

Local yokel

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

West
Stockbridge

July
2025

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2004



*Hummingbird visiting Hibiscus
flower. Photo by Lear Levin*

CONGRATS, SENIORS!



Photo courtesy of MMRHS.

Class of 2025 Monument Mountain Regional High School

Congratulations to these West Stockbridge graduates:

**Apple (Axel) Akira Bowser, Bronly Stephen Boyd III,
Sophia Ora Curletti, Veer Nikunj Kumar Patel**

You're invited to the annual

Card Pond Beach Party

Friday, July 11th
5-7pm

Come on over and join your neighbors for a lakeside barbeque, complete with lawn games, swimming, a live band, and ice cream!

Check out the new pavilion!



This is a free community event, brought to you by
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**Thursdays
3-6PM**

Rain or Shine!

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Farm fresh produce • Meat • Cheese • Eggs • Maple syrup • Bread & baked goods • Jams • Flowers • Prepared foods • Ice Cream • Artisan goods & more • Plus, Live Music!

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Select Board Meeting Minutes

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

Select Board Meeting Minutes May 13, 2025

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

Town Administrator Marie Ryan opened the meeting at 6 PM.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve the April 28, 2025, and May 8th Executive Session and Special Meeting minutes.

All were in favor; minutes approved.

Citizen Speak:

None

Town Administrator Update

Marie informed the Board that she has received nine applications so far for the Police Chief position. The Screening Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 21st, to review and determine who they will interview. The committee will then narrow down the

pool to three or four candidates for the Board to interview by mid-June.

Reorganization of the Board

Marie requested a motion for the position of Chair. Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to appoint Andy Krouss as the chair.

All were in favor; appointment approved.

Select Board Speak:

Andy Krouss thanked his fellow Board members for the appointment.

Andy Potter motioned to adjourn, seconded by Andy Krouss, at 6:04 PM.

All approved, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator

...continued on page 5



30 MAIN STREET, WEST STOCKBRIDGE MA

413-232-5050



WSPD Chief Portieri.
Photo by Caitlin Graham

Thank You for Your Service, Chief!

West Stockbridge
Police Chief Marc
Portieri is retiring as
of July 7 after three
decades of service
to the public, the
last 8½ years in

his current role as chief. The Select Board has
selected WSPD full-time officer Nicole Miller
as his replacement. Miller previously served as
an officer in Becket and as police chief in Wash-
ington, MA, for a total of 21 years in policing.

Something's in the air!

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fascination and serenity!"

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The West Stockbridge Village Congregational Church

invites you to the
Summertime

Open Air Worship Series

Join us for the entire month of July, Sundays
at 10am, at our beautiful Outdoor Chapel!

Bring a chair or use one of our benches, grab a
friend, and enjoy the service with a side of
sunshine! Shorts, t-shirts, and travel mugs of
coffee are welcome!

Located at 141 West Center Road.

West Stockbridge Zucchini Festival 2025

Glad Zuks!

And the zucchini reigned supreme

Have zucchini? Time to celebrate

Local Vendors • Artists • Performers • Local Food Trucks • Live Music!
Hand-Crafted Zuke Games • Zuke Weigh-Off • Pet Parade • Baking Contest
Zuck River Races • Decorating • Rock Climbing • Gilbert The Party Pig
West Stockie Shops • Galleries • Venues & Good Eats You Know & Love
Oddities • Spectacles • Good Cheer • Friendly Folks • Dancing in the Street!

August 9th, 10am to 10pm
Downtown WS at Depot St. & Center St.

For festival news and details go to **wszucchinifest.org**

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 & organized by volunteers, neighbors and friends ♥



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Select Board Meeting Minutes June 9, 2025

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

Chair Andy Krouss opened the meeting at 6 PM.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy, to approve the May 13, 2025 meeting minutes.

All were in favor; minutes approved.

Citizen Speak: None

Town Administrator Update

Marie informed the Board that she had applied for and received two different grants for the Town. One grant was for Digital Equity in Town for \$56,603. She has been working with Andy Krouss and Bob Salerno to implement free Wi-Fi in the downtown area, and this grant will help cover the costs. She also received a Community Compact grant of \$55,699, which will be used to provide free Wi-Fi at the gazebo in Card Pond, as well as in the Town Hall park.

She mentioned that the gazebo at Card Pond was currently being installed and was expected to be completed by the end of the week.

Zucchini Festival Date: Marge Powell, Cultural Council Chair

Marge requested that the Board approve setting the date for the Zucchini Fest for Saturday, August 9, 2025. The Board agreed. Marge informed the Board that they may have to scale back some of the events. Wiseacre Farm donated a large amount of money last year, which was used for items such as fireworks. She said they will have to see where they stand with the amount of donations before determining if they can still have fireworks, as it is very costly. She has spoken with Police Chief Marc Portieri and is all set with police and ambulance coverage for the event. Marge will also include Fire Chief Vinny Garofoli in future discussions. In the future, she asked the Board if they would include a budget line item in FY27 to cover the cost of the police detail at the Zucchini Fest. The Board agrees they would look into that and have that discussion when budgeting time comes.

