



New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

THE SOUTHFIELD CHURCH IS ALIVE WITH MUSIC – AND MERRIMENT!

By Robert Olsen

Deadlines being what they are, as I sit down to write about December at the Southfield Church, I can only report on half of our December events, events designed to bring our community together, to support, enjoy, and celebrate each other, and to continue to do our part in creating the kind of community in which we all wish to live. The town of New Marlborough is truly rich in so many ways, and it is a pleasure for the church to take part in showcasing and sharing our diverse and talented neighbors with the community.

On Saturday, November 30, artisans, crafters, and food makers stuffed their wares into our Church Hall for our second annual Holiday Market. The offerings were astounding: birch bark creations and pottery



photo by David Hastings

The Southfield Church Hall was transformed into a holiday market.

by Maggie Mitchell; nostalgic vintage-inspired holiday décor by Nancy Crawford; photography and cards depicting our nearby world by Cheryl Luft; fabulous bowties by Nicole Campanale; exquisite jewelry by high school student Blake Ferrara; succulent succulents and foodstuffs by Vanessa Tarasuk of Snow Farm; charming crocheted wearables by Qiong Zhou; beautiful jewelry by Cheryl Labshere; Cute-as-a-Button Accessories and sophisticated Zyppe jewelry by Joyce and Tom Weeks; heart and lap-warming quilts by Pat Nourse; delightful children's books by Barefoot Books Ambassador, Nancy O'Shaughnessy Smith; sweet and wholesome gifts by Jan Johnson of Berkshire Wildflower Honey and Mill River Farm, and a sort of Santaland corner of fun and games by Maryann Watson. The table fees paid by our vendors and the coffee, tea, mulled cider, and baked goods prepared and sold by our church members helped to raise much-needed funds for our Deacon's Missions Fund. It was so nice to see so many of our neighbors, friends, and family gather together to get a little holiday shopping taken care of and do a little catching up at the same time.

On Sunday, December 15, the forty-piece Mt. Everett High School Concert Band, under the expert direction of Courtney English, raised the roof of the Southfield Church as well as the spirits of those in attendance. The musicians looked elegant in their black gowns and tuxedos. (I'm quite sure I never looked that sophisticated when I was their age!) Ms. English pointed out to the audience

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Photo by Vito Valentini

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that when the band prepares for a school concert, at most they will learn three or four pieces. She realized early on that four pieces would never a full-length concert make, so over the last month they prepared a full hour of music comprised of ten pieces, ranging from sing-along carols, to vigorous Respighi, to Leroy Anderson's grand and glorious "Christmas Festival." In the latter, when the brass section stood to give it the old one-two, I thought I had died and gone to heaven! Truly, this was an event that will be remembered. The immediate and unanimous standing ovation at concert's end was a clear indication of that.

As I told those gathered for the concert, our little church was built in 1794 as a place for the folks of the South Parish to worship, conduct Town business, and to celebrate community life. During its 219 years, there have been many reconfigurations of both the physical structure and of its purpose. While Town business is no longer on its agenda, we still gather there to worship, and over the past two years have been making a conscious effort to welcome the community, and together to celebrate life.



Nicole Campanale and Blake Ferrara



Maggie Mitchell's pottery



Jan Johnson sells honey to Joe Kresci

Photos by David Hastings

BUSY WEEKEND IN TOWN



photos by Larry Burke



photo by Larry Burke



photos by Jodi Rathe

Santa's visit and caroling at the meeting house on December 22, and "Christmas Memories", readings by Robert Olsen at the Southfield Church on December 21.



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BOARD OF SELECTMEN



November 25: All three selectmen were present for what turned out to be a very brief meeting. In the only substantive piece of business, **the Board reviewed the contract for the Tritech police software package**, which will essentially automate the Police Department's call logging and records management function. As previously reported, the \$15,850 expenditure, which includes the first year maintenance fee of \$1,350, was approved by the voters at last May's Annual Town Meeting. However, the Board had been reluctant to approve the contract without knowing what the maintenance costs will be in subsequent years. But, as it turns out, that hasn't been determined by the company yet. So the Board went ahead and signed off on the contract.

In reporting on last week's Special Town Meeting, Chairman Yohalem noted there was a turnout of more than 250 residents, making it the largest town meeting in recent memory. However, as he also noted, the heavy turnout resulted in long registration lines and voting delays. It was decided, after consulting with the town clerk, that **all future town meetings would have two registration desks and two ballot boxes available to speed up the process.**

December 2: Prior to the meeting, the Board held a working session with Maureen Krejci of the Rescue Squad and Fire Chief Chuck Loring to discuss **the possibility of compensating Rescue Squad volunteers both for being on call and responding to calls.** All three selectmen were present. According to Chief Loring there have been several instances recently when not enough volunteers were available to staff the ambulance when calls came in. He and Ms. Krejci outlined a budget proposal that would pay volunteers \$25 for a twelve-hour on-call shift and \$12.50 an hour for going out on a call. The payments would replace the \$1,500-per-year stipend rescue squad members receive now, the money from which would be reassigned to the budget plan. According to Ms. Krejci, other towns, notably Otis and Sandisfield, have faced a similar problem and are now compensating their rescue squad volunteers. The selectmen backed the proposal in principle but indicated it would first need Finance Committee approval before they would sign off on it; it would also have to be placed on the warrant for voter approval at next May's Annual Town Meeting.

