



The Cornerstone

Published Periodically by the West Barnstable Civic Association

A Message from the WBCA President ~ *Andy Lee*

Spring is here, things are greening up, and our village is looking great. Check out Meetinghouse Farm when you have a chance. We will dearly miss Judy Desrochers, but her presence is felt in every garden and most especially, the labyrinth. We saw many of you at the Spaghetti Supper last month. Amazing how a fantastic group of dedicated people came together to pull that off. Great job by all. Be sure to check out the photos on our website. We are looking forward to our General Membership Meeting, May 21st, when WBCA Educational Scholarships will be awarded. Flag Day June 14th is always a reflective, sentimental day. We have a Coffee Social planned for Saturday, June 22nd at 9 AM where Town Manager Mark Ells, along with representatives from Avangrid and Eversource will provide updated information. Please stop by if you are around. Save some time in mid-July for the Hydrangea Festival. Then, of course, the best of summer is our Village Festival Saturday, August 17th. This quintessential event, brimming with family and friends having a wonderful time, is not to be missed. Mark your calendars, we hope to see you there.

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. We are fortunate to reside in this lovely Cape Cod village where kindness prevails. There are more than 3000 registered voters in our precinct, and we welcome everyone of you to become a member of the WB Civic Association. For the nominal fee of \$15, \$25 for a Family, or \$35 for a Business. Join today!

Meetinghouse Farm ~ *Earl Springer*

As we prepare for the Spring and Summer season at the farm we are surrounded by the memory of Judy Desrochers and all that she meant to us. Simply stated, there would be no Meetinghouse Farm without Judy. She was the inspiration, the driving force behind the creation, and the guiding light for the entire life of the farm. With her leadership the property that was a broken down nursery has become a beautiful, peaceful, destination in the village. The farm is planning to revitalize and expand the butterfly garden that was a favorite spot of Judy's and to plant a tree in her honor.

As life goes on, we have completed phase one of landscaping around the labyrinth. The plant sale will be May 18th from 9 AM to 1 PM. We have lots of tomatoes and flowers ready to go. Yoga at the farm will start up on June 15th and we will participate in the Hydrangea and WB Village Festivals. Volunteers are always appreciated at the farm and this year we are in need of people to plant, tend, and pick flowers for our bouquets at the farmstand. So if flowers are your passion, contact me to discuss how you can help. Stop by the farm to walk the trails and the labyrinth, view the gardens, or just enjoy the peaceful surroundings. See you at the farm. (etslra@comcast.net)



Beth Meagher

2024 Officers and Directors of the West Barnstable Civic Association

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- Andy Lee**
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- Maria DeMayo**
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MEETING & EVENT SCHEDULE

Civic Association General

Membership Meetings:

Third Tuesday of the month.
Social begins at 6:30 PM,
Meeting at 7 PM
January, May, October

Next General Meeting:

May 21, 2024
Held at 1717 Meetinghouse

Board Meetings:

First Tuesday of each month 7:00 PM.
January and May meetings held at the
West Barnstable Community Building.
October, Meet the Candidates meeting
held at 1717 Meetinghouse.
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

Save the Date!!

West Barnstable Village Festival

Saturday, August 17th

Rain Date - August 18th
10 AM - 3 PM

From 1717 Meetinghouse to the
WB Fire Station, Meetinghouse Farm,
the WB Community Building,
Lombard Field, Whelden Library,
and the Train Station!

2024 WBCA Educational Scholarship Winners



Lily Blanco
Sturgis Charter High School
Worcester State University



Kyle Cogswell
Barnstable High School
Purdue University



Allegra Martini
Barnstable High School
University of Massachusetts
Amherst



Molly Pulit
Saint John Paul II High School
University of Vermont



Olivia Thompson
Barnstable High School
New York University
Tisch School of the Arts

Thanks to your generous donations, we are able to award scholarships to each of these amazing students who reside in West Barnstable. Scholarship checks, citations from the State House, and flowers will be presented in person at the WBCA General Membership Meeting Tuesday, May 21st, held at the WB Community Building.

