



The Cornerstone

Published Periodically by the West Barnstable Civic Association

A Message from the WBCA President ~ Nancy Meagher

When the May issue of the *Cornerstone* was published we were just a few months into COVID-19. We were staying at home, remotely managing the routines of our daily lives, and looking out for others. I hope that you continue to be well and that your circle of family and friends sustains you. Think positively and look for silver linings, like the warmth and serenity of our Annual Village Tree Lighting December 6th.

Despite the pandemic, we have conducted some important business. We were thrilled when told that Mimi McConnell won the 19th Annual Mercy Otis Warren Cape Cod Woman of the Year Award! That's quite an honor, and well-deserved. Please check out our recently updated website to read more about Mimi and her amazing accomplishments. You can also join or renew your WBCA Annual Membership online, view the Flag Day ceremony, enjoy tons of photos, and keep yourself informed.

The Board has been holding Zoom Meetings, and will do the same for our October 20th General Membership Meeting. Be sure to join us to Meet State Representative Candidates James Dever and Steve Xiarhos. The January 19th Annual Meeting will also be virtual. Agendas and the Links to Join will be posted on our website a week prior to each event. Please be sure to cast your ballot Tuesday, November 3rd.

Be well, be kind, and find the joy!

Mercy Otis Warren Cape Cod Woman of the Year ~ Mimi McConnell

The West Barnstable Civic Association enthusiastically nominated Marion "Mimi" McConnell to be the 2020 Mercy Otis Warren Cape Cod Woman of the Year. Mimi exemplifies leadership and she has made significant contributions to the community, especially embracing conservation efforts to preserve the health of our planet.

Mimi's dedication, savvy and tireless efforts have not only contributed, but in most cases, led the way to bringing about positive changes for the betterment of our community and beyond. She truly exemplifies the qualities held by Mercy Otis Warren that we honor.



Meetinghouse Farm ~ Judy Desrochers

As we move closer to a winter of uncertainty, is it too soon, too simple, perhaps too naïve, to be wishing for snow? I am eager for our natural world to be covered in white. Soft and quiet. Safe and comforting. Like so many of us, I am weary of dissonance. I want to be soothed by a blanket of white.

In gardening circles, snow is affectionately called, "poor man's fertilizer." In addition to replenishing the water table, snow brings a variety of nutrients to the soil. But these benefits do not outweigh the captivating beauty of a snowy woods in winter light. Robert Frost immortalized this beauty in his poem, "Stopping By Woods On A Snowy Evening." But Frost's poem, is more about resilience than beauty. His closing line, "But I have miles to go before I sleep" reflects his choice to move on, disengage from the beauty of the snowy evening and return to the demands of daily life. His poem conveys a tension we all feel at times. A desire to pull away. Take a rest. A need to be engaged. To foster hope.

I don't know what winter will bring. I hope for snow. But I also hope for less illness, less division, less anger, less pain. I hope you will visit the Farm. I hope it beckons to you.

Annual Tree Lighting!

Sunday, December 6th ~ 5:00 PM



Our Village Tree will be lit without fanfare. You are certainly invited to this abbreviated event. Please wear your mask, bring your own flashlight, remain socially distant, and be ready to sing a few carols. The Live Nativity, the Telling of the Christmas Story and our social with food are not possible this year. West Parish will light the Meeting House windows with candles for the Advent Season and our Village Tree will be lit to spread the Joy we always find in this simple quiet season.

2020 Officers and Directors of the West Barnstable Civic Association

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Cornerstone Editor

Nancy Meagher

MEETING & EVENT SCHEDULE

WBCA General Membership Meetings:

*Normally held at the West Barnstable
Community Building:*

May 19, 2020 - CANCELLED

Next General Meetings:

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

*Virtual - 6:30 PM - Link to
Join will be posted on WBCA
Website one week prior.*

Board Meetings:

*First Tuesday of each month 7:00 PM
Virtual meetings are public. Email for
the Link to Join each month if you are
interested in attending.*

Visit

www.westbarnstable.org or contact us at westbarnstablecivic@gmail.com for all things West Barnstable

Town Council Update ~ Kris Clark, Precinct 11

“Tis the season” is like none other this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With that in mind, we pause to reflect on those who have succumbed to the virus and to pray for those struggling in its wake.

As the Town Councilor for Precinct 11, I have worked for my constituents to the best of my ability. Our Town is fortunate to have a skilled and caring staff under the management of our Town Manager, Mark Ells. We are also blessed with many volunteers who support our community, either by serving on a town committee, working through non-profits, or simply being thoughtful and considerate neighbors. Especially during this time of year, we send our sincere thanks to those who make our community a better place. For others who have the time and energy, please consider joining the volunteers around us. If you’re wondering where your talents may be applied, please contact me by phone (508-428-8754) or email and I can share some suggestions.