The Board voted to accept the auction proposal submitted by Sullivan & Sullivan of Sandwich, Massachusetts. As previously reported, the Town is planning to auction three Town-owned parcels of land acquired through tax foreclosure. (See Board of

Selectmen Report in the November NM5VN.) The Sullivan proposal was one of two submitted to the Board and included a seven percent buyer's premium to cover the firm's compensation as well as its advertising and marketing costs. The auction will be conducted next spring.

The Board convened a special permit hearing to consider a request from David Ralph of Great Barrington to build a single-family house on an existing foundation at 345 Old Hitchcock Road, off Route 57 near the Hartsville Mill River Road. The previous dwelling, belonging to Susan Deeves, was destroyed in a fire in 1988, and although a building permit to rebuild the house was issued in 1989, it was never completed. Ms. Deeves sold the property earlier this year to Mr. Ralph and his wife, Heather, and the issue before the Board in granting a special permit is whether the Ralphs' deed includes a legal right of way to access the property via Old Hitchcock Road, which in the Board's view appears to be a private and not a town-owned road. While conceding that the 2005 town road report is inconclusive on whether Old Hitchcock Road is a public right of way or not, the Ralphs' attorney, Jeffrey Lynch, maintained there was never any question that the Deeves "had easement rights to access the property on which their dwelling stood," and by the same reasoning, the Ralphs should have the same right of access to the property via the road. But that wasn't good enough for the Board, which indicated the Ralphs either needed to produce a document granting a legal right of way to a former owner of the property, or obtain legal easements from all the current property owners on the road. With that, the hearing was recessed until January 13 to give the Ralphs and their attorney time to assemble the appropriate documents.

The Board convened a second special permit hearing to consider a change in use request from Lawrence and Kim Casey for a building they purchased at 2541 Canaan Southfield Road. The Caseys operate a lawn maintenance and landscaping business under the name Jay's Lawn Care and plan to use the thirty-by-fifty-foot structure as an equipment storage facility for the business, which they said they are expanding. The building had previously been used as a tractor-trailer garage. Given there were no objections from any of the abutters, the Board in a roll call vote unanimously granted their request.

December 9: Only two members of the Board were present for this meeting, Chairman Yohalem and Selectman White. The first order of business was to **approve a \$1,000-a-year salary increase for Board**

Secretary Jessica Bosworth. The increase, which was based on a favorable review of her ninety-day probationary period, was made retroactive to December 2, and brings her annual compensation to \$26,000. The Board also approved a memorandum of understanding between the Town's Emergency Management Department and the **Volunteer Fire Company to provide a room at the Fire Station for the Emergency Operations Center**, which is used to coordinate the Town's emergency services in the event of a town emergency or disaster. This simply formalizes an informal arrangement between the Fire Company and Emergency Management.

The Board held a property tax classification hearing with Chairman Marsha Pshenishny of the Board of Assessors to set the tax rate for the 2014 fiscal year. As in the past, the assessors recommended a single tax classification for both residential and commercial properties and **proposed a tax rate of \$9.03 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.** That's a six cent increase over the previous year's rate and would mean the owner of an average home assessed at \$200,000 would see a \$16 increase in his or her annual property tax. The Board approved the new rate, subject to certification by the state's Department of Revenue. The new rate will be reflected in the tax bills going out later this month and due February 1.

The Board authorized the purchase of a 20.7-cubic-foot, fire-resistant safe for the storage of town records. The 1,275-pound safe, manufactured by Mesa Safe Co., will cost approximately \$4,900.

The Board convened a **special permit hearing** to consider a request from James Koneazny, owner of Peerless Tree Experts, to **erect an 80-by-80-foot equipment storage building** on land he owns at 967 Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road. As he explained, the building will be used to house the company's trucks, which are currently based at his shop, located about a mile away at 240 Campbell Falls Road. However, an objection to the plan was raised by abutter Frank Monda on behalf of his mother, Norma Monda, as well as himself, both of whom have homes on Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road. In an email to the Board, Mr. Monda said they are strongly opposed to having a commercial building on the road, saying it will lead to the presence of other commercial buildings, increased traffic and have a negative effect on property values. But Mr. Koneazny pointed out the building will not be visible from the road, will only be used for his trucks, and that his trucks already pass by the Mondas' houses "every morning now, so there won't be any more activity on the road than there is today." And with that, Board voted to approve the special permit request.

The Board convened a **utility pole hearing** to consider two requests from National Grid. In the first, company representative Tony Corsi said the utility is proposing to install a pole on Route 57, about two-thirds of a mile from

the New Marlborough Hill Road intersection, to bring power to four building lots located along an extended driveway there. One of the lots has already been sold and the other three are on the market. The Board approved the application for the pole.

