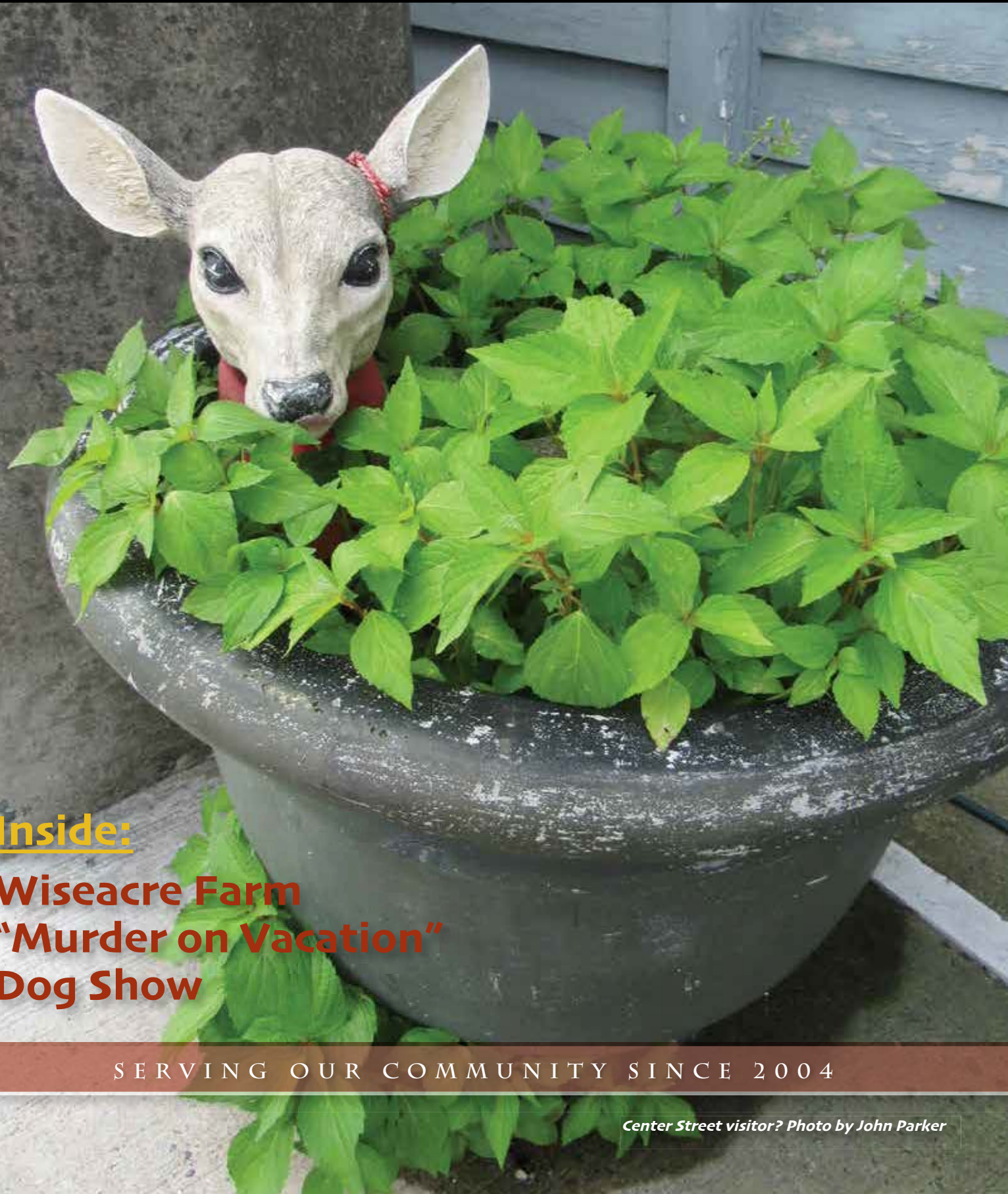


Local yokel

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

West
Stockbridge
August
2026



Inside:

**Wiseacre Farm
"Murder on Vacation"
Dog Show**

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

Center Street visitor? Photo by John Parker



Wiseacre Farm aerial view

Wiseacre Farm: *An Interview with Jon Piasecki and i'in Purwanti Cox*

By Joe Roy, Jr., and Anne Roy

We recently joined owner Jon Piasecki and manager i'in Purwanti Cox for an informative interview at Wiseacre Farm.

Jon started legally cultivating cannabis at his home in West Stockbridge in 2020. Three years later, Wiseacre Farm was established on Baker Street. Jon has a degree in forest science from Cornell University and a master's in landscape architecture from Harvard. For 25 years he owned and operated Goldenbough, a landscaping business, before turning to full-time cannabis production. He believes in the plant and its benefits.

At the West Stockbridge town meeting, the town voted (with only one exception) to allow cannabis to be grown here and even created a separate zoning district. It was clear that the town endorsed the concept.

The town was required to complete and vote on a Host Community Agreement, a 14-page document, effective September 13, 2022. The document cites, "[A]dult-use Marijuana Cultivator and/or Marijuana Product Manufacturer license(s) to cultivate, manufacture, process and package marijuana and arrange for wholesale sales to be transported to other Marijuana Establishments but not to consumers."



Jon Piasecki tending the crop

The agreement describes the property as 26 acres on Baker Street in West Stockbridge, "[W]ith approximately 90,000 to 100,000 square feet of cultivation space, approximately 4,500 square feet of processing, manufacturing space and warehouse/storage space, and 2,800 square feet of parking space, in accordance with and pursuant to applicable state laws and regulations."

The agreement deals with local and state laws, such as licensing, permitting, payments, taxes, compliance with local departments, scheduled reports, transportation of product obligations, security, and specific requirements on how to deal with abutters, neighbors, nearby businesses, and town residents regarding items such as screening, odor mitigation, and light requirements.

...continued on page 4

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 June 1, 2026

The quorum was present, consisting of Select Board members Kathleen Keresey, Andy Krouss, and Toby Casey, as well as Town Administrator Marie Ryan.

Marie opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Marie said the beginning of this meeting will be to reorganize the Board. She then asked for a motion to appoint the chair. Toby made a motion, seconded by Andy to appoint Kathleen as the Chair. All were in favor.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy, to approve April 27, 2026, minutes.

All approved, and the motion was approved.

Town Administrator Update:

Marie stated that the new website is up and running. She said it looks great and hopes everyone likes it. It will take time for everyone to get used to where to find all the information they may be looking for, and she is still training on how to post on this new website. She asked everyone to be patient.

Marie informed the Board that she met with the Town Accountant Elaine Markham and the Finance Committee Chair Bob Salerno to discuss the articles required to cover the overages in the budget at a Special Town Meeting. She said there will be four articles, and she will have the language and warrant prepared for Town Counsel and the Board's review in a week or so. She mentioned the plan is to hold the Special Town Meeting on Monday, June 29th at 6 PM if that is Ok with the Board and they agreed.

Pole Location at Cross Road and Bryan Road – National Grid Steven Hayward

National Grid representative Steven Hayward explained to the Board he is requesting permission for a pole location at the corner of Cross Road and Bryan Road for new service to 15B Cross Road. Steven stated that all abutters have been notified. There were no further comments from attendees.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy to approve the pole location. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Associate Zoning Board of Appeals Member Appointment – Chair Randy Thunfors

Zoning Board of Appeals Chair Randy Thunfors explained that at Town Meeting months ago, the Town voted to allow for an additional third associate member to the ZBA. He requested that the Select Board appoint Betsy Gross as that member. She is an attorney with a lot of municipal experience, and he suggested she would be an asset to have on the Board for the Town. Betsy thanked the Select Board for the consideration and stated she is excited about this opportunity.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy, to appoint Betsy Gross to the zoning Board of Appeals as the third associate member. All were in favor, and the motion was approved.

