



**What do those groundhogs know?
If our Red Squirrel has his tail on his back,
there's still 6 more weeks of winter!**

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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.)

January 12, 2009

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

Building Use Policy. Library Trustee Kathy Davis asked the Board to consider amending the Building Use Policy to allow exemptions to the policy that prohibits food or drink in the Town Offices building except for the gymnasium or kitchen. The Library Trustees wished to host a reception for donors in the Library. Selectmen Curt Wilton and Tina Skorput Cooper both agreed to consider amending the policy for special events.

Town Accountant. The Board approved a request from the Town Accountant to switch her scheduled office day from Monday to Saturday.

Downtown Improvements. The Board discussed hiring an engineer to draw up plans and specifications for downtown improvements as approved at last May's annual town meeting. Requests for proposals have been put out to engineering firms. Responding to the Governor's request for "shovel ready" municipal construction projects, the town has submitted a request for a downtown enhancements at a cost of \$1M.

ConsCom Resignation. The Board read a letter of resignation from long-time Conservation Commission member Chris Williams. The Board thanked Chris for his many years of dedicated service. A meeting will be scheduled to appoint a replacement.

Building Use Request. The Board approved a request to use the gymnasium on Sunday evenings for youth baseball warm-ups.

Sportsmen's Club. The Board was informed that, as of January 1, the West Stockbridge Sportsmen's Club is no longer licensed to sell alcohol as a result of a past-due real estate obligation to the Town. A Town by-law requires local permits and licenses to be withheld if the applicant has outstanding obligations to the Town.

New Fire Truck. The Board reviewed the timeline and borrowing process for the new Fire Dept. pumper truck. Treasurer Karen Williams is working with the Town's financial advisor who will solicit bids from banks for the \$350,000 cost of the new vehicle.

Solid Waste Contract. With the current 3-year solid waste contract ending in June 2009, the Board agreed to put out a request for proposals for the next contract.

Snow Removal. Curt Wilton suggested a reminder be published about sidewalk snow removal. State law requires that abutting property owners clear snow from sidewalks. The Highway Dept. does its best to clean them as well, but the roadways are the Department's priority.

January 26, 2009

Open Meeting. Present: Selectmen Tina Skorput Cooper, Chair; Curt Wilton. Michael Kirchner was unable to attend.

Building Use Fees. The Board discussed whether to charge user fees for the Village School gymnasium. In the past, the Town's insurer has advised not to charge fees because doing so would increase the Town's liability exposure. Other towns and the insurer will be contacted to research the question.

Town Offices Heating. The Board discussed the apparent uneven distribution of heat in the Town Offices. East side rooms seem to be much warmer than the west side, including the Library.

Building Use Requests. The Board approved building use requests by Berkshire Rugby; Housatonic youth basketball, and a birthday party.

Highway Funding. The Board signed off on Chapter 90 Highway funding reimbursements. The Town will receive approximately \$230,000 from the State for paving work done last year on High Street and Swamp Road.

Downtown Improvements. The Board signed an agreement with Foresight Land Services for downtown improvements engineering services. An appropriation of \$50,000 was approved at the Annual Town

Meeting last May. The scope of work includes downtown sidewalks; paving; curbing and enhancements. Public hearings will be held once conceptual designs are completed. Design costs are borne by the Town and are a prerequisite to any project funding application. Administrative Assistant Mark Webber has had preliminary discussions with Berkshire Regional Planning on grant funding.

MassPike Proposals. Administrative Assistant Mark Webber reported that he and Lee Town Administrator Bob Nason met on 1/23 with Sen. Downing and Rep. Pignatelli to convey the Town's concerns with a proposal being considered by MassPike and the Governor. The proposal would eliminate all tollbooths west of Route 128 except for Exit 1 (West Stockbridge) and Exit 9 (Sturbridge). The Selectmen have expressed their concerns to the Chairman of MassPike and the Governor that such action would have negative consequences for West Stockbridge, Stockbridge, and Lee. Heavy trucks, faced with a steep toll at the New York/Massachusetts border, would circumvent the Exit 1 tollbooth and travel along Rt. 102 to Exit 2 in Lee and not pay any toll. In addition to perhaps millions in lost revenue to MassPike, the downtowns of West Stockbridge and Stockbridge would suffer from increased truck and vehicular traffic. Sen. Downing and Rep. Pignatelli understand the town's concerns and pledged to keep a close eye on these developments.

