a positive difference and empower families like ours.

Tri-Town Health Department is a regional health department, created in 1929, that provides comprehensive public health services to Lee, Lenox, and Stockbridge. Tri-Town, through the Town of Lee, is the fiscal host for the Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative.

If you would like more information on the *Southern Berkshire Resource Guide*, please contact the following:

Jayne Smith, Shared Services Manager
Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative
413-717-8922 jayne@tritownhealth.org
www.southernberkshirehealth.com

Rania Markham, Executive Director
Families Like Ours, Inc.
413-854-8611 rania@familieslikeoursinc.com
www.familieslikeoursinc.com

Jim Wilusz, Health Director
Tri-Town Health Department
413-243-5540 jim@tritownhealth.org
www.tritownhealth.org

Town of West Stockbridge Joins Stockbridge in Call for Enforcement of Water Quality Settlement Agreement

West Stockbridge, MA – The Town of West Stockbridge has formally joined the Town of Stockbridge in its motion to enforce the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities’ (DPU) Order on the Joint Motion to Approve Settlement Agreement with Housatonic Water Works (HWW). The motion, filed with the DPU on February 5, 2025, seeks immediate action regarding the Company’s failure to meet its obligations under the settlement.

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“The continued delay by Housatonic Water Works leaves our residents with no choice but to pay for discolored, non-potable water at significantly increased rates,” said Andy Potter, Chair of the West Stockbridge Select Board. “We stand with Stockbridge in demanding enforcement of the settlement agreement to ensure that residents receive safe and affordable drinking water.”

The Town of West Stockbridge is also requesting that the DPU engage with DEP to address the ongoing water quality crisis and investigate HWW’s efforts—or lack thereof—to secure financing and comply with the terms of the agreement.

West Stockbridge remains committed to advocating for its residents and holding Housatonic Water Works accountable for its obligations.

For further information, please contact:

Andy Potter
Chair, West Stockbridge Select Board
Town of West Stockbridge
21 State Line Road
West Stockbridge, MA 01266
Phone: (413) 232-0300

Andy Potter Appointed to Extended Producer Responsibility Commission

WEST STOCKBRIDGE, MA – The Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) has appointed Andy Potter, Chair of the West Stockbridge Select Board, to serve on the newly established Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Commission. Representing the interests of Western Massachusetts municipalities, Potter will play a key role in shaping statewide policies aimed at improving waste management and sustainability.

Created under Chapter 239 of the Acts of 2024, the EPR Commission is chaired by the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and consists of 21 members representing a wide range of solid waste, recycling, and environmental protection stakeholders. The Commission is tasked with developing recommendations for the Massachusetts Legislature on extended producer responsibility policies, evaluating cost impacts on solid waste disposal streams, exploring methods to incentivize material reduction and reuse, and identifying strategies to reduce waste stream contamination.

Potter’s appointment ensures that the perspectives and challenges faced by Western Massachusetts communities are well represented. In addition to his role as Chair of the West Stockbridge Select Board, Potter serves on the MMA’s Energy and Environment Policy Committee, where he has been actively engaged in municipal sustainability and environmental policy discussions. His experience in municipal governance and policy analysis will contribute to the Commission’s efforts to craft practical and effective recommendations for the Commonwealth.

“I am honored to join this Commission and advocate for solutions that support both environmental sustainability and municipal efficiency,” said Potter. “Western Massachusetts communities face unique waste management challenges, and I look forward to ensuring that their needs and perspectives are reflected in the Commission’s work.”

The Commission will convene in the coming weeks to begin its deliberations and is expected to submit recommendations to the Legislature as part of its charge under Chapter 239.

For more information, please contact:

Andy Potter
413.429.5165
andypottersc@gmail.com

Ticks are Pandemic

Learn How To Survive Them

68% of TICKS, ANY SIZE, carry disease: 100 strains of Lyme Disease in the US, 300 Lyme strains worldwide and over 350 Co-infections; as well as viruses, parasites & pathogens, many as yet unnamed and for which there are no tests.

Prevention Is Key

Use tick repellant for skin and Permethrin (in the sports section of stores) for clothes and shoes. Tick check yourself daily.

Learn What To Do If Bitten

If bitten and the tick is not engorged position tweezers as close to the surface of your skin and pull straight up with steady even pressure. Do not twist or turn as this releases more tick fluid into you. Embedded, engorged ticks can be super hard to remove and it's best to have them removed at the nearest Emergency Room by professionals.



