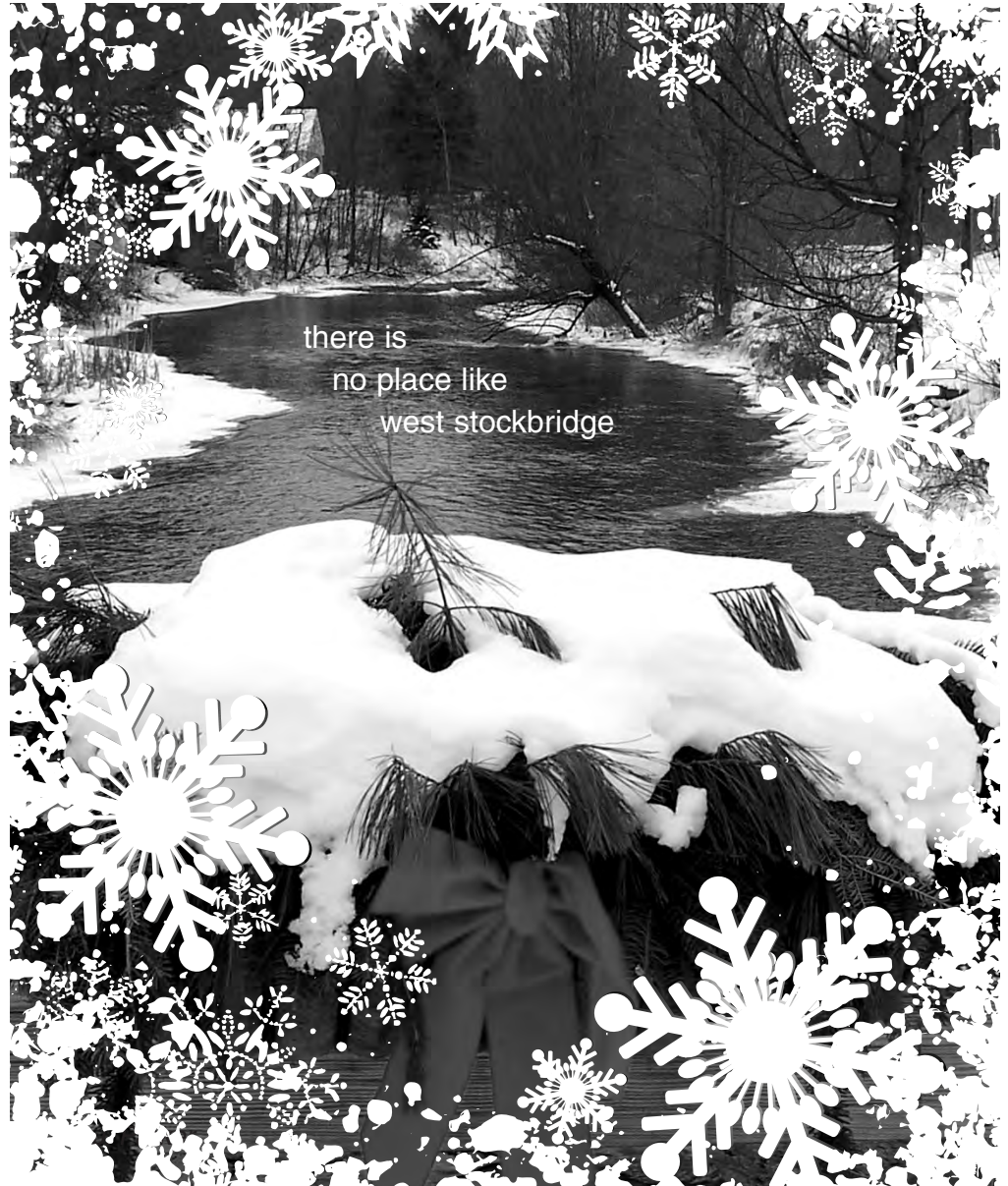




(n.) a country folk living in a quaint neighborhood community

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there is  
no place like  
west stockbridge

Photo: J. Parker

### Santa's Coming!

See Page 16!



### Guest Essay:

## Giving Thanks for Our Special Town

*By Jenni Roy Hallock*

It seems to be the time of year to look around and notice how lucky we are to live here. We are surrounded by friendly faces, "random" acts of kindness, and so many volunteers. So many people doing things for others and doing so in the true meaning of giving. With the holidays upon us, I just wanted to share a few things I've been reflecting on.

*(continued on page 8)*

# What's Happening At The Board of Selectmen

By John Parker

*(Editor's note: the following are edited summaries of Board minutes, which are available in full and unedited on the Town web site at [www.weststockbridge-ma.gov](http://www.weststockbridge-ma.gov) and at the Town offices.)*

## October 1, 2007

Open Meeting. Present: Selectmen Curt Wilton, Chair; Tina Skorput Cooper; Michael Kirchner. Also present: Administrative Assistant Mark Webber.

