

# Local yokel

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

West  
Stockbridge

May  
2025

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2004



*Annual Town Meeting 5/5  
and Election 5/12*

Democracy in action - "Hands Off" protest in West Stockbridge, April 5, 2025. Photo by John Parker



# Easter Egg Hunt a Rousing Success

By Cait Graham

The town's second annual Easter Egg Hunt, on Sunday, April 13, was a great success! Although the days leading up to it were snowy and cold, the sun was shining and the temperature was hovering around 50 degrees when it came time for the festivities. The snow had even melted—what luck!

Over two dozen enthusiastic kids gathered with their families, hunted for more than a thousand brightly colored eggs and 40 golden “prize eggs,” guessed the number of candy pieces in the library’s Easter candy jar, and enjoyed the library’s springtime story walk. It was especially heartening to see such kindness and sharing among all of the kids. The library had many entrants in their candy guessing game, but the winner at the end of the day was Zac Roy. His guess was within 20 candies of the actual amount in the jar, and he took them all home to enjoy with his family.

Thank you to everyone who came out to enjoy the egg hunt, and to the West Stockbridge Police Department interns, Jade and Savannah, who cheerfully helped Parks & Rec by stuffing the Easter eggs!



Left to right, Zac Roy, Brady Graham, and Alex Roy



Photos by Joe Roy

Substitute librarian Jill Beasley,  
prize winner Zac Roy,  
volunteer Francesca Stanmeyer



# 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 March 17, 2025

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

Andy Potter opened the meeting at 6 PM.

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

All were in favor, and the minutes were approved.

### Citizen Speak:

None

### Town Administrator Update:

Marie informed the Board that she and Curt were working on an application for a grant to pay for a feasibility study for a new public safety building. This is the second try at this grant through the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program. They received comments on what could be improved from MVP as to what to change for the second application.

Marie reminded everyone that the Town Caucus is this Thursday, March 20th, at 6 PM. She encouraged everyone to attend and support their candidates.

### Dog Park Committee Appointments: Michael Bolognino, Chair

Michael updated the board on the dog park's progress. He said that the Committee has secured Select Board approval, Planning Board Special Permit, and Stanton Foundation approval of the final design, with a go-ahead to have the project out to bid. The Stanton Foundation will provide the funding once the bid process has been completed and a contractor is under contract.

Michael requested that the Board approve the appointment of Jackie Murray and Melanie Thibeault to the Dog Park Committee.

Kathleen moved, seconded by Andy Krouss, to approve Jackie and Melanie's appointment to the Dog Park Committee.

All were in favor, and appointments were approved.

### Vision Committee Update: Joe Roy, Jr.

Joe updated the Board regarding the Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations that the Vision Committee has been working to have installed in West Stockbridge. He stated that the funding and program to install level 3 Fast Charging Stations (charges vehicles within 1 hour) stations have been cut due to all the federal cutbacks. He does have a connection with a contractor that offers Level 2.5 Charging Stations (charges vehicles within 2 hours). This contractor can install these charging stations right away. He informed the Board that there would be no cost to the Town. However, there are many details to get this completed. Joe requested permission from the Board to proceed with collecting all the information needed to go forward, and he will keep the Board updated. The Board agreed to have Joe gather information on the Level 2.5 Charging Stations.

### Select Board Speak:

Kathleen informed the Board that she has been working on the Moscow Road park design, which she began five years ago. She and Curt have recently met with Grigori, the TurnPark Manager. She explained that when she tried to apply for Community Preservation funds last year to assist with funding the Moscow Road park design, the Committee denied the application due to easements associated with the property recently acquired by the Town from National Grid. Kathleen said that after further research and reaching out to Town Counsel, there should not be any issues with the easement if the Town decides to complete landscaping and design on the property as long as the Town gets the design approved by National Grid before construction begins.

Kathleen has requested that Grigori submit two designs in two separate price ranges for review. She would like the community to weigh in on the design that is chosen. She will keep the Board updated.

Andy Potter reminded everyone to attend the Town Caucus on Thursday, March 20 at 6 PM.

He congratulated the Monument Mountain Regional High School Boys' Basketball team on reaching the State Finals and the Monument Mountain Regional High School Drama Club for their excellent production of Mean Girls this past weekend.

...continued on page 7

## 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.



# SPECIMEN BALLOT

Penalty for willfully defacing, tearing down, removing or destroying a list of candidates or specimen ballot.

FINE NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS.

OFFICIAL BALLOT  
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION  
WEST STOCKBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS  
MAY 12, 2025

*Veronica Barrett*  
TOWN CLERK

### INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

- A. TO VOTE, completely fill in the OVAL to the RIGHT of your choice(s) like this: ●
- B. Follow directions as to the number of candidates to be marked for each office.
- C. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the candidate's name and address on the line provided and completely fill in the OVAL.

