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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 and at the Town offices.)

November 5, 2007

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

Fiscal Reporting. The Board discussed year-end fiscal reporting, concluding that full detail of all warrant activity would be too costly to include in the Annual Town Report. The Board instead decided to post a complete spending activity report in the Library. Employee salaries will also be included in the next Annual Report.

Problem Tree. John Pons contested a recent determination by the Tree Warden that a tree he is concerned about is not a Town tree but lies on his property. He asserted that the tree is dying and showed surveys indicating that it is, in fact, on Town property. The Board agreed to ask the Tree Warden to take another look at the tree.

New Town Hall. Mike Kirchner discussed project costs and project close-out. A final job meeting will be scheduled for the end of November. All project costs incurred to date have been forwarded to Construction Management Services for compilation. Plans were made for disposal of leftover furniture and office equipment. Items will be made available to Town churches and area non-profits and to the general public.

Old Town Hall. The Board agreed to draft and publish a Request for Proposals (RFP) to determine what interest there is in the building. The Old Town Hall Committee would be expected to submit a proposal at the same time. The Committee will be called to a meeting in the next few weeks to give an update of their plans.

Other Items:

- The Board appreciatively approved an offer from Mrs. Ecklund to donate several houseplants to the new Town Hall.

- The Board agreed to send a letter to Father CJ at St. Patrick's Parish thanking him for use of the Parish Center for the past year to hold its meetings.

- A Special Town Meeting to consider an article to purchase a replacement COA van must be posted no later than 11/12/07.

- The Board reviewed a memo from the Finance Committee. Administrative Assistant Mark Webber noted that some assumptions in the memo were incorrect; for instance, several thousand dollars have been earned by placing Village School Building Project bond proceeds into interest-bearing accounts.

- Scanlon Associates will be in Town beginning the week of 11/19 to conduct their FY 2007 audit. The Town Accountant has delivered all year-end data to the Auditors.

- The Board reviewed a letter to Curt Wilton from the Inspector General's Office congratulating Administrative Assistant Mark Webber on attaining Massachusetts Certified Public Purchasing Official status.

November 19, 2007

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

Gym Use Request. Lisa Robbins, representing Community Health Program (CHP), requested use of the Village School gym for a playgroup from 9:30-11:30 am on Tuesdays beginning sometime after the first of the year. After reviewing planned activities, Lisa was asked to submit a use request form. The Board will respond within two weeks.

Library Dog. Library Director AJ Coles asked the Board to amend the Village School Use Policy to allow "therapy dogs" as well as "service dogs." She conducts a "Read With Owen the Dog" program, and noted that Library traffic has increased 10-16% since she began as Director. Mike Kirchner expressed concern that there are people who, because of allergies or other reasons, are uncomfortable with dogs and may not enter the Library if a dog is there. Mike thinks there needs to be limits on building use and the Board wants to get a handle on public use correctly from the beginning.

Carol Kuller said the dog adds something special. Library Trustee Nancy Kearns said she has a problem with the dog being there every day, but supports the limited reading program. Curt Wilton pointed out the building isn't exclusively a Library; multiple needs and uses need to be considered. Tina Skorput Cooper favors having the dog in the Library. The Board agreed to take more time to consider. Meanwhile, use of the dog for the scheduled reading program the following Saturday was approved.

Other Building Use Issues. Curtis Thierling of the Parks and Recreation Committee has received requests to use the Village School building and grounds and asked who would be doing the scheduling. He was advised that the Board will be in charge of scheduling and use. "Responsible adult" language needs to be added to the Use Policy when young people are scheduled to use the facilities.

COA Van. Joan and Norwin Rehm discussed next week's Special Town Meeting to consider purchase of a COA van. The Finance Committee has approved the warrant article. Fundraising has been successful and \$10,000 is available to put towards the van purchase. The Berkshire Record gave the wrong date for the meeting. Joan congratulated everyone for their generosity and caring.