West Barnstable Historical Society ~ Nancy Viall Shoemaker

In March Bing Kalweit of Centerville donated a wicker wheel chair to Barnstable Historical Society. It had been given to his grandmother, West Barnstable's Martha Bodfish Dickey, by her friends, John and Irene Aittaniemi.

The chair is similar to the wheel chairs of Atlantic City's Boardwalk which were first designed in 1876 for the handicapped. The first American patent for a wheelchair had been issued in 1869. By 1887 the chairs had become fashionable to the able-bodied public. Now known as "roller chairs" and "Boardwalk chairs", the fanciful wheel chairs could be rented for a Sunday "stroll". But this chair was used for its intended use, aiding the handicapped at West Barnstable's almshouse on Meetinghouse Way (Route 149). The Aittaniemis had been caregivers at the almshouse in West Barnstable, bringing fruit, vegetables and canned goods to the residents.



Nancy Viall Shoemaker



Library of Congress



Library of Congress



Whelden Memorial Library



Nancy Viall Shoemaker



Palm Beach News

The 1821 poorhouse was razed in 1972. Affordable housing for seniors is now on the 11-acre property, part of the Lombard Trust.

At right is a photo of a celebrated resident of Cape Cod, Joe Jefferson. He is being driven in a bicycle-powered version of the wheel chair on a Florida vacation. Jefferson's summer home was in Bourne where he was a close friend of President Cleveland. He was known for his role as Rip Van Winkle in the first movie ever filmed in Massachusetts.

West Barnstable Historical Society's Spring Meeting: *A Night of West Barnstable Stories* will be Tuesday, May 28th from 5-7 PM at the Tavern on the Green at Olde Barnstable Fairgrounds in Marstons Mills.

WEST BARNSTABLE VILLAGE FESTIVAL

Many hands make light work. If you would like to help out for an hour or two, we'd love to hear from you.

Email to volunteer: westbarnstablecivic@gmail.org

Everyone is welcome!

1717 Meetinghouse Foundation ~ Steve Musselman, Trustee

Your 1717 Meetinghouse kicks-off its summer programming for the community on May 10th with a presentation by the Massachusetts Audubon Society on saving Barnstable's Great Marsh. A video archive of the 7 PM program can be found on the 1717 Meetinghouse Foundation's Facebook page.

On May 31st at 7 PM, former Meetinghouse Trustee Steve Howland will give a presentation on the Howlands of Cape Cod. Residents of West Barnstable will note the name from Howland Road, and the numerous Howland monuments in the Cemetery.

Save the date of July 6th at 7 PM as the Foundation hosts The Hyannis Sound's return to the 1717 Meetinghouse. Arrive early, as attendance at this popular a cappella young men's chorus often overflows into the upstairs gallery. This year, the Meetinghouse is air conditioned, should the July 4th weekend be a scorcher!

More summer programs will be announced on the 1717 Meetinghouse Foundation's Facebook and web pages. See you soon in your 1717 Meetinghouse!



Town Council Update ~ Kris Clark



Spring is a good time to see our Village bloom with optimism. Gardens are flowering, local students will be recognized with scholarships, and our new Fire Chief, Dave Paananen, takes command after Chief Joe Maruca retires.

The Barnstable Town Council, is holding public hearings as we evaluate and vote on expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year. The West Barnstable Fire District did so as well, voting to hire and train four additional full time staff members for the District, among other warrant expenditures.

Another sign of spring is the Annual Spaghetti Supper. More than 300 dinners were served. I've heard from residents in West Barnstable and beyond that this is a local event many wouldn't miss. "This is America," was an unsolicited comment from a regular to our Spaghetti Suppers

who is a resident from another village. What a poignant reflection on the character of our Spaghetti Supper! The event is organized by the West Barnstable Festival Committee, which also plans for the upcoming 33rd Annual Village Festival to be held on August 17th this year. Volunteers keep this going. To offer some volunteer assistance, please contact Chair Nancy Meagher.

