



New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

FROM PLYMOUTH ROCK TO STANDING ROCK

By Sandra Fusco-Walker

Edward Winslow, who was among the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag sharing in a gathering identified as the first Thanksgiving, described the scene:

“Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors. They four in one day killed as much fowl as, with a little help beside, served the company almost a week.

“At which time, amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms, and many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among the rest their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the plantation and bestowed on our governor, and upon the captain and others. And although it be not always so plentiful as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want that we often wish you partakers of our plenty.”

Winslow’s words evoke the image of people congregating in gratitude to share the bounty they harvested. Although today we give thanks for many different reasons, the



Camp of the Water Protectors, their supporters, and volunteers

tradition of coming together to gratefully share a meal is still the centerpiece of the day.

Since the spring of 2016, Standing Rock, a sacred place and land of the Sioux in North Dakota, has been home to the ‘Water Protectors,’ those who peacefully defend the right to protect the land and water.

While these Americans peacefully resist efforts to violate their sacred land and a potential risk to a vital water source for millions of Americans, volunteers from around the country arrived to show their gratitude and share in this national day of Thanksgiving with the Water Protectors.

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Mass cooking using bicycle-powered spits

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Standing Rock, continued

Jeremy Stanton, Southfield resident and owner of The Meat Market and Fire Roasted Catering in Great Barrington, answered a call from Judy Wicks, an activist in the local food movement and former owner of the Blue Dog Café in Philadelphia. Judy invited Jeremy to Standing Rock to cook a Thanksgiving dinner for 500 people at the Water Protectors Community Appreciation Dinner.

Jeremy, not a stranger to cooking for crowds, manages an average of fifty to sixty events each year ranging from family gatherings to corporate meetings to weddings. "Weddings are incredibly easy venues as you are getting people on their best day and we are allowed to enhance what's already a great day."

Jeremy told me "a sense of calm settles among the crowds as they stand around watching their dinner cooking over open fires. There's something about the fire that prepares them as they are about to be fed."

Jeremy and his crew had been invited earlier in 2016 to cook at the Pan Mass Challenge, where they roasted dozens of pigs for participants who rode in this fund-raising event. Jeremy and his team designed and built a bicycle-powered spit that cooks six pigs at a time over the fire. People took turns riding the bicycle roasting the pork, while 10,000 bicyclists rode from northern Massachusetts to Cape Cod, netting the largest amount ever towards cancer research, \$47 million. Jeremy said, "I'm game for the big stuff. I like the challenge and because it was a bike event, it was exciting."

The decision to answer 'yes' to Judy's request came quickly for Jeremy. "I had a light-bulb experience a year ago that ultimately, your life is for sharing. All we have is love. And if you're asked to participate in an event such as this where so much love is needed, you go."

Packing up two trucks with all their equipment,



From top: Cooking pigs for Pan Mass Challenge; the bicycle-powered spit; an orientation class

including the bicycle-powered spits, Jeremy and five of his crew drove to Standing Rock. Weather held them up the first day, but they covered the 1,700-mile, 27-hour ride, arriving at the main camp, the Oceti Sakowin Camp, with just a couple of days to prep for the dinner. "We were there with a clear vision," Jeremy stated. "We knew we had work to do."

Before they started cooking, though, they were greeted with the opportunity to join in prayer. And then there was the orientation class. Every morning, camp volunteers hold a meeting and ask those visiting the camp to show up with their intentions and expectations, to be straight and clear, to understand, for instance, that we are at peace. We are protecting the whole earth. Jeremy shared, "They are so clear that this movement can have a shift in the way of thinking around the country. It's a sacred space and the people there are in prayer. It is not a party. There is no element of that there. When you set your feet on that soil, you are pulled into the earth. Something like I've never experienced before. I'm not a woo-woo person, but it was an amazing connection. This is 500 years of history and people getting together to say 'Enough.' The Sioux understand they are protecting the water for twenty million people, not just Native Americans. Known instances of pipe failure are incredibly high. It's not a matter

of 'if,' but a matter of 'when,' if this pipeline goes through."

Jeremy had gone to Standing Rock with the intention of cooking for 500 people; however, when he arrived he discovered another activist, Laurie Woodley, had purchased food for 2,000. Laurie had pulled together the kitchen staff from the Standing Rock Elementary School, but they hadn't quite worked out the logistics of how to cook it all. Joining together, they combined their food, their energy, and their expertise, producing a Thanksgiving feast for 2,700 people.

Standing Rock, continued

Jeremy's experience cooking for large crowds led him to take charge of the kitchens at the Standing Rock Elementary School. After designing a menu and creating a master chart listing all the steps necessary to prepare the various dishes, the crowd of volunteers began washing, cutting, and cooking on Tuesday. Sister Robin, who runs the kitchen at a monastery feeding 800 every day, volunteered to manage vegetables, and she and her crew cut, seeded, and cooked 600 pounds of squash in addition to potatoes and onions. Jeremy said, "My company does these events all over the place. We're really good at pulling things together for large crowds. The organization required to serve is the same for 50 or 2,000. It's the time it takes that's different."

Jeremy prepared and cooked 162 turkeys that arrived piled in the back of a pickup truck. Cooking in batches of forty, the capacity of the ovens in the school, the first forty turkeys were put in the oven Wednesday morning and then carved, placed on serving trays, wrapped in plastic, and stored in the walk-in refrigerator, where they rested until reheated on Thursday, Thanksgiving Day. Then the next batch of turkeys went into the ovens and the process was repeated.

Thanksgiving Day another forty turkeys started the day in the ovens while forty-two turkeys went outside on the spit to be cooked slowly where guests could gather and find that sense of calm Jeremy finds an important component of cooking over fire.

'Room ready' means everything is in line and ready for guests to arrive," Jeremy explained, and "thirty minutes before service at 2:45 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day, we were room ready." The school can accommodate 520 people at a time. "We started serving on time and worked well into the night."



Buses carried the Water Protectors to the school, which is about a twenty-mile ride from the camps. As buses departed with guests who had their fill, the next group moved into line and the kitchen crew continued to serve. At one point in the evening, the Water Protectors invited all the servers to take a break and come up on stage, where they were honored with a song of recognition and thanks from those they served.

Though Jeremy was too busy to take photos, he was able to share photos taken by others, and yes, that is Jeremy standing next to Jane Fonda, serving food to their guests.

Friday morning, after delivering leftovers to the camp kitchens who serve the Water Protectors, Jeremy and his crew headed back to Massachusetts, arriving home on Sunday, worn out from and changed by the experience.

"What's important to me is that we participate in life. It's about the physical action," Jeremy said. "You can do anything, but you can't do nothing. You can't just watch it happen. I had a real experience with the energy of the universe. I believe firmly somehow all of us are connected and you have to take a stand with every human being. You have to step up into

this thing called life. There's power in numbers. Get a lot of people pulling and the load is light."

When Jeremy arrived at the camp, there were 4,000 people. When he left on Friday, there were 12,000. "What was really clear to me is these Native Americans have moved into this space. It's their home and they're not leaving. It's peaceful and concrete. They are there to protect the water."