Other Items:

- The Board discussed the used furniture giveaway. Notices have been given to non-profits, media and Town officers.
- The Board discussed adding security buttons for office staff and a chime for the front door to let people know when someone enters the building.
- Mike Kirchner asked if the Board could consider changing the posting site requirements that have been in effect for years since the town no longer has multiple centers.
- Minor gravel repairs will be made to the Card Lake Inn parking lot in appreciation for the Town being allowed to use it for so many years.
- The Board discussed adding Card Pond to the annual aquatic weed removal program started at Mill Pond.

(Continued on page 5)

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The Public Market

By Vicki Grayson

The Public Market's current owner, Bernie Fallon, is the grandson of the original owner, Francis Fallon, who purchased the former saloon with his brother Tom in the 1930's. Between Francis and Bernie there were several different owners, including Michael Skorput, Bernie's stepfather, who purchased the Market with Bernie's mother Anna in 1978. Bernie credits Michael with the idea to sell soups and sandwiches, which over time has expanded to substantial meals for lunch and dinner.

Bernie, a West Stockbridge native, moved to Phoenix in 1993 to study environmental and personal health. When his family asked for help, he moved back home in 2003 and started running the market. He loves small town life – and West Stockbridge – and how the Market is a gathering place for so many people in town. He truly enjoys his customers and looks forward to the day when he has a little more time to chat with everyone who comes in.

For a small store, the Market has an incredible variety of items – just about everything you would find in a big grocery store, but only one brand of most items rather than several. While the business that drives the store are the lunches, dinners and coffee, there will be a lot of surprises for people who aren't used to shopping there. Among other goodies and staples much too long to list, there is fresh produce and meat, which is very unusual for a small store; coffee to be freshly ground; interesting candies, nuts and snacks; beer, wine and liquor; and great bread from Rock Hill Bakehouse.

Since the beginning selling meat has been a key aspect of the business – Bernie's grandfather's previous business was Fallon Brothers Meat Market, which delivered meat all over the area. Some subsequent owners were butchers; Bernie said that Michael Skorput is a great butcher and when I arrived to meet with Bernie he was busy cutting up chickens. In the relatively near future he plans to get a different type of cooler, which will create a lot more space so the Market can expand its inventory.

Bernie said that he decides what items to carry based on what his customers want. He tries to stay attuned with what local people need and want to buy and is open to requests

for specific items. Bernie feels a responsibility to the community and customer service is critical to him. A great example of this is that the store is open all day on Thanksgiving so people are able to purchase the things they forgot – he has even sold turkeys to people who burned their original ones. He said that people are thrilled to find the store open on Thanksgiving and while it is not a very profitable day for the store, he is happy that he can make a difference. Bernie's philosophy is to say something to each person that will make their day better, and as we all can see, he has taught this to the entire staff.

Bernie asked me to mention how important Gina Latimer was to him and to the store. Gina was with him from the first day he started working there. He said she was an amazing help to him, she worked incredibly hard, and he couldn't be where he is now without her – that she is a large part of the Market's current success.



The Public Market has been a fixture on Main Street since the 1930's.

Photos: J. Parker

(Selectmen, continued from page 3)

November 26, 2007

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

Aquatic Weeds. The Board discussed aquatic weed removal at Card Pond. Lycott Environmental will provide a proposal for treatment around the Card Pond swimming area next spring.

Village School Project. Board will host a final Village School project job meeting on 11/30 at 9 am.

Other Items:

- The Board reviewed a letter from the Library Trustees regarding the Library Director.
- The Board reviewed quotes compiled by the Chief of Police to replace computer equipment damaged during the Village School construction.

December 3, 2007

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

Library Dog. The Board read a letter from Library Director AJ Cole seeking a response to her presentation at the 11/19/07 Board meeting concerning amending the Building Use Policy to allow Therapy Dogs. The Board will make a decision at the next meeting when a full Board is present.

Building Use Requests. The Board reviewed and approved three Village School Use Requests.

Village School Project. The Board reviewed the Village School project punch list. Only a few minor items remain to be resolved in addition to the windows issue.

Cemetery Issue. Peter Skorput has offered to mitigate a Town Cemetery burial issue at the request of Bill Kie and will work with Mr. Kie on a resolution.

