



NEWS FROM *South Williamstown*

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Come to Breakfast in South Williamstown

Saturday, November 3, from 9-11 a.m.

There'll be coffee, tea, muffins, scones, egg dishes, fruit and other good things to eat at the SWCA Community Breakfast on Saturday, November 3, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Second Congregational Church, 81 Hancock Road. Hope to see you there. It will be a chance to catch up with your neighbors after a busy summer. Free, but donations will be gratefully accepted for the Williamstown Food Pantry.

Williamstown Repair Café Saturday October 27 at Sheep Hill

Got a broken lamp? A sock with a hole? A ripped out seam? A necklace with leaking rhinestones? A knife that has ceased to be the sharpest blade in the drawer?



Come to Repair Café, co-sponsored by the South Williamstown Community Association and the Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation, at Sheep Hill, 671 Cold Spring Road (Route 7) **Saturday afternoon, October 27, from 1 to 4 p.m.**

Our volunteer “fixers” include people who can do small electrical repairs (vacuum cleaners, immersion blenders, lamps), wooden furniture repair (chairs, benches, frames), blade sharpening (knives, scissors, small tools), costume jewelry repairs (rhinestone replacement, new clasps), small bike repairs (tire or chain help), and our ever popular darners, knitters, and sewers.

We will have two computer experts, Dog Trainer Susan Rodman and we are continuing to partner with the BagShare Project to make reusable shopping bags. We'll have materials and grommet machines to make them. Come and learn how to make a bag. It's a good activity for older children, and it keeps all kinds of animal feed and barley bags out of the landfill.

Repair Café is free, although donations are accepted. It's all about helping our neighbors and helping our planet. There'll even be refreshments.



This is a tote bag made at our last Repair Cafe

News From South Williamstown

October 2018

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Contribute to the next
SWCA Newsletter, due
out by December 31,
2018.

Email suggestions or
articles to
swca32@gmail.com

Find SWCA on Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/
South-Williamstown-Community-
Association-1684158335160201/](https://www.facebook.com/South-Williamstown-Community-Association-1684158335160201/)

Rosenburg Exhibit Grand Opening at Sheep Hill on October 14

The Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation opened its new interpretive exhibit celebrating the tenure of Art and Ella Rosenburg at Sunnybrook Farm on October 14.

For much of the 20th Century, the Rosenburgs ran a dairy farm at what is now known as Sheep Hill. WRLF, in cooperation with Williams College, has brought their history to life via a multimedia interpretive exhibit using video, audio and still photos. From managing a herd of 40 milking cows to overseeing one of the Berkshire's first downhill ski operations, it's a fascinating story.



Do you have any stories or artifacts relating to local suffrage campaign?

A committee led by Barbara Winslow has been meeting for the past year to present exhibits, events and special programs to commemorate the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote in 2020. Interestingly enough, the first woman to cast a vote in a national election was Phoebe Jordan, who lived in New Ashford.

Our collaborators include the Williamstown Historical Museum, the Williamstown League of Women Voters and The Clark Art Institute. We are seeking local connections through family stories, letters, articles and objects related to the suffrage campaign. If you have something to offer or would like to join our effort, please contact Bette Craig at (413) 458-5257 or BetteCraig@gmail.com.

**WOMEN
PAY TAXES!!
WOMEN
OBEY THE LAWS!**

Women and Children suffer from dirty streets, impure milk, adulterated food, bad sanitary conditions, smoke laden air, underpaid labor.

**WOMEN CLEAN THE HOMES;
LET THEM HELP CLEAN THE CITY**

VOTE 300 X 'YES' AMENDMENT NO. 1, NOV. 6, 1912

It will give the women A SQUARE DEAL.
It will give your girl the same chance
as your boy.

VOTES FOR WOMEN

Southlawn Cemetery Restoration - Recollections

By Joan Dix Blair

Did you know that our Cemetery in South Williamstown is on the National Register of Historic Places? In 1993, the Historic District of Five Corners was so designated. It's a place to visit.

The Southlawn Cemetery lies a bit behind the Williamstown Historical Museum (the former South Center School right next to The Store at Five Corners), out of sight of the road, but known by locals for its beauty. The restoration of the individual headstones has been ongoing since 2004, spearheaded by volunteer residents who then served on the South Williamstown Historical Committee. They recognized the historical significance of the cemetery as well as its beauty. They were Regina Rouse, Shirley Sylvester, Anne Tiffany, and John MacDonald, all working in concert with former Town Manager Peter Fohlin, whose leadership and expertise were invaluable.

This small group of residents undertook transcribing all of the stones, mapping and grant writing. Now, longtime leader of the group Regina Rouse is planning the exciting final chapter of headstone restoration.

Altogether, from a modest beginning in 2003, an astonishing \$227,000 of grant income has been used to restore 270 headstones at Southlawn. Of primary importance were headstones in the oldest section called "The Yard," which is the northwest portion of the cemetery.