The Board thanked her for her work on this annual event and looks forward to attending.

Farmer's Market One Day Liquor License: Terry Dixon

Terry requested that the Board approve a one-day Liquor License for the Farmer's Market to serve all alcoholic beverages at a TurnPark event on Saturday, June 14th, from 3 PM until 9:30 PM. Terry stated that everyone who would be serving the drinks has been TIPS certified. They have also included a letter from TurnPark owners stating that they approve of this on their property. She explained that TurnPark reached out to them to do this as a fundraiser for the Farmer's Market. The bar will be located on the upper hill at TurnPark next to the food vendors.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy, to approve a one-day liquor license for the Farmer's Market to serve beverages on Saturday, June 14, 2025, from 3 PM until 9:30 PM at the TurnPark event.

All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Police Update and Interim Police Chief: Police Chief Marc Portieri

Chief Portieri gave the Board the current year's statistics from his department. The calls to the department include the following:

911 Hang Up	20	Animal Control Calls	24
Burglar Alarms	44	Domestic Disturbance	7
Larceny/Fraud	4	Motor Vehicle Accidents	14
Motor Vehicle Stops	494	Parking Violations	8
Radar Vehicle Stops	76	Wellbeing Check	10
Arrests Summons	26		

Marc informed the Board that if they do not appoint either of the two internal candidates for the Chief position, she suggested they appoint Sergeant Mike Renton as the Interim Chief. The two other candidates are from out of state and will need to be POST certified, which means they will need to attend the Massachusetts Full-Time Academy. This training will cost approximately \$70,000 and take up to 23 weeks to complete.

Marc stated that all current officers have completed their training, except for any specialized training they may still be undergoing. He has assigned Officer Curt Wilton to join a special task force in Berkshire County. He will receive specialized training to conduct investigations and participate in undercover drug operations.

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News from the Pews

By Bob Edwards,
St. Patrick Church

It's been a busy few weeks at St. Patrick's. Our parish center gets a lot of use. Most recently, it hosted our annual Spring Breakfast. After mass on May 16, we gathered to enjoy a sumptuous buffet of everything from breakfast casseroles to fruit and donuts. People even took home doggie bags!

The grounds crew volunteers have been giving the area in front of the church a botanical and structural facelift. The overgrown shrubbery has been removed, new beds and plantings are being placed, and the drainage along the front has been repaired. The beautification continues under the guidance of Lisa Parker, our green thumb guru!

See you in the pews—no reservation required!

Source of image: <https://www.visitweststockbridge.com/churches-library>



GRANGE For the Whole Family

**We are presenting
Quilts of Valor
on July 28th at 7pm**

**Come support our veterans at the
Grange Hall at 51 Church Street in Stockbridge**

All are welcome

**The Grange meets the
1st or 3rd Monday at 6:30 PM
Call to verify the day/date**



*West Stockbridge Grange
51 Church St.
Stockbridge, MA 01262*

Donald McClelland
413-356-4870

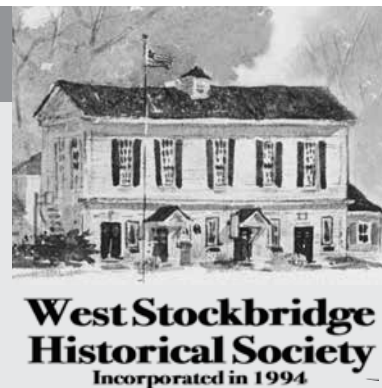
July History Quiz Question:

Last month we wrote about the 1938 hurricane and its impact on West Stockbridge. The flood was one of the major weather events in West Stockbridge, which are fortunately few. It impacted every part of town, caused some property and road damage, but fortunately caused no injuries or loss of life.

The most significant weather event in modern history was the tornado on August 28, 1973. It was unique in many ways, including the direction, that we had backward in last month's History Question. (It traveled from northwest to southeast.) What characteristics made it so unusual and possibly record setting?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)

When friends, neighbors, or relatives move, downsize, or just clean house, *please* ask them to think of the West Stockbridge Historical Society before they discard any old books, pictures, postcards, letters, or memorabilia of the Town of West Stockbridge. Email info@weststockbridgehistory.org or call (413) 232-4465.



...continued from page 5

Once Curt completes this training, he will be able to work with the Task Force a couple of days a week. This will be good for him, the department, and the Town.

Proposed West Stockbridge Community Garden: Dan Lewis

Dan was not present, so this agenda item was skipped over.

Annual Boards/Committees Appointments:

Andy asked the audience to come up to the microphone and introduce any new members who would like to be appointed to a committee or board this evening.

Cait Graham from the Parks and Recreation Commission introduced Lauren Hyde and Rachel Armstrong. She informed the Board that they have already been fully involved in the Commission and have a lot of energy and ideas that will benefit the Town. She requested they be appointed.

Melanie Thibeault also came to the podium to introduce herself and requested to be appointed to the Housing Authority.

