

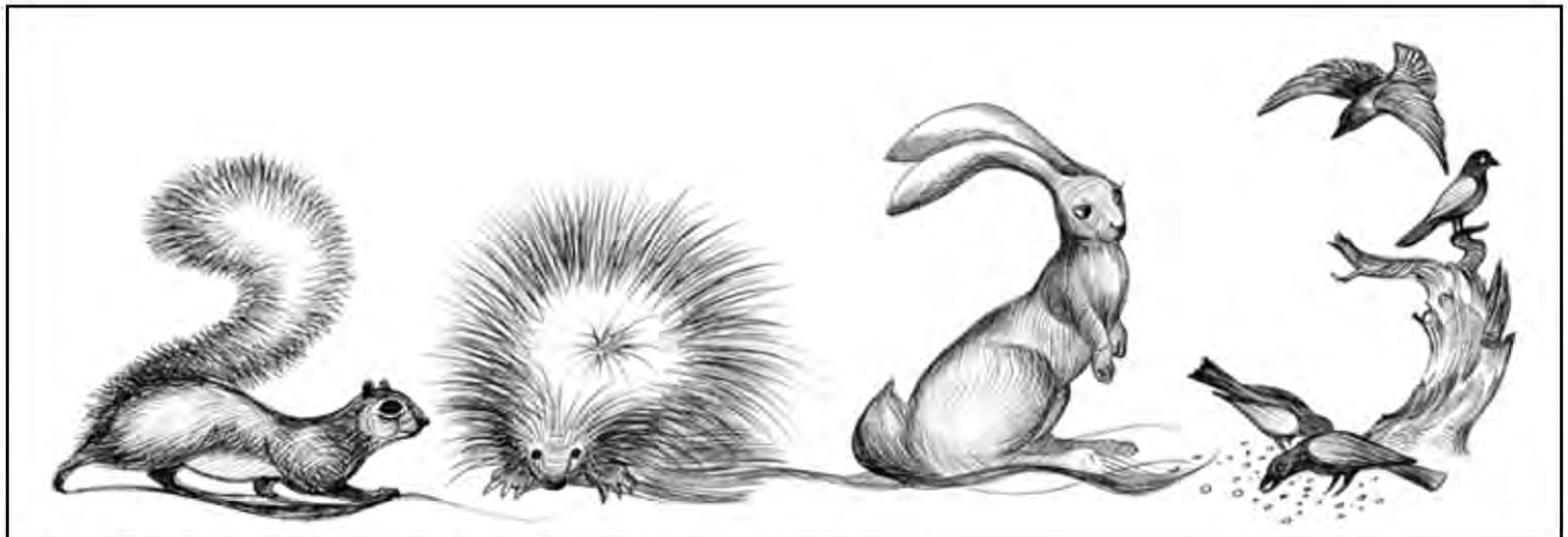
each proposed space, the Board and Mr. Long said that an architect has visited the winery and assisted with a conversion estimate. An unnamed contractor visited Mr. Brazie's property with the Board but gave no estimates for conversion work. Despite this, Mr. Long stated with confidence that "I personally believe that the winery is the best option," referring to the likely cost of purchase and renovation. The amount of money the Town would have to put down to secure the option to buy was not discussed at this meeting. The Board was scheduled to hold an executive session on Monday, December 5, to discuss negotiation strategy.

When Mr. Eline was asked if he is interested in selling a purchase option to the Town, he declined to answer, but instead stated he will be having a discussion with the Board to understand the process and will then be in a better position to make that decision. Two years ago, the Elines listed the property but did not receive satisfactory offers. It was relisted for sale in August of this past year for \$1.2 million. Their residence is located on the property but will be separated from the winery so that they can remain in their present house. Mr. Eline confirmed they have received offers

from a bakery as well as another person or business he declined to identify.

Thomas "Mac" McConnell and Jaime Shapiro are the bakery owners interested in the property for a second location of their California-based business, Midwife and the Baker. Mr. McConnell was present at the Board's November 28 meeting to hear the decision of the Board. He confirmed that he and his wife continue to be interested in purchasing the winery, and remain in touch with the Elines.

According to Richard Long, the intent is to negotiate an option for a duration of two to three months, which should allow the Committee enough time to complete its exploration of renovating the current Town Hall. The estimate for bringing Town Hall into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, based on November, 2022 prices, is slightly above \$2.4 million. In addition, it is likely that windows need to be replaced, insulation added, the roof repaired, and a structural issue with the balcony addressed. The cost of this work is unknown but will be gathered in the next two months. Additionally, the Committee will get cost estimates for the temporary relocation of Town Hall personnel during renovation. This is



A New Year's puzzle for you from the pen of Ann Getsinger. Hint: Squint!

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thought to be a significant expense but no estimates are yet available. Lastly, the Committee will explore possibilities for selling or repurposing the building if Town Hall operations are relocated to another facility.