Storm Reimbursement. Highway Supt. Curt Wilton and Administrative Assistant Mark Webber met with FEMA representatives to discuss the Town's application for storm reimbursement funds. It is anticipated that the Town will receive approximately \$7,500 in ice storm reimbursement funds.

Free Cash. Administrative Assistant Mark Webber informed the Board that free cash will be certified by the Department of Revenue prior to the Feb. 9 Special Town Meeting. Free cash will be lower than in recent past years because a large amount (\$405,000) was used at the FY '09 Annual Town Meeting.

Emergency Generator. The Board learned that the emergency generator will go online next week. The generator, which will supply electricity to the entire Town Offices complex, will kick in automatically in the event of a power outage. The Town Offices building is the Town's designated emergency shelter. ■



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Results of Special Town Meeting February 9th

By Tina Skorput Cooper, CMC/CMMC Town Clerk

Approximately 38 West Stockbridge voters assembled in the Conference Room of the Town Offices on Monday, February 9 for an eight article Special Town Meeting. Moderator Gene Dellea called the meeting to order promptly at 7:00 pm and the meeting was adjourned at 7:11 pm.

Articles requesting transfer from certified free cash all passed with little or no discussion. The following articles are the approved transfers from free cash:


• **Article One:** Voted to transfer from certified free cash the sum of \$22,000 and appropriate the same to the FY 2009 Highway Construction Account. The approval fixed a shortfall created by an unanticipated increase in blacktop costs related to this year's paving projects.

• **Article Two:** Voted to transfer from certified free cash the sum of \$18,000 and appropriate the same amount to the FY 2009 Unemployment

Account. The approval allowed payment for an unemployment claim that was filed by a former Town employee.

• **Article Three:** Voted to transfer from certified free cash the sum of \$27,000 and appropriate the same amount to FY 2009 Town Counsel Account. The approval fixed a deficit in the Town Counsel Account caused by the J. S. Lane vs. the Town of West Stockbridge lawsuit.

• **Article Four:** Voted to transfer from certified free cash the sum of \$10,000 and appropriate the same to FY 2009 Town Buildings Account. This article will fix an anticipated deficit in the Town Buildings Account, which was caused by unanticipated higher cost of heating fuel oil. Mark Webber Administrative Assistant to the Board of Selectmen explained how the process works. Towns must lock into a price in August for the coming heating season. The price of heating oil was sky high in August.



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Stone House Properties

By Vickie Grayson

Stone House Properties is celebrating their 25th anniversary this year. Owners Randy and Sheila Thunfors started the company in 1984 in the stone house. They originally chose to have the business in their home because it made it easier to keep an eye on their small child. A few years ago they purchased a building on Main Street (that also houses the Williams River Country Store) and moved the office. Both Sheila and Randy are originally from Connecticut and before real estate their careers were in education.



Above: Randy and Shiela Thunfors started their business in 1984 in the historic old Stone House on Main Street.



Left: Today, the Stone House Properties office is next door to Williams River Country Store.

Photos by: Vicki Grayson

Stone House is a big real estate company. It has the highest dollar volume of listings and is one of the top two companies with the highest gross dollar sales volume in Berkshire County. There is a staff of approximately fourteen including two long time partners, Susanne Crerar and Eileen Taft, who is retiring as a managing partner, but will remain active in listing and selling. Even though sales are slower these days and inventory is down about 12% from a year ago, they said that sales are averaging 92% of the asking price. So while there are fewer sales, the sales that are taking place are solid.

When asked about what they enjoy most about real estate they said it's the variety of people they

meet and the many friends they've made through their work. They also said that everyday, something new and different happens, so it always a challenge. And while the current market is particularly challenging, it's part of what makes work interesting to them. They also have a lot to say about how outstanding their agents are and how much they enjoy working with all of them. Most have been working there many years and Randy and Sheila think of them as family. The office does have a very friendly atmosphere, including Coal, a beautiful black standard poodle.

The Thunfors love Berkshire County and support and are involved in many cultural and community activities. They also expect all the associates to be

(continued on page 10)

Eat Your Veggies!

By Luci Leonard, BA LPN, CHP Healthy Communities Access Program

As young children we were often reminded at the dinner table to “eat your vegetables.” Many years have gone by since this old cliché, however, it is more essential now more than ever to consume vegetables daily within our diets. The fact remains they are good for you!