The Board then asked the Building Commissioner, Brian DuVal, to come up to the podium. Kathleen stated that the job description the Board received from Brian did not appear to be correct. It included some information from the Town of Cheshire, where he also works. She asked Brian to work with Marie and get the job description completed for West Stockbridge only. Brian agreed that it was not complete for West Stockbridge responsibilities, and he will correct it. The Board also inquired about any issues with not holding office hours, and Brian commented that he is always available by email and cell phone to assist anyone at any time. When he initially started, he had office hours, but no one ever came in. As a result, he does not believe his job requires office hours. If anyone wants to meet with him, he is happy to do so at any time.

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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.



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

An Appreciative Audience Flocked to Chip Blake's Talk "The Birds of Berkshire County" at the Old Town Hall

By Liza Bennett

West Stockbridge Historical Society's second Nature Talk of the year was held on a Saturday evening in early May and proved that the series, launched last year, has found a devoted following. After a welcome by West Stockbridge Historical Society president Robert Salerno and an introduction by the series curator and local author Scott Edward Anderson, noted birder and author Chip Blake addressed an Old Town Hall packed with bird lovers.

"Birds tell us about the environment," Blake said, describing how changing agricultural practices and rising temperatures impact the species and number of birds that populate the Berkshires. "The raven and woodpecker were effectively eliminated by the 1850s when trees had been razed for farming, making way for the bobolink and eastern meadowlark. But as the farms moved west and the secondary forests returned, so did the ravens and woodpeckers." Illustrating his talk with a series of photographs by John Felton, Blake explained that a warming climate brought the titmouse and cardinal, relative newcomers from the South, to our area and that the black vulture arrived in our lifetime. Altogether, the Berkshires can now claim 229 species, including 170 that breed here and 45 that live with us year round.

Blake also treated the audience to an entertaining history of birding in the Berkshires, describing the lives and contributions of such pioneering ornithologists as Paul Ansel Chadbourne, Ralph Hoffmann, Walter Faxon, Ludlow Griscom, Dorothy Snyder, Bartlett Hendricks, and others who helped popularize birding in our area and beyond. After a lively question-and-answer period, the audience enjoyed a reception downstairs and the opportunity to continue the conversation with the speaker. Look for Chip Blake's forthcoming book *The Birds of Berkshire County*.

The program was funded in part by grants from the Richmond, Stockbridge, and West Stockbridge Cultural Councils, local agencies supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.



*Birder and author Chip Blake.
Photo courtesy of Chip Blake*



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8:30 Sunday Mass
followed by
Coffee Hour

St. Patrick Church
30 Albany Road
West Stockbridge

...continued from page 7

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy, to approve the list of Fiscal Year 2026 Boards and Committees appointments as listed below.

All were in favor, motion approved.

FY2026 Appointments

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Term Length</u>
Deputy Collector	Arthur Jones Inc.	2025	1 Year
Building Inspector	Brian DuVal	2025	1 Year
Zoning Enforcement	Brian DuVal	2025	1 Year
Animal Control Officer	John Drake	2025	1 Year
Veteran's Agent	Thomas Beasley	2025	1 Year
Gas Inspector	Robert Gennari	2025	1 Year
Oil Inspector	Larry Morse	2025	1 Year
Plumbing Inspector	Robert Gennari	2025	1 Year
Asst Plumbing Inspector	Bob Krupski	2025	1 Year
Wire Inspector	Karl Cooper	2025	1 Year
Asst Wire Insepctor	Ted Piontek	2025	1 Year
Asst Wire Insepctor	Lawrence Ray	2025	1 year
Town Counsel	Kopelman- Paige	2025	1 Year
Smoke/Fire Alarm Inspector	Vincent Garafoli	2025	1 Year
Affordable Housing Trust	Melanie Thibeault	2025	3 Years
	Vacant	2025	3 Years
	Steve Mack	2025	3 Years
Agricultural Commission	Victor Stannard, Sr.	2025	3 Years
Agricultural Com Assoc	Curt Wilton, Sr	2025	1 Year
	Peter Negrini	2025	1 Year
	David Evans	2025	3 Years
Conservation Commission	Jennifer Kujawski	2025	3 Years
	Michael Murray	2025	3 Years
	Kyle Henry	2025	3 Years
Conservation Com Assoc	Sally Kimball	2025	1 Year
Official Weighers	Police Chief	2025	1 Year
	Faith Libardi	2025	1 Year
	Wayne Cooper	2025	1 Year
Veteran's Grave Officer	James Clary	2025	5 Years
Zoning Board of Appeals	Toby Casey	2025	1 Year
ZBA Alternates	Gunnar	2025	1 Year
	Gudmundson		
	Louis Oggiani	2025	1 Year
Emergency Mgt. Director	Vincent Garafoli	2025	1 Year
Right to Know Officer	Wayne Cooper	2025	1 Year
Consultant to Veteran's Agent	Joe Roy	2025	1 Year
Parks & Rec Committee	JP Boscorino	2025	1 Year
	Caitlin Graham	2025	1 Year
	Kelli Bradbury	2025	1 Year
	Mary Roy	2025	1 Year
	Rachel Armstrong	2025	1 Year
	Lauren Hyde	2025	1 Year
Cable TV Commission	Alexander Stein	2025	1 Year
	George Cox	2025	1 Year
	Jackie Moffatt	2025	3 Years
Cultural Council	Julia Erickson	2025	3 Years
	Curtis Thierling	2025	3 Years
	Bob Salerno	2025	1 Year
Town Historian	Bob Salerno	2025	1 Year
	Earl Moffatt	2025	1 Year
	Scott Sawyer	2025	1 Year
Historical Committee	Peg Korte	2025	1 Year
	John Zick	2025	5 Years
	Earl Moffatt	2025	5 Years
Council on Aging	Steve McMahon	2025	1 Year
Sewer & Water Commissioners			
CPC Member at Large			

