

The
ROCKSPIRIAN

August 2022
 Volume 4, Number 48

PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR POWER comes to the MobbyMac Carriage House as the first step in our ongoing pursuit of alternative, renewable, resilient energy production at Rockspire. Since the Carriage House is a community building with attached private apartment, its power needs are diverse. While back-up generators are useful when the grid's power periodically goes down, more reliable energy sources are needed. With solar panels installed, Rockspire can link directly to the power grid, returning to the grid any excess power generated. This not only makes Rockspire a net provider of energy to the community but also cuts electricity costs. Moving forward, we'll continue to explore and experiment with different methods of generating power.

THE SHOP COMPLEX EXPANSION, a 4,000 square feet addition to the existing 1,000 square feet of shop buildings is progressing quickly after waiting on the local concrete supplier's backlog due to the extreme summer heat and lack of drivers. The structure shown under construction in the photos below represents only half of the building. The other half, which is taller, will have a mezzanine level that will be used for smaller projects such as stain glass or wood turning on a lathe.

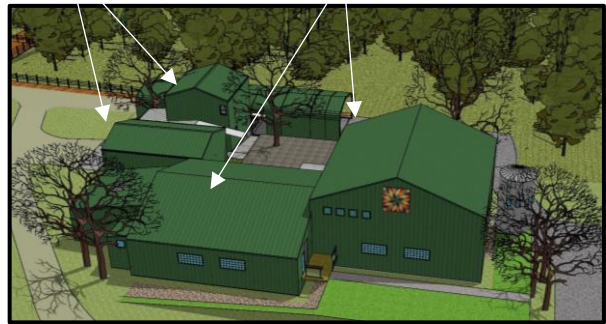


MobbyMac's East-side solar array generating 2,000 watts. Another array is mounted on the West-side of the canopy for a total of 4,000 watts generated. Both arrays face South.

Shop Complex Expansion Model Sketch by: G. Myers August 2022



Existing Shop Complex Shop Complex Expansion now under construction



Progress photos of the Shop Complex Expansion. Photos by: G. Myers August 2022



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BETTY JOHNSON

One of Rockspire's mightiest trees has fallen with the passing of Betty Johnson, an early Rockspire member and mother to Mike Johnson. "Betty's Birdhouse", the cabin in the woods bearing her name, was designed with her love of nature and birds in mind. She's soaring now amongst the most beautiful flock. Rest in peace Betty.

Betty passed away on August 22, 2022, just 3 weeks prior to her 101st birthday. For more about Betty at Rockspire, see the January 2010 and October 2013 Rockspirian newsletters at Rockspire.com.



Betty Johnson and Mike Johnson
At the dedication of Betty's Birdhouse
Photo by: G. Myers Oct. 2009



Pam Johnson speaking at the
Rockspire Forum
Photo by: G. Myers 6.26.22

EVENTS AT ROCKSPIRE are picking up after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. Our monthly Rockspire Forum and Potluck always provides meaningful discussions and good food. In June, Pam Johnson led a discussion titled "A Conversation about Memory, Aging, and Caring with Kindness" and in July, Architects Mike Johnson, George Myers, and David Williamson headed a panel discussion titled, "The Architecture of Rockspire as influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright".

In addition to the monthly Rockspire Forum and Potluck, this fall will bring back two special events. The 4th Classic Mena Celebration, "The Classic 1960's, A celebration of the people, place, and times" and the Plein Air Painters of Eureka Springs, "Fine Art in the Ozarks, Holiday Exhibit". For more information about all events see the events page at, <https://rockspire.com/events>.

COMMENTARY

Humans, by definition, are social animals. Yet modern day technologies and virtual internet platforms lull us into the convenience of communicating through our computer or phone screens at the cost of meeting people face-to-face for conversation. A recent Wall Street Journal Health Care article (August 11, 2022) stated "People are choosing to be less connected with each other and focus more on their inner lives. They may not realize the consequences." Dr. Jeffrey A. Hall, professor of communication studies and director of the Relationships and Technology Lab at the University of Kansas studies time-diaries and observes the steady decline of social interaction as people become more inwardly focused. The risk, as Dr. Hall points out, is that we are less likely to build lasting, thriving friendships that lead to greater empathy and caring. If we surround ourselves with only those who agree with us or who reinforce our worldview, then society suffers. The counteraction to this trend is to encourage opportunities to converse and to share varying opinions in a welcoming environment. Through forums, special events, and regular get-togethers, Rockspire invites us all to become more socially healthy.

