



NEWS FROM South Williamstown

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Kids Fishing Derby at Wendling Farm on May 25th.

Averill Cook has been organizing the Fred Windover Memorial Fishing Derby at Wendling Farm on Oblong Road for many years now, and the next one is set for Saturday, May 25 from 9 to 1 pm. Bring fishing rods if you have them, but there are always some to spare.

Remember: Town Election is May 14

Posts available include Member of Planning Board and Library Trustee.

Williamstown Repair Café returns Saturday April 27 at Sheep Hill



It’s time to gather all your “fixables” and bring them to our Repair Café on Saturday, April 27, from 1- 4 pm.

This is a twice a year event that the South Williamstown Community Association does in collaboration with Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation. Some of your favorite fixers will be back, including Alison Case to do jewelry repair and the Purple Bike Coalition to get your bikes in good road condition. We’ll have volunteers on hand to repair lamps and small electrical appliances, sharpen knives and scissors, darn holes in sweaters and re-stitch a seam as well as specialists in wood repair. It’s all free, but you may make a donation if you wish.

We will be making bags again, too, with help from The Bagshare Project. Malt and animal feed bags will be turned into handy, reusable shopping bags and you can be part of the process. It’s all about making the most of our resources and keeping things out of the landfill.



This is a tote bag made at our last Repair Cafe

All free at Sheep Hill, 1161 Cold Spring Road (Rt. 7) in Williamstown. If you want to be a volunteer “fixer,” please call Bette Craig at (413) 458-5257 or email BetteCraig@gmail.com.

News From South Williamstown

April 2019

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**SWCA Newsletter is
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by email.**

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Contribute to the next
SWCA Newsletter, due
out by June 30, 2019.

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/)

Saturday, May 18th is Opening Day for the Williamstown Farmers Market

Saturday, May 18th is Opening Day for the Williamstown Farmers Market. Again this year, the market will operate in the Spring Street parking lot, Saturdays 9am - 1pm. Find a wide selection of local produce, cheeses, meats, preserves, syrup, soaps, chef-prepared gourmet foods (including pastries and grilled-to-order breakfast and lunch), and an array of artisan craftwork. There'll be live music every week.



Market Managers Anne Hogeland and Lucy Rollins report that 2019 will see a significant growth in the offerings of the market, with an emphasis on fresh, locally grown and prepared foods.

New WFM vendors for 2019 include The Store at Five Corners, Earth Sky Time Community Farm (wood fired breads), and Tunnel City Coffee! We hope everyone will warmly welcome all of them to the market this season. Go to williamstownfarmersmarket.org for updates as Opening Day approaches and to sign up for our weekly e-newsletter. If you have any questions, please contact Anne at (413) 441-4811 or Lucy at (914) 582-2193.

Our Transportation Future

Last year, one of SWCA's longtime members, Andy Hogeland, served on the Governor's Commission on the Future of Transportation in Massachusetts. The Commission's charge was to imagine Massachusetts in the year 2040 and to develop recommendations to prepare for a range of futures based upon variables such as population shifts, climate change, and advances in technology. The Commission's final report, published in December 2018, is available here: www.mass.gov/lists/choices-for-stewardship-recommendations-to-meet-the-transportation-future. Major points include promoting the use of electric vehicles, insuring a solid financial foundation for all forms of transportation, and confirming that reliable public transportation shall remain a priority. The report also recognizes that rural Massachusetts, including the Berkshires, faces unique transportation challenges which need to be addressed.

The recommendations for rural areas included: (1) evaluating the feasibility of supplementing bus transit with ride services such as Uber and Lyft, (2) investigating sharing of bus resources from public transit, schools and Councils on Aging, (3) promoting better rail service, and (4) planning for the infrastructure needed to support autonomous vehicles.

DOT Meeting on Proposed Improvements to Green River Road

Reported by John Case, with editing by Katie Case and Mindy Hackner

Katie and I attended the DOT's community discussion of Green River Road, held at the Williams Inn, January 30. Engineers and designers led the discussion, which was intended to acquaint the community with three proposals for the road and to solicit input from residents on which plan was preferable—or to generate alternative suggestions.

All three proposals would call for widening the road substantially. At this point the major changes would take place in the stretch from Latham Street to Gale Road. The stretch from Mt. Hope Park to Steele's Corners is slated at this point just for repaving with no other improvements.

