

The Cornerstone

Published Periodically by the West Barnstable Civic Association

A Message from the WBCA President ~ Andy Lee

Happy November from the board of the West Barnstable Civic Association. We'd like to extend our congratulations to Gordon Starr and Kris Clark for being re-elected as town Councilors to Precinct I and Precinct II respectively. They work tirelessly representing our community and we're very fortunate to have these two dedicated individuals in our corner. As I've said many times before, we are truly blessed to live in such a beautiful and caring village. It seems fitting now more than ever, with all the sadness happening in other communities, that we step back and appreciate all that we have.

Maybe now is the moment to consider volunteering your time and talents to make West Barnstable even stronger!

Wishing you the happiest of holidays. Hope to see you at the Christmas Tree Lighting.
Best regards!



WBCA General Membership Meeting 10/17/23 at 1717 Meetinghouse.

Whelden Memorial Library ~ Andrea Figaratto, Director

Autumn has arrived at Whelden Memorial Library, bringing with it a sense of reflection and anticipation after a vibrant summer season.

We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us for the library's inaugural Haunted House Fundraiser. Your enthusiastic support contributed to a chillingly successful event, and we're eagerly anticipating next year's scarefest!

As the temperature drops and leaves change, we invite you to unwind with a hot cup of tea. Join us for a cozy tea time every Thursday morning before noon, courtesy of our new "Little Tea Library."

In addition to our Tea Library, we've added some exciting new items to our collection, including a record player and vinyl collection, a portable DVD player, CD player, and headphones. And if you're ready to cut the cord on your streaming services, don't miss our impressive DVD collection.

Mark your calendars for our next book sale on December 9th. Afterward, the FOWL bookstore will take a brief hiatus before returning to its regular 2nd and 4th Saturday schedule in the new year, weather permitting.

As winter approaches, our holiday schedule is set. We'll be closed from Saturday, December 23rd, to Tuesday, December 26th, and again from Saturday, December 30th, to Tuesday, January 2nd. But don't worry; even when the library is closed, our services remain at your fingertips. Visit our website to sign up for Wowbrary, a free weekly email that grants you first access to the newest additions to our collection.

As always, for the latest updates on library happenings, we encourage you to subscribe to our monthly newsletter, follow us on Facebook and Instagram, and regularly check our website.

Wishing you a joyful and tranquil holiday season, we look forward to seeing your smiling faces at the library.

Enjoy the season!

2023 Officers and Directors of the West Barnstable Civic Association

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Cornerstone Editor

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MEETING & EVENT SCHEDULE

Civic Association General

Membership Meetings:

Held at the West Barnstable

Community Building:

Social begins at 6:30 PM,

Meeting at 7:00 PM

Next General Meeting:

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Board Meetings:

First Tuesday of each month

7:00 PM

at the West Barnstable

Community Building.

All meetings are public and those interested are encouraged to attend.

Civic Association Membership

www.westbarnstable.org

We invite you to join the Association. Annual dues:

Individual \$15

Family \$25

Why Be a Member of the WB Civic Association?

Our mission is to represent the citizens of West Barnstable in working for the betterment of our community.

We support positive working relationships, promote communication, civic engagement and community spirit.

Town Councilor's Update ~ Kris Clark

'Tis the Season for Many Reasons!



The Barnstable Town Council has changed due to November's Election, but I have remained your Town Councilor for Precinct 11. Thank you to those who voted for me and to those who didn't. The race for Precinct 11 Town Councilor was a civil and respectful campaign and our democracy remains healthy for having a contested race with new ideas for voters to consider.

For those who work to make West Barnstable a better place, I Give You Thanks. While campaigning door-to-door in Precinct 11, I met many wonderful residents who motivate me to understand and invest in the issues which matter in our community. Together, we shape the values and character of West Barnstable and I'm proud to be part of the effort.

I send out a periodic e-newsletter of local interest- Town news and local events are featured and have had good feedback that my newsletter delivers information of value. If you are interested in receiving my newsletters, please contact me via email: precinct11clark@gmail.com or sign up through my website: www.precinct11clark.com
Honored to serve as your Town Councilor!

1717 Meetinghouse Foundation ~ Steve Musselman, Trustee

At its recent Annual Meeting, the 1717 Meetinghouse Foundation's President Georgia Lonkart outlined the recent completed projects.

The major projects accomplished since the last Annual Meeting include: Air Conditioning the Meetinghouse (and increasing electrical service), Landscaping and Driveway hardscaping with drainage repair and wiring, and of course the Bell Tower Rebuild. Costs just this year for those projects exceeded \$300,000.

