

New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

This is the fourth of a five-part series on the villages of New Marlborough Township, written by John Sisson, first appearing in the October, 2000 issue of the then newly-established New Marlborough 5 Village News. Many of the photographs appearing in this series can also be viewed in *A Pictorial History of New Marlborough*, published by the New Marlborough Historical Society in 2005.

NEW MARLBOROUGH “The Prettiest Village in New England”

By John D. Sisson

Benjamin Wheeler came here first. He spent the severe winter of 1739-40 in a cabin about a mile northwest of what is now the center of New Marlborough village. The Native Americans, who used this land as a hunting ground, wouldn't let him use his gun, but gave him a bow and some arrows. It was from this tenuous beginning that New Marlborough grew up. It thrived because it was in the right place at the right time, becoming the half-way stop on a stagecoach route between Hartford and Albany.

Travel in these parts in the 18th century, and well into the early 19th century, was hazardous and arduous. Even on horseback, one could expect to make but a few miles per day and travelers customarily planned stops for refreshment at country inns. Thus, the Inn on the Green, built in 1760, became, at one and the same time, an inn, a tavern (for eating and drinking), a store, and, in time, a post office. The United States Postal Service came into being in 1806, providing for a once-a-week horseback service, which was much improved in 1834 with the inauguration of the Red Bird Line. Thereafter, the Inn received service from Hartford one day and from Albany on the return trip the next.

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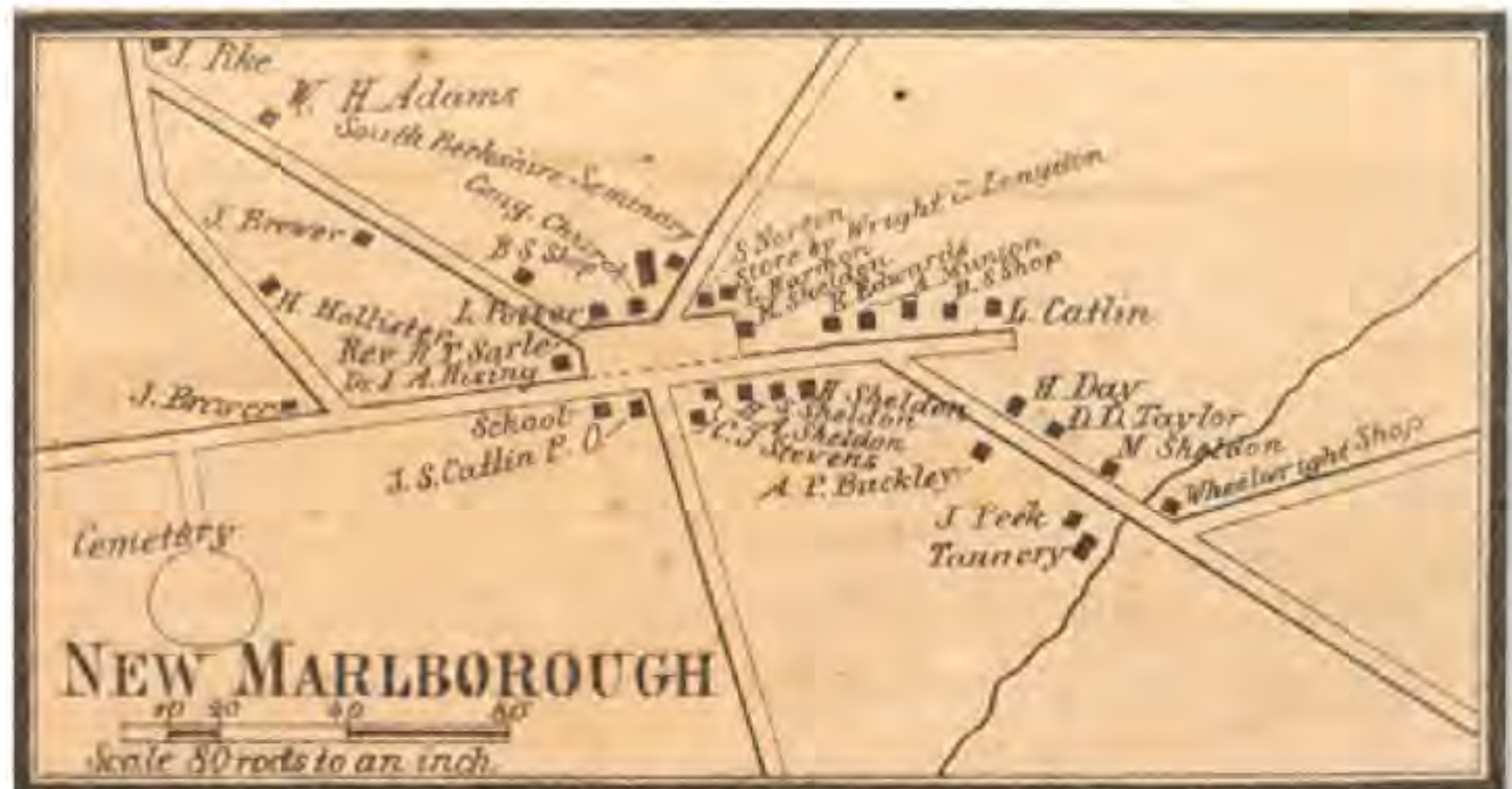


Photo by Larry Burke

The New Marlborough Meeting House, designed by Henry A. Sykes, construction completed in 1839.

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An inset map of New Marlborough village from the 1858 map of Berkshire County.

New Marlborough, continued

By the late 1800s, the magnificent scenery of our New Marlborough hills attracted families of wealth, many of whom established substantial homes and maintained handsome farms along what we now know as Route 57. Hildreth Kennedy Bloodgood's Mepal Farm, just a short distance from the village center, took its name from The Star of Mepal (pronounced "maple"), which was the name of the first of some 200 Hackney horses and ponies Mr. Bloodgood brought over from England. When that house burned, he built another, of stone, which he declared would never burn: Bloodgood Manor. In the ensuing years, the manor house became a resort, then a private school called The Marlboro Academy, and, finally, the upper campus of the Kolburne School; it was recently acquired by Leslie and Brad Wagstaff, proprietors of the Old Inn on the Green and Gedney Farm*.

Howard Willets' Gedney Farm took its name from a Tory sea-captain who, in the colonial era, owned farmlands that stretched from Mamaroneck to White Plains, a remnant of which the Willets family bought in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Howard Willets' son, J. Macy Willets, whose wife was Gladys Bloodgood, shared the family passion for Hackneys. Their horses were famous in show rings. The younger Willets also imported a large herd of Jersey cows, and it has been said that the only cattle drive ever seen in New England took place when the herd was driven from Canaan, Connecticut, the nearest rail link, to the Willets' Cassilis Farm (presently owned by the family of Jane Carpenter), using local cowboys to keep the herd moving. It must have been quite a sight!

The Meeting House next to the Inn is one of the older structures in the village. Built originally around 1744, it was replaced in 1793 and then again by the present meeting house, which was completed in 1839. While originally intended for religious services, it proved hard for parishioners in the other villages to get to, and so, over time, houses of worship were established in Hartsville, Mill River, and Southfield, thus diminishing the congregation. In recent times, this striking Greek-revival style building has been invested with a new energy and vitality by the New Marlborough Village Association. It now serves as a focal point for art exhibits, concerts, weddings, and meetings of all kinds.

On the town green in front of the Inn is an anvil-topped monument that commemorates the life and times of New Marlborough's "Learned Blacksmith," Elihu

**Updating this article to the current day, the Wagstaffs' Mepal Manor and Spa existed from 2000 to the fall of 2013, when it became a therapeutic center for treatment of substance abuse, the Center for Motivation and Change, under the leadership of Carrie Wilkens and Will Regan. Furthermore, ownership of the Inn on the Green passed from the Wagstaffs to Peter and Meredith Platt in January of 2005.*

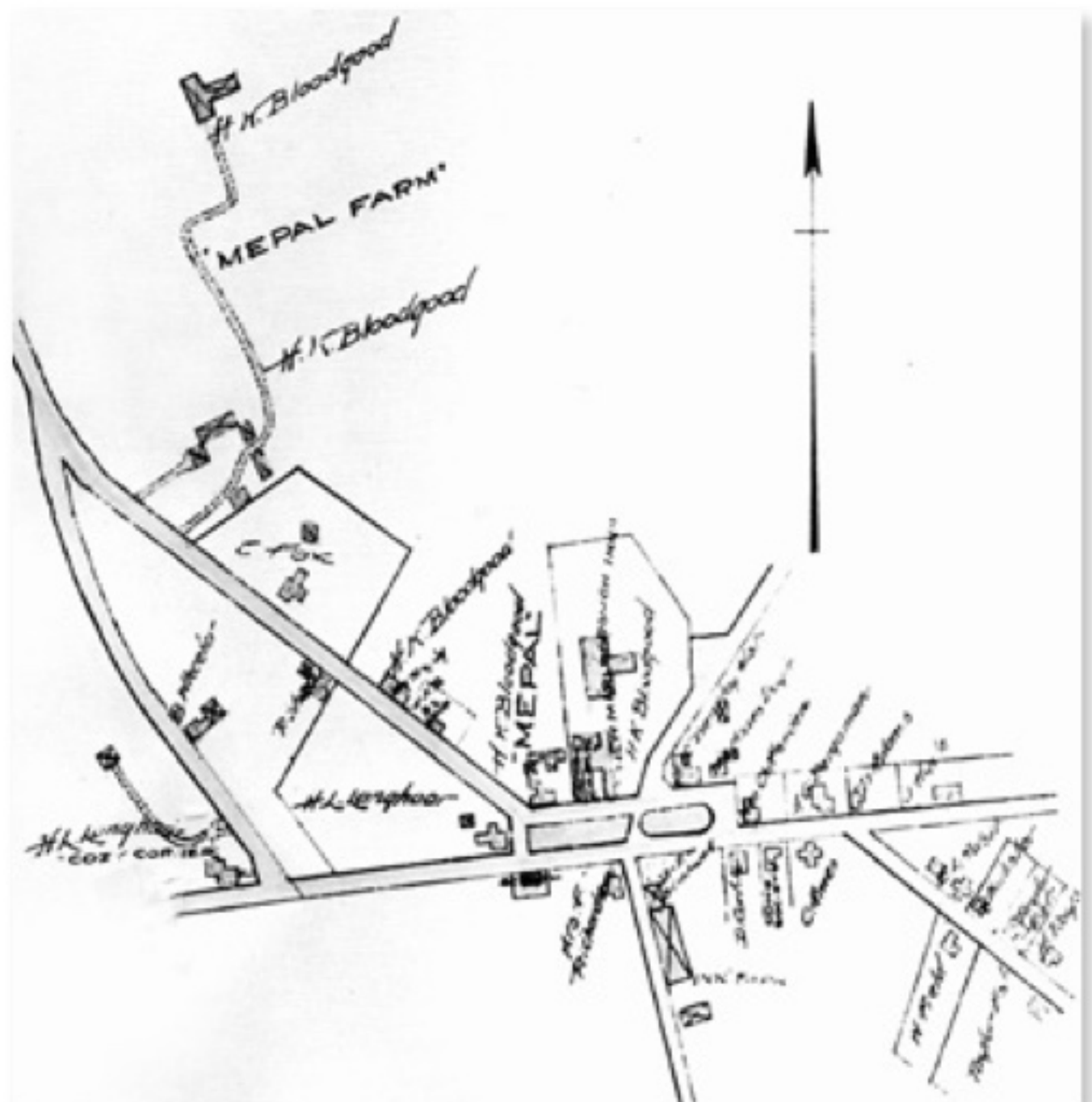


THE NEW MARLBORO COACH
Will leave the New Marlboro Inn every week-day at 8.30 A. M., due at Great Barrington 9.30. Leaves Hotel Miller, Great Barrington, at 1 P. M., for New Marlboro Inn, going through Hartsville.

