

Local yokel

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

West
Stockbridge
August
2025

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2004

West Stockbridge Zucchini Festival 2025



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

Sponsored by the WS Cultural Council & Organized by volunteers, neighbors and friends.

The Zhedule & The Deets!

2025 Zucchini Festival



Say What? The West Stockbridge Zucchini Festival is an all-day, inclusive and kid-friendly event that celebrates our unique Berkshire community and of course everyone's favorite staple summer squash! The day is 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

Parking Details, Festival Info & More at:

wszucchinifest.org | @wszucchinifest

9:30^{am} Pet Parade Registration*
at AMICI Parking Lot

10:00 Pet Parade - Festival Kickoff!
at AMICI Parking Lot

Festive Fanfare, Vendors & Hand-Crafted Zucchini Games
Classic Festival Stuff! | 10am to 4:30pm
Vendors, Artists, Craftspeople, Performers,
Community Orgs, Zic-Zac-Zoe, Zuck River
Races, Rock Climbing Wall, Zucchini Compost
Catapult, Bounce Slide, Zuke Cornhole, Zucchini
Decorating, Zucchini Ring Toss, PineWood
Zerby Races, WSZF Merch at WS Cultural
Council Booth and more!

Baking Contest Submissions*
Open | 10am to 11:30am
at Baking Tent (Depot & Center St.)

Decorating Contest Submissions
Open | 10am to 3pm
near Berkshire Bank Parking Lot

10:45 Pet Parade Awards Ceremony!
at AMICI Parking Lot

11:00 Food Court Open | 11am to 9:30pm
Berkshire food vendors serving a variety of
good eats! And of course WS's great
local food spots, bars, and eateries!

Zucchini Weigh-Off Submissions*
Open | 11am to 2pm
across from WS Post Office

3rd Annual WSZF Poetry Corner
Write Poetry! | 11am to 3pm
behind Shaker Mill Books

12:00^{pm} Zuck River Races! | 12pm to 5pm
On the hour, every hour (\$1 race followed by
\$25 race, for 12 total races)
on Williams River

12:00^{pm} Baking Contest Awards!*

at Baking Tent (Depot & Center St.)

12:30 Sunday Strummers Ukulele Ensemble
Live Music! | 12:30pm to 1:45pm
at The 01266 Day Stage (WS Post Office)

2:00 Shut Up & Dance
Live Music! | 2pm to 4:30pm
at The 01266 Day Stage (WS Post Office)

4:00 Gilbert The Party Pig
Family Fun! | 4pm to 5:30pm
on The Foundry Green

3:30 Zucchini Weigh-Off Awards! *
across from WS Post Office

4:15 Zucchini Decorating Awards!
across from WS Post Office

4:30 Stilt-Walker & Hula-Hooper
Live Performance! | 4:30pm to 5:30pm
wandering about Center St.

5:30 Lucky Bucket
Live Music! | 4:30pm to 6:45pm
on Center St. near Baldwin Hardware

7:00 Gadzukes: Costume & Variety Show Contest!
Live Contest! | Starts at 7pm
at The Patio Bar - The Foundry
Event info at thefoundryws.com

8:30 Reliant Tom
Live Music! | 8:30pm to 9:15pm
on Center St. near Baldwin Hardware

9:30 Cirque De Light
Fire Show Performance! | 9:30pm to 10pm
on Center St. near Baldwin Hardware

10:00 All done!

** See Special Events & Contests
page for event details!*



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

Special Events & Contests

2025 Zucchini Festival



Pet Parade

Calling all Pets! Get your furry friends ready to kick off this year's festival with the WSZF Pet Parade! The #1 Berkshire event to wag your tail at. All species welcome and costumes encouraged. Well-behaved pets & owners only.

How to Enter?

Registration 9:30am day-of festival or pre-register at wszucchinifest.org/2025-contests. Be ready with your pet's name, breed and any special talents.

Where?

Parade starts between Berkshire Bank & Amici, travels down Depot Street and then back for the Awards Ceremony.

When?

Day of Festival - August 9th
9:30am Registration & Check-in
10am Pet Parade
10:45am Awards Ceremony

Questions? Contact wszucchinifest@gmail.com

Zucchini Weigh-Off Contest

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

How to Enter?

Enter your zucchini day-of festival, including your name and phone number with submission.

Where?

Weigh-Off Contest booth located across from the W.S. Post Office.

When?

Day of Festival - August 10th
11am-3pm Zucchini Submissions Open
3:30pm Weighing & Awards Ceremony

Zucchini Baking Contest

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

How to Enter?

Enter your baked good and recipe day-of festival at the Baking Contest booth at the corner of Depot St. & Center St. Recipe submissions must be written clearly or typed and must include your name, address and phone number.

Where?

Baking Contest booth located at the corner of Center Street & Depot Street.

When?