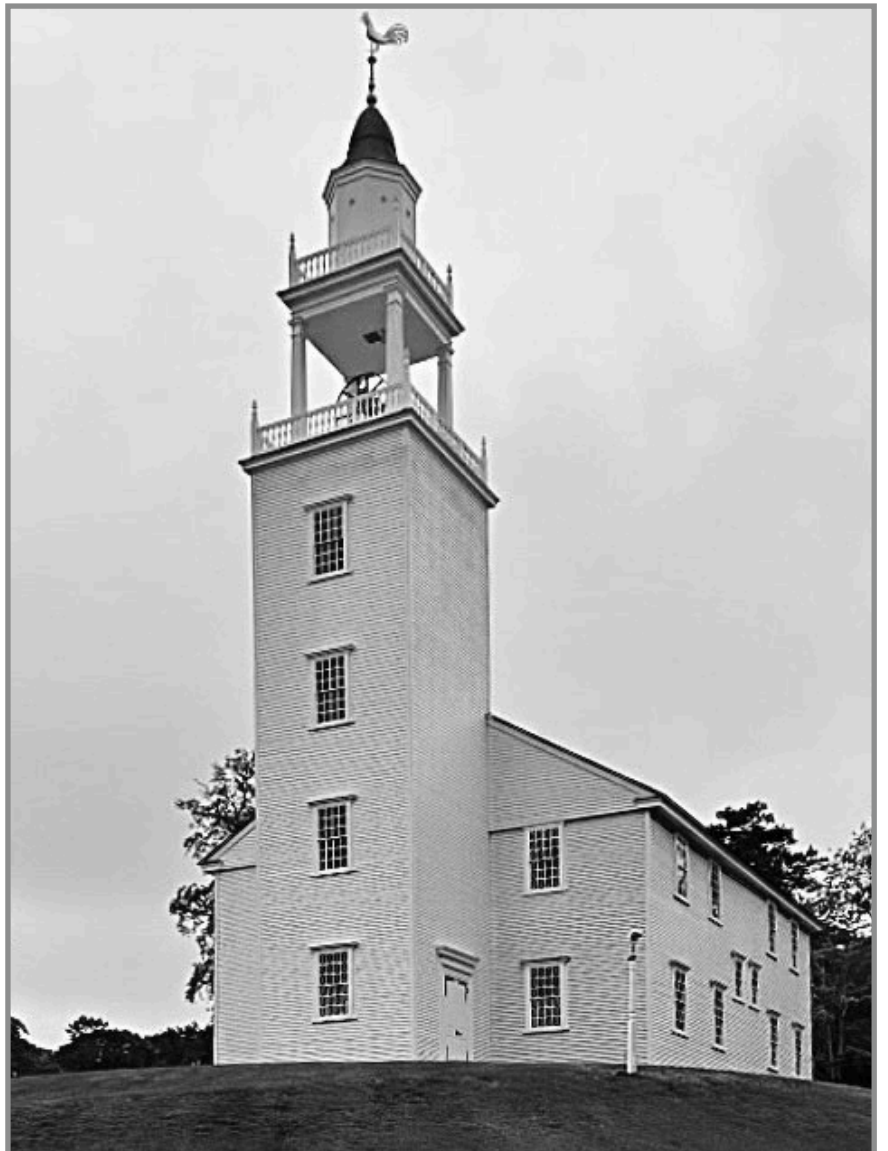
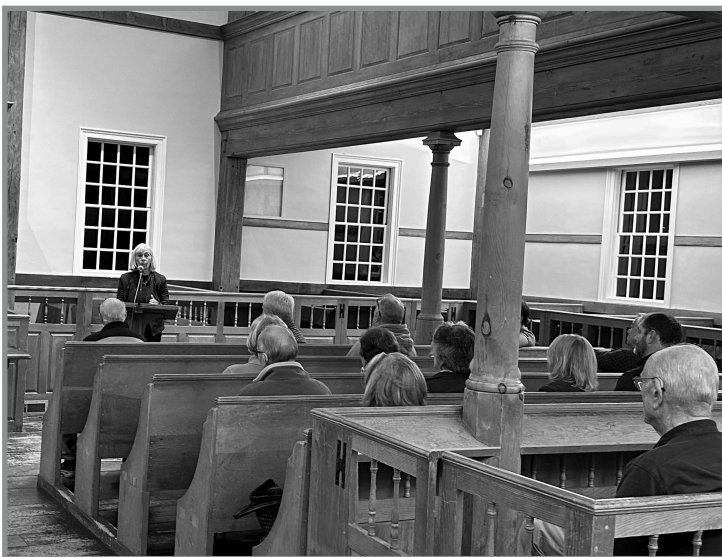
And of course, the recent live streaming of the WBCA Meet the Candidates Night was made possible by an updated pan/tilt/zoom IP camera system.