An advertisement for the Red Bird stagecoach, dating from the 1840s.



The Inn on the Green in the 1800s, when it still had a general merchandise store, with one T. H. Clark, proprietor.



A map from the 1904 Atlas of Berkshire County, revealing a vast change of ownership from 1858, with the Mepal Farm/Bloodgood holdings dominating the village.



Panorama Taken by H.K.B. from the top of the New Marlboro Inn. In the foreground, the new Marlboro Inn. In the background, the original Mepal Man and barn complex + Meeting House + Barn + Dry Hill

A panoramic shot “taken by H.K.B. (Hildreth Kennedy Bloodgood) from the top of the New Marlboro Inn,” probably from sometime in the first decade of the 20th century. The New Marlboro Inn, not to be confused with the Inn on the Green, stood behind the Meeting House, and was previously the South Berkshire Institute. In the photograph, the original Mepal Manor and barn complex is in the left half of the frame, and Dry Hill is the high ground on the right.

Burritt (1810-1879). After Burritt apprenticed himself to Harvey Holmes of New Marlborough as a blacksmith, he went on to help organize international peace congresses that proved to be forerunners of the League of Nations and the International Court at The Hague.

After the hustle and bustle of the 1800s, the village slipped into a blissfully quiet period and remained that way until recent times, when a new kind of hustle and bustle, centered around the Meeting House, the Old Inn on the Green, and Gedney Farm, has brought new life to the village. But, past or present, as Gladys Bloodgood Willets wrote in 1947, “It is still the prettiest village in New England.” □



The rebuilt Bloodgood Manor, then the centerpiece of Mepal Farm, with H.K. Bloodgood pictured on the lawn.



A formal photographic portrait of Hildreth Kennedy Bloodgood. The United States census of 1900 gives us the following information: “Hildreth K. Bloodgood, age 39, born in 1861 in AL) is living in New Marlborough Town, Berkshire, Massachusetts, with his wife, Julia C Bloodgood (age 33, born Jun 1867 in District Of Columbia), and their children, Gladys A Bloodgood (Daughter, age 10, born Jun 1890 in NY) and Vera G Bloodgood (Daughter, age 9, born Jun 1891 in NY). Hildreth and Julia have been married for twelve years and own their home/farm free of mortgage and located in Marlborough, Berkshire County, MA. Julia has birthed two children and two are living. Hildreth and Julia can read and write and neither report an occupation (sic). Gladys and Vera have not attended school during the year.”



Gedney Farm, back when it was a working dairy and horse stable owned by the Willets family.



One of the famed Mepal Farm Hackney horses.

Town Business Is Your Business

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

December 3: After calling the meeting to order, Board of Selectmen Chairman Michele Shalaby suggested moving approval of minutes of past meetings to the end of the night's agenda, in deference to the large number of people in attendance to discuss other items.

Peter Tiso, Chairman of the Planning Board, was present to discuss the likely need for a new set of cannabis bylaws, if marijuana businesses are to be permitted in New Marlborough. At Mr. Tiso's request, Daniel Doern, head of the Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee, summarized the results of the survey the committee carried out to elicit residents' feelings on the issue. (Results of the survey can be found on the Town's website, newmarlboroughma.gov.)

Following Mr. Doern's presentation, there was an extended discussion as to which body, the Planning Board or the Board of Selectmen, should be responsible for drafting the bylaws that will determine what regulations will be instituted, assuming voters do not pass a full prohibition of marijuana commerce. Mr. Tiso said that the Planning Board traditionally deals with land-use issues, and not with establishing the rules under which businesses are regulated. The determination of what types of businesses should be permitted or prohibited, should more properly be the purview of the Board of Selectmen, he suggested.

Selectman Nat Yohalem stated that an answer to jurisdiction would not be determined at this meeting, and said he would contact town counsel for guidance on the issue.

Ms. Shalaby thought that, as the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) has been taking the lead role in sorting out these issues, cannabis-related issues would seem to be a Planning Board responsibility. Mr.



Tiso said the BRPC has focused more on what types of licenses are being approved or banned. Drafting bylaws is different than determining what is to be prohibited. Town Administrator Mari Enoch then noted that the Planning Board's role is usually related to locations where business can be sited, rather than determining the regulations governing how the business should operate.

Ms. Shalaby said that, as the Cannabis Survey found that at least sixty percent of those who responded to the survey would allow some type of marijuana enterprise, it is apparent that new bylaws must be drafted. If it is determined that drafting bylaws will be a responsibility of the Board of Selectmen, volunteers will be needed to help the Board to carry out the effort.

Mr. Tiso followed with the statement that, if cannabis manufacturing is permitted, any land use guidelines advanced should be relevant for every type of manufacturing enterprise that may wish to operate in New Marlborough.

Turning to the Board's negotiations with Charter Communications, Mr. Yohalem reported that the company still had not fully completed the Form 100, which details exactly what services Charter is going to bring to New Marlborough. The Charter representative said she expected the form to be completed shortly. Once the Town is satisfied with what Charter has proposed, a public hearing must be scheduled. The problem with setting a hearing where Charter can explain what it is offering and answer questions is that there are no guarantees as to when the Form 100 will be completed. Mr. Yohalem recommended putting off a decision on timing until the Board's December 10 meeting.

Moving on to Board of Selectmen reports, Tara White reported on her most recent meeting with the other four towns that are seeking funds for improve-

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ments to Route 57. While some of the other towns have made progress in repairing culverts and drainage along their respective sections of Route 57, New Marlborough and Sandisfield are “down to dirt.” **A bright spot, she reported, is that representatives from BSC, a Boston-based engineering and consulting firm, have offered to take all the information we can provide on what we need, to prepare a document for Representative Smitty Pignatelli to use to lobby Governor Baker on our behalf for design and engineering money.**

In his report, Mr. Yohalem announced that a school roundtable would be held on December 5 at New Marlborough Central, with representatives from all five towns. The agenda includes development of a District-wide strategic three-year plan, a discussion of the FY20 budget, and school safety issues. Ms. Enoch asked that enrollment figures for all five towns be requested.

A discussion on the reopening of the Egremont school followed. The Board was not in favor of the school reopening on January 2, as Egremont contends it should. Concern was expressed for the health of the children who would be present at the school while remediation of lead paint problems was ongoing. Issues of insurance and indemnification were discussed, as was identifying the proper agency to declare the school safe. **At Mr. Yohalem’s suggestion, Ms. Shalaby agreed to write a letter to appropriate state education officials urging that the school not be reopened on January 2.** Copies will be sent to the SBRSD superintendent, the School Committee, and local officials.

Anne Sommers

December 10: After approving the minutes for the November 19 and December 3 meetings, the Board, with all three members present, discussed – but did not approve – any of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission (ABCC) licenses up for renewal after it

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was determined that not all the inspection requirements have been met. The licenses are for Gedney Farm, The Old Inn on the Green, Cantina 229, and the Southfield Store. Also included is a package store license for the Mill River General Store, where an inspection isn’t required. Instead, the Board decided to continue the ABCC hearing until all the inspections have been completed and signed off on, and then vote on the renewals.

Earlier this month, the Board was invited by Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to participate in what was billed as a “listening session” for rural Berkshire County towns, of which there are some thirty. The purpose of the session, which was also open to the general public, was to provide input to the state’s Rural Policy

Advisory Commission (RPAC), which is developing a comprehensive policy plan for the rural areas of the state. According to a handout, the RPAC was created in 2016 to advise the governor and the legislature on issues critical to the welfare and vitality of the state’s 170 rural municipalities, home to some thirteen percent of the commonwealth’s population.

Unfortunately, none of the selectmen were able to attend due to a School Committee meeting the same night. So instead, they took time tonight to respond to an online survey from the Commission in which they were asked to prioritize up to six issues of particular concern to the Town. However, as it turned out, six issues proved to be too limiting. So instead, the selectmen included ten issues, as follows:

- Broadband
- Cell coverage
- Funding for roads & bridges
- Limited tax base
- Need for all types of housing – affordable/workforce, including seasonal, and senior housing



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- EMS shortages
- Declining (school) enrollment
- Overall education costs and funding formula
- Regional school transportation
- Access to vocational training

The Board then launched into an extended discussion of the next steps needed for creating marijuana bylaws and the process by which the Town can opt out of any or all of the marijuana businesses sanctioned under the new law. To get the discussion under way, Town Administrator Enoch summarized Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard's interpretation of the opt-out process. As she noted, because the Town voted "Yes" in the general election two years ago in support of legalizing marijuana, it must now follow a two-step process to opt out. First is a majority ballot vote in favor of opting out, and that in turn would be followed by a town meeting vote requiring a two-thirds majority. However, as Mr. Pollard noted, there are different interpretations of the law regarding the order in which the two votes must be taken, with some municipal attorneys saying the town meeting vote can come first.

As to the number of bylaws required and who would propose and create them, the Board agreed that a good first step would a joint session with the full Planning Board, and pointed to January 9 as a possible meeting date.

However, former Selectman Barbara Marchione, who was in the audience, urged the Board to try and make it sooner, given that the bylaw approval process tends to be a lengthy one and the Town is facing a June 30 deadline when the marijuana moratorium expires. As she pointed out, "January 9 is a whole month away." So, the Board agreed it would try to schedule something sooner, and in the interim, it would seek clarification from the Attorney General's office on the order in which the opt

out votes must be taken.

