

# Local yokel

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

West  
Stockbridge  
**March**  
2025

S E R V I N G   O U R   C O M M U N I T Y   S I N C E   2 0 0 4



*Winter swans. Photo by Emily Weiland*

# New Business Profile: Acqua al 2

By John Parker

## “A Taste of Italy in the Berkshires”

The new restaurant in downtown West Stockbridge, Acqua al 2, is the latest incarnation of the original concept successfully launched by chef Stefano Innocenti in 1978 in Florence, Italy. The idea was to offer a menu of affordable yet high-quality food featuring dishes from across Italy. The formula was such a success that Acqua al 2 has since opened franchises in San Diego, Washington, DC, Annapolis, and now West Stockbridge.

The owners of our local Acqua al 2 are Valentino and Liza Pagliari. Valentino grew up in his Italian immigrant family’s restaurant business in London, then traveled to Florence where he studied architecture and gained experience working in nightclubs and restaurants. The original Acqua al 2 became his favorite place to dine, and he was soon invited to become a partner in the restaurant. His wife, Liza, originally came to Florence to study printmaking, where she met Valentino. After marriage and six years living in Florence, they have now settled in the Berkshires, where Liza’s family has had a home for more than 20 years. Liza manages the restaurant in addition to studying to become an art therapist, and her printmaking skills have been put to good use enhancing the decor.

The menu features proven and successful reinterpretations of traditional dishes drawn from various regions of Italy, including antipasti, cheeses, salads, pastas, meats (including steak and chicken), and desserts. Diners are welcome to try full portions of any dishes they choose, but Valentino and Liza suggest the *assaggio*, or tasting option, that offers a sampling of dishes from the different courses. Acqua al 2 currently offers a selection of mostly Tuscan wines, which they hope to expand to include southern Italian, French, American, and also local varieties.

Valentino says he is very happy with the warm welcome they have received from the town and the people of West Stockbridge, and the response has been positive. As we all know, midwinter is a relatively quiet time here in the Berkshires, so perhaps this would be a good time to check out a new dining option here in town!

Located on Center Street in downtown West Stockbridge, Acqua al 2 is open year-round, Wednesday through Sunday, from 5 to 11 pm. The owners plan to open soon for lunch too. Reservations (required for parties of five or more) may be made after 3 pm by calling (413) 232-5025.



Photos:  
Acqua al 2 exterior: John Parker  
All other photos: courtesy of Acqua al 2

# 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

January 21, 2025

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

**Others Present:** Fire Chief Vinny Garolfoli and Stockbridge Town Administrator Mike Canales.

Andy Potter opened the meeting at 6 PM.

Andy Krouss made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve the minutes from August 28, 2024, December 16 & 18, 2024, and January 8 and 13, 2025.

All were in favor, minutes were all approved.

### Town Administrator Update:

Marie informed the Board that west Stockbridge has been included in the Emergency Management Service study being completed by the Collins Center in Amherst. This study will include most of the south county towns.

Curt requested bids for the design of the intersection of Main Street, Lenox Road and Swamp Road. The winning bid was from Foresight Land Services.

Marie said that the Congregational Church in Town is having a food drive along with assistance of St. Patrick's Church. This drive will run through February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Food can be dropped off at the churches or at Town Hall.

### Appointment of Police Officer Nicole Miller: Police Chief Marc Portieri

Chief Portieri introduced Nicole Miller and requested that the Board appoint her as a Part-time officer. He hopes that by July,

everything is working great and then we can hire her to fill the remaining full-time opening. Nicole is currently a Part-time Police Chief in Washington and has worked as an officer in Becket for 16 years. She is up to date with all her required training and would make a great addition to our Police Department. Marc also stated that she is very involved with community policing and has a lot of experience with writing grants which will be an asset to the Town.

Nicole greeted the Board and said she is very excited to work here. She hopes to put in many hours that will include community policing. She looks forward to working with our Police Department and has worked with Marc in the past in the Town of Becket.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to appoint Nicole Miller as a Part-time Police Officer.


All were in favor, motion approved.

### Shared EMS and Fire Department with Stockbridge: Marie and Stockbridge Town Administrator Mike Canales

Marie explained the purpose of this meeting is to review the financial aspects and set-up of a possible shared EMS and Fire Department with Stockbridge. She said she knows the Board has been supportive of the idea as she and Mike have been gathering information and researched the options. Now is the time that the Board will need to vote to officially determine if this is the direction they want to move. The need for a vote now is due to a two financial items that will need to be on the Annual Town Meeting warrant.

