



New Marlborough 5 Village News

VOL XX
NO 9

January 2020

Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield



THE GREAT EGG-SCAPE *Jan Johnson's Mill River Farm*

By Barry R. Shapiro

Visitors approaching one of the two chicken pens at Mill River Farm are met not only with the sounds of hens happily chirping as they graze on bugs and grass but also by the strident honking of Gustavo the Guardian Goose, who blares out a warning to the flock that something perhaps sinister is approaching. On this day, however, the chickens don't immediately scurry for cover under the coop. The advancing figure is no predator but their caretaker and the proprietor of Mill River Farm, Jan Johnson, and the chickens clearly know it.



Photo by Barry R. Shapiro

Jan Johnson and some of her flock

"They always come running over in search of some treat," says Jan with a big smile. "We have happy chickens, and I'm very proud that they are not densely packed. They roam free with plenty of space and a great diet of lots of greens and less grain than might otherwise be used. This leads to eggs with tons more nutrients, and it shows up in the vibrant color of the yolk."

The flock of about 500 chickens is a mixture of Araucauna, which lay blue eggs, and Red Stars, Black Stars, Buff Orphingtons, and Rhode Island Reds, all of which produce brown eggs. "Our hens have about three years of productivity, which is longer than most," notes Jan. "That's largely due to our organic farming practices. After three years, we cull the flock and use the hens for stews and soup."

Surveying the rolling landscape of the farm, Jan reminisces about the path that took her from corporate America and the practice of law to the life of a hands-on, working farmer with all of the manual labor and pressure that farming entails. Her career led her from a Wall Street law firm to just outside Paris, France, where she helped organize Euro Disney — now Disneyland Paris. But, she says, "I always tried to have a small garden. There is something about growing food that is very deep-seated for me."

Still, leaving a high-powered job and taking the plunge into the uncertain world of farming was daunting. It took a course on life choices Jan took while situated in California to help sort things out. "Up to that point, I simply didn't have the nerve to do it," she says. "That course encouraged me to dig deep and see what skills I had and how I could bring them to bear in my desire to grow food in a healthy manner and to communicate the value of that to others. My goal is to grow food with nutritional density, and without chemicals and hormones. That's what we do at the farm."

Getting there was one thing. Making it a success is another. Her biggest adjustment, of course, was operating without the layers of support offered by a corporation. "This is by far the most challenging work I have ever done," says Jan. "It is so bloody challenging to do the farming and then to market our product. I no longer have the

continued

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The Great Egg-scape, continued

corporate luxury of a marketing department, and we need to do a really good job of this ourselves. We try to communicate to people the importance of making healthy choices about what they eat. That's what we're selling."

Listening to Jan describe her approach to farming and nutrition is like sitting with an engaging and enthusiastic college professor explain the crucial importance of biodiversity. She discusses the importance of a diversified farm with a balance between produce, animals, and her apiary, and the critical role played by what she calls the "microherd." The microherd is composed of the microscopic "critters," as Jan puts it, living below the soil. "It lives in symbiosis with the vegetation," she explains, "clustered around root hairs, which allows all of the flavors, nutrients, and vitamins to cram themselves into all the produce we grow."

At one point, Jan reaches into a cabinet and brings out a pocket refractometer, which measures the sugar content in some of her produce. "Sugar content is a proxy for all of the other nutritional qualities," she says, "and some of our measurements have been through the roof. We're very proud and happy about that. We are also careful about the grain we make available for our hens. In fact, because some people are concerned about phytoestrogens, our grain is soy free."

The eggs are certified organic, a hard-to-come-by label that, for one thing, prohibits the artificial light that is common at non-organic farms to increase production, particularly during the shorter days of winter. The certification required reams of documentation, a fact evidenced by the crammed loose-leaf binders in a cabinet in Jan's kitchen. "We worked hard and got our certification right at the beginning in 2013. The entire farm is certified organic."

Jan, a divorced mother of one, was born in Pittsburgh, lived in New Jersey and then attended Occidental College in Los Angeles and George Washington Law School in Washington, D.C. Shortly after her arrival



Mill River Farm also raises pigs.

photo by Barry R. Shapiro



Rosa, the guard dog

photo by Barry R. Shapiro

in the Berkshires, she bought the Brewer Hill house on sloping farmland that had been built by Herb and Betsy Abelow. Her son, Peter Chapin, works with her on the farm, managing the greens business, something Jan took over from Ted Dobson and his Equinox Farm. Jan wryly describes her age as "slightly older than the average farmer."

As is the case for many egg farmers, predators have been a problem — "the single biggest threat to our success and we've lost hundreds and hundreds of birds," says Jan. "I can live with the occasional loss to a fox

looking to feed its young, but I really hate the vicious predators like skunks, raccoons, fishers, and weasels, all of whom seem to kill just to kill." But she has a secret weapon: Rosa, a four-year-old Maremma sheepdog, Jan acquired last July. A breed of livestock guardian dogs, originally from the Maremma region of Italy, Rosa was specifically trained to protect poultry.

Rosa, all one hundred pounds of her, runs up to the paddock and sits down, as she has been trained to do, as soon as she reaches Jan. "She's a wonderful dog," Jan says, as Rosa rolls over for a some belly rubs. "She is super smart, great at patrolling for

predators, even aerial predators. Since she got here, we haven't lost a single hen!"

The farm's eggs, along with the many other products Jan produces, including produce, poultry, pork, honey and honey derived products, such as candles and skin care products, are sold at the self-service farm store on the property, as well as at local farmers' markets, LaBonne's market in Salisbury, Connecticut, and to caterers.

"We have a solid supply of eggs," notes Jan, "probably about 100,000 eggs per year. We get about one egg from each hen every thirty hours or so. Our supply continues during the winter when our hens over-winter in our greenhouse. The greenhouse has a dirt floor and 18 inches of bedding. We constantly turn it, and it ultimately becomes great compost, which we then

add to the soil. Because we previously grew ginger and turmeric in the greenhouse, the compost is very high in nitrogen. It's all part of the natural, integrated cycle that makes our farm special."

Mill River Farm also sells whole birds, culled from the flock when their laying days are over, and broilers, some 1,800 of them a year, raised not for eggs but for their meat. And for those who are particular about the real thing, the farm offers chicken feet to add to chicken stock, "something that is not all that easy to find," says Jan.

As she ends the tour, it's evident why the farm, run by this proud refugee from corporate America, is succeeding.

"I really love what I'm doing," says Jan, a big smile on her face. □

This is the second in a series on the egg farmers of New Marlborough. Next month: Brookmede Farm.

Broadband Update STILL ON COURSE



As Charter Spectrum looks toward installation in New Marlborough, the early stages of pre-installation are going according to plan.

The Cable Advisory Board is pleased to report that, as of December, National Grid had finished its make-ready work as planned. All poles designated for replacement have been replaced and are now up to standard with power lines moved from the old poles. It is now Verizon's responsibility to cable to the new poles. In our last report it was suggested that Verizon should complete their work by February 2020, and subject to winter weather it looks likely that is on course with all make-ready work finished by the first or second week in February. The Board will confirm the kick-off of installation with Charter Spectrum in a conference call on February 19 and will advise the town shortly thereafter.

