



The Cornerstone

Published Periodically by the West Barnstable Civic Association

A Message from the WBCA President ~ Nancy Meagher

More than a year into COVID, we are looking forward to an easier summer, in person visits with family and friends, and outdoor gatherings. We appreciate that so many of you turned out to celebrate Earth Day by picking up litter on April 18th, our Village Cleanup Day. Thanks to Tony and Marissa for all of their hard work and energy.

Sue Leary and her committee: Jon Britton, Marissa Caney, Ed Jay, and Andy Lee spent a great deal of time and thought pouring over applications and interviewing an outstanding group of high school seniors. Due to your generous donations, plus three notable contributions from Bridge Creek Capital Management (Deirdre and Barry Paster), The Nicholas G. Xiarhos Memorial Foundation, and The Cooperative Bank of Cape Cod, we will be able to fund six scholarships this year. Be sure to join us Tuesday, May 18th at 6:30 PM for our General Membership Meeting. Scholarships will be presented, Representative Xiarhos will be there to hear our concerns about the nip problem, and Town Manager Mark Ells, our featured speaker, will address the Barnstable Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan. Weather permitting, we'll be meeting outside in the parking lot of the West Barnstable Community Building. Hope to see you there!

We are happy to let you know that our traditional Flag Day Ceremony will be held at Meetinghouse Farm on Monday, June 14th at 6:00 PM. Ever-changing state guidelines will determine precise plans, but we just learned that some sort of Fourth of July Parade will be permitted.

Please check out our website to read more about these events. You can also join or renew your WBCA Annual Membership, purchase WB T-shirts, enjoy photos, and keep yourself informed.

Thanks for your support throughout this difficult year. Be well.

1717 Meetinghouse Provides the Backdrop to the Underground Emergency Cistern Project ~ Steve Musselman



The West Barnstable Fire Department is impressively equipped with a tanker truck, and on-board water for their fire apparatus. Even so, having additional sources of water nearby to fight a fire is valuable.

Imagine two deep holes, each with a full-size backyard swimming pool dropped down on its end. Several 10,000 gallon open concrete sleeves, some with a top or bottom, are set upon each other, sealed by large, compressed rubber gaskets.

Soon, given this construction at the base of Meetinghouse Hill, WBFD will have a new supply of water from which to draw for the neighborhood. The 1717 Meetinghouse Foundation, with the help of a Community Preservation Act grant, is fully funding the cost of this project for the benefit of the entire extended Meetinghouse neighborhood.

60,000 gallons of water, equivalent to the volume of two large backyard swimming pools, will soon be silently standing ready to protect this West Barnstable neighborhood, and of course the 1717 Meetinghouse.

The 1717 Meetinghouse Foundation also contracted for a thorough cleaning and repainting of the interior of the Meetinghouse. The Foundation looks forward to having the Meetinghouse open once again for the community's use and enjoyment. The new cistern

project will help provide an added layer of protection for this community sentry.

1717 Meetinghouse ~ Pastor Reed Baer

The Rooster Church Is Still Here

West Parish of Barnstable, a/k/a The Rooster Church, the congregation of the United Church of Christ which worships in the 1717 Meetinghouse, is back to worshipping together on the lawn at 10:00 on Sunday mornings, weather-permitting. We started up again on Easter and will look at moving back inside the Meetinghouse again in June. As always, our foremost concern is the safety of the congregation and the wider community, but with the increasing number of the vaccinated, and a decline in the number of cases, we are hopeful. In the meantime, we continue to pre-record the Saturday afternoon service and post in on YouTube and Facebook.

The Family School, the pre-school the church has operated for over four decades, has been back in session since last July 1, so far without interruption. The church's outreach ministries to the wider community have continued as well.

Visit www.westbarnstable.org for all things West Barnstable
westbarnstablecivic@gmail.com

2021 Officers and Directors of the West Barnstable Civic Association

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Cornerstone Editor

Nancy Meagher

MEETING & EVENT SCHEDULE

WBCA General Membership Meetings:

May 18, 2021 - 6:30 PM

Outdoors in the parking lot of the West Barnstable Community Building weather permitting. If a virtual meeting is necessary, the link will be emailed and posted on our website.

Save the Date

Tuesday, October 19, 2021

Board Meetings:

First Tuesday of each month 7:00 PM

Virtual meetings are also public.

Email for the Link to join each month if you are interested in attending.

