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Is Your Well Water Safe? Part 1

*By David M. Lazan***Lazan Glover & Puciloski, Attorneys at Law**

Groundwater is a plentiful and widely distributed resource in Massachusetts. The Statistical Abstract of the United States contains a schedule which shows the percentage of each state that is water covered, excluding areas such as the Great Lakes. Massachusetts ranks ninth with 5.6% of the Commonwealth being water area. Usable aquifers occur in glacial stratified drift and till deposits, as well as sedimentary, crystalline, and carbonate bedrock formations. Altogether, about two million Massachusetts residents or one-third of the Commonwealth's population rely upon groundwater for all or part of their water supplies.



Until recently, the groundwater in Massachusetts was managed haphazardly if at all. The state had followed the common law doctrine that the owner of the surface owns "absolutely" the underlying groundwater and may pump without limit even to the detriment of other well owners affected by the resulting cone of depression. Similarly, pollution of groundwater was not regulated other than intentional "well poisoning" and victims of industrial contamination or leaking storage tanks which were left to inefficient and unpredictable common law remedies.

Since 1979, Massachusetts, in tandem with the Federal Government, has begun to focus state-level attention upon its groundwater resources. Some of the major statutory results were The Massachusetts Hazardous Waste Management Act of 1979, The Aquifer Land Acquisition Program, Underground Water Source Protection Regulations, the Massachusetts Water Management Act of 1985, and a bill to regulate land uses in the non-public portions of the three primary watersheds.

Contrary to popular belief, the groundwater that supplies wells does not flow in underground rivers except in rare cases in limestone areas; the only limestone in Massachusetts being located in the Berkshires. Groundwater comes from rain and snow that soaks into the ground, passing between particles of soil, sand, gravel or rock until it reaches a depth where the ground is saturated with water and the top of this zone is called the water table. The water table may be near the ground surface or hundreds of feet deep.

(continued on page 3)

Our Very Own West Stockbridge Turkeys are ~~Famous~~! See page 9!
Notorious!

Historical Commission Gets To Work

By Patricia Soldati

Recently, our Town Selectmen appointed new members to the West Stockbridge Historical Commission. The Commission had been active in the 1990's but as members retired or moved away, the positions became vacant. Formerly, a component of Massachusetts' town governments, the mission of the Historical Commission is to explore, articulate and preserve our town's rich cultural heritage.

The Commission is comprised of three members: Christian Goodwillie, curator of collections for Hancock Shaker Village; Scott Sawyer, partner of Sawyer Antiques and an associate with Stone House Properties, LLC; and Patricia Soldati, former business executive, now career coach and member of the Association of Personal Historians. Bob Salerno, the Town Historian, serves as an ex-officio member.

One of the exciting projects the Commission will launch in February is an Oral Histories project – gathering and recording information and recollections from West Stockbridge natives and long-time residents. The town has more than sixty-five residents over the age of 70 who have grown up here. Capturing their knowledge and experience for ages who follow is important to maintain the history and character of our town.

The topics to be covered include key elements that have added to the personality of our town. They are the railroads, farming, West Stockbridge during the prohibition and the great depression, the quarries, and village businesses. The objective is for these interviews and historical recordings to be available to residents and others for education and research. We expect this project to take about 12 months to complete.

Separate from the Historical Commission, but aligned with their mission, resident Mati Kiin recently received a grant from the local Cultural Council to create a video archive project about recent local history and village life, as told through the voices and images



One of many historic structures in town, the Grange Hall on Swamp Road was originally a Methodist church built in 1838.

Photo by John Parker

of local residents. This project is co-sponsored by the Friends of the West Stockbridge Library, and work will begin in January 2006.