We plan a public roll-out meeting in March with Charter Spectrum in attendance to answer all of your questions regarding installation, services to be provided, and pricing. The date and venue will be announced in late February.

New Marlborough residents can look forward to

Charter Spectrum services in 2020. Remember, however, that our contract gives Charter Spectrum twelve months from the end of make ready to complete installations to all New Marlborough residences wanting its service.

We are still on course. □

Michael Shocket for the Cable Advisory Board



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Town Business Is Your Business BOARD OF SELECTMEN



November 18: With all three members present, the Board approved permits allowing National Grid and Verizon to move three poles adjacent to the Umpachene Falls Road bridge and to replace one, so that a rebuild of the bridge — scheduled for later this year — could proceed. Moving on to its long-frustrated effort to receive a PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) offer from Park Avenue Solar, the Board directed Town Administrator Mari Enoch to provide instructions to the Assessors office to have the property assessed for property taxes.

Later, the Board addressed a request from the town's other solar project, the CVE Sunrise installation off Knight Road, for a temporary parking lot to accommodate up to ten trucks during the three- to six-month construction phase. CVE also asked to be allowed to put in a road to the installation to accommodate large trucks. Representatives of the company said it would reseed the disturbed areas after construction and plant six- to seven-foot western red cedars either in the spring or fall, depending on when construction was completed. After hearing from abutters concerned about the size of the parking lot, its proximity to adjoining private properties, and the precise location of the proposed entry road, the selectmen approved the permit requests, conditioned on an okay from the highway superintendent on the location of the road.

Acting on the unanimous recommendation of the Planning Board, the selectmen appointed Robert Hartt to the Planning Board, to serve until the next election in May 2020.

Selectman Tara White then summarized the issues raised at a special meeting called November 8 to review the response — and its shortcomings — to the October 16-17 storm that wiped out power and telephone

communications in town (see *New Marlborough 5 Village News*, December, p. 8). She said that subsequent to that meeting, an emergency management committee drafted a letter to State Representative Smitty Pignatelli stating its concerns about the failure of telephone service during the storm. This discussion was followed by a review of decisions reached at the Board's November 14 joint meeting with the Finance Committee (see *New Marlborough 5 Village News*, December, p. 10).

Chairman Nat Yohalem reminded the meeting that the Town would hire Scanlon Associates to help close the FY20 books and recommend procedures for budgeting and bookkeeping going forward. The total cost: \$7,000.

Next up: two school-related issues. Ms. White said that the 8 Town District Consolidation Committee, a group comprised of representatives of the five Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) and three Berkshire Hills Regional School District towns, planned to apply for a state grant to hire a consultant familiar with the complexities of consolidation. Mr. Yohalem, who had attended a recent SBRSD School Committee meeting, told his fellow selectmen that the School Committee's Negotiating Committee was encouraging the use of stipends as compensation for unused sick days and vacation days. **The idea is that the stipend would motivate teachers to remain in the classroom, unless they actually are sick, even if their allowance of vacation and sick days, a total of twenty-four days annually, had not been exhausted.** Currently, the District spends about \$180,000 a year on substitute teachers.

Discussion then moved to a pay issue regarding Town employees — prompted by the closing of Town Hall during the electrical outage of October 17. Salaried workers who nevertheless reported to their jobs that day,

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for example in the Highway and Police Departments, requested that they be awarded comp time. Heeding a directive in the Town Employee's Handbook that states: "When Town Hall is closed and some employees must report to work, they will be able to take compensatory time at straight time," the selectmen granted the request. Following a discussion initiated by Mr. Yohalem, the Board ruled that comp time would not be awarded to employees not regularly scheduled to be at work — including those on vacation — on the day of a Town Hall closing. In response to a call for a clarification of the Employee's Handbook in this matter, Town Administrator Mari Enoch said she would seek guidance from a human resources consultant.

Sandra Fusco Walker

November 25: Responding to minor changes requested by the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission, the Board re-approved the transfer of the Gedney Farm liquor license from Brad Wagstaff's Old Inn Associates to the new ownership group of Mike Smith and Peter Miscikoski, known as Cepage Hospitality Partners.

That was followed by a half-hour Power-Point presentation on the 2020 Census by Mark Sebastiano, a partnership specialist with the New York Regional Office of the Census Bureau. It covered the history and purpose of the census, the uses to which the data will be put, and provisions for securing the data and protecting the identity of respondents. He also covered the role that Census Bureau "partners," such as local town officials, local businesses, and community organizations, can play in assisting with the effort. In response to a question from Chairman Yohalem on what the Board should be doing in all of this, Mr. Sebastiano replied "planting the seed to get the word out there that the census is coming," and also letting people know there are \$19-an-hour

part-time jobs available, knocking on doors and filling out questionnaires for people who haven't already done so online.

As previously reported, the Board has already agreed to publicize the decennial census by including flyers in the quarterly tax bills and the annual street listing survey, putting up posters at Town Hall and in the library, and making announcements at the Board's weekly meetings and via the News and Notices feed, all stressing the importance of filling out the census form. In addition, the Town will provide a census access point via a computer at the library.

On the recommendation of Highway Superintendent Loring, the Board approved the sale of the Town's surplus grader to Winmill Equipment Company of Windham, New Hampshire, which won an on-line auction with a bid of \$22,100. (An earlier sale for \$50,000 was voided when the buyer discovered that a typo had added an extra zero to the offer.) The Board then approved requests by New Marlborough Central School and the Southfield Church to advertise their annual holiday activities with temporary signs along public roads.

The Board also reviewed and approved a letter to state Representative William "Smitty" Pignatelli appealing for his help in dealing with Verizon and National Grid regarding response times during emergency storm outages. As the letter explains, the two utilities were no-shows at a special meeting called to discuss the lengthy power and telephone outages resulting from a major storm that hit the area with powerful winds and heavy rainfall on October 17.

Of greater concern, during the storm there was virtually no communication by the utilities with any of the Town's emergency services on how long the power would be out, and none of the usual "situational

The School Committee's Negotiating Committee is encouraging the use of stipends as compensation for unused sick days and vacation days.



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awareness” messages either. The storm also knocked out the 911 emergency response system for all but the few in town who have cell service. The letter concludes by asking Rep. Pignatelli for his help in contacting the appropriate representatives at both utilities “to assure our community that we will not be cut off from services (especially 911) in the future.”

In a related matter, Mr. Yohalem reported on a meeting he and Town Administrator Enoch held with members of the Highway Department to discuss compensatory time when Town Hall is closed, as it was during the storm-incurred outage of October 17. The Highway crew worked that day and thus were, according to the Town’s personnel policy, entitled to a comp day in addition to their normal salary. But did that apply to three workers who were on vacation that day? Mr. Yohalem on his own made the decision that they were. The Board as a whole, however, reversed his decision, and so the issue was placed on the agenda to give two highway workers and a Town Hall employee the opportunity to discuss it further. None chose to do so. “I take the blame for the confusion,” said Mr. Yohalem.