MODERATOR	BOARD OF ASSESSORS	BOARD OF HEALTH
For One Year      Vote for One: <input type="radio"/>	For Three Years      Vote for One: <input type="radio"/>	For Three Years      Vote for One: <input type="radio"/>
JOSEPH ROY, JR. <input type="radio"/>	EDWARD SPORN <input type="radio"/>	EARL MOFFATT <input type="radio"/>
(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>
SELECT BOARD MEMBER	FINANCE COMMITTEE	LIBRARY TRUSTEE
For Three Years      Vote for One: <input type="radio"/>	For Three Years      Vote for One: <input type="radio"/>	For Three Years      Vote for One: <input type="radio"/>
ANDREW POTTER <input type="radio"/>	(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	MOLLY MEADOR <input type="radio"/>
(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>		(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>
TOWN CLERK	PLANNING BOARD	CEMETERY COMMISSION
For Three Years      Vote for One: <input type="radio"/>	For Five Years      Vote for One: <input type="radio"/>	For Three Years      Vote for One: <input type="radio"/>
VERONICA BARRETT <input type="radio"/>	DANA BIXBY <input type="radio"/>	MARION LORING <input type="radio"/>
(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>	(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>
TAX COLLECTOR		
For Three Years      Vote for One: <input type="radio"/>		
KELLI BRADBURY <input type="radio"/>		
(Write-in) <input type="radio"/>		
BALLOT QUESTION		
Question 1: Shall the Town vote to have its elected town clerk become an appointed clerk of the town?		
YES <input type="radio"/>		
NO <input type="radio"/>		



# 2025 Annual Town Meeting and Town Election: What You Need to Know

## Annual Town Meeting

The annual town meeting will take place at the Town Offices gymnasium this year on May 5 at 6 pm. Copies of the warrant, a sample ballot for the town election, and the *Town Report* are available on the town website, [weststockbridge-ma.gov](http://weststockbridge-ma.gov). The reports are also available at the Transfer Station, at the library, and at the Town Offices.



The annual town election will be held in the Town Offices gymnasium on Monday, May 12, from 10 am until 7 pm.

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## Annual Town Budget and Warrant Highlights FY 2026

By Andy Potter, Select Board Chair

### West Stockbridge FY26 Budget and FY25 Highlights

The West Stockbridge Select Board is pleased to present the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) operating budget and reflect on major accomplishments from the past year as we prepare for the annual town meeting.

#### FY26 Budget Overview

The proposed FY26 budget totals \$6,992,306, a 6.05% increase from FY25. This growth reflects the town's ongoing commitment to public safety, infrastructure, and efficient municipal services.

Importantly, the school assessment is down, with the town's share of the Berkshire Hills Regional School District's operating and capital budgets decreasing by more than \$100,000. This shift provides welcome relief, especially because other budget areas require increased investment.

These are the key budget drivers:

- Increased police and fire department funding, covering staffing, training, and readiness.
- General government increases, tied to contractual personnel adjustments and administrative capacity building.
- Modest growth in human services, improving support for senior services, public health, and veterans.

The town continues to use free cash funds prudently for capital investments, including highway equipment, emergency services tools, and facility improvements.

Several articles on the FY26 warrant support this fiscal strategy. These include capital appropriations, minor bylaw clarifications, and one key governance update:

- Authorization for the appointment of two associate members to the Planning Board, who may be designated to serve when the board acts as the Special Permit Granting Authority, ensuring quorum and continuity when regular members are absent or have a conflict of interest.

#### FY25 Accomplishments

FY25 marked another productive year for West Stockbridge town government. The Select Board worked closely with the Planning Board to develop new zoning bylaws authorizing accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and regulating short-term rentals (STRs). These initiatives balance housing access with neighborhood character and will appear before voters at the annual town meeting.

At the December 2024 special town meeting, residents approved six key measures, including expanded tax relief for seniors and veterans, the transition of the town clerk to an appointed position, and a public easement to protect aquifer access.

Major capital projects included the repaving of Lenox and Deer Hill Roads, new highway vehicles, and removal of over 900 hazardous roadside trees, coordinated with MassDOT and National Grid. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrades at the Town Offices and the Library were completed, and a new pavilion was installed behind the Town Offices with support from Parks & Recreation.

The town also celebrated community investments, including a \$275,000 Stanton Foundation grant to develop a public dog park and a \$112,600 MassDOT Complete Streets Grant for walkability and bike infrastructure.

The Select Board appointed a new fire chief, expanded part-time police staffing, and supported the town's update of its Emergency Management Plan. Regional collaboration on Housatonic Water Works advocacy also remained a priority.

#### Looking Ahead

As always, the Select Board invites all residents to review the budget, study the warrant, and participate in the town meeting. Your engagement helps ensure that West Stockbridge continues to thrive—fiscally sound, civically vibrant, and well prepared for the future.

# A Weekend of Baseball in West Stockbridge

By John Parker

Big league baseball players and their connections with Berkshire County were the focus of an exhibit and lecture at the Old Town Hall, presented by Baseball in the Berkshires and hosted by the West Stockbridge Historical Society over the April 10–13 weekend.

Exhibits spotlighted the fascinating and surprising history and contributions of notable players, teams, and locations including Mickey Mantle, Yogi Berra, Al Ditmar, Willie Mays, Lou Gehrig, Pete Noonan, “Mighty” Jackie Mitchell, Matt White, Troy’s Garage Tossers, Wahconah Park, and the State Line Café.

Larry Moore, director of Baseball in the Berkshires, presented a slide-illustrated talk on Berkshire County’s numerous contributions to the history of baseball. Special guest Matt White shared personal stories about his 12 years as a pitcher for the Boston Red Sox, several other major-league teams, and in Japan. Matt grew up in Berkshire County and attended Wahconah High School. After retiring from major-league baseball, Matt is now the owner of Swift River Stone in Cummington.