In the second, National Grid contractor David Terk presented a petition from the utility to erect what he described as fourteen "mid-span" poles on Hotchkiss Road leading down from East Hill Road to the end of Hotchkiss Road at the Land Trust trailhead at Thousand Acre Swamp, a distance of nearly a mile. As explained by Mr. Terk, "This is basically a storm resiliency project to upgrade the wires along the road and reduce the distance between poles to a minimum of 200 feet." As there were no objections from any of the abutters, the Board approved the request. With that, the hearing and the meeting were adjourned.

December 16: At the request of the chairman, tonight's meeting was convened at 5:30 p.m., with all three selectmen present. In the first order of business the Board **approved a \$1,500-a-year salary increase for Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring**, based on a favorable six months' performance review. The increase will be effective January 1, 2014, and brings his annual compensation to \$58,500.

The Board began its fiscal 2014 budget season by **approving the following Town budgets:**

School Committee Expenses: \$1,500
 Printing: \$2,700
 Town Officer Bonds: \$1,250, and Expenses; \$1,000
 Senior Tax Work-Off Expenses: \$100
 Cultural Council: \$1,000
 Council on Aging Expenses: \$200,
 and Transportation; \$5,479

All were level-funded, or unchanged, from last year and all had previously been approved by the Finance Committee. The Board also approved Reserve and Stabilization Funds of \$50,000 each, the same as last year.

The Board signed off on a change in the **property tax rate** approved at last week's meeting. The change is the **result of a certification review by the state's Department of Revenue. The revised rate is \$9.15 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, which is 12 cents higher than the original-approved rate of \$9.03.**

Liquor license renewals were approved by the Board for The Old Inn on the Green, the Southfield Store, and the Mill River General Store, and the Board gave conditional approval to the renewal of the Gedney Farm liquor license subject to successful completion of repairs to its sprinkler system and re-inspection by the fire chief and the building inspector. All four establishments have paid the \$500 renewal fee.

Because of the holidays the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be on January 6, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. □

Peter Schuyten

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

November 30: The meeting opened with three Commission members present: John Weinstein, Ned Wilson, and Freddie Friedman. First, the members addressed a request for a Certificate of Compliance for septic work permitted by White Engineering for Stanley Rossier on Lake Road. Referencing a recent site visit by the Commission, the members unanimously agreed that the work was performed as permitted and that a certificate would be issued.

Next, last month's meeting minutes were read and approved with minor revisions. The Commission then discussed work done by the Town to repair a culvert on Rhodes and Bailey Road under an emergency permit. Mr. Friedman explained that he visited the site after the work was completed and was satisfied with the work.

The Commission also discussed that the Town was concerned about stabilizing a bank at Umpachene Falls. The members decided that the Town needed to submit the necessary permitting before the Commission could review the project.

Next, the mail was reviewed. They received notification for a special permit from the Board of Selectmen for a project on Arroyo Way. After referencing a map of the town, the members concluded that there were no wetlands in the area and therefore they would not need

to review the permit. The Commission then addressed a request from the Board of Selectmen for its proposed budget for next year. The members decided to request the same budget as last year and then discussed the possibility of purchasing some measuring devices for the field, maybe a laser measuring tool and/or a measuring wheel.

Lastly, John Schreiber, who was newly appointed to the Commission, was sworn in by the Commission's secretary, Kathy Chretien, and the meeting adjourned. □

Martha Bryan

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FINANCE COMMITTEE

December 12: With Edgar Zukauskas, David Herrick, Ira Yohalem, Mark Carson, and Prudence Spaulding in attendance, the main order of business was a review of proposed Highway Department and Fire Company capital expenses in the five years from 2015 through 2019. Both were presented by Chuck Loring in his dual role as highway superintendent and fire chief.


As detailed in a table of needs, three pieces of equipment, a boom mower, a pickup truck, and a plow truck, would be purchased in 2015 at a total cost of \$300,000. In past years, the Town has rented a boom mower, a machine that can reach over a roadside guard rail to trim vegetation, but this option is no longer available. Mr. Loring said he is discussing a joint purchase with Sheffield. He also noted that in some towns the electric utility has helped to defray the cost of this mowing, and that he would approach National Grid in hopes it would share in the purchase of the mower. Mr. Loring estimated that purchases of six other pieces of equipment over the following four years – including a \$275,000 grader in 2016 and a \$200,000 ten-wheeler plow truck in 2018 – would require an additional expenditure of just over \$1 million.

Mr. Loring went on to present a heartfelt argument for the purchase of a new fire truck to replace the twenty-two-year-old pumper currently in use. As fire chief, he said, he fears sending his firemen into a burning building and then not being able to support them with the needed water from the pumper because it had broken down.

The committee thanked Mr. Loring and then approved a number of fiscal 2015 budget requests: \$1,000 for Town Officers Expense; \$1,250 for Town Officers Bond; \$2,700 to print the annual town report; and \$1,500 for School Committee Expenses. It also approved, as in past years, adding \$50,000 each to the Stabilization Fund and the Reserve Fund. The Stabilization Fund supports major expenses, acting as a savings account, except that it requires a two-thirds vote at a Town Meeting to release funds. The Reserve Fund is designed to cover unexpected expenses and can be accessed by the Finance Committee. □

Joe Poindexter from minutes provided by Finance Committee Secretary Prudence Spaulding

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WHAT HAPPENED?