South County Connector Update: Director of Public Transit Tate Coleman

Tate informed the Board that the South County Connector is performing well. Updated software has improved the rider experience and increased staff efficiency. He gave the attached presentation

...continued on page 5

Girdler Electric

MA Master License 2406 A1

Barry Girdler

owner

P. O Box 20

West Stockbridge MA 01266

413-237-5957

girdlerelectric@gmail.com



Mill Brook Sugar House

New Lenox Road

Lenox, MA

www.millbrookmaplestore.com



*From Tree.. to Table
and everything in between.*

Find us on 

Local Delivery
&
Shipping available

...continued from page 2

Wiseacre must submit regular reports to the town. Requirements include reports on waste and water usage, inspections by multiple departments and state officials, and a specific section dealing with odor mitigation. Both West Stockbridge and Wiseacre agreed to all the requirements as described.

Indoor cannabis farms are 10 times more expensive to build and operate than outdoor farms. Jon chose the Baker Street site because it is zoned as a commercial and manufacturing district in an area most ideal for cannabis production, as far away from homes and other businesses as possible. His application met all the state and local requirements.

The farm exceeds the required distances from the nearest town abutters. It has maximum sun, perfect growing conditions, great airflow, and the soil drains in two directions. The on-site structure has many required security cameras in the building as well as on the property. The state-of-the-art air quality control includes one of the quietest fans available (shipped from New Zealand) to push the property's air into the nearby wetlands and away from the few neighbors across the street (some of whom work at the farm). Wiseacre employs 17 people, 8 of whom live in town. Jon says he and i'in are committed to creating a positive and supportive work environment.

Jon believes local communities should encourage a diverse economy. For example, plenty of land here is still available for all types of farms. He reminded us that he has been and remains a dedicated supporter of farming rights.



i'in Purwanti Cox



Jon holding a sample of SPECTRUM

Jon stated that they grew more cannabis than any other outdoor farm in Massachusetts last year, and they are well on their way to achieving that mark again. He noted that there is currently a moratorium in this state on any new outdoor cannabis farms.

About two years ago, there was a glut of cannabis businesses in the area, and many ended up exiting the industry as the cannabis business climate changed. There were too many dispensaries and prices dropped dramatically. Wiseacre had to become much more efficient, and they have survived where many other cannabis businesses failed. All of their product is projected to be sold for this coming season, and there is a waiting list for any that might be left.

Although most of Wiseacre's cannabis is for the "recreational" market (with high-quality THC [Tetrahydrocannabinol] content), Wiseacre also created an organic cannabis product called SPECTRUM to help people with autism. Research shows that for

more than 4,000 years, cannabis has been used as medicine for pain, inflammation, and digestive issues. Learn more at <https://wiseacre.com/> and read the article "Meet Jay."

Wiseacre has been awarded two patents for their work. They have a good reputation in the business, and other cannabis producers contact Jon for advice. He says, "The Cannabis Control Commission loves us!"

A few residents have complained about the odor produced by the cannabis flowers for about eight weeks each year. Wiseacre claims to have spent several hundred thousand dollars to address this issue. Jon said that Wiseacre is the only cannabis farm in Massachusetts that was asked to create an odor mitigation system. He also reported that some residents have complained about the fan noise; however, the new fan effectively reduces the odor. He also stated that none of the reported complaints were from town neighbors within 300 ft of the farm property as defined in the Host Agreement.

To learn more about Wiseacre Farm, visit <https://wiseacre.com/>. Anyone 21 years of age or older is welcome to tour the farm; call (413) 854-4021 or email hello@wiseacre.com.

Photos courtesy of Wiseacre

...continued from page 3

and thanked the Board for its time. The Board expressed appreciation for the informative presentation.

EV Charging Station Grant: Joe Roy

Joe told the Board that last year he worked with East Coast Renewable Energy to apply to the state for EV charging stations in town. Although the original funding was exhausted, James McGrath of East Coast Renewable Energy recently contacted Joe to say that grant funding is available again. The Town only needs to provide an updated W-9 form, and James can use the materials from the previous application. Joe informed the Board that there is no obligation required by the Town, except for the need to pave the parking lot at the old Town Hall, which he stated Director of Public Works, Curt Wilton had already suggested he wanted to get done anyway. Kathleen asked if there was any commitment on the part of the Town and Joe said, no there is no commitment required. Joe also stated that if the Town gets the grant, there is a five-year commitment to keep the charging stations and after that we can stop using them or not, it is up to the Town.

Joe asked the Board if they would allow him to work with James McGrath to apply again for the grant and they all agreed it was a good idea. Joe will contact James and begin the process again. He will return with updates to the Board.

Vision Committee Updates: Joe Roy

Joe informed the Board that the Vision Committee has been very busy with a lot of ideas.

Here are the following items Joe mentioned:

-The Vision Committee held the candidate's forum prior to the Annual Town election, which went very well and they hope to continue in the future.

-They are working on a marketing guide for the Town.

-They are working with the Cultural Council to display photos of residents on scrims and hang them around Town.

-Promoting public participation in Town events and meetings is a priority.

-They would like to encourage random acts of kindness and plant flowers around Town for beautification.

-It has been discussed to have suggestion boxes placed around Town for anything residents would like the Town officials to consider.

Then Joe reminded everyone that the Vision Committee meets by zoom the second Tuesday of each month and encouraged everyone to attend and join in the conversation.

Annual Appointments:

Kathleen said she would like each committee and board to attend a Select Board meeting every few months to update the Board on its work. She wants the Select Board to stay better informed about Town activities. Toby added that the Select Board should also share its expectations and priorities with committees, including suggestions for future work. Andy agreed this was a good idea.

Kathleen made a motion to approve the following list of annual appointments, seconded by Toby. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

...continued on page 6

A Special Thanks

... to everyone who keeps this town running so well: Town offices, Police Dept., Highway Dept., Fire Dept., that is naming a few. So many of you are named on the directory in the 'Local Yokel.' Thank you, everyone!

– Wayne & Lisa Tenney



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

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

<u>Office</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Length</u>
Town Accountant	Elaine Markham	3 Years
Town Treasurer	Ben Gelb	3 Years
Deputy Collector	Arthur Jones Inc.	1 Year
Building Inspector	Brian DuVal	1 Year
Zoning Enforcement	Brian DuVal	1 Year
Animal Control Officer	Kasey Hatch	
Assistant Animal Control Officer	John Drake	
Veteran's Agent	Tm Beasley	1 Year
Gas Inspector	Robert Gennari	1 Year
Oil Inspector	Larry Morse	1 Year
Plumbing Inspector	Robert Gennari	1 Year
Asst Plumbing Inspector	Bob Krupski	1 Year
Wire Inspector	Karl Cooper	1 Year
Asst Wire Inspector	Ted Piontek	1 Year
Asst Wire Inspector	Lawrence Ray	1 year
Town Counsel	Kopelman- Paige	1 Year
Smoke/Fire Alarm Inspector	Vincent Garofoli	1 Year
Board of Registrars	Marge Powell	3 Years
Conservation Commission	Shayne O'Bryan	3 Years
Conservation Com Assoc	Sally Kimball	1 Year
Official Weighers	Faith Libardi	1 Year
Veteran's Grave Officer	Wayne Cooper	1 Year
Parking Clerk	Ronni Barrett	3 Years
Planning Board Alternate	Sarah Thorne	1 Year
Zoning Board of Appeals	C. Randolph	5 Years
ZBA Alternates	Thunfors	
	Gunnar	1 Year
	Gudmundson	
	Toby Casey	1 Year
Emergency Mgt. Director	Scott Muir	1 Year
Right to Know Officer	Vincent Garofoli	1 Year
Consultant to Veteran's Agent	Wayne Cooper	1 Year
ADA Coordinator	Brian DuVal	1 Year
Parks & Rec Committee	Kelli Bradbury	1 Year
	Joe Roy	1 Year
	JP Boscorino	1 Year
	Mary Roy	1 Year
	Rachel	1 Year
Cultural Council	Armstrong	
	Miki Reuchlin	3 Years
	Marjorie Powell	3 Years
Town Historian	Bob Salerno	1 Year
Historical Committee	Bob Salerno	1 Year
	Patricia Soldati	1 Year
	Earl Moffatt	1 Year
	Scott Sawyer	1 Year
Sewer & Water Commission	Alexander Stein	5 Years
Council on Aging	Clay Hall	5 Years
	Les Losaw	5 Years
	John Springstube	3 Years
Agricultural Commission	JP Boscorino-	3 Year
Community Preservation	Parks	
Affordable Housing Trust	Kathleen Keresey	3 Year