Moving on, the Board voted to accept a bid by Adams Community Bank for a fixed-principle, ten-year \$325,000 loan with a 4 percent interest rate for the new highway grader. According to Ms. Enoch, it was the only bid received. At Ms. Shalaby's direction, the Board confirmed an earlier vote it took that the maximum useful life of the grader is greater than ten years, and therefore can be financed using the proceeds of a ten-year loan.

Under broadband updates, Ms. Enoch said there are still a number of exhibits and attachments missing from Charter's Form 100, as well as the \$100 application fee, but she said Charter's Melinda Kinney, in a phone call earlier today, assured her that all the missing items would be in the Town's hands by Friday. Ms. Enoch said she informed Ms. Kinney that the town would not be setting a date for the public hearing "until everything's been completed and we're happy with what it says," the latter a reference to some questions the Town has raised about items in the Form 100 that do not correspond to what was originally negotiated in the cable franchise agreement.

On a more promising note, Ms. Enoch said Charter has filed make-ready applications with utility pole owners National Grid and Verizon, and that the utilities' contract workers are already out and about on our roads doing make-ready survey work.

Under Selectmen updates, Mr. Yohalem reported on the most recent Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee and Regional Round Table meetings, held Wednesday and Thursday of last week. Of the roundtable meeting, he said Art Batacchi, who at that point, to use Mr. Yohalem's words, "was the illegal chair of the School Committee" (as a result of being elected chairman in an illegal secret ballot vote), asked that each of the District

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towns write a letter to the School Committee, directing it not to open the South Egremont School until both the entire inside and outside of the building is remediated and that the remediation is certified by an independent entity.

After some discussion, Ms. Shalaby, with the Board's concurrence, agreed to write the letter, which is the second time in two weeks that the Board has taken an action with regard to the lead paint controversy at the Egremont school that was not posted on the Board of Selectmen meeting agenda, which could be construed as a violation of the state's Open Meeting law. According to the law, the Board must post a meeting agenda at least forty-eight hours prior to the meeting and include on it a list of the topics that will be discussed at the meeting.

December 12: The Board convened a special mid-week morning session for the purpose of holding a property tax classification hearing with Board of Assessors' Marsha Pshenishny. Chairman Shalaby and Selectman White were present for the meeting, with Mr. Yohalem conferencing in by phone. As in the past, Ms. Pshenishny recommended a single tax classification for both residential and commercial properties and proposed a tax rate of \$10.34 per \$1,000 of valuation. That's a decrease of \$.11 from last year's rate, and represents about a \$33.00 savings in annual property tax on a typical \$300,000 home.

Ms. Pshenishny cited a \$6 million increase in the total assessed value of all the property in town as contributing to the lower rate. The increase in value included new growth from building permits, as well as additional value captured through the ten-year cyclical property re-inspection program.

The Board by unanimous vote approved the single classification, but the new tax rate still has to be approved

by the state Department of Revenue.

After adjourning the classification hearing, the Board met with Owen Wright, the Town's conditional Local Building Inspector, along with Alternate Building Inspector Tom Carmody, and State Building Inspector Gordon Bailey. The meeting, which had been requested by Mr. Carmody, was ostensibly to discuss the transition in the Building Department as a result of Mr. Carmody's

impending retirement on December 31. However, it was a little hard to determine at times where Messrs. Carmody and Bailey were going during their hour-long discussion of building code regulations and the enforcement thereof. In fact, at several points, Ms. Shalaby had to interrupt to urge them to come to the point.

It finally did emerge that the point of the meeting was to inform the Board that it needed to appoint an a temporary building inspector to oversee Mr. Wright's work once Mr. Carmody is gone, since, as a conditional inspector, he cannot sign off on the all-important Certificate of Occupancy (CO), once work has been completed on a house or commercial structure, until he's been certified by the state.

Mr. Wright, who hadn't said much during the previous hour's discussion, jumped in at that point to say he's hoping to get his certification in early January. He said he's already passed the first of the three required exams, is taking the second one on this very day, and will be applying to take the third and final one as soon as he knows he's passed that second one. And, as Mr. Bailey noted, once he's gained his local inspector certificate, "he can then be appointed provisional building commissioner with all the necessary rights and privileges, including issuing COs."

Still, as Town Administrator Enoch noted, "We have a gap starting January 2 when we won't have anyone who can sign a CO." So the Board agreed to the following: To advertise for a permanent Alternate Building Inspector, someone who would step in when the Building Inspector is away or otherwise not available, and to appoint, if necessary, a temporary Building Inspector until Mr. Wright receives his state certification. And with that the meeting was adjourned.

Peter Schuyten

December 17: The meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:07 p.m., with Selectman Nat Yohalem attending via telephone. After review and approval of minutes of the December 10 and December 12 meetings, the Board moved on to a continuation of the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission (ABCC) hearing that was begun at the Board's December 10 meeting.

Ms. Enoch said Charter has filed make-ready applications with utility pole owners National Grid and Verizon, and that the utilities' contract workers are already out and about on our roads doing make-ready survey work.

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All necessary inspections had been completed for the renewal applications and applications were cleared for approval, with the exception of Cantina 229, whose vents still require cleaning. Administrative Secretary Sharon Fleck, who has overseen the process, said the vents were scheduled to be inspected on December 20. **The Board, through separate motions, approved renewal licenses for the following establishments: The Old Inn on the Green, Gedney Farm, the Southfield Store, the Mill River General Store, and Cantina 229 (subject to inspection).**

At this point, the Board responded to the state-required seasonal estimated population form. An estimate of 1,500 as an increase in the town's population in July 2019 was agreed upon as a reasonable number.

Turning to the upcoming repair and replacement of the Umpachene Falls Bridge, which will be carried out by the state, the Board voted to "donate" a temporary easement of Town-owned land that abuts the bridge. The easement will be for five years, although the work is expected to be completed far before that. Bids for the work go out in February.

As current Town Building Inspector Tom Carmody is retiring at the end of the year, the Board renewed the appointment of Owen Wright as conditional inspector. Mr. Wright, who is scheduled to take his final qualifying exam on December 18 for local inspector certification, may be able to earn his certification – which will permit him to sign off on Certificates of Occupancy (CO) – by early January. Once certified, he can be appointed as the Town's Provisional Building Commissioner. As previously reported, the Town plans to advertise for an Alternate Inspector to serve to fill in when Mr. Wright is unavailable.

The Board of Selectmen is seeking a joint meeting with at least a quorum of the Planning Board on January 9, or sooner, to discuss cannabis-related issues. Town Administrator Mari Enoch, who is working with Planning Board Chair Peter Tiso to set up the meeting, said he asked, through correspondence, that the Board officially disband the Ad Hoc Cannabis Committee, as its charge has been successfully completed. The Board voted to disband the Committee effective immediately.

Ms. Shalaby assured Hartsville residents Doug Newman and Lucinda Shmulsky that the Board's anticipated meeting with the Planning Board – as well as ongoing conversations with Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard – should position the Town well in addressing cannabis-related business issues and concerns by the June 30 moratorium deadline.

The complete Charter Form 100 was received by the Board just prior to the meeting. The form is intended

to set out all that Charter intends to offer, in terms of cable TV. Board members and Ms. Enoch did not have time to review the document before the meeting. If, and a very conditional if, the contents of the form are found acceptable, then a public meeting with Charter will be scheduled for the evening of Friday, January 11, with a backup date of noon the next day, January 12. If the form is approved and those dates hold, then the Town

will begin advertising the meeting in *The Berkshire Eagle* fourteen days ahead of time, as required. If the form is insufficient, the meeting will be postponed. "Either way," Mr. Yohalem said, "We won't just sit on it."

Under Selectmen's updates, Mr. Yohalem raised the issue of whether Town Hall would be closed on Monday, December 24. Ms. Enoch

replied that many of the staff would be taking vacation time, resulting in reduced services and closing at noon on that day.

In her report, Ms. Shalaby said there had been correspondence among relevant parties concerning the reopening of the Egremont School and Egremont's assessment payment. At this time, the District's School Committee and relevant Boards of Selectmen have expressed in writing their concerns about the safety of the school, and their belief that it should not be reopened until a qualified expert determines the facility to be safe.

Ms. Shalaby also proposed that a future meeting agenda contain an item on the location of upcoming Town meetings. Under ADA guidelines, the chosen location, possibly the Mount Everett auditorium, must be more accessible than Town Hall is at present.

During public comments, Mr. Newman reported that, although he had alerted the Highway Department last spring that the low salt area sign near his home had come down, no action had been taken to replace the sign. His property along Route 57, as well as that of his neighbors, contain wetlands and excessive salt affects their water quality. Ms. Shalaby assured him his

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VIEW FROM THE BOARD

By Michele Shalaby

This month's article might be better named "View from a Board Member." This coming May will conclude my current term and I've decided, for personal reasons, that I will not run for re-election. The current Board has been a steady unit for nearly six years, but this new year is anticipated to present far fewer herculean tasks than last, and is thus an opportunity to transition to a new member.

If you have thought about running for office, I encourage you to carry through with that thought. Encourage others who have the mind and disposition to be a community leader. Being a selectman is a service of privilege, a position which provides the benefit of knowing our town more intimately – the laws, traditions, finances, procedures, and, best of all, the people. Although this is a humble position, especially in a small town like New Marlborough, it involves guiding the most noble and essential institutions of our government. Opinions may differ, but the others with whom we work are people who share, in common, the values of local democracy and community.

There's plenty of good work to be continued and new initiatives to shape our future. I hope our future Board members will be informed, thoughtful, and mindful of all needs and perspectives. I hope they will realize that the most important work is not necessarily those issues that grab attention, but the day-to-day work that is infrequently discussed by anyone outside Town Hall.

Lastly, I hope the expectations placed by our citizens upon the selectmen will be kept within reason. While it may seem beneficial to have candidates who have special qualifications or who are in a position to devote long hours to the job, this can raise the bar and deter good people from running in the future. These elected posts should remain citizens' positions, ones that can be held by those with full-time jobs and families.

For the benefit of the Town, I hope everyone will participate in seeking and encouraging candidates. Consider it yourself. Multiple candidates... a debate... I hear that used to happen in New Marlborough! I am happy to speak with anyone interested. □

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

December 4: All five Commission members – John Schreiber, Rona Easton, Dave Herrick, David Hosford, and Freddie Friedman – gathered for the month's meeting. Mark Stinson, circuit rider from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Agency, was also on hand to assist the Commission.