Board Meeting Schedule. The Board will not meet on December 24 and January 1.

Annual Tax Classification. The Board held a Public Hearing for Annual Tax Classification. Jennifer Wilton, Board of Assessors member, made a motion to accept a single tax rate for all classes of

property as has been done in prior years. The motion was approved.

Executive Session. The Board then voted to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a litigation issue affecting the town, per MGL 39:23B (3), and to adjourn to open meeting upon completion of the Executive Session.



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CHA Introduces New Cancer Care Program

By Emilie Jarrett, Director, Community Health Association

What's new at The Community Health Association? First of all, a very big thank you to all in the community who contributed to our winter appeal. It takes all of us working together to keep our community healthy and we all are very grateful.

I'm very excited to report on a brand new program offered called the Community Cancer Care Program which is based on the collaborative effort between CHA and HospiceCare of the Berkshires. This program is focused on serving individuals diagnosed with cancer who are in need of homecare services. There are many individuals in our area who are undergoing cancer treatment and would benefit greatly from home visits from one of our nurses, therapists, home health aids, and social workers that would greatly improve the quality of life.

We also offer a palliative care consultation, which would include comprehensive pain and symptom management, skilled management of any distressing symptom, counseling of the individual

and family, and advanced care planning from a nurse practitioner. Palliative care is family-centered, designed to enhance choice and to promote well-being in accordance with family values, needs and preferences.

The goals of the program are threefold:

- To facilitate the comprehensive management of physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of anyone diagnosed with cancer.
- To alleviate suffering and discomfort to enable the individual to live as fully as possible.
- To affirm the quality of life, dignity, and self-determination of the individual and families served.

We believe that this program would help any individual undergoing cancer treatment. If you would like more information,

please call me, Emilie Jarrett, at the Community Health Association 413-698-3303. We wish you all the best to you and your family in the New Year.



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Local Artists Exhibition

Meet West Stockbridge artists and discover the worlds of mobiles, painting, pottery, sculpture, stained glass, woodworking and more at the Friends of the Library Local Artists Exhibit.

Among Participating Artists:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Ray Dorazio | Stained Glass |
| John Elling | Metal Sculpture |
| Elaine Hoffman | Hoffman Pottery |
| Joel Hotchkiss | Hotchkiss Mobiles |
| Joy Kennedy | Painted Floor Cloths |
| Margie Skaggs | Pottery |
| Peter Thorne | Woodworks |

- Date:** Saturday, January 26
Time: 10:00am – 3:00pm
Place: West Stockbridge Town Library
New Town Hall
21 State Line Road
West Stockbridge, MA

Shaker Mill Bridge Opens

By Mark Webber, Administrative Assistant

J. H. Maxymillian, general contractors from Pittsfield, have completed work on the Shaker Mill Bridge for the season. The traffic lights have come down and two-way traffic is back to normal. While the project is essentially complete, the contractor will return in the spring to perform final touch-ups and to apply a finish coat of blacktop.

At the request of the Selectmen, MassHighway has agreed to fund an extension of new paving, curbing and sidewalk a few hundred feet beyond the original scope of work. This additional work will clean up the area between the bridge and where the new paving begins adjacent to the Shaker Mill Inn.

The Selectmen wish to thank Maxymillian for completing the project on time while doing their best to minimize our inconvenience. The Board also thanks the townspeople for showing their patience and for not running red lights – at least not too often!.

The traffic lights are gone as work on the Shaker Mill Bridge is “essentially done.”

Photos: J. Parker



Ready, Set...Play!

Program for Young Children to Start at New Town Hall

By John J. Parker

Community Health Programs (CHP) is starting a Playgroup at the new Town Hall on State Line Road in West Stockbridge, according to Lisa Robbins, Education Director for the CHP Family Network. The Playgroup will meet weekly (following the school calendar) from 9:30 to 11:30 am starting Tuesday, January 15, in the gym of the renovated and recently opened Town Hall, home of the Town offices and Public Library. "The venue is really wonderful," said Robbins, who thanked the Selectmen for permission to use the facilities.