According to the American Dietetic Association, 7 out of 10 Americans still do not meet the daily recommendations for vegetables. Eating the right amount of vegetables can reduce the onset of diabetes, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. Vegetables are an important source of potassium, fiber, magnesium, Vitamin A & C.

The amount of vegetables needed depends on a person’s age, sex, and their activity level. For example, most men should consume about 3 cups of vegetables per day. The ideal consumption of fruits and vegetables are 5-9 servings daily! Let’s look at ways to increasing our servings daily:

- **Drink 100% vegetable juice**
- **Add a vegetable to each meal**
- **Support local farm stands**
- **Purchase pre-bagged vegetables as snack food**
- **Start a vegetable garden**

The next time you reach for something to eat or drink ask yourself this question. Did I consume enough vegetables today?

March is National Nutrition Month. CHP Healthy Community Access Program offers free cardiovascular screenings & health insurance enrollment assistance, referrals and case management. Stop by the 2nd Thursday from 2-4 at the Town Hall or call (413) 644-0104 ext. 15.■

Office Walk-In Clinic Hours:
Mon-Thurs, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
West Stockbridge Town Hall
21 State Line Rd.
West Stockbridge, MA
Phone: 413-232-0122
Fax: 413-232-0199
email: Emilie@charws.com



CHA MARCH EVENT SCHEDULE			
DATE	EVENT	TIME	PLACE
March 4	Office Blood Pressure Clinic	9:00am-10:00am	West Stockbridge Town Offices
March 5	Richmond Blood Pressure Clinic	9:00am-10:00am	Congregational Church
March 11	Office Blood Pressure Clinic	9:00am-10:00am	West Stockbridge Town Offices
March 12	Richmond Blood Pressure Clinic	9:00am-10:00am	Congregational Church
March 18	Office Blood Pressure Clinic	9:00am-10:00am	West Stockbridge Town Offices
March 19	Richmond Blood Pressure Clinic	9:00am-10:00am	Congregational Church
March 25	Office Blood Pressure Clinic	9:00am-10:00am	West Stockbridge Town Offices
March 26	Richmond Blood Pressure Clinic	9:00am-10:00am	Congregational Church

Health and Wealth Program Description: The vision of the program is to promote wellness and to give people the tools to create a foundation of health and well being in their own lives.

Call us about our new “Get Fit” program.

Appointments are suggested for the office clinics, so please call
Emilie Jarrett RN., CHA director, at 413.232.0122.

The State Line Hotel, Part II

(See the first installment of this story in our January 2009 issue)

By Seth Kershner

The State Line Hotel was once “the Oasis of a Thousand Miners,” many of whom worked the Leete iron mine on Baker Street. Baker Street boys were known to be so partial to the cool refreshment found at the Hotel that they formed long lines waiting for its bar to open at dusk on Sundays. It was even said that a pretty accurate census of mine employees could be had by counting the men in those lines.

Why was the place so admired? For one thing, it had the only bar in the area. For another, it let patrons drink in two states at once. I'm grateful to Fern at the Chatham Public Library for helping me find the following summary of the advantages of such a two-state tavern:

“When blue-lawed Massachusetts put some finicky indefensible oddities into its liquor tax statutes, the enterprising proprietor would use the York State [sic] half of his oaken sill – and business went on as usual. Then should Albany legislators pass certain laws unfavorable to disposal of the liquid grape, bottles, glasses, and bartender simply moved a few yards to the East and the other half of the room.”

The writer of the above passage interviewed several State Line residents in 1984, all of whom disputed a familiar story: that the East-West divide was bridged by means of a bar-on-wheels. Instead, these older residents testified to a fixed oaken sill, handsomely outfitted with brass spittoons.

(continued on page 13)

Once the Oasis of a Thousand Miners



The old State Line House at State Line where Mr. Church with his “dry” Sundays once tantalized the good Irishmen of the mining colony and the bar was hastily moved when the Massachusetts side adopted prohibition. The state line marker (insert, upper left) can be seen to the extreme right of the picture.

State Line House from Chatham Courier 4-28-1938. Courtesy of the Local History Dept., Berkshire Athenaeum

Need Help Paying Your Heating Bill?

Apply for assistance on Wednesday, March 25.