I asked Jeremy what most profoundly affected him during this experience. He answered, "This was an amazing experience with an amazing team of people. Being in the moment is critical to your life. Be here while you're here." □

From top: The last forty-two turkeys roasting; serving the crowd; Jane Fonda serving with Jeremy; Jeremy at work. All photos courtesy of Jeremy Stanton, from colleagues at Standing Rock

Town Business Is Your Business



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

November 21: With all three members present, the Board approved the minutes of the November 7 meeting and then voted to hold a joint session with the Finance Committee to lay the groundwork for next year's budget. The selectmen will meet in regular session starting at 6:00 p.m. next Monday, November 28, and then be joined by the Finance Committee at 6:30.

Chairman Nat Yohalem said Broadband Committee Chairman Richard Long has nominated committee member Owen Wright to be the sixth and final member of the negotiating team that will attempt to hammer out a broadband contract with Frontier Communications. The first negotiating session is set for Tuesday, November 22, at Town Hall. The Board agreed to conduct the negotiations in executive session.

In a related matter, Selectman Michele Shalaby said that Paul Nicolai of the Nicolai Law Group in Springfield has agreed to represent the Town in the negotiations. He's a member of the Economic Development Council (EDC) of Western Massachusetts. According to Ms. Shalaby, who knows him professionally from when he represented her in the sale of her former business, he has approval from the EDC to do the work at no cost to the Town because, according to Ms. Shalaby, the EDC is interested "in underwriting efforts to bring broadband to underserved areas." The Board voted to formally appoint Mr. Nicolai as counsel to the broadband effort.

Town Administrator Mari Enoch reported that

Patricia Hardyman and the Planning Board are exploring the need for a solar bylaw, but would like to meet with the Board first to get its input before drafting one. The Board agreed to add them to the agenda for its December 12 meeting.

Noting that health insurance costs are estimated to be going up nationally by as much as 12 percent next year, Ms. Enoch reported that Berkshire County Insurance Group, a municipal insurance purchasing association that provides the Town with its health insurance, is looking to join forces with Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association, or MIIA, another municipal insurance purchasing group which handles the rest of the Town's insurance.

But in all likelihood, she said, the tie-up probably won't take place until 2019, and in the meantime **Berkshire Insurance Group is looking at a structural change in the health plan that would involve a much higher employee deductible as a way of offsetting the overall increase in cost.** According to Ms. Enoch, they are holding a meeting on December 8 to get feedback on the proposed change and would like a representative from each town that they serve to attend. The health insurance deductible for Town employees is currently \$1,800 per year per family, noted Ms. Enoch, who said she would attend the December 8 meeting.

Ms. Enoch also reported that the state has finally awarded a contract for the Hadsell Street bridge and is now asking the Town to sign an agreement that says the Town will pay for anything it asks for that's outside of the scope of the contract. The Board voted to authorize Ms. Enoch to sign the agreement. The bridge, which has been closed since 2011, is scheduled for replacement next year at a cost to the state of \$1.1 million.

And finally, Ms. Enoch noted that the Fire Department is applying for a Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, grant to purchase an industrial washer and dryer to remove carcinogens from their turnout gear. The two units cost a total of \$13,000 and the FEMA grant, if approved, would cover 80 percent of that, with the department paying the remaining \$2,600 out of its budget, she said.

Selectman Tara White reported on a Southern Berkshire Regional School District meeting she attended

Phase II of the study...is intended to develop "workable and sustainable" recommendations for addressing the problems identified in Phase I.

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that was aimed at getting public input on the search for a new school superintendent. She said selectmen from four of the five district towns were present and that participants at the meeting made it very clear they want the district to hire a superintendent who's "eager to build up the district" by bringing in more students, either by setting up a vocational program or by considering a merger with another district, such as Berkshire Hills or Lee.

According to Ms. White, the group expressed its preference in finding "a more business- or bottomline-oriented person than in the past," someone capable of making the hard decisions, such as closing schools and cutting staff, "doing the things that have been difficult to do in the past," she said. She also noted that there was "a consensus in the room" that the School Committee needs to allow whoever is hired "to take the helm and go," and that if the district doesn't find the type of administrator it is looking for in the first round, that they consider appointing an interim person to the position "and then going out and looking some more."

And in the final piece of business for the evening, Mr. Yohalem said the newly formed Agriculture Commission would like to get the Board's approval to hold a farmer's market one to two times a week on the Village Green on Wednesdays and Saturdays, time to be determined. He said the members of the Commission have asked to be included on the agenda of an upcoming meeting to discuss the proposal. The Board agreed to meet with them at its December 12 meeting.

November 28: With only two members present, Chairman Yohalem and Selectman Shalaby, the Board met with John Hockridge, chairman of the Berkshire County Educational Taskforce. Mr. Hockridge had requested the meeting to brief the Board on the findings

of a Phase I study conducted for the Taskforce by the Donahue Institute of the University of Massachusetts on the challenges facing public education in Berkshire County. He said the study confirms evidence that shrinking enrollments, rising costs, and revenues that are not keeping pace with expenses are "posing challenges" to the quality of education provided by the county's public schools. The study goes on to look at

the potential benefits and risks of "inter-district shared services and school district consolidation strategies."

Phase II of the study, due to be completed in June 2017, is intended to develop "workable and sustainable" recommendations for addressing the problems identified in Phase

I, and will be presented to county school committees, boards of selectmen, city councils, and the community at large. The task force, which has been meeting since July 2015, comprises a group of twenty-seven former and current school superintendents, school committee chairs, and municipal and business leaders representing every school district in the county.

The Board then met in joint session with the Finance Committee for an hour and forty-minute kickoff meeting to begin the fiscal 2018 budget process, to include a review of the Town's capital plan and, in the words of Mr. Yohalem, "to align the priorities and responsibilities between the Board of Selectman and the Finance Committee." Finance Committee members present for the session included Chairman Mark Carson, Prue Spaulding, Rob Miller, Marilyn Fracasso, and John Pshenishny.

The first order of business was to create a calendar of milestones for completing the budget by the Annual Town Meeting, which this year will take place on May 1. According to Town Administrator Enoch, budget

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requests have already gone out to Town department heads and are due back Friday, January 6. The Board will then have until April 10 to finalize the numbers. As it did last year, the Board wants to present the budget to the public prior to the Annual Meeting, and will do so at Town Hall on Saturday morning, April 22.

Ms. Enoch then set the stage for the discussion that followed by reviewing the FY 2017 budget. She said the Town's total operating budget for the current year, as approved by the voters last July, is \$5,306,468 and that the constraints imposed by Proposition 2½ effectively mean that the levy limit cannot be increased by more than \$132,000 without voter approval of an override. She also noted there are a number of big-ticket budget items that almost certainly will be going up next year, including the Southern Berkshire Regional School District assessment, health insurance for Town employees, Medicare, workers' compensation, general insurance, and auditing and library expenses.

As for capital planning, Selectman Shalaby reminded the meeting that one of the Town's financial goals is to stop using debt in the purchase of large capital items and instead to pay for them out of free cash and stabilization funds. Indeed, as Ms. Enoch noted during her presentation, **the Town has not incurred any new debt this year, despite paying for two road resurfacing projects, a \$140,000 excavator and a \$25,000 asphalt hot box.** She also noted that debt service is going to reach a high-water mark of \$299,000 in the upcoming fiscal year, but that after that it starts trending down, reaching \$149,000 by FY 2021.