The initial project will feature personal interviews with two to three well-respected senior citizens from our town. A public screening of the completed project is being planned for the new community center for early Fall 2006. It will also be broadcast on local cable access television (WSTV). DVD and VHS copies will be permanently archived at the town library, and be available for private loan. Mati hopes to develop this project as a continuously expanding documentary archive that will permanently record West Stockbridge history, culture and village life as seen through the storytelling and witness of its residents. Another goal of the Historic Commission is to work with the Library Trustees on establishing a local history section of the library. There is a wealth of historical material about both West Stockbridge and Berkshire County that could be available for all to use. One of these items is the inventory of town buildings originally completed by the Berkshire County Historic Society in the 1980's. It documents many of the older buildings in the town, and should be available for all to see just when and what their houses might have been. For example, did you know that the Williams River Store was originally a tavern?

A key role of the Commission is to provide advice and research to other parts of the town government on historic matters, particularly as it relates to town buildings. This is consistent with updating and documenting the historic buildings in town. Finally, other activities will include working with the Friends of the Library on their talks about the local history.

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Is Your Well Water Safe?

(continued from page 1)

Overburden wells (often called “dug” or “shallow” wells) are installed in sand or gravel. These wells pump water that fills the tiny spaces between the grains of sand and gravel. The wells have some form of screen at the bottom to keep sand out. Usually these wells are not drilled more than twenty or thirty feet below the water table. Contaminants that reach an overburden well usually come from a source fairly close to the well.

Bedrock wells (often called “drilled” or “artesian” wells) are drilled deep – usually hundreds of feet – into rock. Except for sandstone, most rock does not have pore spaces like sand and gravel for water to move through. The water in bedrock wells usually fills cracks in the rock. Depending on where these cracks reach the surface, the water in a bedrock well may be coming from nearby or from miles away.

When purchasing land in the Berkshires, the practice has been not to drill a well until after you own the property. Drilling a well can cost thousands of dollars and the probabilities of not finding a usable water

source so slim that buyers have not required a contingency that allows a purchaser to terminate his or her purchase and sale agreement if insufficient water is found. In the eastern portion of the state, wells are often drilled prior to closing and finding sufficient potable water is a contingency. Obviously, the cost of placing a well on land you don't own can be substantial and we suspect that because of the few instances when sufficient water is not found, the water contingency is rare.

In 1999-2000, contaminated private well water caused 26% of the drinking water outbreaks that made people sick. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) rules that protect public drinking water systems do not apply to privately owned wells. Although Massachusetts has rules for private wells, as a private well owner, it is up to the owner to make sure that their well water is safe to drink.

Editor's note: Part 2 of David Lazan's article, dealing with well contamination will appear in next month's issue.

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Business Profile:

The Floor Store

By Vicki Grayson

The Floor Store, owned by Anne and Joy Roy, Jr., offers an extensive ceramic showroom in addition to carpeting, vinyl, hardwood, bamboo and stone. The Roys opened their store in February 1980 in a loft above the Public Market. Partnering up two years later with George and Marie Woodcock, who owned and operated the jewelry store, they purchased the burnt-down property next to the Public Market where the renowned Miss Ruby's Restaurant had been. They hired Luchi Builders and named the new structure the Phoenix Building. The Woodcocks operated their store, G & M Galleries, on the bottom level and The Floor Store was upstairs. About eight years later the Roys bought the retiring Woodcocks share and moved to the street level. The upstairs is currently rented to Found, an extension of the Bookloft in Great Barrington.

Joe, a second-generation West Stockbridge native, is a former Selectman who currently serves on the Zoning Board of Appeals. The store is a wonderful place to go to gather a lot of information about West Stockbridge history. Joe and Anne have an amazing amount of knowledge about our town's past and it's fun to listen to all the old stories.

The Roy's children, Joe and Jenni, who are third generation West Stockbridge natives, are employed at the store. They grew up working at the store, but both tried other kinds of jobs as adults before deciding that this was what they really wanted to do. While Jenni and Joe are involved in all aspects of the business, Jenni's primary focus is drawing and estimating and Joe's specialty is managing their very sophisticated computer system. After their parents retire they plan to continue to operate the store.