The federally funded Home Heating Energy Assistance program provides a fixed amount of heating cost assistance to homeowners and renters, including those whose heat is included in the rent. Eligibility is based on household size and the gross annual income of every household member, age 18 or older.

First-time applicants must provide documentation of household income and apply in person to a representative of Berkshire Community Action Council (BCAC). A representative from BCAC will be at the West Stockbridge Village School/Town Hall to process applications at noon on Wednesday, March 25.

Please call Town Clerk Tina Cooper at 232-0300 at the Town Hall for more information and to schedule a confidential appointment to process your household's application. You will need to bring all required documentation with you to the appointment, including:

- **Pay Stubs:** 4 current and consecutive pay stubs that include name, social security number and GROSS PAY. A letter on company letterhead signed by bookkeeper or owner stating gross wages for the last 30 days is acceptable. Income level can be calculated based on 4 consecutive weeks, 13 consecutive weeks, or 1 full year of income.
- **Social Security or SSI payments:** Copy of current check, bank statement showing direct deposit, or a print out from Social Security Office. (1-800-632-8095 for verification)
- **Pension or VA Benefits:** Copy of current check stub showing GROSS AMOUNT or a copy of award letter from company on company letterhead.
- **TAFDC/EAEDC benefits received:** Current bank statement showing direct deposit or print out of benefits sent to you by DTA office. (1-800-623-8095 for verification)
- **Workman's Compensation Benefits** – Current stub showing date of loss and frequency of payments, or 4 current stubs or letter from source stating amount of compensation and frequency.
- **Child Support payments** – 4 current and consecutive stubs, a copy of court order, or a notarized letter from the source stating amount paid to whom and frequency of payments, or a bank statement showing direct deposit or a printout from the Department of Revenue. (1-800-332-2733 for verification)
- **Unemployment Insurance received** – Copy of letter from DES, print out from DES or current stubs showing 4 weeks of consecutive income.
- **Interest/Dividends earned** – Current bank statement showing interest earned for the current 30 day period or Schedule B from most current tax return.
- **Self-Employment Income** – The most current year's CERTIFIED 1040 TAX RETURN PACKET. We need entire packet. If you prepared your tax returns you need to submit a transcript from the IRS stating they received your return. (1-800-829-3676)
- **Rental Income** – Completed tax forms including "E" sheet for rental income. If no "E" sheet is used current rent receipts, tax bill, home insurance bill, water/sewer bill, & interest on mortgage are needed.
- **Verification of Residence** – Current utility bill (gas, electric, phone, cable), current lease or statement from your landlord. If heat is included in rent you must provide landlord's name, address and phone number.
- **Personal Identification for Everyone in Family** – A current license, photo ID, SS card or Mass Health Card. **WE NEED SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS AND BIRTH CERTIFICATES FOR EVERYONE IN THE HOUSEHOLD.■**

If your gross income for the last 4 consecutive weeks is below the amount shown for your family size, you may be eligible for assistance with your heating bills this winter

Family Size (# of people in household)	Gross Income Level for last 4 weeks	Family Size (# of people in household)	Gross Income Level for last 4 weeks
1	\$ 2,144.32	10	\$ 5,938.15
2	\$ 2,804.16	11	\$ 6,061.85
3	\$ 3,463.92	12	\$ 6,185.54
4	\$ 4,123.69	13	\$ 6,309.23
5	\$ 4,783.54	14	\$ 6,432.92
6	\$ 5,443.31	15	\$ 6,556.69
7	\$ 5,567.00	16	\$ 6,680.38
8	\$ 5,690.69	17	\$ 6,804.08
9	\$ 5,814.38		

**Questions?
Please call Berkshire
Community Action
Council at
1(866) 216-6200.**

Good News and Bad News: Our Town Budget Update

By Mark Webber, Town Administrator and Bob Salerno, Finance Committee

With the well-publicized economic downturn and the cuts in the State budget, we have been asked what the projected impact will be on the West Stockbridge budget for next year (FY 2010 starting July 2009). The Board of Selectmen, Department Heads, and Finance Committee as well as the School Administration and School Committee have been working on the answer to this question since January. What we've learned is that this year, there is no clear answer to the budget question. There are however some basic parameters to the town's budget that make it easier to understand.