By David Lowman and Joe Poindexter

At the November 18 Special Town Meeting, the New Marlborough Planning Board proposed a revised set of Town zoning by-laws. The proposed changes attracted the attention of an overflow crowd of New Marlborough citizens, which with virtually no preliminary discussion, quickly and decisively defeated the proposal by a vote of 176 to 76.

We at the NM5VN were struck not only by the size of the crowd (larger than any of us could recall), but also by the decisive vote count, the lack of discussion at the meeting, and the passion implicit in the crowd's actions. We wondered, in short, what happened? Why this complete repudiation of the Planning Board's work of the past few years?

We decided that by selecting a small sub-set of voters (rather than a larger, less manageable group) we might be able to provide a snapshot view of what happened that night. The sub-set of voters we selected was the eight former Town selectmen. We chose not to include current selectmen, so as not to potentially put them in conflict with the Planning Board. The comments of the former selectmen are as follow:

Gerry Stephens, who may properly be called the "dean" of former selectmen, served two one-year terms from 1980 to 1982. (This was before the current three-year staggered terms for selectmen.) He was surprised by the size of the turnout for the Meeting, but not at all surprised at the outcome. The vote went the way he thought it would. He feels that the total proposal was "too much" and "too confusing," and he thinks the entire measure should have been condensed. "Too many rules and regulations," he thinks.

Mr. Stephens' further observations were that perhaps more preliminary research could have been done by the Planning Board, and, finally, that this was a proper agenda item for an Annual Town Meeting, not a Special Town Meeting.

Courtney Turner, a selectman for nine years, from 1995 – 2001 and 2002 – 2005, voted against the proposed by-law revisions because of his wariness of: 1) the creation of the so-called village districts; 2) the potential property tax impact of the proposal, and 3) his fear of the "grandfathering" and its potential for "less than optimal" benefits in the future. Further, Mr. Turner has not seen the "developmental pressure" or the need for such comprehensive change. He feels that should such pressure or need arise in the future, there would then be time for necessary by-law changes.

Mr. Turner was surprised by neither the defeat of the proposal nor the size of the defeat. But when asked about the size of the turnout, Mr. Turner, a life-long resident of New Marlborough, recalled the turnout in 1965 for the vote on the current by-laws was comparable to the November 18 turnout.

His other observations included the caution that comprehensive zoning change, such as the recent proposal, "stirs the (entire) town" and calls to question its impact on "you, your children, and your grandchildren." He also said that zoning changes of more modest size, scope, and identifiable need could be approved by the voters. And zoning by-law changes, he said, should not be dealt with at a Special Town Meeting, but at an Annual Town Meeting.

Bernard D. (Dan) Litchfield III was a New Marlborough selectman for six years from 2001 to 2007. He was somewhat surprised and very pleased by the size of the turnout for the Special Town Meeting, but not at all surprised at the vote's outcome. His take on the result is similar to most, if not all, of the other former selectmen: too much, and in its comprehensiveness, unnecessary.

He points out a dichotomy, also noted by Mr. Turner and Ms. Marchione, that exists in New Marlborough. On the one hand, we have many local people (some natives, others long-timers) who are self-employed with small



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businesses, or work in the trades and blue collar jobs whose financial outlooks are not necessarily prosperous or secure. These people worry about the future not only for themselves, but for their children and grandchildren to come. They may have property enough to accommodate a second or even a third home for their kids. Compare this with those second-home owners who have financial security. These relative newcomers are attracted to New Marlborough by its rural beauty and cultural attractions but may be unconcerned with, perhaps even antithetical to, the potential for commercial development. The vitality of New Marlborough depends on both kinds of residents, and the challenge for planners is to create zoning that responds to the needs and desires of both groups. Mr. Litchfield suggests that this challenge would be best undertaken by improving communication among our citizens and our local government before zoning is contemplated and proposed.

Mr. Litchfield thinks that if the Planning Board were to revisit zoning by-laws in the future, it would do well to focus on a small number of problem issues at a time. He noted the Town's willingness to pass in recent years the accessory dwelling by-law and the cell tower by-law both in response to widely voiced perceived needs. And in his words: "Keep it simple."

As with the rest of his former colleagues, zoning issues should "never" be taken before a Special Town Meeting, but are properly placed before an Annual Town Meeting.

John E. Ormsbee, a selectman for six years from 1996 to 2002, voted against the proposed revisions to the Town's by-laws because it was too restrictive and contained too many items. "It was too big a package," said Mr. Ormsbee, who notes that he received ten to fifteen calls urging him to attend the Special Town Meeting and oppose the proposed new bylaws. "It was just too complicated. You could have fifteen good things in the proposal and two bad things, and people are going to vote it down because of the two bad things."

Other of Mr. Ormsbee's observations:

"The proposal should never have been brought to a

Special Town Meeting. People see it as someone trying to shove something through."

"We're never going to see a Dunkin' Donuts in Mill River, so why even bother to put in a restriction against fast food restaurants. But if someone wants to attempt it, let them. It's a free market; this is America."

About the business restrictions in the proposal: "I'm not on that page. Live and let live."