*Photos by John Parker.  
Clockwise from top right:  
Willie Mays display; The lecture  
drew over two dozen baseball fans of  
all ages; Larry Moore talks baseball  
with a visitor; Visitors check out the  
displays; Matt White display*



Andy Potter told the Board that the Affordable Housing Trust Committee has been working with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC). BRPC will hold three listening sessions to gather information regarding housing in West Stockbridge. This will enable the Committee to create an action plan that defines housing issues and what actions and policies the Committee wants to include in its planning.

Andy Potter moved, seconded by Kathleen, to enter into executive session and not return to 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 and Town Administrator)

Roll Call vote:

Andy Potter	Yes
Kathleen	Yes
Andy Krouss	Yes

Open meeting adjourned at 6:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie Y. Ryan*

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator

### **Select Board Meeting Minutes March 31, 2025**

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

Andy Potter opened the meeting at 6 PM.

Andy Krouss made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve the March 17, 2025, minutes.

All were in favor, and the minutes were approved.

#### **Citizen Speak:**

None

#### **Town Administrator Update:**

Marie informed the Board that the gazebo will be in place for the summer season at Card Pond. Also, the company that treats the pond's weeds has not been doing so for the last few years due to concerns of the Conservation Commission regarding chemicals used in previous years by the company. The company is now working with the Conservation Commission and should begin treatments this summer.

The school Superintendent has notified the Town that Stockbridge, Great Barrington, and West Stockbridge will be requested to hold an election on November 4th, 2025, to vote on a new high school. All three towns will hold the election on the same day and at the same time, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Police Officer Nicole Miller will be running a Community Helper Academy for kids during school vacation from April 22 through April 24, 2025, from 12 PM until 4 PM at the West Stockbridge Town Hall. This will be open to children from any town. She will have activities, recycling activities, special visitors, and an ice cream social on the last day from 4 PM to 5 PM. The theme for the week is all about community and how everyone can help.

The Affordable Housing Trust Committee is working with Berkshire Regional Planning to host Housing Issues Forums. These are scheduled for April 5 at 10 a.m. at the old Town Hall on Main Street, April 7th at 6 PM, and April 8th at 3 PM, both at the Town Hall.

#### **The process to Hire New Police Chief – Marie**

Marie updated the Board regarding the proposal for hiring a new police chief. Marie spoke with Mark Webber and the Town of Great Barrington to gather information and form a hiring process. The Town Moderator, Joe Roy, has appointed several members to a screening committee. The members will be Mary Stodden, Caitlin Graham, Great Barrington Police Chief Paul Storti, Retired Police Chief William Walsh and Ryan Beattie. Marie created an ad to be posted on the Massachusetts and Berkshire County Chiefs' website, the Berkshire Eagle, and the Massachusetts Municipal Association, and Andy Potter also requested to post in the Boston Globe. Marie will post the ad by May 15<sup>th</sup>. The Screening Committee will then meet and narrow down the applicants to interview five to six applicants. Once they complete the interviews, the Committee will narrow down three to four finalists to present to the Select Board for interviews. The Select Board read the ad and agreed that Marie should proceed with the process.

#### **Select Board Speak:**

Kathleen informed the Board that Senator Markie will hold his third annual Beacon Hill in the Berkshires at the Lenox Town Hall on Saturday, April 5, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Andy Potter moved, seconded by Kathleen, to enter into executive session and not return to 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 and Town Administrator)

Roll Call vote:

Andy Potter	Yes
Kathleen	Yes
Andy Krouss	Yes

Open meeting adjourned at 6:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marie Y. Ryan*

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator



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# West Stockbridge Chamber Players (Almost) Spring Concert: An Uplifting Start to the Musical Season!

By Liza Bennett

Despite the chilly weather, the West Stockbridge Chamber Players benefit concert on the last Sunday in March filled the West Stockbridge Congregational Church with the joyous sounds of renewal and hope. Led by artistic director and clarinetist Catherine Hudgins, the celebrated ensemble included horn player Jason Snider, violinist Sheila Fiekowsky, violist Daniel Getz, cellist Christine Lee, and pianist Jung-A Bang.



After Historical Society president Robert Salerno's appreciative welcome, Hudgins, Lee, and Bang performed Ludwig van Beethoven's Trio in B-flat major, Op. 11. An early work by the composer, the piece was known as the "Gassenhauer Trio" for its delightfully spritely series of nine variations. They were so popular in Beethoven's day that they were whistled in the *gasse*, or lane. In her introduction to the second offering, Florence Price's Fantasia No. 1 in G minor, Fiekowsky said, "it contains a little of everything, including Negro spirituals and American Indian melodies." Accompanied by Bang on the piano, Fiekowsky turned the five-minute piece into a power-packed virtuosic performance.

The concert concluded with Ernst von Dohnányi's Sextet in C major, Op. 37, written for an unusual combination of instruments: clarinet, horn, violin, viola, cello, and piano. "I always think of Joanne Rogers when I perform this piece," Hudgins said as the entire ensemble joined her on the floor. "She was the wife of Fred Rogers and a brilliant concert pianist who studied with Dohnányi. She was full of energy and humor—and a good friend." After dedicating the performance to Joanne, Hudgins and the group of gifted musicians gave an impassioned and inspiring interpretation of the sextet.

This was the 43rd benefit concert the Chamber Players have performed for the restoration of the Old Town Hall, which is now focusing on the long anticipated interior renovations.