The Floor Store employs four installation crews daily. Joe said that 90% of their business is in South County, but they have customers as far away as Cape Cod and Vermont as well as in New York and Connecticut. Over half their business consists of repeat customers. They were very concerned about the potential for losing business when Home Depot opened in Berkshire County, but discovered that Home Depot actually increased their business. Many more people began to realize that they could do flooring themselves and they have seen a big increase in cash-and-carry customers who like the wider range of



Three generations of Roys. Standing (left to right): Joe P. Roy, Jenni, Anne and Joe G. Roy. Sitting on truck (left to right) are Jenni's children Caitie and Mary Alpert.

Photo by Joe Roy, Jr.

choices carried by the store. Also, people prefer working with a family-owned business and really appreciate the emphasis the Roys put on customer service.

Anne and Joe love having their business in West Stockbridge and said that the town has been very supportive of them from the beginning. They said that it's great to have such good neighbors with everyone helping out and taking care of each other.

All four Roys not only work together, they also live together (along with Jenni's two young daughters) and it's very apparent how much they enjoy being with each other. When asked how they are able to spend so much time together and still get along so well, their first answer is "communication." Joe said, "95% of the time, having the whole family in the store is pure bliss, the other 5% sparks do tend to fly." They said they often disagree, but all have the same goal so they manage to work things out. A sign hanging on the wall near Anne's desk says "Sempre Famiglia" ("Always Family") – a perfect description of their lives.

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Cemetery Commission Needs Help

By Stuart Kuller, Chairman

In response to the dire need to fill the vacancies on the Cemetery Commission, I was requested by our Town Clerk, Tina Skorput Cooper, to describe the duties of a Cemetery Commissioner.

Deceased members of many families of our historic and beautiful town occupy our cemeteries. There are veterans that have defended our country in every conflict fought by this country, including the War of Independence. Some of the limestone mined in this town was used in building the Washington Monument, and many died from the limestone dust. Needless to say, our cemeteries have great historical significance and deserve to be maintained. Not only because the remains of important historical figures reside here, but most of all, the loved ones of many of our town families who came here and developed this beautiful land in which we now live.

Please, the town now needs motivated and dedicated people to help run and manage this most sacred part of our town. Your contribution will be greatly appreciated. The duties of a Cemetery Commissioner are as follows:

- Establishing, collecting and dispersing cemetery fees: Town administrative fees, excavation fees, burial arrangement fees and fees from the sale of burial sites.
- Communicating with and managing the various services associated with interments; excavations, timing of burials from funeral homes, Highway Department (if needed).
- Attending funerals to see they are carried out properly and to receive fees and certificates of burial to mail to the Board of Health of the town that issued the burial permit.
- Arranging for ground maintenance and tree management at the three cemetery locations.
- Filling out Deeds of Sale for burial sites and subsequent updating of cemetery maps.
- Filling out warrants for cemetery bills of expense and forms for monies collected to be paid to the treasurer.
- Handling communications for cemetery issues; requests, complaints, suggestions, etc.

The job of the Cemetery Commission is greatly

aided and guided by help and advice from Peter Skorput and Curt Wilton of the Highway Department. Of course I will be there to help and aid all the new commissioners as needed.

Anyone interested in serving on the Cemetery Commission should contact Town Clerk Tina Skorput Cooper at 232-0300 for more information.



Gravestones date back to the early 18th century in the Village Cemetery, one of three maintained by the Town of West Stockbridge.

Photo by John Parker



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Committee Researching Town By-Laws

By Joe Roy, Jr.

Last year, our Moderator appointed a committee to research the history of our town's by-laws. Martha Almgren spearheaded the effort and gathered Sheila Thunfors, Peter Negrini, Mitch Greenwald, and Joe Roy, Jr., to begin the task of digesting the history of all the town meetings that we can get information about. We are strictly an information gathering group that will submit its findings to the Town for its best use.

We started by putting out a call for as many town reports as we could find. Good folks like Ray Smith, Connie Lockenwitz, Dick Brophy, Rose Girdler, and a few more have come forward with some vintage as well as recent town reports. Mike Skorput has done a good deal of research in the past and has given us an extremely valuable document with the results of his study as well.