December 12: With Selectmen White and Shalaby

...meeting with officials from the four other towns through which Route 57 passes...to try and drum up legislative support for transferring the repair and maintenance of Route 57 to the state Department of Transportation.

present, and Chairman Yohalem conferencing in by phone, the Board held a property tax classification hearing with Board of Assessors' Marsha Pshenishny. As in the past, Ms. Pshenishny recommended a single tax classification for both residential and commercial properties and **proposed a tax rate of \$9.80 per \$1,000 of valuation. That's a 20-cent increase over the previous year, and while that's considered a little on the high side, it was received as a pleasant surprise by the**

Board. As Chairman Yohalem noted, "We expected a tax rate in excess of \$10.00. This is very good news." According to Ms. Pshenishny, the taxpayers got a break because of higher than expected new growth and a state-mandated three-year property revaluation that added \$8.1 million in valuations to the Town's tax rolls. In real

world terms, a 20-cent-per-mil increase in the rate means that owners of a \$300,000 home would see a \$60 rise in their annual property tax bill.

The Board met with members of the Planning Board, including Chairman Patricia Hardyman, Jamie Mullen and Mark Carson, to discuss the creation of a solar bylaw. As Mr. Mullen explained, the Planning Board was approached by a renewable energy company "with a track record of erecting large photovoltaic arrays in the state of Massachusetts" and that they're looking at possible sites in New Marlborough including an "expired" gravel pit in Hartsville owned by O'Connor Bros. Inc. So, with that in mind, the Planning Board would like to create a bylaw regulating renewable energy installations, and as previously noted, they'd like to get the Selectmen's input before drawing one up.

As Mr. Carson explained, **the concern is not with small, privately-owned rooftop installations used to**

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produce energy for individual homes, but rather with large, ten-to-twenty acre commercial arrays that, in Mr. Carson's words, "are starting to pop up in surrounding towns." As he noted, "We have some beautiful pastures and we're concerned that these will be filled up with solar panels, and not only pastures, but ridgelines as well."

Mr. Mullen noted that the board will be applying to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission for a District Local Technical Assistance, or DTLA, grant to help with the effort. In the meantime, he informed the Board, the Town can impose a moratorium of up to eighteen months on new solar installations allowing the Planning Board time to work out the language of the bylaw and get it passed by the Town "without," as he put, "having the horse get out of the barn." The selectmen agreed it was an important effort and that they fully supported it, and they asked Ms. Hardyman to get copies of moratorium forms from other towns that the Board could use as a model in crafting one for New Marlborough. There was also discussion of whether to include wind turbines in the bylaw, but the Board felt there should be a separate regulation covering wind farms.

The Board then approved the minutes from the November 14 and November 21 meetings and the minutes from the broadband negotiating session, which was conducted in executive session November 21.

The Board awarded the annual snow and ice removal contract to New Marlborough's Keith Wilkinson, who with an offer to do the work at \$75 an hour, was the only bidder. His bid had previously been discussed at the Board's November 14 meeting, but was put on hold at Ms. White's urging to give the Board time to determine what neighboring towns are paying, which turned out to be \$65 to \$75 an hour.

Town Administrator Enoch reported that she's been in contact with Monterey and with District 1 Highway Director Francisca Heming of the state Department of Transportation about reviving the five-town effort to get the state to take over maintenance of Route 57. For a little over a year, members of the Board had been meeting with officials from the four other towns through

which Route 57 passes, Monterey, Sandisfield, Granville, and Tolland, to try and drum up legislative support for transferring the repair and maintenance of Route 57 to the state DOT. Meetings were held and letters were drafted, but then the effort seemed to lose steam. But Ms. Enoch said Monterey is very interested in reviving the effort and that Ms. Heming is open to having people come up to meet with her about it. Ms. White said she will reach out to the other towns to reach agreement on a date after the holidays for everybody to get back together again. □

Peter Schuyten



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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

November 19: The meeting was presided over by Commission members Freddie Friedman and Rona Easton.

The Commission began by re-opening the hearing for the Notice of Intent for Sanford Panitch of 1143 Hartsville New Marlborough Road. Shannon Boomsma of White Engineering explained that official notice had been received from the Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program stating that the proposed work to restore the path near the riverfront would not result in a species "take." The Commission then moved to approve the permit for partial restoration of the path including four stream crossings at four locations over intermittent streams.

The Commission then noted that the Enforcement Order previously issued to the Ravine Falls Trust regarding work done to a dam on New Marlborough Monterey Road would be rescinded. Mark Stinson, Department of Environmental Protection Circuit Rider, had informed the Commission that he felt confident that when the Trust was in a position to work on the dam, it would act in compliance with the Wetlands Protection Act.

Finally the mail was reviewed. One Forest Cutting Plan for Harold Crine for forty acres on County Road was received.

With no further business to review, the meeting adjourned. □

Martha Bryan

*Happy New Year
New Marlborough!*

Berkshire Groan

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SOUTHFIELD CHURCH HERALDS THE SEASON

Our fourth Almost Annual Holiday Market on December 3 was a rousing success! Ten vendors from New Marlborough and nearby towns provided an impressive array of gift items: organically grown foods, exquisite baked goods, beautiful knitwear and stuffed animals, whimsical accessories, stunning photos, books of intrigue, works of art, food for our animal friends, among others. We want to thank all the shoppers who supported our vendors, whose table fees, along with the church's own sales, helped raise much-needed funds for our Deacon's Assistance Fund, the fund from which we provide emergency assistance to members of our community.

The Christmas Classics Theater on December 17 was well attended despite the wintry weather. Audience members donated food items for the Sheffield Food Assistance Program as their ticket to the show, and filled up four boxes!

Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year, from the Southfield Church. □

Robert Olsen



above: Joyce Weeks with her whimsies, and Margot Rockefeller and Nancy Crawford with their knitted animals
left: Robert Olsen portraying How the Grinch Stole Christmas... and in Truman Capote's A Christmas Memory




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SBRSD Superintendent Search Process and Update

By Francoise Lartigue

As many readers may know, the current superintendent of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, David Hastings, is retiring at the end of the school year. The process to find his replacement is well underway.

The School Committee voted to authorize the Executive Evaluation (E.E.) subcommittee, chaired by Bonnie Silvers, to take the lead on organizing and facilitating the search process. The designation was a natural fit given that their usual task is to work with the superintendent on developing goals for the district, tracking the progress, and facilitating the superintendent's yearly review. After a reflection on the last superintendent search, agreement was reached that while a wonderful superintendent had been hired, the process to get there was lacking in many areas and had been expensive.

Three goals emerged from the preliminary conversations:

- This search needed to cast a net far and wide in order to acquire numerous interested and viable candidates.
- The search needed to have the involvement of an individual who understood our unique communities, including the challenges they face.
- The above two goals should be met in as fiscally responsible a way as possible – that is, spending less than the \$20,000 budgeted.


With these three goals in mind the process started to take shape. Instead of taking the typical route of hiring an MASC (Massachusetts Association of School Committees) consultant (\$10,000 - \$12,000) to run the entire process, the E.E. subcommittee looked at the individual tasks that the MASC consultant would be doing and broke them up into tasks they could accomplish themselves versus tasks that required guidance. It quickly emerged that the marketing and communications aspects could be handled in-house. It was also discovered that the School Committee's membership in MASC allowed access to self-coordinated search services, like application collection.