Thanks for funds go to these grantors: to SWCA, to the Massachusetts Preservation Project Fund, to the Northern Berkshire Cultural Council, and to Williamstown voters town-wide who more than once approved funding from the Community Preservation Act.

When the early volunteers began research, they met the challenge to learn the complex guidelines and formalities

of state-funded monument restoration – from locating the deed to deed restriction for the historic area, to working with consultants to assess the stones, to brilliant mapping by John MacDonald. Photographs were made of the individual stones followed by seeking bids from conservation contractors. Due to expense, it was essential to plan for phases of restoration over time.

Regina Rouse is now launching the concluding fundraising campaign, with a deadline of December 31, 2018. With the strong and optimistic support of Town Manager Jason Hoch and the Cemetery & Parks Department, her goal is to finish with restoration of 17 remaining headstones -- before June 2019. Funds will be sought from residents, and the total amount raised will be the total amount spent.

Long interested in Williamstown history, Regina has donated all records of the research, maps, and copies of grant proposals to the Williamstown Historical Museum. Regina may also consider publishing an appendix to her illustrated Guide to Southlawn Cemetery, published in 2015 by the Historical Committee of SWCA with funds from Northern Berkshire Cultural Council.

Spring weather will allow the headstone restorer, Monument Conservation Collaborative, to conclude a project they know by heart. A look at MCC's fascinating website offers photographic information about the process.

SWCA members have previously been generous toward renewal of this beautiful resting place, tucked in a corner, where the Town mows and plows and prunes. Now the final chapter of fundraising begins.

You can call on The Store at Five Corners to deliver dinner

Manager Pattie Boudreauryan suggests if you've got company coming, you can call her to come up with a menu for dinner and cook it. "We'll even deliver it to you," she says, "all for a reasonable price. Just call 458-6105."

You'll also find hard cider at The Store, several nice new pastry items and more things in the Grab and Go case.

Seven Generations and Still Farming

Pete Phelps (pictured here at the Williamstown Farmers Market) is the seventh generation of his family to live in Williamstown, and he's been here most of his life except for the period between 1988 and 1995. He's now continuing the family tradition of drawing his livelihood from the earth that goes way back with the Phelps family. His Sweet Brook Farm produces maple syrup from 4,800 taps connected by tubing and technology that is a far cry from the sap buckets and evaporators of yesteryear.

"Tubing and the reverse osmosis process (a way of removing 90% of water from sap before boiling) has reduced the labor involved in producing syrup, but calls for more capital investment," according to Phelps. "Every year I pull the taps out of the trees and flush the lines.

Generally, about one-third of the tubing has to be replaced. Instead of the old-time wood-fired evaporator, I use oil as the fuel."

This is Pete Phelps' 10th year of maple sugaring and he does nearly all of the work himself, producing anywhere from 1,100 to 1,900 gallons of syrup. In addition to the Williamstown Farmers Market, he sells to Guido's and his syrup has recently become the official syrup of the Boston Patriots. It's served at Gillette Stadium.

Pete's father, Norris Phelps, never ventured into the maple syrup business, but concentrated on dairy cattle. Pete Phelps was born in 1962 and grew up at 207 Woodcock Road. "My dad used to wake me up at 4 a.m. by banging on the ceiling with a broomstick. We milked about 200 head of Holsteins then. I fed the calves and hayed the heifers and helped with whatever else had to be done. My Mom was a nurse and worked at the maternity ward at the North Adams Hospital. She loved to dig dandelion greens in the spring. We grew 250 acres of corn. From the 4th of July until September, we ate corn every day. We ate a lot of meat. If any animal suffered an injury, we had to eat it."

"My Mom was a good friend of Betty Austin of the chicken farm on Hancock Road, where the Edgertons live now. They used to kill the chickens on Thursday nights. I would go there to help. They had a chicken plucking machine."

"The whole family took part in the farm work, but my Dad wanted all of us children to go to college. I got a degree in chemistry from U. Mass. Amherst and a degree in Environmental Science from Purdue University. I worked in Research and Development at General Electric in Niskayuna, New York until 2000 and then took a position with a start up that went under in 2009. That's when I decided to start farming here. Now, I'm diversifying beyond maple syrup, partnering with Jeff Young of the Sloan Road Young family in haying and raising beef cattle. And this season, Brian Cole and Lucy Rollins of Bigfoot Farm have leased some of my land here to raise garden produce. Bigfoot sells at the Williamstown Farmers Market also."

"I have a small garden here, too, of course, and the alpacas and a farm store. We have a great place for family reunions and weddings. It's hard for a farmer to make a living. In this country we pay 10% of our income for food. In other countries, it's more like 50%."