At this time, our immediate task is to go through every page of each report and scour them for any articles that even remotely sound like a vote on the establishment of a by-law. Then we record it and note the date, page and article number of the town meeting that it was brought forth for a vote. Then we have to find out how the vote on that article went – did it pass or not. To do that, we'll have to study records of the meetings from when they were taken.

After we finish that list, we'll have to cross-reference the data to see which laws were changed, amended, or eliminated, and how. One of the final steps will be to research which of them were actually ratified by the Attorney General's office. Most, if not all, of our by-laws need State scrutiny and approval. We fear that some of our voted by-laws may not have been submitted to the State, but we're not sure yet. When we're done, we should have a compilation of the laws in place now, and probably a list of locally passed laws that need State attention before they can be recognized.

It is a mind boggling and tedious task, but we're making good progress. So far, we have had access to many reports, but still need many others – as the chart at right shows.



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1914	✓		1960	✓	
1915		X	1961	✓	
1916		X	1962	✓	
1917		X	1963	✓	
1918		X	1964	✓	
1919		X	1965	✓	
1920		X	1966	✓	
1921		X	1967	✓	
1922		X	1968	✓	
1923		X	1969	✓	
1924		X	1970	✓	
1925		X	1971	✓	
1926		X	1972	✓	
1927	✓		1973	✓	
1928		X	1974	✓	
1929		X	1975	✓	
1930		X	1976	✓	
1931		X	1977	✓	
1932		X	1978	✓	
1933	✓		1979	✓	
1934		X	1980	✓	
1935		X	1981	✓	
1936	✓		1982		X
1937	✓		1983		X
1938		X	1984	✓	
1939	✓		1985	✓	
1940		X	1986	✓	
1941	✓		1987	✓	
1942	✓		1988	✓	
1943	✓		1989	✓	
1944	✓		1990	✓	
1945	✓		1991	✓	
1946		X	1992	✓	
1947		X	1993	✓	
1948	✓		1994	✓	
1949	✓		1995	✓	
1950	✓		1996	✓	
1951		X	1997	✓	
1952	✓		1998	✓	
1953	✓		1999	✓	
1954	✓		2000	✓	
1955	✓		2001	✓	
1956	✓		2002	✓	
1957	✓		2003	✓	
1958	✓		2004	✓	
1959	✓		2005	✓	

Most of them have been reviewed by our committee, and we are currently looking for more. If you have a collection that we might borrow, we would love to hear from you. It will be helpful for us to be able to do as much of one type of research as we can at a time before we move on to the next phase. If you have any town reports to lend us, please contact Joe at The Floor Store on 12 Main Street by calling 232-7175. You can also reach him at joeroyjr@mac.com or at the store's website at <http://www.the-floorstore.com>. You could also drop them off right at the store, if you can. Joe will also come to you and pick them up. If you are nervous about parting with them for an extended period of time, we'll copy them and get them right back to you.

When we're done ("...if we all live long enough," to quote one of our members), we will probably also make some recommendations to our Select Board and our Town Clerk regarding the different ways that past town reports have been presented and put together. They are fascinating and very informative. It's very interesting to see what things dominated our town's interest and how we've dealt with issues over the years. Our history is rich and rewarding and we all are well advised to try to learn from it. Our laws have changed for many different reasons as time has passed. The more we know about them, the wiser we become when considering new ones.

Our thanks go to everyone who has helped and donated time and information; especially our Town Clerk and The Local Yokel for helping us get the word out. We're anticipating the need for a great deal of help from our Town Clerk as we begin researching town meeting minutes from many years past.

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Recipe Corner

By Lynn Ryan



Blueberry Plum Crisp

Submitted by Sandra J. Panzeri

Combine the following ingredients in a large pie plate:

- 1 30-oz. can (or 2 15-oz. cans) plums, seeded and split in half
- 1 pint blueberries
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 2 tbsp flour

Combine the following and press on top of the fruit mixture:

- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1 cup Quaker oats
- 9 tbsp butter

Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes or until brown.