Robbins explained that Playgroups offer unstructured but safe and supervised play experiences for all young children. Mats, tunnels, tumbling areas and other play paraphernalia will be provided (donation of balls, mats and other equipment in good condition are welcome – donors are asked to contact Lisa Robbins at 528-0721). Playgroups sponsored by the Family Network are currently offered in Great Barrington, Lenox, Sheffield, Otis, Becket and other southern Berkshire County towns.

The Playgroup program is open to all at no charge. Pre-registration is not required and participants are welcome to attend as often, and for as long as they wish. However, Robbins emphasized that the Playgroup program is "drop-in, not drop-off." A parent or other adult caretaker must stay with the child. "Playgroups also provide a nice way for parents to connect," added Robbins, noting that raising a young child in rural Berkshire County can be an isolating experience.

Supervising the new Playgroup will be Family Network Advisory Board member Lisa Parker, a resident of West Stockbridge and herself the parent of an active two year-old. "We have attended other CHP-sponsored playgroups for over a year and have enjoyed it very

much. It's a great way for tots to burn off some of that endless energy, especially in the winter months," Parker said, "We're looking forward to having you join us!"

The CHP Family Network is funded by the Mass. Department of Education, Berkshire United Way and private donations. Services are provided free of charge to pregnant women and parents, and children from birth through age 6. In addition to Playgroups, other programs include a clothing exchange, parent programs, parent/child activities and a lending library. For more information, call 528-0721 or visit communityhealthprograms.org.



A Note of Thanks

The West Stockbridge Fire Department Support Services would like to extend their thanks to the Board of Selectmen for allowing the WSFD Support Services to use the Gym at the Town Offices of Village School for the annual visit of Santa with the children of West Stockbridge.

We also want to thank Dion Hall for his generous donation of time by helping decorate, shopping for the event and taking pictures. Thanks also go to Chief Peter Skorput for bringing Santa to the school on the Fire Truck. Most of all, we want to thank Santa for taking the time out of his busy schedule this time of year to visit West Stockbridge.

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Safety Tips for Open Burning Season

Adapted from Mass.gov Fire Safety

Permits are required for open burning

Open Burning Season starts January 15 and ends April 30, 2008. A permit is required from the Fire Department. Permits can be obtained from the Public Market, Williams River Country Store, and Baldwin's Hardware Store. The cost of the permit is \$1.00 and it is good for one day.

Burning can be done from 10 am to 4 pm and must be a minimum of 75 feet from all buildings or structures. Weather conditions can change rapidly, especially in the spring. The Fire Chief will determine on a daily basis when it is safe to conduct open burning, and permits can be rescinded.

April is the cruelest month

April is usually the worst month for brush fires. When the snow pack recedes, before new growth emerges, last year's dead grass, leaves and wood are dangerous fuels. Winds also tend to be stronger and more unpredictable during April.

Prevent permit fires from becoming wild fires by burning early in the season. Wet and snowy winter conditions hinder the rapid spread of fire on or under

(Continued on next page)



Open Burning Safety Tips:

- **An adult should always be present** during open burning and children and pets should be kept a safe distance away.
- **Use paper and kindling to start the fire** and add progressively larger pieces of wood. Parts of leftover Christmas trees may be used.
- **Never use gasoline, kerosene or any other flammable liquid** to start a fire because the risk of personal injury is high.
- **Burn one small pile at a time** and slowly add to it to keep the fire from getting out of control.
- **Select a location away from any utility lines.**
- **An adult must attend the fire until it is completely extinguished.**
- **Have fire extinguishing materials on hand including a water supply, shovels and rakes.** The water supply could be a pressurized water fire extinguisher, a pump can or garden hose, and be sure to test it out before igniting the fire. You do not want to find that the water is still shut off at the house faucet or that the hose is cracked when you need it most.
- **Be prepared to extinguish your fire** if the winds pick up or the weather changes. Use common sense and don't wait for the fire department to contact you that it has become unsafe to burn. Sudden wind changes are how most open burning gets out of control.
- **Don't delay a call for help.** If for some reason, the fire should get out of control, call the fire department immediately. Use the utmost caution to prevent injury to yourself or family members or any damage by fire to your home.