Day of Festival - August 9th
11:30am Baking Submissions must be in!
12pm Judging & Awards Ceremony

Questions? Contact wszucchinifest@gmail.com

Be a Real Zucchini & Voluntini!

wszucchinifest.org/volunteer

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

- **Still a Need for Day of Festival 8/9!**
Booth and game attendants, merch sales, etc.
- Tuesday 8/5 - Festival Prep & Load
- Friday 8/8 - Festival Set-Up Night Before

For all upcoming volunteer opportunities
please visit wszucchinifest.org/volunteer

www.wszucchinifest.org



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



MMRHS Building Committee Approves Project Budget and Submits Schematic Design

A new Monument Mountain Regional High School is two steps closer to becoming reality.

On June 18, the building committee for a new Monument voted to submit a total project budget of \$152 million to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) with a local share of the cost estimated at \$89 million. This total represents a decrease of \$28 million from an original budget of \$180 million, and the new local share amount represents a decrease of \$37 million, down from an original estimate of \$127 million, thanks to an estimated contribution of \$61 million from the MSBA and \$1.6 million in incentives from MassSave.

The building committee has also approved the schematic design submission to the MSBA, whose board will meet to approve the project scope and budget and to formalize the state reimbursement at their August 27 meeting.

The committee hosted its sixth community forum and high school tour on June 16, where the design team gave a comprehensive overview of the project and community members asked questions. The next such event is planned for September 16, and in the meantime, extensive information about all aspects of the project, from rationale to design to timeline, is available on the project website: <https://monumentbuildingproject.org/>.

Also coming up, a tax impact calculator will be available on the project website in August to help residents estimate how much of an annual tax increase they would incur, and on November 4, residents of the three district towns will vote on the project. If it's successful, the project will then enter the design development phase, with construction to begin tentatively in 2027, and the new building expected to open in the fall of 2029. The new high school will be located outside of the existing school's footprint, allowing the high school to remain fully operational during construction. Incoming fifth graders at Du Bois Middle School, the Monument Class of 2033, will be the first class to attend the new campus for all four years of high school.

The current Monument Mountain was built in 1968. It is a deteriorating building whose infrastructure has been "grandfathered in" and which no longer meets education, accessibility, or security standards. The proposed project is a three-story replacement of the existing building, whose enhancements would include full ADA accessibility, a new electricity vocational program, environmentally sustainable upgrades, and vastly improved security measures.

Sheela Clary
Communications Coordinator, BHRSD



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Select Board Meeting Minutes

[Editor's note: At the town administrator's request, the Select Board minutes here are reprinted verbatim with no editing of text. Official board minutes are available at the West Stockbridge Public Library and on the town website, <https://www.weststockbridge-ma.gov/>. Select Board meetings are on Zoom and august 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 June 23, 2025

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

Chair Andy Krouss opened the meeting at 6 PM.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve the meeting minutes from June 9, 10, and 11, 2025.

All were in favor; minutes approved.

Citizen Speak:

Vision Committee member Joe Roy discussed EV Charging Stations in town. He noted that the Town is currently eligible to have high-level 2 chargers installed. Joe requested to be added to the agenda for the next Select Board meeting to discuss the charging stations further. The Board agreed.

Town Administrator Update

Marie stated that the Dog Park construction is set to begin next week, and it should take approximately a month to complete.

She informed the Board that she had met with Planning Board Chair Dana Bixby and that they plan to hold a Special Town Meeting in mid-August. The Board noted their concern about voters being away on vacation during that month and has recommended that the meeting take place in September. Marie will let Dana know.

Marie then informed the Board that she has received a resignation notice from Jamie Boyer, Highway Superintendent. His last day will be July 9. She then requested Curt Wilton, Director of Public Works, to discuss his succession plans for the department.

Curt informed the Board that he had met with the Highway Crew and would like the Board to approve John Lyford as an interim Superintendent, after which they would advertise for the position.

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Friends & Neighbors

Come Celebrate with us!



8:30 Sunday Mass
followed by
Coffee Hour

St. Patrick Church
30 Albany Road
West Stockbridge

GRANGE For the Whole Family

To grow new friendships:

You can meet people from around the state and enjoy activities designed just for youth.

To discover your talents:

You can enter contests that offer the opportunity to travel to state or national competitions, or even to win cash prizes and scholarships.

To help your community:

You can grow your leadership skills, make a difference through community service, and have an equal vote in the Grange at 14.

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

2025 Annual Housatonic Heritage Area Walks

Five Autumn Weekends of Free,
Guided Regional Interpretive Tours

By Dan Bolognani, UHVNHA

The Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area announces the 23rd annual autumn Housatonic Heritage Walks in September. A variety of 80 free guided interpretive tours will be offered throughout the Berkshires and in Litchfield County (northwestern Connecticut).

The public is invited to participate in these family-oriented interpretive walks, offered in partnership with our region's historic, cultural, and outdoor recreation organizations and the National Park Service. The Heritage Walks are the ideal opportunity to experience and learn about our region's rich and varied local history.