Once the costs of renovating Town Hall are clear, the Committee can compare this with converting the

winery and will make a proposal to the Board. If the plan is accepted, Mr. Long hopes the Board will hold a vote at a Special Town Meeting, possibly as soon as March, with a subsequent vote at a Town elections date on exempting loan payments from the limits of Proposition 2-1/2. □

THEN & NOW

The following little nuggets are from the Historical Society's bi-annual publication, *Then & Now*, which was published from 1978 through 1997.

From the Berkshire Courier: Mill River, January, 1879 – Cool weather this! At 9 o'clock Monday evening, the mercury was eleven degrees below zero, and Tuesday morning, the thermometer fell off the nail and broke itself.

From the Berkshire County Gazetteer: In 1880, New Marlborough had a population of 1,876. In 1883 it employed three male and fifteen female teachers in its public schools, at an average monthly salary of \$25.50 for males and \$21.40 for females. There were 347 school children in the town, while the entire amount raised for school purposes was \$2,041.52.

From old newspaper clippings: Southfield, July 1895 – Burglars entered the store of A.C. Lockwood of this place on Friday night, blew open his safe but obtained no money. They took a few cookies and some soda water. They also visited the houses of James Cook, H.W. Palmer, H.N. Kasson, and Prof. Henry A. Beers, where they obtained provisions and had a picnic in front of Cook's house.

Mill River, 1899 – A small tarantula escaped from a bunch of bananas in Mr. Merrill's store, but was caught Friday and placed under a glass can and put on exhibition. A large poster gave the following notice of the capture:

TARANTULA CAPTURED!

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Town Business Is Your Business SELECT BOARD



November 21: With newly appointed Administrative Assistant Michelle Castellani present to record meeting notes, the Select Board quickly dispensed with a question as to the destination of a possible \$2,700 of Emergency Management grant money by recommending it be spent on trauma kits for fire and rescue and police vehicles. It then received an update from Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring: a ten-wheel truck on order would arrive in the spring; a culvert had been installed on Old North Road; and the Department was eager to fill an opening for a driver with someone who also possessed mechanical skills.

Next up: an extended discussion on when to commit to the \$500,000 loan approved at the May 2022 Annual Town Meeting. At issue was whether to take out the loan now and begin paying interest, currently pegged at 4.25 percent, without assurance that money would be needed for road projects before next spring. Or wait until next year to borrow and risk a significant increase in interest rates in the interim. Mr. Carson, averse to unnecessary interest payments, favored waiting. Ms. White argued that, while it was impossible to predict the direction of interest rates, the availability of funds would allow Mr. Loring to proceed as soon as he was ready with bids for projects. A move to take out the loan now was approved by Ms. White and Mr. West, with Mr. Carson the lone dissenter.

Before the meeting was adjourned, Town Administrator Mari Enoch welcomed Michelle Castellani, who has been on board less than a week, "She has already organized me in a hundred ways" said Ms. Enoch. One of Ms. Castellani's initiatives: Board access via computer to all town administrator documents.

Joe Poindexter

November 28: At 6:00 p.m., the meeting was called

to order with all three Board members present, as well as Town Administrator Mari Enoch, Administrative Secretary Michelle Castellano, and several members of the public.

The first and only action of the Board this evening was to accept the recommendation of the Town Hall Planning Committee to designate the property known as Les Trois Emme, a winery located at the corner of Knight Road and Mill River Great Barrington Road, as the best choice for an alternate option to the present Town Hall location. The Board also agreed to proceed with negotiations on an option to purchase the winery property. Because the Town Hall Planning Committee continues to consider the feasibility of rehabilitating the current building, a purchase option is viewed as the best way to preserve the possibility of the winery during the feasibility study. The Committee's recommendation was the outcome of a request for proposal and conveyed in a memo from the Chairman, Richard Long.

Along with the winery, one other proposal had been submitted, by Tom Brazie of The Farm New Marlborough, offering the 12,200 square foot "Robin's Hall" building and 8+/- acres of land. This had been the administration building of the former Kolburne School, prior to Mr. Brazie's purchase of the property and buildings. Though the offered price of \$750,000 for Robin's Hall is significantly lower than the \$1.2 million list price of the winery, "there were other important factors related to the school property that must be considered," according to Mr. Long's memo. (See page 1 for more information on the Committee's rationale.)

In Town Administrator updates, Ms. Enoch informed the Board that Town Moderator Barry Shapiro appointed School Committee Member Nanci Worthington to the Eight Town Regional School

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Planning Committee, effective immediately. Needing a replacement School Committee member at the conclusion of Jane Burke's term, the Committee called on Mr. Shapiro to make an appointment.