The E.E. subcommittee began with a focus on marketing and advertising. Typical superintendent searches run paid ads in newspapers and education-based publications. This can run upwards of \$1,700 per ad. The E.E. subcommittee decided to forgo the traditional route in favor of an online 21st century strategy that would post ads for a small fee, or often free, in a variety of places. The E.E. subcommittee, working in conjunction with SBRSD's Kari Giordano, developed a superintendent search website (www.sbrsd.org/superintendent-search.html) as well

as necessary print materials. Additionally, they would do a direct targeted mailing to reach over 750 possible candidates. MASC facilitated the sending of a color printed brochure, which detailed the job as well as the benefits of living in the Berkshires along with a letter from Glenn Koocher, executive director of MASC. This approach created more of an impact with possible candidates and came at a cost of just under \$600, a significant savings over the typical paid ad route.

Glenn Koocher also aided the E.E. subcommittee in assessing the areas that needed a non-school committee member to provide outside direction, such as running community listening groups, coordinating candidate interviews, and facilitating the Superintendent Screening Committee. This led the E.E. subcommittee to consider many possible candidates, none of whom could commit to taking on everything required. Through search and conversation, Jennifer Dowley emerged as a person who might be willing to take on all the pieces. Jennifer's background as the former President of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation meant she had a deep understanding of our area. Additionally, she was now running her own consulting firm, Dowley Associates, and was finishing up a search for Flying Cloud Institute's

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new executive director. The E.E. subcommittee reached out, explaining the process, goals and budget constraints. Ms. Dowley, who is both passionate about the area and education, was willing to work on the search.

She immediately started organizing the community listening groups. The groups would prove to be invaluable, as the information gathered in them would shape the criteria by which the Superintendent Screening Committee would assess the candidates, as well as guide the process for developing the interview questions. At the same time, the E.E. subcommittee reached out to the school community and district towns to establish the thirteen-member Superintendent Screening Committee (SSC).

This committee is made up of the following members:

- 2 **SBRSD Administrators:** Glenn Devoti and Mary Turo
- 2 **SBRSD Teachers:** Christina Carlson and Neil Barbieri
- 1 **SBRSD Support Staff:** Karen Frighetto
- 2 **District Parents:** Fiona Kerr and James Thieriot
- 5 **Town Residents:** Charlie Ketchen (Alford), Bruce Turner (Egremont), Tom Ryan (Monterey), Jane Burke (New Marlborough), and Stephen Leining (Sheffield)
- 1 **SBRSD School Committee Member:** Francoise Lartigue*

The diligent work by the E.E. subcommittee is paying off. Currently, the SSC is thoroughly assessing and vetting all of the candidates who have applied. Next, the SSC will offer interviews to eight to ten of the strongest candidates. Bound by a confidentiality agreement, the committee may not share the names of the candidates at this stage of the process. From these interviews, a field of three to five candidates will be recommended to the School Committee in early February. At that point, the names and applications of the candidates selected to move forward to the final round will be made public. A rigorous process of school visits, interviews, and reference checking led by the School Committee will begin. The School Committee will then select the candidate they feel will be the most successful at leading our school district in its next phase of development. □

**Francoise Lartigue, an SBRSD school committee member, serves on the Executive Evaluation Subcommittee and was elected to chair the Superintendent Search Committee.*

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SUSAN M. SMITH
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Broadband Update

Another Reversal of Fortune

by Barry R. Shapiro

Just when it appeared that the Town was on the verge of finalizing an agreement with Frontier Communications to bring state of the art internet service to the Town, the Town's efforts have run into a brick wall.

As previously reported, on November 9, 2016, the Town's Broadband Committee found the Frontier proposal acceptable and voted to recommend it to the Board of Selectmen. The Board, in turn, approved the proposal on November 14 and established a negotiating team comprised of the Board members, Richard Long and Owen Wright of the Broadband Committee and Mari Enoch, Town Administrator. Frontier officials were invited to an initial negotiating meeting in late November at which the players got to know each other and agreed to exchange potential issues by email. A meeting with New Marlborough's attorney was set and dates for negotiating sessions with Frontier were being worked out, all shooting for completion prior to the January 14, 2017 contract deadline. All sounded good.

It was at this point that the process ran into the proverbial brick wall in the form of Peter Larkin, chair of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), which is expected to provide critical state funding for the project. In a call, Mr. Larkin delivered the shocking news to Richard Long, chair of the Broadband Committee, that, due to alleged defects in the Town's RFP and *even though the RFP had not been challenged by any party and even though MBI had seen the RFP before it was issued and had in fact required that it be reissued after its initial issuance, MBI would refuse to give the Town its critical construction grant allocation if the Town proceeded with Frontier.* It would be impossible for the Town to contract with Frontier without the MBI funding, so the refusal of MBI to provide the financing represents a death knell for the Frontier proposal.

In a follow-up conversation, Phil Holahan, General Counsel of MBI, repeated Mr. Larkin's warning and advised that the Town should just "piggyback" on the RFP which MBI was issuing for the unserved towns.

Mr. Long communicated this stunning news to the members of the Board of Selectmen and, according to Mr. Long, it rapidly became apparent that there were three options to move forward.

First, withdraw the award to Frontier, fix any RFP non-compliance issues and republish the RFP. Second, agree to piggyback on the MBI RFP. Or, three, to work with the contiguous towns of Sandisfield, Tolland, and Monterey, to explore a Municipal Lighting Plant (MLP) procurement process under which the towns' MLPs (New Marlborough's MLP was formed in 2011 to work toward bringing broadband to town) would issue a joint RFP and then contract with the service provider independently through their own MLPs.

As to the first option (i.e., redoing the RFP and continuing the negotiations with Frontier, assuming they resubmitted their proposal), Mr. Long indicated that the MBI threat that it would not fund the proposed agreement with Frontier "...would alone seem sufficient to justify choosing a different path. But if we proceeded, we would still need to resolve other hurdles which have been known from the start, including holding a special town meeting to authorize a home rule petition, obtaining approval by the state legislature of the petition subject to its schedule, which cannot be predicted, and obtaining approval from the Department of Local Services (DLS) of the financial viability of our plan."

The second option of piggybacking on the MBI RFP process does not excite Mr. Long. "Essentially, this is a passive wait and see approach. As MBI has included New Marlborough in their RFP as an unserved town, this option will continue without need for any action on our part. The issues that may arise under this option include the fact that MBI controls the process and there are some indications they may seek to drive us into a cable option which, while not state of the art, especially in the longer-term, may be adequate and carries no cost to the Town. We have also learned that Frontier does not intend to respond to the MBI RFP, thus closing the door on a Frontier option with possible negative impact on this option for Monterey, Sandisfield, and Tolland."

The third option which involves joining in the issuance of a multi-town Municipal Lighting Plant RFP with the adjacent towns may, in Mr. Long's view, be the best path forward. "Since the time this option was first raised, the legal analysis has been completed and this approach

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may avoid the complexity of the other approaches," said Mr. Long. "The four towns' MLPs will issue a joint RFP. Participating is not a binding commitment and any town could withdraw if they wished to do so. Each town would participate in the selection process and would separately contract with a selected vendor. The towns could also cooperate on certain administrative matters such as the billing and collection of MLP fees from subscribers."