I periodically send out an e-newsletter where I share town and local information. If you’d like to receive it, you may do so by contacting me via my email address: precinct11clark@gmail.com or sign up yourself through my website: <https://www.precinct11clark.com/>

The Town of Barnstable has worked through the COVID-19 pandemic remarkably well. There has been a successful transitioning of conducting town business remotely, moving many of the town’s services for permitting and communications remotely for contactless service. Please see the town’s website for information: www.town.barnstable.ma.us



The Town has many sources of information beyond the website, including Facebook and Channel 18 local TV station. I find the town’s e-weekly to be filled with timely and helpful updates. To sign up, see this link: <https://town.barnstable.ma.us/Departments/Community-Services/Join-Newsletters.asp>

Wishing you a peaceful and happy holiday season, I look forward to a new year of good health, meaningful accomplishments and heartfelt joy.

Whelden Memorial Library ~ Kelly Depin

Boy, has it been a year. But despite all of the challenges, your local library continues to provide materials to our wonderful patrons. We may be small - but we’re mighty! Since we reopened, we have circulated over 10,000 items to our grateful friends - and we are so happy to serve. While curbside can be very labor intensive, we are gratified to see the bags go out the door and into the community. Just because our doors are closed does not mean that WE are. In fact, we have some new initiatives and programs that we are cultivating and hope to bloom soon!

Expanded Teachers’ Cards Program

Did you know that if you teach, you can receive a teacher’s card from Whelden? Did you know that we now provide pickup and delivery to your place of work or home (within West Barnstable)? If you are interested, please give us a call or email to get in on the action.

Hoopla

Hoopla is an online platform that allows you to borrow not just ebooks and audiobooks but also movies, TV shows and comix. You no longer need to place a hold and wait and wait and wait if hoopla

has it. Borrow and enjoy your selection right away! This platform will be coming out sometime in October and will be available for those with a Whelden Memorial Library Card. If you want to be one of the first to experience Hoopla, please like our Facebook page or sign up for our e-newsletter.

Little Black Pantry

We are soliciting canned and boxed goods for our new little black pantry. It’s located behind the benches next to the back porch and will contain extras from our pantry to yours, including some limited pet supplies. Consider **using** it when you need to stretch your food dollar or can’t make it to the store. Think about **adding** to it if you want to share your blessings. We all need to be good neighbors - and here’s one way to help each other out in the cooler days ahead.

We are always glad to hear from you. If you have comments, suggestions, questions or just need to hear a friendly voice, give us a call at 508-362-2262 or email us at whelden@comcast.net or kdepin@clamsnet.org. Please stay safe and healthy and maybe we can be face to face soon.

Whelden Memorial Library Citizen of the Year ~ Mary Howe



On August 15, Mary Howe received an official commendation and recognition as the Whelden Memorial Library 2020 Citizen of the Year. Mary was honored for her year of service to the library and fostering a sense of community among patrons. Describing her love for working at Whelden, Mary noted that “as a small library, it is a meeting place for villagers.” The library and its patrons “are like family.”

In presenting the award, Councilor Kris Clark, a previous Citizen of the Year award-winner herself, noted Mary’s many contributions to the library. Among these was some years ago, when the library director at the time became ill, “Mary kept the library afloat.” Besides her work as a longtime employee in the library’s circulation department, Mary has contributed sewing, jewelry making, baking and crafting for library fundraisers, including its annual Christmas Bazaar. She was the founder of the popular “Time, Talent and Treasures” auction that raised monies for library coffers in former years.

Congratulations, Mary!

-Photo by Barbara Clark, Barnstable Patriot

Luke’s Love Playground ~ Suzanne Powers

Hope you are well 😊 Here’s a little update from Luke’s Love:

We are collaborating with Whelden Memorial Library and have placed a Little Free Library inside the gates of Luke’s Love. Norah Bourbon, a local artist, re-created the Whelden Memorial Library logo from sheet metal as a topper and Joe Gallo from SeaLevel Construction customized the library with shingles and window boxes. We will be lovingly landscaping the area with help from Juliagarden of Osterville by creating a natural reading area surrounding the Library with beautiful, native plantings. The Little Free Library will be accessible to all, stocked with children’s books and available for use later this month. Please follow Luke’s Love Boundless Playground on Facebook & Instagram for updates!



