

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 the winners of the 2024 elections; and a special thank you to those who participated in our Meet the Candidates Night. As I've said many times before, we are so



fortunate to live in a village with such an involved and caring community.

As my term of President of the WBCA comes to an end, I want to thank you all for the opportunity of heading up this wonderful group of dedicated individuals. I consider them all as lifetime friends.

Hope to see you at the village tree lighting! Best wishes and happy holidays.

WBCA and BVA General Membership Meet the Candidates Meeting 10/15/24 at 1717 Meetinghouse.

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

We extend our heartfelt wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving 2024 and a healthy, and prosperous 2025 to all of you and your loved ones. This year, our Chapter members have dedicated themselves to ensuring a safe and welcoming environment at the train station museum and all of our events.

Our activities were vibrant and varied, starting with the West Barnstable Village Festival Committee's Annual Spaghetti Supper at the WB Fire Station in April. This event supports the Village Festival. It was followed by the Village Festival on the third Saturday in August, and the scenic excursions departing every Saturday from May through October. Our passionate volunteers, comprised of railroad historians and enthusiasts of all ages, have tirelessly supported and promoted both the railroad and our community.

We held our monthly meetings at the train station from May through August, transitioning to virtual meetings in October to the end of the year. Each Business Meeting was followed by engaging and entertaining rail presentations by our members. Our webmaster Mathew Gould kept our website, www.capecodnrhs.org updated, and our Facebook page continued to engage the public.

We welcomed numerous visitors to the train station and passengers on Cape Cod Central Railroad's afternoon scenic excursion during the West Barnstable Village Festival. We extend our gratitude to Christopher Podgurski, CEO and Kaylene Jablecki, Operations Manager of Cape Cod Central Railroad, and all their employees for their unwavering support.

We opened the train station throughout July, August, September, and October on Thursday nights and the Cape Cod Mustang Club convened. Members showcased their antique Mustangs and relished delicious pizzas from Amari's in Sandwich, all while enjoying each other's company and camaraderie.

Our BBQ Social with hot dogs, burgers and all the fixings was most enjoyable. 5th District State Representative Steven G. Xiarhos was our special guest. He honored the Chapter with a beautiful Citation from the Massachusetts House of Representatives and a donation from The Nicholas G. Xiarhos Memorial Fund which we deeply respect and appreciated. (Continued on page 4)



2024 Officers and Directors of the West Barnstable Civic Association

OFFICERS

Andy Lee

President

Ed Jay

Vice President

Bob Stolte

Treasurer

Maria DeMayo

Secretary

Nancy Meagher

Immediate Past President

Cornerstone Editor

DIRECTORS

Jon Britton

Jim Butler

Dan Dewey

Dave Kern

Deb Morgan

Dan Philos-Jensen

Dolores Schermer

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 21, 2025

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

Business \$35

Town Councilor's Update ~ Kris Clark



The warm and dry autumn has made for a fantastic time in West Barnstable this year. Now that we're transitioning to winter, I pause to reflect how fortunate I am for family, friends, and community.

We welcome the new owner of the Old Village Store, Cyrus Buffum, who has impressive plans to renovate and bring a fresh approach to its operations in the heart of our Village, with the opening in early 2025.

Please support Meetinghouse Farm's Pie Sale November

27th from 8 AM – 11 AM. The team there has done a great job sustaining the energy at the Farm, doing their best to fill the void left by Judy Desrochers passing last spring. The Village Tree Lighting on **December 8th** will kick-off our Christmas celebrations - please note that it will be held on the **SECOND** Sunday of December this year. I look forward to seeing you around the Village.

I send out a periodic e-newsletter of local interest, showcasing Town news and local events. If you are interested in receiving my newsletters, please contact me via email: kris.clark@town.barnstable.ma.us or sign up through my website: www.precinct11clark.com

Proud to serve as your Town Councilor.

The Cooperative Bank of Cape Cod

Fraud, Scams, and Identity Theft ~ Awareness and Prevention

From old fashioned tricks such as check fraud to techniques employed by sophisticated computer hackers, financial scams are on the rise. Being forewarned is to be forearmed with information that can help you steer clear of some of the more popular scams designed to steal your money, or your identity.

Here are some of the more prevalent scams you're likely to encounter, followed by a series of tips on how to protect yourself from falling prey.

Tech Support Scams: Fraudsters pose as representatives from reputable tech companies, claiming a victim's personal computer or phone has been compromised. Victims are then persuaded to transfer funds to supposedly "secure" accounts. Most often senior citizens fall prey to tech support scams.

Phishing Scams: Emails or texts are used to trick victims into providing personal information, perhaps to remedy a supposed account problem with a subscription, credit card, or other account. These messages often appear to come from trusted companies and organizations.

Government Imposter Scams: Scammers pose as government officials, often from the IRS, claiming the victim owes money or has an unclaimed refund. Confirm any such claims by reaching out directly to the IRS.