Other advantages, according to Mr. Long, include (i) no requirement for a special town meeting to authorize a home rule petition or an override vote and no need to wait on an unpredictable state legislature to approve the petition, (ii) shared legal expenses for the procurement (including a legal review of the RFP and drafting a form of contract), thus reducing town costs, (iii) no need for a financial viability finding by DLS, and (iv) greater contract bargaining power, as well as additional political clout in working with MBI.

"The financial obligation to the service provider will be paid entirely through subscriber fees to the MLP and the Town will not be obligated for any payments to the service provider," said Mr. Long. "The Board of Selectmen can still call an informational special town meeting where voter approval can be sought."

Currently, Representative Smitty Pignatelli is arranging a meeting with Peter Larkin and Bill Ennen of MBI and designees from the towns. The purpose of the meeting with MBI is to explain the MLP approach and win their approval.

"We had raised the possibility of an MLP approach with MBI early in the process," Mr. Long said, "but they rejected it at that time saying it could not apply to our procurement. Hopefully, in light of further legal research which has been done, they will now agree that this is viable."

Mr. Long advises that at its meeting on December 15, the Broadband Committee unanimously voted to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the Town join the four-town MLP request for proposals and seek to withdraw from the Frontier negotiations. He further

advises that Frontier is very interested in responding to an MLP procurement. They have also made it very clear that at this time they only seek to provide service to the towns of New Marlborough, Monterey, Sandisfield and Tolland.

To pursue this MLP option, the Board of Selectmen will need to approve this option prior to December 23; a meeting for this purpose is scheduled for December 21, 2016. The Town's MLP will also need to approve this option. The Town would have to commit to its proportionate share of legal fees which is estimated to be \$2,000 for the RFP process. Funds are available for this purpose from an MBI planning grant allowance of \$5,000. The other three towns have already voted to participate. The goal is to issue an RFP in early January.

When asked why other towns, including the tiny remote town of Mt. Washington, have moved so far ahead of New Marlborough and are in fact already stringing wires for their service, Mr. Long noted that, "In contrast to New Marlborough, where we are trying to provide this service without incurring debt for which the Town would be obligated, these towns have voted to borrow the money to fund some of the construction costs. That has not been our approach."

So, this seemingly endless saga continues.
Stay tuned.

Important Update

At its meeting on December 21, 2016, the Board of Selectmen rejected the Broadband Committee's request to abandon the negotiations with Frontier and join the neighboring towns in their RFP. Instead, at the Board's direction, the Committee will continue discussions with Frontier in good faith without issuing another RFP as MBI had requested. The thought is to keep all options open, including joining the other towns and even participating in the RFP being issued by MBI if the contract negotiations with Frontier are unsuccessful. The Board of Selectmen will meet on January 3, 2017 to consider joining the neighboring towns, although this will only be an option if the towns extend the December 23 deadline to join them. As to the MBI comment to Mr. Long that they would not fund the contract with Frontier, Nat Yohalem, Chair of the Board of Selectmen, advised that a meeting with the three neighboring towns and MBI will be held in January.

So, in one short month, the Town has gone from relative certainty that a deal would be struck with Frontier to complete uncertainty.

More surprises, no doubt, next month. □



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UPCOMING: Events Calendar for January and February

January 10: Second Tuesday Film Series, New Marlborough Town Library; the season's initial offering: *Divide in Concord*, a film based in the American Revolutionary cradle of freedom, Concord, Massachusetts, that chronicles an eighty-four-year-old woman's campaign against bottled water; begins at 7:00 p.m. and is free, but save a space with a call to the library (413 229-6668)

January 15: One piano, four hands, the first Winter House Concert of 2017, features pianists Gili Melamed-Lev and Mark Evans playing rarely heard compositions of Schubert, Brahms, and Lesser in a home setting — just the way chamber music was meant to be heard; reservations, \$25, \$20 for members of the New Marlborough Village Association, can be made at (413) 229-2785 or at www.newmarlborough.org. The concert begins at 4:00 p.m.

February 14: Here Come the Videofreex, the second in the New Marlborough Town Library's 2017 film series, about a group of renegade journalists who pioneered the use of video in the 1960s and '70s; 7:00 p.m. and free, but save a space with a call to the library (413 229-6668)

February 19: The baroque cello duets of J.S. Bach, Telemann, and Boismortier, with cellists Christine Gummere and Lucy Bardo, in a Berkshire home at 4:00 p.m.; reservations, \$25, \$20 for members of the New Marlborough Village Association, can be made at (413) 229-2785 or at www.newmarlborough.org.

FILM SERIES BEGINS



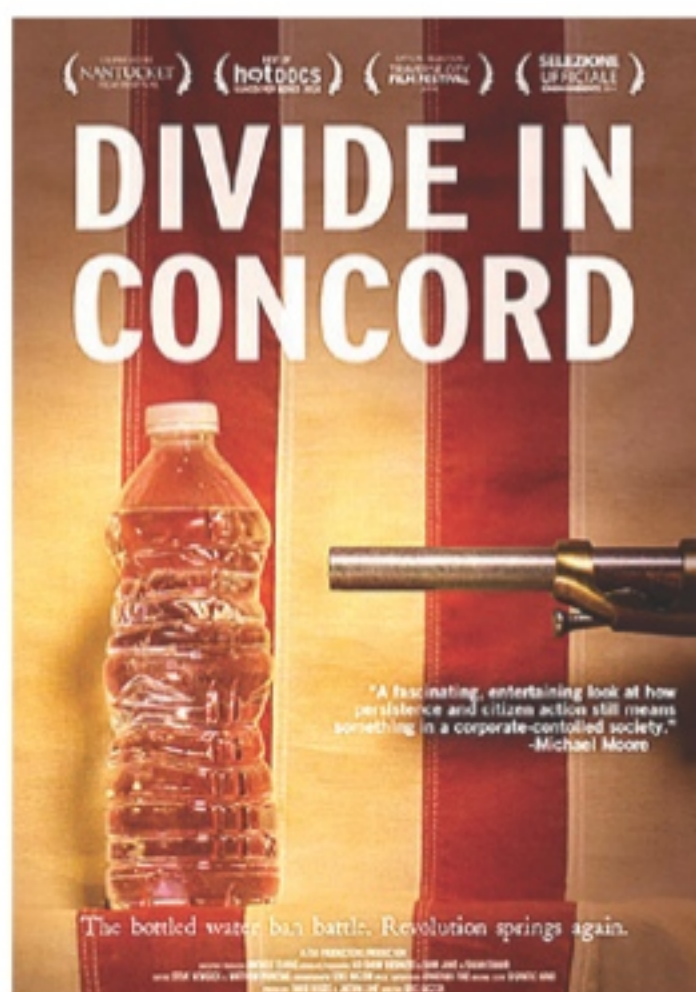
The New Marlborough Town Library presents its second free film series. The winter will zip by once you mark your calendar (the second Tuesday of each month) with all four of our scheduled films. Call the library (229-6668) to reserve a

spot, since seating is limited. A synopsis of each film will appear in that month's *5 Village News*, or check the library's Facebook page for details and trailers.