Historians, naturalists, and environmentalists will lead participants on explorations through historic estate gardens and town districts, behind-the-scenes cultural site tours, nature walks, trail hikes, and tours of many of the industrial-site ruins that were once thriving local industries. There will be Native American and African American history walks and an African American history bike tour.

Detailed Heritage Walks brochures are available at libraries, post offices, and newspaper racks in major grocery stores in the region. The Walks schedule is also available at <https://housatonicheritage.org/events/heritage-walks/>. To request a brochure by mail, email programs@housatonicheritage.org



*clockwise from top:
Becket Quarry, photo by Becket Land Trust;
Elizabeth Freeman statue, courtesy of
Sheffield Historical Society;
Mary Flynn Trail in Stockbridge, photo by Diane Cote;
Chestnut Walk, photo by Dan Bolognani*



Housatonic
Heritage



A MEMBER OF THE
**National Heritage
Area System**

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Along with having John fill in, he would also like John to receive a slight pay increase. Curt will develop a formal plan and present it to the Board at their next meeting.

Fire Department Update: Chief Vinny Garafoli

Vinny noted that both Stockbridge and West Stockbridge have voted to approve all the articles related to the shared Emergency Management Services and are moving forward. Then he gave the following updates:

The shared ambulance has been ordered and is expected to arrive late in Fiscal Year 26.

-The job descriptions for the additional two Fire Department positions are almost complete. There are two applicants from within the department and a few from outside.

-West Stockbridge has some remaining funds left in FY25; however, Engine 1 needs some repairs, so those funds will help cover the costs.

-There was an oil spill incident in Town on Friday. The level of oil spilled was not reportable and has been cleaned up. He thanked the Highway Department member, John Lyford, for his assistance in the clean-up.

-Both Town Fire Departments are working well together.

-He will be testing all of the dry hydrants in Town over the next year and will most likely have a warrant article at Town Meeting to cover the costs to repair and update them all.

Library Update: Librarian Rachel Alter

Rachel stated that the Library is doing very well and is very busy. She gave the following updates:

-On May 24, they held an event called Gilbert the Pig 7 Friends. This event featured real pigs for children to visit in the gym, and many books were available during the event.

-July 15 is their next event called the Stuffed Animal Sleepover. They will allow the children to sleep over at Town Hall with their favorite stuffed animal. The animals will then be placed in different places around the library while they sleep, and when they find their animal, they win a prize.

-The Library is holding a summer reading program called Gordon the Taper Summer Reading. This program creates reading goals with prizes as rewards.

-Another reading challenge they are supporting is called Reading in 100 Places. Each child comes up with up to 100 places that they can read and read about 15 minutes at a time in those places. At the end of the summer, they get a prize.

-The library stats for FY26 is as follows;

Attendance is currently at 4,654

E-Books rented were 5,493

Printed book, CD, and DVD Rentals were 8,791

...continued on page 8

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- Lawn & Field Mowing
- Fall & Spring Cleanups
- Building & Maintaining Gardens
- Firewood

...continued from page 7

-Rachel has worked with Richmond and Stockbridge on a Digital Equity Grant to hold Cyber Cleaning Classes at each location.

-In the coming months, the Library will host a free event created by local author, Carol Koffman to assist attendees in creating their own Mystery Story.

Select Board Speak:

Kathleen mentioned that she would like the Board to review the font and formatting changes she has made to the contracts before sending them to Town Counsel.

Andy Potter noted that the Berkshire Regional Natural Resources has created a new trail that goes up Tom Ball Mountain and encouraged everyone to use the trail.

Andy also made note of the recent passing of Doane Perry, past Select Board member, and a longtime resident, Don Johnson.

Andy Krouss said that the Code Red notification system is working great, and he was happy to receive the messages about the Heat Advisory through this system.

Andy Potter motioned to adjourn, seconded by Kathleen, at 6:36 PM.

All approved, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator

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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 through August 2025. Please make alternative travel plans in that area.



30 MAIN STREET, WEST STOCKBRIDGE MA

413 - 232 - 5050

Select Board Meeting Minutes July 7, 2025

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

Chair Andy Krouss opened the meeting at 6 PM.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to approve the meeting minutes from June 23, 2025.

All were in favor; minutes approved.

Citizen Speak:

There was none.

Town Administrator Update

Marie informed the Board that the Shared Ambulance Service with Richmond now has four full-time EMTs, who provide service Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 11:00 PM. The Richmond Town Administrator, Danielle Fillio is also currently looking to hire several part-time EMTs to cover some weekend hours as well.

Marie shared good news from Fire Chief Vinny Garafoli, informing the Board that Fire Lieutenant James Hallock has been promoted to Captain and Training Officer.