Should the Planning Board present a revised proposal at the Annual Town Meeting? "No."

Barbara Marchione served the Town as a selectman for twelve years, from 1994 to 2006. She was the first woman elected to the Board. Ms. Marchione voted against the Planning Board's proposal feeling that it "bit off more than they should have." She also feels that the proposed by-law changes were too "restrictive in the rural areas" of town. The "grandfathering" provision was also a concern of hers since business ownerships change over time.

Asked what she would suggest the Planning Board do regarding future re-zoning efforts, she said the Board should not address a comprehensive revision, but should rather tackle "something that really is a problem."

Ms. Marchione was "heartened" by the "incredible turnout," noting that she "hates voter apathy." And, finally, she, too, thinks that something of this importance should be held at an Annual Town Meeting – even one carrying over to a second day – rather than dealing with this at a Special Town Meeting.

Charles Loring III served the Town as a selectman for three years from 2007 to 2010. He is currently New Marlborough's Fire Chief and the Superintendent of the Highway Department. He was "shocked" at the size of the crowd at the Special Town Meeting, but knew that a certain amount of "campaigning" had been going on, urging people to attend the meeting and to vote "No" on the proposed by-law revisions. He declined to identify the campaigner(s).

His overall reaction was that people are afraid of change. The recurring question he heard was, "What's wrong with what we've got?" Mr. Loring's personal

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thoughts were that there was no imminent, worrisome property development on the horizon; no surplus of 150-frontage-foot properties. In other words, he “didn’t see a problem right now.”

In considering what actions the Planning Board might take in the future, Mr. Loring said the proposal needed to “get smaller,” so as to become “an easier sale.” He would urge the Board to identify smaller, more pressing needs for gradual change. He would hope for public input, while recognizing the difficulty in drawing people to informational meetings such as the Planning Board held for this recent proposed revision.

Mr. Loring felt, as did all the other former selectmen, that proposed by-law changes should be handled at an Annual Town Meeting, not at a Special Town Meeting.

Lawrence Davis III was a New Marlborough selectman for six years serving from 2007 to 2013. He is currently the Chair of the New Marlborough Board of Health. He was surprised, as were many others, by the large turnout of voters at the Special Town Meeting, but not surprised by the vote’s outcome. He had heard “grumblings” around town, particularly regarding the creation of the “village districts” and the smaller lot sizes that provision would have allowed. He was impressed that so many “citizens cared about” the proposed by-law changes.

Asked how he would suggest the Planning Board approach this matter in the future, Mr. Davis responded by saying the Board “needs to reach out in a different way,” and to better explain the totality of its proposal. He feels that the proposed revisions were “too much.” Future proposed changes, he feels, “need to be in smaller parts.”

Joining the chorus of former selectmen, he emphatically stated that by-law revisions should be dealt with at Annual Town Meeting, not at a Special Town Meeting.

There are few residents in New Marlborough with

as much experience in Town governance as David Lowman, who served as a selectman from 1986 to 1995 and then again from 2006 to 2009. “When I looked at the current proposal, I knew it was dead in the water,” says Mr. Lowman who was a selectman nineteen years ago when the last attempt to update the Town’s by-laws went down to defeat. “There was too much in it. . . . A lot of people were very afraid of it.”

Mr. Lowman sees merit in the village district concept, but he thinks the Planning Board erred when it applied the concept to all five villages. In truth, he says, only two, Mill River and Southfield, have the retail and commercial attributes that characterize a typical village. He proposes a zoning revision that established a district in one of these villages “as an experiment,” which could then be evaluated after a given period of time. He also thinks that other revisions should be restricted to “a few specific things that need to be fixed – that would be a more reasonable approach.”

He wholeheartedly agrees with Mr. Litchfield’s analysis of the two major types of citizens we have in New Marlborough, each of which are desirable residents but with potentially different values, worries, and needs. Town government, not just the Planning Board, needs to sensitize itself to the human concerns of its residents before venturing into these waters.

Finally, Mr. Lowman feels strongly that any revision in the Town’s by-laws should be presented not at a Special Town Meeting (“they are intended more from emergency issues”) but at the Annual Town Meeting. “A proposal to change the Town’s by-laws is the sort of thing that gets people worked up,” he says. “It goes deep.” Future Planning Boards may wish to take heed. □

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AMERICAN LEGION SEEKS HELP

This request for assistance comes from our American Legion Post 350:

The Harold D. Rood American Legion Post 350 needs the help of New Marlborough townspeople in identifying our veterans who have served during the nation's wars and conflicts.

Post 350 is promoting the New Marlborough tradition of honoring armed forces veterans by listing their names on the memorial stones on the library lawn. We may be missing some names on the existing World Wars I and II, Korea, and Vietnam stones. We know, for example, that Richard Hankey, Sr., should be added for his service during the Korean War; there may be others as yet unidentified.

New stones are proposed for those who served during Lebanon and Grenada, and during Panama, and plans will be made for those who have served or will serve during the Gulf War/War on Terrorism. We need those names.