The first film, *Divide in Concord*, will be shown at the library on Tuesday, January 10. Refreshments will be served at 7:00 p.m., with the screening scheduled for 7:30. A description of the film follows:

Divide in Concord

In Concord, Massachusetts, residents hold fast to their town's legendary status; it is the site of the initial conflict which led to the American Revolution. Concord was also home to Henry David Thoreau, a proponent of the environmental preservation movement. *Divide in Con-*



cord is an engaging tale about a contemporary debate: individual freedom versus collective responsibility, and how this relates to American democracy. The Declaration of Independence states that man has certain inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. But in today's society where is the line drawn between consumer freedom and responsibility?

Follow an eighty-four-year-old woman's bylaw proposal through town meeting format in an attempt to face down the bottled

water industry. *Divide in Concord* deals with small town life in New England, the environment, consumerism, and American history. A must see.

The schedule for subsequent films is:

Tuesday February 14: Here Come the Videofreex

Tuesday March 14: 20 Feet from Stardom

Tuesday April 11: Ballet Boys □

Reported by Kenzie Fields

NEIGHBORS



Anna Zdziarski, daughter of Melissa and Peter Zdziarski of the Canaan Southfield Road, has been swimming since the age of eight. She began her career at the Kilpatrick Athletic Center, swimming for the YMCA Snappers, and eventually swam with the Monument Mountain Spartans on their co-op swim team, which includes the Lee, Lenox, Monument Mountain, and Mount Everett schools. She is currently a senior at Colby-Sawyer College in New London, New Hampshire, majoring in business administration.



A relatively rare photo of Anna not wearing a swimming cap.

Anna was just voted Swimmer of the Week by the New England Intercollegiate Swimming and Diving Association, following her performance at the North Country Invitational meet at SUNY Potsdam in late November. At that meet she came away with three personal best times in different events. Her parents

say, "We are quite proud of her and think her hometown community will be also."

The Annual Holiday Sing at the New Marlborough Meeting House on the night before Christmas Eve was graced, as always, by the arrival of **Santa Claus**, who this year was joined by four elves claiming to be Santa's grandchildren. Go figure! A very happy Mr. Claus was surrounded by, clockwise from upper left, **Samantha Twing, Catherine Twing, Rochele Worth, and Wil Worth.** □



photo by Larry Burke

Neighbors compiled by

Barbara Lowman: deeuell@yahoo.com

TOWN SEEKS COVER ART FOR 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

The Town of New Marlborough once again is soliciting photographs/artwork for the cover of the Town's 2016 Annual Report. The photographs/artwork should represent New Marlborough. Please email photographs/artwork to sfleck@newmarlboroughma.gov by Friday, January 6, 2017. You can also drop off your submission at Town Hall. The Board of Selectmen will make the final decision. □

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photo by Diane Barth

OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS



Goldfinch



Mourning dove



Nuthatch

With the early onset of winter weather, and with the bears most likely having retreated to their dens, the bird feeders are pretty much just for the birds now. My own feeders have seen a steady parade of those hearty, reliable types that stay with us all through the cold months, giving us good cheer: a pair of **cardinals**, five or six **mourning doves**, a pack (or a “charm”) of **goldfinches**, several **redcap sparrows**, **titmouses**, **nuthatches**, **downy and hairy woodpeckers**, **juncos**, a tough band of **bluejays**, and, of course, our most welcome customer as well as state bird, the **black-capped chickadee**, here in abundance. During the snowfall on the morning of December 17, just about every bird in the neighborhood descended on the feeders, including a northern flicker, a shy species that I have never before seen come so close to the house.

This column relishes the opportunity to reveal some of the more unusual wildlife moments in New Marlborough, but, on this occasion, to welcome in the New Year, I thought it would good to give a pictorial salute to our steadfast feathered companions. They are so ubiquitous that we tend not to appreciate their beauty enough, nor sometimes even to notice their presence. So, the accompanying



top: Junco
above: Downy woodpecker
left: Red-bellied woodpecker

photos on this page by Erik Callahan

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photo by Larry Burke



Northern flicker

photo gallery is a joint effort by Erik Callahan, of Hartsville, and me, Larry Burke, up on Route 183. Enjoy (and see them in color at our website, nm5vn.org)!

Meanwhile, down in the southern climes of Clayton, Don Beauchamp was out and about on December 8, and reported the following: "My bluebirds are in and out of their house even with snow on the roof, almost every day. I finally put out bird seed, and the feeder is well attended. In the mornings I have been seeing a bunch of waxwings in a tree by the river and a group of mallard ducks down in the river. In late November I saw a yellow-bellied sapsucker, and pileated woodpeckers are heard and seen on a regular basis, and today there was a weasel running across the ice on the river. In the drained pond on Clayton Mill River Road, there are plenty of tracks looking like those of a great blue heron."

We look forward to hearing of your wildlife encounters in 2017! □

Compiled by Larry Burke, lburke2@me.com



photo by Larry Burke

clockwise: Northern flicker, bluejay, and cardinal



photo by Larry Burke

Goldfinch and chickadee

photo by Don Beauchamp



Bluebirds



photo by Larry Burke

Hairy woodpecker

THE LOG

POLICE DEPARTMENT (SELECTED ENTRIES)

- | | | | | | |
|---------|------------|---|-----------|--|--|
| Nov. 2 | 11:32 p.m. | Caller reports a Volkswagen Jetta rolled onto its side on South Sandisfield Road near the intersection with Hartsville New Marlborough Road; there are no injuries. | 2:08 p.m. | Tree on wires on Norfolk Road. | |
| | | | 5:16 p.m. | Tree down on Mill River Great Barrington Road. | |
| Nov. 3 | 8:57 a.m. | Dog loose on Mill River Great Barrington Road returned to its owner. | Nov. 21 | 2:01 a.m. | Driver, stuck in snow on unplowed Norfolk Road, requests assistance. |
| Nov. 4 | 4:29 p.m. | Officer investigates report of jewelry stolen from South Sandisfield Road residence. | | 10:00 a.m. | Tree on wires on New Marlborough Southfield Road. |
| | 6:55 p.m. | After receiving word that an inebriated male at a Hartsville New Marlborough residence was resisting attempts to prevent him from driving, an officer locates the male, who has left on foot, and transports him to the police station. | | 1:39 p.m. | Tree blocking New Marlborough Monterey Road. |
| Nov. 6 | 6:54 a.m. | A Monterey resident reports he has picked up a victim of a roll-over vehicle accident, walking barefoot on South Sandisfield Road near Hartsville New Marlborough Road, and transported her to the Fairview ER in Great Barrington. | Nov. 23 | 2:22 p.m. | Vehicle off South Sandisfield Road at intersection with York Lake Road. |
| | | | | 3:49 p.m. | Norfolk Road resident gets assistance after locking himself out of his vehicle. |
| Nov. 11 | 1:51 p.m. | Tree on wires on Canaan Southfield Road. | | 4:18 p.m. | Vehicle disabled after driving off South Sandisfield Road. |
| | 7:23 p.m. | New Jersey driver, stopped upon his failure to dim his high beams, says he is lost; officer provides directions. | Nov. 24 | 1:04 p.m. | A white poodle, wandering on South Sandisfield Road, is returned to its owner. |
| Nov. 12 | 3:46 p.m. | After receiving a complaint from a Canaan Southfield Road resident, officer tells neighbor to desist in trespassing or risk arrest. | | 6:00 p.m. | Motor vehicle collides with a large rock at the side of Hotchkiss Road near the entrance to the boat ramp on 1000-Acre Swamp. |
| Nov. 14 | 6:19 a.m. | Knight Road resident reports that a large horse is loose in his yard. | Nov. 27 | 9:35 p.m. | Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring notified after caller reports that the intersection of Alum Hill and Clayton Mill River Roads is covered in black ice. |
| | 12:00 p.m. | Monterey New Marlborough Road resident reports that his wallet was stolen from his truck while it was parked at the Canaan VFW. | | | |
| Nov. 15 | 3:00 p.m. | Norfolk Road resident requests extra police presence to address the growing incidence of speeding through Southfield village. | | | |
| Nov. 19 | 3:09 p.m. | Officer pursuing an operator of an unregistered dirt bike to his residence on Canaan Southfield Road talks with his father. | | | |
| Nov. 20 | 12:59 a.m. | Deer struck by a vehicle on Hartsville New Marlborough Road near Gedney Farm. | | | |
| | 7:35 a.m. | Tree on wires on Hillingdon Road. | | | |
| | 9:27 a.m. | Tree on wires on New Marlborough Monterey Road. | | | |