### Village School/Town Hall:

- Conversion of the last two (unused) classrooms to a shared community space was tabled because estimates came in over budget. The Board will continue to discuss the best use of this space.
- Many windows are difficult to lower. Manufacturer's representatives and engineers are working on the problem. Payment will be withheld until resolved.
- Plant material will arrive on 10/3. Administrative Assistant Mark Webber and Highway Dept. crew will install.
- Bids for paving the parking lot and driveway were reviewed. The low bidder is LB Corp. at \$58,800. Bids will be reviewed with Project Manager.
- The Board discussed removing the school bell/cupola from the old Town Hall and moving it to a display area at the new Town Hall complex. Mark Webber will contact Tony Skorput, who was involved in erecting the bell.
- Old furniture will be offered to a charity. If no takers, it will be disposed of.

**Police Matters:** Chief Cooper responded to a complaint from the owner of the old ice cream store/Albert's Cookies property that cars from Troy's Garage were parked without permission on their property. An investigation of land records and auto licenses determined that the vehicles are not illegally parked or stored.

**Dead Tree:** Resident John Pons expressed concern about a dead tree in front of his house on

Lenox Road. Curt Wilton will investigate.

**Police Chief Concerns:** Mr. Pons also read a long statement regarding the Police Chief Steering Committee and the Chief's contract and employment status. Mr. Pons said he hoped there would have been more disclosure during and after the process. Mike Kirchner responded that much of the process was conducted in executive session meetings, which are not made public in order to protect the rights of all parties involved.

Kirchner went on to explain the distinction between appointments and contracts: the Chief's contract had a term of 5 years, but his appointment was for 3 years. When the Board decided not to reappoint the Chief in June 2006, the effective term of his contract became two years longer than his appointment. This inconsistency became a point of dispute between the Board and the Chief.

Former Selectman Elizabeth DiGrigoli, a signatory to the disputed 5-year contract, said she felt pressured into signing it at the time. She added that the Board should have reviewed the contract with Town Counsel but there was a push to get it signed before the upcoming Town Meeting and Elections.

Mike Kirchner said the Board will ask Town Counsel what information from the executive session regarding the Chief of Police can be released, and when.

**Fire Department:** The Board approved a proposal by Fire Chief Peter Skorput to paint the fire station red, a change from its current white. The building needs paint, and white seems to attract dirt and insects.

**Old Town Hall:** Mike Kirchner suggested that the Old Town Hall Re-Use Committee be asked to a meeting to discuss the future of the Old Town Hall, noting that Town offices will be moved out soon.

**COA Van:** Mike Kirchner suggested there may be enough money left over from the Village School/Town Offices project to help purchase a van for the Council on Aging.

A Town Meeting is planned for the end of November to act on an article to fund a van. The

Town expects to hear in mid-November whether its grant for a new van will be approved. The article for a new van would be tabled if the grant is successful.

**Other Business:** Board members will attend the semi-annual County Selectmen's Association Dinner meeting in Lenox on 10/18.

An event marking the retirement of long-time ConsCom member Ed Desaulniers has been scheduled for 10/18, 4-6 pm at the Card Lake Inn.

Mark Webber will attend Procurement Officer Training in Boston from 10/23-25.

### October 22, 2007

Open Meeting, Village School. Present: Curt Wilton, Tina Skorput Cooper. Michael Kirchner unable to attend. Also present: Administrative Assistant Mark Webber.

**Council on Aging Van:** Curt Wilton opened the Informational Public Hearing on the Council on Aging van. Wilton re-iterated the Board's support of the grant application for a replacement van. He added that if the grant fails, the Board will support a Town Meeting article for a replacement van.

Norwin Rehm expressed concern that the grant would limit van ownership to 5 years, after which the Town would have to re-apply for its use. Wilton and Administrative Assistant Mark Webber explained that is a different program than that which the Town applied for. If the Town gets the grant, the van will be the Town's with no restrictions. Wilton added that any award will be closely reviewed to make sure it is right for the Town.

Wilton said the Town expects to know by mid-November if it will receive the grant. If so, the van will be available after July 1, 2008. Curt asked COA representatives if that timeline is acceptable. Their response was positive.

The date for a Special Town Meeting to present an article to purchase a replacement van was set for November 26. The article will be worded so that any appropriation will be offset either partially or in full with grant and/or other funds. It was suggested that the COA attend the November Finance Committee and seek the Committee's support for the Town Meeting article.

*(continued on page 6)*


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# A Season for Sharing in Fire Safety

## Tips from the U.S. Fire Administration

### Selecting a Tree for the Holiday:

- Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.

### Caring for Your Tree

- Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.