Essentially, the three plans were: 1) to include a shared sidewalk and bikeway on each side of the road; 2) to have a bikeway on one side and a sidewalk on the other; or 3) to widen the shoulders on each side without designated use. After an initial explanation, residents were invited to place sticky notes with suggestions or criticisms on three lengthy maps of the routes laid out in tables in the banquet hall.

At this time, plans for the road from Steele's Corners to Mt. Hope Park are of most concern to residents of South Williamstown. Many commenters noted the futility of repaving without substantial work to the roadbed. In the past, the clay substrata has quickly deteriorated repaving after the first spring frost heaves. Several residents noted the terrible drainage problems along the retaining wall between the two bridges. The bridge just south of Scott Hill Road is not slated for reconstruction in the DOT budget despite its worrisome deterioration. Of the people

who spoke up, I would say the majority would like to see all these problems addressed, including decisions about a bikeway rather than wasting more money on simple repaving.

Not surprisingly, there were lots of worries expressed about speed, but I didn't hear many solutions from DOT about how we could have a wider, better road without cars driving faster. As usual, there were complaints about truck traffic, but I guess since Green River Road is a state road, DOT can't prohibit the semis.

The DOT speakers were receptive to all these ideas but emphasized that their plans were severely constrained by budget allocations, so it didn't sound to me as though there was much hope for dealing with the major problems. If we can influence nothing else at this point, I hope we can agitate for a solution to the drainage problem. That seems to me to be an easy fix, since a culvert is already in place and all that is required, to my mind, is digging out the drainage ditch.

Since the major design work is being done closer to town, we didn't really get into the difficult question of how widening the road in South Williamstown might cut into people's yards. Are my lilacs safe? In sum, the tone of the meeting was very positive. DOT seems genuinely eager to get ideas from residents. As far as south Green River Road is concerned, who knows? But, my suspicion is that repaving will forge ahead with other issues to be dealt with (or not) in the mists of the future.

Field Farm Seeks Volunteers

Field Farm, a Trustees of the Reservation property on Sloan Road, is seeking volunteers to help with gardening, trail monitoring and maintenance, invasive plant control and occasional apple tree pruning. Karen Kelly, who is on the Field Farm Advisory Board, states that someone who knows about roses is especially needed. Anyone interested can contact Karen Kelly at Karengk13@yahoo.com or Marsha Sailor, volunteer coordinator of the Trustees at msailor@thetrustees.org.

Helen's Cake Was Our Wedding Cake

By Bette Craig



It was September, 1980, and my long-time partner and I were about to get married. My father was here from Oklahoma, Chuck's Mom was here from Florida, and there were about 20 friends, mostly fellow workers from the ranks of The Labor Theater, a political touring theater we had started together in New York City seven years before. The numbers were feasible for a do-it-yourself wedding reception. Chuck's Mom made stuffed cabbage and I baked a ham and the following cake, which I had learned to do from my upstairs neighbor on East 9th Street in New York City, Helen DeMott. Helen was an older, crotchety artist, who had studied with Hans Hoffman and had very particular ideas about how things should be done and also about how dogs should be part of every family. Fortunately, we had

just that year acquired a dog – a red Siberian husky named Shushenko (Shush for short) with blue eyes – who could be an attendant at our wedding. Our old farmhouse on New Ashford Road that we had purchased right at the end of 1979 (just a little more than a hundred years after the Rhodes family had purchased it) was almost habitable. So, we were all set. Here's the cake, a nice easy cake that can be whipped up at the drop of a hat when it's someone's birthday or for any other special occasion.

Cream shortening, add sugar, add eggs and chocolate. Add flour alternately with milk. Add Vanilla. Pour into two 9-inch cake pans greased and lined on bottom with waxed paper. Bake at 350 degrees F. for 25-30 minutes.

When layers are cool, spread raspberry preserves between layers and frost with Cream Cheese Frosting.

Cream Cheese Frosting

Mix softened cream cheese with powdered sugar and enough milk to get it to spreading consistency. I usually frost just the top of the cake, so that you can see the raspberry filling on the sides.

Helen's Cake

- 2 C. Sifted Flour
- 1 tsp. Baking Soda
- $\frac{3}{4}$ tsp. Salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ C. Vegetable Shortening
- 1- $\frac{1}{3}$ C. Sugar
- 2 Eggs, Unbeaten
- 2-3 Squares Chocolate, Melted
- 1 C. plus 2 T. Milk
- 1 tsp. Vanilla

Letter from The Newest Member of SWCA

"My name is Jack Buckley. I was at 5 Corners today, and read the "News from South Williamstown." My wife and I moved to Williamstown last summer, from Great Barrington. We live on Benlise Dr. I don't know if that qualifies as "south" or not. We are interested in joining. I have managed a Handyman business in the Berkshires since 1988 (Jack of All Trades). I am wanting to let people know that I am in the Williamstown area now, and available for work. My wife (Veronique Rignault), is an excellent French Tutor, and is also wanting new students in this area....