Contingent on state approval, the proposed rate will be \$10.31 per \$1,000 of property valuation, a drop of three cents from last years rate.

Under selectmen updates, Mr. Long said the Town expects later in the week to submit its application for a \$20,000 Planning Preparedness Grant under the state’s Municipal Vulnerability Program. The grant would fund a study of the town’s vulnerability to climate change. Separately, he reported that New Marlborough and Sandisfield have been awarded a joint \$2-million MassWorks grant for the rehabilitation of a portion of Route 57. He said he has held an initial meeting with Sandisfield and Beta Engineering to begin the planning and that the first step will be to take core samples “to inform the engineering portion of the work.”

Finally, Mr. Long said he expects a human resources questionnaire to be distributed to the Town’s employees within the next week and that a human resources consultant would be scheduling follow-up interviews shortly thereafter.

Peter Schuyten

December 9: With Chairman Yohalem connected via speakerphone and Marsha Pshenishny, chairman of the Board of Assessors, present along with Board member Wendy Miller, the selectmen tackled the FY21 tax rate. Ms. Pshenishny said the Town had an excess capacity of \$60,890 this year, a cushion that it could carry into the next fiscal year. She also reported that the assessors recommend a single tax rate. Contingent on state approval, the proposed rate will be \$10.31 per \$1,000 of property valuation, a drop of three cents from last year’s rate. The Board agreed to the rate and signed the necessary paperwork to be sent to the state.

Next, Mr. Long announced the successful recruitment of seven townspeople to serve on the Affordable Housing Committee. They are: Richard Stebbins, Elizabeth Rosenberg, Will Regan, Teena Parton, Kenzie Fields, Dan Doern, as a representative of the Planning Board, and Richard Long, as the



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representative of the Board of Selectmen. They will serve until June, at which time committee members will be appointed to staggered three-year terms. Mr. Long's request for a postponement of a week to submit names for the Designer Selection Committee, a group that will choose an architect to make the Town Hall ADA compliant, was granted.

Dan Doern, present in his role as chairman of the Planning Board, then described a proposed marijuana bylaw, which he said would regulate medical marijuana businesses and recreational marijuana research facilities. The general bylaw accepting marijuana research facilities and the protective bylaw addressing village zones that passed last May have been approved by the attorney general. Mr. Doern stated the Planning Board's general intent is a bylaw that will regulate businesses in town so they can contribute to the town, protect the health and well-being of town residents, supply an established path for legal businesses, and encourage reuse of existing buildings. The bylaw, he added, would support the Board of Selectman in its role as permitting authority, by providing it with a checklist of items to require of an applicant, while retaining their ability to act with discretion. (A fuller description of the proposed bylaw can be found on page 10.)

Town Administrator Mari Enoch reported that the Town's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant application has been received by the state's office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. **Following Mr. Long's disclosure that New Marlborough and Sandisfield had received a joint grant of \$2 million for repaving a badly deteriorated stretch of Route 57, the Board authorized Mr. Long to act as its designated signatory.**

Tara White informed the Board that the 8 Town School Consolidation Committee planned to request its

member towns to seek volunteers to serve on a Regional School District Planning Board. Once the Board is up and running, presumably sometime in January, the 8 Town Committee will dissolve. (The December 17 meeting at which this action was to have taken place was postponed.)

Switching to a more local issue, Ms. White asked about apparent damage to a Highway garage door, which at present is covered in plywood. Ms. Enoch said that during one of the overnight storms an exiting vehicle had clipped the top of the door and that its repair was awaiting a replacement part. **Mr. Long suggested that, in view of recent accidents, the Highway Department might be advised to hold safety meetings.**

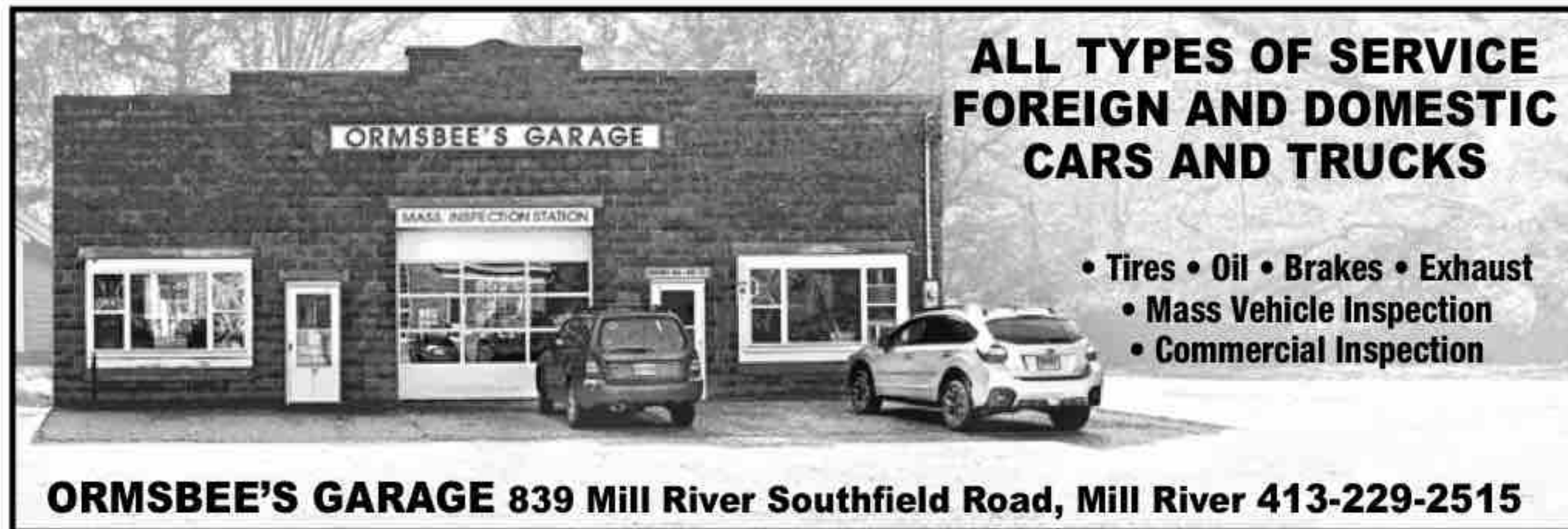
The Board then granted Highway Superintendent Loring's request to have two weeks of unused 2019 vacation carried over to March. The final bit of business was a state contract to the Council of Aging for a grant of \$6,000. Ms. Enoch pointed out that regular renewal of the grant was contingent on administration of grant payments, a task, Ms. Enoch said, admirably dispatched by Senior Services Director Prue Spaulding. The Board authorized Ms. Enoch to sign the contract accepting the grant.