### Disposing of Your Tree

- Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or woodburning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

### Holiday Lights

- Maintain Your Holiday Lights
- Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.
- Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets
- Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions

indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires – they should not be warm to the touch.

- Do Not Leave Holiday Lights on Unattended

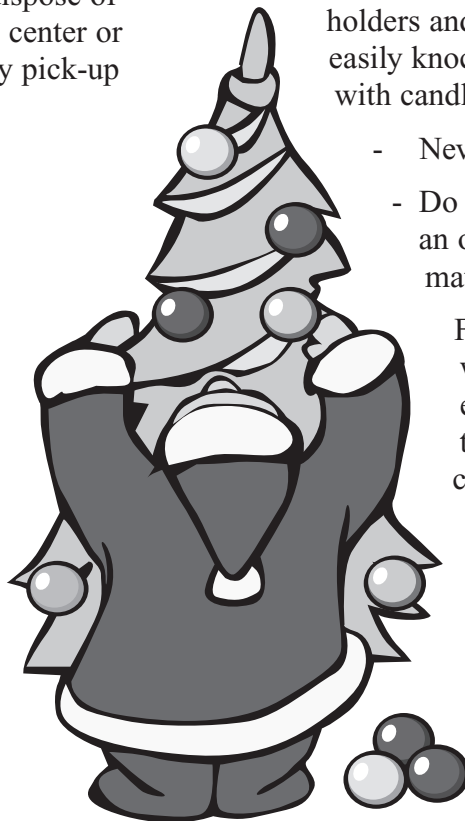
### Holiday Decorations

- Use Only Nonflammable Decorations
- All decorations should be nonflammable or flame retardant and placed away from heat vents.
- Never Put Wrapping Paper in a Fireplace
- It can throw off dangerous sparks and produce a chemical buildup in the home that could cause an explosion.
- If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

### Candle Care

- Avoid Using Lit Candles
  - If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning.
- Never Put Lit Candles on a Tree
- Do not go near a Christmas tree with an open flame - candles, lighters or matches.

Finally, as in every season, have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Know when and how to call for help. And remember to practice your home escape plan.



THE WEST STOCKBRIDGE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

# *A Note of Thanks!*

The West Stockbridge Board of Selectmen wish to extend their sincere appreciation to the St. Patrick's Parish for allowing us to hold meetings and elections in the Parish Center of St. Patrick's Church for nearly a year, while our new facility was under construction. Today, we are celebrating the opening of our new Town Offices, Police Station and Library at the Village School and you contributed to it substantially to a near seamless transition.

Thank you again for your generous display of community spirit.

## **Eunice Panzeri Celebrates her 90th Birthday and Retirement!**

Eunice Panzeri, retired Town Collector, celebrated her 90th birthday and recent retirement as Town Collector for the Town of West Stockbridge on Friday October 26, 2007. The celebration was held at Truc's Orient Express in West Stockbridge. Eunice was the Town Collector for West Stockbridge for 16 years.

*Photo: Lori Robbins*



*(Board of Selectmen, continued from page 3)*

**Dead Tree Revisited:** Resident John Pons showed photos of limbs he claims fell from a Town-owned tree near his residence. Mr. Pons said he has asked several times over the years to have the tree trimmed or taken down.

Curt Wilton apologized for not acting sooner. Tree Warden Bill Kie will be contacted to ascertain whether the tree in question is within the Town's right of way.

Mr. Pons went on to say that he is concerned with the condition of the Cooper driveway. He states that in 1968 a stone from the driveway was kicked up and caused him serious injury.

**Resident's Other Concerns:** Mr. Pons then addressed the Assessor's methods of valuing property, noting that they are still using the market and sales as their main tool.

Mr. Pons continued with concerns that the Chief of Police contract was improperly handled. Curt Wilton defended the Board's actions, stating that a "blue ribbon" committee looked into the situation. The Board adopted the committee's recommendations and the matter was settled without going to court.

**Other business:** A draft Town Building Use Policy will be reviewed next week.

The Town has signed an agreement with the Southern Berkshire Emergency Planning Committee and will join neighboring towns in emergency planning activities.

## **October 29, 2007**

Open Meeting. Present: Curt Wilton, Tina Skorput Cooper, Michael Kirchner. Also present: Administrative Assistant Mark Webber.

**Town Buildings Use Policy:** The Board reviewed and approved a Town Buildings Use Policy. Tina Skorput Cooper expressed concern that the Librarian's dog might be considered as a "therapy dog." Town Counsel has reviewed and approved the policy as presented. Selectmen and Administrative Assistant Mark Webber will be in charge of scheduling and enforcing the policy.

CHP of Southern Berkshire has requested use of the gymnasium one day per week for a baby playgroup. The Board will ask CHP to attend a future meeting to discuss their request.