West Barnstable Flag Day Celebration 2021



14th Annual

**Monday
June 14th
6:00pm**

Featuring a ceremonial USA Flag retirement ceremony

**Meetinghouse Farm
2135 Meetinghouse Way
(Route 149 near Village Green)**

This short festivity will include appropriate music & readings. Featured will be a Flag Retirement Ceremony hosted by the West Barnstable Fire Department in accordance with the US government, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the five branches of the armed forces.

All are welcome — With Flag or not

The WB Fire Department will accept flags for this ceremony if you cannot attend but have a U.S. flag to retire.

Visit www.westbarnstable.org for updates and more events

Town Council Update ~ Kris Clark, Precinct II

Welcome, Spring! As we emerge from a challenging winter under the restrictions from the contagious COVID-19 virus, we pause to reflect on those who had, and continue to have, difficulties and losses due to the pandemic. It's been a time of sad losses for many. Our sincere thanks go to the essential service providers—doctors & nurses, mail carriers, grocery workers, gas providers, etc.—who have continued their work while many hunker down.

Thanks to the wonders of Zoom and cautious practices of masking and social distancing, our Town has continued to serve the needs of our residents and the Town Council and Committees have continued to execute their charges. The town is embarking on an expensive and ambitious Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan to address the water quality problems that have emerged from the over-nutrication of our embayments and freshwater bodies. It's been a problem years in the making and will take years of smart engineering and creative resources to ameliorate.

There are three construction projects around the Exit 65 (former 5) overpass: the 1717 Meetinghouse is installing a water tank to be used for fire-fighting; the state will be installing traffic cameras on the overpass, but will pause their work on Memorial Day; and the Eversource project along the Service Road continues with milling and repaving the road there.

Councilor Starr and I have been working with our Town Manager and local legislators to address the litter that has been generated by the "Trash Train" for years. Not only has the trash accumulated in our communities through which the train passes, but also continues to spew out trash. Please share with me your eyewitness account so that we can substantiate the problem as it affects West Barnstable.

I may be reached by phone at home: 508-428-8754 or by email: precinctii@clark@gmail.com. I also generate a periodic newsletter with town, village and local news. Contact me via my email address if you'd like to be on the list of those who receive it. Good luck to us as we get our community vaccinated. If you have trouble getting an appointment for a vaccine, please contact me and I'll connect you to some reliable helpers in the Town of Barnstable.



The Coop CyberScoop Phishing Scams ~ Christine Damery

Phishing scams aim to acquire valuable personal and financial data — such as your Social Security number, credit card details or passwords for online accounts. The scams attempt to steal your identity, your money or both. They are mostly associated with email, but can come in many forms, including social media, pop-up ads, "vishing" (voice phishing by phone), "smishing" (phishing by text message) and "pharming" (drawing victims to bogus websites).

Phishers bait the hook by promising things that may be too good to be true (free prizes, free gift cards, free products or services, or a big lottery prize) or with some type of threat (legal or financial harm over a supposed unpaid tax or utility bill). You might get a call or an official-looking email from your bank, or from a company like Apple, Amazon, eBay, or Netflix, claiming there's a problem with your account. You might even get a phishing email that appears to come from a friend or colleague — some scammers gather personal details on victims to launch highly targeted attacks (a practice called "spear phishing").

Natural disasters or events like the coronavirus pandemic are viewed as opportunities for cybercriminals. Unfortunately, the coronavirus doesn't seem to be dissipating medically or in cyberspace, according to Webroot. We've been sent home to work from home offices rather than workplaces, and with it, there's a significant risk of falling for hacking attacks. According to new data, we need to be more aware than ever of the risk of phishing attacks. Senior director of product Nick Emanuel at Webroot says, "With mass work from home, an influx of emails and a general 'always connected' attitude, there are more opportunities for cybercriminals than ever before. Businesses and consumers must prioritize cyber resilience and recognize that it is everyone's responsibility to protect their data." (CyberNews)

Warning Signs

Emails that contain one or more of the following:

- Spelling and/or grammatical errors
- A lot of these scams may originate from another country, so keep an eye out for poor spelling and/or bad grammar.
- A generic greeting. If you are a customer of someone sending you an email, legitimate business would usually include your name in the greeting.
- Offers of free products, free services, free gift cards, deals with prices too good to be true, or some type of lottery/sweepstake prize.
- Vague or generic language, such as "payment issue," to describe a problem with an account or purchase.
- Threats to discontinue services, close an account, legal action, freezing accounts or any similar threat if you don't respond or act immediately.
- Requests for you to click on a link embedded with the email.
- Requests for you to open a document attached to the email.