Sandra Fusco Walker

December 16: With Chairman Yohalem once again joining the meeting via speakerphone, the Board took up the recommendation of the 8 Town School Consolidation Committee to form a Regional School District Planning Board. This Board, which will investigate possible ways of consolidating the Southern Berkshire and the Berkshire Hills Regional School Districts, will be made up of two townspeople and a member of the School Committees of each of the participant towns.

Jane Burke, attending the meeting in her role as chair of the SBRSD School Committee, pointed out that the

New Marlborough and Sandisfield have been awarded a joint \$2-million MassWorks grant for the rehabilitation of a portion of Route 57.



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statute allowing for such a board refers to individual towns, not those gathered into districts, and that the Southern Berkshire and Berkshire Hills towns do not, in fact, have their own school committees. **Reflecting on the consolidation issue thus far, Mrs. Burke said that the two districts' School Committees "have felt isolated from the process."** To this, Selectman Long immediately responded with an equal and opposite view: **"The towns have felt isolated."**

Acknowledging that there may be legal hurdles, the Board voted to accept the recommendation to form a Regional School District Planning Board, contingent on the resolution of any legal ambiguities.

Next, the Board accepted, with two minor modifications, a "Service Zone Agreement" between the Southern Berkshire Volunteer Ambulance Squad (SBVAS), based in Great Barrington, and New Marlborough Rescue (NMR). It codifies the mutual aid agreement between the two units and specifies that NMR may call on SBVAS in incidences in which NMR is unable to respond in time.

The Board then accepted a slate of nominees, proposed by Mr. Long, to serve on the Town's Designer Selection Committee. They are: Dan Doern, Mari Enoch, Robin Gerber, Joyce Hackett, Richard Long, and Scott Walker.

The Committee will select an architect to draw up plans to make Town Hall compliant with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Its term begins immediately and ends with its selection of an architect.

Ms. Enoch reported that the Town's new tax rate of \$10.31 per \$1,000 of property valuation has been approved by the state's Department of Revenue.

Mr. Long read into the record the following commendation to UPS driver Paul Borelli, who retired at the end of the year: "In recognition and gratitude to our friend for so many years of committed and unwavering service to the residents of New Marlborough, Massachusetts, we the Board of Selectmen, hereby authorize the award of this Certificate of Appreciation to Paul Borelli, along with our best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement." The certificate was presented to Mr. Borelli at a ceremony in late December.

Approval of licenses to nine New Marlborough businesses was postponed to later in the month. And, finally, an issue regarding compensation for workers called in on an off-day was clarified. A worker would receive double pay for the hours worked, and only for a full day if he or she had worked a full day. □

Joe Poindexter

Come to a public hearing to discuss a

PROPOSED MARIJUANA BYLAW

Saturday, January 18, 10 am

New Marlborough Town Hall

Copies of the proposed bylaw regulating Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers and Marijuana Research Centers may be viewed in advance at Town Hall or on the town website.

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View from the Board CAPITAL STEPS

It's the start of a new year and for the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee that means it's BUDGET TIME! For the next three and a half months the Committee and the Board will be meeting frequently to review and analyze every single expense item that will be presented to New Marlborough's voters for their approval at the Annual Town Meeting in early May.

What's the most difficult budget item to project? For me, it's the item called "Capital." This number consists of the projected expenses equal to or in excess of \$10,000 that are needed for the present and future that are not considered normal or every day expenses, such as salaries and utilities, and are expected to last more than five years. It represents the cost of equipment such as trucks, police cruisers, and ambulances. It covers building improvements and renovations as well as major road projects.

An example? We know Town Hall must be renovated to make it ADA compliant. Presently, we cannot hold a public meeting upstairs because it is not accessible to people who are handicapped. We must estimate the total renovation cost and decide whether or not to borrow the money. Large expenses can also be paid by using free cash or the stabilization fund. One important guideline: The state suggests we maintain a minimum of 5 percent of the amount of our total annual budget in free cash and another 5 percent in our stabilization account. This bare minimum would total almost \$600,000.

So how does it work? First step: This year a member of the Finance Committee will meet with the head of each major department to assess its capital needs. Does Highway need any trucks or major equipment? If so, when and how much? When must the ambulance be replaced? How about the police cruiser? Which roads

and/or culverts must be repaired or replaced? When and at what cost?

Second step: The Finance Committee reviews all of these items and determines if they are necessary. If so, when must the money be spent and should any of the funds be borrowed? The Committee then examines the approximate effect on the tax rate.

Third step: The Committee's recommendations are brought to the Board, which determines the items to be placed on the warrant for approval at the Town meeting.

Final step: You, as voters, are asked to approve a list of expenses that the Committee and the Board believe are necessary for the Town to properly function. The Committee and the Board do all that they can to keep any tax increase as small as possible. We look into the future, try to anticipate big ticket items and spread the cost over time. It ain't easy! □

Nat Yohalem

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Planning Board

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE CANNABIS BYLAW

After months of research and writing, the Planning Board is ready to roll out its draft of a new bylaw on the legal uses of commercial marijuana in New Marlborough. A public hearing is scheduled for Saturday, January 18, 10:00 a.m., at Town Hall in Mill River. Discussion will cover not only the new bylaw, but also several associated amendments to the existing set of protective bylaws.

Planning Board chairman Daniel Doern sat down with this reporter to give an overview of the Board's work and its intentions. The bylaw's principal purpose, he said, is twofold: to put in place safeguards that would align commercial enterprises with the look and feel of the town, and, at the same time, to provide those enterprises with a "reasonable pathway" in the special permit process. Furthermore, the Planning Board's hope is that this new bylaw will give the Board of Selectmen, which is the special permitting authority, a checklist to follow – guidance that is based on state regulations, but that will also include language specific to maintaining the character of the town.

As part of the research into determining what qualities would help maintain this character, members of the Planning Board studied more than thirty existing commercial and municipal uses in New Marlborough. The data they compiled on these properties included lot size, building size, visibility within its surroundings, light and sound impacts, and location within or beyond the village zones. The study determined that the average building size of existing businesses is 13,000 square feet. This led the Board to settle on a limit of 20,000 square feet of gross footage (including a subterranean level) for commercial marijuana facilities in the Rural Residential District and 5,000 square feet in Village Center Residential District. Provision is also made in the proposed bylaw to encourage the use of existing buildings.

As for a limit on the number of cannabis operations, the bylaw draft proposes that two research facilities and

two medicinal treatment centers be the maximum allowed, town-wide. If a marijuana business is to be allowed in a rural area of town, the key will be its invisibility from the road and from neighbors; if in a village, then the key will be that the building and its property be integrated into the character of its surroundings. For businesses within the village zone, parking will be restricted to the rear or side of the building.

An interesting facet of the sub-section of the proposed bylaw pertaining to Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers (which, by law, can grow, process, prescribe, and sell its products) is the provision that the enterprise may exist in more than one location – one, say, in the Rural Residential District for growing its crop, and the other in the Village Center Residential District for its clinic.