...continued on page 11



WE LOVE OUR COMMUNITY

*We are pleased to award
The 37th Annual Stone House Properties LLC Scholarships to*

Bronly Boyd CONGRATULATIONS and BEST WISHES!!

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

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

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

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

Robert Baldwin
Aubrey Blanchard
Adam Boscarino
Charles Medeiros
Sophia Tenuta
Olivia Thiemann
Gabriella Thierling
Liam O'Gara
Madison Mullen
Brian Cella
Marcella Tenuta
Isabella Viola
Benjamin Gross
Hunter Curletti

The Stone House Properties LLC scholarship is awarded to a West Stockbridge graduate continuing onto college who has maintained a consistent high academic record and has made significant contributions in sports, the arts, leadership, volunteering, internships, or work.

Brandon Meyers

PATHWAY TO THE TRADES SCHOLARSHIP

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

Kitson Stover

PATHWAY TO THE TRADES SCHOLARSHIP

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



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Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Representative:

Marie inquired if the same representatives on the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board would be the same. This past year, Andy Potter was the representative, and Kathleen served as the alternate representative. Kathleen and Andy Potter agreed to continue to serve on this Advisory Board.

Select Board Speak:

Kathleen mentioned that she would like the Board to get the renewed contracts completed for Curt and Marie. She asked Marie to arrange a meeting to get this done.

Andy and Kathleen congratulated Police Chief Marc Poriteri on his retirement and for his years of service. They also thanked all the new appointees for their willingness to serve the Town.

Kathleen motioned to adjourn, seconded by Andy, at 6:39 PM.

All approved, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator

**Select Board Special Meeting
Police Chief Interviews Minutes
June 11, 2025**

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

Chair Andy Krouss opened the meeting at 4 PM. He stated that this meeting is to interview four applicants for the position of Police Chief.

Marie introduced each applicant as they could and sat up front with the Board. The Board interviewed the following applicants:

David Kachajian

Daniel Hamill

Ellis Richardson

Nicole Miller

After the interviews were completed, the Board engaged in its discussion. Andy Potter stated that he believed all the candidates were well-suited for the position, each with their style of leadership, and he liked them all. His order of preference would be: Ellis Richardson, Nicole Miller, David Kachajian, and then Daniel Hamill.

At this time, Kathleen reminded the Board that Chief Portieri had informed the Board at the last meeting that the two out-of-state applicants, Ellis and David, were not POST certified in Massachusetts. Both would need to attend the Full-Time Academy before becoming the Chief, which would take approximately 23 weeks, and the Town would be responsible for the cost. If the Board decided to hire either of them, there would be an additional cost to the Town, as well as the time required for an interim Chief.

With that said, Kathleen and Andy Krouss voted for Nicole to be appointed Chief. Andy Potter had been absent from the last meeting, but after hearing Kathleen explain the certification issues, he changed his vote also to appoint Nicole.

Chief Portieri had Nicole return to the meeting room, where the Board informed her that they would like to appoint her as Chief, and all congratulated her. She graciously thanked the Board and said she looks forward to working with them.

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

All were in favor; the meeting adjourned at 6:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator

July Donor Roll Call

Jane & John Angelini

Anja Beattie

Connie Eagan

Carol G. & Joel M. Kaufman

Roni Kramer

Anonymous:1

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)





West Stockbridge Zucchini20 Festival25 Sat. August 9th



Follow the Fest on FB & IG
@wszucchinifest



WSZF 2025 Fact Sheet

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

When? August 9th, 2025 - 10am to 10pm

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

Festival Info: www.wszucchinifest.org

How to Get Ready for WSZF?

Zucchini Weigh-Off Competition

Over here? Over there? Everywhere? Make room to start growing the next Blue Ribbon zuke for the WSZF Zucchini Weigh-Off Competition! Home-grown zucchinis of all shapes and sizes welcome.

WSZF Pet Parade

Calling all Pets! Get your furry friends ready to kick off this year's festival with the WSZF Pet Parade!