First, the good news and bad news, West Stockbridge is not as dependent on state aid as other cities and towns – particularly the larger cities out east. In FY 2009, State funding accounted for only 2.6% of our town's operating budget. While significant, the cuts this mid year and the projected 20% cut in local aid for FY 2010 hurts us far less than communities that are more dependent on state aid.

The Governor's FY 2010 budget shows an approximate 20% cut in local aid, which would amount to about a \$25,000 loss in revenue for us next year. However, three more versions of the state budget will be coming before it is adopted later in the spring: the House version, the Senate version, and the compromise committee version (final). We'll have to wait and see.

Our school district is more dependent upon state aid. Schools receive state money directly (Chapter 70), Transportation Reimbursement (Chapter 71), and Medicaid Reimbursement. In FY 2009, Chapter 90 and 91 (Transportation reimbursement) State aid accounted for approximately 17% of operating revenues – a higher percentage than what West Stockbridge depends upon, but far less than most school districts. For instance, Adams Cheshire Regional depends on state aid (Ch.70 & 71) for more than 40% of its annual operating revenues

The same “wait and see” applies to the school district's budget. The district typically goes with the Governor's budget because it's the only document available up until the district needs to adopt a budget, 45 days prior to the first member town's annual town meeting. Of course, any reduction in State aid to education (Chapter 90) has significant impact on the district and will likely be made up by the three member towns.

Finally, in light of cuts in State aid and economic uncertainty all around, the Selectmen have requested that Department heads hold the line on spending requests for FY 2010. Although certain operating costs will rise – health insurance and retirement to name a few – the hope is to present a near level budget for FY 2010 for approval at the annual town meeting. ■

(Stone House Properties, from page 6)

very involved in the community. Collectively they support over 50 organizations, including museums, theaters, health care, art, music, the environment, social services, film, libraries and more – everything that makes this area such a special place to live. Every year they place a large ad identifying the organizations they support to encourage other people to offer their support or at least be aware that these organizations exist. Sometimes they will select an organization and run a picture of it in one of their ads to raise awareness.

One of their most ambitious projects is giving a scholarship every year to a senior at Monument Mountain High School who is a West Stockbridge

resident. There are many factors in deciding the recipients of the scholarships including high academic achievement, leadership, community involvement and sports. Over the years they have given 31 scholarships. The plan is to give one a year, but some years it is too difficult to decide, so two are given. Many scholarship recipients have become very accomplished in their fields. Sheila and Randy enjoy the notes many recipients send them keeping them up-to-date on their progress.

Clearly being very involved in the community is as important to Randy and Sheila as running a successful business. And they are very proud of the “family” they have created to accomplish all this. ■



A very special thanks goes to Blue Q

of Pittsfield for giving us these donation jars. We really appreciate it, and encourage Town residents to support this innovative local company. Stop by Charles H. Baldwin & Sons for some fun Blue Q products, or go to blueq.com.

Hey Local Yokel Readers!

Look for the Smiley Face around town!

On average, the Yokel Yokel costs about \$1 per copy to print every month. On behalf of our all-volunteer editorial and design staff, we ask you to please help us keep the Yokel coming by making a donation using the form on page 19, or using our Smiley Face Donation Jars around town. Thanks for your support!



Guess who?

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Town Caucus Will Be Held Monday, March 30

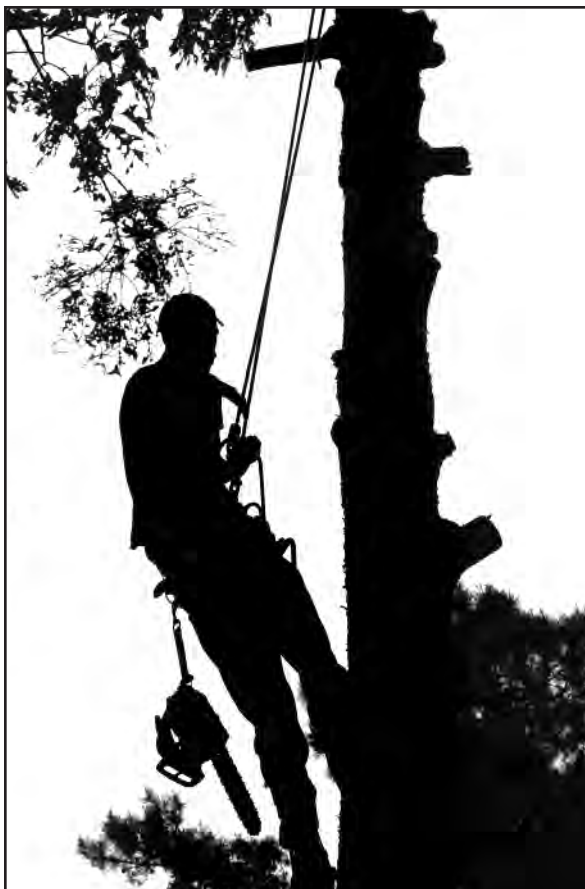
By Tina Skorput Cooper, CMC/CMMC Town Clerk