Tom Ball Mountain Reserve Trail: Deanna Smith, Berkshire Natural Resources (BNRC)

Deanna informed the Board that BNRC would like to request support from the Board to extend the hiking trail near Samanatha Lane. This would not be a trailhead where hikers park and join the trail, but rather an extension of the existing trail that continues further north along the ridgeline. She said this project has been mentioned in the approved Open Space and Recreation Plan for West Stockbridge and approved by the Planning Board. If the Board approves the idea, then BNRC will proceed with creating a plan that includes maps to show the trail's location. Once the plans have been developed, she will return to the Board with a formal plan for approval. The Board agreed this was a good idea. Denna thanked the Board and will come back with plans for them to review.

Highway Department Update: Director of Public Works, Curt Wilton

Curt said that Highway Superintendent Jamie Boyer will be leaving to work at MassDOT in Lenox. His last day is Wednesday. After reviewing the Department structure, the immediate solution to keep the Department running efficiently would be to divide additional responsibilities among the remaining crew members. To keep morale up and encourage the crew to take on these responsibilities, Curt requested that the Board temporarily increase the hourly wage for each employee as follows;

John Lyford, as a foreman	increase of \$3.31 per hour
Tim Magner	increase of \$1.31 per hour
Frank Alfonso	increase of \$1.00 per hour

He assured the Board that the increases are still within the Department's budget. Curt explained that once these salaries are increased and work is getting completed as needed, he will meet with the crew and they can discuss a plan for the future. Whether it is to hire a new Highway Superintendent or just an additional laborer, or to make a current member a permanent Foreman or Director, remains to be seen. Curt mentioned that once the consultant begins their review of Town, which the Select Board plans to hire, there may be other alternatives. For now, Curt suggests the Board allow him to increase the employees' salaries, share the remaining responsibilities, and see how that works until a decision is made in the future for the Department.

The Board agreed to the increase and will meet with Curt in a few months to review the department's status.

Andy Potter made a motion, seconded by Kathleen, to accept Curt's proposal as written.

All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Vision Committee Update: Joe Roy

Joe informed the Board that the Vision Committee is ready to complete an application to have National Grid determine if the three locations for Level 2 Smart Charging Stations are approved for a grant to facilitate their installation. The locations include: the parking lot on Main Street at Old Town Hall, the parking lot on Moscow Road, and the Town Hall parking lot. Joe mentioned that having a charging station at Old Town Hall would require the Town to pave that parking lot, which he feels is something they can work on if the location is approved. Joe has been working with Marie to gather all the required information, and he believes the applications are ready for submission and would like the Board to approve them.

The Board agreed that Marie and Joe can apply.

Appointments:

Andy Potter made a motion to appoint Marie Ryan as the Town Administrator and Curt Wilton as the Director of Public Works as of July 1, 2025, as well as appointing Nicole Miller as the Police Chief as of July 8, 2025. Kathleen seconded the motion.

All were in favor; motion approved.

Select Board Speak:

Kathleen informed the Board that she has received a proposal from the UMass consultants for the Town Hall review. She will look through it and send it to Marie. She would like the Board to discuss at their next meeting.

Andy Krouss congratulated Nicole and looks forward to working with her.

Andy Potter motioned to adjourn, seconded by Kathleen, at 6:42 PM.

All approved, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator

August History Quiz Question:

West Stockbridge has had many important figures since its founding more than 250 years ago. The town hosted some big names in the mid-19th century. Daniel Spencer, Charles Kniffen, the Boughton family, and Henry Taft are some people who achieved national prominence.

Anson Chark, an early industrial age inventor, lecturer, daguerreotypist, and manufacturer, was likely the most unique character to emerge during the early 1800s. His quarrying patents are still relevant today, tools he manufactured are considered valuable collectibles, and his daguerreotypes sell for high prices at Sotheby's auctions. Anson liked to experiment and tinker with ideas and new ways of doing things. One of his experiments could get him arrested now, but it did land his work in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. What was that experiment, and how did it fit into the larger world?

(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)



**West Stockbridge
Historical Society**
Incorporated in 1994

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



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Remembering Don Johnson

By Joe Roy, Jr.

Don Johnson had many friends—
I was one of them.

This world lost Don on May 24 this year. Way too soon because he was just really starting to enjoy his retirement and working in his shop where he restored old motors and vintage farm equipment and machinery.

When the part that he needed was no longer made, Don would make it himself. For a few years, I borrowed his log splitter that he created from parts from a snowmobile, an old lawn tractor, and others adapted from who knows what. When the battery died for the electric starter, I could always get it going with the crank (yup, a crank; that's how old the motor was). It was a magnificent machine. My new log splitter is also a great machine, but it's nowhere near as much fun to use.

Many people reading this article were also friends with Don. Some of us went to school with him. Some called him when they needed a plumber or to get their pump or furnace running again. And some called Don to work his magic on something that no one else could figure out. He was a problem solver in many ways. If you knew him, you know what I mean.

One of Don's favorite possessions was his barn. One day I asked him how he could afford that amazing barn. He calmly answered, "Joe, you have kids. This is my kid." Don had many kids come to his annual "Apple Press" events in mid-October. Kids of all ages would come to get an authentic hayride in a reconditioned trailer pulled by his favorite antique tractor. They would marvel at his antique gas engines running various contraptions with leather belts and making loud noises.