Members of the Board had no updates so they moved on to some regular business, signing off on Cultural Council Grants and also on a special permit granted to David Bailin, of Deerwood Park Road. After a review

and approval of various meeting minutes and payroll and vendor warrants, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

December 5: The Select Board met in executive session, but the content of that meeting had not yet been made public as this issue went to press. □

Michele McAuley

THE PLANNING BOARD

For those readers who might have been mystified by the legal notice from the Massachusetts Attorney General's office that appeared in last month's NM5VN, here is the explanation from Planning Board Chair Bob Hartt: In its routine review of changes to municipal bylaws, the AG's office noticed that the Planning Board's public hearing on what became Article 46 in last year's Annual Town Meeting warrant – concerning ground-mounted solar installations within the village-residential districts – was advertised only nine days ahead of the hearing, rather than the required fourteen days, and this is termed a "limited defect." This is a minor infraction, and, essentially, unless there is no complaint lodged within three weeks of the posting of this notice in Town Hall and in the pages of this newspaper, the matter is resolved. The bylaw stands as approved.

The Planning Board met on December 14, convening at 7:00 p.m. with all members present.

The Board continues to mull over the pros and cons of framing up a ridgeline protection bylaw, which would affect areas in town that are 1,400 feet or higher above sea level. One area of interest is Woodruff Mountain, which is possibly not so much a mountain as a high hill, and which rises up to the east of Southfield. Member Christian Stovall is tasked with researching more about the property owners and conserved land in that section of town for the next meeting.

Another area of continuing discussion among the members of the Board has to do with regulation of short-term rentals of houses or apartments. As reported in the November issue of the NM5VN, the Select Board had urged the Planning Board to come up with a bylaw which would contain rules and regulations pertaining to such rentals for the 2023 Annual Town Meeting. Chair Bob Hartt reiterated that the consensus of the Board had been to shy away from constructing a restrictive bylaw, but he did concede that he would feel the Board had been remiss in its duties should something terrible occur in a short-term rental that could have been prevented through regulation. Member Jordan Archey asked if there could be some clarification

from the Select Board as to its reasoning for wanting a new bylaw, whether it be because the Board wants to discourage short-term rentals, or is more interested in formalizing these rentals as entities that can then be subject to a lodging tax. Some members thought the latter, and Mr. Hartt closed the topic by saying that further research was needed.

In a follow-up on the Dark Sky bylaw which was approved at the Annual Town Meeting last May and more recently by the state, Paul Marcel told the other Board members that, in an informal discussion with Road Superintendent Chuck Loring about reducing the glare from lighting around the Town Garage, he came away with the impression that Mr. Loring had not added that to his to-do list. Bob Hartt said that he had prepared a letter to the Berkshire Springs owners on the subject of complying with the new bylaw and added that the Town Garage, as with Berkshire Springs, has a full year to come into compliance, so there is no need to rush these entities at this time.

The remainder of the meeting was given over to developing a list of goals for 2023, and that includes recruiting a new member, reviewing the Town's open space plan, investigating the Planning Board's role in regulating "tiny houses," working with the building inspector on clearing up vagaries in the Town's bylaws, and being engaged with the effort to create affordable housing in New Marlborough. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. □

Larry Burke



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Town Governance

This is the second in a series of articles on the men and women who serve on our Town boards and committees.

TARA WHITE, VICE-CHAIR, SELECT BOARD

By Joe Poindexter

If hands-on experience is the key to good governance, there is no one better qualified to hold office in New Marlborough than Tara White. First elected to the Select Board in 2009, Tara will have served fifteen years by the time her current term expires in May 2024. Before she joined the Board, she got to know it well — as a reporter of its deliberations for the *5 Village News*.

But there is a lot more to her resume. Before her election as a selectman, Tara served on the Finance Committee and the 250th Anniversary Committee and was secretary of the Planning Board. Currently, she is one of New Marlborough's three representatives to the Regional School District Planning Board, a committee formed to study the ramifications of consolidating the Southern Berkshire and the Berkshire Hills Regional School Districts. Added to that, she is secretary-treasurer of the New Marlborough Historical Society and helps run programs for the New Marlborough Meeting House. She is also the Town's accounting officer, a position to which she was appointed in 2008.

Tara was born in Great Barrington, a middle child with two older brothers and then then two half brothers and sisters following her parent's divorce and remarriage. Her grandfather and father raised race horses and owned a sawmill in Housatonic, Barbieri Lumber. With frequent changes of domicile, Tara's early schooling shifted with equal frequency: Bryant School, Dewey School, both in Great Barrington, a year and a half at New Marlborough Central, then back to Great Barrington's Housatonic School, where her teacher had been her mother's teacher, and finally to Mount Everett in Sheffield for grades 7 through 12, when her parents moved to Southfield to manage the Goodnow farm. Adaptability was either inborn or quickly learned. Tara says she liked every one of her schools.