Each year the Town of West Stockbridge holds a non-partisan Town Caucus. The purpose of the Caucus is to nominate candidates for offices in Annual Town Elections, held at 7:00 pm on Monday, March 30, 2009 at the Town Offices.

Traditionally, a candidate is nominated by a voice vote of the assembled voters of West Stockbridge the night of the Caucus. Once nominated, that person signs the Caucus papers within 72 hours of the Caucus, accepting the nomination. If there are no objections to the nomination, the person is placed on the May Election ballot. The following offices and current officers are on the Town Election Ballot this year:

Moderator	.....One Year Term	.....Eugene Dellea
Board of Selectmen	.....Three Year Term	.....Tina Skorput Cooper
Board of Assessors	.....Three Year Term	.....Jennifer Wilton
Finance Committee	.....Three Year Term	.....William B. Kie
	.....Three Year Term	.....Gary Schieneman
Planning Board	.....Five Year Term	.....Stephen McMahon
Board of Health	.....Three Year Term	.....Ellen Greer
Library Trustees	.....Three Year Term	.....Nancy Kearns
Cemetery Commission	.....One Year Term	.....Vacant
	.....Three Year Term	.....Holly Hamilton

If you have any questions about the Caucus or election process, please do not hesitate to contact the Town Clerk's Office at 232.0300 ext. 300 or email Clerk@weststockbridge-ma.gov. ■



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(State Line Hotel, from page 8)

Even if there were no wheeled contraption carrying patrons to and fro, the State Line Hotel still occupied a rather unique position throughout its more than 100 years of operation. And as I mentioned in January's column, stakeholders in the two-state system were determined to preserve that position by hook or by crook. A little story should illustrate what I mean.

Years after the long-disputed NY-MA boundaries had been set in 1787, it was revealed that an error in measurement had to be corrected by moving the boundary line twenty feet to the west. Trouble was, redrawing the boundary left the bar squarely in Massachusetts territory. But at sundown, after the work was done and with the civil engineers out of town, the boundary stone mysteriously disappeared! It was later exhumed (yes, it had even been buried) and reset.

Distancing himself from such shenanigans, the proprietor in those days honestly adapted to the new border by constructing an ell-shaped addition. The bar then moved into this ell – affectionately known as “the old corner” – where it could once again straddle the state line.

The last owner of the State Line Hotel was Mary Frances “Love” Murphy. Raised in a musical Irish family, Love was known to entertain guests by singing popular tunes “in a high, thin voice” and playing on the piano. After closing to the public around 1924, Love then made the inn into her home.

By February 1938, a writer for the Springfield Republican found in the old Hotel “a rambling structure of wood construction painted brown. In summer large maple trees serve as a screen for the piazza on the end nearest to the railroad station.” That same year, after the state mandated a widening of the Albany turnpike, Miss Murphy moved to Pittsfield. The rambling inn she left behind would soon be picked apart piece by piece, making way for modernity.

- - -

NOTE: After talking to a WSLY reader following my January column on the State Line Hotel, I realized that I may not have described its location with sufficient clarity. I'll try to clear this

up. Several old maps in Edna Bailey Garnett's book on the history of West Stockbridge show the Hotel occupying the westernmost parcel of land in town, sitting south of the State Line railroad station and alongside the former Albany Turnpike. Traveling through State Line on the latter-day Turnpike (Rt. 102), keep an eye out for the Mass Highway Department access road on the left before crossing into Canaan. That probably would have been where the miners lined up before sunset on Sundays. ■



It's easy to
halve the potato
where there's
love.