One of those contraptions ran an apple crusher that ultimately produced fresh apple juice for people to take home. He always collected donations that he forwarded to a local worthy cause like the Community Health Association. There was often a live band

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Don and Joe chatting on Main Street.



Don oils his 1900 Fairbanks Morse single cylinder gas engine at the 2019 Apple Pressing.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY

Saturday, August 9, 2025

9:00 AM—1:00 PM

Lee Wastewater Treatment Plant

379 Pleasant Street, Lee, MA

Participating Towns

Alford * Becket * Egremont * Gt Barrington * Lee * Lenox * Monterey * Mt Washington * New Marlborough * Otis *
Richmond * Sandisfield * Sheffield * Stockbridge * Tyringham * Washington * West Stockbridge



What Can I Bring?

From the Yard/Garden	From the Workbench	From the House	From the Garage
Pesticides, Fungicides Herbicides Insect Sprays Rodent Killers Flea Powder No-Pest Strips Chemical Fertilizers Moth Balls Lighter Fluid Pool Chemicals Cesspool Cleaners	Rust Preventers Wood Preservatives Wood Strippers/Stains Paint Thinners Muriatic Acid Lead & Oil- Based Paint Varnish Full Aerosol Cans Sealants Adhesives Solvents Creosote	Drain Cleaners Oven Cleaners Floor Cleaners Metal Polish Arts & Craft Supplies Photo Chemicals Chemistry Kits Rechargeable Batteries Button Batteries Fluorescent Bulbs Thermometers Thermostats	Fuels: Gasoline/Kerosine Brake/Transmission Fluids Car Wax/Polish Engine Degreaser Motor Oil Swimming Pool Chemicals Driveway Sealer Antifreeze Car Lead/ Acid Batteries



What Can't I Bring?

Commercial Waste, Latex Paint,
Standard Batteries, Asbestos, Fireworks or Explosives,
Ammunition, Construction Debris, Smoke Detectors,
Propane or Gas Cylinders, Radioactive Material, PCB's
Fire Extinguishers, Electronics, Medical Sharps, Medications

How to Safely Transport Waste

Leave materials in original container
Tighten caps & lids
Pack containers in sturdy, upright boxes
NEVER MIX CHEMICALS
Never Smoke while handling
Pack your vehicle and go directly to site

Pre-Registration is Required

Registration Portal Will Open July 2025

Visit www.tritownhealth.org or call (413) 243-5540 for more information.

...continued from page 11

that folks would dance to on one side of the barn. There were hot dogs, cookies, and a parade of vintage tractors to check out. There was a petting corral from a local farm. And a monster lawn for kids to run around on. Every now and then, the apple crushing engine would stall, and the men would gather around while Don would coax it back to life with its pop-pop-popping sound. Everyone was always smiling on Apple Press Day. It was the real deal, like Don.

He told me how he personally installed the copper roof on his barn with a hand iron soldering all the joints! I cannot even imagine contemplating such a feat. That was our friend Don. We can all appreciate his barn when we drive down Great Barrington Road as the sun shines off that amazing copper roof!

When you'd meet Don in town at the hardware store or the Public Market, you were always greeted with a big smile and had a chat. That was Don and that was West Stockbridge. But West Stockbridge now has a gap in its smile without Don around.



Don's barn, at the 2018 Apple Pressing. Photo by Kim Bradway



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

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



Dog Park volunteers. Photo courtesy of Dog Park Committee



A work in progress. Photo courtesy of Dog Park Committee

West Stockbridge Dog Park Is Wagging Along

By Jackie Murray

Site work is quickly progressing on the new West Stockbridge Dog Park located next to the Town Offices parking lot. Clark and Sons began clearing the land on June 30, and work crews are grading and removing trees. A waterline has been installed for use in the park. A partially bricked entrance walkway and paths inside the grounds will be set, and benches and fencing installed. Once the construction phase is completed, new grass will need some time to be established before feet and paws can enter the park. We are planning a grand opening in the coming months when everything is ready to greet our new friends.

Our group continues to raise funds to cover the costs of future maintenance, such as mowing and poop disposal. We have already met so many generous donors and new friends interested in the park's progress. Come visit our table at the Zucchini Festival on August 9 and at the Farmers Market on August 14. Our members will be happy to answer any questions you may have. You can also view a site map of the park, designed by the Berkshire Design Group, showing how it will be set up.

Local artist Vivian Outlaw has graciously offered to support the dog park by painting a portrait of your pet. You can enter the raffle at her gallery at 20 Main Street in West Stockbridge or by visiting us at the Farmers Market and the Zucchini Festival.

Please visit friendsofwsdogpark.org for more information, to let us know if you would like to be involved, purchase a brick for the walkway or make a donation, and join our Facebook community. You can also reach us directly with any questions at info@friendsofwsdogpark.org.