Sincerely, Jack Buckley (413) 446-1982 or parmbuck@gmail.com"

"Hi, Jack, you don't have to live in South Williamstown to be a member of SWCA – you just have to be interested. So, by all means, do join. And we are delighted that you would like to volunteer for our next Repair Café. - Bette Craig, President, SWCA"

Waubeeka Golf Links to Open April 15

This Patriot's Day, April 15, Waubeeka would like to invite all Veterans to play golf -- FREE -- cart included. Call the Pro Shop 458-8355 to book your complimentary round.

Michael Deep reports that "Over the winter months we have totally cleaned and renovated our dining rooms and kitchen, added two smart TVs in the private dining area, added high tops in the bar, changed the name of our restaurant to the 'TAVERN on 7' and hired an executive chef with 40 years experience. Our new chef is David Travisano, who plans to offer a lunch menu every day from 11 - 4, a tavern menu from 4 to close, and dinners Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Banquets and out-of-house catering will also be featured. Reservations are requested 458-6000. AND we have added another world class chain saw sculpture to our growing population of popular and appealing magical attractions."



Michael Deep spent 10 days in California this January at a hospitality conference and expects some of the leading hotel CEOs, general managers and hospitality executives he met there to pay visits to Waubeeka this year.

Grandparents Interrupted Group

NEW! Starting April 9th, Meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Our purpose: To provide a safe, supportive, non-denominational, and confidential environment for people whose adult children or their partners have experienced infertility, miscarriage, ending a wanted pregnancy, stillbirth, or neonatal loss.
11:30AM - 1:30PM, Brown Bag Lunch Optional First Congregational Church, 906 Main St. Williamstown. For more information, contact Terry Plumb-Clark, 413-738-5555

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 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020.

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!

April 6	2 pm Music at Sweetwood presents The Axxea String Quartet premiering Stephen Dankner's Quartet No. 22
April 10	8:30 am Wednesday Berkshire Eagle's publisher Fred Rutberg & Mark LeBeau at Waubeeka Golf Links. Complimentary danish and coffee.
April 21	Sunrise outdoor service to be conducted by Second Congregational Church at Mount Hope. Cars depart church parking lot at 7 am. All are invited to a full breakfast at the church afterward to be followed by Easter service.
April 27	Repair Café at Sheep Hill from 1 to 4 pm (see page 1 for more details)
May 7	4 pm Sam Edgerton presents "The Murder of Jane McCrea," at Sweetwood, sponsored by The Williams Faculty Club.
May 14	Town Election at Williamstown Elementary School
May 21	7 pm Town Meeting at Williamstown Elementary School
May 25	Kids Fishing Derby at Wendling Farm on Oblong Road
June 11	1 pm John Parker speaks at Sweetwood on "The Medicinal Herb Gardens at Hancock Shaker Village" sponsored by The Williamstown Garden Club.
June 11	7 pm South Williamstown Community Association Annual Meeting at Sweetwood, 1611 Cold Spring Road, in the auditorium. Barbara Winslow will speak on "Celebrating the Centennial of Woman Suffrage."
June 15	Strawberry Festival from 10 am to 3 pm at Second Congregational Church (featuring best strawberry shortcake ever plus sandwiches)

Snippets of news:

- Melissa Cragg is newest member of Williamstown Finance Committee.
- Margot Smith and Brandi Gill are members of the Mount Greylock Girls Nordic Ski Team Who won MIAA State Championship on March 5th in a tie with Concord-Carlisle. This co-championship marks Mount Greylock's fourth straight win.
- Elaine Neely is recuperating at home after suffering multiple injuries on February 25.
- Sweet Brook Farm is continuing maple syrup production with help from Ioka Farm, a Galusha tanker truck and generous contributions from the local community after a fire destroyed the sugarhouse/barn/shop on February 25.
- Mary Lou Galusha died on February 6, 2019 at Williamstown Commons at the age of 91.
- Frederick Scarborough of Oblong Road died on December 24, 2018 at the age of 95.

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