- Pop-ups on your computer or mobile device that warn of viruses, promise a prize or redirect you automatically to another site
- Unsolicited phone calls or texts that pitch free or super-cheap products and services, or that claim to be from a government agency, public utility, bank or major company

Themes (Subject) of Top Phishing Campaigns: Here is a list of the top themes that are going around right now, but these can change at any time.

- Action Needed: Password Expired (or Expiring)
- Someone has shared these specific documents with (Your name)
- Business Email Compromise
- Confirm mailing address[.]
- Requisition
- Google Docs – Complaint, My Call
- Quarantine Summary for <your name>: Incoming emails Blocked
- Re: Payment Confirmation OR Payment Notice

What You Can Do

If you get a phishing email follow the advice from our friends at the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

Before you click on a link or share any of your sensitive information:

• Check it out

Do not rely on the contact information contained in the email, look up the website or phone number for the company or person behind the text or email. Make sure that you're getting the real company and not about to download malware or talk to a scammer.

• Talk to someone

Talking to a colleague might help you figure out if the request is real or a phishing attempt.

• Make a call if you're not sure

Pick up the phone and call that vendor, colleague, or client who sent the email. Confirm that they really need information from you. Use a number you know to be correct, not the number in the email or text.

Report suspicious or fraudulent emails, phone calls, and text messages to the Federal Trade Commission and call your bank immediately if you've given out your financial or other personal information. <http://www.report-fraud.ftc.gov/>

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. Member FDIC. Member DIF. Equal Housing Lender.

Luke's Love Playground ~ Suzanne Powers

Hello Friends!

Spring is always magical at Luke's Love and with Covid restrictions lifting, our future is brighter than ever! It's wonderful to see and hear all of the families playing, learning and laughing together... hope brings joy!

Please join us on Thursday, May 13th at noon for a sweet Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for our Little Free Library in collaboration with Whelden Memorial Library. Meet the talented local artist who hand-crafted the beautiful Whelden logo topper and learn more about how we'll help stock the shelves with children's books from local authors. There will be a few surprises too! Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates and lots of happiness. 😊

Keep Smiling!



Pam Chase ~ In Memoriam

We were deeply saddened to learn of Pam Chase's passing April 15, 2021. Pam lived in the Town of Barnstable her entire life and served on the WBCA Board for many years. She was always there to listen and contribute thoughtfully to the discussion of issues we dealt with, to bring her delicious baked goods, to help with setting up and putting away chairs for General Membership Meetings, and all with her charming smile.

Pam was a nurse in labor and delivery at Cape Cod Hospital before becoming Nurse Manager of Maternity. She worked there for twenty-nine years. She continued her nursing career in labor and delivery in The Birthplace at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Plymouth for another sixteen years before her retirement in 2019. For the last two years you could find her working at The Centerville Pie Company a few days a week.

In her spare time, Pam served on and volunteered with many organizations and committees. She was an involved member of the Federated Church of Hyannis, Recording Secretary of the West Barnstable Civic Association, and a volunteer with the Cape Cod Symphony. She also enjoyed her book clubs, and golfing. If Pam wasn't on the sidelines of one of her grandchildren's games, recitals or shows, she enjoyed beaching, boating, being a New England die hard sports fan, cooking and gardening. Pam's greatest love, joy and accomplishment was her family.

The West Barnstable Civic Association made a \$200 donation to the Educational Scholarship Fund in memory of our dear friend and colleague. Pam will be missed.



Meetinghouse Farm ~ Judy Desrochers

"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt." -Margaret Mead

Meetinghouse Farm is coming alive! After a challenging winter, the daffodils are blooming, the grass is greening and the birds are nesting. We're getting ready for our May 15 annual spring plant sale and gearing up for our June fundraising month at the redeemable trailer at the Barnstable Transfer Station. This fundraiser was cancelled last year due to COVID so we are hoping for a very successful month this year. Please save your redeemable bottles and cans and contact Mary Ann at onthecod@comcast.net to volunteer.

In the spring, it is always exciting to see gardeners turning over their plots. The smell of damp soil is definitely in the air as gardeners plant their gardens with old favorites and new varieties showcased in this year's seed catalogues. The Farm is a work in progress as individual plots take shape and vulnerable seedlings grow to maturity.