Mike Canales then reviewed the slide presentation. He mentioned that the two financial items that would need to be on the Annual Town Meeting warrant for FY26, if the Board voted to proceed with the shared services, is West Stockbridge's portion of \$180,000 to order a new ambulance and to increase our Fire Chief and Fire Deputy salary line item to \$102,000. He said that the

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# “How’s Earl?”

By Anne Roy

*[Editor’s note] Readers may recall that Earl Albert is the local homeowner who generously donated the Christmas tree displayed at Rockefeller Center in New York City last December. We learned that soon afterward, Earl suffered a stroke and was hospitalized. Anne Roy checked up on Earl, and here is her update:*

After two months of successfully rehabilitating from a stroke at Kimball Farms Nursing Care Center in Lenox, Earl Albert returned to his home on Tuesday, February 18. He is absolutely elated and genuinely overwhelmed that people want to know how he is doing. Welcome home, Earl! Anyone interested in sending Earl a note or card can reach out to him at PO Box 109, West Stockbridge, MA 01266.

Source: <https://wnyt.com/top-stories/west-stockbridge-man-who-donated-rockefeller-center-tree-suffers-stroke/>




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## WINTER PARKING BAN

in effect as of 

## November 15, 2024

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

Municipal parking is located on Hotel Street and Center Street. Snow removal in these areas will be between 7AM-8AM.

Thank you for your cooperation.

West Stockbridge Police Department  
(413) 232-8500



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...continued from page 3

shared services would allow for 24/7 ambulance coverage as well as increased response times by the Fire Department. Fire Chief Garolfoli also commented that the responders of the ambulance will also be fully trained at the highest level not just basic service. All the newly hired EMTs and Fire Fighters will all be crossed trained to cover both positions.

Mike and Vinny also explained that having the shared services will provide more opportunity for the Town's to apply for grants as a regional EMS and Fire Department. They hope this will help to cover some of the costs as we move forward.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Potter, to move forward with a shared EMS and Fire Department with Stockbridge.

All were in favor, motion as approved.

**Housatonic Water Company Project approval:**

Andy Potter explained to the Board that the Attorney General and the Department of Public Utilities have an agreement with the Housatonic Water Company which includes a requirement for several projects to be completed. Each project requires a vote of approval by all three towns prior to starting the project. Should any one of the three towns vote it down, the agreement cannot continue. Andy stated this is the first projected to be voted which includes the Water Company hooking up to the Great Barrington Fire District water lines in Christian Hill Road. This will protect West Stockbridge should anything happen to the current water

lines, we will be able to get water from Great Barrington. This is a back-up system for our residents.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve the Housatonic Water Company project to hook up to the Great Barrington Fire District water line.

All were in favor, motion approved.

**Select Board Speak:**

Andy Potter mentioned that he is working with Curt Wilton, Director of Public Works, on a grant application through T-Mobile to assist with a few of the Complete Streets projects.

He is also working with the Library Trustees and the Librarian Rachel on a grant application through AARP which will allow the library to purchase equipment to hold outdoor movie events in the parking lot at Town Hall. This project would include the purchase of a large screen and speakers.

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

All were in favor, meeting adjourned at 6:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie Y. Ryan*

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator

...continued on page 7

# Timmons Landscaping & Tree

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

# MMRHS Student Jade Abderhalden Interning with West Stockbridge PD

By Christopher Barnes, MMRHS Principal

Monument Mountain Regional High School (MMRHS) proudly announces that senior Jade Abderhalden of Great Barrington will be studying criminal justice at Westfield State University, jumping off the springboard provided by her internship with the West Stockbridge Police Department.

Jade says that she's not sure what direction she'll take once she's earned her degree. "I'm open to anything," she said, although right now the jobs of CSI (crime scene investigator), FBI agent, but also EMT (emergency medical technician) sound enticing. In addition to her four afternoons per week internship and a full class load, including "Intro to Health Services," Jade is also now enrolled in a criminal justice course at Berkshire Community College where she's earning free college credits she won't have to pay for at Westfield. In her time at Monument, Jade has played four years on the varsity basketball and softball teams, and she also played two years of volleyball.

Jade's early introduction to the law enforcement field has already won her admirers and perhaps followers. During last fall's Career Day, she stole the show at the Police and Emergency Services Department table, attracting even more attention than Archer, Great Barrington PD's comfort dog. The sophomores in attendance that day were happy to hear from working officers who were 10, 20, or even 30 years older than them. But they were most keen to hear from their classmate who was sitting among them, sharing her path and anecdotes from her time with the West Stockbridge PD.



*Jade with WSPD Officer Daniel Hamill*

MMRHS guidance counselor and internship coordinator Sean Flynn explained why he thought Jade would excel at police work. "She has an inner strength coupled with a strong sense of empathy that would make her a good fit to work in so many different professions from law endorsement, protective services, to health care, or in the field of education or social assistance or even in business because she is a competitor and holds herself and others to a high standard."