Eligibility for this honor includes having been a resident of New Marlborough when the veteran had joined the armed forces, and had served during the dates designated by the United States Government to be wartime service. *New Marlborough 5 Village News*

readers who are or know of an eligible veteran are asked to contact Post 350:

Write to:
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 c/o Anthony Consolini
 P.O. Box 421
 Sheffield, MA 01257

Or call: Ann Riou, 229-2589



A REQUEST FROM THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring asks that homeowners, landscapers, and snowplow workers refrain from plowing snow into public roadways. Snow pushed onto roads can create hazardous driving conditions. The Highway Department and your fellow drivers thank you.

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Neighbors



Rita Mathews, formerly of Southfield and a longtime stalwart of the New Marlborough Land Trust and the Conservation Commission, has moved to Virginia to be near her daughter, Sarah. Rita turned ninety-one last July; she is pictured here when she was honored by the Land Trust in 2011. Her new address is Aarondale Retirement and Assisted Living, 6929 Matthew Place, Springfield, VA 22151.

Debra Regan and Paul Wasinger, of the Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road, happily announce the arrival of their second son, Alexander Heller Wasinger. Xander was born on December 3, weighing 6½ pounds and measuring 19½ inches in length. Debra and Paul took this picture on Day One.

The New Marlborough Land Trust sponsored a hike to the ledges on Dry Hill on Thanksgiving weekend. These Nordic explorers worked off their Thanksgiving dinners, and were rewarded with this incredible panoramic view from the top of Dry Hill. □



photo by Larry Burke

Rita Mathews



Xander Wasinger



photo by Martha Bryan



photo by Martha Lazar

The view from the top of Dry Hill

OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

On November 20, **Don Beauchamp**, of Clayton, writes: Many birds, including **bluebirds** and a pair of **purple finches**, showed up this morning in Clayton.



On November 25, he adds: More **bluebirds** and **robins** today. And there was a big **red-tailed hawk** sitting on a branch down by the bridge, so I tried to sneak up on him by walking behind the trees, but he could see right through them and took flight before I took four steps. A few days later, I had better luck and got this photo of a pair of red tails.



On December 3, he reports: A pair of **yellow-bellied sapsuckers** came by this morning. One flew right into the window I was looking out of. Then they started fighting and flew off. Later, a **red-bellied woodpecker** – odd name for a red-headed bird — flew in to hammer away at the suet.



all photos by Don Beauchamp



And on December 7, he writes: As I came into the driveway at the farm, a big flock of **robins** was flying around and around, so I walked down and across bridge and there was a whole flock of **cedar waxwings** — at least fifty were in the trees along the river, eating red berries. Later that day, several **purple finches** arrived at the feeder.

On December 10, **Tom Coote**, who lives on East Hill Road, writes: This past weekend, my family and I tracked a **porcupine** mother (?) and her baby. Found them twenty feet up in a pine tree, eating lunch.

On December 11, **Scottie Mills**, of New Marlborough village, writes: It might not fall into category of wildlife, but there has been a young **pig** running loose around York Lake. It was one of four pigs that **Scott MacKenzie** sold to a woman in Sandisfield. During the unloading at her farm, one escaped and the woman didn't see hide nor hair of the pig for a few days.

Then hunting season started and stories started emerging at the Mill River Store and other places along the lines of "You'll never guess what I saw in the woods today!" But, of course, by then most people did guess. Apparently some hunters even shared their sandwiches with the now-wild pig, hoping to capture it.

At last report, the pig was able to track its way back from York Lake to near the place where it had escaped originally. By now, though, the pig was leaving a trail of blood and, upon capture, showed evidence of fang bites from an unknown assailant. Its survival is not guaranteed, but at least it is home!

On December 17, **Teena Parton**, of New Marlborough village, writes: We saw a lovely **bobcat** at the end of our road. It went into the woods (very visible now because of the snow cover), stopped, bobbed his tail a couple of times, and gave a very haughty farewell.

On December 19, **Charlie Parton**, of New Marlborough village, writes: There's a **bear** right outside our back door right this minute. Last night Teena and I saw three **deer** walk across the back end of the property in the woods - followed by a bear. We both commented on it and then decided we were deluded by distance, age, and the woods. But no, he's pulled our feeder down and is lying on the ground eating the seeds. Teena and I told him to go away, which he did. We took the other feeders off the porch, but told him he could come back to finish up; so he did. But why was he up and walking around last night (Temp 15)?



WINTER HOUSE CONCERTS RETURN

The flute and harp duo, Sue Ann Kahn and Susan Jolles, will open the New Marlborough Winter House Concert Series on Sunday afternoon at 4:00 p.m., January 19, 2014. The concert will take place at a home in Mill River. Sue Ann and Susan have played together for many years, and were members, along with the soprano, Lucy Shelton, of the Naumburg award winning ensemble, the Jubal Trio. They will perform a wonderful assortment of music including Bach, Mozart, Francaix, Persichetti, Couperin, and Rameau.

The second concert of the season will feature the return of the violinist, Yuki Numata, this time in a solo program. Prior to this season she has performed delightful duo programs with a cellist and a pianist. This concert will take place on Saturday, February 22, a correction of the date listed in last month's *5 Village News*.