Irish Proverb

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Recipe Corner

By Lynn Ryan

“Boxy”

(Irish Potato Griddle Cakes)

- 1/2 pound raw potato
- 1/2 pound mashed potato
- 1/2 pound flour
- milk
- 1 large egg
- salt & pepper to taste

Grate raw potatoes and mix with cooked mashed potatoes. Add salt, pepper, and flour. Beat the egg and add to the mixture with just enough milk to make a batter that will drop from a spoon. Drop by tablespoons onto a hot, buttered griddle or frying pan. Cook over moderate heat for 3-4 minutes on each side. Serve with tart applesauce.

An old poem says: “Boxy on the griddle, Boxy in the pan, if you can’t make Boxy, you’ll never get a man.” (The accuracy of the poem is unknown – TeeHee!)

Happy St. Patrick’s Day to all,

Lynn

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



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PTA News: Support Enrichment Programming at Muddy Brook

By Jenni Roy Hallock

Beginning on March 20, the Muddy Brook Elementary School PTA will be holding an online auction to raise much needed funds to support enrichment programming for our children. As school funding decreases, it is more important than ever that we come together as a community to insure that our children have access to valuable enrichment programs within the school and that teachers can continue to schedule activities and field trips to enhance the children's understanding of the world around them. We also want to make sure that teachers can provide materials to augment the educational experience of our children in the classroom.

The PTA helps to provide all of this and more. We are looking for donations for the auction, for volunteers and for people to spread the word! The next PTA meeting will be March 11th, at 3:45 at Muddy Brook (new time).

- Donation form and info:
www.muddybrookpta.com
- Auction: www.MuddyBrookPTA.cmarket.com
- Questions? Call Jenni Roy at 232-4322



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Library News

By Danielle Chretien



March is upon us, which means spring is just around the corner and that is a wonderful thing. It means that this long winter is finally coming to an end. Over the last month things have been busy here at the Library. The warmer weather has brought out a crowd and Jodi and I are truly enjoying seeing everyone. So keep stopping by – we love it.

As many of you may have heard, Bill Biggs once again volunteered his time to teach two computer classes this last month. Those classes were Internet, Email and Word Processing, which have been a hit. There was a great response for the classes and the Library hopes to host more in the future. The topics are based on what you want to learn. So please let me know what topics or programs you want to learn about and we will work on getting classes later in the spring. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bill for his time and knowledge in teaching these classes.

In March, the Library is trying something new on Fridays. On March 13th and March 27th the Library will be having story times at 4:15 pm. All are welcome and after the story time we will also have a small craft session. So please spread the word to anyone you know who might be interested in joining us. Story time on Saturdays will continue to be at 11 am.

LIBRARY CALENDAR FOR MARCH		
DATE	EVENT	TIME
Every Wednesday	Knitting Group	2:00pm
Every Thursday	Scrap Booking Group	4:00pm - 6:00pm
First Friday of the month	Book Club	6:00pm
Friday, March 13 & 27	Story Time & Crafts	4:15pm
Saturdays	Story Time	11:00am

Not only are Jodi and I planning for new programs this month, we are also looking ahead for the summer reading

program. Although this is still a few months away we are working on a lineup of summer events. So keep your eyes posted for more information to come.

Well that's it for this month; I look forward to seeing you soon. Have a great March! ■

Local Artists Reception

The Friends of the West Stockbridge Public Library hosted a Thank You Reception for Local Artists, who participated in the 2008 "Art at the Library" program. The "Art at the Library" program will resume in April. Please check the Local Yoker for monthly profiles of exhibiting artists.



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WIDE SELECTION AVAILABLE: ADULT FICTION, NON-FICTION & CHILDREN'S BOOKS

The Friends of the West Stockbridge Library have opened an on-going USED BOOK SALE at the Town Offices. The sale room is directly across the hall from the Library and will be open during regular library hours. Please check in at the Library prior to browsing the Book Sale Room. Selected books may be paid for at the Library.

Local Yokel Donor Roll Call

February 2009

Kathleen Lusk Brooke
The Butterworth Family
William G. Cavanagh
Nancy Clark
Paula Farrell
Stan and Sandy Kleiner
George H. Litwin
Digger Lockenwitz
Robert Salerno
Margie Skaggs
Tom Sagendorph
The Wehrenbergs

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

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785 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA
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David M. Lazan • Peter L. Puciloski • Alexandra H. Glover
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West Stockbridge Compactor Station

**Bill's Recycling Tip
of the Month:**

Please call a day or two in advance
before bringing large furniture items
such as sofas, stuffed chairs,
mattresses and box springs, to be
sure space is available in the waste
container.