A similar character trait accompanied Tara in her work life. Following high school, she took a job at Jennifer House, the Great Barrington mail-order



Tara White, relating a bit of her life history

photo by Joe Poindexter

firm, where she learned to organize order fulfillment and shipping of goods. In 1980, she joined Berkshire Spring Water with no clue of what was involved in operating a bottling company. Dale Bosworth, Sr., who started the firm, had confidence in Tara and told her "Just hang around. You'll figure it out." "That was my training period," says Tara. She did, in fact, figure it out, becoming manager of the company, as well as president of the Northeast Bottled Water Association for four years and a member of

the board of the International Bottled Water Association.

She was with Berkshire Spring for twenty-two years.

Married to and then divorced from Arthur White, Tara had a daughter, Tina, who died in 2007 at age thirty-five of a congenital heart condition. Tara later married Edgar Zukauskas, who died in April 2017 of liver failure.

Tara carries on. As she grapples with the challenges of school consolidation and creating an ADA-compliant Town Hall, she contents herself with being the resident of an area that has been a part of her life from the beginning. Of her Southfield residence, she says, "I love my house; I love being in the woods." Sounds as if she plans to give her talent for adaptability a rest. □



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THE BUCK DROPS HERE

The annual shotgun hunting season for deer and bear has come to a close once again for New Marlborough and the rest of Wildlife Management Zone 3. No more early mornings passing parked trucks with drivers out hunting bucks and does.

This year's yield, posted on the window of the Mill River General Store, took up four pages and included 119 deer and one bear. Of the deer killed, thirty-two were does, five were button bucks (flat head between the ears and more likely to be found by themselves), and the rest were bucks. A hunter whose name was not available scored the most outstanding kill, a 13-point buck weighing 184 pounds, while Keith Wilkinson of Southfield got a 10-point buck weighing 205 pounds. The smallest deer captured was antlerless, weighing 60 pounds, while a 75-pound bear was the lone fatality of the family Ursidae.

Nathan Buckhout, Division of Fisheries and Wildlife biologist for the Western District office in Dalton, was again on hand to oversee the weighing and reporting process this season. The data gathered actually go to Martin Seehan, the deer biologist at the DFW headquarters in Westborough, however, and he explains that the town-level data is too specific, or too small a sample, to be meaningful, but when added to data gathered across the state, the harvest data can be used to infer the reproductive rates and health of the deer population.

While beam diameter (including the length of each antler point, the mass between the points, the length



Keith Wilkinson with his 10-point buck
photo courtesy of Keith Wilkinson

of both main beams, and the width between both main beams) is important to hunters in scoring a deer, the sex and age of the deer harvest are most important to the DFW, which tracks differences in survival and reproductive rates over time. That information is then used to determine the number of antlerless deer permits (ADPs) allocated the following hunting season, with the ultimate goal of maintaining healthy forests (not too many and not too few deer).

While hunting season for deer and bear has ended, some other fur-bearing creatures should still be watching their backs: opossum and raccoon season extends to January 31, fox and rabbit to February 28, and bobcat and coyote season ends on March 8. Except for coyote, these animals are mostly trapped rather than shot. □

Robbi Hartt

SUSAN M. SMITH Attorney At Law

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Upcoming: Events Calendar for December

February 19: String quartets by Mozart and Borodin, with members of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, a Winter House concert sponsored by the New Marlborough Meeting House, 4:30 p.m. at a private residence, reservations required, call (413) 229-5045

Thank You to Our Contributors:

John Halbreich; Ellen Sweet & Ari Korpivaara; Raymond Levin; Timothy Merjos; Robin Mallory; Chris & Priscilla Morrissey; Julie Sandorf; Mary White; Janet & Martin Kaplan; Alan Krantzler; Reiner & Jennifer White; Janet S. Brown; Hope Crocker; Shirley Friedman Yohalem; Frank & Jane Hiza; Liana Toscanini; Paul & Lisa Marcel; Lauren Smith/Fairview Hospital; Jeff & Lori Stockwell; Leon & Mildred Eichstedt; Paulette & Tony Pontier; Eugene & Elizabeth Rosenberg; Robert Twing; Jerome & Henrietta Berko; Rene & Marjorie Biber; Caroline Chase; Marilyn & Elihu Katzman; Kathy Palmer; Ron & Veronica Yapple; Peter & Melissa Zdziarski; John & Linda Lowman; Gary & Deborah Crakes; Kate Wenner & Gil Eisner; Leonard & Hannah Golub; David Strauss; Brad Wagstaff & Leslie Miller; Joe & Darlene Wilkinson; Anna Caban & Alan Gewirtzman; James & Pilar Oates; John Potoski; Myles Schumer & Anne Riney; Jay Bock; Mari Enoch; Judianne O'Brien; Arthur & Susan Peisner; John & Marcia Cook; Richard Long; Bill Rock Smith; Sheila Baird; Joan & Egon Fromm; Lucy Bardo Harms; Holly & Joe Poindexter; and Edward Smith.