Never Throw A Tick Away

Preserve your tick with a piece of moist paper towel in a small plastic bag and mail it to **UMass Labs** after filling out their online form at www.tickreport.com. This can save you time and money by learning early on if a tick is carrying disease and what you need to be treated for, if you were infected.

Get The Facts

Bullseye rashes appear only 35% of the time. Many rashes have all kinds of shapes and sizes. Photo all changes in your body. Document all symptoms. It is information for determining your treatment.

Have A Plan In Place Before You Get Bitten

Determine which Lyme Literate Medical Professional you will see. You can find Lyme Literate doctors at lymenet.org, ilads.org, lymediseaseassociation.org or email berkshirelyme@yahoo.com.

Learn About Successful Treatments at Berkshire Lyme Alliance to avoid Chronic Lyme Disease and to stop other possible tick borne illnesses before they start multiplying inside you.

Berkshire Lyme Alliance MEETS at Pittsfield Library

WEDNESDAYS 6-8 pm — February 12, March 12, April 9 ~ Ground Floor Auditorium

1 Wendell Avenue, Pittsfield, MA ~ Bad Weather call to confirm. First To Arrive Wins A Door Prize

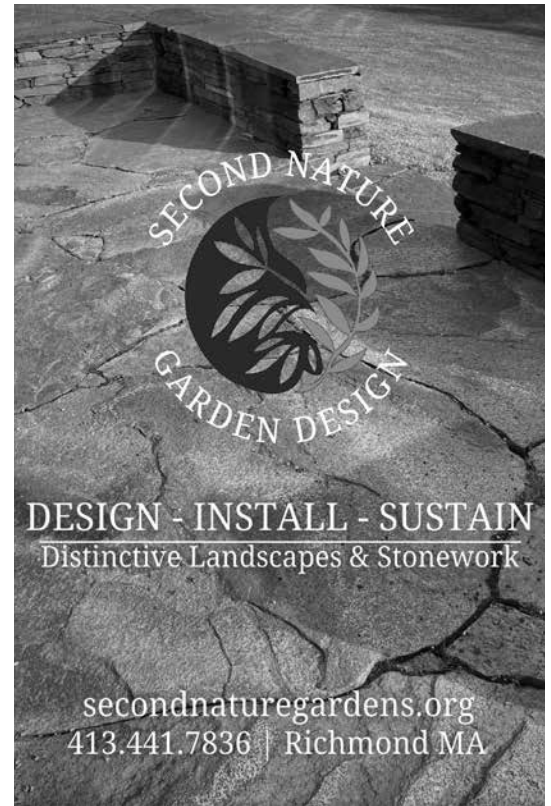
Berkshirelyme.blogspot.com www.facebook.com/berkshirelyme

Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree Returns to the Berkshires



Lumber from the magnificent Norway spruce, donated by the Albert family of West Stockbridge, that became the centerpiece of the holiday celebration last December at New York City's Rockefeller Center, is coming back to the Berkshires. The milled lumber will be used in the construction of new Habitat for Humanity homes for families in Housatonic and Pittsfield. A statement by Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity declared, "As the 2024 Rockefeller tree becomes the foundation of a new beginning for these Berkshire families, it also serves as a reminder of the strength found in community, the power of transformation, and the beauty of giving."

*Source: Berkshire Magazine, April 2025
Photo by Frank Landsberger*



April History Quiz Question:

West Stockbridge Mountain, our most prominent physical feature, towers over the village center. The mountain is most prominent when approaching the town from any direction (except the east, where you drive over it on Lenox Road). The ridgeline runs from Olivia's Overlook on Richmond Mountain Road to the Stockbridge Sportsman's Club on Route 102.

The mountain was formed as part of the Taconic Orogeny, about 440 million years ago, and the resulting mountain chain was once 20,000 feet high. Erosion and glacial shaving reduced it to a more appealing average height of 1,600 to 1,700 feet, with a peak attitude of 1,828 feet. (The high point is above Route 102, parallel to the Mass Pike entrance.)

In modern times, the mountain has had a varied past, with different names, ownership, uses, and activities on it, and even some dramatic events. What might they be?

(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.



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 your local library! We hope to see you at the town Easter Egg Hunt on April 13! The library will have a small guessing contest. We will also have a new story walk for you to enjoy.

We're excited to announce our fourth annual free book distribution at Muddy Brook Elementary School. This year, Miss Vicky and Francesca will meet with all the first graders and hand out a free Caldecott Award winning book to each student. We are so thankful to the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, a branch of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, for funding this opportunity for each first grader to keep a little piece of literacy.