*Photos by Bob Salerno:  
The benefit concert was hosted by the West Stockbridge  
Congregational Church; Violinist Sheila Fiekowsky  
introduces a composition by Florence Price; Artistic director  
and clarinetist Catherine Hudgins was joined by  
cellist Christine Lee and pianist Jung-A Bang;*

# Everything You Always Wanted to Know About the West Stockbridge Conservation Commission (But Were Afraid to Ask)

By David Evans

## What is the West Stockbridge Conservation Commission?

The Conservation Commission is a volunteer group of seven West Stockbridge residents specifically charged to protect our wetlands and related resource areas. The commission reviews all projects that fall within its jurisdiction to ensure that impact to any resource areas is minimized.

## What does the commission do?

The Conservation Commission protects the water resources in West Stockbridge by ensuring compliance with the state's Wetlands Protection Act, the West Stockbridge Wetlands Protection bylaw, and any associated local policies. These water resources include the following:

- Wetlands
- Land subject to flooding
- Riverfront areas (also protected through the Rivers Protection Act)
- Land under water bodies
- Banks of water bodies

Any work that may alter these resource areas requires review and permitting by the commission.

## What kind of work falls under the jurisdiction of the commission?

If you are doing any construction, digging, cutting trees, clearing vegetation, or other work that fits the following parameters, your work is under the jurisdiction of the commission. You may need to obtain a permit for such activity:

- Within 200 feet of a perennial (i.e., permanent) stream
- Within 100 feet of an intermittent stream
- Within 100 feet of a lake, pond, or wetland
- Within a 100-year floodplain

## The work I want to do is on my private property. Do I still need permission?

Yes. If the work meets any of the conditions just listed, permission is required even if on private property.

## How do I know if my work is in or near a resource area?

Check with the Conservation Commission before doing any work or hire a qualified wetlands professional to look at your site and help you identify and determine the wetlands boundaries and areas under the jurisdiction of applicable laws. Moving forward on work in jurisdictional areas without a permit may result in an enforcement order from the Conservation Commission, plus added time, expense, and delay for your project.

## What steps should I take if I want to do any kind of work in or near a resource area under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission?

That's a great question. Stay tuned for Part 2 of this series!

For more information on the Conservation Commission, visit the West Stockbridge website. Or email the commission at [Conservation@weststockbridge-ma.gov](mailto:Conservation@weststockbridge-ma.gov).



*The Conservation Commission protects water resources by ensuring compliance with the state's Wetlands Protection Act. Photo courtesy of the West Stockbridge Conservation Commission*

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## West Stockbridge Welcomes New Postmaster

By Anne M. Roy

Randy Bates has been our new West Stockbridge postmaster since last June. He has been with the U.S. Postal Service for 11 years. He was encouraged to join by his uncle who was also a postal worker.

Randy grew up in Hancock and now lives in Pittsfield with his wife, 8-year-old son, and 6-year-old daughter. He enjoys watching cooking shows with his wife, spending time with his children, and working out in his yard.

Postmaster Bates encourages West Stockbridge residents to always use "informed delivery" (tracking) to best keep track of their upcoming deliveries.

Welcome, Randy!



*Randy Bates, New Postmaster.  
Photo by Anne M. Roy*



## LIFEGUARD NEEDED

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

-----

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

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

Email Cait Graham at  
weststockbridgeparks@gmail.com  
if interested



## Join a Local Grange

We are always looking to expand our membership to people who are concerned about their communities and our nation.

**Grange members participate in events and activities in their communities, are active in local schools and government, and help those less fortunate.**

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

*It's that time of year again!*

**We have open positions on several Boards and Committees**

**The Town has open positions on the following  
Boards and Committees:**

Affordable Housing Trust

1 Opening for a three-year term

Zoning Board of Appeals

1 Opening for a five-year term

Parks and Recreation Commission

1 Opening for a one-year term

Historical Commission

1 Opening for a one-year term

If you are interested in serving on any of these Boards or Committees, please email the Town Administrator at [admin @weststockbridge-ma.gov](mailto:admin@weststockbridge-ma.gov) by May 16th.



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# A Bear and Two Bobolinks

By Carol McKenna

While on a bike ride on West Alford Road last June, I spotted a bear in a field, and then, soon afterward, two bobolinks singing and fluttering low to the ground on a grassy hillside near Twin Oaks Farm. I thought to myself, “What a great name for a children’s book: *A Bear and Two Bobolinks*.” Even though I don’t plan to write that kids’ book, and this article isn’t about bears, I like the title for its alliteration, so I’m using it here!

This article *is* about bobolinks, and for those who don’t know what a bobolink is (“Some kind of wild cat?” my sister-in-law recently guessed), it is a grassland migratory songbird. And it is currently mating and nesting in meadows, hayfields, and pastures near you—and in similar habitats throughout much of the northern United States and southern Canada.

The breeding male bobolink in particular has very interesting and distinctive looks, mating behavior, songs, and calls. It has a white back and deep black underparts and a large light yellow patch on the back of its head. The female looks very different. It is sparrow-like, with subtle earth-toned plumage and a striped head. Interestingly, males undergo a complete molt at the end of summer and then look more like the females until they molt again on their wintering grounds, where they regain their breeding plumage before flying north.