First up, Peter Hagen, representative from the Lake Buel District, addressed the commission to request a three-year extension to two existing Notices of Intent (NOI) – one for maintenance of the dam at Lake Buel and the other for on-going breaching of beaver dams in the outlet of Lake Buel. The Commission voted to extend both permits for the requested three-year term.

Next Tom Ingersoll of Ingersoll Land Care addressed the Commission for a Request for Determination (RDA) for the new owners at 167/169 Norfolk Road. The applicant's name as given was Riverhouse LLC. The permit described work in a resource area, in order to build a private serpentine path for the landowners to travel through their backyard down to the Umpachene River. The permit also covered management of invasive species. Mr. Ingersoll reviewed several options for construction to bridge the wet areas, including helical piers and bog-bridging. He also described his preference to restore any disturbed areas and lawn back to native wet meadow species. The Commission voted to give the RDA a negative determination (meaning no

further permitting is required), subject to the following conditions: the boardwalk would be 42 inches wide with a one-half to three-quarter inch gap between the boards; the bottom of the boardwalk deck would be two feet off grade; 2,500 square feet between the existing lawn area and the disturbed area will be restored to native vegetation. In addition, the existing fire pit will be renovated. Lastly the Commission requested that a site visit be permitted at any time during the work.

Shannon Boomsma issued an email request to continue the NOI hearing for Ian Devine of 61 Steepletop Road involving work to dredge Harnett Pond. The Commission voted to approve the continuation.

Finally, Deanna Mummert was on hand to answer any questions the Commission might have regarding the enforcement order for work at her residence at 105 Hartsville Mill River Road. The Commission agreed that in the spring they would do a site visit to assure that the new plantings and seeded area are established. The Commission then expressed its appreciation for Ms. Mummert's diligence and patience for persisting and complying with the regulations. □

Martha Bryan

A TALE OF TWO MEETINGS

Exit the Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee; Enter the Planning Board

In what may have been the last formal meeting of the Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee, nine stalwart members, plus two reporters, withstood the somewhat arctic temperatures of the Great Room of Town Hall on the evening of December 10. This meeting was mostly intended to wrap up any loose ends that remained of the committee's charge to research and develop useful information on adult-use cannabis as a legal form of commerce, as well as to provide and collate a survey of New Marlborough citizens on their attitudes toward the business of raising and selling marijuana.

One of those loose ends – what to do with the twenty-two unopened survey responses that arrived after the November 9th deadline – somehow turned into a twenty-five-minute search for the fairest answer. A consensus grew over time that the answers contained in this rather small batch would not appreciably alter the findings from the 522 responses that did arrive in time. Finally, it was agreed that the twenty-two letters would be opened, contents recorded, and findings placed as an addendum to the survey report that had already been made public. The time taken to reach consensus on this seemingly small detail is, in itself, an example of the great lengths taken by the Committee during its brief existence to bend over backwards in the interest of fairness and transparency. (The survey is viewable at the New Marlborough town website, newmarlboroughma.gov, and the Committee will also be making full copies of the report available at the New Marlborough Library, as well as the Mill River General Store and the Southfield Store.)

The remainder of the meeting, guided by its chairman, Daniel Doern, was a free-ranging discussion on what might be in store as the Committee's findings are passed on to the Planning Board. There was some thought that the Planning Board might bring back its earlier attempt to establish actual village districts as a basis for a cannabis by-law, and also of the possibility that micro-businesses and craft co-ops be allowed, with definite limits, in the areas of town more suited to agriculture. There was mention of the possibility that the Planning Board might look at the size and scale of existing, non-cannabis-related businesses in New Marlborough, to get a ball-park gauge of what is appropriate to maintain the look and feel of the town. This subject led to the generally-agreed-upon notion that, if bylaws that are evolved include the creation of a commercial zone, that zone be available to a spectrum of industrial endeavors, not just cannabis-related.

As the meeting grew to a close, Dan Doern summed up the Committee's efforts by saying, "We did our job.

The information is now out there, and people will make use of it." A brief discussion ensued as to whether to keep the Committee intact or to disband. Several members said that they would prefer at this point to be able to express their personal opinions on the subject, rather than be held by the need, as commissioners, to appear neutral. With that a motion to disband was made, and was adopted unanimously.

Two nights later, December 12, in the much warmer confines of the ground floor of Town Hall, and after dispatching routine business, the full complement of Planning Board members – Chairman Peter Tiso, Eric Shaefer, Lon Combs, James Mullen, and Mark Carson – began wrestling with the issues that relate to the regulation of cannabis in New Marlborough. Also in the room were Daniel Doern and Rebecca Schreiber of the Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee (CAHC). The first action of the Board was to accept Mr. Doern's news that the commission had voted to disband. Mr. Tiso said he would send a request on to the Board of Selectmen for their formal acceptance of the dissolution of the Committee.

Peter Tiso then reported on his visit with the selectmen, which included an unresolved discussion as to which



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board would have the authority to pursue an “opt-out” vote. Mr. Tiso’s stance is that the Planning Board “does land use, and not behavior,” and therefore this would be a matter for the Board of Selectmen. James Mullen agreed, saying, “This sounds like an executive decision.” Mr. Tiso also informed his fellow members of the efforts underway to find a workable date for a joint meeting (no pun intended) of the two boards.

Mark Carson brought up the subject of an early January deadline for a District Local Technical Assistance grant (DLTA), which would potentially give the Town a number of hours of professional support and expertise in drafting a cannabis bylaw. All agreed this was an important deadline to meet. Mr. Mullen pointed out that, even if the Town failed to get the grant, the paperwork itself would serve the Town well as evidencing the sincerity of New Marlborough’s effort to evolve a set of bylaws, in case the Town would want to petition the attorney general’s office for a longer extension on the moratorium. The moratorium is presently due to expire on June 30, and there is concern among the board members that the cannabis bylaw will not be ready to be voted upon by then.

Peter Tiso then spoke of his encouragement in seeing the ways in which the results of the Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee’s survey line up with the overall aims of the Planning Board’s 2009 Comprehensive Plan (available at www.newmarlboroughma.gov/Pages/NewMarlboroughMA_Bcomm/Planning). He mentioned the similar expressions in both documents of the desire to preserve open space and “rural character,” and also the recognition of the need for economic development and vitality. The CAHC survey showed a clear preference by the respondents for small scale development. In terms of the Comprehensive Plan’s action plan, the first step was to be the delineation of village overlay zones, and this was carried out, but was narrowly defeated at Annual Town Meeting in 2016. Nevertheless, much of the work has been done on defining village areas, and this, as all members of the board agreed, may figure importantly in

the evolution of the cannabis bylaw.

As the discussion went on, ideas were put forward: James Mullen spoke of the need to inventory existing businesses in New Marlborough, to arrive at a sense of the scale that should then be applied to future cannabis enterprises, so as to keep within the appropriate size for the town’s historical development pattern. Eric Shaefer, who was also a member of CAHC, spoke of the importance of keeping in mind the cannabis businesses, other than cultivation, which occupy a very small footprint, and are highly regulated. Lon Combs recommended sketching out which of the eight legal uses of cannabis would belong in “village or not village” categories. James Mullen suggested that the Board should, as soon as possible, do “scenario planning,” which would allow members to present different possible situations in various parts of town, with particular performance standards for each. Mr. Shaefer agreed to prepare three scenarios to be poked and prodded at the next meeting.

The members of the Planning Board, as well as Mr. Doern and Ms. Schreiber, seemed to be in full agreement by the end of the meeting that the approach over the coming several months should be to consider the re-introduction of the village zone, or overlay, initiative as an integral part of the overall effort to arrive at a cannabis bylaw. In Peter Tiso’s words, “The two are the same initiative, really.” In terms of what is realistically doable in the time remaining on the moratorium, Lon Combs suggested that the Planning Board might aim to present the village zoning at the Annual Town Meeting as Step One, with the cannabis bylaw being actively workshopped through April and May, and with a potential Special Town Meeting before June 30 to act on the bylaw itself as Step Two.

The meeting wrapped up at 9:30 p.m. The next regular meeting of the board will be on January 9. □

Larry Burke



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THE END OF AN ERA

Over 500 Irish, mostly from Dublin, immigrated to Mill River in the mid-1800s to work in the paper mills. They comprised half of New Marlborough's population. In 1864, Father Peter Menietti, an Italian priest who'd made a vow when ill that he would "cross the seas to a new country and build a church in honor of the Blessed Virgin," led the effort to fund and build a Catholic church in Mill River. Over 100 families donated \$5,500, and townspeople built the Immaculate Conception Church on a hillside north of the Mill River General Store, which opened its doors on August 5, 1866.



An archival photograph of the Immaculate Conception Church in Mill River.

With modern modes of transportation bypassing Mill River, eventually the paper mills closed and the population of New Marlborough decreased from nearly 2,100 residents in 1875 to less than 1,100 a little more than 100

years after the church was built.

Immaculate Conception Church of New Marlborough closed its doors this past October, after 152 years serving the Catholic community of New Marlborough. Yvonne Stevens, a parishioner since 1944, said the Church is currently available for special occasions, such as a baptism or a wedding, by request, but that the building will probably eventually be sold.

Claudette Callahan, a parishioner for fifty years, noted there is a grieving process now, following the loss of the community who attended the church together for so many years.

The remaining members now attend different churches throughout the area, their church on the hill no longer a regular gathering place to worship. □

Sandra Fusco-Walker

BROADBAND UPDATE

Public Hearing to be Held (at Last)

Residents interested in the future of broadband in New Marlborough will finally have a chance to ask questions directly of the Board of Selectmen and representatives of Charter Communications at a public hearing to be held at Town Hall on Friday, January 11, at 7 p.m. In the event of inclement weather, the hearing will be held the following day, Saturday, January 12, at noon, also at Town Hall.

Readers may recall that the Board of Selectmen was ready to execute some of the constituent documents necessary to bring high speed internet to Town when it became apparent that a public hearing with Charter needed to be held, with notice of said hearing being posted two weeks in advance. The public hearing could not be held until Charter delivered to the Board a complete "Form 100," which outlines in detail the television services it will provide to the Town's residents and the costs for such services, including installation. After a

few delays, the Form 100 has now been delivered and the notice of the public hearing provided in late December.

In a sign that Charter appears to believe that the public hearing will have a favorable outcome and that contracts will soon be executed, Board of Selectmen Chairman Michele Shalaby noted that Charter has submitted pole license applications to National Grid and Verizon Board of Selectmen (a condition to Charter being able to string its fiber cables on the poles), and that Charter trucks and personnel working for a subcontracted company have been spotted in many parts of town, conducting a pole survey.