The West Stockbridge PD is hoping to get Jade a paid summer position that would help further offset the expense of college. She's also applying for several scholarships, including those offered through the Kiwanis Club and funds at the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

Even as recently as September, though, Jade's path was not nearly so clear. "I had no clue what I wanted to do," she acknowledges now. As a young girl she had her heart set on "doing nails," although a hint of her future path might have been guessed at through her favorite TV show, *Law & Order*, as well as the attention she paid to the police scanner. "I'm a nosy person. I want to know what's going on."

The shift in the goal from esthetician to policing was brought about in large part thanks to the example set by Jade's late stepfather, Jason Hall, after he took the state trooper's test and scored 99. He did not end up with a career in law enforcement, however, because he was then called into duty to manage John's Garage, the family business in Housatonic. Hall died of cancer in early 2023 at just age 44, and Jade wants to take up the path where he left it off. "I kind of feel like I am filling his spot in going to do this in his place."

No matter which career path Jade ultimately chooses, she wants to be of service, to repay the debt she believes she owes her community. "So many people helped get me to where I am today through school and sports, and most of all when my stepdad was sick. My end goal is to give back in any way possible, whether that's through the police department or the health-care field. This community helped raise me—I just want to be in a field where I can help someone."



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](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org), or visit [www.thelocalyokel.org](http://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](mailto:john.j.parker53@gmail.com); Vicki Grayson, 232-6131, [vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com](mailto:vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com); Susan Fisher, 232-4443, [suefish12@gmail.com](mailto:suefish12@gmail.com); Anne Lesser, 717-0277, [anne@annelessercommunications.com](mailto:anne@annelessercommunications.com); Designer: **Kim Bradway, [kim@bloominarts.com](mailto: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.

### Select Board Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2025

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

**Others Present:** Director of Public Works, Curt Wilton and Librarian Rachel Alter.

Andy Potter opened the meeting at 6 PM.

Andy Krouss made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve the minutes from January 21, 2025.

All were in favor, minutes were all approved.

**Citizen Speak:**

Joe Roy, Jr., Vision Committee Chair, informed the Board that he and Curt Wilton have been working on possible locations for “Welcome to West Stockbridge” signs. Curt mentioned to the Board that there may still be money in this year’s budget to purchase these signs. Joe stated that Massachusetts Department of Transportation (DOT) will not allow there to be any signage at the end of the exit off of the Mass Pike. For the other locations around Town he feels that he will need to get permission from property owners to place the signs on their properties. The Vision Committee will be reaching out for ideas from residents on design, font, color and any other ideas. Curt suggested that they may need sign permits from the Building Inspector as well and to keep that in mind as they go through the process.

**Berkshire Velo Bike event: Philip Gentile, Event Coordinator**

Philip Gentile requested that the Board give Berkshire Velo permission to use the Wastewater Sewer Plant as a location to park vehicles on April 19<sup>th</sup> for their Annual Bike event. In the past years they have had no issues with parking there and will again, have three parking attendants to make sure everything runs smoothly. Curt Wilton stated that this group does a great job with parking and does not cause any issues during their event. Philip also stated that he has already spoken with the Police Department about the event.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve use of the Wastewater Treatment Plant for parking on April 19<sup>th</sup> for Berkshire Velo’s annual bike event.

All were in favor, motion passed.

**Library Update:** Rachel Alter, Librarian

Rachel gave the following update report to the Board:

WS Select Board meeting February 3, 2025 Library Update

FY2024

State Aid \$4,400.40 / state certification is based on municipal funding and includes much more than monetary award

[mblcstateaid.com](http://mblcstateaid.com)

- Of the 351 municipalities in Massachusetts, 350 have public libraries or share public libraries.
- Of the 350 municipalities with libraries, 347 applied for State Aid to Public Libraries.
- Of the 347 that applied, 337 met all requirements and 10 used accommodation not meeting the full hours/materials requirement.
- 5 applied for waivers of the MAR: 1 received additional funding and withdrew which resulted in 4 waivers granted for FY24.
- 347 were certified to receive State Aid to Public Libraries.

WS Cultural Council Grant of \$500 to fund book giveaway at Muddy Brook Elementary for a third year

ALA Grant for \$10,000 awarded Feb 2024 for accessible doors to include outer entrance to library and main entrance to town offices

FY2025

State Aid \$4,956.40

BHRSD volunteer Francesca Stanmeyer designed and ran an outdoor book and bake sale on Saturday October 12 that brought in just under \$400, donated to the library.