The #1 Berkshire event to wag your tail at.
All species welcome and costumes encouraged.
Well-behaved pets & owners only.

WSZF Zucchini Baking Contest

All aboard to Flavortown! Start whippin up some Zucchini Cuisini for the WSZF Zucchini Baking Contest! Gluten-free, glutenous or gluttonous, Sweet or Savory--so long as its got zucchini, all baked edibles are welcome.

Registration Info & Event Details at
wszucchinifest.org

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Sign Up Now to Volunteer at

wszucchinifest.org/volunteer

Hang out with friends, neighbors and meet some new folks too by pitching in to prepare and run this year's festival! WSZF is 100% volunteer organized and run by lovely folks in the WS community and beyond. It literally wouldn't happen without you! Any time you can give is welcome!

- Big Need for Day of Festival 8/9!
Booth and game attendants, merch sales, helpers & runners, clean-up crew, etc.
- Festival Prep & Load - Tuesday 8/5
- Festival Set-Up Night Before - Friday 8/8
- For all upcoming volunteer opportunities, please visit wszucchinifest.org/volunteer

Call for WSZF

Vendors & Performers!

**VENDORS, ARTISTS, & SELLERS OF
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ENTERTAINERS & UNIQUE ACTS!**

Open to all Berkshire County resident artists, craftspeople, performers, entertainers, and sellers of unique stuff!

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



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

Birthday Celebration Benefits Food Pantry

By Dolores Rocha

Amy Rocha celebrated her 50th birthday in June. Her love of food led to the idea that instead of presents, guests would bring a non-perishable food item, and food they brought. One guest filled a toy box they found on sale and filled it to the top. Another gave a \$50 cash donation. Other guests brought assorted items in grocery bags and boxes. Amy is a member of St. Patrick's Parish, and a birthday box was also made available for parish donations.

Amy's party was held at the St. Ann's Family Center, with guests from her New Genesis Program as well as family from Connecticut and New Hampshire.

All donations went to the West Stockbridge Food Pantry. Accepting the donation was Police Chief Marc Portieri, shown here with Amy.



Of Our Times Concert Tuesday, July 22, 2025, 6–7:30 pm

West Stockbridge Village Congregational Church,
45 Main Street

Bill Taylor, piano; Terry Keevil, oboe and duduk; Lesley Rosenthal, electric violin; and Jaye Alison Moscariello, vocals. Selections of Bill's compositions from his three albums arranged for duo or trio, and a solo or two including Terry's composition on duduk (Armenian oboe). Contemporary classical, influenced by jazz and show tunes, inspired by nature, love, outer space, and current goings-on. There will be a 15-minute intermission and brief reception after the concert. A portion of all sales will go to an organization helping people in these times. Music CDs will be available. Tickets are \$25 at the door. Doors open at 5:30 pm or reserve in advance (Venmo, PayPal, or check) and pick up at "will call." Contact: (707) 272-1688.



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

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

Community Preservation Committee Informational Meeting on Thursday August 21st

The West Stockbridge Community Preservation Committee will hold its annual informational meeting on Thursday August 21st at 5 pm at the West Stockbridge Town Hall. We are seeking developers, department and committee heads, nonprofit organizations and citizens who have applicable project ideas or an interest in preserving this great community. The CPC fund is used to build and rehabilitate parks, playgrounds, and recreational fields, protect open space, support local affordable housing development, and preserve historic buildings and resources.

5 facts about CPA's statewide impact (as of November 2024)

1



200

cities and towns have adopted CPA - and over 70% of MA residents live in CPA community.

2

The amount raised for community preservation funding statewide:

\$3.4 billion



3



37,877 acres of open space preserved.

4,000

outdoor recreation projects including ball fields, trails, and parks.



4

Housing units created:

13,300



Housing units supported:

19,400


5

7,600

historic preservation projects.



Community Preservation Coalition
Preserving our past. Building our future.

 www.communitypreservation.org

 @CPA_Coalition

 CPA Coalition



West Stockbridge Memorial Day 2025

By Caitlin Graham,

West Stockbridge Parks & Recreation

Memorial Day in West Stockbridge is always a respectful observance, rooted in tradition and focused on the true purpose of the day: honoring and mourning the men and women who died in service to our country.

This year the date was marked by an early morning ceremony attended by members of our American Legion Post 254 and VFW Post 8183, who contributed by offering prayers, a three-volley salute, and taps. The ceremony included prayers offered by Victor D'Aniello of the American Legion, Deacon John Zick of St. Patrick's Parish, and Pastor Regina Haag of the West Stockbridge Congregational Church. Patriotic excerpts were read by students Teryn Hyde, Violet McGarrity, and Easton Armstrong, and the national anthem was performed by Monument Mountain Regional High School (MMRHS) senior vocalist Madeline Hardy.

A parade followed the ceremony from the Town Offices to Main Street, featuring both the MMRHS band and local band Fire Pit, and ice cream at the Public Market, thanks to American Legion Post 254. The parade paused at the cannon and the bridge for prayers, the laying of a wreath, a salute, and taps.