The public hearing represents the last opportunity for residents to ask questions about the imminent transaction with Charter and promises to be well attended.

Stay tuned. □

Barry R. Shapiro

Thank You to Our Contributors

Holly Morse & Michael Lipson; Kathleen George; Ken & Pat Rudolph; A. Glenn & Phyllis Toczko; Jean Travis Enid Michelman; Rose & Brian Dugan; John & Pia Bellinger; The Goodnow Fund – Edward B. Goodnow; Mrs. Jack Sussman; John & Kathy Potoski; Scott & Sandra Walker; Laura Chang & Arnold Chavkin; Jill Graham & Jim Kelly; William & Catherine Litchfield; Priscilla J. Beers; Larry & Nancy Bronstein; Pat & Tom Rajala; Ellen Sweet & Ari Korpivaara; Michael Buchanan & Gary Shelto; Marilyn & Harry Fracasso; Doug & Ginny Hyde; Hollis Anne Lundeen; Claudette Callahan; Laurence & Virginia Chipurnoi ... **and a Happy New Year to All!**

THE COST OF RECYCLING

By Joe Poindexter

Blame it on the Green Fence. Around the mid-1980s, China discovered it could more efficiently produce such raw materials as paper, plastic, and metal by digging them out of what others threw away than by mining or manufacturing them anew. Two decades later, China was importing around half of the world's garbage, using its abundance of cheap labor to sort, separate, and convert recyclables into such useful products as corrugated boxes, plastic toys, and copper wiring.

The bargain had a not-so-hidden cost, however: environmental degradation and health problems caused by contaminated refuse. In 1969, to cite one infamous example, Chinese factory workers were sickened by shipments from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan of more than 100 tons of radio-active metals. Additionally, the rising cost of Chinese labor gradually eroded the recycling price advantage.

In 2013, China began to push back. It instituted Operation Green Fence, which set stringent standards for the percentage of contamination it would accept in imported recyclables. Then on January 1, 2018, it brought forth Operation National Sword, resulting in an import ban of twenty-four recycled materials.


Which brings us to the New Marlborough Transfer Station. Not too long ago, cardboard boxes, discarded junk mail, empty cans, plastic bottles, and yesterday's newspaper could be sold for around \$20 a ton. Today, their value to the Town is zero. As a result, it now costs a bit more to convert a waste product to a new use than it does to simply push it into a landfill. The Town pays our contractor, Valley Rolloff of Lenoxdale, \$80 a ton for disposing of the paper, tins, and glass and plastic bottles that go into the single-stream bin, while other refuse — wet garbage, construction and demolition materials, tires — costs \$78 a ton for disposal. Because single-stream needs to be taken extra distances to sorting contractors,

its haulage fees are higher, too: \$270 a truckload versus \$170 for the other refuse.

"China's not buying anything," says Tom Garrity, president of Valley Rolloff. "At one time, single-stream was a great thing," he adds. "But where we are today, it's a disaster." Economically, yes, but environmentally, recycling still makes sense. "Recycling is here to stay," says Freddy Friedman, New Marlborough's Solid Waste Coordinator. "It's not going away." The cleaner, however, the better. Mr. Friedman recommends Transfer Station users follow Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection guidelines: wash and rinse empty food tins and plastic containers, rinse soda and beer bottles and replace the caps, cull out contaminated paper products such as pizza boxes.

And one other tip: While the Transfer Station still charges for the disposal of furniture, electronic equipment, appliances (for the most part at \$25 per item), and tires (\$5, or with rims, \$8), you can get rid of clean, dry mattresses (no futons) for free. In an agreement with Monterey, New Marlborough residents can dispose of mattresses at the Monterey Transfer Station, located at 40 Gould Road, just off Hatchery Road. (Its hours are Wednesdays and Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; and Sundays 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. An enabling federal grant expires January 31 and may not be renewed, so don't procrastinate.

Given the economics of recyclables, the Transfer Station will run in the red this year. Billing from Valley Rolloff for the first five months of FY19 totaled \$22,571, which projected to twelve months would, by itself, exceed income from stickers of about \$45,000 (approximately 360 stickers at \$125 apiece) by \$9,000. Nevertheless, Mr. Friedman will recommend that the sticker price remain at \$125. There will be a change, however. The color of the 2019-20 sticker — you heard it here first — will be yellow. □



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ALEX PLATT: A LIFE ON (AND OVER) THE EDGE

By Barry R. Shapiro

The professional BMX rider stared at the flat roof ahead of him and the twelve-foot drop beyond the edge. It was late morning, cool and sunny. Conditions for the difficult stunt were good, without many shadows to hinder his vision. The timing was also good since the rider and the film crew knew that the security guards at the location, a college campus, were not around. The “Feeble over the L to Drop Fall” trick had more than a little risk, but the rider had scoped out the jump the day before and felt ready. He tightened his helmet and took a deep breath.

He jammed his right foot down hard on the pedal, jumping the bike up onto the ledge surrounding the roof. The front tire of the bike was right on top of the ledge. The plastic peg on the rear tire’s axle rode on the ledge behind him (the “feeble” style of riding in BMX lingo).

“Perfect,” he thought. A few revolutions of the pedals and he flew out over the edge of the roof, the pavement a story and a half below him. It was then that he sensed his rear tire clip the edge of the ledge and felt himself flung off his bike.

“This,” he thought, “is not good.”

Alex Platt lives a very different life now, running the Southfield Store for his parents, Peter Platt and Meredith Kennard, who are also proprietors of the Old Inn on the Green. Greeting customers by name, exuding good cheer, and whipping up killer lattes seem to come naturally to him, and one might not envision Alex as the daredevil he was on the professional BMX circuit where he spent



*Alex Platt in the friendly confines of the Southfield Store,
photo by Barry R. Shapiro*

much of the earlier part of his life, traveling both domestically and overseas to promote this extreme sport.

It has now been almost exactly three years since he flew off the roof and crashed to the ground, breaking his left radius close to the elbow and shattering his right knee cap “like glass.” It’s taken three knee surgeries and lots of rehabilitation to get himself back into shape.

Born in Pittsfield and educated at Monument Mountain High school, Alex became fascinated by the

world of bicycle motocross (or BMX) riding when he was about ten years old. “I used to set up jumps and obstacles in the backyard of my parents’ home in Richmond,” said Alex over coffee at the Store. “I also went to an extreme sports camp in Pennsylvania when I was a teenager. I read everything I could in the magazines which were then popular and watched loads of DVD’s featuring the great riders and their tricks. It was an exciting time. We’d hear rumors that some famous rider was working on some amazing trick — like a double back flip — and then wait to see if he’d actually do it.”

Alex, an articulate and animated 32-year-old, spent lots of time on the road learning about the BMX world and making connections. “I’d just do and keep doing. I’d learn from others. Happily, I got noticed by people who were making videos, some of whom I met at skateboard parks like the one at the Railroad Street Youth facility in Great Barrington, which is one of my favorite places.”

BMX as a sport began in the 1970’s when children in Southern California started racing their bikes on dirt tracks, emulating the motocross stars who rode motorcycles. Soon manufacturers began producing bikes custom-made for the BMX world, which includes park, street, flatland, and freestyle disciplines. BMX tires are small diameter, ranging from 16 to 26 inches. Fittingly, it would seem, given the daring style of their riders, most BMX bikes don’t have brakes.

BMX freestyle is now a staple at the annual Summer X Games Extreme Sports competition. There’s even a Festival International des Sports Extrêmes (FISE) World Series held in various locations around the world. Alex was accomplished enough to have been invited to participate in the FISE World Series in Montpelier, France in 2008 and 2009.



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The significant risks of BMX riding are not a deterrent for Alex. "I like to take risks and push myself to do things better. Although I did get paid by bike and helmet sponsors, it wasn't much. I wasn't in this for the money. I did get to travel, experience new things, make new friends, and see new places. We'd visit bike shops, do some publicity, and ride with local kids. I really enjoyed it."



Those risks that Alex refers to rather nonchalantly are not imaginary, and Alex can rattle off the list of his injuries quickly and seemingly without much concern. "Separated shoulders a number of times, broken feet five times, broken all fingers at the same time, broken wrist three times, broken arm twice, shattered knee cap, torn ACL and meniscus, broken leg which required a metal plate and screws, knocked out over twenty-five times, one collapsed lung, a bruised spleen, a lacerated liver, lost front teeth. Oh, and one medically induced coma."



Alex Platt, executing some of his BMX tricks. photos by Devin Feil

Alex smiled after reciting this frightening litany. "You gotta like what you do. And, as crazy as it looks, it's all very calculated, with tons of practice. I really do know what I'm trying to do even if sometimes it doesn't quite work out. Some tricks, you can just go and do it. Others require more concentration, but if you think too much, you are opening a margin for error. The more you think, the more you can get nervous. It does require lots of concentration. My worst accidents came from being too relaxed. One thing I always do now is wear a helmet. I didn't always, but I can't afford any more knockouts!"

Alex is not the only athlete in the Platt family. His sister, Jessica, two years his junior, is a ski instructor and supervisor at Vail in Colorado, a high school soccer coach at Monument Mountain High School after ski season, and a counselor at a girls' summer camp in Northern Wisconsin. "My folks were pretty athletic back in their day," said Alex, "and supportive of my riding. They know it makes me happy."

Alex's mom, Meredith Kennard, confirmed Alex's view. "I know that riding makes him happy and I couldn't be the one to say no, but, of course, every parent worries. Peter and I have always encouraged him to follow his passion, but little did we know how it would manifest itself!" Meredith then added, perhaps a touch of relief creeping into her voice, "Alex is not involved in riding the way he was when he was younger, and now

is a real asset to our restaurant business. He's a natural at it."

Meredith's assessment of Alex's contributions to the success of the Southfield Store as a community gathering place is shared by many of its customers. On a recent morning, while picking up her coffee, Southfield resident Emily Newman noted that "Alex has totally transformed

the Store into a vibrant place. He's had such a huge impact here." And she's not alone; it's common these days to hear residents speak favorably about the excellent food and service they've been experiencing at the Store with Alex in charge.

Alex's most recent BMX video – which contains the horrendous fall he took off the roof of the college building – throbs with a heavy metal soundtrack and is entitled, "The Finer Things." It was produced in 2015 on behalf of Volume Bicycles, which was then one of Alex's sponsors. The link to the video is <https://youtu.be/0Ds4ziMjXO8>.

(A cautionary note: At the end of the video, one of the camera crew members, exultant at Alex's incredible performance, can be heard using language some might find offensive.)