The above was used to obtain a matching grant for new picture books.

	January 1 – January 31, 2025	fy2025 to date
<b>LOANS</b>	679	5,617
<b>ELECTRONIC BOOKS AND STREAMING</b>	541	2,975
<b>AUDIOBOOKS LOANED</b>		
<b>LIBRARY VISITORS</b>	465	2,948

**Department of Public Works Update:** Curt Wilton, Director

Curt gave the following update report to the Board:

**Highway/Fire Station:**

Last week we had a site visit from Commonwealth Electric and O’Connell Oil down at the Highway/Fire Building. Things are finally happening with our Green Community Grant to have some upgrades to the Facility. Mini-Split Units are being installed in the Highway office/breakroom and also in the Fire Station office/meeting room. These units will provide controlled Heating and Air Conditioning as the season’s change. The main garages will have new forced hot air Modine heating units mounted towards

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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.



# THANK YOU!

To Our Town's Wonderful Public Works Staff  
for Taking Good Care of Our Roads and Facilities



Left to Right: Tim Magner, Frank Alfonso, John Lyford, Jamie Boyer, Wayne Cooper, Curt Wilton Photo courtesy of Town of West Stockbridge

**Curt G. Wilton, Director of Public Works**

Jamie Boyer, Highway Superintendent

John Lyford, Highway Division

Tim Magner, Highway Division

Frank Alfonso, Buildings & Grounds  
Superintendent

Wayne Cooper, Transfer Station Attendant



**Lyme Alliance  
of the Berkshires**  
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## Ticks are Pandemic

### Learn How To Survive Them

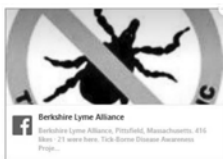
68% of TICKS, ANY SIZE, carry disease: 100 strains of Lyme Disease in the US, 300 Lyme strains worldwide and over 350 Co-infections; as well as viruses, parasites & pathogens, many as yet unnamed and for which there are no tests.

**Prevention Is Key**

Use tick repellent 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](http://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](http://lymenet.org), [ilads.org](http://ilads.org), [lymediseaseassociation.org](http://lymediseaseassociation.org) or email [berkshirelyme@yahoo.com](mailto: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](http://Berkshirelyme.blogspot.com) [www.facebook.com/berkshirelyme](http://www.facebook.com/berkshirelyme)

## March Art Calendar

Guild of Berkshire Artists | [BerkshireArtists.org](http://BerkshireArtists.org) | [infoberkshireartists@gmail.com](mailto: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.

March 23, Berkshire Photo Gathering. See web: [berkshirephotogathering.com/online-meetings](http://berkshirephotogathering.com/online-meetings)

March 25, Meet the Artist, 3pm. Juan Baena, photographer. Link to watch to be shared on website.

**Upcoming Workshops:**

March 4, 1-4pm, Introduction to Cold Wax Workshop with Carolyn Abrams. Berkshire South, Great Barrington. See calendar on the GBA website for sign up link.

March 10 - 31, 1-4pm, Advanced Cold Wax Workshop with Carolyn Abrams. 4 Mondays. Berkshire South, Great Barrington. See calendar on the GBA website for sign up link.

March, Plein air Workshop with Lori Bradley, Sheep's Hill, Williamstown or TBD. See website for more information closer to date.

See [www.berkshireartists.org](http://www.berkshireartists.org) for all the in-person and online events offered by the Guild of Berkshire Artists!



*Coming of the Light*

*Juried Art Show  
at the Colonial Theatre*

*February 1 - April 29, 2025*

**Art on Main**

38 Main Street, West Stockbridge

*Art on Main Gallery  
will return in April with a new  
year of month-long shows full  
of wonderful local art!*



...continued from page 7

the ceiling to heat the equipment bays where the trucks are kept. The Grant will cover the cost of all the units plus the labor. Also, the buildings attic insulation will be upgraded as part of the Grant.

**Plants & Gardens:**

The December Local Yoke! "Santa's Wish List" generated some great donations towards the Plants and Gardens Fund and will help Lisa Parker with her wonderful beautification she performs throughout Town. \$1,825.00 has been donated for these efforts. These funds are earmarked for materials only but not labor. Lisa's efforts do not go unnoticed and this type of generosity really shows and is much appreciated. Thank You Lisa.