Copies of the bylaw amendment draft are available at Town Hall. The Planning Board hopes for a good turnout on January 18 and looks forward to a robust dialogue. Following this hearing, and based on comments and suggestions, the Planning Board will work to finalize the proposed bylaw to be ready for the Annual Town Meeting on May 4. □

Larry Burke



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 Mary Jo & Freddy Friedman; Angelene Pell; James Rippe; Patricia Sadera; Eileen Shapiro & Raymond Levin;
 Daniel Grant Tear; Barbara & Dan Bock; Karen Stiles Brusie, in memory of Bud & Martha Stiles and Cindy Allyn;
 Robert A. Forte; Tom & Ellen Frazier; Lucy Bardo & Ben Harms; Philip & Patricia Lique; John & Eva O'Brien;
 Terry & Kerry Bock; Patricia & Michael Brady; Hope Crocker; Judith Friedlander; Ann Getsinger;
 Marilyn & Elie Katzman; Mike & Janett Miller; James & Deborah Platt; John & Rebecca Schreiber;
 Richard & Susan Silver; Edward B. Goodnow; Janice & Charlie McSpirtt; Matthew Meyers & Francoise Lartigue;
 Holly & Joe Poindexter; Patt Scarlett; Deborah & Gary Crakes; Ellen Dripps; Mari Enoch; Peter Goodman;
 Sherri Gorelick; Paul & Marsha Harvey; Steve & Jeri Johnson; Nancy Kalodner; Robert Litchfield;
 Katherine Bouton & Daniel Menaker; Charlie & Stephanie Rothschild; Gerald & Yvonne Stephens;
 Marjorie Cohn & Peter Tarshis; Ramona Veretto; Joe & Darlene Wilkinson; Claudette Callahan;
 Christopher & Priscilla Morrissey; Diana Stiles Paruta; Fran & Don Cardiff; Helen E. Dow; Jill Jakes; Meta Levi;
 New Marlborough Friends of the Library; Alan Krantzler & Frank Potash; Harold & Vivian Stalker;
 David & Erika Sheldon; Neil Goldstein; Janet & Martin Kaplan; Michael Thaler; Joan Elmer & Lee Backer;
 Richard & Judith Breyer; Robert DeStefano; Alexander & Julia Ginzburg; Hollis Anne Lundeen; Kristen Mallory;
 Robert & Jennifer Miller; Margaret & Stephen Schulte; Leslie Armstrong; Donaldson Brown; Elna Rodda;
 Joseph & Maureen Krejci; Peter & Melissa Zdziarski; Rose & Brian Dugan; Robert & Irene Dvorchik; Sara Kiesel;
 Henry & Julie Jadow; Tom Jones & Marion Rosenfeld; Linda Skipper & James Singelis; Robert & Nancy Smith;
 Les Trois Emmes Winery; Arthur & Susan Peisner; Peter Pixley; Silvia Eggenberger & Paul Hess;
 Pam & Dick Stebbins; Enid M. Michelman; Ronald & Jean Paro; Steve & Donna Peltier; Gladys B. Reil;
 Katherine & Richard Silverblatt; Shirley Friedman Yohalem; Susan Lewin; Gary Shelto & Michael Buchanan;
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THINGS TO DO IN JANUARY



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BACK IN SERVICE

For David Hastings, Retirement Will Have to Wait

By Robbi Hartt

After a short retirement—just long enough for knee surgery and a quick recovery—Southfield's David Hastings is back at it, this time serving as interim superintendent for Lee Public Schools. Retiring at sixty-eight as superintendent of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD), Dave had no plans to return to work, but a note from the chairwoman of the Lee School Committee soliciting his interest reeled him back in. "When I met with the search committee, I told them, 'You know, I was an interrogation chief at Guantanamo,'" he recalls. "Waterboarding?" one of his interviewers probed. "Oh no," Dave replied. "You're much more likely to get what you want by building relationships in an environment of mutual respect... it's the only way it works." This commitment to building relationships and fostering mutual respect is the key to Dave's connection with all of his constituents — students, parents, faculty, and board members — and undoubtedly helped demonstrate that he was the kind of leader they were looking for.

Giving and earning respect is a trait David Hastings learned from his mother, a Smith graduate and math teacher from Dover Plains, New York. She was known as the "Tables Queen," says Dave, a nickname she earned by requiring students to write five complete sets of times tables for disciplinary infractions. Following his high school graduation, Dave's mother gave him two choices: to attend Divinity School at Andover Newton or earn a math/education degree at Springfield College. He opted for the latter (although those who have heard him offer the weekly prayers at the Southfield Church might wonder if he snuck in some divinity training as well).

A career in education was put on hold, however, by a number: 51 in the draft lottery of 1970. Dave enlisted in the Massachusetts Army National Guard and then joined the U.S. Army in 1971. Sent to Monterey, California, for training as a German linguist, he endured six hours of daily instruction, followed by three hours of homework, for an eight-month stint. This, he notes, was



David Hastings

photo by Robbi Hartt

when he started applying himself academically.

Following his training, he spent a little over two years on the East German border of West Germany, where he was, as he put it, "a green shirt [no identification or rank insignia] patrolling two rows of three-meter fence with a fifty-foot-wide minefield between them." Since no other relatives had ever served in the military, the decision to join the army made him "the black sheep of the family" for a long time. After leaving full-time service in 1975, Dave remained with the Army Reserve until 2005, teaching and supervising intelligence debriefing and interrogation and rising to the rank of chief warrant officer.

"Nothing in my life has ever happened on purpose," Dave notes. Returning from active duty, he was studying German at UMASS

when his mother noticed a want ad for a teacher at the Kolburne School in New Marlborough. He was hired and began teaching math to special needs students in September 1975. Thus began a long and storied career in education that would include serving as teacher, program director, education coordinator, and principal in various settings throughout South County, including Avalon Center/Hillcrest Center and Valleyhead in Lenox, Eagleton School in Great Barrington, and Mount Everett in Sheffield.

After rising to curriculum and professional development coordinator at SBRSD in 2010, Dave was promoted to superintendent in 2013. His educational philosophy is marked by a combination of compassion and discipline. He is known to invite disruptive kids into his office for cups of tea, but also for his motto: "Work till you fall down, and when you do, pick weeds."

While his record of service in the military and public sector are remarkable, Dave's passion and devotion go far beyond these realms. Recognizing the many other ways he serves the community is important to fully appreciate his quiet leadership: singing in the church choir for forty years, organizing and leading the annual Memorial Day program in Mill River for the past twelve years, serving



Warrant Officer Hastings, far right, in Germany in the early 1970s

as treasurer for both Southfield Church and New Marlborough School PTA, and much more.

To really understand Dave, however, you need to appreciate the deep faith that undergirds all of his decisions. He lives by his conviction that “A life in motion travels in a straight line unless touched by God. Very few good things change your course, but the bad things force corrections.” Dave and his wife experienced just such a “forced correction” after Mary endured a second miscarriage. “The baby was born at six months,” he explains, “and the lungs weren’t developed.” After recovering from the pain of these losses, Dave and Mary eventually welcomed three adopted children into their home and lives.