The Whelden Library's book path has been refreshed and some naughty bunnies are causing mischief in the Farm's big field. Look for future information on a June outdoor puppet show and guided reading walks. The Farm is a wonderful learning environment for children so take a nature walk, gather natural materials for fairy houses or look for animal tracks on the soft, spring trails.

May delivers many gifts of natural beauty. Some would say May is the most beautiful month of the year. Let's be grateful and take the time to look closely and deeply. Good gardening!

Meetinghouse Farm
Garden Potpourri
Plant Sale and More
Saturday May 15 9-2

Tomato Seedlings
Annuals
Lettuce Baskets
Pansies
Perennials and Herbs
Glass Garden Art
Gardening Books
Free Pots and Containers

MHF 2135 Meetinghouse Way W. Barnstable
meetinghousefarm.org

West Barnstable Historical Society ~ Stephen Trimble, WBHS President

On the last day of February, West Barnstable lost a treasured resident with the passing of Lucille Brown McCallum. She lived a full life of 103 years. From the recently published *Women of Barnstable*: "Lucille witnessed the changes that a century can bring. West Barnstable was a village of subsistence farmers when she was a child. At right she sits on a ladder propped up on a "staddle" of harvested salt hay. During the Depression her parents would leave a lit candle in the window to let passers-by know that they could come in and get a hot meal or a place to stay. Lucille received an A.S. degree and worked as a lab technician for the Army during WW II. She was a member of the West Barnstable Historical Society, Whelden Memorial Library, and the 1717 Meetinghouse Foundation. Lucille was *West Barnstable Citizen of the Year* in 2015."



Women of Barnstable features many other fascinating West Barnstable women including educator Lucretia Crocker; Elizabeth Crocker Jenkins who "saved the Meetinghouse"; Freight House agent Martha Dickey (known for her three pet monkeys); Martha Ojala of Ojala Farm; and Harriet Alleman who founded the *Cape Cod Compass* magazine and radio station WOCB. Norma Phillips of Maple Street was a nurse in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Then there's Mercy Otis Warren, poet and patriot, whose 19-page pamphlet detailing lacks in the constitution was instrumental in the writing of the Bill of Rights. West Barnstable Historical Society leaders Helen Wirtanen, Betty Nilsson, Helmi Vilieisis, Audrey Loughnane, and Gabrielle (Gay) Black are also featured. Our village has never had a shortage of strong, hard-working women! *Women of Barnstable* by James Gould and Nancy Shoemaker is available at Titcomb's Book Store, Isaiah Thomas Book Store, and Sturgis Library. WBHS has a new website! Check it out: www.westbarnstablehistoricalsociety.org. We will be posting events and meetings soon. Inquiries are welcome and any local histories and/or images are always appreciated.



West Barnstable Fire Department ~ Chief Joe Maruca

The West Barnstable Fire Department (WBFED) will be replacing its 1985 Engine-Tanker (ET296). At the Annual District Meeting, voters supported appropriating \$650,000 to replace the truck with a new Engine-Tanker. It's a lot of money and we hope the next truck will give us 20+ years of service. An Engine-Tanker is a combination truck that is designed to function both as a water tanker for getting water to fires where there are no fire hydrants and as an engine for attacking and extinguishing a fire. The advantage is that it can operate as an engine when our primary engine (E294) is unavailable at another incident or out for service.

We expect that it will take 18 months for the new truck to be ordered, manufactured, and delivered.

Also related to the lack of fire hydrants in West Barnstable, West Parish/1717 Meetinghouse is installing a new underground water cistern to provide 60,000 gallons of water for firefighting under the lawn adjacent to

Cedar Street. The old cistern, under the Village Green, only holds 20,000 gallons of water. The old cistern is constructed of repurposed steel tanks and was installed more than 40 years ago. This represents a significant improvement in fire protection in the area of the cistern.

West Barnstable is one of the last spots on Cape Cod without a water system and fire hydrants. Three other communities, East Sandwich, Truro, and Wellfleet, have partial hydrant coverage. About 10% of West Barnstable has hydrant coverage.