(Fire Safety Tips, continued)

the ground. Weather conditions and increased fire dangers may lead to many days when burning cannot be allowed.

Alternatives to open burning

Open burning releases large amounts of carbon dioxide, other gases and solid substances directly into the air, which can contribute to respiratory problems. Disposal of natural materials is never as good for the environment as using them again in a different form. Tree limbs, brush and other forestry debris can be chipped or composted into landscaping materials.

Burning the following material is allowed with a permit:

- Brush, cane, driftwood and forestry debris from other than commercial or industrial land clearing operations.
- Materials normally associated with the pursuit of agricultural such as fruit tree pruning, dead raspberry stalks, blueberry patches for pruning purposes and infected bee hives for disease control.
- Trees and brush resulting from agricultural land clearing.
- Fungus infected elm wood, if no other acceptable means of disposal is available.

Burning the following materials is prohibited statewide:

- Brush, trees, cane and driftwood from commercial and/or industrial land clearing operations.
- Grass, hay, leaves, stumps and trees.
- Construction materials and debris.

People conducting illegal burning, or who allow a fire to get out of control, may be held liable for costs of extinguishing the fire, and may face fines and possible imprisonment.



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FY 2008 Tax Rate Set

By Mark Webber, Administrative Assistant

On December 14th, the Department of Revenue granted approval for the Town's 2008 tax rate. This year's mil rate is \$8.90 per thousand dollars of property valuation. This reflects a ten-cent (1%) increase over the 2007 rate. The Town will continue to use a single tax rate for all real and personal property.

The 2008 value of all personal and real property in West Stockbridge is \$417,893,644 which reflects a 3% overall increase from the previous year and indicates a moderation of the recent jumps in residential values. So, property owners can expect marginal shifts in their upcoming tax bills – either up or down – depending on their new assessed valuation. New tax bills will be mailed prior to the end of December.

Thanks go out to the Board of Assessors and other Town officials who helped pull this process together in a timely and responsible manner.

Thank You!



**FROM THE
WEST STOCKBRIDGE
COUNCIL ON AGING**

Thank you to Card Lake Inn & friends of the COA, all who donated the place, time, food, raffles and donations as well as holding a very successful dinner and fundraiser in support of the COA Van Drive.

Public Market	Catherine Chocolates	T.P. Saddleblanket	Grape Finds
The Cottage	Kwik Print	Trading	Lucky Nails
Queensborough Spirits	EB Dolby Florist	Barrington Brewery	Bike & Blade
William's River Variety	Jackie's Store	Manhattan Pizza	WSBS
Charles H. Baldwin	Happy Nail & Spa	The Corn Crib	Wild Flowers Florist
Dick's	NY Yankees	The East Restaurant	Great Barrington Pizza
Dave's Sporting Goods	Boston Red Sox	Mohegan Sun	Tune Street
Yankee Candle	Boston Symphony	Michele's Salon & Day	Bizen
Berkshire Mountain	Orchestra	Spa	Jack's Country Squire
Bakery	Red Lion Inn	Berkshire Bank	Ward's
Tom's Toys	Red Lion Gift Shop	Taft Farm	Asters Restaurant
The Great Wall	Six Flags New England	The Frame Shop	Mahaiwe Theatre
Home Goods	Berkshire Theatre	Sim's Hair Salon	Berkshire Museum
Cove Bowling Lanes	Festival	Plaza Package	Neighborhood Diner
Dakota	Mac-Hayden Theatre	Domaney's	Four Brothers
Village Oven	Evergreen	Trotta's	

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Friends of the Library Historical Programs Now Available on DVD

DVDs of West Stockbridge history presentations are now available for rental or purchase at the Library. Purchase the set of eight for \$40.00 or select an individual presentation for \$7.50.

- History of Marble Quarries in West Stockbridge
- Travel Back in Time
- History of Trains
- Early Religions in West Stockbridge
- Smoke on the Mountain
- West Stockbridge Show and Tell
- West Stockbridge During Prohibition
- Mushroom Growing in West Stockbridge



In addition, the Library has an expanded inventory of DVDs for rental.