Extra thanks go out to the WSPD, WSFD, and Wayne Cooper, all integral parts of Memorial Day this and every year.

*Salute, Madeline Hardy sings, Bikers on parade, Onlookers.
Photos courtesy of WS Parks & Recreation*



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HMLP@berkshireplanning.org.

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- ~ Securing/organizing digital files



**WEST STOCKBRIDGE
 7/23
 10-11am**

Questions?
 413-445-4234 ext. 8




Friends of the West Stockbridge Library

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

1. Why was \$40,000 given to the West Stockbridge Historical Society through the Massachusetts Cultural Council Facilities Fund grant?
2. What seemed to be the problem in West Stockbridge and surrounding towns concerning water in the winter of 2015?
3. What was causing these breaks?
4. What was the residential cost of these repairs?

1. For accessibility improvements as well as building repairs and renovations
2. Water main breaks or line freezes
3. The culprit was the frost line, anywhere from 5 to 6 feet deep, or twice as deep as normal
4. Between \$300 and \$500

 **Mass Cultural Council** 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.



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 West Stockbridge Public Library! Our summer was off to a great start on the piggy hooves of Gilbert and his oinky friends. Kids of all ages enjoyed the fun, and we thank all who attended. More summer fun is happening this month and next month:

1. Library visitors are encouraged to come in and find where this summer's Massachusetts Libraries mascot is hiding. His name is **Gordon the Tapir**, and he's a little purple critter who will be hiding in a new spot each week. Come in and find him to win a prize!
2. We've brought back our popular **Read in 100 Places** challenge this summer. Pick a place on our list of 100 places/ways, check the box next to that place/way, and come in for your prize!
3. Our third annual **Night at the Library** is July 15 for all stuffed animals who are bold enough to come to a sleepover at the library. The mystery is how do they manage all sorts of fun overnight when there are no people in the building?



And with summer comes the opening of all of the seasonal museums around the Berkshires, in addition to the year-round spots. We sincerely thank the West Stockbridge Cultural Council for generously funding passes to these great places. Please call to reserve a pass or just come in, and we will be thrilled to send you for a free or discounted visit. Here's what we've got: **Berkshire Botanical Garden; Chesterwood; the Clark; Hancock Shaker Village; Mass MOCA; the Mount; the Norman Rockwell Museum; TurnPark; the Trustees of Reservations (like Naumkeag); AND please remember we have two free parking passes for any state park in Massachusetts!**

May at a glance:

- 617 hardcopy items were borrowed and renewed
- \$10,100 was saved by library users because they borrowed instead of buying
- 571 eBooks, eMagazines, and streaming audiobooks borrowed
- 401 library visitors

We look forward to seeing you a lot this summer! Vicky, Rachel, Sarah, Francesca

NEW ADULT FICTION

Coben, *Nobody's fool*
Connelly, *Nightshade*
Connolly, *The children of Eve*
Cummins, *Speak to me of home*
Dalglish, *The radiant king*
Epstein, *Fagin the thief*
Feeney, *Beautiful ugly*
Flowers, *The missing half*
Grant, *Overgrowth*
Harman, *All the other mothers hate me*
Huang, *Immaculate conception*
King, *Never flinch*
Knapp, *The names*
Russell, *The antidote*
Sundin, *Midnight on the Scottish shore*
Tesh, *Incandescent*
Wood, *Stone yard devotional*
Woods, *Upon a starlit tide*

NEW ADULT NONFICTION

Aikman, *Spitfires*
Aziza, *The hollow half*
Hall, *Slither*
Pember, *Medicine river*

NEW TITLES FOR ALL AGES

Archer, *Wind watchers*
Kim, *Pencil*
Kuo, *Home is a wish*
Smith, *The peach thief*

NEW DVDs: *Mickey 17; Wicked*

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July Art Calendar

Guild of Berkshire Artists | BerkshireArtists.org | infoberkshireartists@gmail.com 2025



June 27 - July 20, Becket Special Members Show Becket Arts Center, Becket, MA.
Reception: Saturday June 27, 5-7PM

July 3 - 27, "Water, Water, Everywhere" featuring 5 artists. Art on Main Gallery, West Stockbridge, MA.
Reception: Saturday July 5, 2-4PM
Artist Talk: Saturday July 12, 3PM

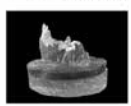
July 27, Berkshire Photo Gathering. See web: berkshirephotogathering.com /online-meetings

Daily except Sundays, Plein Air. Various Berkshire locations. Learn more & sign up: https://www.berkshireartists.org/pleinair