THREE WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR WS DOG PARK!



Enter the raffle to win a painting of your pet by local artist Vivian Outlaw!

Valued at \$2,500, tix are just \$10 or 3 tix for \$25

Find more info at the dog park table!

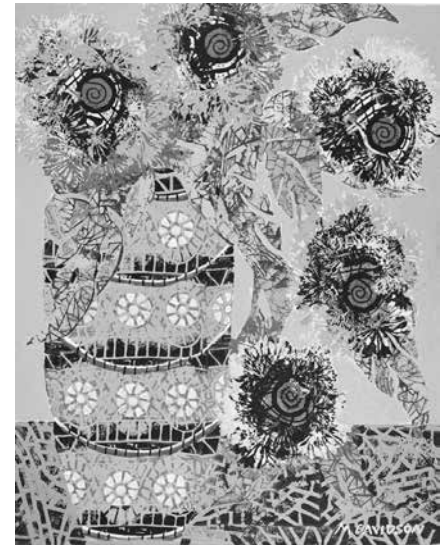
Celebrate your favorite furry friend or human by engraving a dog park brick in their honor!



Make a donation! Every dollar helps support the dog park and \$20 gets you this adorable bandana.



38 Main St. West Stockbridge
Guild of Berkshire Artists



Art on Main Gallery, at 38 Main Street, continues to present monthly rotating shows curated by selected members of the Guild of Berkshire Artists. Here is a description of the August show.

"STILL LIFE"

Curated by Lori Bradley

Artists Lori Bradley, Mary Davidson, Keith Davidson, Margie Skaggs

Thursday, July 31, through Monday, September 1 (Labor Day)

Hours: Thursdays through Sundays, 11 am–4 pm

Opening Reception: Saturday, August 2, 2–4 pm

Lori Bradley, curator for August, describes the theme of "Still Life" as an opportunity for artists to explore their own personal ideas of composition, including light, color, control of space, telling a story, and creating a mini-landscape (in two or three dimensions) while also celebrating the beauty of common everyday objects, such as containers, flora, fauna, and other interesting inert objects.

For this show, Lori brings the outdoors inside to create more intimate versions of her broad view landscape paintings. She likes the flexibility of being able to arrange and rearrange objects, including birds, until she discovers the "right" composition.

Mary Davidson finds self-expression through channeling her emotions onto the canvas with a semi-abstract style, intricate detail, and a vibrant color palette. Her piece "Stamped Flower Arrangement #8" depicts the typical still life objects—surface, background, container, and flora—all highlighted with distinctive patterns and colors.

In contrast, the work of Keith Davidson explores the natural environment up close and in detail, creating an eye-popping world of tiny leaves and blossoms writ large. His focus in "Vinca" on detail and harmony without background evokes a calming mood and encourages intimate, personal engagement with his art.

Margie Skaggs finds "Still Life" a great opportunity to experiment with various configurations of her work in clay by arranging and rearranging pieces to create a pleasing composition or by pairing her three-dimensional objects with the two-dimensional works of her show colleagues. Her work is influenced by classical European and ancient Japanese ceramics.



clockwise from top:
Lori Bradley: Juncos and Blue Vase, oil on canvas
Mary Davidson: Stamped Flower Arrangement #8, acrylic
Keith Davidson: Vinca, acrylic
Margie Skaggs: Yellow Vases, glazed stoneware
Margie Skaggs: Three Vessels, smoke-fired pottery



News from the Pews

By Bob Edwards,
St. Patrick Church

You can tell by the signs in town that everyone is excited about the upcoming Zucchini Festival. This year, St. Patrick's will have two booths, one for craft goods and one for baked goods. Stop by and check out the handmade wares of Marsha McMahon and others. Of course, there is nothing better than warm zucchini bread with your morning coffee.

Paving has been finished in front of the church, including two well-designed and marked handicap access spots right next to the ramp. The church grounds committee is adding more plantings to make the entrance more welcoming.

Hope to see you at the festival and, of course, in the pews!

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

Hello from West Stockbridge Public Library! We are having fun this year with our summer programs. The third annual Night at the Library for kids' stuffed animals to sleep over was attended by nine plushy friends who got up to various kinds of mischief but somehow managed to leave the library looking untouched the next day!

More summer fun is happening this month and next month:

And for all of you mystery fans, please save the date for a local author event on Monday, August 25, with Carol Kaufman!

June at a glance:

- 691 hardcopy items were borrowed and renewed
- \$12,000 was saved by library users because they borrowed instead of buying
- 580 eBooks, eMagazines, and streaming audiobooks were borrowed

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

NEW ADULT FICTION

Allende, *My name is Emilia del Valle*
Castillo, *Rage*
Cosby, *King of ashes*
Curato, *Gaysians*
Gillig, *The knight and the moth*
Jewell, *Don't let him in*
McFadden, *The tenant*
Patterson, *The first gentleman*
Penner, *Amalfi curse*
Roberts, *Hidden nature*
Scottoline, *The unraveling of Julia*
Silva, *An inside job*
Thor, *Edge of honor*

NEW ADULT NONFICTION

Atkinson, *The fate of the day*
Renner, *My next breath*

Hello from West Stockbridge Public Library! We are having fun this year with our summer

So, You Want to Write a Mystery?