All Winter House Concerts begin at 4:00 p.m. and last an hour, with wine and hors d'oeuvres served afterward. Seating is limited so please make reservations by calling 413-229-2785. □

NMF&R RECEIVES GRANT

New Marlborough Fire and Rescue has received a \$1,357 grant to purchase forestry hose, special hose packs, and nozzles to fight brush fires. The department was one of six in Berkshire County and forty-one statewide to receive funding recently through the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Program overseen by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.

The grant, which requires a town match of \$1,357, was written by Assistant Chief Robert Dvorchik, with support from Fire Chief Chuck Loring, both of whom attended the December 11 award ceremony at the Great Barrington Fire Department. Selectman Michele Shalaby also attended the ceremony, which included State Senator Benjamin Downing and State Representative William "Smitty" Pignatelli.

The VFA is a competitive grant program offered to all nonprofit, rural, call, or volunteer fire departments that provide service primarily to a community of up to



photo by Andy McKeever

10,000 people. Fire departments must also be composed of at least 80 percent call or volunteer firefighters and be recognized as a department by state law. Eligible projects are those related to firefighter safety, technology transfer, and rural fire defense. □

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NEW MARLBOROUGH POLICE LOG

Calls to date: 557 Motor Vehicle Citations - 117, associated fines - \$18,755
 Warnings - 165
 Criminal violations - 14

FIRE AND RESCUE

Nov. 2	5:50 p.m.	Brewer Hill Road Fire Alarm	Nov. 18	Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call
Nov. 2	6:05 p.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call	Nov. 18	7:45 p.m. Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call
Nov. 2		Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call	Nov. 21	Hadsell Street Medical Call
Nov. 5	10:30 a.m.	East Hill Road Medical Call	Nov. 23	9:30 p.m. Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call
Nov. 5	12:13 p.m.	Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call	Nov. 24	8:15 p.m. Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call
Nov. 6	4:30 p.m.	Clayton Mill River Road Fire Alarm	Nov. 25	2:15 p.m. Mutual Aid to Sandisfield Chimney Fire
Nov. 11	4:43 p.m.	Southfield New Marlborough Road Fire Alarm	Nov. 28	4:47 p.m. Hartsville New Marlborough Road Fire Alarm
Nov. 13	10:12 a.m.	Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call	Nov. 29	6:38 p.m. Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road Fire Alarm
Nov. 14	1:35 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call	Nov. 29	11:00 p.m. Hartsville New Marlborough Road MVA
Nov. 16	11:05 p.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Fire Alarm		
Nov. 17	9:16 a.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Fire Alarm		
Nov. 18	5:30 a.m.	Main Road Medical Call		

Thank You to Our Contributors!

Liana Toscanini; Ron & Jean Paro; Ned & Ellie MacDowell; John & Linda Lowman; Mary Ann Roston; Walter Agar; Marcia Doelman; Peter & Maria Gay; Sy Rotker; Henny Iliescu; Eric Katzman & Melissa Elstein; Ann K. Bass; Alex & Adele Holman; Marilyn & Elihu Katzman; Jon & Sandy Sullivan; A. Glenn & Phyllis M. Toczko; Joyce & Tom Sachs; Ismail & Fern Khan; Marcia Levy & Mark Cannon; Anda & John Hutchins; Patricia Sadera; Joyce & Tom Weeks; Judianne O'Brien; Susan & Richard Silver; Jayne M. Kurzman; Robin & Joseph Mallory; John & Polly Levin in memory of Jane Levin; Gary Shelto & Michael Buchanan; Jo Jean Travis; Henry & Julie Jadow; and Ian & Kerri Devine

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UPCOMING: *Event Calendar for January and February*

January 4: Berkshire Children's Chorus, whose new artistic director is New Marlborough's own Julie Bickford, will perform at 7:00 p.m. at Trinity Parish Church in Lenox.

January 16: Community Health Program nurse practitioner at Ormsbee's Garage, Mill River, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

January 19: Winter House Concert with the flute and harp duo of Sue Ann Kahn and Susan Jolles, 4:00 p.m. Call 413 229-2785 for reservations.

February 1: Minstrel storyteller Mary Jo Maichack helps celebrate "Take Your Child to the Library Day," 11:00 a.m. at the New Marlborough Library.

February 8: Homemade Sweets for Your Sweet, a sale of chocolates just in time for Valentine's Day, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the New Marlborough Library with all proceeds helping to fund library programs.

February 22: Winter House Concert, welcoming the return of cellist Yuki Numata, playing the incomparable works for unaccompanied cello by J.S. Bach, 4:00 p.m.; for reservations, call 413 229-2785.

