**ARTIST OF THE WEEK**

By MICHELLE L. LANDRY

WESTFIELD—When the sun sets in Westfield, the traffic light changes and the town’s horizons come alive with the illumination of a thousand lights. When the sun sets, the lights of Westfield shine brighter than ever. It is a sight that has always been a part of Westfield’s charm.

Westfield is the town where Norman Rockwell lived and worked for most of his life. His home, nestled in the heart of the town, is now a museum and a National Historic Landmark. Rockwell’s influence can be seen throughout the town, from his paintings on the walls of the public library to the murals adorning the town hall.

Rockwell’s love for art began at a young age. He grew up in a family of artists, and his parents encouraged his passion for painting. At the age of 16, he was already illustrating for the magazine *Boy’s Life*. After graduating from college, he moved to New York City and began working as a commercial artist and illustrator. His work soon caught the attention of *Boy’s Life* editor, who offered him a full-time job as an illustrator.

Rockwell’s career took off from there. He began working on a wide range of projects, from magazine covers to illustrations for the Saturday Evening Post. His work quickly gained attention, and he soon became one of the most sought-after illustrators in the country.

Rockwell is perhaps best known for his illustrations of the American family. His paintings and illustrations often depicted middle-class American life in small-town settings, and his work was characterized by its simplicity and homely charm. His paintings often focused on the lives of ordinary people, and his work was a reflection of his belief that art should be accessible to all people.

When Rockwell died in 1978, he left behind a legacy of more than 321 covers for *Boy’s Life*. He also left behind a large collection of paintings and drawings, many of which are now on display at the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Mass.

Rockwell’s work continues to inspire artists and collectors today, and his legacy lives on through the many museums and institutions dedicated to his work. The Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge is one of the most popular destinations for visitors to the Berkshires, and it is a testament to the enduring popularity of Rockwell’s work.

Rockwell’s love for art and his dedication to his craft are an inspiration to all who love art and who appreciate the beauty of the American family. His work continues to touch the hearts of people all over the world, and his legacy will live on for generations to come.