West Stockbridge library
1:00 pm on Monday, August 25th

"What makes a mystery a mystery"

Come write a mystery together in a fun and interactive game!

with

Author Carol Goodman Kaufman



Carol Goodman Kaufman is the author of seven books in multiple genres, and hundreds of articles in the media on topics ranging from food history to travel, human interest to book reviews.



Scrapbook Questions/created by Paula Farrell

TEST YOUR TRIVIA KNOWLEDGE!

1. Bowing to pressure, what did the Berkshire Hills Regional School Committee reverse in 2015?
2. What West Stockbridge resident and local high school science teacher taught curriculum in "Motion Choreography" with his students?
3. How many years did he teach science through Jacob's Pillow dance curriculum?
4. What happened to "movement" students on their test scores?

1. Budget cuts for staff
2. Dan Gray
3. 25 years
4. Students scored about 5% better



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 News & Events

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

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

Council on Aging

We will be making Flower Bouquet Cards, Tuesday, August 5, at 9:30 am in the Richmond Library. Pre-register to reserve your space and materials by calling Heather at Richmond Town Hall, (413) 553-7793. The class is free to COA residents of Richmond and West Stockbridge. It's a fun time—hope to see you there!



The Knitters Group

The Knitters Group meets every Wednesday from 2 to 4 pm in the Community Room at the Town Offices. All crafts are welcome.

Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library Committee meets every second Wednesday of the month from 3:30 to 4:30 pm in the Community Room at the Town Offices. All are welcome.

Please send your notices for Community News & Events to the Local Yokel, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266, email info@thelocalyokel.org, or visit thelocalyokel.org.

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History Quiz Answer:



Anson Clark banknote. Image courtesy of West Stockbridge Historical Society

Anson Clark moved into West Stockbridge around 1809 from Connecticut. Like many farmers and marble and iron miners, he came here for opportunity, leaving the heavily settled areas in his home state. He claimed his original town was Lisbon, Connecticut, although there is no record of his birth.

Anson and his son Edwin set up a business here that included a machine shop and photo studio. Anson was a 19th-century Leonardo, and the machine shop was the lab for his many inventions. He created a variety of items for the period including a drilling machine, a dynamo, and a street sweeper. (What were the streets in West Stockbridge like in the 1830s that they needed a street sweeper?) He built a variety of musical instruments—an aeolian, seraphine, and melodeon, all home organs. He even created a hand-operated dynamo to generate electricity. Anson was definitely ahead of his time.

He and his family lived in the house next to Troy's Garage. The machine shop was in the rear, and further back was their marble quarry. Anson invented an improved drilling machine for marble quarrying and a machine for polishing marble. Many of the models for his inventions are in the local history room at the Stockbridge Library.

Photography in the early 1800s was in its infancy with many different so-called chemical processes used to create images on metal plates, glass, and other media. Probably Anson's most famous work was in early photography using the daguerreotype process, very popular in the 1830s and 1840s. Daguerreotype photography, invented in France, required toxic fumes to fix the copper plate and a long exposure time for the image.

Anson improved the chemical mixtures on glass plates to reduce the exposure time from 5 to 10 minutes to 10 seconds! He also took the first photograph purported to be of West Stockbridge and a famous picture of Agrippa Hull (a free Black patriot who served during the Revolutionary War). Anson set up a photo studio behind the house and created a lucrative photography business. However, photography is also where he might have strayed.

Before the Civil War, there was no national currency. The Jacksonian Democrats eliminated the National Bank of the United States (an early forerunner of the Federal Reserve) during their populist anti-government movement. As a result, local banks issued their own paper money (i.e., banknotes), used to convert into hard coinage and trade. These notes had elaborate engravings on them as a form of security. Anson thought his daguerreotype process could be used to copy an existing note and then create a plate to duplicate the note with the complicated engraving.

Luckily for Anson, counterfeiting was not a federal crime in the 1850s and not heavily prosecuted locally. We don't know how extensive his duplicating operation became; however, the quality of the work was greatly appreciated. Anson's bills are in the print collection of the Metropolitan Museum and prized by paper collectors.

No record exists of where Anson lived after 1842. He died in 1847 according to probate records. But there is no obituary; nor do we know where he is buried. We do acknowledge that he was the most prolific inventor to live in West Stockbridge.

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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.

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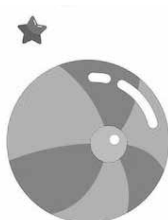
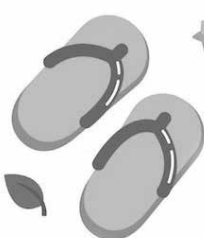
Please call John Parker at (413) 394-4368,
email info@thelocalyokel.org,
or visit www.thelocalyokel.org
for more information.