Approval of Shared Animal Control IMA: Marie

Marie requested that the Board vote to approve and sign the Shared Animal Control Intermunicipal Agreement. She informed the Board that Tim Zessin, Town Council, has reviewed and approved of eh contract and agreed the Board could sign it.

Kathleen made amotion, seconded by Andy, to approve and sign the Shared Animal Control IMA. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Select Board Speak:

Andy thanked Lisa Parker for her excellent work maintaining the Town's flowers. He said he had heard many compliments about how beautiful they look and credited her for it.

Toby informed the Board that he has been working with Tim Zessin, Town Counsel, on the Fire/EMS IMA and expects to have a revised draft for the Board to review soon.

He also said he had reviewed a demonstration of a human resources software program that may be a good fit for the Town. The software would track employee time off and related records in one place. Toby recommended that the Town implement it and said he could work with Marie to review the demo and help with setting up. He noted that the software would cost \$350 per month, so the Town would need to determine a funding source. He asked the Board for approval to move forward, and Andy and Kathleen agreed it was a good idea and asked Toby to proceed.

Kathleen informed the Board that two One Stop Grant applications will be submitted this week. Jennifer Tabakin is submitting one on the Town's behalf after working with Curt on a proposal to fund infrastructure improvements on Swamp Road, including pavement, a water main extension, sidewalks, and buried utilities. Berkshire Regional Planning Commission's Bret Roberts is submitting the second application, which would fund a feasibility study for housing opportunities and transportation. Kathleen said she would keep the Board updated on the status of both applications. Decisions are not expected until fall.

Kathleen motioned to adjourn, seconded by Andy, at 7:41 PM.

All approved, and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan
Town Administrator

Select Board Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2026

The quorum was present, consisting of Select Board members Kathleen Keresey, Andy Krouss, and Toby Casey, as well as Town Administrator Marie Ryan.

Kathleen opened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy, to approve June 1 and June 8, 2026, minutes.

...continued from page 6

All approved, and the motion was approved.

Town Administrator Update:

Marie stated that the Charter Cable License renewal is due later this year. This license is for 10 years and was last renewed in 2016. Marie was not here at that time and has never done this. Alex Stein, member of the Cable Advisory Committee will assist Marie along with Town Counsel. She asked if one of the Board members would be willing to also work on this. Toby volunteered and the Board accepted.

Appointment of John Orloff to Vision Committee- Chair Joe Roy

Vision Committee Chair requested that the Board appoint John Orloff as a member of the Vision Committee. He has been a resident for many years and already attends most of their meetings. Joe believes he will be an asset to the Committee. John thanked the Board of the opportunity to serve on the committee.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy to appoint John Orloff to the Vision Committee.

All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Appointment of Kadin Shafiroff as a Police Officer – Acting Chief Mike Renton

Acting Police Chief Mike Renton gave the Board some updated statistics happening in the Department. The stats are from January 1, 2026 through June 11, 2026.

48	arrests
9	vehicle related accidents
31	incidents reported
989	Car stops (all of last year there were 1016)

Mike stated that there has been no increase in crime, the stats are increased due to proactive policing and police encounters.

Mike introduced Kadin Shafiroff and requested that the Board appoint him as a West Stockbridge Police Officer. He noted that Officer Shafiroff specializes in crimes against children and serves in the Berkshire County Drug Task Force. Mike stated that Officer Shafiroff's experience and expertise would be an asset to the Department.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Toby, to appoint Kadin as a West Stockbridge Police Officer. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Pole Locations at Pixley Hill Road and West Center Road – National Grid

National Grid representative Steven Hayward explained to the Board he is requesting permission for three pole locations; two at the intersection of West Center Road and Maple View Drive; and one at the intersection of Pixley Hill Road and Great Barrington Road. Steven stated that all abutters have been notified. There were no further comments from attendees.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy to approve the pole location. All were in favor; the motion was approved.

Zucchini Fest Update – Marge Powell

Marge reported that the Zucchini Festival has been canceled for 2026. She explained that the organizing committee had established a June 1 deadline to secure the required number of volunteers; however, the committee fell approximately 40 volunteers short of its goal. While disappointed by the cancellation, Marge stated that planning efforts for the 2027 festival will begin this fall, with the hope of confirming sufficient volunteer support by January 2027 to move forward with the event.

Marge also noted that the committee discussed the possibility of organizing an alternative community event this summer. In addition, the committee considered expanding future Zucchini Festival participation to include the neighboring towns of Richmond and Alford.

Marge will update the Board as the Committee determines their next steps.

Berkshire Health Alliance Contract – Kathy Korte, Board of Health Member

Board of Health member Kathy Korte explained that, following the retirement of the Town's Community Nurse three years ago, the Town contracted with the Berkshire Health Alliance through the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to provide the services previously offered by the Community Nurse. As the contract is due for renewal for the upcoming fiscal year, Kathy requested that the Board approve and execute the agreement.

Kathy noted that the services provided through the program are particularly important for the Town's aging population. These services include blood pressure screenings, flu and COVID-19 vaccination clinics, foot care, and other health-related programs. She added that

...continued on page 8



The Floor Store
We've been flooring people since 1983!

12 Main Street
West Stockbridge, MA

(P) 413-232-7175
(F) 413-232-4659

Tuesday - Saturday
9:00AM - 4:00PM

floorstoreweststockbridge.com

Mary K Roy
marykroy33@gmail.com

Joseph P Roy
floorstorews@gmail.com



FINE ART RESTORATION
Specializing in
oil painting restoration
By Troy Amuso,
Master Conservator
-all styles and value levels-
Over 35 years
Restoration & Conservation
Experience
O:(413)248-1309 M:(203)856-1337
Studios in Sheffield/Ashley Falls, MA. & CT.
Serving New England and beyond.
Family owned since 1997.
www.TroyFineArt.com

...continued from page 7

additional services could be offered if the Council on Aging became more involved in program development and outreach.

Kathy and Marie have been discussing opportunities to expand services available to residents and improve communication and advertising efforts to increase community participation and awareness.

Kathleen made a motion, seconded by Andy, to approve the Berkshire Health Alliance contract. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission grant assistance for Seasonal Communities

Kathleen informed the Board that the Town is eligible to receive \$58,862 in state grant funding through its Seasonal Communities designation. She and Affordable Housing Trust Chair Chris Powell recently participated in an informational webinar regarding the grant opportunity and believe it presents a valuable opportunity to advance the Town's housing initiatives.