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

Reception:
July 5, 2-4pm



Artist Talk
w/ Peggy Reeves
& Bruce Panock
July 12, 3pm

Water, Water, Everywhere

Pat Hogan | Marilyn Orner
Bruce Panock | Peggy Reeves | Natalie Tyler


July 3 - 27, 2025

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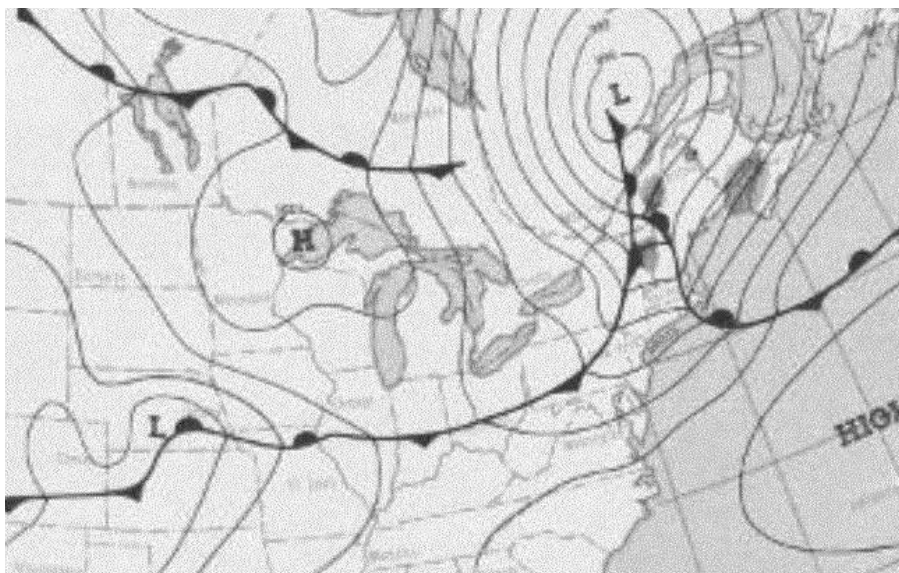



History Quiz Answer:

August 1973 was a typical Berkshire summer, warm and humid, with occasional weather fronts coming through from the west and south. The weather forecast for August 28 was hot and humid with temperatures going to the mid-80s and possibly a rain shower in the afternoon. Not an unusual day for the summer.

The National Weather Service (NWS) reported a warm front moving up from the south and a burst of colder air moving down from the northwest. The intersection of these two fronts typically causes unstable conditions, usually strong intense rain and possibly even hail.

However, with a strong, low cold air mass constraining a fast-moving rotating column of rising warm air, the result can be a tornado. The accompanying chart of August 28, 1973, shows all the ingredients to create that situation.



Weather chart for August 28, 1973. National Weather Service.

The tornado started in Canaan and traveled southeast over Dean Hill, across Flatbrook, the Mass Pike, and Route 102, and then up and over Maple Hill, West Center, and ending near Williamsville. The NWS estimated its path was over 6.5 miles, with a width of 313 feet and 900 feet high.

"Our" tornado was different from a "normal" tornado in many ways. First, the Northeast (and western Mass) is not known for tornado weather, unlike the Midwest and South. Berkshire County has had only 20 recorded since recordkeeping began in 1950. Only two were considered major (EF4 on the Enhanced Fujita Scale), and most had maximum winds of 65 mph with minor damage (EF0). Compared with states in the South with hundreds every month in the summer (think the Wizard of Oz), we are very fortunate.

Most tornados occur in the later afternoon, tracking from south to north, as the warm air meets the cold front. Our tornado went in the opposite direction, from northwest to southeast. It started at midday, at 12:40 pm, and hit West Stockbridge at 1:15 pm and was over before 1:45 pm.

Of the 20 tornados listed in Berkshire County since 1950, the West Stockbridge tornado was the most intense. NWS put the strength as EF4, with winds more than 207 miles per hour. It was the most powerful and deadly in Berkshire County and eastern New York since records were kept. As for the state, a tornado in June 1953 went from Petersham to Worcester with similar force. Because that area is more populated, there were more deaths (94) and damage (\$590 million in 2025 dollars) than ours. On a per capita basis though, ours was much worse.

Our tornado was deadly. Four people were killed and 36 injured. The tornado destroyed the truck stop on Route 102 (where the solar field is now). It also damaged or destroyed many homes in Richmond and West Stockbridge. Kingsmont Camp lost the roof on 34 structures, four buildings were destroyed and a thousand trees damaged. The roof of the dining hall collapsed when the campers were having lunch (no injuries, thankfully). Berkshire Farm in Canaan on Route 22 lost buildings, power lines, and many trees on the campus. Total damage was estimated at \$25 million in 1973 dollars (\$190 million in 2025 dollars).

It was one of the deadliest weather events in the United States that year and in Berkshire County since records were kept, a dubious honor we hope never to repeat.

Community News & Events

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

No dinner in July or August. The next dinner will be in September.

Council on Aging

We will be making Origami Crane Cards on Tuesday, July 1, at 9:30 am in the Richmond Town Community Room. Pre-register to reserve your space and materials by calling Heather at Richmond Town Hall, (413) 553-7793. The class is free to residents 60 years of age and older from 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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**Every issue costs us about \$1,300 to print and distribute!
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With increased printing and postage costs, we need your help more than ever. To get the latest town news, please contribute to the Local Yokel. For your donation of at least \$25.00 per year we will mail each issue to you (unless you prefer otherwise). The Local Yokel will continue to be available free at selected locations as long as possible, but we hope you will contribute anything you can. The West Stockbridge Local Yokel, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization, and all contributions are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Please check with your employer, or former employer if retired, for matching gift programs.