West Barnstable Historical Society ~ Nancy Viall Shoemaker



West Barnstable Historical Society held its September meeting - the first in nearly a year - at the Meetinghouse Farm on Meetinghouse Way on September 19th. The theme was story telling. Participants told West Barnstable tales that had made a big impression on them - from monkeys to our disappearing Hinckley Lane. Of course this was a different meeting from our usual. It was outdoors. "Bring your own chair and bug spray." The meeting didn't disappoint. The numbers attending were small, but the stories, the photos, the information discussed were all fascinating. We hope to have one more meeting this fall, again as guests of Meetinghouse Farm (thank you Judy Desrochers and the Farm volunteers).

The Town of Barnstable lost a very special public servant last month. You may not know his name; he didn't seek the limelight. Bob O'Brien was a man of quiet strength. His first career was with the U.S. Coast Guard, earning the rank of Captain in his 30 years of service. Bob was Deputy Commander of the USCG's First District in Boston. After his last assignment (as Comptroller of the Coast Guard!), he retired to start a second career in his chosen home town, Barnstable. Bob served as our Department of Public Works Superintendent and as Special Assistant to the Town Manager, overseeing the Town's budget, along with other advisory counsel. His membership on public boards is a long list that includes boards of the Barnstable Municipal Airport and the Steamship Authority.

Bob O'Brien helped make the lives of all Barnstable residents safer. I met him in 1984, teaching safe boating classes for the Coast Guard Auxiliary. We performed Auxiliary boating patrols, together with his wife Susie, in Barnstable Harbor and along the Barnstable shores of Cape Cod Bay. I joined the Coast Guard two years later. I learned a lot from this man, as did every one who worked with him.

West Barnstable Train Station

Cape Cod Chapter National Railway Historical Society - Linda L. Pegnato

It certainly has been a strange year so far, but I'm happy to report the members and friends of The Cape Cod Chapter, NRHS are well. We were able to have three virtual business meetings on the third Wednesdays beginning in July through our web page Calendar and Google Meet. Our meetings are open to the public. We do miss the live train entertainment after the meetings, but are coordinating the possibility of continuing those through the virtual meeting presentation feature also.

Beginning in July, we also opened the train station from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM on Saturdays, so passengers could purchase Cape Cod Central Railroad Scenic Excursion train tickets through the trackside window. Ridership has been fair as expected with the circumstances. Our station crew follows the COVID-19 safety rules, and will open to visitors when the Town of Barnstable buildings are open to the public.

On June 13, 2020, the Chapter was awarded a \$1,800 grant from the National Railway Historical Society to help with restorations to our NYNH&H Boxcar and we look forward to the project. We welcome anyone interested to notify me to assist. We received a donation this past summer of an oak desk and stool formerly used in the Woods Hole Train Station and set it up in the lobby. We truly appreciate the kindnesses and donations from all of our supporters. We wish everyone a beautiful season and safe Happy Holidays.



West Barnstable Fire Department ~ Chief Joe Maruca

Call 911

The West Barnstable Fire Department (WBFD) has noticed an increase in people calling the WBFD on its business phone when they should be calling 911. Your safety depends on calling 911, not the fire station on its business phone line. Even if you think your problem isn't an emergency it is still best to call 911.

911 is the way our system gets activated. It might seem faster to call the fire station, but it usually isn't. When you call the fire station directly, the firefighter you talk to has to take the information and then he/she has to call 911 for you. Skip the middleman and call 911 directly.

When you call the fire station on the business phone we might not be here to answer the phone. You might get our accountant or a mechanic on the phone, and these people are not trained to handle emergency calls.

When you call 911 your call will (usually) be answered by the Barnstable Police Department. Once the police confirm your location and that you need EMS or a fire response, they will immediately connect you to the regional fire department dispatcher

at the Barnstable Sheriff's Office at Joint Base Cape Cod. That is the dispatcher that activates our paging system and handles your call until we arrive.

Call Dig Safe - 811

If you are digging in your yard or the street you must call DIG SAFE at 811 at least three days before you start digging (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays). This is so that Dig Safe can determine if there are any underground utility lines near the spot you are digging. Calling Dig Safe is a legal requirement (GL Chapter 82 Section 40 - 40E), and you can be held responsible if you damage underground utilities. If you hire a contractor it is best if you make sure they are calling Dig Safe.

The WBFD responds to a number of incidents each year where a contractor or homeowner hits a natural gas, propane, or electrical line and didn't check with Dig Safe first. If you do hit a utility line, especially a natural gas or propane line, call 911 so that the fire department can mitigate the hazard and make sure appropriate repair crews are on the way.