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THE LOG: FIRE AND RESCUE

Nov. 2	11:40 p.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road MVA	Nov. 18	4:00 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Norfolk, Conn. Standby
Nov. 7	8:52 a.m.	Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call	Nov. 20	7:36 a.m.	Hillingdon Road Wires Down
Nov. 7	12:43 p.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call	Nov. 20	2:25 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Tolland Structure Fire
Nov. 11	1:50 p.m.	Canaan Southfield Road Wires Down	Nov. 20	7:15 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Sheffield MVA/ Medical
Nov. 12	2:29 p.m.	Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road Medical Call	Nov. 21	8:13 a.m.	East Hill Road Medical Call
Nov. 18	2:50 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call	Nov. 27	1:11 p.m.	Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call
			Nov. 28	10:45 a.m.	East Hill Road Medical Call


Thank You to the Kiwanis Club of Sheffield: The New Marlborough Fire Company wishes to thank the Kiwanis Club of Sheffield for its generous donation of \$500, to be used for 911 signs in the community. Because of the club's generosity, twenty-five more homes in the town of New Marlborough are now displaying 911 signs, which are critically important for fire and ambulance crews to quickly locate residents in need of emergency services.

2017 Burning Season and Online Burning Permits: This year New Marlborough Fire and Rescue is converting to an online application for burn permits. Burning is permitted from January 15 through April 30, and permits will be available from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. daily, as conditions allow for open burning. Permits may be obtained at www.bcburnpermits.com/ or via a link on the Fire Department page of the Town website: newmarlboroughma.gov/pages/index. Those who cannot access the permits online may still obtain a permit at the Mill River General Store. Please call (413) 229-0246 to determine if burning is permitted that day.

Reminders:

- Burn only brush; no leaves, grass, hay, stumps, building debris, or other material.
- Burning is allowed between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. All fires must be extinguished by 4:00 p.m.
- Avoid burning on days with high winds.
- Keep fires at least seventy-five feet from structures.
- When possible, have a garden hose or other water supply available, as well as a rake and/or shovel.
- Do not leave fires unattended.
- Burn the fire down to coals and drown with water to extinguish.
- Call 911 to report any emergencies. □

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ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL HOLIDAY FAIR

By Broc and Fiona Kerr

The New Marlborough Central School Holiday Fair, held this year on December 10, was, as always, one of the highlights of the local school community calendar. Organized by the New Marlborough and Monterey Parents and Teachers Association, the fair invites the whole community to join in celebrating the very special environment that the children of our towns enjoy from grades pre-K through four.

This year's craft market showcased the diverse creations made by students and parents during after-school crafting activities held for weeks leading up to the big day. For two dollars one found lovely watercolor greeting cards, clever felt owl ornaments, decorated gift bags, and the like. The silent auction had dozens of items from handmade ceramics to gift certificates for a round of golf for four and for meals at local restaurants, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of local businesses and artists. As the two o'clock deadline approached there was a rush to the auction room for last-minute bids. Other staples of the fair included the traditional Christmas tree market, foods from the grill and canteen, the white elephant room and book sale – and for the first time this year, an old-timey style photo booth.

All funds raised directly benefit the children of the school – helping to subsidize the cost of excursions, equipment, and special activities that they will enjoy throughout the coming year. But perhaps more important than the fund-raising aspect of the occasion was the opportunity to spend time with our neighbors and children in celebrating the important role that the school plays in our community.

Thanks to all the staff, parents, local businesses, and neighbors in supporting this event – and showing our children the value that our community places on both them and their education. □



photos by Kristin Sanzone



Top: Helper elves Helen Thorpe and Lily Sanzone preparing the crafts

Above: "Manning" the grill — NMC dads Broc Kerr, Colin Smith, Michael Salzmann, and NMC 2nd/3rd grade teacher Dan Weston

Left: "The Snowflakes", a student ensemble led by Ms. Petty: Helen Thorpe, Catherine Makuc, Evelyn Vollmer, Kelly Krom, Maddie Rundle, and Lucy Karp

THE JUNGLE BOOK

By Jane Burke

Spirits were high at all three performances of *The Jungle Book* over the weekend of December 2. Packed houses delighted in the energy and enthusiasm of the cast of seventy Southern Berkshire students from grades three through six. Their mastery of dialogue, song, and dance was so impressive, it was easy to forget that for many it was their first time in a big production.

It was a lavish presentation with an splendid array of costumes made by Kenzie Fields of Mill River. Especially inventive was her pack of monkeys and herd of elephants. The fabric donations from Pamela Hardcastle of New Marlborough village allowed for some very elegant attire for the lead characters.

There were many cast members from New Marlborough. A few of them agreed to be interviewed about their experience. For third grader Mirabelle Myers of Southfield, this was her first time in the annual musical. As a third grader, she was able to be one of the ten kids of the jungle without an audition. Two other New Marlborough children in her class, Lily Edelman of New Marlborough village and Digby Kerr of Mill River, joined her, and all three were real standouts in the performance. Another chorus of kids outfitted as palm trees, joined them on several numbers. Mirabelle said, "I wanted to be in the play because I love to be with a lot of people and I really like acting. The cast became like a family. I learned that it doesn't matter how old you are, you can get along with everyone." Not only did she like her fellow cast members; she praised the adults who led their rehearsals for their tolerance and calm demeanor. She particularly remembers the director Ralph Petilla praising them before their first performance. He said, "You kids have more courage than those in the audience." She described stage manager Daniel Kringer as very respectful of children, and music director Courtney English as tolerant of their singing. About the experience of performing Mirabelle said, "I was pretty nervous the first night, but then it felt pretty cool having older people watching us and enjoying it."



photos by Larry Burke

Lily Sanzone as Shanti leads this scene wearing her beautifully detailed dress. A monkey, Honey Fields, is lurking on the right ready to tease or trick Shanti.