February at the library:

- 591 hardcopy items were borrowed and renewed
- \$9,900 was saved by library users because they borrowed instead of buying
- 473 eBooks and streaming audiobooks borrowed
- 319 library visitors

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

NEW ADULT FICTION

Espach, *The wedding people*
Harvey, *Orbital: a novel* (Booker Prize winner)
Steel, *Never say never*
Theroux, *Burma Sahib*
Wayne, *The winner*

NEW ADULT NONFICTION

Debreczeni, *Cold crematorium: reporting from the land of Auschwitz*
Kem, *Unicorn team: the nine leadership types you need*
Meltzer, *The JFK conspiracy* [book on CDs]
Robeyns, *Limitarianism: the case against extreme wealth*
Sante, *I heard her call my name: a memoir of transition*

NEW DVDs

Conclave, Despicable Me 3; Challengers



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

1. Who performed a winter concert on December 30, 2014, to support the restoration of the 1854 Town Hall?
2. Who sponsored a West Stockbridge holiday sale at the 1854 Old Town Hall on December 13 and 14, 2014?
3. What kind of safety class did police officers offer for West Stockbridge women in January 2015?
4. Which West Stockbridge resident was sworn in for his third full-length term as district attorney in January 2015?



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.

1. The West Stockbridge Chamber Players
2. Local artists and authors
3. Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) Program
4. David Capeless



and the
West Stockbridge Historical Society present

“Connections – State Line Café and Mickey Mantle - Art Ditmar – Yogi Berra”

An exhibit of Big Leaguers and their connection with the Berkshires

Thursday, April 10th thru Sunday, April 13th
in the Old Town Hall – 9 Main Street

The Line-Up

Thursday, April 10th – Exhibit Open 5-8 PM – Exhibit Preview – free - public invited

Friday, April 11th – Exhibit Open 5-8 PM – Opening Reception – free – public invited
6:30-7:30 PM – Our Connections in West Stockbridge and Surrounding Towns
Presented by Larry Moore (Director of Baseball in the Berkshires)
Special Guest –
Former Major League Pitcher – Matt White

Saturday, April 12th – Exhibit Open 1-4 PM – free – public invited
On-going presentation
“Who Rules Today? – Massachusetts or the Knickerbocker Rules?” -
appropriate for all ages.

Sunday, April 13th – Exhibit Open 1-4 PM – free – public invited
On-going presentation
“Who Rules Today? – Massachusetts or the Knickerbocker Rules?” -
appropriate for all ages.

***COME JOIN US FOR THIS WEEKEND OF
BASEBALL IN WEST STOCKBRIDGE***

***Sponsored By: Feigenbaum Foundation – WJ Blueprint – Adams Community Bank
Pittsfield Cooperative Bank – Berkshire Bank – MountainOne
Greylock Federal Credit Union – UNICO – Lee Bank - Interprint***



Eight hardy local women braved a "very, very windy day" to stage a demonstration in front of the Congregational Church in recognition of International Women's Day on May 8.

Top photos by Cait Graham

Center photo by Joe Roy, Jr

Right photo by Joni Carron





LIFEGUARD NEEDED

West Stockbridge Parks & Recreation is seeking a part-time summer lifeguard for Card Pond.

Willing to fully sponsor training for candidate who commits to working for us.

Competitive pay, and a season-end bonus to stay through the end of August.

Email Cait Graham at
weststockbridgeparkse@gmail.com
if interested



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 12 Main Street West Stockbridge, MA	 (P) 413-232-7175 (F) 413-232-4659
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 Mary K Roy marykroy33@gmail.com	 Joseph P Roy floorstorews@gmail.com

The West Stockbridge Historical Society presents:

WEST STOCKBRIDGE JAZZ SERIES



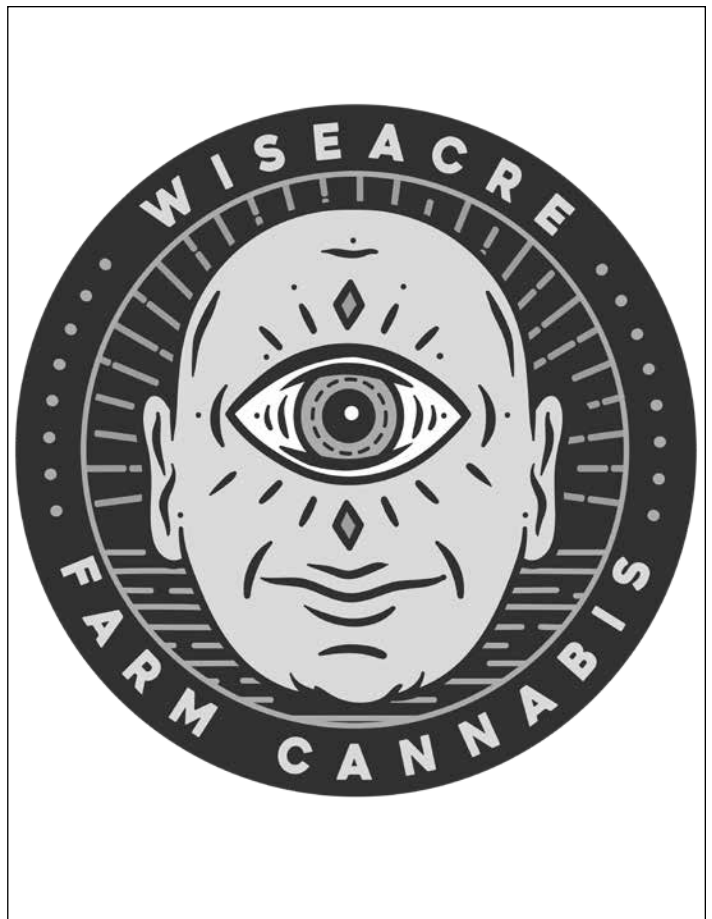
BENNY SHARONI QUARTET

with Matt DeChamplain, Todd Baker, Jerzy Glod

Saturday, April 26, 2025 at 7pm
The Old Town Hall at 9 Main Street
Tickets: \$35 Members/\$40 Non-members

 with generous support
from West Stockbridge
and Alford Egremont
Cultural Councils

weststockbridgehistory.org



Community News & Events

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

Take a night off from cooking and order this month's takeout-only Stockbridge Grange dinner on Sunday, April 13, with pickup at the Grange Hall, 51 Church Street, Stockbridge. Dinner entrée: stuffed breast of chicken; chocolate and lemon pies for dessert. 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, April 1, in the Community Room of Richmond Town Hall.

We will be making Easter baskets. Pre-register 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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History Quiz Answer:

West Stockbridge Mountain was known by a few different names after the white settlers arrived in the 1750s. We don't know if it had an earlier Native American name. There was even confusion over which town owned it during the 1800s. The first survey of 1794 showed the mountain located in Stockbridge with West Stockbridge's eastern border at the base of the ridge near Maple Street. Then in 1830, the General Court defined the boundary line with Stockbridge to run across the top of the ridgeline when it resolved the town's eastern and western limits.

On an early map, West Stockbridge Mountain was noted as "Pleasant Hill." Then, depending on which town was being portrayed on a map, it was labeled as either "Stockbridge Mountain" or "West Stockbridge Mountain." The 19th-century maps also have the boundary between the two towns varying between the top of the ridge or down at the base. Finally, by 1900, it was labeled as "West Stockbridge Mountain" on the U.S. Geological Survey topographical maps with the correct town boundary. However, even now it can still be seen as Stockbridge Mountain, Lenox Mountain, or Yokun Ridge on some unofficial maps.

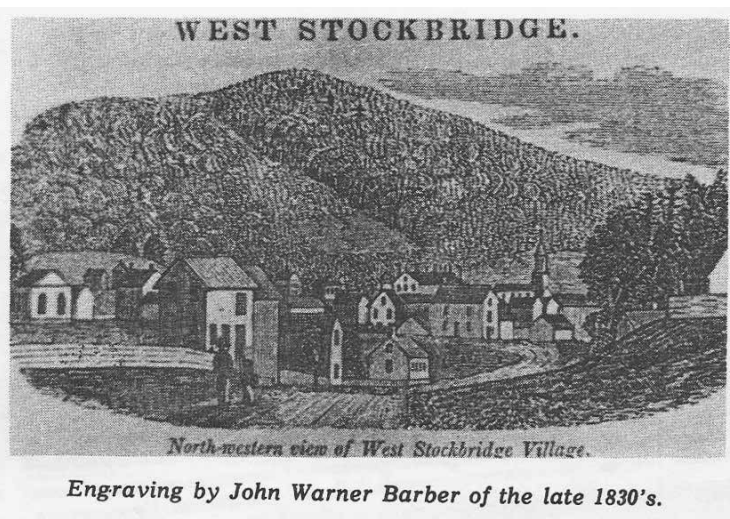
Throughout the 1800s, the mountain was logged for charcoal to feed the lime kilns in town. The woodcut of the John W. Barber painting from 1838, shown here, shows the town side of the mountain with a large clear-cut area. This is not a totally accurate depiction, but we do know that all the hills around here were cut for charcoal. You can occasionally find some remnants of the charcoal mounds when walking in the woods.