August Donor Roll Call

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Ron Hanft
Larry Parnes
Anonymous: 2

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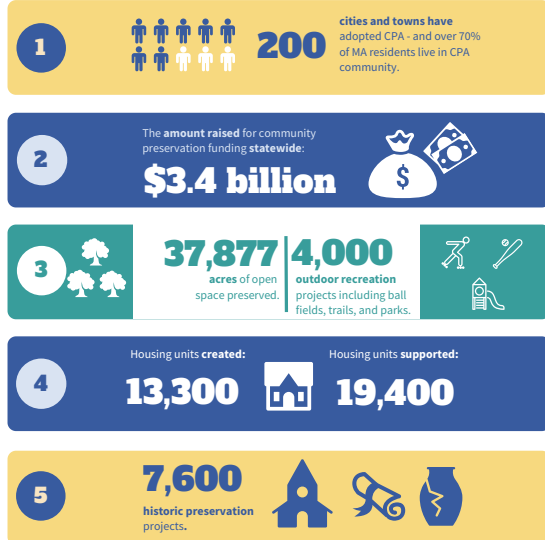
Animal Control	<i>John Drake</i>	464-2148		As Needed
Assessors Office	<i>Mary Stodden</i>	232-0300	ext. 303	Tues. 1-5 pm; Thurs. 9 am-1 pm
Board of Health	<i>Earl Moffatt</i>	232-0300	ext. 314	Fri. 9 am-4 pm, or by appt.
Select Board	<i>Kathleen Keresey Andy Krouss Andy Potter</i>	232-0300	ext. 319	
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.
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Sewer & Water Commission	<i>Michael Buffoni</i>	232-0309		
Town Accountant	<i>Elaine Markham</i>	232-0300	ext. 317	Leave Message for Inquiries
Town Clerk	<i>Ronni Barrett</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	Tues. & Thurs. 1:30-3:30 pm
Town Collector	<i>Kelli Bradbury</i>	232-0300	ext. 302	Tues. 1-5 pm; Wed. 7 am-12 pm; Thurs. 1-6 pm
Town Historian	<i>Robert Salerno</i>	232-4465		
Town Treasurer	<i>Benjamin Gelb</i>	232-0300	ext. 316	Tues. 9 am-4 pm
Transfer Station	<i>Wayne Cooper</i>	232-0307		Tues. & Thurs. 10 am-6 pm and Sat. 8 am-6 pm
Tree Warden	<i>Andrew Fudge</i>	212-9206		
Veterans Agency	<i>Tom Beasley</i>	528-1580		
Zoning Board of Appeals	<i>C. Randolph Thunfors</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	

Official Town Government Website: weststockbridge-ma.gov • Community and Business Website: visitweststockbridge.com

Community Preservation Committee Informational Meeting on Thursday August 21st

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

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



www.communitypreservation.org
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August Art Calendar

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

2025

July 31 - Sept 1, "Still Life" featuring 4 artists. Art on Main Gallery, West Stockbridge, MA.
Reception: Saturday August 2, 2-4PM

August 6, Plein Air Workshop with Lori Bradley, Bascom Lodge, Mount Greylock. Members \$80, nonmembers \$100. Stay tuned to email/web for details.

August 14, 6-8pm, Urban Sketching Meetup Hosted by Jill McLean. Downtown Pittsfield, MA. Free, email for more info. Email: jill.a.mclean@gmail.com

August 24, Berkshire Photo Gathering. See web: berkshirephotogathering.com /online-meetings

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

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



**Reception:
August 2, 2-4pm**

Still Life

Lori Bradley | Mary Davidson
Keith Davidson | Margie Skaggs

July 31 - September 1, 2025

Art on Main

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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August Calendar of Events

8/4	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices and on Zoom
8/5	Council on Aging Craft Group meeting	9:30 am	Richmond Library History Room
8/6	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room
8/7	WS Farmers Market	3-6 pm	Foundry Green, Harris Street
8/9	Household Hazardous Waste Day	9 am-1 pm	Lee Wastewater Treatment Plant 379 Pleasant Street, Lee
8/9	Zucchini Festival	10 am-10 pm	Downtown: Depot & Center Streets
8/13	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room
8/13	Friends of the Library meeting	3:30 pm	Community Room
8/14	WS Farmers Market	3-6 pm	Foundry Green, Harris Street
8/15	*** Deadline for the next <i>Local Yoke!</i> ***		Send to info@thelocalyoke!.org
8/18	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices and on Zoom
8/19	Planning Board meeting	7 pm	Town Offices and on Zoom
8/20	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room
8/21	WS Farmers Market	3-6 pm	Foundry Green, Harris Street
8/21	Community Preservation Committee informational meeting	5 pm	Town Offices
8/27	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room
8/28	WS Farmers Market	3-6 pm	Foundry Green, Harris Street

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