These projects were made possible largely by the generous bequests from friends of the 1717 Meetinghouse

Foundation. Such bequests were given in part by Marjorie and Donald Carey, former Trustee John Palmer Jenkins and a memorial gift honoring John Lahteine, Restoration Master Craftsman and woodworker.

Georgia Lonkart explained that over a decade ago, the Board of Trustees had conducted an extensive Needs Assessment list for the Meetinghouse. Ten years later "we have now completed the major projects list."

Maintenance is ongoing and work on the outside lighting is still needed. New needs are always being identified in such a 300-year old Historic village icon. The funding of the work to preserve the 1717 Meetinghouse falls exclusively on the generous donations - past and future - from friends in our community.



West Barnstable Historical Society ~ Nancy Viall Shoemaker

Leaders of the American Revolution from West Barnstable

You'll be hearing more and more about the American Revolution over the next two years as we approach the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America. Did you know that the Otis family of West Barnstable played key roles in fighting for our independence? James Otis, Jr. is thought by many to have incited the revolt against England's tyranny.

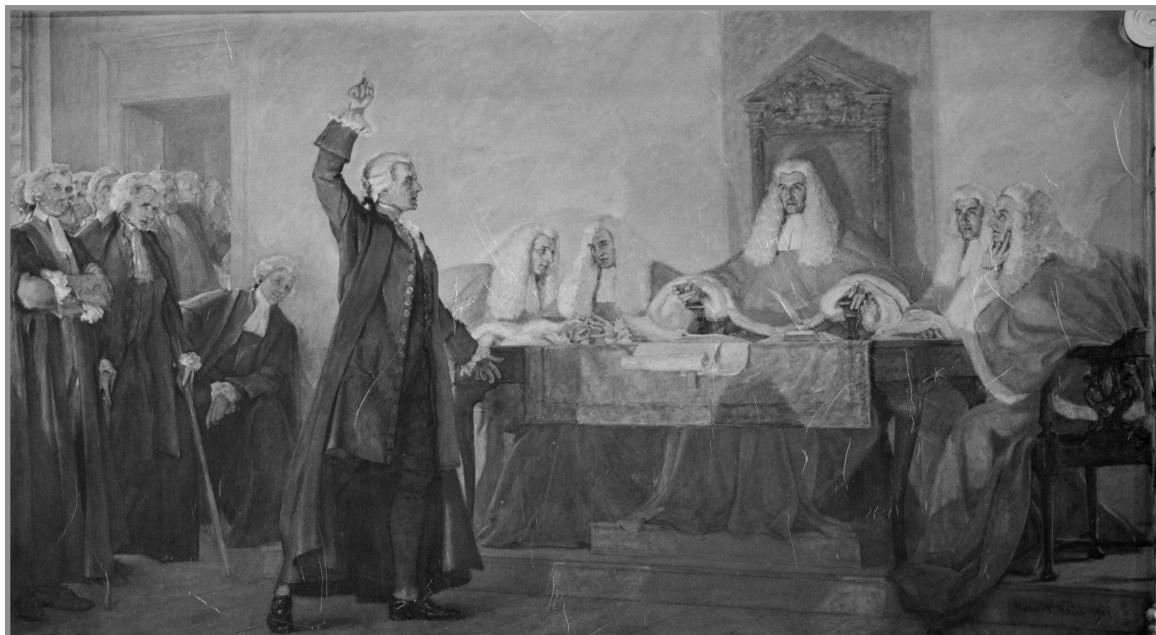
James' father, James Otis, Sr., was a merchant, a lawyer, and the Chief Justice of Barnstable's Court of Common Pleas. The Otis family's home was across the street from where our West Barnstable Post Office now stands. Sadly the Otis house burned down around 1830. A plaque mounted on a boulder marks the site.

James, Jr. graduated from Harvard in 1743 with a law degree. By 1760 he was defending those who were fighting unfair searches (writs of assistance) and taxation by England's Parliament. In February of 1761 Otis gave a commanding speech of over four hours at the State House in Boston. A young law student and future American President, John Adams, was there that day. "Otis was a flame of fire!" he noted, "American independence was then and there born."

James continued to work for the rights of the Colonies into the early 1770s. He argued that the colonists should not have to pay taxes and tariffs to support the government of England, because the Colonies were not represented in England's House of Commons. The Stamp Act of 1765 forced the purchase of a stamp for all documents, newspapers, even playing cards. British officers had the right to search homes for proper use of the stamps - without a search warrant! He is credited by many for getting the Stamp Act rescinded a year later.