Kathleen explained that the grant funds may be used for a variety of projects, including planning and zoning efforts required under the Seasonal Communities designation, infrastructure improvements, and actions that support future housing development. She noted that the application process appears straightforward and that technical assistance is available to applicants.

Chris agreed that the application requirements seem manageable and noted that the Town may submit a pre-application for state review. State staff will then work with the Town to develop a complete and competitive final application. Kathleen also reported that the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission has contacted both her and Chris to offer assistance throughout the application process.

The application period opens on July 1 and closes on August 28. Kathleen and Chris plan to coordinate with the Planning Board to develop a joint application that maximizes the use of the available funding across multiple eligible projects. They will report back to the Board as additional information becomes available.

Special Town Meeting Warrant Update: Town Administrator Marie Ryan

Marie informed the Board that the Special Town Meeting Warrant contains four articles, all intended to address budget deficits that arose unexpectedly before the close of the fiscal year.

Article 1 seeks funding to cover a deficit in the Town's property and casualty insurance budget. The shortfall resulted from the addition of equipment that required increased insurance coverage and, consequently, higher premiums.

Article 2 addresses an unanticipated need for investigative services that had not been included in the fiscal year budget.

Article 3 seeks funding to cover a deficit in the Town Counsel budget. The deficit was caused by several unforeseen and complex legal matters that required extensive assistance from Town Counsel.

Article 4 addresses a shortfall in the Town's Health, Life, and Dental Insurance budget. Marie explained that insurance costs have increased by nearly 16 percent since the previous year. The extent

of the increase was not known when the budget was developed and approved, resulting in a deficit that reflects both last year's and the current year's cost increases.

Marie noted that all four articles must be approved by the voters at the Special Town Meeting.

Car Show Request – Logan Tonini and Wisdom Lodge Free Masons

West Stockbridge resident Logan Tonini addressed the Board on behalf of Wisdom Lodge Free Masons to request permission to hold a car show on the Town Hall property. He explained that the organization hopes to host the event in July or August of next year.

Kathleen expressed support for the proposal, noting that it would be a positive community event. The Board unanimously agreed to allow the event to be held on the Town Hall property.

Logan stated that he would first need to determine the dates of other regional car shows before proceeding with event planning. He will return to the Board with additional details as plans are developed.

Logan thanked the Board for its consideration and support.

Right of First Refusal to 0 Furnace Road – Marie

Marie informed the Board that property owner Robert Liston is in the process of selling his property located at 0 Furnace Road. The property consists of approximately 27.7 acres in West Stockbridge and with an associated parcel of 92 acres in Richmond.

Marie explained that the West Stockbridge portion of the property is landlocked and enrolled in Chapter 61A Agricultural/Horticultural Classification program. The parcel is considered undevelopable, consisting primarily of wetlands and productive woodland, and there is no legal access to the property from within West Stockbridge.

She further noted that the proposed sale of the West Stockbridge parcel is contingent upon the sale of the associated parcel located in Richmond.

Marie explained that, pursuant to Chapter 61A requirements, the owner must first offer the property to the Town before completing a private sale. For the proposed transaction to proceed, the Board must vote to waive the Town's right of first refusal.

Toby made a motion, seconded by Andy, to elect not to exercise or assign its right of first refusal or option to purchase the property at 0 Furnace Road in West Stockbridge.

All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Select Board Speak:

None

Kathleen motioned to adjourn, seconded by Toby, at 6:45 PM.

All approved, and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Y. Ryan

Marie Y. Ryan

Town Administrator



Piano Recital with Matthew Erikson

Saturday, August 22, 2:30–4 pm

West Stockbridge Village Congregational Church
45 Main Street, West Stockbridge, MA

The program will feature piano classics spanning nearly three centuries, with works by Mozart, Rachmaninoff, and Philip Glass's music from the film *The Hours*.

\$25 suggested donation. All proceeds will benefit the maintenance and upkeep of the church's historic Johnson Organ.

2026 Berkshire Lyme Alliance Information & Support Meetings

Join us at 6 pm on

August 5, September 2, or October 7

Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield's Library, Athenaeum
Room Second Floor, 1 Wendell Avenue, Pittsfield, MA

~ First to arrive wins the door prize!

There are more than a hundred strains of Lyme disease in the United States, and over 350 possible tick-borne coinfections you can pick up from one tick bite. With tick-borne illness a pandemic, who is going to be exempt from being bitten in their lifetime? A pandemic is an epidemic of infectious disease that has spread through human populations across a large region, even worldwide.

At our meetings, we share information on some of the best treatment modalities for successfully treating tick-borne illnesses. We also offer tips on how to stay safe out there, the best prevention products to use, and ideas on how to keep your yard safe.

For further information, contact Elizabeth Kulas at (413) 443-5348.

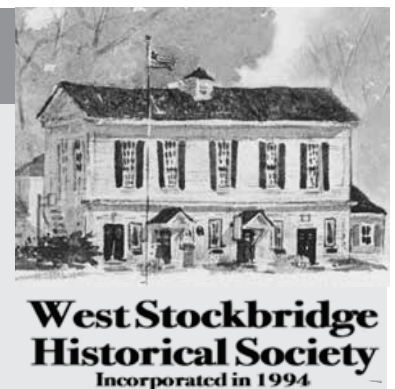
August History Quiz Question:

In the spring of 1775, the Commonwealth was in turmoil. England was in weak financial shape after the Seven Years War. One proposed solution was to make the colonies, specifically North America, pay. For more than 10 years, the Crown had been clamping down on the colonies with new taxes, trade restrictions, and tariffs. The colonists believed they were due the same rights and treatment as any other British citizen. They felt the Crown and Parliament were regularly abridging those rights. By April, tensions had exploded into a violent clash at Lexington and Concord, and Boston was under occupation by the army.

This unrest rapidly spread from the east to the rest of the Commonwealth and the other colonies. By the summer of 1776, it became a full-scale war that lasted six years. Wars require men and materials. How did our small town respond to the request for support?

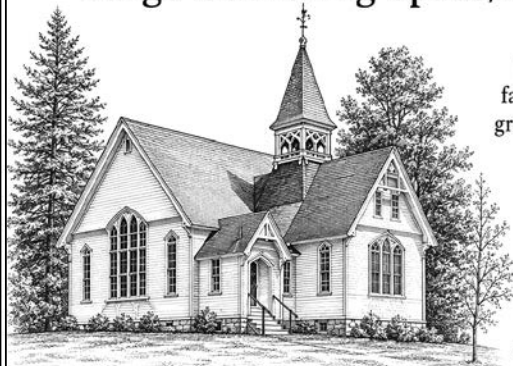
(Find the answer somewhere in this issue!)

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



West Stockbridge Village Congregational Church

Large Gathering Space/Social Hall Available



45 Main Street in West Stockbridge, MA

— Great for —
baby showers, birthday parties,
family celebrations, club gatherings,
group meetings, educational programs,
special events

Reasonable Rates

Contact Joanne Wodecki
at (413)454-0054

or email
wscongregationalchurch@gmail.com
for more information
or to book your event!

— The church and outdoor chapel are available as a wedding venue —

DESIGN - INSTALL - SUSTAIN
Distinctive Landscapes & Stonework

secondnaturegardens.org
413.441.7836 | Richmond MA

Community News & Events

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

There will be no Grange dinner in August. See you again in September!

Council on Aging

We will be making handbag purses on Tuesday, August 11, at 9:30 am in the Richmond Town 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.