David Hastings and his wife, Mary, in with their three children in an early family photograph.

Dave is full of anticipation for what his new role in Lee will bring, intent on discovering why he is called to serve again and discerning his purpose there. “I’ve had some wonderful role models,” he beams, “including [former SBRSD Superintendent] Tom Consolati. I try to be like him—very supportive, down to earth, caring about his teachers and never flaring up.” He is also confident that he will have an impact. “The good thing about being older is that you figure out what matters and what doesn’t,” he says. “Who I am is more important than what I know.” That’s a good lesson for all of us, no matter what our calling or classroom. □

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NEIGHBORS



Belinda and Robert Twing Jr. of Hartsville announced the engagement of their daughter, **Samantha**, to **Joseph Markham**, son of Brian and Jacquelyn Markham of Philmont, New York. Samantha will be graduating from SUNY Potsdam in May with a degree in psychology, and from the Crane School of Music with a music degree. Joseph will be graduating in May from SUNY Delhi with a degree in electrical construction and instrumentation. An October 10 wedding is planned.



Samantha Twing and Joseph Markham

The saga of Truly, the mostly Australian shepherd belonging to **Jill Jakes**, of Southfield, held the attention of many resident for weeks. Truly escaped from Jill's car on November 21 while she was shopping at the Big Y in Great Barrington. His veterinarian, **Emily Newman Stanton**, sought assistance in sighting the dog, but cautioned that Truly is very shy, and would run away if approached. Numerous people called Emily when they spotted Truly, and she plotted those sightings on a map, in hopes of establishing a pattern of his extensive travels. This went on for more than three weeks, including the posting of pictures of Truly throughout the area. Emily sought (and received) support and instruction from the non-profit **Missing Dogs Mass**, which also provided the loan of expensive equipment to photograph and eventually trap Truly. It worked! He was finally caught on December 12 – safe and sound, if rather thin – much to the relief and joy of Jill, Emily, and the many residents who followed or participated in the drama. The next day Emily took Truly to his home, and reported, "I was waiting with Truly; when Jill came home, unbridled joy erupted when the two friends were finally reunited after more than three weeks of agony." The photo says it all.



Jill and Truly



Hugo



Lyra

One of the perks of working for the *5 Village News* is that you get to sneak a picture of your grandchild into Neighbors, or in this case two, born just six weeks apart: on October 24, **Lyra Terp Poindexter**, the new daughter of **Rachel Terp** and **Owen Poindexter** of Berkeley, California, and December 6, **Hugo Becker Poindexter**, son of **Lauren Becker** and **Matt Poindexter**, of Brooklyn, New York. Grandparents Holly and Joe of Southfield so far have heard no disagreement to their claim that these are the brightest, most beautiful babies born in 2019. □

compiled by Barbara Lowman:
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**All Best Wishes for a Prosperous New Year
from the staff of the *New Marlborough 5 Village News!***

OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

photo by Larry Burke



To determine the age of a deer brought in to the Mill River General Store check-in station by hunter Dale Martin of Sheffield, biologist Dale Buckhout prepares to measure its teeth.

photo by Liz Goodman



Liz's boot and the bear print

photo by Larry Burke



Woody

Hunting season for white-tailed deer and black bears has wrapped up now, with the primitive firearms season for deer having ended on December 31. While the official statistics for 2019 will not be available from the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife until mid-January, it is likely that the heavy snowfall coinciding with the first day of shotgun season – December 2 – will have had the effect of lessening the numbers of deer normally taken by hunters in our area.

When asked about the likely “harvest” and the impact of the snowstorm, **Nate Buckhout**, who is Western District wildlife biologist for the Department, said that the deep snow discouraged older hunters from attempting to tramp through the woods, and that many of the younger hunters were otherwise engaged in plowing out driveways around the county.

Mr. Buckhout is something of a familiar figure to regulars at the Mill River Store. For the past few years, Nate has stationed himself at the store during the first week of shotgun season in order to gather data on the animals brought in to the check-in station. His examination of each deer or bear includes weight, an estimate of age, and any signs that can indicate the general health of the animal at the time of death. The information he gathers, when added to the data from other stations in the Western District (comprising all of Berkshire County and parts of Hampshire and Hampton Counties), will create a picture of the overall deer population, and will govern how many permits for antlerless (female) deer will be available for the 2020 season.

Nate has a special interest in the bear population of our region. With other officers from the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, he has been able to put tracking collars on eleven bears so far, and thus to monitor the movement of these bears year-round. Part of the study involves squirming his way into the dens in wintertime for extremely close encounters with the females and their cubs. Nate tells us that bears are not true hibernators, but enter a condition of deep sleep, or torpor, from which they will wake periodically throughout the winter as temperatures vary, and this makes entering their dens all the more...interesting. When Nate was asked if any of the dens he looks in on are located in New Marlborough, he replied no, not yet.

As if to underline Mr. Buckhout's point about bears and hibernation, **Liz Goodman** reported in from Clayton on December 21, “On one of the coldest and longest nights of the year, a bear woke up and hopped our fence and got our bird feeders! So much for it being “safe” to feed the birds in winter, although I will not be

deterred. Last night when we returned home around 9:00 p.m., we heard what sounded like a very large animal in the woods (in the direction from which the bear almost always comes in the warmer months). However, I never dreamed it was a bear this time of year — until I woke up this morning to find our feeders raided and saw the tracks!” Liz sent along shots of the worse-for-wear anchor fence and the much-worse-for-wear bird feeders, as well as the shot included here of her foot alongside that of her well-fed nocturnal visitor.

Before the snows came and put him into hibernation, how many of us, returning from the transfer station on Route 183, have focused our attention on **Woody the Bear**, and wondered if he or she isn't about to cross the road in front of us? Maybe we need more such gnarly creatures along our roadsides to slow traffic down! □

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



Winter on East Hill, Southfield

photo by Joe Poindexter


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WINTER HOUSE CONCERTS

The first of two Winter House concerts, Sunday, January 19, at 4:00 p.m., features a return of New Marlborough's own concert pianist, Manon Hutton-DeWys, playing mid-19th century music by Brahms and Liszt, as well as by two prominent female composers of the time, Clara Schumann and Fanny (Mendelssohn) Hensel. In addition to her performance schedule, Manon is visiting assistant professor of music and professor of applied piano at Bard College at Simon's Rock in Great Barrington. She will briefly discuss the pieces included in her performance.

The second concert of the series, on Sunday, February 23, at 3:00 p.m. will feature the formidable harpist, Emmanuel Ceysson. Principal harpist at the Metropolitan Opera, Emmanuel was to have played in the Music & More series last September but suffered an injury, so we are delighted that he will be able to entertain us in February. This may be the last chance to hear Emmanuel in a concert recital in our area. He has accepted the position of principal harpist of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, starting next September. Please note that the starting time of 3:00 p.m. is an hour earlier than the usual time for Winter House Concerts.