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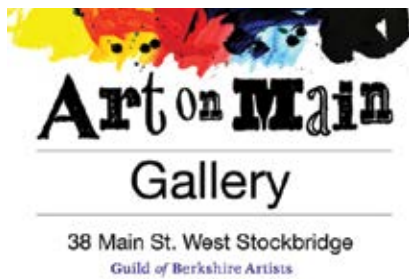
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Animal Control	<i>John Drake</i>	464-2148		As Needed
Assessors Office	<i>Mary Stodden</i>	232-0300	ext. 303	Tues. 1-5 pm; Thurs. 9 am-1 pm
Board of Health	<i>Earl Moffatt</i>	232-0300	ext. 314	Fri. 9 am-4 pm, or by appt.
Select Board	<i>Kathleen Keresey 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/Nicole Miller</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



“Water, Water Everywhere!” July 3–27

Thursday–Sunday, 11–4

Reception: July 5, 2–4

Artists’ Talk: July 12, 3 pm

From mundane to majestic, the varied work in the July show at Art on Main’s gallery will delight you. Showcasing the work of five artists, the show will be up from July 3 through July 27, Thursdays through Sundays.

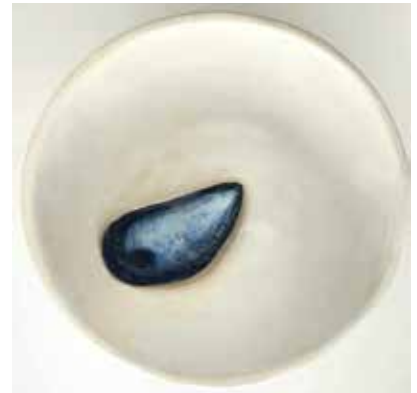
Artist **Peggy Reeves** was inspired to rework a piece from 2004 when she took her photography class along the banks of the Housatonic River. Using paper made at the formerly local Rising Paper Company, they made cyanotypes (light-sensitive blueprints) that they processed in the river. She has revisited the pieces, “finding new ways of enlarging the narrative.”

Painter **Pat Hogan** made images with cold wax and encaustic. “I like the way the cold wax floats over the waxy encaustic surface like water. It evokes, for me, an enticing yet foreboding invitation to slip into the mysterious depths.”

Black-and-white images are presented by photographer **Bruce Panock**. Drawn to Asian influences, abstraction, and black and white, these sweeping images take an abstract look at the ocean off Cape Cod.

Ceramic sculptor **Moira O’Grady** is inspired by the fleeting shapes and colors of water, as well as by what dwells within it. She combines sculpture, wood cutting, and painterly techniques with underglazing and glazing combinations.

Long a landscape painter, **Marilyn Orner** loves water for its fluidity, reflective qualities, and distortions. In this show, along with more conventional landscapes, there is also a melting popsicle and swimmers in a pool. Come dip your toes into art!



above: Marilyn Orner - Mer Girl
Moira O’Grady - Solitary Mussel
Peggy Reeves - Housatonic River, mixed media

left: Pat Hogan - Aquarius
Bruce Panock - Cape Cod Abstract
Sand and Sky 2



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

July Calendar of Events

7/1	Council on Aging Craft Group meeting	9:30 am	Richmond Library History Room
7/1	Planning Board meeting	7 pm	Town Offices and on Zoom
7/2	Knitters Group	2–4 pm	Community Room
7/3	WS Farmers Market	3–6 pm	Foundry Green, Harris Street
7/4	Independence Day		
7/7	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices and on Zoom
7/9	Knitters Group	2–4 pm	Community Room
7/9	Friends of the Library meeting	3:30 pm	Community Room
7/10	WS Farmers Market	3–6 pm	Foundry Green, Harris Street
7/11	Card Pond Beach Party	5–7 pm	Card Pond
7/15	*** Deadline for the next <i>Local Yokel</i> ***		Send to info@thelocalyokel.org
7/15	Planning Board meeting	7 pm	Town Offices and on Zoom
7/16	Knitters Group	2–4 pm	Community Room
7/17	WS Farmers Market	3–6 pm	Foundry Green, Harris Street
7/21	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices and on Zoom
7/22	“Of Our Times” concert	6–7:30 pm	WS Congregational Church, 45 Main Street
7/23	Cyber Cleaning workshop	10–11 am	WS Library, Town Offices
7/23	Knitters Group	2–4 pm	Community Room
7/24	WS Farmers Market	3–6 pm	Foundry Green, Harris Street
7/29	Planning Board meeting	7 pm	Town Offices and on Zoom
7/30	Knitters Group	2–4 pm	Community Room
7/31	WS Farmers Market	3–6 pm	Foundry Green, Harris Street

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