Leslie Klein

...the art of clay
gallery...classes...poetry

www.lesliekleinstudio.com

Clay Forms Studio-open by appt. or chance
30 Austerlitz Rd., West Stockbridge, MA
413-232-4349 clayforms@verizon.net



BALDWIN HARDWARE

Depot Street
West Stockbridge, MA 01266

Henry Baldwin

(413) 232-7757

***Murder on Vacation,* a New Collection of Short Stories by Gerald Elias**

By John Parker

It all started, Jerry told me, eight years ago with a long weekend on the coast of California and an encounter with elephant seals on the beach. Somehow that experience got the creative juices flowing, and more ideas came about during vacations and trips to other holiday destinations over the next few years. The result is a new collection of 16 short stories titled *Murder on Vacation*.

Jerry's protagonists are retired NYPD detective, philosopher, and nebbish Maury Gross and his wife Bobbi. Unfortunately for them, Maury's reputation precedes him, and wherever they go he gets roped into helping the local constabulary to solve a baffling heist or murder. The reader can count on more than a few laughs on the way to solving the crime. By the way, one of those stories, "Ticked Off," is set in our neighboring town of Great Barrington!

For those who haven't yet had the pleasure, Gerald "Jerry" Elias is not only an acclaimed concert violinist, conductor, and composer. He is also the author of eight mystery novels in the Daniel Jacobus series, plus numerous other fiction and nonfiction books. We are proud to claim him as a part-time (50 years!) resident of West Stockbridge.

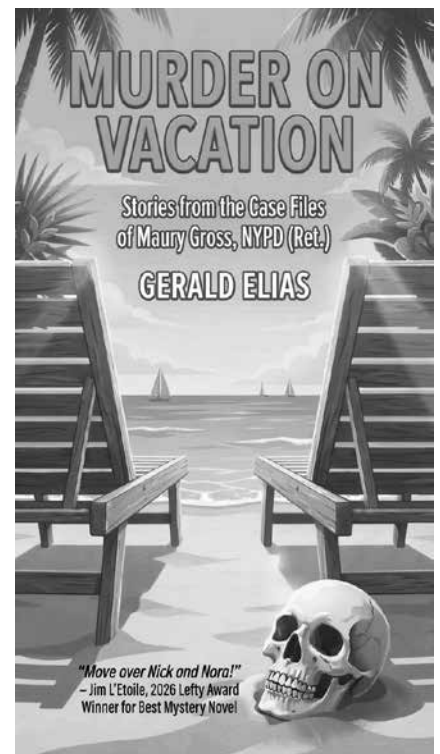
Fresh from a concert performance on July 7 at St. James Place in Great Barrington, Jerry will be appearing at an event at the West Stockbridge Public Library on Friday, August 7, from 4 to 6 pm, where he will be talking about his new book, with light refreshments and a book giveaway contest to follow. Jerry urges residents to support their local library that he describes as a "wonderful resource."

Jerry has several more works waiting in the wings including *Murder Goes Abroad*, three novellas again featuring Maury and Bobbi solving crimes in Machu Pichu, small town Italy, and East Anglia in England, along with a new release and a sequel to *Roundtree Days*—yes, a western!

How does he manage this impressive output? Jerry says that since his retirement from full-time orchestra work—he has well over 3,000 concert appearances to his credit—he has more time to write and travel. He still performs, but on his own now and with a more flexible schedule. We wish him well and look forward to his next creative endeavors.

For more information, visit <https://www.mysteriesandmusic.com/books>.

*Images courtesy of the author: from top
Author and musician Gerald Elias; Murder on Vacation book cover*



**K.G.COOPER ELECTRICAL**

Karl G. Cooper Jr.
New Construction - Renovations -
Service Upgrades - Generators

P.O. Box 138
West Stockbridge, Ma. 01266
kgcooperelectric@yahoo.com
Ma. Master 12365A

413-232-0244

Scott Wilton
Restoration & Conservation
Fine Furniture & Interiors

Restore & revitalize old finishes
Repairs, re-gluing, veneers, replacements
varnishes, shellacs, Japan colors

P.O. Box 338
West Stockbridge, MA 01266 (413) 232-4349



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

News from the Pews

St. Patrick's Church

Well, neighbors, as you're reading this, we are in the dog days of summer, and, believe it or not, halfway through our summer season. We have had some really interesting weather. With that, there has been plenty of maintenance to do at St. Patrick's. Kathy Davis and her intrepid crew have been weeding, trimming, and generally trying to keep the grounds looking "spit spot."

We have received funding and permission to replace windows in the rectory and have placed a new shed at the cemetery. Speaking of the cemetery, St. Patrick's is looking for someone who can take on the mowing. That person should be able to work independently and be detail oriented. If you know of anyone, or you are that someone, please contact Peter Skorput at (413) 232-7853.

I have also been asked to re-post the notice regarding an effort by one of our parishioners to form a group of people who struggle with low vision. They meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 10:30 am at the Pittsfield Senior Center, 330 North Street. All are invited.

We all know we are not having the Zucchini Festival this year. However, if you would still like to enjoy Dolores's baked goods, John's fresh bread, or Marsha's outstanding knitwear, you can always join us at coffee hour after the 8:30 Mass.

We have had a wonderful increase in attendance. The pews toward the rear fill up quickly, probably out of humility (or because they are closest to the door). If you are not feeling quite so humble, seats are available closer to the front. Monsignor doesn't bite, and with his generosity of spirit, he has kept his sermons concise (i.e., short) because of the warm weather. Please come join us in the pews and afterward for some coffee and friendly mingling.



ACQUAAL2

BERKSHIRES



Discover a Taste of Italy in the Berkshires



*Hand in this coupon
for your free dessert*



FOR RESERVATIONS CALL **413-232-5025**
 OR E-MAIL **reservations@acquaal2berkshires.com**
 3-5 CENTER STREET, WEST STOCKBRIDGE



WEST STOCKBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

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

Greetings from the library—our very best wishes and thanks to all! Stop in and get a library card: we offer books, CDs, museum passes, hotspots, and Chrome books for loan, plus access to eBooks and audiobooks through the Massachusetts Library System, and computers, printers, and enthusiastic help to all visitors who are looking for information.

A lot of fun things are happening this month!

- Our very own kids' craft star Tess will be at the West Stockbridge Farmers Market on Thursday, August 6, with a craft for kids.
- And! Tess's Kids Craft Crew will welcome you at the library on Mondays, August 20 and 27, from 4:30 to 5:30 pm.
- On Friday, August 7, from 4 to 6 pm, local author Gerald Elias will join us to talk about his new book, *Murder on Vacation*. We thank the Friends of the Library for their help with this!
- On Saturday, August 8, join us from 11 am to 1 pm at the Town Offices Pavilion for a celebration of dogs, featuring stories, crafts, refreshments, and even a dog show!

FY 2026 at a glance:

- 8,081 print books, DVDs, and audio CDs were borrowed and renewed
- \$202,000 was saved by borrowing instead of buying
- 6,176 eBooks, streaming audiobooks, and eMagazines were borrowed

We look forward to seeing you @ the library! Vicky, Rachel, Brad, and Francesca

NEW ADULT FICTION

Bloom, *Blunt instrument*
Carr, *The fourth option*
Clark, *The hill*
Jewell, *It could have been her*
Knoll, *Helpless*
Mason, *Country people*
Perrin, *Tata*
Tchaikovsky, *Green city wars*
Vazquez, *The death row club*

NEW ADULT NONFICTION

Baier, *The case for America*
Bockino, *Over/Under: an unexpected history of sports betting*
Burden, *Strangers: a memoir of marriage*
Collins, *They stole a city*
Dolin, *The wreck of the Mentor*
Gilliland, *A flower traveled in my blood*
Hayden, *This is also a love story*
Kiernan, *Obstinate daughters*
Klee, *Dogs, boys, and other things I've cried about*
Lasdun, *The family man: blood and betrayal in the house of Murdaugh*
Mayer, *Tryhard: a cautionary tale of clocking in and spinning out*
Portnoy, *Cancel me if you can*
Rogoyska, *Hotel exile: Paris in the shadow of war*
Simard, *When the forest breathes*
Wegman, *The lost founder: James Wilson and the forgotten fight for a people's constitution*
Weiden, *Wisdom corner*

NEW BOOKS FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES

Baker, *Weaver and the web*
Schotter, *Bibi steps out!*
Schotter, *Dragon dreams*



Scrapbook Questions/created by Paula Farrell

TEST YOUR TRIVIA KNOWLEDGE!