Send your favorite recipes to:

Lynn Ryan
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Community News & Events

Cabin Fever Dinner Dance

The West Stockbridge Fire Department is holding the Annual Cabin Fever Dance on Saturday, February 11, 2006. The event will be held at the West Stockbridge Village School and it will be "BYOB" (bring your own bottle). Doors open at 6 pm with dinner at 6:30 pm and dancing to the band Bootleg at 8:30 pm. Tickets cost \$25 per person and will be available at Baldwin's Hardware, the Public Market and Williams River Country Store as well as from any Fire Department Member.

Burning Permits

Burning season in Massachusetts began on January 15. Residents of West Stockbridge can burn brush from January 15 through the end of April (weather permitting). If you want to burn, you must obtain a burn permit from one of the following stores: Public Market, Williams River Country Store, or Baldwin's Hardware. There is a \$1.00 charge for a permit and the permit is only good for the date of issue. Hours of burning are 10 am to 4 pm. No one will be issued a permit by telephone. If you have any questions about the procedure or have concerns about someone burning, please contact the Fire Chief, Peter Skorput, at 232-7853.

West Stockbridge Fire Support Services

The Support Services of the Fire Department are looking for new members. We meet the second Thursday of each month at the West Stockbridge Fire Station. Our primary mission is to support our firefighters and EMTS during an emergency. We provide food and refreshments to them when they are on a call for an extended period of time. If you are interested in joining us, please call Carmen Morse at 232-4637 or come to our next meeting on Thursday, February 9 at 7 pm in the Fire Station.

West Stockbridge Town Clerk's Office

The 2006 Census forms are due in the Clerk's Office. If you did not receive a Census form, please contact the Town Clerk at 232-0300 or wstnclerk@aol.com to have one sent to you. 2006 Dog Licenses will be on sale the 1st of February. Notification will be sent to dog owners of West Stockbridge. All dogs must be licensed by April 1, 2006. If you are a new resident and need to license your dog(s), please contact Town Clerk Tina Skorput Cooper for fees.

Upcoming in March 2006

The West Stockbridge Fire Support Services will hold its Annual Rabies Clinic on Saturday, March 4 from 10 am to 12 noon at the West Stockbridge Fire Station. Cost will be \$10 per animal and the vaccinations will be given by Julie Shanahan, DVM.

Around Town

A Walk on the Wild Side

By Stefanie Weber

Just as I was getting ready to settle into my next profile for the Yokel, I learned about a recent event here in town that got my wings flapping. After receiving a copy of a recent (11/23/05) *Wall Street Journal* article entitled, “One for The Birds: Wild Turkeys Attack People,” about a West Stockbridge resident chased by a posse of turkeys, I changed direction and fluttered off to get the details.

I appeared at Betsy Kosheff’s doorstep where I was greeted by an aged yet enthusiastic black lab named Petey. I gave Petey a friendly rub and Betsy immediately began to spill the contents of the story. No stranger to the chase, Betsy began her career at Northwestern University in Chicago, where she studied the competitive art of journalism. Little did she know, over 20 years later, she would be the one being pursued.

Fueled with wisdom, Betsy embarked on a journey into the pioneering field of technology public relations in Boston in the 1980’s. Today she operates her own Tech PR business from her home, which allows her to pick and choose her clients, raise her two children with her husband David Capeless, garden, and go for stimulating walks on the back roads of our beautiful town.

One place Betsy enjoys running and walking is Woodruff Road off West Center Road. Not far down this road is where Richie Barrett operates a farm with his sister and her husband, Terry and Mick, who live next door. A posse of turkeys lives here too – purchased for slaughter for the holiday. With an air of affection, Richie said, “As you can see, mine are still here.” I was directed to go next door if I wanted to get some pictures, which of course I did.

As I approached the turkeys, languidly poking at a smashed pumpkin under the back porch, scenes of Betsy’s story came flooding into my minds’ eye – and I began to feel afraid. I remembered Betsy made direct eye contact with the turkeys, which she thought was the deciding factor for them to come after her. I recalled that as she was being chased Betsy was thinking, “What a nasty way to go: pecked to death”. I recalled the cartoonish scene of the turkeys running her in circles around the truck. I



Beware: This posse of turkeys ambushed a hiker on Woodruff Road – a “takeover” act worthy of The Wall Street Journal.