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A Dazzling Light Show

...AND A GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY

By Barry R. Shapiro

For the second year in a row, residents driving past the Meeting House and the Old Inn on the Green can slow down and take in the spectacular show of holiday lights, thanks once again to Greg and Anupama Poole of New Marlborough. Greg and Anu, who have been part-time residents for over fifteen years, hired John Field and his crew to put up the fantastic display.

Greg explained the motivation to arrange for the display as follows: “New Marlborough is a special place filled with people who appreciate one another. Our town and its villages are even more special now, because our space, our land, and our history are all bigger than the new forces of division, distraction, and even destruction. New Marlborough can’t solve the world’s problems, but it can – and it does – provide a respite from them. Within that respite are also parts of the solution.

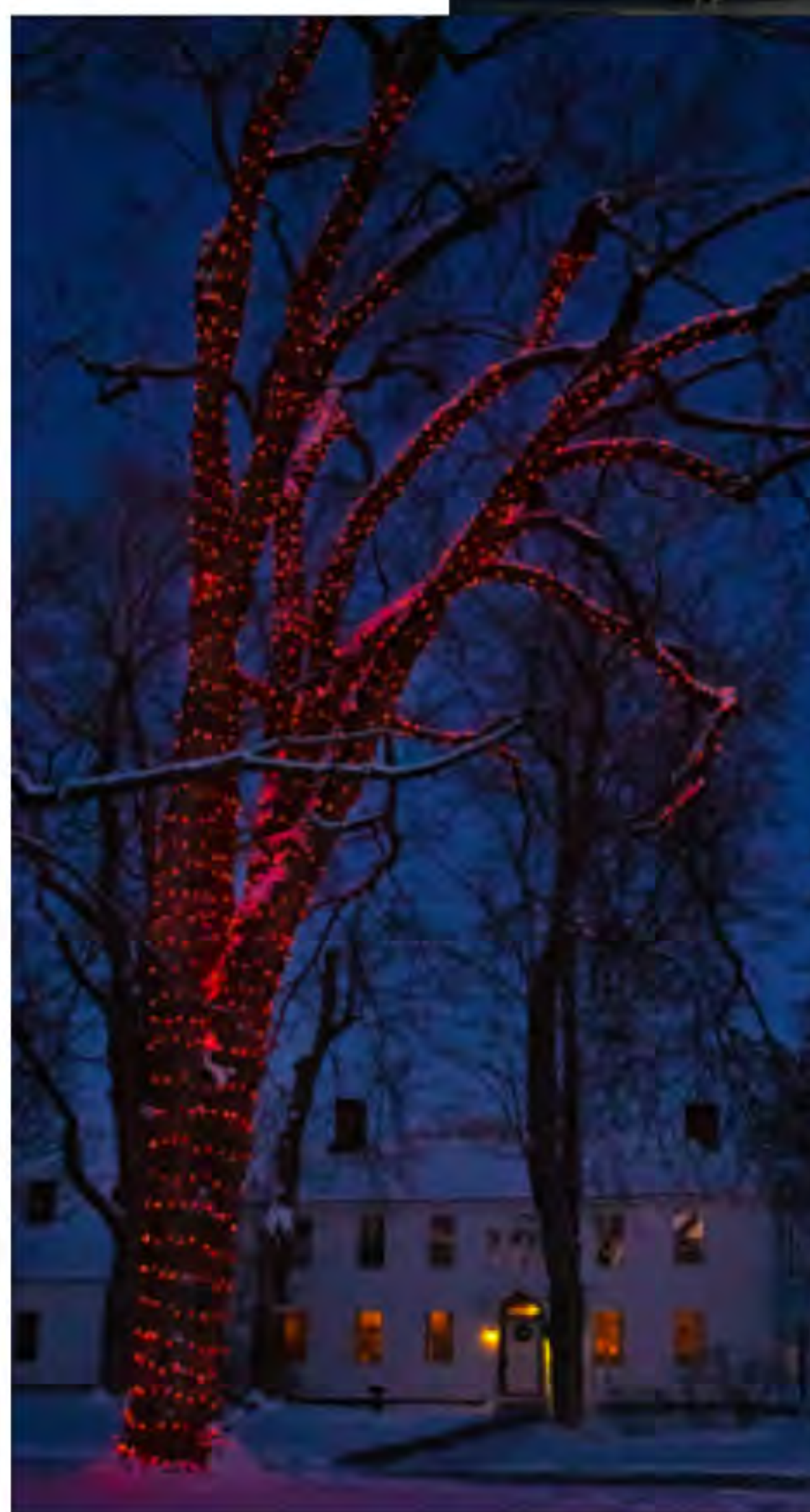
“In New Marlborough, people with different beliefs respect and listen to one another with grace. Screens lose their appeal to a landscape which transcends. And for every person whose central tendency now leans towards discord, in this town we still have hundreds whose first thought is serving or helping others.