**Old Town Hall:** The thermostat will be relocated to provide for more efficient heating now that the building is largely vacant. Lipton Oil will service the furnace.

Maxymillian (bridge contractor) will occupy the downstairs office through the winter, so there will be a daytime presence.

The Old Town Hall Committee will be asked to meet with the Board in the next two weeks to discuss the future disposition of the building.

**Village School/Town Hall Project:** The latest version of the Village School project punch list was reviewed. Few items remain to be fixed. The Library will be "punched out" this Saturday.

The Police Dept.'s CEGIS computer suffered water damage apparently caused by construction activities. An insurance claim is being made through the General Contractor. Chief Cooper will get estimates for replacement.

Meeting rooms and gymnasium need to be posted with occupancy limits. Mark Webber will speak with the Building Inspector.

Calls to the Police Dept. phone being forwarded to the Sheriff's Communication Center are being answered on a private line. Calls should go directly to the Communications Center. Corrections will be discussed with the phone system vendor.

Bill Kie asked if there will be a stove in the kitchen next to the gymnasium. Mike Kirchner responded that a full kitchen was on the "wish list" but the cost greatly exceeded budget. The Board weighed the cost of upgrading the kitchen to meet building and safety code, including a fire suppression system. Using the stove once or twice a year did not justify the expense.

**Dead Tree:** The Board approved a letter to be sent to Mr. Pons in response to his complaint about branches falling from a tree near his residence. The Tree Warden has determined that the tree is not in the Town's right-of-way.

**Van Shaak Road Status:** Bill Kie asked for an update on the status of Van Shaak Road (Curt Wilton was to investigate whether the road has been abandoned or is still a Town-maintained road). Wilton said in the absence of documents showing the road is abandoned,

his conclusion is that it is Town-owned. Mr. Kie plans to have his property abutting the road surveyed. Wilton said that the Highway Dept. will bring the road back to serviceable condition once the survey is completed.

**Other Business:** Mark Webber will attend a meeting at Richmond Town Hall to discuss a local inoculation plan.

A driveway permit application for a Lenox Road residence was approved.

## DECEMBER MOON

Submitted by Lynn Ryan

*Before going to bed*

*After a fall of snow*

*I look out on the field*

*Shining there in the moonlight*

*So calm, untouched and white*

*Snow silence fills my head*

*After I leave the window*

*Hours later near dawn*

*When I look down again*

*The whole landscape has changed*

*The perfect surface is gone*

*Criss-crossed and written on*

*Where the wild creatures ranged*

*While the moon rose and shone*

*How much can come, how much can go*

*When the December moon is bright,*

*What worlds of play we'll never know*

*Sleeping away the cold white night*

*After a fall of snow*

– Mary Sarton

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*(Giving Thanks, continued from page 1)*

First of all, what a fantastic turnout at the Card Lake for the Council on Aging van fundraiser! Everything – yes everything – was donated. Not only was it a great success for their much-needed new van, but it was great to see so many town people in one spot having a great time together.

Halloween was quite a success once again! The rain cleared just in time and everyone was able to trick or treat and see their neighbors. So many generous people giving out treats and telling the kids they look so cute. I hope everyone saw the show on Maple Street – that’s always a treat. The Fire Department then made a parade up to our newly renovated gym, where Parks & Rec. put on a really great party.

The Fire Dept. is entirely volunteer and not only responds to all our fire and medical calls, but does many other things for the town as well. They put together the Scarecrow-making each year and then place them throughout the town. The Easter Egg Hunt is always a success and their Cabin Fever dance is always a big hit. I also know hundreds of people who benefited from all those free bike helmets they handed out at the Zucchini Festival.

Our amazing Zucchini Festival grows exponentially every year! Some work year-round on planning and, in the end, it takes hundreds of us to make it happen and then clean up! So many devoted, creative and brilliant people all working together to assemble a perfect day and night that we will never forget.

I know how much this town pulled together for the Butterworths. I think the best part is knowing that we will never stop pulling for them. We look out for each other and just don’t stop. I personally know many parents, myself included, that have had hard times and others step

right in and help look out for their kids. My mom always quotes, “It takes a Village to raise a child,” and boy do we have a good one. I’ve heard other parents in town quote this too during their stories – you know who you are!

As I write this, I am getting my baby-sitters lined up for the night of Gina Latimer’s benefit dinner. I’m sure it will be a great success as well. We all miss seeing you every day in the Market, Gina! We are all here for you and won’t ever stop. You have an entire town pulling for you. In this town, we don’t turn away when things get tough – we band together and it just makes us all stronger.