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Community News & Events

Stockbridge Grange Dinner

The Stockbridge Grange will host a public family-style Baked Ham dinner on Sunday, January 13 from 1:00 to 2:00 pm in the Grange Hall on Church Street in Stockbridge. The costs are: \$9.00 for adults and \$4.50 for children under 12. Take-out is available by calling 298-3185.

Village School Gym Open for Walking

The Village School gym will be open Monday through Friday from 7:00 to 10:00 am for walking. Bring a pair of sneakers, a music device and/or a friend and walk! Please leave wet boots outside the gym doors during the winter months.

Movie Night/Double Feature at the Village School Gym

Parks and Recreation is starting Movie Night at the Village School gym on Friday, January 25 and will hold this event every other Friday night until spring. Doors open at 6:00 pm. The first feature will start at 6:30 pm and will be for kids. The second feature will begin at 8:00 pm and will be for teens and adults.

Pixar's "The Incredibles" (rated PG) will be our first feature film and the second film will be Ocean's 13 (rated PG-13). Admission is free. Popcorn will be featured along with the movie.

We would love to hear your ideas for movies and other suggestions you have. Please call or e-mail Jenni at 232-4322 or Jenni@the-floorstore.com with your comments.

WSTV Channel 2 Needs Your Help

Patience is the necessary word as we try to transition the TV station from the old Town Hall to the new. Hopefully, by the time you read this, we will be operational. We are in need of a small TV set and a computer. The old TV has buttons that stick and is unreliable and we don't have a computer. If you have either of these items and are willing to donate them, please call either Mati at 232-4628 or Carol at 232-0127. We are looking forward to being on the air again soon.

Voter Registration Sessions at the Town Clerk's Office

The Town Clerk's Office will hold a Voter Registration session on Wednesday, January 16 from 2:00 to 8:00 pm in the Town Clerk's Office in the new Town Hall at 21 State Line Road. Any resident who is a U.S. citizen, a Massachusetts resident, and 18 years of age as of the date of the next election or older, is eligible to register to vote on that day or before.

Registered voters who want to change their party affiliation also have up to the close of voter registration on January 16th to do so. The next election, the Presidential Primary, will take place on Tuesday, February 5. The polls will be open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm in the Gym. Residents are encouraged to call the Town Clerk's Office with any questions or concerns they may have about Voter Registration or the upcoming Presidential Primary as soon as possible. The Town Clerk's Office is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. The phone number is 413-232-0300, ext. 300 and e-mail is wstnclerk@msn.com.

Residents should also expect to see the Annual Census form arriving in the mail during the early part of January. The Annual Census is very important in many ways. An accurate count of residents of all ages helps in receiving state funding as well as keeping an accurate record for emergency service personnel. Please fill out the census form and return it as soon as possible. If you did not receive one, please call the Town Clerk's Office and one will be sent to you.

West Stockbridge Fire Department Annual Cabin Fever Dance

It's that time of year again! Watch for flyers and news releases with the exact date and time of the next Cabin Fever dance in February. Tickets will be available soon. It is a fabulous way to get together with friends and neighbors, eat great food, win fantastic raffle prizes, and dance the night away! For more information, contact Fire Chief Peter Skorput at 232-7853.

Local Yokel Donor Roll Call

December Donors:

Susan and Dan Dalessandro

Mary Ellen Devanny

Joseph Flummerfelt

Ann and Matt Kinne

Gordon and Isabelle Soule

Ira and Louise Wasserberg

Judith and Ralph Wehrenberg

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 17.)

TROY'S GARAGE

**FULL AUTOMOTIVE
SERVICE**

**PROPANE CYLINDERS
REFILLED**

413 232-4295 Victor

413 232-4296 John

Albany Road, West Stockbridge

January Birthdays

January 2 Doris Skorput

January 12 Anne Roy

January 13 Mackenzie Viola
James Hallock, Sr.

January 20 Ron Race

January 24 John Parker

January 26 Peter Lockenwitz



West Stockbridge Compactor Station

Bill's Recycling

Tip of the Month:



Holiday Wrapping

Please remember that Christmas gift wrapping paper and styrofoam packaging materials are not recyclable.