James Otis, Jr. dealt with fragile mental health. His condition wasn't helped by a blow to the head during a fight with a British soldier in 1769. He eventually needed the aid of family and friends. He is reported to have said to his sister, Mercy, "I hope, when God Almighty in his righteous providence shall take me out of time into eternity, that it will be by a flash of lightning." On May 23, 1783, he was standing in an open door of a farmhouse in Andover, MA when he was struck and killed by lightning.

More on another member of the Otis family in a coming issue.



James, Jr. giving his February 1761 speech. This painting is on a wall of the State House in Boston.

West Barnstable Village Tree Lighting and Carol Sing

Sunday, December 3rd at 5pm
On Our Village Green - Route 149

WE MAY HAVE A VISIT FROM SANTA TO HELP
LIGHT THE VILLAGE TREE AND CAROL SING WITH US!
SONG SHEETS AND THE POPULAR PEN LIGHTS WILL BE PASSED OUT
(WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.)

OUR TRADITIONAL TELLING OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY
BEGINS AT 5:30PM IN THE HISTORIC 1717 MEETINGHOUSE.
COME SEE A LIVE NATIVITY AND HEAR THE
WEST PARISH BELLRINGERS.

Delicious Refreshments Served in Jenkins Hall after the program.
Need more information?
Call Shirley 508-362-5206 or Joanne 508-362-5139

Support Meetinghouse Farm

A neighbor & partner in the love of nature
& the joy of gardening.
Our basket will accept your donation to
support our efforts.





The Cornerstone
West Barnstable Civic Association
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West Barnstable, Massachusetts 02668

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In partnership with the West Barnstable Civic Association
this edition of The Cornerstone is sponsored by:



Get Ready for the Holidays!
Meetinghouse Farm Pre-Thanksgiving

PIE IN THE SKY

Pie and Bake Sale
Wednesday November 22

8 AM – 11 AM



Pies * Cakes * Cookies * Breads
Tekla's Finnish Braids and Breads

! Bike Raffle Drawing !

West Barnstable Community Building
Meetinghouse Way West Barnstable MA

Come early! We always sell out!

(2023)

Join Us for Santa's Annual Visit
to LUKE'S LOVE
Boundless Playground
to Benefit A BABY CENTER!

Sunday
December 3rd
10am - 12pm



Please bring a gift of diapers, wipes,
Enfamil formula or grocery/retail gift cards
to help stuff the baby van this holiday season!

- Santa arrives on a WBFD Fire Truck •
- Photos & Playtime • Awesome Pics •
- Festive Music • Fresh Air • Friends •
- Free Gift Raffle • Cookies & Cocoa •



FREE FAMILY EVENT
SPONSORED BY LUKE'S LOVE
2377 Meetinghouse Way - Route 149
West Barnstable, MA 02668

Holiday Sale Meetinghouse Farm



Saturday

December 9 10 AM-2 PM

Seasonal arrangements for your home.

Table Mantle* & More
Beautiful Wreaths

Handmade* Fresh* Natural

Gift Items

Holiday Cookies* Paperwhites
Seeded Birdhouses* Ornaments* Doggie Treats

Join us in the Farm's Barn and Greenhouse

Sweet! You'll love it!

2135 Meetinghouse Way, West Barnstable, MA

Meetinghouse Farm ~ Judy Desrochers

As fall transitions to winter in New England, we prepare mentally for the loss of light and colder temperatures. We reluctantly say goodbye to the lush greens of summer marshes, family gardens and woodland trees. We are uncertain what winter will bring. Sadly, this winter we are also facing an overwhelming barrage of heartbreaking news. Two wars, global famine and drought, political divisions, that are uncivil to the core, and of course, a devastating loss of human lives.

There are no words, yet each of us does our best to maintain some balance in this surreal world. Where is our comfort? As always, I would say in the natural world, in our interior spiritual lives, in our personal commitment to love, kindness, and peace.

We are entering a beautiful season of hope and celebration. We need to embrace the goodness of the world and, with attention and focus, spread a message of peace and forgiveness when we can. We need to hug those we love and absorb the beauty and silence of Cape Cod.

The Farm will be having its annual Pie and Bake Sale on November 22, a Holiday Sale on December 9, and a Winter Solstice Celebration on December 21. These are meaningful events and we hope you will join us. These events are planned to bring neighbors together, to encourage an appreciation of nature and promote a simple and less commercial view of the holiday season. As the season unfolds, we wish you health, happiness, and peace. Whenever, wherever, however, give gifts of kindness and love.