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



March Birthdays

March 6	Annie Bristol
March 17	Evan Babcock
March 19	Jake Dupont
March 21	Billy Cooper
March 22	Parker Lockenwitz
March 31	Mari Dupont

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, 413-717-2963, wstnclerk@msn.com; John Parker, 413-232-4123, jandlparker49@verizon.net; Vicki Grayson, vicki.grayson@rocketmail.com. Design: Karen Rusch, RuschDirect, 413-274-6800.

Community News & Events

Park and Recreation

If anyone is interested in forming a unicycle club, please contact Eileen Quinn at emdquinn@verizon.net. We are planning some great events for spring and summer so please join us for our next Park and Recreation meeting on March 10th at 6:30 at the Town Hall. We need your ideas and help. All welcome!

March is Dog Licensing Month

All dogs in West Stockbridge must be registered with the Town Clerk's Office by April 1, 2009. The fee for registering is as follows:

Spayed/Neutered	\$6.00 per dog
Male/Female	\$12.00 per dog

It is the law in Massachusetts that all dogs are vaccinated against rabies, therefore the Town Clerk's Office must have a current copy of the rabies certificate on file.

Stockbridge Grange Monthly Dinner

The Stockbridge Grange will hold a public Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner on Sunday March 8 at the Grange Hall on Church Street in Stockbridge. The dinner will be held from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm. The cost is adults \$10.00 and \$5.00 for children under 12 years of age. Take-out is available by calling 413.298.3185.

Hiring for United States Census 2010

The U.S. Census Bureau is hiring for the 2010 Census. These temporary, part-time positions offer good pay, flexible hours up to 40 hours a week and the chance to work near home. Call toll free 1.866.861.2010 to pre-register. Testing will be held at the West Stockbridge Town Hall Tuesdays at 2:00 pm beginning March 3rd thru June 30th.



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Specials Good March 1-31, 2009

Every issue costs us about \$600 to print!

Please help us keep the Local Yokel Coming!

With increased printing and postage costs, we need your help more than ever. To get the latest Town news, please contribute to The Local Yokel. For your donation of at least \$20.00 per year we will mail each issue to you (unless you prefer otherwise). The Local Yokel will continue to be available free at selected locations as long as possible, but we hope you will contribute anything you can at our Contribution Jars you'll see around town in the next few months.

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

Enclosed is my donation of _____,

made payable to WSLY.



Donate \$30 or more and
get a YKL Bumper Sticker
FREE!

Check any that apply:

- I would like my contribution to remain anonymous.
- Thanks, but don't mail the *Local Yokel* to me. Save the postage. I'll pick it up myself.

Please mail this form with your check to:

WSLY
P.O. Box 238
West Stockbridge, MA 01266.

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

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. thru Fri., 8:30am-4:30pm
Building Inspector	Tues. 4-7pm
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	Tues. 12 Noon-5pm; Wed. 1-5pm; Thurs. and Fri. 2-6pm; Sat. 10-2pm
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

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. 338
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
Post Office	413-232-8544

Official Town Government Website: www.weststockbridge-ma.gov

**The Local Yokel is online at the 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.



MARCH 2009						
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				

MARCH 2009 Calendar of Events			
DATE	EVENT	TIME	PLACE
March 2	BHRSD Half Day of School		
March 5	Conservation Commission Meeting	7:00pm	Town Offices
	Board of Health Meeting	7:00pm	Town Offices
March 8	Daylight Savings Begins – Set clock AHEAD one hour		
	Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner	1:00-2:00pm	Stockbridge Grange
March 9	Board of Selectmen's Meeting	6:30pm	Town Offices
March 10	Parks and Recreation Meeting	6:30pm	Town Offices
March 11	Muddy Brook PTA Meeting	3:45pm	Muddy Brook Elementary School
March 12	CHP Communities Access Program	2:00-4:00pm	Town Offices
March 17	HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!		
	Finance Committee Meeting	6:30pm	Town Offices
March 20	First Day of Spring		
March 23	Board of Selectmen's Meeting	6:30pm	Town Offices
March 30	Annual Town Caucus	7:00pm	Town Offices