She liked everything about the experience, learning new things about theater technology, singing in a new way, and fooling around a bit. She reflected, "I am definitely going to do this next year. I just have to keep doing this."

For fifth grader Lily Sanzone, this was her second experience, having been in the chorus as a third grader. She had hopes of playing various of the animal characters but was cast as Shanti, the girl from the village. She said she had no trouble memorizing the lines for this large role but there was one challenge: her costume. She said, "I hated my costume. I don't like wearing dresses and my costume was a frilly, sparkly dress. Finally, I told myself it was just a costume and I got used to it." She really loved playing around with the monkeys. Caroline Haiss and Honey Fields were part of this feisty group of seven who apparently played tricks and teased her even when not on the stage. She really loved the monkeys' costumes too.

When asked what she learned from being in the play she said, "Never let monkeys tease and distract you. I also learned how to use my singing voice in a solo with the help of Ms. English the music director." □



The whole cast filled the stage for the finale. In the front row are the kids of the jungle, including, at the far left, Mirabelle Meyers; third from left Lily Edelman; and center with sunglasses, Digby Kerr.

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Adult Fiction

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The Obituary Writer, by Ann Hood
Eastern Shore, by Ward Just
Island of Glass, by Nora Roberts
The German Girl, by Armando Correa
Plaid and Plagiarism, by Molly Macrae (also in audio CDs)

Adult Nonfiction

*All the Gallant Men: An American Sailor's
 Firsthand Account of Pearl Harbor*, by Donald Stratton
Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis, by J.D. Vance
The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace, by Jeff Hobbs
Modern Potluck, by Kristin Donnelly

Children's Fiction

Lost and Found: Adele and Simon in China, by Barbara McClintock
The Girl Who Drank the Moon, by Kelly Barnhill
Goodnight Everyone, by Chris Houghton
Have You Seen My Trumpet? by Michael Escoffier
The Most Perfect Snowman, by Chris Britt
Poles Apart, by Jeanne Willis
Compass South, by Hope Larson

Audio CDs

Alexander Hamilton, by Ron Chernow
Plaid and Plagiarism, by Molly Macrae

DVDs

The BFG
The Wild Life
Pete's Dragon
Florence Foster Jenkins

Kubo and the Two Strings
Sully
Annie Hall



Library Winter Hours

November 1 - March 31

Mon. Wed. Sat. 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Tues. & Thurs. 1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Fri. 1:30 – 7:30 p.m.

**The Library's Holiday Closings:
 January 1 and 2**



(413) 229-2544

Free Estimates



The New Marlborough Library Film Series

The first film, *Divide in Concord*, will be shown at the library on Tuesday, January 10. Refreshments will be served at 7:00 p.m., with the screening scheduled for 7:30. See page 12 for details.

Contributions are needed to continue the paper!

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

New Marlborough 5 Village News, P.O. Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259

YES, I WANT THE *New Marlborough 5 Village News* TO CONTINUE!

HERE IS A TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION OF \$_____ (payable to NM5VN)

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Town Times

Board of Selectmen: Every Monday at 6:00 p.m.

Town Administrator: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Planning Board: Second and fourth Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Board of Health: First Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Conservation Commission: Last Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m.

Board of Assessors: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Fire Department training: Every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the fire station

Building Inspector: Monday 5 - 7 p.m., Wednesday 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

First Responders: meeting/training: First and third Wednesday
at 7:00 p.m. at the fire station

Cultural Council: Second Thursday at 4:15 p.m. at the library

Post Office: Mill River Window: Monday - Friday 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Southfield Window: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

(The Southfield Post Office lobby is open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

Town Treasurer: Monday & Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Tax Collector: Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Selectmen's Administrative Secretary: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Dog and Animal Control Officer: John Springstube 413-232-7038

Town Clerk: 229-8278; 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. weekdays; Saturday by appointment

Town Hall: 229-8116

Police: Business office: 229-8161

Transfer Station Hours:

Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Sunday: 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

PERMITS WERE DUE JULY 1

The fee of \$150
can be paid by mail.

Please enclose a self-addressed,
stamped envelope.

Emergency calls:

Police, Fire, Medical
911

New Marlborough Highway Department

Located on Mill River-Southfield Rd.

Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

PO Box 99, Mill River, MA 01244

(413) 229-8165

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

Barbara Lowman, issue editor; Diane Barth, designer;

Martha Bryan, Jane Burke, Larry Burke,

David Lowman, Joe Poindexter, Jodi Rothe,

Peter Schuyten, Barry Shapiro, Pam Stebbins,

Jon Swan, Marianne Swan, Sandra Fusco- Walker,

Contributing writers and artists: Ann Getsinger,

Mary Richie Smith, Tara White. Index: Donna Weaver

New Marlborough 5 Village News

appears monthly,

also online at our new website! www.NM5VN.org

The next issue will be dated February 2017.

All copy must be submitted no later than January 17.

For advertising, contact Barbara Lowman, tel: 229-2369

PO Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259

5villagenews@gmail.com

New Marlborough 5 Village News
P.O.Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259
e-mail 5villagenews@gmail.com

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Non-Profit Org.
PERMIT #95
GT. BARRINGTON
MA 01230

CHANGE SERVICE
REQUESTED

SERVICE SECTOR 1/17

- ◆ **Benchmark Real Estate:** Nancy Kalodner, Broker/Owner. Offering New Marlborough the finest professional real estate services since 1979. Call 528-9595
- ◆ **Corashire Realty:** Serving New Marlborough for 40 years. Let experience, knowledge, and personal attention work for you. 528-0014
- ◆ **Design+Planning:** Christopher Blair; Since 1986, creative, budget aware design. Achieve your goals for additions, alterations to an existing home or new construction. 413- 528-4960. chris@design-planning.com.
- ◆ **DesignFirstBerkshires:** Architectural design, space planning and renovation management. 413-528-6169 or info@designfirstberkshires.com.
- ◆ **Fine Jewelry:** Designers and manufacturers; custom orders/commissions welcome; expert repairs. 45 years experience. Sachs Reisman, Inc. 25 Maple Ave., Sheffield 229-0050
- ◆ **GO TUBING @ SKI BUTTERNUT** - Now open FRIDAY NIGHTS 5-8 p.m. just \$10 (non holiday). \$20/2hrs: Saturdays & holiday periods 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. & Sundays 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 413.528.2000 www.SkiButternut.com/Tubing
- ◆ **One call does it all!:** Vinyl siding cleaning; pressure washing; deck refinishing; floors refinished; window washing; odd landscape jobs; all odd jobs. David Goewey, (413)229-2787
- ◆ **Susan M. Smith:** Attorney At Law; Concentrating in the areas of Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Elder Law, Real Estate and Zoning Matters. ssmithlaw@hughes.net or 229-7080
- ◆ **Reiner White:** General Contractor; 413-229-8450
- ◆ **Ter Mar Triangle Farm:** 106 Sandy Brook Turnpike (Rte 183), Sandisfield; 413-258-2898; fruits and vegetables in season; pork; jam; eggs; honey; sawmill; kiln milling; firewood
- ◆ **Woodruff Mountain Landscaping:** Excavation and landscape contracting, all forms of stone work and masonry, and outdoor services, including lawn mowing and yard work. 413-229-2919 woodruffmountain@aol.com

To list your business here, contact Barbara Lowman 229-2369