Alex has a relaxed view of his future. "I'm looking forward to buying a house and continuing my work at the Southfield Store. My dream, however, is to get myself back into shape and continue my street riding, even going back to doing some high-risk stunts." He paused and smiled after he said this. He then continued. "I just want to do it 'healthily.'" □

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OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

Back on December 7, Southfield resident **David Lowman** wrote, “We’ve been feeding the birds for all the thirty-eight years we’ve been here, and only once in that time have we been bothered by a marauding bear. We put the feeders out on November 1 and bring them in by April 1. That particular bear was trying to get into the thirty-gallon trash can that we use to store sunflower seed, during a warm spell in late March about five years ago, and was frustrated by the strong bungee cords that kept him out.

“This year, so far, we’ve had two feeders knocked down, though not damaged. A relatively new feeder was knocked down last week and came apart. Turns out that it was impossible to reconstruct because of the way it was built. I replaced it on Tuesday with a squirrel-proof feeder, which was ripped down and smashed during the night. The bear made three visits last night. First, he ripped down the suet feeder – I could see the white suet descending, though I couldn’t see the black paw behind it. But this guy wasn’t standing on the deck. He was in the garden which is three feet below the level of the deck, and he reached the feeder that was maybe five feet above the deck. One big guy. Later he was doing battle with the trash can, again working from the garden, and to no avail, but we could see his eyes through the deck railing. Then, sometime during the night, he came back and destroyed the \$30 brand-new feeder.

“So, my question is why is this happening this late in the year, when the weather has been seasonably cold?”

Readers are welcome to write in with answers for David. The likelihood, though, is that his visitor is around because bears do not truly hibernate. In late fall and early winter they are still quite active, building up their fat reserves. While they do have long periods of deep sleep during the winter months, they will still likely come out of their dens occasionally, especially if there is a warm stretch.

Regulars on Maggie’s List have been comparing notes in mid-December on the activity around their bird feeders. **Tina Parton** is puzzled by the small bird count she has noted, both in types of species and numbers of individuals. Others are seeing the normal complement of winter birds, but are also observing a marked population growth of the **squirrels**, red and gray, and also the black version of the gray squirrel. In addition, they are noting not only the vast increase in numbers, but aggressive behaviors. Perhaps some of our readers may have some notions as to what is going on in squirrel world?

Don Beauchamp, in Clayton, has had no shortage of bird sightings: “I’m seeing some **hawks**, general feeder birds, a **yellowed-bellied sapsucker** showed up for a few minutes, a **red-bellied woodpecker** storing seeds in tree notches and holes, hoarding them for later in the winter. On December 18 I saw a **bald eagle** fly overhead. And back on November 30, a flock of **evening grosbeaks** flew in, little by little, until a young hawk flew by... and the ‘beaks left, never to return.”

Among a number of other residents in town, **Larry Burke** also saw **evening grosbeaks** in late November at his home near York Lake, and he was able to get a shot of a pair at his feeders before the small flock vanished. Larry remembers how, back in the 1980s, a whole large maple tree might suddenly be filled with the colorful and raucous grosbeaks, but then how rare sightings of them had become in the succeeding decades. According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the evening grosbeak population in eastern North America peaked in the 1970s and 1980s, but then went into sharp decline, “due to logging and other development in the boreal forests of northern North America; to disease outbreaks such as salmonella, West Nile virus, and House Finch eye disease; or to reduced numbers of spruce budworm and other forest insects, in part due to aerial spraying by the U.S. and Canada. As climate change alters the landscape over the next century, balsam fir is expected to recede from New England, and evening grosbeaks may disappear from this region.” The article goes on to say that, when grosbeaks do show up, they love sunflower seeds and the buds of trees and shrubs, especially maples.



photo by Larry Burke

A pair of evening grosbeaks

from this region.” The article goes on to say that, when grosbeaks do show up, they love sunflower seeds and the buds of trees and shrubs, especially maples.

Sandra Walker, who lives near Hartsville, sent the following report, along with some wonderful photos of her nocturnal visitors: “My nighttime cameras have been busy. Regular visitors under the feeders include two **raccoons**

photos by Sandra Walker



Sandra Walker’s night camera captures a coyote, an owl, and a fox.



who seem to always be together, **possum, fox, coyote,** and an **owl.** I assume it's the same owl that we've caught on camera several nights."

While not precisely qualifying as a wildlife neighbor, Sandra's young Bernese Mountain dog Max, warrants honorary membership in the club, given his obvious love of the great outdoors! □

Compiled by Larry Burke. Send your wildlife stories to him at lburke2@me.com

NEIGHBORS



December 24 marked the fiftieth wedding anniversary of **Barry and Marjorie Shapiro** of Mill River. Asked about the significance of the date, Barry said, "The date was available at the caterer's, and my mom wanted me out of the house." They were both twenty-one at the time; Margie was a senior at Hofstra University, and Barry was teaching elementary school in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, "lo-o-o-ng before it was trendy." They honeymooned in Spain and settled in Rockville Centre, Long Island. They had been coming to the Berkshires since 1990, but in 2010 they left Rockville Centre and

moved to New Marlborough full time. Both have been involved from the start in many activities in town; Barry has been the town moderator for the past four years.

Barry and Margie, after fifty years, are still in love and best friends. They celebrated the event at the Old Inn on the Green. Congratulations!



Barry and Marjorie Shapiro



Martin Love

New Marlborough native **Martin (Marty) Love** passed away on December 9 at the age of eighty-five. He graduated from New Marlborough Central School, and then joined the United States Navy. He trained as an airplane mechanic, largely stationed at Westover Air Force Base in Westfield, Massachusetts. Upon discharge from the Navy, he married Ann Gregg in 1956. They had four children: Terry Love of California, Marcia Beverly of Pittsfield, Dan Love of Mill River, and Cliff Love of Sandisfield.

For thirty years Marty was a caretaker for the Williams family estate, Steepletop, in New Marlborough. Two members of the Williams family, who grew up on and are still part of the property, share their remembrances of Marty from those thirty years. Following Marty's retirement, he continued his hobby with old and antique cars, as well as enjoying trips to Las Vegas, and playing keno at M.J. Tucker's in Sandisfield, where Marty's memorial service was held on December 22.

Deirdre MacGuire offers this anecdote: Marty Love worked for many, many years at the Steepletop estate. He was always on hand for advice on cars, especially on how to negotiate the dirt roads on the property. He once took the wheel of an old rear-wheel drive that I was unable to get up our slippery hill. He quietly said, "You just gotta gun it," backed up the vehicle about 100 yards, and screamed up the hill, displaying a look of glee when he turned over the wheel at the top of the hill. He was a master with the mechanical equipment on the property. My mother Edie loved to call him Marty the Mower. After he retired, I would see him at Elihu Burritt Day with one of his beloved old cars. He was polite and reserved, a real salt-of-the-earth person who, to me, is part of my memories of being in New Marlborough.

Ian Devine shares his observations of Marty during and after the Steepletop years: Marty had been a part of our "family" since I was teenager. He started working for my grandfather, Rodney Williams, and stayed on at Steepletop for more than thirty years. My daughter, Lydia, remembers how nice he was to kids; she used to ride with him to the Transfer Station every Sunday. I enjoyed seeing Marty riding around town in his restored cars. A veteran, he often drove one of his old cars in the Memorial Day parade. □

compiled by Barbara Lowman: deeuell@yahoo.com

A CCC ACCIDENT REMEMBERED

Eighty-four years ago, tragedy struck the Civilian Conservation Corps. A truckload of young CCC workers, billeted in what is now Sandisfield State Park, was headed into Great Barrington to attend mass at Saint Peter's Roman Catholic Church when it hit a snow-covered patch on "Three Mile Hill," the Route 23 descent into town that runs past Butternut Basin. As the truck bounced off abutments and spun around, workers were violently thrown from the truck body onto the ground. Five men were killed.

Shortly after the accident, a marble stone etched with the names of the five men was erected in a little clearing at the edge of the state forest, just south of York Lake. It has remained there for decades, the names weathering away into obscurity. Until five years ago, that is, when Falls Village, Connecticut, resident Kevin Titus, some of whose relatives were members of the CCC, made it the focal point of a memorial service for the men. And so it was again in the chill rain of December 14, the anniversary of the accident. Michael Esposito of Richmond laid a wreath at the base of the memorial, Mr. Titus read the names of the deceased, and, as Taps



photo by Joe Poindexter

Wearing CCC great coats and caps, Michael Esposito, right, and Kevin Titus, left, stand at attention with DCR's Alec Gillman as Taps plays.

sounded, Alec Gillman, regional interpretive director for the West Region of the Department of Conservation and Recreation, lowered the American flag to half-mast.

The ceremony brought to mind a time, now seemingly so distant, when the nation felt an empathy with those in need – and had the leadership capable of responding to that need. □

Joe Poindexter

WINTER CONCERTS

The New Marlborough Village Association presents the first of two Winter House Concerts on Sunday, January 20. This concert features the violin-piano duo, Sarah and Gilles Vonsattel, performing works of Bach, Beethoven, and Ravel. Both Sarah and Gilles appeared in 2018 on a New Marlborough series: Sarah with a trio for the February House Concert, and Gilles as piano soloist for Music and More. Both were extraordinary concerts. Sarah performs with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. Winner of the 2002 Naumburg Piano competition, Gilles has an international solo career in addition to teaching at UMass Amherst.



Gilles and Sarah Vonsattel



The Hudson River Consort, a string quartet, will offer a special program on Sunday, February 17, of two Joseph Haydn quartets played on instruments with which Haydn would have been familiar, and for which he wrote his huge output. The members of the group will demonstrate how their instruments differ from modern ones as they perform two totally delightful and contrasting examples of his early and late works.