*[Editor’s note: Sadly, Gina Latimer passed away as this issue was going to press. Gina was a very special person in our community and she will truly be missed by all of us. The Editors of the Local Yokel wish to extend their sincere condolences to Gina’s family and friends.]*

There are so many good-hearted people selflessly making this a great place to be. From all the beautiful flowers around town to our Tourist Information Booth – who takes care of these? You may never know, because the people that do it don’t broadcast it. They really enjoy it and want to do it. Our many Eagle Scouts have beautified our town with their Eagle projects throughout the years, as well. It seems when somebody sees that something needs to be done, somebody makes it happen. There are often plenty of people with suggestions, which is important, but we’re lucky enough to have many who roll up their sleeves and do the work – and don’t complain about it! I can say the same about our Muddy Brook Elementary’s PTA. Lots of active people ready to make things happen.

Our Churches are very active with their dinners, bazaars, sidewalk bake sales and community events. The efforts to finish our new Town Hall have shown a lot of public enthusiasm. Our friendly police officers are always



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present, smiling and waving to everyone. People stop and visit with one another at the post office, the transfer station, the town beach, the hardware store and the markets and other shops, and in many other places around town. It's easy to see a community spirit of belonging just about everywhere here. It's a place where small is good because we're all neighbors who have respect for one another.

There has always been something going on in our town. In years past when the Kiwanis were active in West Stockbridge there were Holiday Baskets, Beautification of West Stockbridge (BOWS), Santa coming to town and Trees of Angels at the Post Office, just to name a few. I remember some fun times at the Farmer's Market and some great Christmas Strolls! This town has always been bustling with activity.

It astounds me how many ways our volunteer committees make our lives better by pulling together different resources. Our Community Health Association brings us everything from flu shots and visiting nurse services to their new collaboration with Hospice for even more health care activities. Our Historical Commission and Library Trustees keep bringing fascinating presentations to us, reminding us what used to be while enjoying what we are now. I have heard many people saying how well those talks have gone.

I have only scratched the surface here and only know of the things of which I have first hand knowledge. Talk to some of our town icons, they can tell you much more than I. But, I am so very proud that my husband Jim and I are living here, working here and raising our family here. This is the kind of town that anyone at any time can be seen performing a random kindness to just about anyone else for no special reason. What's better than that? Let's all stay involved and keep this place just as special for our little ones. The older I get, the more lucky I feel to be exactly here, with all of you, in our special town.




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## Business Profile:

### The Great Exchange

By Vicki Grayson

A new name, a new look and a new owner for the consignment shop on Main Street: Mary Ellen Devanny, who for the past year was Judy Culver's partner in Take Me Home, purchased Judy's share of the business in late September and is now the sole owner of The Great Exchange.

Mary Ellen is originally from Lee, and after spending many years working in corporate sales in Boston and New York (for American Express) has returned to Berkshire County and currently lives in Richmond. She spent a lot of time in West Stockbridge when she was growing up and always loved it, so is very happy to have a business here now. She thinks West Stockbridge is a very special town and said that people have been very welcoming.

Her way to relax from the pressures of corporate life was to hunt for and collect beautiful and unusual things. Her two favorite periods are Deco and the early 1900's through the 1970's. Her wide range of interests and eclectic taste is obvious when you look around the shop -- there are objects from all over the world and from many different time periods. One of the more noticeable changes she has made is the addition of modern pieces.

Some examples of items for sale are: jewelry from all periods, art glass, antique and modern ceramics, a large variety of household items, handbags and vintage evening bags, old Japanese theater masks, African and Tibetan masks, silver boxes from the mid-1800's, vintage and current fashion, paintings and photographs, crystal, and unusual shadow boxes. There is also a line of handmade woven bags in interesting fabrics by Jeanne Bradshaw, a California artist. They are very reasonably priced, available in three sizes, and the fabric can be customized. There are also some unique and fun jewelry pieces by the designer Laurelee, who had showrooms in New York and Miami.

Mary Ellen, who is also a painter, hopes that local artists will bring her their work to sell through the shop. She's interested in all mediums and would like artists in the area to contact her.

Most of the items in the shop are affordable, priced mid- to low-end. However, there is also some very expensive, high value artwork. It's a great place to do some Christmas shopping. She is clearly having a wonderful time and said that she looks forward to every time the door opens and wants everyone to feel welcome.



*Take Me Home on Main Street has transformed into The Great Exchange under the management of new owner, Mary Ellen Devanny.*

## Mushroom Film & Talk Draws a Crowd

*By Nancy Trionfo*

A standing-room crowd of more than 60 people attended the November 9 film and talk presented by the Friends of the West Stockbridge Library. The 30-minute film by Mati Kiin was shown by William Davis and featured an extensive viewing of the interior of the caves where mushrooms were grown by the Skorput family. Town Historian and emcee Robert Salerno toured the caves with Michael Skorput and Marjorie Hendler, the current owner of the property.