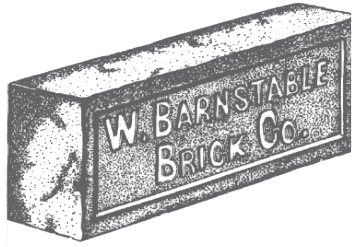
1717 Meetinghouse ~ Pastor Reed Baer

The Rooster Church Never Sleeps

While the doors of our historic 1717 Meetinghouse have been closed these past seven months due to the pandemic, West Parish of Barnstable, United Church of Christ, the "Rooster Church", has remained open and vibrant! On-line worship continues to be the order of the day, with both Saturday and Sunday services available to all each week on Facebook (WestParishBarnstable) and YouTube. We have been worshipping together outdoors as of late, and through October, weather permitting, will worship on the lawn, with masks and social distancing, at 10:00 on Sunday mornings.

The West Parish Family School continues to serve the community, with close to fifty children enrolled. The Board of Outreach continues to support organizations which help Cape Codders in various ways - a drive to support the Duffy Health Center was held in July, a yard sale to benefit Habitat for Humanity was held in August, a fundraiser for scholarships for Family School students was held in September, and food donations are accepted in Jenkins Hall to help Cape organizations such as Champ House in Hyannis.

We are looking forward to the date when we can re-open the Meetinghouse doors, but do hope to be able to have at least an outdoor Christmas Eve service, complete with candlelight and Silent Night! Look for updates on our webpage, westparish.org

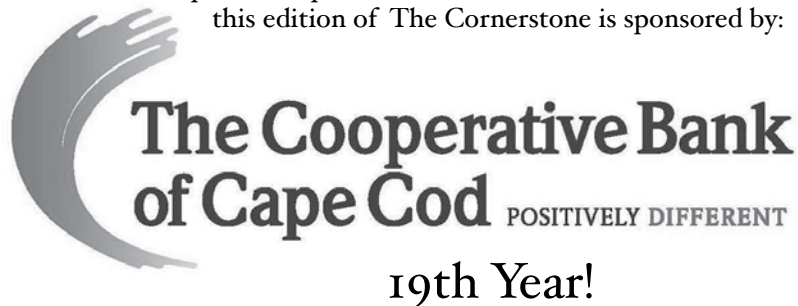


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 West Barnstable Civic Association
 Post Office Box 243
 West Barnstable, Massachusetts 02668

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A Message from the Coop ~ #BanksNeverAskThat Anti-Phishing Awareness

Every day, thousands of people fall victim to fraudulent emails, texts and calls from scammers pretending to be their bank. The Federal Trade Commission's 2019 report on fraud estimates that American consumers lost a staggering \$1.48 billion to phishing scams in 2018. The problem has only grown worse during the banking tools.

What is Phishing?

Phishing is a type of online scam where criminals make fraudulent emails, phone calls, and texts that appear to come from legitimate businesses, even your bank. The communication is designed to trick you into entering confidential information (like account numbers, passwords, PINs, or birthdays) into a fake website by clicking on a link, or to tell it to someone imitating banks and businesses on the phone.

What to do if you receive a scam email, call, or text?

- **Do not download any attachments** in the message. Attachments may contain malware such as viruses, worms or spyware.
- **Do not click links that appear in the message.** Links in phishing messages direct you to fraudulent websites.
- **Hang up or end the call.** Be aware that area codes can be misleading. If your Caller ID displays a local area code, this does not guarantee that the caller is local.
- **Do not respond to the scammer's requests.** Financial institutions and legitimate businesses will never email, call, or text you to request your personal information.

If you feel you've been the victim of a scam and provided personal or financial information, contact your bank immediately at their publicly listed customer service number. Be sure to include any relevant details, such as whether the suspicious email, call, or text attempted to impersonate your bank and whether any personal or

visit mycapecodbank.com for more information on phishing and resources on what to do if you receive or fall victim to a phishing scam.

Visit BanksNeverAskThat.com to learn more about phishing and take a quiz to test your scam IQ.

We're Here to Help

If you have any questions or concerns about your accounts, please don't hesitate to contact us by visiting one of our convenient branches or calling our Customer Assistance Center at 508.568.3400. As a reminder, please mail deposits and other correspondence to our main office at 25 Benjamin Franklin Way, Hyannis MA 02601.

The Cooperative Bank of Cape Cod's West Barnstable branch is open Monday-Thursday 8 AM - 4 PM, Friday 8 AM-5 PM, and Saturday 8:30 AM-2 PM. Member FDIC. Member DIF. Equal Housing Lender.