Amazingly, the bobolink travels some 12,500 miles to and from South America, mainly Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Brazil, every year. Throughout its lifetime, it may travel the equivalent of four or five times around the circumference of Earth!

Bobolinks, members of the blackbird family, are sometimes referred to as white-winged blackbirds and skunk blackbirds. They are also known as rice birds or rice buntings in the South because of their fondness for stealing rice from fields, often during migration. Bobolinks primarily eat insects and seeds while summering up north.

They breed from mid- to late May, and their young hatch in mid-June. They occupy their ground nests until the young fledge in early July.

To attract females, male bobolinks sing while they perform elaborate aerial displays. They fly low over fields using slow, exaggerated wingbeats; they circle or fly in a zigzag pattern over their territory; and they hover before abruptly descending to the ground. Their complex metallic-sounding bubbly song during these displays is magical to hear on a late spring day. Some have likened the song to the sounds of R2-D2 from *Star Wars*. (You can listen to bobolink calls and songs at [www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Bobolink/sounds](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Bobolink/sounds).)

While between flight displays, a bobolink may be found singing from a perch, such as a fencepost or tall weed, as it declares its territory.

Each male may mate with multiple females. Females build cup-shaped nests on the ground in dense vegetation, and they alone incubate the clutch of three to seven eggs. Both parents, and sometimes the previous year’s offspring or adults without a brood, feed the nestlings. The young leave the nest after a few days, staying hidden until they can fly.

Unfortunately, habitat for grassland nesting birds such as bobolinks is shrinking. Since 1970, bobolink populations in Massachusetts have decreased by more than 60%, with an estimated 25% drop occurring in the last decade alone.

These declines are mainly attributed to habitat loss and changes in agricultural practices. Fewer farm fields are left fallow each year, and the timing of hay harvesting often coincides with bobolinks’ breeding season, leading to nest destruction.

Conservation efforts, such as Mass Audubon’s Bobolink Project, are working to mitigate nest destruction by collaborating with farmers to delay hay mowing until after the breeding season, thereby improving nesting success. Other grassland bird populations that benefit from this project are Savannah sparrows, eastern meadowlarks, upland sandpipers, and grasshopper sparrows.

The Bobolink Project uses donated funds to provide financial assistance to participating farmers who modify their mowing schedules. To find out more about the project, donate, or volunteer to help with outreach and field monitoring, visit [www.bobolinkproject.com](http://www.bobolinkproject.com).

Don’t pass up the opportunity this month to witness the charismatic behavior of breeding bobolinks and hear their virtuosic song. You have a good chance of spotting them now in the fields and meadows in your neighborhood, and an even better chance of spotting them if you visit any of the local conservation areas listed here. And you just may spot a bear nearby as well!

Where you may see bobolinks:

- Canoe Meadows in Pittsfield
- Bartholomew’s Cobble in Sheffield
- Hollow Fields Reserve in Richmond
- McAllister Wildlife Refuge in Great Barrington
- Lime Kiln Farm Wildlife Sanctuary in Sheffield
- Field Farm in Williamstown
- Money Brook Trail in Williamstown
- Ooms Conservation Area at Sutherland Pond in Chatham, New York



Bobolink. Nevada Department of Wildlife.  
<https://www.ndow.org/species/bobolink/>

## May History Quiz Question:



**West Stockbridge  
Historical Society**  
Incorporated in 1994

West Stockbridge has been a crossroads for travel from early pre-European days to recent times. We've had lodging for travelers with early taverns, inns, and later on some even more elaborate hotels. Our earliest known inn in the village center was at 38 Main Street, currently the home of Stone House Realty and Art on Main Gallery. The paths up from Great Barrington and Stockbridge met there and traveled north on to Albany. Fresh water from the Williams River made it a good stopping point for horses.

West Center also had a large inn near the intersection of Cobb and West Center Roads, also north-south and east-west routes. That establishment, along with four other taverns that could have doubled as inns, serviced that early travel route.

However, another active area for travelers in the early 1800s was State Line. Even before the Europeans moved into the area, there was an early Native American path from the east through the break in the mountains over to the Hudson River. There was also a north-south route on the western side of the hills, approximately where Route 22 is now. The arrival of the railroads to Hudson and Albany in 1838 increased the traffic through there even more. Add the iron mines along State Line Road, and State Line became the perfect location for a travel rest stop (and it still is).

Around 1838, a hotel was built for the rail passengers traveling through. What became of it, and what caused its demise? Also, what was its claim to fame in the 20th century?

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

## May Donor Roll Call

Larry Bolanowski	Helen Nolan
Paul & Louise Faggioni	Abby Pratt
Paula & Jimmy Law	Marie Rudden & Pete Lazes
Kate & Chris Meyer	Ashley & Sean Tucker
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)

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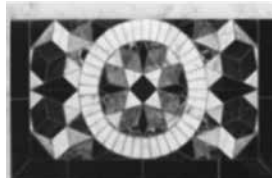
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Mary K Roy  
[marykroy33@gmail.com](mailto:marykroy33@gmail.com)



Joseph P Roy  
[floorstorews@gmail.com](mailto:floorstorews@gmail.com)





# Art on Main Gallery

38 Main St. West Stockbridge  
Guild of Berkshire Artists

## "Earth Sea Sky" May 1–June 1, Thursday–Sunday, 11–4

Reception:  
Saturday, May 3, 2–4

Representing these four local artists and their interpretations of these elements in two-dimensional and three-dimensional art:

**Julian Craker.** We moved here eight years ago, and the beauty of New England still takes my breath away, whether it be the pastoral Berkshires or maritime Cape Cod. I have tried to catch the essence of nature in my watercolors and have framed them in local woods that complement the subject matter. I am privileged to live here and to also have the opportunity to show at Art on Main.