Michael Skorput, whose family operated the Mushroom business from 1946 until the mid 60's, provided a description of the business from planting mushroom "seeds" through cultivation, harvesting and

preparation for shipment to markets in Boston, Springfield and other destinations. Following the film, Marjorie Hendler provided historical background of the Caves originally owned by the New England Lime Company.

The event was the eighth in a series of local historical lectures presented by the Friends, which will soon be available on DVD for purchase or rental from the Library. Notice of future Friends of the Library events will be announced in the Local Yodel.

The Friends thank all who contributed their time and efforts to the presentation of "Growing Mushrooms in West Stockbridge."



*Above: Walking through the main tunnel.*

*Town Historian Robert Salerno (at left) toured the caves with Michael Skorput (right) and Marjorie Hendler, current owner of the property.*

*Photos Courtesy of Mati Kiin*



# West Stockbridge Celebrates Opening of New Town Offices, Library and Police Station

*By Tina Skorput Cooper*

On Saturday, November 3, the West Stockbridge Board of Selectmen welcomed residents and visitors to tour the new Town Offices, Library and the Police Station. The morning began with visits from Senator Ben Downing and Rep. Smitty Pignatelli, who toured the building and offered their congratulations on such a beautiful facility.

There was a steady stream of residents throughout the morning checking out the spacious new offices, meeting rooms, Police Station and Library. Everyone had very positive comments about the whole facility. There were quite a few Village School alumni who came as well. They reminisced about the classrooms and where each one was, and visited with Tom Meade, a Town resident and longtime principal of the Village School. If you closed your eyes, you could still hear Mr. Meade's laughter travel down the hallway into the classrooms or hear his presence in the lunchroom when things got a little too loud.

The Town Offices, Library and Police Station at the Village School is a facility our community can be very proud of. If you haven't already stopped in, please do – you will be pleasantly surprised!



*(Left to right): State Representative Smitty Pignatelli joins Selectmen Curt Wilton, Tina Skorput Cooper and Mike Kirchner for the opening of the new Town Offices at the old Village School.*

*Inset: Library Trustee Nancy Kearns with State Senator Ben Downing*

*Photos: Jen Wilton*



To all our readers:

It's that time of year again and we are making our second annual Santa's Wish List appeal. When you're making out your gift list, we hope you'll consider a donation to the Fire Department, the Library, and the West Stockbridge Beautification Committee which is responsible for all the beautiful decorations and plantings around town all year 'round.

Your donations last year were very appreciated – and even a few dollars can add up and really make a difference.

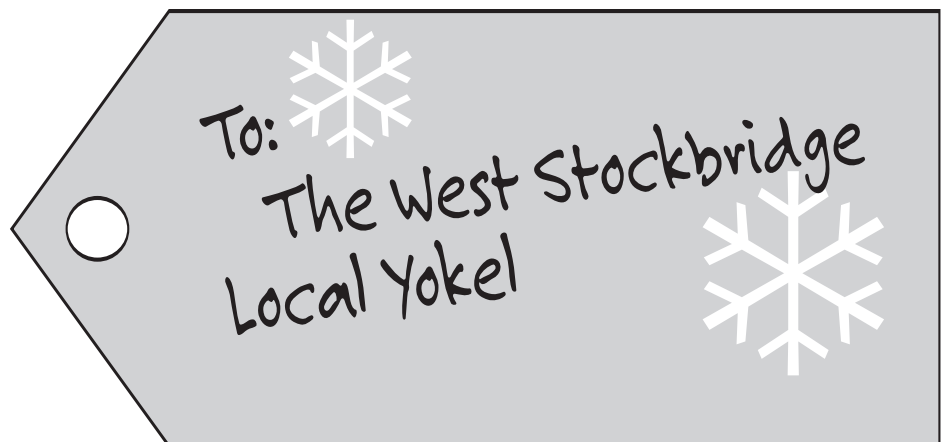
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And by the way...we've added a gift tag for the Local Yokel, too. We are a completely volunteer operation and we couldn't keep the newsletter coming without your contributions.

Thanks for your support, and we wish you the happiest of holidays!

The WSLY Editors



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## Our New Library

By A.J. Coles, Library Director

Well, if you haven't already seen the new library, come on in! There are new books, new and FAST computers, wireless internet service, and a beautiful new space in the back of Town Hall. The library is open Wednesday through Friday 2-6 pm and Saturdays 9 am – 2 pm. The knitters are here on Wednesdays at 2 pm and new members are welcome! Story Hour is ongoing on Saturdays at 11 am. On December 15th, we'll have a presentation by Bill Wolfe, the candy-making innkeeper at 1 pm. Computer classes are going to be offered again soon – sign up in the library. Come see what's new!