The Winter House Concerts, sponsored by the New Marlborough Village Association, last an hour and are followed by wine and hors d'oeuvres. Both will take place in private homes. Seating is limited, so please make reservations by calling 413-229-2785 or online at www.newmarlborough.org. □



Manon Hutton-DeWys



Emmanuel Ceysson

Upcoming: *Events Calendar for December*

January 19: Manon Hutton-DeWys plays Brahms and Liszt at the season's first Winter House Concert; 4:00 p.m. at a nearby private residence; \$25, \$20 to members of the New Marlborough Village Association; to reserve call 413-229-2785 or go online at www.newmarlborough.org.

February 23: Emmanuel Ceysson, principal harpist at the Metropolitan Opera, will perform a celestial repertoire at the second and final Winter House Concert at a nearby private residence, starting, an hour earlier than usual, at 3:00 p.m.; \$25, \$20 to members of the New Marlborough Village Association; to reserve call 413-229-2785 or go online at www.newmarlborough.org.

February 24 to 28: Early voting for the state's Super Tuesday Primary, which will be held March 3; receive your ballot from Town Clerk Kathy Chretien during regular office hours, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

THE LOG

Police Department (selected entries)

- Nov. 1 5:36 a.m. A caller alerts the Department to a tree down on Route 57.
- 6:57 a.m. Tree on wires on Mill River Southfield Road.
- 7:20 a.m. Tree on wires on Mill River Great Barrington Road.
- 7:49 a.m. Tree on wires on Hayes Hill Road.
- 8:34 a.m. Tree down on Canaan Southfield Road
- 8:43 a.m. Officer removes a large branch blocking Konkapot Road, then clears a tree from Canaan Southfield Road.
- 3:06 p.m. A caller requests assistance in checking his Mill River Southfield Road residence when a friend reports finding a refrigerator door open.
- Feb. 3 10:00 a.m. An officer is called to help settle a dispute between a moving company and a tenant at a residence on Mill River Great Barrington Road.
- 4:37 p.m. A caller alerts the Department to two dogs running loose on New Marlborough Hill Road.
- 7:56 p.m. A motor vehicle hits a deer on Hadsell Street.
- Nov. 4 1:33 p.m. A caller alerts the Department to a fire in a chicken coop on Canaan Southfield Road.
- 7:31 p.m. A motorist hits a deer on Mill River Great Barrington Road.
- Nov. 6 7:40 a.m. A resident complains about air pollution created by trucks idling on Hartsville Mill River Road.
- Nov. 11 9:18 a.m. After an officer in a cruiser clears four bags of trash from Norfolk Road, a nearby resident calls to say that a bear is the culprit and that she will clean up any remaining debris.
- Nov. 12 9:50 a.m. A resident requests that the Department make a record of an altercation in Hartsville four days previously that resulted in a concussion to the party making the report.
- Nov. 13 10:16 a.m. The state Department of Children and Families asks for assistance regarding information of possible child abuse at a Mill River residence.
- 11:00 a.m. An officer investigates a downed mailbox, possibly clipped by a snowplow, on South Sandisfield Road.
- 2:40 p.m. Cow loose on Hartsville New Marlborough Road
- Nov. 14 4:08 p.m. A caller reports being locked out of a pre-paid rental on Mill River Southfield Road.
- Nov. 15 11:35 p.m. A passing police cruiser reports a tree branch on wires on Hartsville Mill River Road.
- Nov. 18 5:39 p.m. An injured deer at the side of Hartsville New Marlborough Road is dispatched.
- Nov. 20 10:23 p.m. Following a stop on Canaan Southfield Road, an officer orders a tow for an unregistered, uninspected, and uninsured vehicle with a license plate violation and whose operator cannot produce a driver's license.
- Nov. 21 6:02 p.m. An officer locates a missing dog and returns it to its home on Mill River Great Barrington Road.
- Nov. 22 7:40 a.m. A caller reports a habitual speeder on Adsit Crosby Road.
- 5:24 p.m. A caller reports a downed wire throwing off sparks on Clayton Mill River Road.
- Nov. 23 10:47 a.m. Cows loose on Hartsville New Marlborough Road near its intersection with Adsit Crosby Road.
- Nov. 27 2:59 p.m. A caller reports two dogs loose on Shunpike Road.
- 5:30 p.m. A resident reports a power outage at the foot of East Hill Road.
- Nov. 28 8:06 a.m. Tree down on Canaan Southfield Road.
- 2:53 p.m. Wires down on Clayton Mill River Road.
- 3:58 p.m. A caller alerts the Department to a large downed tree blocking South Sandisfield Road.
- Nov. 29 8:08 p.m. A homeowner in Mill River village is advised to extinguish a small outdoors fire.
- 11:23 p.m. An officer assists the Great Barrington Police Department in breaking up a fight at Cove Bowling Lanes in Great Barrington.

Graham Frank, Chief of Police

FIRE AND RESCUE

Nov. 4 12:10 p.m. Mutual Aid to Sandisfield Medical Call
 Nov. 4 1:33 p.m. Canaan Southfield Road Structure Fire

Nov. 13 6:33 a.m. Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call
 Nov. 16 8:31 p.m. Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road CO Alarm

Fire Company President David Smith

Fire Chief Chuck Loring would like to remind homeowners of the wisdom of installing a KnoxBox at the main entry of the residence. It holds a key to your house and is accessible only with a master key under secure and safekeeping with the Fire Department. It will allow emergency — and time-saving — access to your house when you are not present. Information and ordering instructions can be obtained at www.knoxhomebox.com or by calling 1 (888) 438-5669. □

Fire Company President David Smith

THEN AND NOW



photos by Janice Stiles Boults

The bridge just north of Southfield village is scheduled for structural reinforcement next year, but it has already come a long way over the years. As shown in an early photo, the “Norton Bridge” was originally a wooden structure topped by dirt. A second photo depicts the devastation wreaked by the hurricane of 1938. □

Janice Stiles Boults



School News

THE CHALLENGE OF CONSOLIDATION

The wheels are slowly turning on the formation of the Regional School Planning Committee, which when organized will begin to look at the pros and cons of a possible consolidation between the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) and the Berkshire Hills Regional School District. Despite rumors to the contrary, nothing is in the works yet; no decisions have been made about a merger. In fact, nothing is likely to be known about the fate of this investigation for a year or more. All stakeholders will be invited to be part of the long process. The SBRSD School Committee is planning to help keep the communities informed through the school website, community forums, and other avenues so as to reach everyone interested.