The Winter House Concerts begin at 4:00 p.m. and last an hour, with wine and hors d'oeuvres served afterwards. Both concerts will take place in private homes. Seating is limited so please make reservations by calling 413-229-2785 or by going online at www.newmarlborough.org. □

Lucy Bardo

**The 5 Village News is always available at our website NM5VN.org (back copies, too).
Better yet, it comes in full color. Check it out.**

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

When Jess Holcomb became the owner of the Mill River General Store in April 2017, she quickly became an integral part of our community. Jess is always there to greet you with an easy laugh, a kind word, and a good story. Finding just the right balance of cafe, general store, and meeting place, Jess has made the store her own while maintaining its place as a hub of the community. One of the most popular items on the menu is Chicken a la King, a perfect, delicious, warming dish for the dark cold days of January. Like the general store itself, this is a classic recipe showing how the best of the past can be just as relevant today. □

Fiona Kerr

Chicken a la King

Ingredients

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1/4 cup plus 1 tablespoon unsalted butter | Pinch cayenne pepper |
| 2 large shallots, minced | Pinch freshly grated nutmeg |
| 2 cloves garlic, crushed | 1/2 pound shiitake mushrooms, trimmed
and cut into 1/2-inch slices
(mushrooms are optional) |
| 6 tablespoons all-purpose or gluten-free flour | 1/2 cup creme fraiche or heavy cream |
| 1/4 cup dry sherry | 4 cups 1-inch cubed poached chicken
(recipe follows) |
| 3 & 3/4 cups chicken broth, homemade or low-sodium canned | 1 tablespoon snipped fresh chives |
| 6 sprigs plus 1 tablespoon minced flat-leaf parsley | |
| 1 sprig fresh thyme | |
| 1 teaspoon kosher salt, plus more to taste | |
| 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper, plus more to taste | |

For Above, Poached Chicken:

- 10 sprigs parsley
- 2 sprigs fresh thyme
- 1 small onion, halved
- 1 small carrot, halved
- 1 stalk celery, halved
- 3 pounds chicken breast halves, on the bone and fat trimmed (or a whole chicken cut up into pieces also works)
- 5 to 6 cups chicken broth, homemade or low-sodium canned

Directions

- In a large saucepan over medium heat, melt 1/4 cup of the butter, and sauté the shallots and garlic until softened, about 4 to 5 minutes. Sprinkle in the flour, and cook, stirring with a wooden spoon for 2 minutes. Whisk in the sherry and broth and bring to a boil while stirring. Tie the parsley and thyme sprigs together and add to the sauce, lower the heat to maintain a gentle simmer. Cook the sauce for 30 minutes, stirring frequently.
- Meanwhile, if including mushrooms, heat the remaining butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat, sauté the mushrooms until golden brown, about 5 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Add the mushrooms to the sauce and season with the salt, pepper, cayenne, and nutmeg. Whisk in the cream or creme fraiche.
- Add the minced parsley, chicken, and chives to the sauce, and bring to a simmer. Adjust seasoning with salt and pepper. Serve immediately over noodles, rice, biscuits or, if you're feeling fancy, wrapped in crepes.

Poached Chicken:

- Put the parsley, thyme, onion, carrot, celery, and chicken breasts in a medium saucepan. Cover with the broth and bring just to a boil. Lower the heat to very low and cover. Poach the chicken for 20 minutes or until firm to the touch. Remove the pan from the heat, uncover, and cool the chicken in the liquid for 30 minutes.
- Transfer the chicken to a cutting board and reserve the liquid. Bone and skin the chicken and cut the meat into cubes. Discard the bones and skin.
- Strain the broth and store, covered, in the refrigerator for 3 days or freeze for later use. Remove any fat from the surface of the broth before using.

*Suggested Accompaniments: Buttered noodles, biscuits, or rice

Yield: 4 to 6 servings Note: leftover roast chicken can also be used.

nm5vn.org



THE LOG

Police Department (selected entries)

- Nov. 2 12:42 p.m. Officers assist in the helicopter evacuation of parties injured in a collision of a dump truck and a Nissan Versa, which then hit a Toyota Prius on Ashley Falls Road, Sheffield.
- 3:29 p.m. A caller reports that a father, looking for his son, has trespassed by driving a car onto the lawn of his Mill River village property.
- Nov. 3 5:13 p.m. Tree down on Canaan Southfield Road.
- 6:45 p.m. Officer investigating a possible trespassing on Clayton Mill River Road discovers that the wind has blown a door open.
- 9:06 p.m. Tree down on Foley Hill Road.
- Nov. 4 9:22 a.m. Tree down on Clayton Mill River Road.
- 2:07 p.m. The animal control officer is alerted after a caller reports that two Labrador retrievers have showed up at her Sisson Hill Road residence.
- Nov. 7 10:57 p.m. A Clayton resident reports receiving threatening phone calls from the brother of her former husband.
- Nov. 10 7:24 p.m. Tree down on Southfield Branch Road.
- 10:22 p.m. Three high-school students conducting research for a natural science journal in Umpachene Falls Park advised that the park closes at sundown.
- Nov. 12 5:33 p.m. A Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road resident reports a scam call from someone purporting to be a representative of a health insurance company.
- Nov. 20 9:57 a.m. A motorist reports that around midnight, to avoid a deer that had jumped in front of his car, he swerved off County Road and hit a tree; the deer then collided with his car.
- 9:36 p.m. A motorist hits a telephone pole on South Sandisfield Road.
- Nov. 21 12:50 p.m. The Highway Department is notified when a caller alerts the Department to a dead deer next to his residence on Canaan Southfield Road.
- 7:58 p.m. National Grid is notified when a caller reports a tree on wires on Route 57.
- Nov. 23 10:51 a.m. A caller reports that a horse is loose near the intersection of County and Mill River Great Barrington Roads.
- Nov. 24 7:21 a.m. The highway superintendent is notified when a Canaan Southfield Road resident reports that a gravely injured deer, possibly struck by a car, has stumbled into his backyard.
- Nov. 25 6:14 p.m. An Old North Road resident reports that his property has been damaged by an all terrain vehicle that has trespassed on it.
- Nov. 26 11:00 p.m. A New Marlborough Southfield Road resident reports that a motorist has accidentally driven his car into the Umpachene River opposite The Farm New Marlborough.
- Nov. 28 9:25 a.m. A motorist hits a tree on Norfolk Road.
- 12:32 p.m. A caller reports a wire down on Knight Road.
- 2:26 p.m. Tree on power lines on Route 57 near the Sandisfield town line.
- Nov. 30 10:04 a.m. The Department assists other agencies in evacuating Mount Everett High School when a note scrawled on a bathroom wall states that there is a bomb in the school; an investigation results in the arrest of a seventeen-year-old student.

Graham Frank, Chief of Police

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Fire and Rescue

Nov. 2	1:12 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call	Nov. 16	5:59 a.m.	Mill River Southfield Road Medical Call
Nov. 4	3:46 a.m.	Juniper Hill Road CO Alarm	Nov. 20	9:34 p.m.	South Sandisfield Road MVA
Nov. 5	6:51 a.m.	Juniper Hill Road Fire Alarm	Nov. 21	8:01 p.m.	Adsit Crosby Road Wires Down
Nov. 5	8:55 a.m.	Adsit Crosby Road Medical Call	Nov. 26	11:43 p.m.	New Marlborough Southfield Road MVA
Nov. 6	12:14 a.m.	Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call	Nov. 27	7:00 p.m.	Stone Manor Drive Medical Call
Nov. 9	6:02 p.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road Medical Call	Nov. 28	9:29 a.m.	Norfolk Road MVA
Nov. 16	2:28 a.m.	Cagney Hill Road CO Alarm	Nov. 28	12:01 p.m.	Stone Manor Drive Fire Alarm

David Smith, Fire Company President



LAND TRUST NEWS

Free to Good Home: This Old Farmhouse

The Rooney House, historic home of a warmly remembered farming family, is being given away. For a limited time, the New Marlborough Land Trust is offering the structure free of charge to anyone willing to dismantle it or move it away intact. If no one has agreed to move the Rooney House by March 31, the Land Trust needs to move forward, and will very likely demolish the building soon thereafter.

The building is structurally sound, though unoccupied for a decade, stripped of copper pipes, and needing significant renovation. The two-story main house dates from the 1800s, with an extension on the back added later. An attached wing was added during the years Kolburne School owned the house.

The Land Trust acquired the Rooney House in 2016 as part of the 114-acre New Marlboro Preserve, itself a piece of the former Kolburne property. In a perfect world, the Land Trust would be able to productively repurpose the building for a community use such as nonprofit offices or a multi-use community space. But the estimated \$200,000 cost of renovation is beyond the Land Trust's means. One way or another, the Land Trust will make a decision on the fate of the building by the spring of 2019.

To make an appointment to inspect the building please call Martha at 229-8633, or email nmlandtrust@gmail.com. ❑

Martha Bryan



photo by Martha Bryan

The Rooney house, free for the taking... taking away, that is.

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The Way We Were**COURTNEY TURNER**

by Joe Poindexter

“As I remember it, darn near every house had kids,” says Courtney Turner, who from age two, spent his boyhood in Southfield, just uphill from the village on East Hill Road. Memory, perhaps, smooths the rough spots, but Courtney’s recollection of childhood is one of an idyllic freedom combined with mostly benevolent adult guidance. “Parents said, ‘Get out of the house. We don’t want to see you before four.’ And they never had a clue where we were.” (On the other hand, boundaries were strictly established. “The worst whupping I ever got was for failing to show up on time,” says Courtney.)

Mid-20th century New Marlborough was decidedly more self-contained than it is today. Four of the five villages had stores, including two general stores in Mill River. Hartsville had an auto-repair shop, a blacksmith shop, and a liquor store, and New Marlborough village had a gas station. There were, by Courtney’s count, twenty-two dairy farms. And then there was Turner & Cook, which had evolved from a producer of buggy whips to a company making rawhide mallets, a tool uniquely suited to shaping metal while not denting it. At its height, Turner & Cook employed as many as eighty workers.

Born in 1943 as the only child of Nancy and Dudley Turner (who with his brother Hedley ran Turner & Cook), Courtney says he was labeled “the rich kid on the hill.” He battled this distinction by, on his account, running and biking faster than his pals and generally taking guff from no one. He and other villagers played softball on a relatively flat expanse just across Norfolk Road from the Southfield Church. Fathers joined in, and there were always plenty of players to fill two teams. There was blueberry picking on Cook’s



Courtney and Donna at home on East Hill Road in Southfield. photo by Joe Poindexter

Road following a snowstorm, making the run downhill to the village dicey for motorists but ideal for sledders.

Then, too, Courtney found adult mentors nearby.



Lifelong pals Alvin Stalker, left, and Courtney, with Southfield villager Mildred Hunt assigned to keep them out of trouble.



Courtney, back row, fourth from left, with the third grade at New Marlborough Central.

Ledge and a “nearly endless card game of War” on the porch of the Kelsey house in the village.