## Community Health Association: Moving Ahead

By Peg Lund

The Community Health Association has been moving ahead under the leadership of Executive Director Emilie Jarrett and Board Chairman Dr. Lawrence Cohen. The Zucchini Festival brought out many people who hit the bell at the CHA Booth. The Association has again demonstrated that it can "hit the bell" by providing approximately 360 flu shots to Richmond and West Stockbridge residents.

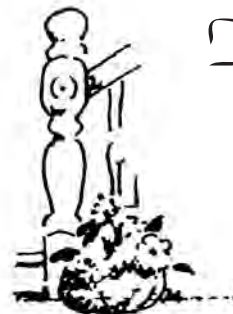
Additional staff and services have been added so, if you or somebody you know needs assistance, call the main office in Richmond to discuss your home care with CHA. The CHA is your local Visiting Nurse Association and we do take care of each other.



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Anne M. Roy, Owner  
annemroy@the-floorstore.com

## Community News & Events

### Santa Claus is Coming to Town!

Santa Claus will be visiting West Stockbridge on Saturday, December 15, from 1 to 3pm at the new Town Offices, 21 State Line Road. There will be refreshments and pictures with Santa. This event is sponsored by the West Stockbridge Fire Department Support Services.



*Collin Parker visited with Santa at last year's event.*

*Photo: J. Parker*

### Holiday Cookie Walk

St. Patrick's Church will hold its Tenth Annual Holiday Cookie Bake Sale on Saturday, December 15, from 9 am to 12 noon at St. Patrick's Parish Center, 30 Albany Road. There will be a wide variety of cookies, which will be sold by weight.



## December Birthdays

- December 1 Steven Seward
- December 9 Paula and Mark Viola
- December 12 Dave Weeden
- December 20 Pandora Rusch
- December 26 Pam and Phil Lockenwitz
- December 28 Nicholas Race
- December 30 Kristany Skorput



### West Stockbridge Compactor Station

Bill's Recycling  
Tip of the Month:



### Cans and Bottles

The Compactor Station can accept cans and bottles no larger than 2 gallons with no metal (e.g. handles, etc.) attached.

### Styrofoam and Plastic Bags

Please remember, styrofoam and plastic bags are not recyclable at the Compactor Station. Many supermarkets will accept plastic bags for recycling.

### Hours:

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

## Local Yokel Donor Roll Call

### November Donors:

Victor Biasin

Henry and Kathryn Gallitano

Lynn Wheeler Kindred

William Reid

Thanks to everyone who has  
donated to WSLY. We couldn't do it without  
your support! Keep the Local Yokel  
coming. Send your gift today!  
(See response form on page 19.)

### DO YOU LIKE TO TAKE PICTURES?

The Local Yokel is looking for you! We are looking for photographers to cover events in the Town. If you would like to help us bring lively, timely images to our newsletter, please contact John Parker at 413-232-4123, jandlparker@verizon.net

### HELP WANTED: ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT 4-8 HOURS A WEEK

Creative Director of a small design firm looking for an administrative assistant for part-time position. Organize files and job samples, archive job files, keep office tidy, track bills, light bookkeeping experience a plus. Please send letter of introduction and resume to rsiberk@yahoo.com.

## LAZAN GLOVER & PUCILOSKI LLP

GT. BARRINGTON / BOSTON

*Attorneys at Law*

785 S. Main Street  
Great Barrington, MA 01230

DAVID M. LAZAN  
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*The Local Yokel is published monthly. Please send submissions to: The Local Yokel, P.O. Box 238, West Stockbridge, MA, 01266. Deadline is the second Friday of each month prior to the month of publication. Editors: Tina Skorput Cooper, 413-212-3161, wstnclerk@msn.com; John Parker, 413-232-4123, jandlparker49@verizon.net; Vicki Grayson, vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com. Design: Rusch Studio Inc.*



## Recipe Corner

By Lynn Ryan

### Polenta with Artichoke Ragout

#### For Polenta:

- 1 cup polenta or fine-grained cornmeal
- 1 quart chicken or vegetable broth
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 tblsp. butter
- 2 ounces freshly grated parmesan
- Salt and fresh ground pepper

#### For Artichoke Ragout:

- 3 tblsp. extra virgin olive oil
- 1 red bell pepper, seeded and coarsely chopped
- 1 cup chopped onions
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 (10 ounce) package frozen artichoke hearts, thawed and chopped
- 1 cup chopped, pitted Mediterranean olives such as Kalamata
- 1/4 cup capers, drained
- 1 (14 ounce) can diced tomatoes, undrained
- Freshly grated Parmesan

1. For the Polenta: Combine polenta, broth, and salt in a saucepan. Place over moderately high heat and bring to a boil, whisking periodically. Turn down to a simmer and simmer gently, partially covered with a lid, for 15 minutes. Stir in the butter and cheese, and season with salt and pepper to taste.