**Municipal Small Bridge Program (Willson Road):**

The MassDOT Municipal Small Bridge Program funds Cities and Town who have bridges with a span greater than 10' but less than 20'. I have just been informed recently that the Willson Road Culverts do in fact meet these "Bridge Span" requirements, therefore this type of structure qualifies for the Program. This is exciting news for the Town because this structure is failing and prone to frequent flooding. I have been working on getting this crossing replaced for many years now, through funding sources that include H.V.A. / M.V.P and our Hazardous Mitigation Plan. As of today, we have not had any luck securing any funding these Grant Programs. Having another Funding source may just give us the boost we need. I have put together an application and have met the deadline for submission. The Application is for Phase1 (Design and Permitting). If awarded we can secure \$100,000 in funding and utilize the Bridge Engineers from MassDOT to complete these tasks. Once we have the design and permitting complete we can then apply for the Phase 2 portion and if awarded, we could receive \$500,000 for the Construction of a new bridge.

**Town Hall:**

During the next few weeks of the FY26 Budget talks there will be discussions on some failing components within the Town Hall Building.

**BOILERS**

During this year's yearly inspection, it was discovered that one of the units had developed a leak in one of the sections. Due to this discovery the Town has been put on notice to repair or replace to correct the deficiency. I am in the process of obtaining estimates

from Commercial Contractors to help provide budget figures. Keep in mind these boilers are the same age in years and running hours. First installed and funded by the Berkshire Hills Regional School District in 2024, they both have 20-years of service. I am gathering and exploring other heating options to see if there is a cost-effective replacement heat source with a return on investment that would make better fiscal sense.

**FIRE PROTECTION SPRINKLER SYSTEM:**

The system goes through a yearly inspection and is also subject to out dated life expectancy regulations. This year our system was subject to compliant upgrades. There were numerous deficiencies reported along with a proposal for corrections. These corrective actions would cost \$14,994.91.

**Select Board Speak:**

Andy Potter mentioned that the School Committee will be holding meetings in regard to the School District Budget on February 13<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. He stated this will be a tight budget year and encouraged residents to attend these budget meetings.

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 Contract renewal)

Roll Call vote:

Andy Potter	Yes
Kathleen	Yes
Andy Krouss	Yes

Open meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie Y. Ryan*

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator



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**Rescheduled to March 1**

West Stockbridge Historical Society's  
Berkshire Nature Talk Series

# ANIMAL ROMANCE

**Saturday, February 15th  
at 7:00 p.m.**

Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street, West Stockbridge



Photo: Dx Lanson/MassAudubon

*Nicaela Haig of Mass Audubon's Berkshire Wildlife Sanctuaries will explore the weird and wonderful world of animal romance in the Berkshires, including mammals, birds, amphibians, and more - the perfect way to spend the night after Valentine's Day!*

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

**Please register at [weststockbridgehistory.org](http://weststockbridgehistory.org)**

**WEST STOCKBRIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

*This program is funded in part by grants from the Richmond, Stockbridge, and West Stockbridge Cultural Councils, local agencies which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.*



Runoff on Maple Hill Road.  
Photo courtesy of BRPC

# More on the Regional Unpaved Roads Project

By Alison Dixon, Senior Planner,  
Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

Do you live or travel on a dirt road? Can you identify the difficult spots? Your input could help. The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) wants to hear from YOU!

If you know about a dirt road problem, go to the online map at <https://bit.ly/Dirt-Road-Problems> and enter the location and description of the problem. Alternatively, you can scan the QR code provided here. This information will be shared with your local legislator. Keep this information handy as the weather changes and mud season begins. You can enter information until April 30. If you have any questions, contact Alison Dixon at Berkshire Regional Planning Commission: [adixon@berkshireplanning.org](mailto:adixon@berkshireplanning.org) or (413) 442-1521, ext. 64.

As we know, the increased challenges brought on by climate change are mounting. In Berkshire County, gravel road impacts include increased erosion, washouts, and more and more MUD. Despite these difficulties, these dirt roads are part of the character of our communities. If the legislation recently proposed by Governor Maura Healey passes, additional Chapter 90 funding for road infrastructure to our Berkshire towns will be increased. In an

effort to “stabilize and enhance our state’s transportation infrastructure,” Healey’s proposed bill increases support for small and rural communities that need extra help with local road projects. If the bill is passed, that money would come in a more reliable manner over the course of five years. (Check out this link for more information: <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/194/HD4323>.)

This information gathering around dirt road problems is just a small part of a year-long MVP Regional Unpaved Roads Project. All three western Massachusetts regional planning agencies—Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Franklin Regional Council of Governments, and Pioneer Valley Planning Commission—have partnered to update this existing Unpaved Roads Stormwater Toolkit: <https://frcog.org/publications/unpaved-roads-stormwater-management-toolkit>. The goal of the toolkit is to provide highway departments with a methodology for identifying recommended solutions for key unpaved road segments, as well as the necessary designs to implement solutions that will improve these roads over the long term.