In winter, the kids played basketball on a half court located in the former Baptist Church, just north of the Southfield Store. Turner & Cook, which owned the building for a time and used it for storage, had installed the court for the benefit of the youngsters. Two kerosene stoves kept it somewhat warm. The highway crew typically was slow to get to East Hill

The Turners’ neighbor to the east was one William Wallace Hall, who gave Courtney haircuts. In Courtney’s telling, Hall was an idiosyncratic fellow, whose wife lived in the village and visited her husband on East Hill only occasionally. Hall’s position on marriage may have been reflected in a sign at the foot of his driveway, which read: “Big Rock Candy Mountain, Hall Heaven, Outlaws in, In-laws Out.” Hall introduced Courtney to the diversity of the surrounding woods, planting the seed for his interest in forestry, which later morphed

into a Bachelor of Science degree in landscape architecture at the University of Massachusetts. He later went on to earn a Master’s degree in public administration from Shippensburg University in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania.

Courtney learned to hunt at the side of Southfield resident Peter Beers, whose one ironclad edict was

“If you shoot it, you eat it.” This extended to the porcupine Beers shot on one such outing. Courtney watched the delicate operation of skinning the animal and then partook in its consumption. The taste? “Unpleasant,” he recalls. More to his liking were grouse, which, according to Courtney, are still available in hidden-away pockets of the East Hill woods.

Courtney attended New Marlborough Central School for grades one through six, Mount Everett for seven and eight. In his recollection, the upper school was still sorting itself out and lacked structure. “It was the inmates running the prison,” he says. For whatever reason, his grades took a dive. To get him straightened out, his parents sent him to Lenox School, in Lenox, a strict Episcopalian boarding school, whose headmaster was an ex-Marine. From there he went to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where he was drawn to the ROTC program. His interest could not have been a surprise. His father served in the military during both World Wars and the Korean War. His Uncle Hedley was a military man, as were most of the men on his mother’s side of the family.

During a twenty-seven-year army career, Courtney served in Viet Nam, accumulating two Purple Hearts



Courtney and Donna were married in June, 1966.



Captain Courtney Turner at Fort Bliss, Texas, in 1975.



Courtney, center and Donna, at Courtney's retirement ceremony in August 1992.

— one for when he was thrown into the air following a collision with a Russian-made tank and the other when a detonation shredded his right leg — and “a chestful of other medals.” By age 28, he had risen to the rank of captain. “In wartime, the promotions come fast; we were all getting killed,” he says. He retired as a colonel.

In 1967, at the ripe old age of twenty-three, Courtney married Donna Drambour of Great Barrington, who stuck with him through twenty-three military-career moves, while raising two sons. “I didn’t regret a minute of it,” she says, before admitting to a bit of aggravation with all the packing and unpacking. They unpacked for the last time in August 1992, when Courtney

left the military and they returned to his family home in Southfield to stay. Since that time, he has served nine years on the Board of Selectmen and recently returned, as chairman, to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

As the Town’s Veterans Burial Agent, Courtney has made an annual pilgrimage to plant a Memorial Day commemorative American

flag next to the headstone of every war veteran buried in one of New Marlborough’s eleven cemeteries. “It’s a trip through history every time I do it,” he says. □

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THE SBRSD ANNUAL SENIOR LUNCHEON



On December 6, the Undermountain Elementary School Cafeteria was transformed into a festive party space for the Annual Senior Luncheon. The event, instituted fifteen years ago by Odile Carpenter, is now a project of Sue Petrucci's culinary arts students, who raised funds for the event throughout the year. The class also received some financial help through a grant from the Eagle Fund. Art students decorated the hallway outside with portraits of snowmen and accordion books. Students welcomed guests at the door and offered to hang their coats. Upon entering the cafeteria, the attendees were impressed by the beautiful decorations and table settings done by Ms. Petrucci's class.



During the two-hour event, guests were entertained. Mount Everett High School Principal Glenn Devoti was the master of ceremonies. He was delighted to make a presentation to Scott Rote, thanking him for his long devotion to the sports programs at Mount Everett and his service to the community. Mickey Masters, of Southfield, on sax (above), participated in the outstanding performances of both the Mount Everett chorus and band, delighting the audience with their energy and excellence.



English teacher Jeanne Lemlin invited School Committee members to come to the buffet line first. Members Jane Burke from New Marlborough and Ken Knox from Egremont were the first to be served. At the School Committee meeting that evening Mr. Knox was elected Chairman.



photos by Kari Giordano

Lili Zyszkowski (center), of Southfield, sporting a jaunty toque, happily served helpings to the senior citizens. Students in the culinary arts class had prepared roast pork, chicken, stuffing, mashed potatoes, stuffed peppers, green beans, soup, and salad. Their impressive dessert buffet included at least a dozen different delicious baked goods.

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SCHOOL COMMITTEE NOTES

Southern Berkshire Regional School District Superintendent Beth Regulbuto has set the tone for the District, using a “growth mindset.” This concept from neuroscience, that brains continue to develop and grow over a lifetime, has been adopted by many educators. Ms. Regulbuto said, “One of my core beliefs is that a growth mindset is essential for all faculty and staff if we are to educate and inspire lifelong learners. I try to lead by example.” She is in a PhD program in professional leadership, and is working with her administrative team to create a comprehensive improvement plan for the District.

The School Committee is also being asked to learn and grow. In November she accompanied seven of the ten School Committee members to the annual conference of the Massachusetts Association of Superintendents and School Committees. During three days of workshops, members were able to hear about best practices in many aspects of public education. It should be noted that neighboring districts did not send such large delegations.

The recently reorganized School Committee has a new chairman, Ken Knox of Egremont. An educator himself, he values his own learning as well as that of students in the district. Despite only serving on the board since last spring, he immediately voiced his expectation that the members fully understand the most important function of the Committee, to serve the public. Veteran member Dennis Sears was elected vice chair. New committee

members Jane Burke of New Marlborough and Jeffrey Blaugrund of Alford have brought new perspectives to the group in dealing with on-going complex issues, such as the opening of the South Egremont School, that have required hours in executive sessions. On December 19, the Sheffield Appointive Authority chose Jonathan Bruno to fill out the term of Bob Law, who died last spring.

Highlights of the meetings included reports on the work administrators and teachers are doing to improve student achievement. Stephanie Graham’s proposed expansion of the Global Education Initiative to include bringing tuition-paying foreign students to the District next academic year was approved. The school improvement plans for both the elementary and secondary schools were presented, outlining particular goals and how they will be met. These plans will be posted on the website (www.sbrsd.org) for those interested in seeing the detailed thinking that has gone into these plans.

For those who want to know more, the school website also has a Superintendent’s blog, and the minutes to all meetings are posted. There will be a public forum with Ms. Regulbuto at the end of January. Check the school calendar for the date and time. The School Committee strives to serve the children and the community. Letters from the public are welcome. □

Jane Burke

NEW MARLBOROUGH CENTRAL FAIR

The New Marlborough-Monterey Parent Teacher Association continued its popular traditions at the annual Holiday Fair on December 8. The popular Christmas tree sale, gifts crafted by children, delicious

hot lunch, bake sale, silent auction, kids gift room, and entertainment never disappoint the enthusiastic crowd. All funds raised go to school programs. □



There was a pause in the shopping and eating when the Mount Everett Madrigal Singers arrived at mid-day to perform songs of the season for a packed house downstairs in the all-purpose room. The excellence and good cheer of these young people lifted the spirits of everyone in the room.



photos by Larry Burke

The upstairs hall was a lively place with giddy children sharing their excitement. There were dozens of paintings on the walls featuring snowmen of all sorts. Zoe was happy to pose in front of her art work.

NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE LIBRARY

Adult Fiction

- The Noel Stranger*, by Richard Paul Evans
- Look Alive Twenty-Five*, by Janet Evanovich
- Heads You Win*, by Jeffrey Archer
- Tony's Wife*, by Adriana Trigiani
- Long Road to Mercy*, by David Baldacci
- You Don't Own Me*, by Mary Higgins Clark
- The Tattooist of Auschwitz*, by Heather Morris
- Target*, by James Patterson

Adult Nonfiction

- Shouting Won't Help: Why I – and 50 Million*
Other Americans – Can't Hear You, by Katherine Bouton

Children's Fiction

- A Big Mooncake for Little Star*, by Grace Lin
- Harold Loves His Woolly Hat*, by Vern Kousky
- Presto & Zesto in Limboland*, by Arthur Yorkins
- The Bad Guys in Super Bad*, by Aaron Blabey

Books on CDs

- Once Upon a River*, by Diane Setterfield
- The Colors of All the Cattle*, by Alexander McCall Smith
- Past Tense*, by Lee Child
- The Noel Stranger*, by Richard Paul Evans
- Look Alive Twenty-Five*, by Janet Evanovich
- You Don't Own Me*, by Mary Higgins Clark

DVDs

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| <i>Bel Canto</i> | <i>Fahrenheit 9/11</i> |
| <i>The Catcher Was a Spy</i> | <i>The House with a Clock in its Walls</i> |
| <i>Colette</i> | <i>Mission Impossible: Fallout</i> |
| <i>Dancer</i> | <i>Operation Finale</i> |



**How time flies!
 On January 2,
 the New Marlborough
 Library
 celebrates the
 20th anniversary
 of its reopening!**

Winter Library Hours
 Mon. Wed. Sat. 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
 Tues. & Fri. 1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
 Fri. 1:30 – 7:30 p.m.
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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, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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

Building Inspector: Monday 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.; Thursday 8:00 to 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 (413) 229-8582

Window hours: Monday - Friday 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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

Southfield (413) 229-8476

Window hours: 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 Thursday 9:00 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; 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. weekdays; Saturday by appointment

Town Hall: 229-8116

Police: Business office: 229-8161

Library: 229-6668

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.

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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

Larry Burke, issue editor; Diane Barth, designer;

Martha Bryan, Jane Burke, Barbara Lowman,

David Lowman, Joe Poindexter, Peter Schuyten,

Barry Shapiro, Anne M. Sommers, Sandra Fusco-Walker

Contributing writers and artists: Ann Getsinger, Angus Kerr,

Jodi Rothe, Mary Richie Smith, Catherine Twing,

Tara White, and Michele Shalaby. Index: Donna Weaver

New Marlborough 5 Village News

appears monthly,

also online at www.nm5vn.org

The next issue will be dated February 2019.

All copy must be submitted no later than January 17.

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

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SERVICE SECTOR 01/19

- **Cohen and White Associates, Monterey office:** Nancy Kalodner, Senior Affiliate Broker. Offering New Marlborough the finest professional real estate services since 1979. Call 528-9595 or (413)446-1111
- **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.
- **Fine Jewelry:** Designers and manufacturers; custom orders/commissions welcome; expert repairs. 45 years experience. Sachs Reisman, Inc. 25 Maple Ave., Sheffield (413)229-0050
- **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@barringtonlawoffice.com or (413)528-4300
- **Reiner White:** General Contractor; (413)229-8450
- **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 (413)229-2369