**David Goldstein.** David is a ceramic artist who creates tactile pieces and sculptures that take their inspiration from the natural environment. They are meant to be engaged with on a sensory level, inviting the viewer to appreciate not just the visual aesthetic but the texture and form. Surface texture is an important element of David's work that takes the viewer on a tactile journey from the roughness of the clay to smooth undulating surfaces.

**Sue Aiken.** S.R. Aiken follows a meditative practice that allows her to open to and impart the special qualities of light and sense of place in land and seascape subjects.

**Alvin Ouellet.** Painting "en plein air" in the full presence of nature envelops all of my senses and informs me as I manipulate paint to create an all-encompassing visual response to nature and capture the gestalt of a moment in time. Plein air painting in the changing environment with the synchronized movement of light intensifies my focus and the urgency to be direct and succinct in my color mixing and the direct application of paint to canvas.



*From left:*

*Julian Craker, Two Trees; Alvin Ouellet, Cheshire Lake in Winter; Sue Aiken, Sunrise Moment; David Goldstein, Miniature Moon Vase*

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# West Stockbridge Zucchini 20 Festival 25 Sat. August 9<sup>th</sup>



Follow the Fest on FB & IG  
**@wszucchinifest**

SAVE  
THE  
DATE!

## 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](http://www.wszucchinifest.org)

## How to Get Ready for WSZF?

### Start Plotting Your Patch

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.

### Calling All Pets

Train up Airbud, Garfield and Woodstock 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.

### All in for 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 & Details Coming Soon!**  
[wszucchinifest.org](http://wszucchinifest.org)

## Be a Real Zucchini & Voluntini! West Stockie Folks, Sign Up Now to 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 only made possible when you and all of the great folks in our community come together. Any time you can give is welcome!

### • Big Need for Day-of Volunteers!

- Booth & game attendants, parking attendants, helpers & runners, clean-up crew, etc.
- Set up tents & games the night before festival
- Organizing, Coordinating donations, etc.

To volunteer, please visit

[wszucchinifest.org/volunteer](http://wszucchinifest.org/volunteer)

## Call for WSZF Vendors & Performers!

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

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

For Vendor info & application, please visit  
[wszucchinifest.org/vendors](http://wszucchinifest.org/vendors)

For Performers & Entertainers, please email  
[wszucchinifest@gmail.com](mailto:wszucchinifest@gmail.com)



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





# WEST STOCKBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

21 State Line Rd | West Stockbridge, MA 01266 | In the Town Offices  
weststockbridgepl.org | 413-232-0300 ext. 308

Mon., Wed., Thurs., and Sat. 10 am–3 pm | Tues. and Fri. 2–6 pm | Sun. Closed

Hello from the West Stockbridge Public Library!

As a town library, we deeply appreciate the voters who support our annual budget—thank you! We also receive federal funds from two sources.

The first, a state grant supported by the federal government, provides an online catalog and books, DVDs, and CDs from all over Massachusetts, along with eBooks and streaming audiobooks. The second source, the West Stockbridge Cultural Council, pays for passes so you can enjoy free admission to cultural sites around the county. Its funds come from the Massachusetts Cultural Council that receives annual federal funds each year, along with all the other states.

We are currently waiting for updates on the status of these funding sources because they are both facing elimination.

On a positive note: A total of 60 new children's books have arrived, thanks to an award from the Pilcrow Foundation from a grant written by Miss Vicky. We will celebrate these new titles as we kick off our summer reading program in late May. Please join the fun at 11 am on Saturday, May 24, when Gilbert the pig and two friends will visit, rain or shine!

March at a glance:

- 763 hardcopy items were borrowed and renewed
- \$12,900 was saved by library users because they borrowed instead of buying
- 510 eBooks, eMagazines, and streaming audiobooks were borrowed
- 467 library visitors

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## NEW ADULT FICTION

Boyle, *Saint of the narrows street*  
Diaz, *Dreamover*  
Francis-Sharma, *Casualties of truth*  
Goodman, *Isola*  
Kamlani, *The English problem*  
Johnson, *Those beyond the wall*  
Lamont, *Going home*  
Samatar, *The practice, the horizon, and the chain*  
Wolfgang-Smith, *Mutual interest*

## NEW ADULT NONFICTION

Comer, *All the president's money: investigating the secret foreign schemes that made the Biden family rich*  
Greene, *Not sure who needs to hear this, but . . .*  
Kimmerer, *The serviceberry: abundance and reciprocity in the natural world*  
Le Cunff, *Tiny experiments: how to live freely in a goal-obsessed world*  
Noonan, *A certain idea of America: selected writings*  
Robbins, *The let them theory: a life-changing tool that millions of people can't stop talking about*

## NEW TITLES FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES

Marianayagam, *No purchase necessary*

\*\*\*\*\*



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

1. What was missing in the Great Hall from West Stockbridge in January 2015?
2. What was the goal of the self-defense classes sponsored by the police departments from six towns?
3. How many women took the self-defense course?
4. Who chronicled southern Berkshire County in National Geographic's new digital pilot series "My Town"?