“What a place! We are so grateful and appreciative that we get to spend time here.

“Why do I put up the lights? I put them up because they’re physical



photos by Larry Burke



things, and physical things have a depth to them that digital ones don’t. I put them up because they project light and color. The lights and colors touch most of us deeply. We don’t need to know why. They just do. But mostly I put the lights up so that others can see and feel them and give them their own personal meaning. The lights mean one thing to me, a different thing to my children, and something else entirely to my neighbors. They are put up in the spirit of creating a moment that we can share. If others are able to feel something when they drive or walk past, I hope they’re able to linger with that feeling for a little while.

“What a special place this town is. We’re all so lucky to be here.”

It’s not certain how long the lights will be up, so the sooner the better

to take an evening stroll around our enchanting town green. Short of an in-person visit, take a look at the color version of the accompanying photos at nm5vn.org. □





NEW MARLBOROUGH LAND TRUST

Happy New Year from the New Marlborough Land Trust. We have been busy planning our 2023 calendar, and below is a sampling of events that are now confirmed.

Saturday, January 28: Tracking, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., New Marlboro Preserve. Join board member and naturalist Tes Reed on a wander, exploring lower wetland and upper deciduous forest, as we read the landscape for signs of the wildlife in our midst. All ages.

Saturday, April 22: Earth Day, 9:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Goodnow Preserve. Join us for our spring roadside clean-up, followed by a picnic. All Ages.

Sunday, April 30: Family Camp, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Thousand Acre Swamp. Bring the family for a fun adventure as we explore primitive skills that allow us to thrive in the wild. Ages eight and up.

Saturday, July 8: Wild Weed Walk, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Steepletop. Wander the land and learn about the many wild edible and medicinal plants that grow all around us. It's a veritable smorgasbord out there just waiting to nourish and heal us.

Saturday, October 21: Reading the Land, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Goodnow Preserve. The natural world is a storybook begging to be read. Together we will learn to read the landscape for past, present, and future chapters. Ages fifteen and up

Friday, November 24: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Goodnow Preserve: Wreath Making for the Holidays.

We thank you for your support and appreciate your input. Please email us at nmlandtrust@gmail.com. □

Sylvia Eggenberger, Executive Director

WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

Responding to a plea on Maggies-List requesting reports of wildlife sightings, **Louise Yohalem** wrote on December 2, "Back in the Bronx, **sparrows** were about it. But up here, on Thanksgiving morning two **coyotes** and a **bobcat** walked across our field. Unfortunately, my phone wasn't handy for pictures. Wildlife sightings are always an exciting delight for this city-bred kid."

Thanksgiving Day seems to have been quite a busy day for our wildlife denizens. **Ed Harvey's** trail camera at the entrance to Camp Segowea caught a **black bear** strolling by just after midnight, and then a nice little **white-tail buck** around 5:30 a.m. And in the early afternoon, **Kate Burke** spotted what she first thought was an **otter** sporting around on the thin ice of the Flying Cloud farm pond. On closer inspection, though, it turned out to be a **mink**, looking fine in its very, very expensive coat.



photo by Ed Harvey

A midnight rambler at the Camp Segowea main gate



left and below, A mink on thin ice



photos by Larry Burke

photo by Larry Burke



A titmouse poised to grab a snack

Marlborough town limits for our reports, how can we resist showing the beautiful photo Ed got of a mature bald eagle on Cross Road in Sheffield. That's close enough!

And finally, also just over the town line, this time in Sandisfield, the NM5's illustrious designer Diane Barth captured a remarkable sequence of events on December 10, as she describes: "I'm fortunate to be living by a pond, which has given me a huge appreciation for wetlands and the numbers of birds and animals the wetlands support. Last week I glanced out my window to see two bobcats walking across the barely frozen ice. They spied something in the reeds and crouched, waiting patiently... butts wiggling like your house cat does, before they pounced. Fantastic hunting technique, ending up with what looks like a muskrat (getting a little wet in the process). I was told that bobcats don't usually hunt in pairs, so I looked it up. It's true they don't, but the kittens do stay with their mother for up to a year, learning to hunt. So I imagine this was a pretty successful hunting lesson."