1. A new business called Boundless opened up in West Stockbridge in 2015. What was its mission?
2. The Berkshire Hills Regional School District Committee voted unanimously in 2015 to consider sharing their superintendent Peter Dillion with what other district?
3. In December 2015, the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) found flaws in the operating agreement with what company?
4. What was one of the flaws?

1. The mission of Boundless and its practitioners was to empower individuals to achieve breakthrough results in their health and wellness.
2. Lee school district.
3. WiredWest.
4. The organization's current draft plan "underestimated challenges and expenses and overestimated the amount and timing of anticipated revenue."



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.

Four Voices

August 1 - 30, 2026

on display at **Art on Main** | Gallery

Show Hours: Thur - Sun, 11am - 4pm

38 Main Street, West Stockbridge, MA

Reception: Saturday August 8, 2 - 4pm



Anne Ferril

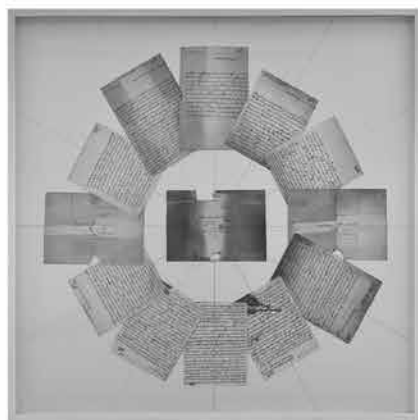
Four artists.

Four unique perspectives.

Through painting, drawing, ceramics, and mixed media, this exhibition invites viewers to experience bold ideas, thoughtful craftsmanship, and personal storytelling.



Terry Kaplan



Dennis Scholl

Each artist offers a distinctive visual language, creating a dynamic conversation about creativity and connection.



Audrey Shachnow


Guild of Berkshire Artists
www.berkshireartists.org



What the Declaration Means to Me: Views and Viewpoints Over Our 250 Years

By Bob Salerno and Liza Bennett

On a warm and sunny July 4 morning, the West Stockbridge Historical Society and TurnPark Art Space hosted a community reading of "What the Declaration Means to Me: Views and Viewpoints Over Our 250 Years."

Curated and moderated by Historical Society board member Sybil Pollet, a group of more than 140 people listened to speech excerpts and comments on the Declaration made by people over the past 250 years. The material included not only the founders, but women, suffragists, slaves, presidents, Civil War secessionists, and modern civil rights figures.

This was a very moving and impactful event. It reminded us that the promise of the Declaration of Independence, 250 years ago, that all men are created equal, is still unfinished.

The speeches can be found on the Historical Society's website at <https://www.weststockbridgehistory.org/declaration-of-independence>.

From top: *Participants read speech excerpts and comments on the Declaration. Photo by Bob Salerno; Over 140 people attended the community reading. Photo by John Parker*



Bark Mulch Topsoil Compost

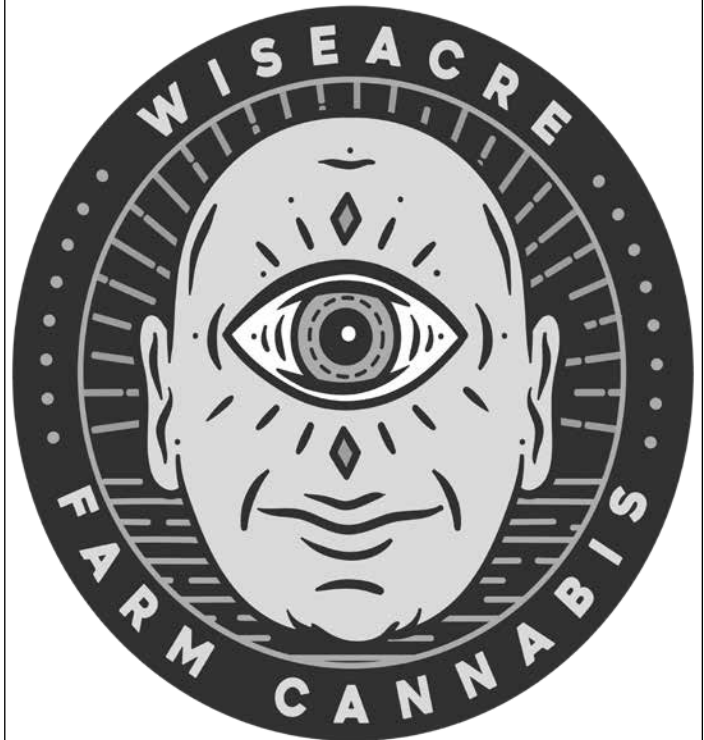
SWEETPEAT

413-243-4111

Meadow Farm
1125 Meadow Street, Lee
meadowfarmorganics.com

GRAVEL PRODUCTS

Compost Facility Accepting Yard & Wood Waste





JOIN US

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

BARRINGTON HALL

426 STOCKBRIDGE RD. • GREAT BARRINGTON, MA

FEATURING LOCAL FIRST RESPONDER TEAMS

18 TOWNS • ONE DAY • ONE COMMUNITY

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



FAMILY FRIENDLY



INDOOR & OUTDOOR



BARRINGTON
BREWERY BEER



FOOD TRUCKS

For updates & event info:

BerkshireToss.com

• Hosted by Rep. Leigh Davis •

Contributions are subject to Massachusetts campaign finance law.

Paid for by the Leigh Davis Committee.

Berkshire Public Health Alliance Announces Wellness/ Blood Pressure Clinic

The Berkshire Public Health Alliance is offering a free Wellness/Blood Pressure Clinic staffed by Board of Health Nurse Nancy Slattery every third Wednesday of the month, from 2 to 3 pm, at the West Stockbridge Town Offices, 21 State Line Road, West Stockbridge. Questions? Call Nancy at (413) 441-3524.

Nancy Slattery. Photo by Deborah Bowen



Timmons Landscaping & Tree

Fully Insured - Free estimates

413-329-8200

- Tree and Brush Removal
- Tree Pruning
- Stump Grinding
- Plowing & Sanding
- House Checking/Caretaking
- Drainage & Driveway Repairs
- Lawn & Field Mowing
- Fall & Spring Cleanups
- Building & Maintaining Gardens
- Firewood

***Your business need
a little exposure?***

As low as \$15!

Visit thelocalyokel.org for our rates or email Vicki for more information at info@thelocalyokel.org.

If you've got a new business idea, updated business plan, or still chuggin' along, advertise in the *Local Yokel* to let readers know what your business is up to!

"You can't get any more local than advertising in the Local Yokel! Stay safe and shop local!"

— Jackie Moffatt at C. H. Baldwin & Sons



Do You Have Books Gathering Dust?