## March History Quiz Question:

From the post-Civil War era up to the early 1900s, James S. Moore was one of the more important citizens in West Stockbridge. He served in various positions in town government, owned and sold real estate, formed the Water Company, and was a director of the Miner’s Savings Bank. He was probably the most well-known resident at the time.

James was also the local druggist and likely the person in town with the most medical knowledge. People went to him for advice. As a prominent civic leader, he likely received requests and communications from all over the area. One appeal for services that we came across was most unusual, not only for the time but would even raise questions now. What would that be, and how did James handle it?

(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](mailto:info@weststockbridgehistory.org) or call (413) 232-4465.

## Community News & Events

### Dog License Form Correction

Dog owners are advised that the fees for dog licenses are reversed on the town census form. The correct fees are spay/neutered, \$6; intact, \$12.

### Stockbridge Grange Dinner

Take a night off from cooking and order this month's takeout-only Stockbridge Grange dinner on Sunday, March 9, with pickup at the Grange Hall, 51 Church Street, Stockbridge. Dinner entrée: corned beef and cabbage; 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. Please call if the weather is iffy.

### Council on Aging

The Richmond/West Stockbridge COA Craft Group will meet at 9:30 am on Tuesday, March 4, in the Richmond Library history room. We will be making Lucky Leprechaun gift boxes. 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](mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org), or visit [thelocalyokel.org](http://thelocalyokel.org).*

### Friends & Neighbors

Come Celebrate with us!



8:30 Sunday Mass

followed by

Coffee Hour

St. Patrick Church

30 Albany Road  
West Stockbridge

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# 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

Greetings! We hope this finds you looking forward to warmer days as spring arrives. We're thinking about gardening and want to remind you the library has a number of very good books about it. They're ready for you to stop in and borrow!

January by the numbers:

- 679 hard copy items were borrowed and renewed;
- \$11,200 was saved by library users because they borrowed instead of buying;
- 541 eBooks and streaming audiobooks were borrowed;
- 378 library visitors

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## NEW ADULT FICTION

- Alderton, *Good material*  
 Craven, *Nobody's hero*  
 Enrigue, *You dreamed of empires*  
 Haslett, *Mothers and sons*  
 Kellerman, *Open season*  
 Knight, *The life cycle of the common octopus*  
 Robb, *Bonded in death*  
 Shamieh, *Too soon*  
 Swyler, *We lived on the horizon*  
 Whitaker, *All the colors of the dark*

## NEW ADULT NONFICTION

- Adams, *The containment: Detroit, the Supreme Court, and the battle for racial justice in the North*  
 Blitzer, *Everyone who is gone is here: the United States, Central America, and the making of a crisis*  
 Boot, *Reagan: his life and legend*  
 Case, *The harder I fight the more I love you*  
 Franklin, *The many lives of Anne Frank*  
 Piller, *Doctored: fraud, arrogance, and tragedy in the quest to cure Alzheimer's*  
 Ross, *Calling in: how to start making change with those you'd rather cancel*  
 Sides, *The wide wide sea*

## NEW YOUNG ADULT AND CHILDREN'S BOOKS

- Harris, *Go tell it: how James Baldwin became a writer*  
 Pinkney, *And she was loved: Toni Morrison's life*  
 Wilder, *Scamp*

## NEW DVDs

- Bluey Seasons 2 and 3; Severance Season 1; Toy Story 4*



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

1. What was affecting nearly every aspect of life in West Stockbridge in 2014?
2. How much of our population declined between 2010 and 2013?
3. What was one of the reasons for the decline?
4. In South County, how did the towns plan on keeping their budgets fairly level and avoid hefty property tax increases?

1. Shrinking population  
 2. A total of 1%  
 3. A mismatch of job skills to available positions  
 4. By towns and districts sharing services



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.

## Community Yoga Classes at Old Town Hall

Tuesdays at 6 pm  
\$12 suggested donation  
Drop in anytime



**Kat Whitney**, a yoga instructor with 30 years on the mat and more than 20 years of experience teaching yoga, running studios, and developing curricula and meaningful programming for all levels, is now conducting community yoga classes at the Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street, West Stockbridge.