Photo by Stefanie Weber

didn’t think about the Good Samaritan, Iris Petty, who pulled her truck up to save Betsy from the encroaching band of turkeys. I was overcome with thoughts of Betsy going back later to show her kids the posse – armed with field hockey sticks, “...just in case.”

Her story almost led me to walk away with silent deft steps like a ninja warrior, but something stronger summoned me to stay. It may have been the beauty of the day and the way the sun was shining around and through those birds. It may have been the curious nature that draws me to pursue these situations in the first place – like some instinctive need to invite risk. It may have been the turkeys and the contact I longed for with something closer to nature, something that was once of The Wild. Something walked me closer and closer till they surrounded me with their display of courtship, fear and curiosity. After many photos and a few moments of solace, I exchanged a few words with Richie, snapped a couple pictures of him, and returned to my car. My day had just begun, and yet, it seemed totally complete.



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Kings of the Road: Our Highway Department

By Tina Skorput Cooper

Do you ever wonder how our roads magically get plowed, sanded and salted? We have a wonderful Highway Department that is a talented and dedicated group. From the Highway Superintendent to the newest member of the crew, they make sure we can all move about West Stockbridge safely during and after a storm.

Curt Wilton, a West Stockbridge native and a current member of our Board of Selectmen, heads the Department. Curt makes his home in West Stockbridge with his wife and their three children. Curt has been a member of the Highway Department since 1996. He became the Highway Superintendent in July 1999. As the Highway Superintendent, Curt oversees all highway department operations. He is in

charge of an annual budget of over \$316,000. Curt also works under the supervision of the Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator, Mike Buffoni.

John Lyford is the Highway Department Mechanic as well as a truck driver and equipment operator. John has been a member of the Highway Department for five years. He lives in Pittsfield with his wife and their three children. John is a very talented individual and the Town is very lucky to have him as a part of the Highway Department. What John has saved the Town in “shop labor” is phenomenal. He just recently finished spending over 200 hours refurbishing the 1996 Mack Truck, which saved the town a considerable amount of money, if it had to be sent out for repairs

(continued on next page)



The Highway Department crew pauses for a moment with their refurbished “5 Again” truck. Left to right: Superintendent Curt Wilton, Peter Skorput, John Lyford, Jamie Boyer.

Photo by John Parker

or to be refurbished. John can make a “silk purse out of a sow’s ear.”

Peter Skorput came back to work for the Town in February of 2004. He is a Truck Driver, light duty mechanic and equipment operator. Peter, a native of West Stockbridge, makes his home here with his wife and daughter. Peter is also our Fire Chief.

Jamie Boyer is the newest addition to the Highway crew. Jaime lives in Richmond with his fiancée and his children. He is a member of the Richmond and West Stockbridge Fire and Rescue Departments. Jaime was hired as the Building/Grounds Maintenance person. In addition to his maintenance duties, Jamie is also a truck driver and light duty mechanic for the Highway Department.

When there is a major storm, the Highway crew is on the job pre-treating the roads, sanding and salting throughout the storm and spending 4 to 6 hours cleaning up after the storm. Each crewmember has a truck that they use for each storm. Currently they are down a truck because the Highway truck that was approved at the Annual Town Meeting in May 2005 is still being built. It is an F-550 one-ton truck. They also have a 1974 Military 5-ton truck, the refurbished 1996 Mack, and the oldest in the fleet is a 1968 U-Model Mack, which has seen better days. Curt is planning on replacing it with a new truck that is the same size and has the same capabilities, if voters approve it at the Annual Town Meeting in May.

So the next time we have a storm, please remember our Highway Department – they are out there making sure we can get to our destinations safely.

West Stockbridge Compactor Station

Hours:
Tues., Thurs. 10am-6pm
Sat. 8am-6pm
232-0307
Bill Pixley, Attendant



Bill’s Recycling Tip of the Month:

Please remember that container lids are not recyclable and should be disposed of in the garbage. **Bonus tip:** crushing your containers will take up less space in the compactor and save the Town (and you) money!