The Friends of the West Stockbridge Library's annual book sale will take place on September 19 from 9 am to 5 pm in the Town Offices Community Room. This is your opportunity to go through those books getting dusty on the shelf and donate them for others to enjoy. We will be collecting gently used children's, fiction, and nonfiction books—please no dictionaries, magazines, or textbooks—at the Community Room on Thursday, September 17 and Friday, September 18, both days from 10 am to noon and from 4 to 6 pm.

All proceeds will go toward funding programs, activities, and supplies for the West Stockbridge Library.

Queensboro Wine & Spirits

26 Main Street ~ West Stockbridge

**Carefully curated wines,
unusual spirits and
awesome beers**

***Don't see what you're looking for?
Just ask and we can get it in for you!***

413-232-8522



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

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

August Donor Roll Call

John Angelini

June & Arthur Biggs

Ruby Korte

Peter Lazes & Marie Rudden

Wayne & Lisa Tenney

Ashley & Sean Tucker

Molly & Chris Vreeland

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.)

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*

History Quiz Answer:

The spring of 1776 saw the minor skirmishes and tensions between the British Army and the local “rebels” erupt into a full-scale war. Up to then, much of the military action centered around the Boston area, although civil protests had occurred all over the Commonwealth. The previous year, West Stockbridge residents had voted to procure gunpowder and supplies. They also organized and appointed a militia in anticipation of the need to fight.

On April 19, 1775, the war began with the battles at Lexington and Concord. Two days later, Stockbridge and West Stockbridge responded by calling on their unit of volunteers, led by Increase Hewins, to travel to Cambridge. This volunteer group had been organized the year before. Officers had been selected and the men were ready. The town received word only two days after the battle (how did word travel that fast back then?) and marched off “to support the alarms in Lexington.” Increase Hewins, our captain, was an important farmer in town and is mentioned again in later events.

The expectation was for a short conflict. In the early days, records show the enlistments were for relatively brief periods. Some were only 10 days (no mention of whether that included the travel to Boston or not). Others were longer but only up to eight months. Because most men were farmers and a large part of the military-age population enlisted, the impact on the economy could have been significant if no one was available to maintain the farms.

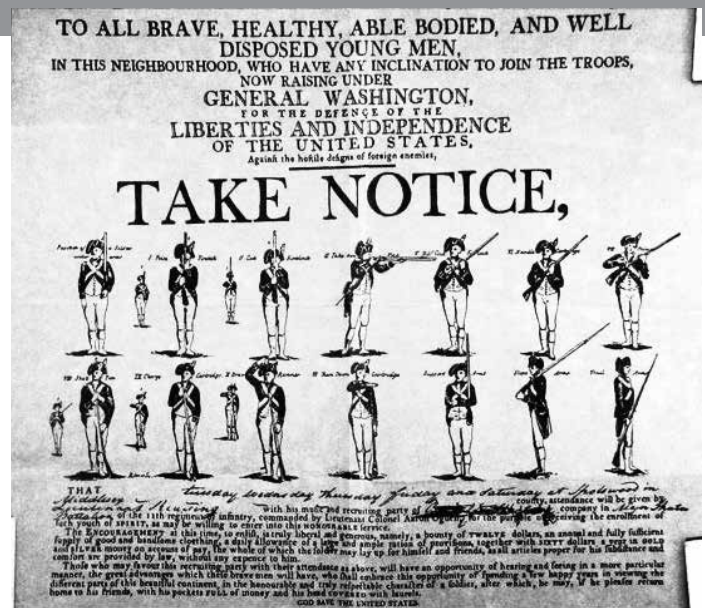
As the war continued, pressure increased on the towns to supply soldiers and enlistment periods increased, some up to a year or more. Records show that men signed up for a few months in one regiment and then took time off and signed up in another. Others went AWOL and then came back to the same unit. Service appeared almost haphazard and depended on the military need or season.

West Stockbridge had about 50 men serve during the war, a significant part of the population of about 400, most likely all the military-age men in town. As the war went on, it must have become a problem because there was a quota system for service. Pay records show men from other towns recorded as “covering” for West Stockbridge and their bounty paid by West Stockbridge individuals. Each town must have had to pay a bounty for service with some soldiers receiving a “bounty coat” as payment. Hard cash was tight.

After the initial battles in Boston, the service records show West Stockbridge men serving in Berkshire regiments in New England at Ticonderoga, Fort Ann, and Saratoga. As the war moved south, they were stationed in the Hudson Valley at Peekskill, West Point, and Fishkill. By 1781, the units were also in Providence, Rhode Island, and in Connecticut. We did have one soldier, Elias Armstrong, serve and die at Valley Forge.

Our longest serving and oldest soldier was Frank Duncan. He was an African American slave from New Jersey bought by Elijah Williams (who called Duncan an “indentured servant”). Duncan enlisted at the age of 41 in January 1777 and served until 1782. The war gave him his freedom from Williams, and he was paid a bounty at war’s end. After the war Duncan moved to Stockbridge. Although we know he applied for his pension, we don’t know if he received it. We have records that Duncan was living in poverty. We don’t have a record of his death.

The war had both a positive and negative impact on the town. For six years, most of our labor force was away in the military, and the cost of the war in hard currency must have been a problem. At the same time, the town became less isolated and actively involved in the formation of the new Commonwealth and country. It wasn’t long after that the iron, lime, and marble industries developed here, and we moved from a small agricultural village into the industrial age.



Revolutionary War recruitment poster. Image courtesy of West Stockbridge Historical Society



Dana Bixby ■ Architecture
danabixby.com 413-232-7834



Do you enjoy writing
or photography?

The Local Yokel needs regular and
occasional contributors.

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



38 MAIN STREET
(413) 232-4253
STONEHOUSEPROPERTIES.COM



176 West Center Rd | 42 Stockbridge Rd
YOUR WEST STOCKBRIDGE EXPERTS



The *Local Yokel* meets the 21st Century!

Visit our website for past issues, plus
information about how to support your
West Stockbridge community newsletter,
submit material for publication, advertise,
contact us, and more!

thelocalyokel.org



Every issue costs us about \$1,500 to print and distribute! Please help us keep the **Local Yokel** coming!

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

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

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

Name (as you want it to appear in acknowledgments)

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

City State Zip

Email

Check any that apply:

☐ I would like my contribution to remain anonymous.

☐ Thanks, but don't mail the *Local Yokel* to me. Save the postage; I'll pick it up myself.

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



Please mail this form with your check to:

WSLY

P.O. Box 238

West Stockbridge, MA 01266

Friends & Neighbors

Come Celebrate with us!



8:30 Sunday Mass
followed by
Coffee Hour

St. Patrick Church
30 Albany Road
West Stockbridge

Est. 1888

Charles H. Baldwin & Sons

Manufacturers of

Baldwin's Pure Vanilla Extract

Flavoring Extracts, Spices, Baking Supplies,
Maple Table Syrup, Serious, Mushy & Hilarious
Greeting Cards, Retro Toys, Candy
& So Much More!

*Not just a store. . .
It's an experience!*

**1 Center Street
West Stockbridge
Massachusetts**

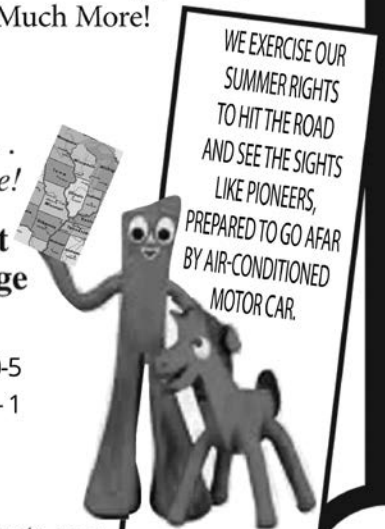
Tuesday - Saturday 10-5

Sunday by chance 10 - 1

Closed Mondays

413-232-7785

www.baldwinextracts.com



Pick up
a copy
FREE
AS ALWAYS
at these locations
around town:



Berkshire Bank
Charles H. Baldwin & Sons
Flourish Market
Gallery on Main
Library
No. Six Depot
Post Office
Public Market
Queensboro
Town Offices

Or you can
choose
to have the
Local Yoke!
mailed to you for a
minimum annual
contribution of \$25.