The West Stockbridge Historical Society  
Presents

### THE BENNY SHARONI QUARTET

Saturday, April 26th  
at 7 pm

Old Town Hall  
West Stockbridge

For more information visit  
[www.weststockbridgehistory.org](http://www.weststockbridgehistory.org)

## March Donor Roll Call

Maria Mackavey Carls  
Hillary & Jay Cohen  
Mary & Bob Edwards  
David & Lea Finck  
Sharon & Irving Picard  
Tom Platten  
Wayne & Lisa Tenney

Thanks to everyone who has donated to WSLY. We couldn't do it without your support! Keep the *Local Yokel* coming. Please send your gift today! (See response form on page 17)

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# West Stockbridge Cultural Council Announces Grants For 2025


The WSCC recently completed its granting process for FY 2025. For this cycle, we received 44 applications and awarded our allocation of funds for 11 grants. All of these met our criteria for funding, supporting local programs that appeal to our West Stockbridge community, and include some free benefits. These grants include school and library programs, local music events, and theater, arts, and nature programs.

Flying Cloud Institute Inc.  
Shakespeare & Co. Inc.  
West Stockbridge Historical Society Inc.  
Berkshire Pulse  
  
West Stockbridge Farmers Market  
Q-Mob Inc.  
  
West Stockbridge Historical Society, Inc.  
  
Scott Edward Anderson  
Arts in Recovery for Youth  
West Stockbridge Public Library  
West Stockbridge Public Library

Maker Spaces: Making the Future Brighter!  
2025 Fall Festival of Shakespeare  
Jazz Series  
Young Choreographers Present Their Work  
at The Foundry  
Entertainment  
Celebrating West Stockbridge LGBTQ Pride  
History & Culture at The Foundry  
West Stockbridge Chamber Players Harvest  
Concert  
Berkshire Nature Talk Series  
AIRY Expansion Project  
Book distribution to Muddy Brook School  
Passes to Berkshire County Venues

Current members of the Cultural Council: Jill Beasley, Julia Erickson, Jackie Moffatt (secretary), Marjorie Powell (chair), Miki Reuchlin, Scott Sawyer, Rebecca Sheir, and Curtis Thierling (treasurer). We always welcome comments and suggestions from our West Stockbridge residents.

For more information about the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the local grants process, go to [www.massculturalcouncil.org](http://www.massculturalcouncil.org), click on grant programs, and then click on Local Cultural Council.



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**Tricia Wyatt, PT**  
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[tricia@mobilivespt.com](mailto:tricia@mobilivespt.com)  
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 Strengthening  
 Balance  
 Gait Training



# History Quiz Answer:

In the 1890s, the *Berkshire Evening Eagle* published daily national and Pittsfield news. In addition, on Thursdays, it had a page or two of social notes from many of the towns in the county. Each town would contribute descriptions of social events and news of residents, items like who had visiting relatives, where someone might have gone for vacation, a birthday party, or just local gossip. One of our favorites was this report: "Last Monday night, Dr. Arnold commenced his annual coon hunt and secured three." This column is a fun read and an intriguing look into social life in that era. (It was not much different than a visit to the transfer station, post office, or Public Market now.)

The body of D. J. Spencer, who some years ago resided in this vicinity, arrived here Monday from Fort Smith, Arkansas, addressed to J. S. Moore our druggist. Mr. Moore had received a letter from the dead man's wife, requesting him to take charge of the body and have it interred in the West Stockbridge cemetery. Upon his demand for the remains, he found an express bill of \$85 which must be paid before it would be delivered over to him, and as nothing had been said by the wife in regard to money matters and Mr. Moore not knowing the circumstances of the parties, he naturally refused to take the risk. He telegraphed to Fort Smith for further instructions, but up to Tuesday noon had heard nothing, and the body is still in the keeping of the Express company.

**DR. THOMAS' ELECTRIC OIL.**

**WHAT IT HAS DONE.**

**WHAT IT WILL DO.**

**IT WILL POSITIVELY CURE**

<i>Toothache</i> .....	<i>in 5 Minutes</i>
<i>Earache</i> .....	" 2 "
<i>Backache</i> .....	" 2 Hours
<i>Lameness</i> .....	" 2 Days
<i>Coughs</i> .....	" 20 Minutes
<i>Hoarseness</i> .....	" 1 Hour
<i>Colds</i> .....	" 24 Hours
<i>Sore Throat</i> .....	" 12 "
<i>Deafness</i> .....	" 2 Days
<i>Pain of Burn</i> .....	" 5 Minutes
" Scald.....	" 5 "

Croup it will cease in 5 minutes, and positively cure any case when used at the outset.

Remember that Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil is only 50 cents per bottle, and one bottle will go farther than half a dozen of an ordinary medicine.

Presented by  
**JAMES S. MOORE**  
WEST STOCKBRIDGE, MASS.

Moore trade card. Image courtesy of West Stockbridge Historical Society


In the issue of Thursday, July 9, 1891, there was a unique paragraph about a request made to James Moore, our local pharmacist, reprinted here.