2. Meanwhile, make the sauce: Heat the oil over moderately low heat, add the onion and bell pepper and cook until softened. Add the garlic and cook two minutes more. Add all the remaining ingredients and simmer for 10 minutes or until slightly thickened. Serve over warm polenta and sprinkle each portion with some of the cheese.

Serves 4

Send your favorite recipes to Lynn Ryan  
17 Lenox Road, West Stockbridge, MA 01266



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In West Stockbridge  
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# Happy Holidays!

#### Wines:

**Smoking Loon**  
All Varieties  
750ml  
\$7.99

**Casarsa**  
1.5 LT  
\$7.99

#### Liquor:

**Burnett's Gin**  
1.75 LT  
\$14.99

**Jameson Irish Whisky**  
1.75 LT  
\$39.99

#### Beer:

**Saranac Beers of Winter**  
12 pk  
\$12.99 + dep

**Sam Smith**  
3 Beers with Glass  
\$10.99 + dep

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# Please Support The Local Yokel!

For this newsletter to survive and grow, we need your support! Here's the deal: for your donation of at least \$15.00 per year we will mail each issue to you (unless you prefer otherwise).  
(The *Local Yokel* will continue to be available free of charge at distribution sites around town.)

**YES!** I want to support the **Local Yokel**.

Enclosed is my donation of \_\_\_\_\_,  
made payable to WSLY.

*Donate \$25 or more and  
get a YKL Bumper Sticker FREE!*

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Yokel **Bumper Sticker for just \$3.00**



**Check any that apply:**

- I would like my contribution to remain anonymous.
- Thanks, but don't mail the *Local Yokel* to me.
- I would like to get involved with the *Local Yokel* (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 Yokel and/or Bumper Sticker 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	Tues. 5-7pm; Wed., Thurs., 9:30-12:30pm; Sat. morning by appointment
Board of Health	Fri. 9am-4pm
Board of Selectmen	Mon., Wed., Fri., 8:30am-4:30pm
Building Inspector	Mon. 7pm
Compactor Station	Tues., Thurs., 10am-6pm; Sat. 8am-6pm
Conservation Commission	Leave a message for inquiries
Fire Department	Fire Chief's Office Hours Mon. 6:30pm-9:00pm
Highway Department	Leave a message any time
Library	Wed. - Fri. 2-6pm; Sat. 9-2pm
Police Department	24 hours, 7 days a week
Post Office	Lobby: 7am-7pm, 7 days/week Window: Mon.-Fri. 9am-4:30pm; Sat. 9-12 noon
Town Accountant	Leave a message for inquiries
Town Clerk	Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 8am-3pm
Town Collector	Wed. 4pm-6pm; Thurs., Fri., Sat. 10am-2pm
Town Treasurer	Thurs. 9am-4pm

New Phone Directory	
<b>Town Hall Main Number</b>	<b>413-232-0300</b>
Town Clerk	ext. 300
Town Collector	ext. 302
Board of Assessors	ext. 303
Library	ext. 308
Building Inspector	ext. 313
Board of Health	ext. 314
Treasurer	ext. 316
Accountant	ext. 317
Board of Selectman Administrative Assistant	ext. 319
Conservation Commission	ext. 300
Town Hall Fax	413-232-7195
Police Department (Non-Emergency)	413-232-8500
Fire Department (Non-Emergency)	413-232-4200
Highway Department	413-232-0305
Transfer Station	413-232-0307
Sewer Plant	413-232-0309
Seasonal Lifeguard	413-232-0315
Council on Aging	413-232-4317

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


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

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.



massculturalcouncil.org

DECEMBER 2007						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

December 2007 Calendar of Events			
DATE	EVENT	TIME	PLACE
December 3	Board of Selectmen's Meeting	6:30pm	New Town Offices
December 5	<b>HAPPY CHANUKAH!</b>		
December 6	Conservation Commission Meeting	7:00pm	New Town Offices
December 6	Board of Health Meeting	7:00pm	New Town Offices
December 7	<b>PEARL HARBOR DAY</b>		
December 10	Board of Selectmen's Meeting	6:30pm	New Town Offices
December 14	<b>LOCAL YOKEL SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE</b>		
December 15	Cookie Walk	9:00am-12noon	St. Patrick's Parish Center
December 15	<b>SANTA'S IN TOWN!</b>	1:00pm	New Town Offices
December 17	Board of Selectmen's Meeting	6:30pm	New Town Offices
December 22	<b>FIRST DAY OF WINTER</b>		
December 24 – January 2, 2008	<b>BHRSD SCHOOL VACATION</b>		
December 25	<b>MERRY CHRISTMAS! TOWN OFFICES CLOSED</b>		
	<b>The New Town Offices are located at 21 State Line Road (Rt. 102)</b>		