**Outdoor distribution boxes: Baldwin Hardware, Shaker Mill Books,
The Floor Store, Transfer Station, and Visitors' Booth**

Town Government Boards and Commissions, Phone Directory, and Office Hours Town Offices Main Number (413) 232-0300 • Fax 232-7195

Animal Control	<i>Kasey Hatch</i>	717-7934		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	Hours by appt. using website contact email
Select Board	<i>Kathleen Keresey Andy Krouss Tobias Casey</i>	232-0300	ext. 319	Mon.-Thurs. 7 am-3 pm Fri. 7-11 am
Town Administrator	<i>Marie Ryan</i>			
Building Inspector	<i>Brian Duval</i>	232-0300	ext. 313	Leave Message for Inquiries
Conservation Commission	<i>David Evans</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>Mike Renton</i>	528-2175		
Fire Department	<i>Vincent Garofoli</i>	911 or 717-2751 (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>Mike Renton</i>	911 or 232-8500 (non-emergency)		24 hours, 7 days/week
Post Office	<i>Randy Bates</i>	232-8544		Lobby: 7 am-7 pm; 7 days/week; Window: Mon.-Fri. 9 am-4:30 pm; Sat. 9 am-12 noon
Sewer & Water Commission	<i>Michael Buffoni</i>	232-0309		
Town Accountant	<i>Elaine Markham</i>	232-0300	ext. 317	Leave Message for Inquiries
Town Clerk	<i>Ronni Barrett</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	Tues. & Thurs. 1:30-3:30 pm
Town Collector	<i>Kelli Bradbury</i>	232-0300	ext. 302	Tues. 1-5 pm; Wed. 7 am-12 pm; Thurs. 1-6 pm
Town Historian	<i>Robert Salerno</i>	232-4465		
Town Treasurer	<i>Benjamin Gelb</i>	232-0300	ext. 316	Tues. 9 am-4 pm
Transfer Station	<i>Wayne Cooper</i>	232-0307		Tues. & Thurs. 10 am-6 pm and Sat. 8 am-6 pm
Tree Warden	<i>Andrew Fudge</i>	212-9206		
Veterans Agency	<i>Tom Beasley</i>	528-1580		
Zoning Board of Appeals	<i>C. Randolph Thunfors</i>	232-0300	ext. 300	

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


WEST STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY



Aug 8, 2026
11AM-1 PM

21 STATE LINE ROAD
 WEST STOCKBRIDGE
 01266

413-232-0300 X308

DOG SHOW, PHOTOS, BOOK SIGNING ,
REFRESHMENTS
ALL GOOD DOGS WELCOME!
SPONSORS- WEST STOCKBRIDGE
DOG PARK AND GRANGE #246

WEST STOCKBRIDGE FARMERS MARKET
ON THE FOUNDRY GREEN

Thursdays, 3-6 pm
Rain or Shine!



LIVE MUSIC
made possible by
WS Cultural Council
& Local Yokel Santa's
Wish List donations

FARM FRESH
fresh produce, meat
cheese, eggs, jams, soaps
flowers, honey, maple syrup
bread & baked goods + more

We double SNAP thanks to a BAV Market Match grant!
We also double WIC + Senior Coupons

WestStockbridgeFarmersMarket.org


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

July 31-Aug 1, Plein Air workshop with Lori Bradley. Beginner through Advanced. Mount Greylock, Adams, MA. See more info and link to sign up on website.

August 1-30, "Four Voices" Art show featuring works by 4 local artists. Art on Main Gallery, West Stockbridge, MA.
Reception: Saturday August 8, 2-4PM

August 6, 5-7pm, Urban Sketching Meetup. Hosted by Jill McLean. See Update Board for more details: <https://tinyurl.com/5n9ymf93>

August 16, Berkshire Photo Gathering. See web: berkshirephotogathering.com/online-meetings

August 23, 3-5pm, Ice Cream Social. Get to know guild, board, and committee members while enjoying ice cream from Ella May's. Art on Main Gallery, West Stockbridge, MA.

Aug 31, Plein Air workshop with Lori Bradley. Beginner through Advanced. Sheep Hill, Williamstown, MA. See more info and link to sign up on website.

Daily, 10am-1pm, Plein Air. Join other Plein air artists to create work on site. Various locations. See more info and link to sign up on website.

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

Four Voices
August 1 - 30, 2026







Four artists. Four unique perspectives.

Through painting, drawing, ceramics, and mixed media, this exhibition invites viewers to experience bold ideas, thoughtful craftsmanship, and personal storytelling.

Each artist offers a distinctive visual language, creating a dynamic conversation about creativity and connection.

Anne Ferril | Terry Kaplan
Dennis Scholl | Audrey Shachnow

Reception: August 8, 2-4pm


Art on Main
 38 Main Street, West Stockbridge

WEST STOCKBRIDGE TOWN OFFICES COMMUNITY ROOM 21 STATE LINE ROAD
AUGUST 7TH 2026 4PM - 6PM

LOCAL AUTHOR GERALD ELIAS
 WILL TALK ABOUT HIS NEW BOOK




Gerald Elias

PRESENTED BY THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY
 AND FRIENDS OF THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AND
 A BOOK GIVEAWAY CONTEST TO FOLLOW!



August						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
26	27	28	29	30	31	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	1	2	3	4	5

August Calendar of Events

8/3	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices and on Zoom
8/5	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room, Town Offices
8/5	Affordable Housing Trust meeting	5 pm	Town Offices
8/5	Conservation Commission meeting	6 pm	Town Offices
8/5	Berkshire Lyme Alliance	6 pm	Berkshire Athenaeum, 1 Wendell Ave., Pittsfield
8/6	Farmers Market	3-6 pm	Foundry Green, Harris Street
8/7	Gerald Elias book talk	4-6 pm	Community Room, Town Offices
8/8	Dog Day	11 am-1 pm	Town Offices
8/11	Council on Aging Craft Group meeting	9:30 am	Richmond Town Library
8/12	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room, Town Offices
8/12	Friends of the Library Committee meeting	3:30 pm	Community Room, Town Offices
8/13	Farmers Market	3-6 pm	Foundry Green, Harris Street
8/15	*** Deadline for the next <i>Local Yokel</i> ***		Send to info@thelocalyokel.org
8/17	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices and on Zoom
8/19	Wellness/Blood Pressure Clinic	2-3 pm	Town Offices
8/19	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room, Town Offices
8/19	Affordable Housing Trust meeting	5 pm	Town Offices
8/20	Farmers Market	3-6 pm	Foundry Green, Harris Street
8/22	Cornhole Classic	11 am-5 pm	Barrington Hall, 426 Stockbridge Rd., Gt. Barrington
8/22	Piano Recital with Matthew Erikson	2:30-4 pm	WS Village Congregational Church, 45 Main Street
8/26	Knitters Group	2-4 pm	Community Room, Town Offices
8/27	Farmers Market	3-6 pm	Foundry Green, Harris Street
8/31	Select Board meeting	6 pm	Town Offices and on Zoom

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