And here's to a successful end to the 2022 observing season for our NM5VN humans! □

compiled by Larry Burke; Send your wildlife sightings to Larry at larryjburke@gmail.com



photo by Ed Harvey

A six-point buck on the move on Foley Hill Road



photo by Ed Harvey

A proud bald eagle on the lookout for something tasty

photos by Diane Barth



A pair of bobcats hunting, with results

THE LOG

Police Department (selected entries)

- Nov. 1 6:52 p.m. The animal control officer is notified after a caller reports that an English pointer puppy has run off from a New Marlborough village property.
- Nov. 2 12:31 p.m. An officer reports that the English pointer has been located and returned to its home.
- Nov. 9 3:29 p.m. An officer patrolling at the intersection of Mill River Great Barrington and Adsit Crosby Roads is thanked by a passing motorist for helping slow traffic on Adsit Crosby.
- 4:33 p.m. Stopped on Hartsville New Marlborough Road because her car lacked an inspection sticker, the driver is issued a criminal complaint for driving with a suspended license.
- Nov. 12 6:51 a.m. The Highway Department is notified after a caller alerts the department to a tree down on Canaan Southfield Road
- Nov. 14 5:06 p.m. An officer helps remove an injured deer from Canaan Southfield Road.
- Nov. 15 5:41 p.m. A driver stopped on Shunpike Road is issued a criminal complaint for operating without a license.
- Nov. 16 12:39 a.m. A caller asks for assistance after driving his car into a ditch off Brewer Hill Road.
- 7:34 a.m. Verizon and Spectrum are notified after a caller alerts the Department to a fallen tree that has brought down wires on North Road.
- Nov. 20 11:20 a.m. An officer assists a food service employee who has accidentally locked himself inside New Marlborough Central School.
- 2:55 p.m. A tow is ordered for a car, stopped for a plate violation, whose driver is operating with a suspended license.
- Nov. 21 4:37 p.m. A Housatonic resident requests a restraining order against a resident of Mill River; the order is issued at 6:25 p.m.
- Nov. 22 1:20 p.m. Multiple callers report a vehicle collision with a utility pole, bringing down wires at the intersection of Mill River Great Barrington and County Roads.
- 10:04 p.m. Two cars collide in the parking lot of a restaurant on Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- Nov. 23 10:29 p.m. A driver on Mill River Great Barrington Road is given a verbal warning for failing to dim his headlights upon approaching an oncoming car.
- Nov. 25 11:16 a.m. A caller reports a horse loose near his Southfield residence.
- Nov. 26 1:18 p.m. A New Marlborough village resident reports receiving a call supposedly from a friend claiming to have been arrested in Boston and needing \$5,000 of bail money, followed by a visit from a "courier," whom he sent away when he failed to produce an ID; the scam was revealed when the friend, upon being called, said he was not in Boston.
- Nov. 28 8:21 a.m. An officer helps settle a father-son dispute at a Mill River residence.
- 12:20 p.m. A Southfield resident reports hunters trespassing on a neighbor's property.

Graham Frank, Chief of Police

FIRE AND RESCUE

- Nov. 2 2:10 p.m. Rhoades and Bailey Road Medical Call
- Nov. 3 3:43 a.m. Mutual Aid to Sandisfield Medical Call

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Nov. 5 1:38 p.m. Mutual Aid to Monterey Medical Call
 Nov. 11 10:10 a.m. Mill River Great Barrington Road Medical Call
 Nov. 11 2:54 p.m. Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call
 Nov. 15 2:47 p.m. Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call
 Nov. 15 2:37 p.m. Shunpike Road Medical Call
 Nov. 17 12:48 a.m. Hayes Hill Road Medical Call
 Nov. 17 5:57 p.m. Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call

Nov. 17 8:04 p.m. Mutual Aid to Sandisfield Medical Call
 Nov. 20 5:37 p.m. East Hill Road Fire Alarm
 Nov. 22 1:20 p.m. Old County Road/Mill River Great Barrington Road MVA
 Nov. 22 2:20 p.m. Clayton Mill River Road CO Alarm
 Nov. 24 10:17 p.m. Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road Medical Call
 Nov. 27 11:00 a.m. East Hill Road Brush Fire
 Nov. 28 10:21 a.m. Norfolk Road Medical Call

Fire Company President David Smith

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT NEWS FOUR DECADES OF SERVICE

Although nobody knows his exact date of hire, Robert Palmer has been an employee for the Town of New Marlborough for more than forty years. Bobby started to help maintain town roads and properties when he was just eighteen. When he turned twenty-four, he joined the cemetery department and very quickly earned the title of supervisor. In 1995, Bobby became part of the highway crew, where he quickly learned how to treat winter roads and was able to utilize his excellent mechanical skills.

Since then, maintaining the cemeteries during the warmer months and being on call 24/7 for the Highway Department during the colder months has been his life. Bobby, of course, has had help. In the early years, he assisted his father and brother, and for more than twenty years, his wife Tammi and their children, Crystal and Robert Jr., have been available when he needed an extra set of hands.

Bobby is dedicated to keeping our cemeteries immaculate and our roads safe. He takes pride in his often demanding work, showing respect for each headstone, and the care he takes in plowing and sanding the roads only comes from truly caring and years of experience. Bobby, a valued member of the highway crew, is a soft-spoken, hard worker with high standards and a great deal of integrity. He has no idea how much the highway crew appreciates his return every year when November rolls around. As an expression of our gratitude, the Highway Department was delighted to honor Bobby with a plaque for the dedicated work he continues to do.



photo by Barbara Marchione

Robert Palmer, left, accepting a well-deserved award for his many years of service to the town. With him are Select Board members Mark Carson and Tara White.