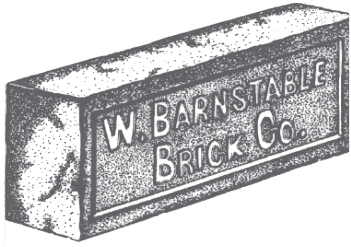
The fire station remains closed to the public due to pandemic protocols. The WBFED cannot yet provide public CPR classes or blood pressure checks, per order of the State Department of Health. We are hoping and looking forward to opening up (maybe this summer) and starting community programs again.

The department thanks you all for your support.

West Barnstable Train Station Cape Cod Chapter National Railway Historical Society ~ Linda L. Pegna

I am happy to report the members and friends of The Cape Cod Chapter, NRHS have been able to hold virtual business meetings on the third Wednesdays each month through Google Meet. Our meetings are open to the public through email invitation. We also have held short train entertainment presentations after the meetings, by the virtual meeting presentation feature. Beginning Saturday, May 15, 2021 the train station and museum will be open from 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM on Saturdays. Passengers will be able to purchase Cape Cod Central Railroad Scenic Excursion train

tickets (cash only) through the trackside window Ticket Officer. Credit card sales: www.capestrain.com Click on West Barnstable. Our station crew follows the COVID-19 safety rules, and the station will be open to visitors, with social distancing, no bathrooms available, and free parking in the lot. Check out Cape Cod Central Railroad at: www.capestrain.com for their various scheduled excursions, dinner trains and special events from Hyannis and West Barnstable. All aboard! www.capecodnrhs.org

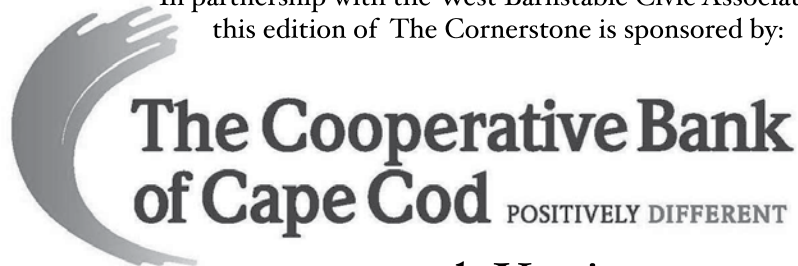


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20th Year!



The WBCA wishes to express sincerest thanks to Sunderland Printing for their continued support in producing The Cornerstone.

Whelden Memorial Library ~ Kelly Depin

It has seemed years rather than a little over a year since the building has been open to the public. But despite the building being closed, the library has been busier than ever! Our circulation on both digital assets and physical books surpasses last year - and we hope once we open the building, will continue to grow. Speaking of opening the building, after consultation with the wonderful staff we have decided to be open during our regular open hours BY APPOINTMENT. We are asking that you call us first for a 20 minute slot to browse through the collection starting May 17th. Sign up for our newsletter on our website www.wheldenlibrary.org to receive the latest updates. Curbside will remain available for any of our patrons that desire it.

Also new on our website is the New Community Calendar! We are inviting West Barnstable nonprofits and businesses to sign up for their own

account to let our community know what's happening at their places of business. Currently we have library notices and the Fire Department, but we hope we have more of you soon. If you are interested in receiving an account to add to the community calendar (<https://www.wheldenlibrary.org/community-calendar/#/events/>), please call the library. We are launching a new campaign, "West Barnstable is family friendly!" by the end of this month. We hope that families and others will start following our calendar to find community events. The library also wants to spread the word about how family friendly our little community truly is. Where else on the Cape can you park next to a ball field, library and playground and easily walk to see trains, fire engines, farm animals, gardens and trails? Keep an eye on our website and our social media hangouts to see more about #WBFamilyFriendly.

Earth Day Village Cleanup ~ Tony Lovell

On Sunday April 18th, an enthusiastic crew of 42 volunteers checked in at the Community Center to grab gloves, bags and materials for West Barnstable's Village Cleanup Day. Equipped with an assigned work area and a zealous outlook, the combined effort made a huge difference, removing 45 very large contractor bags of debris and litter along our roads and in our public spaces.

The impact of such efforts is considerable, but Earth Day comes but once a year, whereas every day seems to be Litter Day. Our best course to preserve the beauty of our village will certainly require the industry of our civic-minded volunteers, and perhaps also some new ideas.

Let's stay involved!



Left to right: Emmitt and Pippi Gray; Carl Koopman, Jackson Friel, and JJ Friel; Nancy Meagher and Kris Clark. Above: Tony Lovell and Marissa Caney.