WILLY WONKA AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

By Mary Shalaby

This year the Undermountain Elementary school play was Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory. The shows were on December 6, 7, and 8. The kids from New Marlborough in this production are Odie Fields, Evie Kerr, Vaughn Marchione, Mickey Masters, Amelia Curran, Angus Kerr, Brandon Wilson, Melissa Zucca,

Sofia Giumarro, Andrew Haiss, and Mary Shalaby. All of these kids worked very hard to make this show wonderful. The director of the show was Kathy Jo Grover. The musical director was Courtney English, the band teacher at Mount Everett High School. □



photo by Kenzie Fields

New Marlborough residents Odie Fields (as James), Mary Shalaby (as Matilda), and Mickey Masters (as the Candyman), with Phoebe Mulder, of Sheffield (as Charlie Bucket) in Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY FAIR

By Kristin Sanzone, NMMPTA president



The seasonal smells of balsam and hot cocoa in the air, the sounds of cheerful greetings and children's giggles reverberating, and the warmth of a spirited and caring community met the senses of visitors at the New Marlborough Central School Holiday Fair that was held on December 7. The weather was perfect; the sun was shining, and just the right amount of snow had been dusted

the night before. The New Marlborough-Monterey PTA had all the right ingredients for its most magical and successful Holiday Fair to date. The NMMPTA and New Marlborough Central and Monterey Schools would like to thank everyone who supported the Holiday Fair.

So, why should you make sure to visit the NMC Holiday Fair next year? Students, parents, and supportive visitors sum it up best:

"It was a lovely fair and I, a weekender, was delighted to see the school—which looks like a very happy place! I was also impressed with the number and quality of the silent auction donations...and can only imagine the amount of work that went into this project. The singing was delightful, and I plan, next time, to bring my husband!" ...Gloria Levitas, NM Resident

"Because it's fun...getting things to eat, like cookies." ...Jack, NMC Early-K student

"It's fun shopping in the Children's Shopping Room, if you're a kid. They made a little tunnel so only kids could fit through...And getting Papa Dogs from Mrs. Lampman!" ...Lily, NMC Grade 2 student

"This was an amazing event and made me so proud to have a daughter in the school!" ...Maria Rundle, NMC and Monterey School parent

The NMMPTA and NMC and Monterey Schools would like to thank everyone who supported the Holiday Fair. Looking forward to seeing you again next year! □



The Berkshire Ukulele Band and the Mount Everett Madrigal's Choir

photos by Kristin Sanzone

NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE LIBRARY

Adult Fiction

Command Authority, by Tom Clancy

The Gods of Guilt, by Michael Connelly

Collected Early Stories, by John Updike

Collected Later Stories, by John Updike

American Science Fiction: Four Classic Novels, 1953-1956, Editor Gary K. Wolf

American Science Fiction: Five Classic Novels, 1956-1958, Editor Gary K. Wolf

Children's Fiction

The Delicious Bug, by Janet Perlman

The Mount Rushmore Face That Couldn't See, by Steve Brezenoff

Can You Survive The Titanic?: An Interactive Adventure, by Allison Lassieur

Annie and Snowball and the Grandmother Night, by Cynthia Rylant

Children's Nonfiction

Shackelton and the Lost Antarctic Expedition, by B.A. Hoena

The Great San Francisco Earthquake and Fire, by Michael Burgan

Life as a Knight: An Interactive History Adventure, by Rachael Hanel

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Mon., Wed., & Sat.

10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Tues. & Thurs.

1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Fri. 1:30 – 7:30 p.m.

► Book Discussion Group

Please join us at the New Marlborough Library on January 11 at 10:00 a.m. for coffee, bagels, and a lively discussion of the book, *The Light between Oceans*, by M.L. Stedman.



Please join the New Marlborough Library and minstrel storyteller **Mary Jo Maichack** on **February 1 at 11:00 a.m.**

to celebrate "Take Your Child to the Library Day."

Mary Jo and the children will tell the story,

THE LEGEND OF THE SILVER PINECONES,

a German folktale. Everyone will make a silver pinecone to take home. Admission is free! For more information call 413-229-6668.

SAVE THE DATE

February 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

at the New Marlborough Library,

sponsored by the New Marlborough Friends of the Library:

"Homemade Sweets for Your Sweet: A Chocolate Festival"

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Contributions are needed to continue the paper!

Please fill in the form and send with your contribution to:

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Town Times

- * **Board of Selectmen:** Every Monday at 6:00 p.m.
- * **Planning Board:** First and third Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- * **Board of Health:** First Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.
- * **Conservation Commission:** Last Saturday of the month at 10 a.m.
- * **Board of Assessors:** Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- * **Fire Department training:** Every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the fire station
- * **Building Inspector:** Monday 5 - 7 p.m. Wednesday 8 - 10 a.m.
- * **First Responders:** meeting/training: First and third Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the fire station
- * **Cultural Council:** Second Thursday at 4:15 p.m. at the library
- * **Town Treasurer:** Wednesday 3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.
- * **Tax Collector:** Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- * **Selectmen's Administrative Secretary:** Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- * **Dog and Animal Control Officer:** John Springstube 413-232-7038
- * **Town Clerk:** 229-8278; 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. weekdays; Saturday by appointment
- * **Town Hall:** 229-8116
- * **Police:** Business office: 229-8161

Emergency calls: Police, Fire, and Medical: 911

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Sunday: 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

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*We welcome advertisements from businesses owned by New Marlborough residents.
Other businesses can be listed in the Service Sector (see back page). Questions, rates? Call Barbara Lowman: 229-2369*

NM5VN Editorial Team

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- ♦ **Reiner White:** General Contractor; 413-229-8450

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