West Stockbridge Residents Support Local Business – place a classified ad today in the *Local Yoke!* \$2.50 for the first 10 words and 10¢ each additional word. Please send to WSLY, 9 Main Street, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA 01266

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**Library Hosts
Vacation
Program,
Seeks
Volunteers**
By Tina Bardwell

On Friday, February 17th, the Library is hosting a school vacation celebration from 6-8 pm. Come enjoy a cup of hot cocoa and home-baked cookies while picking out your favorite vacation read.

The Friends of the Library are also looking for volunteers to help with weeding through the card catalog, as well as the adult and children's books. Volunteers' hours are Thursday and Saturday afternoons from 3-5 or otherwise arranged through Leslie Meltzer, the Librarian.

The next Friends meeting is February 15th at 6:30 pm. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

February Birthdays

- February 2 Bernie Fallon
- February 4 Tina Skorput Cooper
- February 7 Vasco Zanconato (age 96!)
- February 13 Peter Skorput



“Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”

— Martin Luther King

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Austerlitz Road
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- Appellate Practice

Please Support The
Local Yoke!

For this newsletter to survive and grow, we need your support! Here's the deal: for your donation of at least \$10.00 per year we will mail each issue to you (unless you prefer otherwise). The *Local Yoke!* will continue to be available free of charge at distribution sites around town.

YES! I want to support the **Local Yoke!**
Enclosed is my donation of _____,
made payable to WSLY.

Check any that apply:

- I would like my contribution to remain anonymous.
- Thanks, but don't mail the *Local Yoke!* to me.
- I would like to get involved with the *Local Yoke!* (we need correspondents, photographers, help with distribution and advertising).

Name (as you want it to appear in acknowledgements)

Address (location you would like the Local Yoke sent)

City ST Zip

Please mail this form with your check to: WSLY, P.O. Box 238. West Stockbridge, MA 01266.

Town Government Offices and Hours

Assessors Office	323-0303	Tues. 7-9pm; Wed., Thurs., 9:30-12:30pm
Board of Health	232-7048	Fri. 9am-4pm
Board of Selectmen's Office	232-0319 bosws@bcn.net	Mon., Wed., Fri., 8:30am-4:30pm
Building Inspector	232-0313	Mon. 7pm
Compactor Station	232-0307	Tues., Thurs., 10am-6pm; Sat. 8am-6pm
Fire Department	232-4490 (non-emergency)	
Highway Department	232-0305	
Library	232-0308	Wed. 9-12 noon, 2-5pm; Thurs. 10-12 noon, 2-5pm; Fri. 5-8pm; Sat. 2-5pm
Police Department	232-8500 (non-emergency)	
Post Office	232-0000	Lobby: 7am-7pm, 7 days/week Window: M-F 9am-4:30pm; Sat. 9-12 noon
Town Accountant	232-0316	
Town Clerk	232-0300 wstnclerk@aol.com	Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 8am-3pm
Town Collector	232-0302	Mon.-Fri. 10am-3pm
Town Treasurer	232-0316	

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

FEBRUARY 2006						
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

February 2006 Calendar of Events			
DATE	EVENT	TIME	PLACE
Feb. 2	Board of Health	7:30pm	Town Hall
Feb. 6	Selectmen's Meeting	6:30pm	Village School
Feb. 7	Cable TV Commission	5:00pm	Town Hall
Feb. 9-10	TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE CLOSED FOR WINTER CONFERENCE IN WORCESTER		
Feb. 9	WSFD Support Services	7:00pm	Fire Station
Feb. 13	Selectmen's Meeting	6:30pm	Village School
Feb. 14	HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY		
Feb. 15	Finance Committee	7:30pm	Village School
Feb. 20	TOWN OFFICES CLOSED FOR PRESIDENT'S DAY		
Feb. 20-24	BHRSD SCHOOL VACATION		
Feb. 21	Parks and Recreation	7:00pm	Village School
Feb. 27	Selectmen's Meeting	6:30pm	Village School