In other news, at a special meeting on December 3 of the School Committee, Liz Lafonde of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees offered information about the Open Meeting Law and, in response to questions from Committee members, clarified requirements of the law. Ms. Lafonde also helped the Committee refine one of its main goals in 2020, the creation of a much needed School Committee Handbook. It will provide clarity to new members, staff, parents, and the community at large about the roles, responsibilities, and policies of the Committee.



photos by Larry Burke

After the last public school committee meeting was adjourned, the members were feeling positive about what was accomplished. They paused for a photograph before going into an executive session where they discussed negotiations of the superintendent's new contract until after 10:00 p.m. Seated around the table they are, from left to right, Arthur Batacchi-Sheffield, Danile Kelly-Egremont, Jeffrey Blaugrund-Alford, David Travis-New Marlborough, Beth Regulbuto-superintendent, Jane Burke-New Marlborough, Jonathan Bruno-Sheffield, Mary Ellen Brown-Monterey, Marcella Bush-Egremont, E. Bonnie Silvers-Sheffield, H. Dennis Sears-Sheffield.

In January, the committee will be involved in contract negotiations with superintendent Beth Regulbuto, and it will be engaged in the early stages in the formation of the budget for next year. The Committee hopes that early communication with town officials will facilitate a budget that all five district towns can support. □

Jane Burke, Chair, SBRSD School Committee



photos by Larry Burke

The gymnasium at Undermountain Elementary School was truly a colorful sight on Friday afternoon, December 20, as the entire school assembled for a Winter Solstice Sing. The classes from pre-K through Grade 5 were arranged in a rainbow-like arc across the basketball floor, each successive class dressed in a color of the spectrum, red through purple. The program of songs, led by music teacher Elizabeth Petty, also represented a spectrum of cultures. The highlight was a rousing version of "The Twelve Days of Christmas," which had the entire gym — children, staff, parents, and grandparents alike — singing, shouting, and jumping up and down. It was a high-spirited way to kick off the holiday break and celebrate the shortest day of the year.

THE HOLIDAY FAIR

New Marlborough Central's Festive Annual Event



Photos by Larry Burke

Above, Chris Clark and right, Mount Everett Madrigal Singers entertained fairgoers with renaissance harmonies.

The December 7 Holiday Fair, sponsored by the New Marlborough Monterey Parent Teacher Association, was abuzz with activity. Outside New Marlborough Central School, one could purchase a Christmas tree while enjoying a barbecued hamburger. Inside, in the basement, a delicious hot lunch, a bake sale, ornaments and small gifts made by the students were on offer. Opportunities to acquire holiday treasures continued in the classrooms upstairs — at the book sale for young and old, the new jumble sale, and the famous silent auction.

Proceeds go to field trips and enrichment activities for the students. Co-presidents Dan Weston and Lynn Webster organized the fair with Kim Jeffries. Teachers, paraprofessionals, secretary, nurse, custodian, and principal all joined forces to make it happen!

At 1:00 p.m., there was a pause in the activities for a delightful performance by the Mount Everett Madrigal Singers, who charmed the attendees with their talent and energy. Led by their inspired vocal teacher, Christopher Clark, their melodies, rhythms, style, and color were spot on. Four of the ten-member group are New Marlborough residents, showing their dedication to excellence by arriving to rehearse two mornings a week at 7:15, forty-five minutes before the regular, 8:00 a.m. start of the school day.

Christopher Clark leads students from grades three through twelve in a number of choruses — including the award-winning sixty-five-member Mount Everett Chorus. He is, quite literally, a pied piper. And no wonder: He has a BA in Music and Masters Degrees in Music Education and Choral Conducting. In addition to a deep educational background, he brings to his students his own continued explorations in music. He is now in a PhD program at the University of Hartford's Hartt School of Music. He also sings with Voices 21C, a social justice choir, based in Boston, that presents concerts on such topics as forced migration, the school-to-prison pipeline, gender equality, and human rights in Israel, Palestine, Mexico, and France. Locally he appears with The Stockbridge Festival Chorus and Crescendo. □

Jane Burke

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<i>Doc Martin, Season 9</i>	<i>Luther, Season 5</i>	
<i>Edie</i>	<i>Once Upon a Time in Hollywood</i>	

Books on CD

The Long Call, by Ann Cleeves
The Grammarians, by Catherine Schine
The Storyteller's Secret, by Sejal Badani



photos by Debbie O'Brien

On December 14, Dale Abrams of the Massachusetts Audubon's Berkshires Sanctuaries explained the bustling lives of beavers and their work. The New Marlborough Library program was made possible in part through the generous support of the New Marlborough Cultural Council.



Library Hours
 Mon. Wed. Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
 Tues. & Fri. 1:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
 Thurs. 1:30 - 5:30 p.m.
 229-6668



(413) 229-2544
 Free Estimates



Herbert W. Eichstedt III
Jason W. Eichstedt

Contributions are needed to continue the paper!

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

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

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

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

NAME _____

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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Town Times

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

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

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

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

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

Board of Assessors: Monday through Thursday, 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 - 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 - 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 - 12:00 p.m.

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

Tax Collector: Monday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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

Dog and Animal Control Officer: New Marlborough Police Department 229-8161

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.

PERMITS ARE DUE JULY 1

and can be purchased for \$125 at Town Hall, the Transfer Station, or by mail. Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Late fee of \$150 after August 15.

Emergency calls:

**Police, Fire, Medical
911**

New Marlborough Highway Department

Located on Mill River-Southfield Rd.

Hours:

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

PO Box 99, Mill River, MA 01244

(413) 229-8165

We welcome advertisements from businesses owned by New Marlborough residents.

Other businesses can be listed in the Service Sector (see back page). Questions, rates? Call Barbara Lowman: 229-2369

NM5VN Editorial Team

Joe Poindexter, issue editor; Diane Barth, designer;

Janice Boults, Martha Bryan, Jane Burke, Larry Burke,

Robbi Hartt, Barbara Lowman, David Lowman,

Peter Schuyten, Barry Shapiro, Sandra Fusco-Walker

Contributing writers and artists: Ann Getsinger, Fiona Kerr,

Mary Richie Smith. Index: Donna Weaver

New Marlborough 5 Village News

appears monthly,

also online at www.nm5vn.org

The next issue will be dated February 2020.

All copy must be submitted no later than January 17.

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

PO Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259

5villagenews@gmail.com

New Marlborough 5 Village News
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SERVICE SECTOR 1/20

- ♦ **Dellea.biz Computer Services:** has provided local residents with on-site Windows computer repairs and technical support since 1996. Book appointments online at <https://dellea.biz> or call (413) 528-1141.
- ♦ **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
- ♦ If you are looking for short term rehabilitation, physical therapy, senior living, skilled nursing or memory care, look no further than **Noble Horizons**, proud recipient of Medicare's premier 5-star rating. Just over the border in Salisbury, CT. www.NobleHorizons.org 860-435-9851; 17 Cobble Road Salisbury, CT.
- ♦ **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 & Sons, Inc:** A family-run general contractor business serving the MA and CT area since 1988 - new construction, additions, remodeling, and more. Licensed and insured. Call (413) 229-8450 for free consultation.
- ♦ **Shift Happens:** causing stress, anxiety, depression. Take steps – feel better, in life, love, work, school. Psychotherapy works. Adults/adolescents. Susan Winston, Great Barrington 818-618-0775

To list your business here, contact Barbara Lowman (413)229-2369