Our New Neighbors on Woodcock Road

By Pam Burger

South Williamstown has four new residents, along with their caregivers. They are Peter, Ralph (Chico), Casey and Stephen. The men and staff recently moved into a ranch house on Woodcock Road, remodeled to meet their specific needs. The four are participants in BFAIR (Berkshire Family and Individual Resources, Inc). This large agency serves those with developmental disabilities, including but not limited to, acquired brain injury and autism. At any one time, there is a minimum of two staff for the four residents in the newly remodeled home.

The men are all ambulatory but the house was remodeled with an eye to the future when one or more residents might become unable to walk and need a wheelchair. Halls and doorways were widened and handicap bathrooms installed. Each of the men has his own bedroom and there is a full kitchen, a living/dining area, a large comfortable den, and a medication room.

During the week, the men attend BFAIR's Day Habilitation Program at the agency's main building on North Church St in North Adams. There they may receive clinical, physical, and occupational therapies. Speech Therapy is also available. In addition, the program offers nursing care and community integration options such as culinary arts, expressive therapy, communication, and safety skills development. On weekends, the guys like going to the movies, shopping, and eating out, again always with at least two caregivers. While all four are ambulatory, Peter especially enjoys walking so you may see him, with a staff person, out for a stroll on Woodcock Road. We trust he and the rest of the house will come to enjoy the natural beauty surrounding us, just as we do.

South Williamstown Community Association Membership Form

Historical Preservation + Community + Neighborhood Voice

I/We wish to join/renew our membership in SWCA for the year July 2018- June 2019.

Suggested dues are

\$25/household	\$25
Additional donation	\$ _____
Total enclosed	\$ _____

SWCA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Your dues and donations are tax-deductible and your cancelled check will be your receipt.

Name(s) _____ as you wish to be listed in annual report
 _____ check here if you prefer not to be listed

Address _____

Phone _____

Email (used only for SWCA announcements): _____

_____ check here if you want to receive emails about other South Williamstown news/events

Business _____

if your business is located in South Williamstown
 and you would like a link on our website

Mail to: SWCA, PO Box 432, Williamstown, MA 01267

Snippets of News About South Williamstown and Dates to Note:

Mark your calendars!

Sunday, October 14, 2-4 p.m.	Grand Opening of Rosenberg Exhibit at Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation's Sheep Hill, 671 Cold Spring Road
Saturday, October 20, 5:30 p.m.	Harvest Supper with turkey and all the trimmings at Second Congregational Church. Call (413) 458- 4947 for reservations.
Saturday, October 20, 11 a.m.	Dusty Griffin will be book-signing and giving a brief talk on his new book on the history of Williamstown & Williams College, at the Williamstown Historical Museum.
Sunday, October 28, 2 p.m.	Trick or Treat at Sweetwood of Williamstown Bring the kids to trick or treat the halls with Sweetwood residents, 1611 Cold Spring Rd.
Saturday, November 24, 11 a.m.	Bill Powers, Director of Facilities and Security at The Clark, will be taking us behind the scenes into the details of preparing and setting up an exhibit. His talk will also include a tour of the loading dock and areas not seen by the general public.
Saturday, December 8, 11 a.m.	Pat Leach will do a presentation on Elizabeth Botsford at the Milne Library.
Sunday, December 9, 5 p.m.	Tree Lighting, Caroling, Refreshments, Seasonal Spirit at The Store at Five Corners. Santa has been invited.

Carolyn Umlauf recommends Ginger and Garlic Soup to head off colds and flu this coming winter, but Dr. Karen Kelly recommends a flu shot. Meanwhile, here's the recipe:

Ginger and Garlic Soup

Ingredients - Two cloves of garlic, peeled and finely diced plus four scallions, finely diced

- Seven cups of chicken stock or vegetable broth
- A knob of fresh ginger, finely sliced plus one finely diced hot or medium hot pepper
- Add chopped mushrooms if you like and sauté all of the solid ingredients in a little oil of your choice, adding the hot pepper at the end.
- Add stock, cover and simmer gently until ingredients become soft.

Get Involved in SWCA

Here are some ways you can do it. Would you like to:

- Work on helping organize a community event
- Research the history of local women's suffrage activities in preparation for our joint project with the Williamstown Historical Museum and the League of Women Voters to celebrate the centennial of women's getting the vote
- Write about South Williamstown history for the newsletter
- Fix things at our Repair Cafés
- Track local land use issues

Or, maybe you have a good idea to suggest for something the South Williamstown Community Association should be doing as a 501(c)3 organization devoted to historical preservation, building community and being a neighborhood voice.

Get in touch. Call SWCA President Bette Craig at (413) 458-5257 or email her at BetteCraig@gmail.com

**Do come and meet your neighbors at the breakfast in South Williamstown
Saturday, November 3, from 9 to 11 a.m.
at the Second Congregational Church.**