Hours:

Tues., Thurs. 10am-6pm

Sat. 8am-6pm

232-0307

Bill Pixley, Attendant

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

Chocolate Smooches

Submitted by Amy Cotler, Fresh & Company

The recipe for these fabulous chocolate candies is so simple it isn't even a recipe. The key is to use the best chocolate around (why not buy it at Baldwin's?). Possible additions are unlimited, so feel free to substitute your favorite tasties for the almonds and raisins used here with chopped hazelnuts, dried cranberries, coconut, diced candied ginger, etc. You can also add just a touch of a tasty liquor, such as Kirsch or Frangelica, or use vanilla extract, brandy or even a pinch of cinnamon. This recipe makes about 10 smooches, but these homemade candies go fast, so you may need to double or triple the recipe.

6 ounces of the best quality semi-sweet chocolate, broken into small pieces

1 heaping tablespoon raisins or dried cherries

1 heaping tablespoon sliced almonds, toasted

1. Set a bowl over simmering water. Turn off the heat and melt the chocolate in the bowl, stirring occasionally, just until melted, whisking occasionally if necessary (or use the microwave).
2. Stir in the raisins and almonds.
3. Line a sheet pan with parchment or wax paper. While the chocolate is hot, using two spoons as you would with cookie dough, drip the smooches onto the paper. These are best quite thin, so you may want to go back and smooth them out a little with a rubber spatula. Don't forget to lick the bowl!
4. Cover and refrigerate until firm. Let them come to room temperature to serve.

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



Fine Homes
Additions/Renovations

Mark Hallock
K&M Custom Construction
Offering Davis Frame timber frame homes

W. Stockbridge, MA 01266
MA Lic # 054613
413-232-0198

JANUARY THAW

by: Margaret Hillert

*The sun came out,
And the snowman cried.
His tears ran down
On every side.
His tears ran down
Till the spot was cleared.
He cried so hard
That he disappeared.*

Submitted by Lynn Ryan

Library News

By A.J. Cole, Library Director

LOTS of new kids' and adult books have arrived at the Library! The new Grisham, Steel, Patterson, and Parker books are here, just to name a few. The Knitters will be



continuing on Wednesdays from 2-4 pm – they are GREAT teachers. Story Hour is every Saturday at 11 am. Kids of all ages are welcome. And kids: watch for fun stuff happening at Town Hall during school vacations! There will be games, challenges, and crafty activities in the Library during regular library hours.

The Library still needs volunteers! Wednesdays and Fridays 4-6 pm and for Story Hour on Saturdays 11 am -12 noon. Stop in or call 232-0300 x308 if you're interested.

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!*

YES! I want to show the world
I'm a Local Yokel. Send me a Local
Yokel **Bumper Sticker for just \$3.00**



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

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).

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	
Town Hall Main Number	413-232-0300
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
Community and Business Website: 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

JANUARY 2008						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January 2008 Calendar of Events

DATE	EVENT	TIME	PLACE
January 1	HAPPY NEW YEAR!		
January 3	Board of Health Meeting	7:00pm	New Town Offices
	Conservation Commission Meeting	7:00pm	New Town Offices
January 7	Board of Selectmen's Meeting	6:30pm	New Town Offices
	Planning Board Meeting	7:00pm	New Town Offices
January 11	LOCAL YOKEL DEADLINE		
January 14	Board of Selectmen's Meeting	6:30pm	New Town Offices
January 15	Finance Committee Meeting	7:00pm	New Town Offices
January 16	VOTER REGISTRATION SESSION	2:00pm - 8:00pm	New Town Offices
January 17	Conservation Commission Meeting	7:00pm	New Town Offices
January 21	MARTIN LUTHER KING Jr. DAY – TOWN OFFICES CLOSED		
January 25	MOVIE NIGHT	6:30pm and 8:00pm	New Town Offices
January 28	Board of Selectmen's Meeting	6:30pm	New Town Offices



The New Town Offices are located at 21 State Line Road (Rt. 102)