Weather Emergency Scams: Weather scams can strike either before or after a storm. In some cases fake insurers offer an extended coverage policy for potential damage, or if your region does sustain damage, imposter contractors solicit money up front for promised repairs that never take place.

Service Shut-Off Scams: Imposters play the role of a cable service, wireless carrier, electric company or gas utility representative and threaten service will be shut off unless funds are forthcoming.

Check-Cashing Scams: A scammer asks someone to cash a check for them, which later bounces, leaving the victim liable.

Overpayment Scams: Small businesses often fall prey to this trick. Counterfeit checks for more than the owed amount are received followed by a request for the difference to be wired back.

Unsolicited Check Fraud: Victims receive unexpected checks that, when cashed, bind them to unwanted services or memberships.

Automatic Withdrawal Scams: Scammers use fake offers to obtain bank information and set up unauthorized withdrawals. Another popular technique is employed by con artists who will offer assistance at a public ATM, only to exchange your bank card with a phony card using sleight of hand.

How to Protect Yourself:

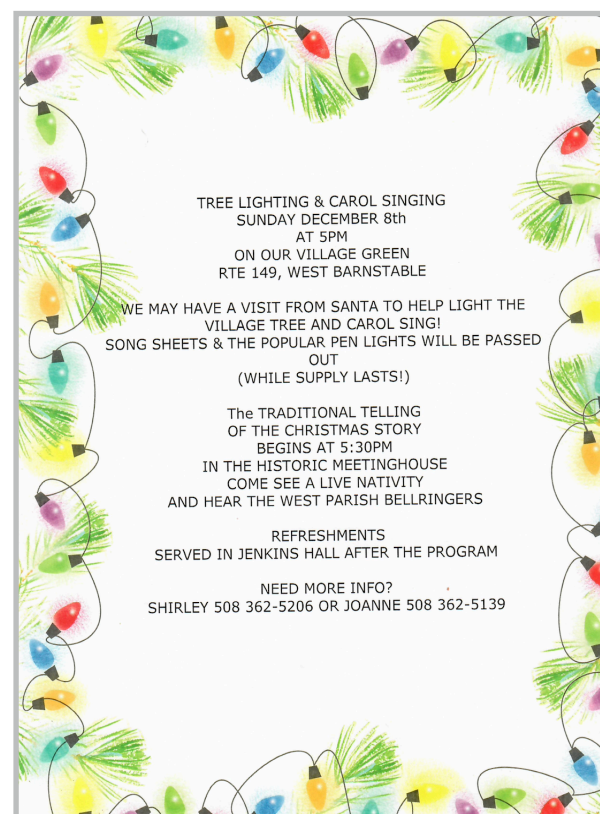
- Verify the legitimacy of texts, emails or phone calls by placing a call directly to the bank, organization or agency.
- Be cautious of sharing personal information at all times.
- Never cash checks for strangers.
- Verify the authenticity of received checks.
- Promptly report suspected scams to authorities and financial institutions.

While financial fraud and scams can be a costly inconvenience, identity theft can take months to remedy, potentially placing every aspect of your personal records in jeopardy. Your social security number should be protected at all times.

Criminals gain access to your social security number by various methods such as dumpster diving, skimming, phishing, changing addresses, and stealing mail.

Protect yourself by:

- Shredding sensitive documents.
- Never share personal information over unsolicited calls.
- Black out your social security number on any copied documents where it is not essential information.
- Reviewing financial statements promptly.
- Checking credit reports annually for inaccuracies.
- Using secure websites for online transactions. Secure websites begin with what is called a URL prefix ending in "s" – For example: <https://www.Website>. Make sure the "s" is present.
- Request that the USPS place a hold on your delivered mail if away on vacation. (Continued on page 4)



West Barnstable Historical Society ~ *Nancy Viall Shoemaker*

West Barnstable's Village Store will be opening again soon with a new owner, Cyrus Buffum. The store has had an interesting past. Here's a bit of its history.



It was built by Melvin Parker in 1880. In 1904 A. D. Makepeace, renowned cranberry grower and treasurer of the West Barnstable Brick Company, purchased the store to maintain its services for the Village. The store had a butcher's shop with a walk-in ice box. Makepeace ran a cooperage across the street that produced barrels for the shipment of his cranberries. He had a windmill built to power a pump that filled a large wooden water tank on top of a three-story tower. Gravity sent water to his home and later to the Village Store,

Otis Hall, and Captain Josiah Crocker's home. A gas plant supplied gas to all of these buildings. The gas plant is now at the Smithsonian Institute.

Makepeace's son William ran the store until it was sold to Andrew Carlson in the early 1930s. Fred and Ruth Carlson (no relation to Andrew) purchased the store in 1954. Eighteen years later Pat Rogers bought the store. Many of us remember the Pizza Restaurant in the back. A few owners later, the store is now being restored by Mr. Buffum. We look forward to its opening.