4. John Stanneyer

3. 25

avoid potential victimization

2. Empowerment and building self-confidence to

1. The town flag



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.

# **Ticks are Pandemic**

## **Learn How To Survive Them**

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

### **Prevention Is Key**

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

### **Learn What To Do If Bitten**

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



### **Never Throw A Tick Away**

Preserve your tick with a piece of moist paper towel in a small plastic bag and mail it to **UMass Labs** after filling out their online form at [www.tickreport.com](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)**



# Community News & Events

## Stockbridge Grange Dinner

Take a night off from cooking and order this month's takeout-only Stockbridge Grange dinner on Sunday, May 18, with pickup at the Grange Hall, 51 Church Street, Stockbridge. Dinner entrée: roast pork; chocolate and lemon pies for dessert. To place an order, call (413) 243-1298 or (413) 443-4352. Pickup time is 12 to 1:30 pm.

## Council on Aging

Our next COA paper folding class will be held on Tuesday, May 6, at 9:30 am in the Richmond Town Community room. We will be making Mother's Day Cards. 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).*

## May Art Calendar

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

2025

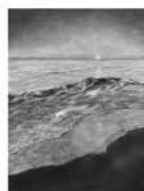
**May 1 - June 1, "Earth Sea Sky"** featuring 4 artists. Art on Main Gallery, West Stockbridge, MA.  
**Reception:** Saturday May 3, 2-4PM

**May 16 - 18, Plein Air Paint Out & Wet Paint Sale, Hosted by Balderdash Cellars.** Richmond, MA. 10 am - 4 pm Friday and Saturday, and Sunday noon - 4pm. See website to register or volunteer.

**May 16 - 26, ArtWeek Berkshires.** 100+ hands-on or behind-the-scenes events and open studios across the region. For more info and schedule: <https://berkshires.org/artweek-berkshires/>

**May 18, Berkshire Photo Gathering.** See web: [berkshirephotogathering.com/online-meetings](http://berkshirephotogathering.com/online-meetings)

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



**Reception:**  
May 3, 2-4pm

### Earth Sea Sky

Sue Aiken | Julian Craker  
David Goldstein | Alvin Ouellet

May 1 - June 1, 2025



38 Main Street, West Stockbridge

## Queensboro Wine & Spirits

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

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

# History Quiz Answer:

The State Line Hotel was a major feature in a busy road and rail travel intersection. Originally constructed in 1838–39, it became a large three-story structure with 32 rooms, a dining area, a barn for horses, and later, an ell was added for a bar. The building was quite elaborate for its time. The hotel shows up as a feature in the earliest labeled map of the area, the 1855 Clark Map, and on the 1858 Woodford Map. The hotel was operated as an inn continuously until 1929.



*Location of the State Line Hotel. Photo by Bob Salerno*

The five-acre property was unique because it abutted the New York and Massachusetts state lines. The hotel structure directly straddled the state lines, which was not discovered until a correct survey was conducted in 1909. It turned out to be an advantage as the state line went through the building's ell with the bar. The Murphy family, who had owned the hotel since the 1870s, put the bar on wheels. Because the closing times and drinking age varied from state to state, the bar would be rolled into the appropriate "state." In fact, State Line was sort of a no-man's-land when it came to police enforcement with illegal boxing matches and gambling and drinking laws not taken too seriously. This rolling bar made perfect sense.

Although the location had commercial advantages, it caused the end of the hotel. In 1938, the owner, Miss Love F. Murphy, was hit with a double challenge. New York decided to extend the road from Austerlitz up to New Lebanon as a part of a New York to Montreal highway, now Route 22. Before the proposed change, the road was an unpaved farm road, not great for automobile touring to Montreal. The road project would go right through the rear of her property.

Then, to compound Miss Murphy's problems, Massachusetts and New York decided to build a road from West Stockbridge to the New York State line, currently State Line Road. It would be a two-lane 26-foot-wide concrete highway from Troy's Garage out to the New York border. It would go right through the hotel building.

The goal of this new road was to ease truck traffic heading to Albany from the east through Lee, Stockbridge, and West Stockbridge, and then connect with the new Route 22. Trucks were currently traveling a longer route through Lee, Lenox, Pittsfield, and out to Route 20. This would be a shorter route and bring them through our town.

Miss Murphy was offered \$10,000 and told to vacate by May 1, 1938. Then after some haggling between Berkshire and Columbia Counties, the road was delayed a year. In that time, the building was razed and the contents sold off. The rolling bar was bought for \$2 and allegedly used for the same purpose by the State Line Restaurant, formerly known as Lena's Pavillion.

State Line remained a popular rest stop and entertainment center through the 1980s. The State Line hotel building and property were replaced by the Mass Pike and Route 22, and the State restaurant building moved out of the way into the Massachusetts side. The area's entertainment is gone now, and we have gas stations, a motel, and a large national chain rest stop, and another being built, all on the New York side.



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.



**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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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- ☐ Yes, please do send me a YKL Bumper Sticker for my donation of \$35 or more.