Clearly, James Moore received the body by surprise. There is no record of what he finally did to resolve the "package" left at the Railway Express office or if he received the \$85 from the widow. We do know that D.J. Spencer was born in West Stockbridge in 1827 and died of cholera in Fort Smith, Arkansas, in 1891. The situation must have been resolved because he was eventually buried in the Stockbridge Cemetery.

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**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**



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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](http://weststockbridge-ma.gov) • Community and Business Website: [visitweststockbridge.com](http://visitweststockbridge.com)

**WEST STOCKBRIDGE CHAMBER PLAYERS**

# **THE (ALMOST) SPRING CONCERT**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025 AT 3:30PM**

**West Stockbridge Congregational Church  
45 Main Street, West Stockbridge**

## **MUSIC**

**Ludwig van Beethoven: Trio in B-flat major, Op. 11**

**Florence Price: Fantasie No. 1 in G minor**

**Ernst von Dohnány: Sextet in C major, Op. 37**

## **MUSICIANS**

**CATHERINE HUDGINS, *Clarinet***

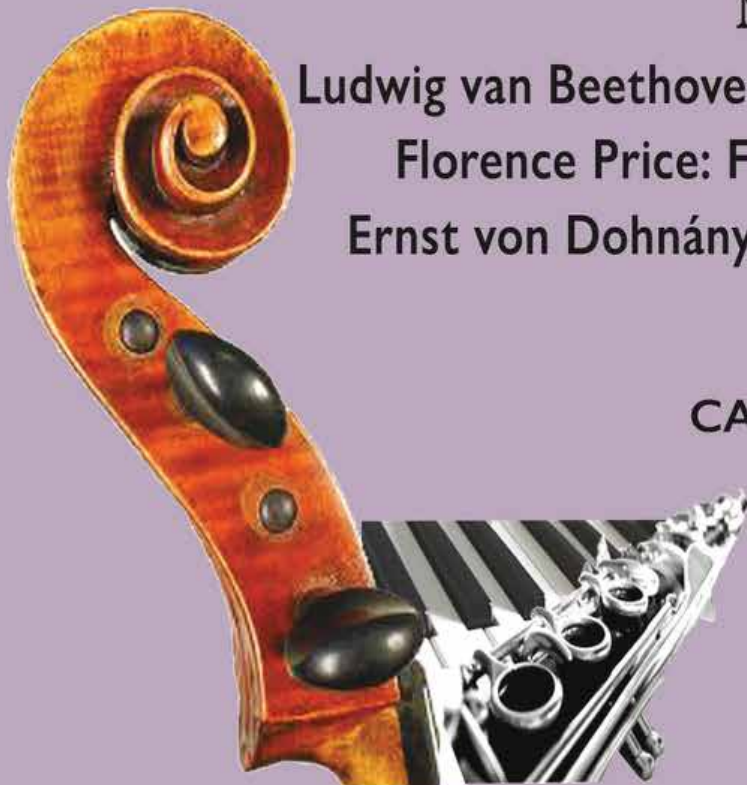
**JASON SNIDER, *Horn***

**SHEILA FIEKOWSKY, *Violin***

**DANIEL GETZ, *Viola***

**CHRISTINE LEE, *Cello***

**JUNG-A BANG, *Piano***



**TICKETS: \$35 members / \$40 non-members**

**PURCHASE ONLINE AT**

**[www.weststockbridgehistory.org](http://www.weststockbridgehistory.org)**

This program is a benefit performance for the West Stockbridge Historical Society

West Stockbridge  
**Local Yokel**  
 P.O. Box 238  
 West Stockbridge, MA 01266

thelocalyokel.org



March Calendar of Events

3/1	WSHS Nature Series: Animal Romance (rescheduled)	7 pm	Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street
3/3	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices and on Zoom
3/3	Planning Board meeting	7 pm	Town Offices
3/4	Council on Aging Craft Group meeting	9:30 am	Richmond Library History Room
3/5	Ash Wednesday		
3/5	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room
3/9	Daylight Savings Time begins: set clocks 1 hour ahead		
3/9	Stockbridge Grange Takeout Dinner		See Community News for details
3/12	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room
3/12	Friends of the Library meeting	3:30 pm	Community Room
3/15	*** Deadline for the next <i>Local Yokel</i> ***		Send to info@thelocalyokel.org
3/17	St. Patrick's Day		
3/17	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices and on Zoom
3/18	Planning Board meeting	7 pm	Town Offices
3/19	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room
3/20	First Day of Spring		
3/20	Annual Town Caucus	6 pm	Town Offices
3/26	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room
3/30	WS Chamber Players (Almost) Spring Concert	3:30 pm	WS Congregational Church, 45 Main Street
3/31	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices and on Zoom

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