Why Be a Member of the WBCA?

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.



Whelden Memorial Library ~ *Andrea Figaratto, Director*

Fall at the library is bustling with new beginnings and celebrations!

First, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mary Howe, who will be retiring at the end of October. Mary's dedication and warm presence have been invaluable to our community, and we'll miss her dearly. At the same time, we're thrilled to welcome Monica, our new Circulation Aide. She brings a wonderful enthusiasm for library service, and we know she'll be a fantastic addition to our team!

We're still riding the high from our recent Haunted House fundraiser, which was a fantastic success thanks to the support of our incredible community! Stay tuned for our third annual haunted house next year - planning is already underway.

Looking ahead, our annual Shared Warmth Winter Reading

program is just around the corner. This program offers adults and children a chance to cozy up with a good book together during the colder months. We'll share details soon, so be sure to check back for all the fun.

And as we prepare for the season's changes, we're excited to announce a few upgrades: Our access ramp is currently being repaired, and an outdoor book drop will soon be added in the parking lot for even more convenience.

Don't forget to check our calendar for winter holiday closures, and stay connected by signing up for our newsletter and following us on social media.

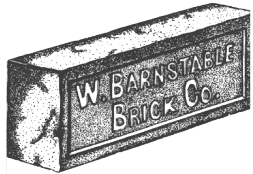
With all that's happening, we look forward to sharing another busy season with you. Thank you for being part of our library community!

Meetinghouse Farm ~ *Earl Springer*

As we wind down the gardening season at Meetinghouse Farm, we are busy preparing for our fall events. First up is our **Pre-Thanksgiving Pie Sale**. It's held at the community building on Wednesday, November 27th from 8 AM to 11 AM. Stop by to pick up pies, breads, and other goodies. Shop early as we usually sell out. Our **Holiday Greens and Decoration Sale** will be held on Saturday, December 7th from 10 AM to 2 PM. Stop by the farm for your wreaths, arrangements and holiday gifts.

The **Winter Solstice Celebration** will be held on December 21st at 5 PM in the barn. This quiet, reflective time is the perfect way to take a break from all the commotion of the season and celebrate the shortest day/longest night of the year.

The Farm is open daily from dawn to dusk. So, stop by to walk the trails and the labyrinth and enjoy the peaceful surroundings. See you at the Farm or at our events this fall.



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

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
West Barnstable,
MA 02668
Permit 8



VILLAGE RESIDENT WEST BARNSTABLE, MASSACHUSETTS 02668



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

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



(Continued from page 1)

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

A significant milestone was the new agreement signed and filed in August, 2024, by Parker Lombard Trustee Joe Reardon and the Town of Barnstable regarding the ownership and maintenance of the train station. This agreement now enables the town to apply for state and local grants for the necessary renovations to the 113 year old train station. As we know, the station is in dire need of repairs: the roof is leaking and bowing, it is open in areas to birds, the soffits are rotting from the water damage and leaking, the ticket office lighting fixture and wall leaks, the doors are worn and the ceilings are peeling. We have informed the Town and Lombard Trust of these issues.

We are looking to replace our old worn-out green benches at the front of the station with two long wooden/trex ones. We would appreciate if local churches, the community college wood shop, the Boy Scouts, or anyone else who can help would contact us to discuss the replacements.

As you can see, this past year has been a collective effort, and we have been busy promoting the railroad and preserving its history. We are grateful for all the support, time and talent and our members and friends remain dedicated to our mission of preserving railroad history.

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

**Sunday
December 8th
10am - 12pm**

Please bring a gift of Similac 360 Total Care formula, diaper rash cream, and Toddler Clothes size 12M - 5/6 for girls & boys 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
Hosted by LUKE'S LOVE & Chapin's Catering
2377 Meetinghouse Way - Route 149
West Barnstable, MA 02668

(Continued from page 3)

The Cooperative Bank of Cape Cod

Fraud, Scams, and Identity Theft ~ Awareness and Prevention

Overall, being aware of common scams and practicing caution can help protect personal and financial information from being compromised.

The security of personal and account information is extremely important to The Cooperative Bank of Cape Cod. As a true community bank, it is our responsibility to keep you, the customer, informed of current fraud trends and to educate you on how to best protect yourself. By taking a proactive approach, we can help ensure that your private information is protected.

The Cooperative Bank of Cape Cod's West Barnstable location is open Monday-Thursday 8-4, Friday 8-5, and Saturday 8:30-12. Our 24/7 ATM is always available. Member FDIC. Member DIF. Equal Housing Lender.

Meetinghouse Farm Pre-Thanksgiving
PIE IN THE SKY
Pie and Bake Sale
Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2024
8 AM - 11 AM
West Barnstable Community Building
Meetinghouse Way, West Barnstable

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

All proceeds benefit the Farm

Doors Open Promptly at 8 AM
No Sales Prior to Opening