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Animal Control	<i>John Drake</i>	464-2148		As Needed
Assessors Office	<i>Mary Stodden</i>	232-0300	ext. 303	Tues. 1-5 pm; Thurs. 9 am-1 pm
Board of Health	<i>Earl Moffatt</i>	232-0300	ext. 314	Fri. 9 am-4 pm, or by appt.
Select Board	<i>Kathleen Keresey Andy Krouss Andy Potter</i>	232-0300	ext. 319	
Town Administrator	<i>Marie Ryan</i>			Mon.-Thurs. 7 am-3 pm Fri. 7-11 am
Building Inspector	<i>Brian Duval</i>	232-0300	ext. 313	Leave Message for Inquiries
Conservation Commission	<i>Kathy Korte</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	Leave Message for Inquiries
Council on Aging	<i>John Zick</i>	232-0300	ext. 340	Leave Message for Inquiries
Emergency Management	<i>Louis Oggiani</i>	528-2175		
Fire Department	<i>Steve Traver</i>	911 or 329-7153 (non-emergency)		Mon. 6:30-9 pm
Highway Department	<i>Curt G. Wilton</i>	232-0305		Leave Message for Inquiries
Library	<i>Rachel Alter</i>	232-0300	ext. 308	Mon., Wed., Thurs., and Sat. 10 am-3 pm; Tues. and Fri. 2-6 pm; closed Sun.
Police Department	<i>Marc Portieri</i>	911 or 232-8500 (non-emergency)		24 hours, 7 days/week
Post Office	<i>Randy Bates</i>	232-8544		Lobby: 7 am-7 pm; 7 days/week; Window: Mon.-Fri. 9 am-4:30 pm; Sat. 9 am-12 noon
Sewer & Water Commission	<i>Michael Buffoni</i>	232-0309		
Town Accountant	<i>Elaine Markham</i>	232-0300	ext. 317	Leave Message for Inquiries
Town Clerk	<i>Ronni Barrett</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	Tues. & Thurs. 1:30-3:30 pm
Town Collector	<i>Kelli Bradbury</i>	232-0300	ext. 302	Tues. 1-5 pm; Wed. 7 am-12 pm; Thurs. 1-6 pm
Town Historian	<i>Robert Salerno</i>	232-4465		
Town Treasurer	<i>Benjamin Gelb</i>	232-0300	ext. 316	Tues. 9 am-4 pm
Transfer Station	<i>Wayne Cooper</i>	232-0307		Tues. & Thurs. 10 am-6 pm and Sat. 8 am-6 pm
Tree Warden	<i>Andrew Fudge</i>	212-9206		
Veterans Agency	<i>Tom Beasley</i>	528-1580		
Zoning Board of Appeals	<i>C. Randolph Thunfors</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	

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



**WEST STOCKBRIDGE FARMERS MARKET**  
ON THE FOUNDRY GREEN

**OPENING DAY!**  
**Thursday, May 22**  
**3-6 PM**



**WE ACCEPT SNAP +  
OFFER MARKET MATCH**

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*West Stockbridge*  
**MEMORIAL DAY**  
*May 26, 2025*  
*Land of the free, because of the brave.*



Timing and information will be  
available in the coming weeks.

 **Housatonic Valley Association's**  
**CELEBRATE OUR WATERSHED**  
May - September, 2025



 **HOUSATONIC VALLEY ASSOCIATION** Join us for a summer of outdoor fun!

**Hike, paddle, and learn**  
with events all along the Housatonic River!



**Win prizes for doing what you love**  
Adventure challenges begin May 23!



**Support the region we call home**  
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**LEARN MORE AT [HVATODAY.ORG](http://HVATODAY.ORG)**



West Stockbridge Historical Society's  
Berkshire Nature Talk Series

*Chip Blake on*  
**THE BIRDS OF BERKSHIRE COUNTY**

**Saturday, May 10th**  
**at 7:00 p.m.**  
Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street, West Stockbridge



The varied habitat of Berkshire County—lakes, mountains, fields, forests, and rivers—makes it an excellent place for both birds and birdwatchers. Presented by Chip Blake, birding expert and author of the forthcoming *The Birds of Berkshire County*, the talk will cover both birds and their history, as well as information about how the county's birdlife is changing.

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.

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

[thelocalyokel.org](http://thelocalyokel.org)



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## May Calendar of Events

5/1	Planning Board meeting	7 pm	Town Offices
5/5	Cinco de Mayo		
5/5	Annual Town Meeting	6 pm	Town Offices
5/6	Affordable Housing Trust	9 am	On Zoom only
5/6	Council on Aging Craft Group meeting	9:30 am	Richmond Library History Room
5/6	Planning Board meeting	7 pm	Town Offices
5/7	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room
5/10	The Birds of Berkshire County	7 pm	Old Town Hall, 9 Main Street
5/11	Mother's Day		
5/12	Annual Town Election	10 am-7 pm	Town Offices
5/13	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices and on Zoom
5/14	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room
5/14	Friends of the Library meeting	3:30 pm	Community Room
5/15	*** Deadline for the next <i>Local Yokel</i> ***		Send to <a href="mailto:info@thelocalyokel.org">info@thelocalyokel.org</a>
5/17	Armed Forces Day		
5/18	Stockbridge Grange Takeout Dinner		See Community News for details
5/20	Planning Board meeting	7 pm	Town Offices
5/21	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room
5/22	WS Farmers Market: Opening Day	3-6 pm	Foundry Green, Harris Street
5/26	Memorial Day: Town Offices closed		
5/27	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices and on Zoom
5/28	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room
Note: Town Offices (including Community Room and Library) are located at 21 State Line Road, West Stockbridge.			