Improvements to the bed of the Railroad crossing have alleviated the bumps over the railroad crossing along Meetinghouse Way. Other enhancements to the Village include the beneficial effects of the annual Village Clean-up, along with ongoing efforts made by local villagers who take the time and trouble to collect litter, making for a neater landscape along our roadways.

I send out a periodic e-newsletter, delivering Town news and local happenings. 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



WB Earth Day Village Clean Up Volunteer Owen Fletcher, Organizer Tony Lovell, and Lenny Clark.



WB Earth Day Village Clean Up Volunteers Jackson Friel, Carol Ann Friel, Carol Brodd, Kevin Friel, Trip Friel, Louisa Friel, Beth Meagher Friel, and Carl Koopman.

WEST BARNSTABLE EARTH DAY VILLAGE CLEAN UP
We believe EVERY DAY is Earth Day! We encourage you to take action on your walks to help make our village a cleaner, greener place to live, work, and play



The Cornerstone
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 Sunderland Printing for their continued
 support in producing *The Cornerstone*.

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

As the fresh breath of spring revitalizes the town, we're thrilled to share some **exciting news** with the community! The Town of Barnstable, in collaboration with Joe Reardon, Trustee of the Lombard Trust, has successfully navigated the legal journey to secure the future of our cherished train station. A landmark agreement has been signed, paving the way for a **99-year lease** of this iconic property to the town for a symbolic fee.

This agreement entrusts the town with the **operational and maintenance responsibilities** for the coming century, ensuring that the station remains a beacon of local heritage and community spirit. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated individuals who made this

possible: former Town Attorney Charles McLaughlin, First Assistant Town Attorney Thomas LaRosa, Assistant Town Attorney Allison Cogliano, Trustee Joe Reardon, and Town Councilor Kris Clark.

Looking ahead, the town is poised to secure funding for essential renovations that will breathe new life into the 113 year old station. We're excited to announce that starting **May 18, 2024**, the train station will open its doors at **9:30 AM** every Saturday until October 22. Don't miss the Cape Cod Central Railroad's narrated excursions, departing at **11:55 AM**. Enjoy the convenience of **free parking, cash and credit card** payment options, and accessible restrooms. All aboard!

Whelden Memorial Library ~ Andrea Figaratto, Director

Winter at the library was bustling with activity, from engaging author talks to creative craft programs and lively Pokemon and Lego clubs. Our diverse workshops and entertaining duck hunts kept the community active, informed, and entertained. Our Touch a Truck event kicked off the spring season with a resounding success, drawing over 450 attendees! Ellen's diligent efforts have revitalized our nonfiction selection, so be on the lookout for exciting new additions covering topics like container gardening, embroidery, soap making, travel, health and wellness and beyond!

As spring blossoms, we gear up for our beloved summer reading programs, meticulously planned by Liz and Julie for both youth and adults. What prizes await this year? Drop by the library in early June to peruse our display and grab your reading logs. Adults can join the fun with book bingo and vie for grand prizes sponsored by generous donors including

Cape Cod String Quartet, Hyannis Whale Watcher Cruises, Cape Cod Beer and Naukabout Brewery.

The momentum continues into summer as we enhance our Library of Things collection, featuring more vinyl, updated Tonies, and new museum passes. Look forward to exciting fundraisers like the upcoming plant swap and Hydrangea Festival, along with expanded offerings from the library during WB Village Festival. Don't forget to visit our bookstore, where dedicated FOWL volunteers keep the shelves stocked every second and fourth Saturday with both best-selling classics and new releases.

As the sun shines and the rain nourishes our gardens, remember to stay connected by signing up for our newsletter and following us on social media. And don't overlook the wealth of resources beyond books – from language learning software to museum passes, vinyl, puzzles, and movies. Have a suggestion or feedback? Reach out to us at whelden@comcast.net – your input matters!