In addition to wood for the lime and iron kilns, there was a lime quarry on the side of the mountain. Not a very large pit, it shows on the 1858 map and was marked as owned by Fuarey & Gaston. It likely fed the lime kiln on the site behind the post office.

In 1839, a religious fanatic named Reed attempted to sacrifice a pig on an altar up on the summit to atone for his sins. The pig escaped, and his assistant ran, fearing Reed would substitute him for the pig in the sacrifice. The altar has been lost to time.

Fast forward to the present era. In November 1973, our mountain made the news when a small twin-engine plane crashed at the western base, south of town, and four people lost their lives. The plane had taken off from Pittsfield Airport, had a mechanical problem, crashed, and burst into flames. The press correctly identified the location as West Stockbridge Mountain.

In 2001, a stubborn fire broke out near the top of the mountain. The fire was likely started by lightning and dry ground material. It smoldered in the rocks and was difficult to reach by the town's firefighters. After two days, they called in helicopters from Otis Air Force Base to dump water on the area until it was extinguished. The *Berkshire Eagle* article misidentified the mountain as "Lenox Mountain" all through the days of reporting. Some things haven't changed.



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.

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

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

☐ **Yes!** I want to support the Local Yokel.

Enclosed is my donation of \$ _____
made payable to WSLY.

Name (as you want it to appear in acknowledgments)

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

City State Zip

Email

Check any that apply:

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



Please mail this form with your check to:

WSLY
P.O. Box 238
West Stockbridge, MA 01266

April Art Calendar

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

2025

February 1 - April 29 2025, "Coming of the Light" Art show at the Colonial Theatre. See Website for hours and online receptions.

April 3 - 27, "Flora Fauna Stone" featuring 6 ceramic artists. Art on Main Gallery, West Stockbridge, MA. Reception: Saturday April 5, 2-4PM

April 27, Berkshire Photo Gathering. See web: berkshirephotogathering.com /online-meetings

April 29, Meet the Artist, 3pm. Jane Craker. 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!



Reception:
April 5, 2-4pm

Flora Fauna Stone

Barbara Roth Moira O'Grady
Ingrid Raab Caryn King
Paula Shalan Anne Ferri

April 3 - 27, 2025

Art on Main
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Barry Girdler

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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>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

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May 22 - Oct 2



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What's going on with the Monument Mountain High School Building Project?

The MMRHS Building Committee invites you to learn more at an upcoming

Community Information Session & High School Tour

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

High School tour (in-person only) at 5:30 PM

**Community Information Session
(in-person at MMRHS or virtually) at 6:00 PM**

Topics: schematic design update & next steps

Use the following QR code or link to stream the session virtually



<https://tinyurl.com/ycyharrn>
Meeting#: 897 4670 8537

To stay connected, learn more, and contact the team, visit our website:

<https://monumentbuildingproject.org/>

SKANSKA



DINISCO DESIGN

WILLIAM RAWN ASSOCIATES

West Stockbridge *Easter Egg Hunt*

Date: Sunday, April 13th

Time: 2pm: Age 5 & under

2:15pm: Age 6 & over

Location: Playground behind the West
Stockbridge Town Offices



This is a FREE community event sponsored by WS Parks & Recreation



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			

April Calendar of Events

4/1	Affordable Housing Trust meeting	9 am	On Zoom
4/1	Council on Aging Craft Group meeting	9:30 am	Richmond Library History Room
4/1	High School Community Information Session & Tour	5:30 pm	Monument Mountain Regional High School
4/2	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room
4/7	Planning Board meeting	7 pm	Town Offices
4/9	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room
4/9	Friends of the Library meeting	3:30 pm	Community Room
4/10-13	WSHS exhibit: "Baseball in the Berkshires"		Old Town Hall; see inside for details
4/12	Passover begins at sunset		
4/13	Palm Sunday		
4/13	Easter Egg Hunt	2 pm	Town Offices Playground
4/13	Stockbridge Grange Takeout Dinner		See Community News for details
4/14	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices and on Zoom
4/15	*** Deadline for the next <i>Local Yokel</i> ***		Send to info@thelocalyokel.org
4/16	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room
4/18	Good Friday		
4/19	35th Annual Town Cleanup	starts 9 am	Firehouse for vests, bags, & treats
4/20	Easter		
4/21	Patriots' Day: Town Offices closed		
4/22	Earth Day		
4/23	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room
4/25	Arbor Day		
4/26	WSHS Jazz Series: Benny Sharoni	7 pm	Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street
4/28	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices and on Zoom
4/30	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room

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