□
 Laura Worth

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School News

SARAH MATHER POLLOCK — A NEW VOICE ON THE SBRSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

By Robbi Hartt

“Growing up in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) was a wonderful experience from beginning to end,” Sarah Mather Pollock states. “The small class sizes created long-lasting friendships with no grade hierarchies. My brother, two years younger than me, was part of my friend group and I was a part of his — we were all a close-knit family.”

That intimacy carried over to teachers, staff, and administrators, too. “You knew your teachers, and they knew you — they instinctively knew when you needed help because they watched you grow up from year to year. You get a lot more out of that kind of environment,” she asserts. Seeing the number of parents who still enroll their children in “intimate” and “uniquely New England” small schools like South Egremont, Undermountain, and New Marlborough Central affirms her belief that bigger is not always better.

Sarah, who now lives in Southfield, grew up in South Egremont and attended the one-room schoolhouse there before continuing on at Sheffield Center for first through fourth grade and graduating from Mount Everett High School in 1995. One of her memorable experiences growing up was participating in the Ski Butternut After School Ski/Board Lesson Program on Wednesday afternoons. “That’s how I learned to ski,” she boasts, “and I’m thrilled to say that it’s still going strong!” Her ties to Ski Butternut have grown much deeper over the years. She started her career with the company in 1994 and, after holding the position of



*Sarah Mather Pollock with her daughters at a recent Mount Everett theater event
photo courtesy of Sarah Mather Pollock*

office manager for fifteen years, she moved up to business manager (her current position).

Another highlight of her education was being part of Shakespeare & Company. “Each year the Shakespeare & Company actors and directors go to roughly fifteen area schools. Each school puts on its own production, and this past fall Mount Everett gave three performances of *Macbeth*. All of the schools share their performances at the Shakespeare & Company Fall Festival in Lenox. It’s an amazing experience,” she explains.

Although she moved away for college (graduating from UMASS with a degree in Plant & Soil Science) and lived for short stints in California and Colorado, she is quick to admit, “My heart’s always been here in the Berkshires.” As exciting as it was to check out somewhere new, she was just as excited to come back. When she and her husband discussed where to settle down, there was no doubt this was exactly where they wanted to live and raise their children.

Why would anyone in the throes of raising a family and pursuing a demanding career willingly take on more responsibility? “The School Committee position for New Marlborough was brought to my attention by a friend,” Sarah notes. “My first thought was ‘Can I possibly take this on?’ but my immediate response was ‘Absolutely!’ Our girls are in the heart of their education at SBRSD, but they are becoming a bit more self-sufficient now. Nothing is more important than their well-being and education.” □



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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

On a chilly winter night, Moroccan chickenstew that is flavored with a lovely assortment of spices is warming and hearty comfort food. Don't be put off by the long list of ingredients. It comes together quickly. Enjoy!!

Marjorie Shapiro



MOROCCAN CHICKEN STEW

Serves: 6

Cooking Time: About one hour

Ingredients

- | | |
|--|---|
| 3 pounds bone-in chicken thighs | 1 tbsp coriander powder |
| Kosher salt | 1 tsp cinnamon |
| Pepper | 28 ounce can crushed tomatoes |
| Olive oil | 2 tbsp tomato paste |
| 2 red onions, sliced into quarters | ¼ cup honey |
| 1 tbsp fresh ginger, minced | 3 cups chicken stock |
| 3 large garlic cloves, peeled and minced | 2 tbsp brown sugar |
| 1 large green pepper, seeded and cut into ½ inch squares | 1 tbsp red wine vinegar |
| 3 large carrots, diced into 1" pieces | 1 cup organic medjool dates, pit removed and chopped (substitute golden raisins, if you wish) |
| ¼ tsp cayenne | 1 15 ounce can of chickpeas, rinsed and drained |
| 1 tsp turmeric powder | 1/3 cup slivered almonds, toasted |
| 1 tbsp cumin | 3 tbsp chopped parsley |

Preparation

- In a large Dutch oven, heat a few tablespoons of olive oil over medium high heat.
- Season the chicken with salt and pepper.
- Add the chicken to the Dutch oven when the oil is hot, and brown for about five minutes on each side.
- Remove the chicken to a plate.
- Add more oil to the Dutch oven and, when simmering, add the onions, ginger, garlic, green pepper and carrots, and cook until softened, probably about 7 minutes or so.
- Add the cayenne, turmeric, cumin, coriander and cinnamon to the Dutch oven, stir and cook for another few minutes until fragrant.
- Add the crushed tomatoes and tomato paste to the Dutch oven. Stir to incorporate.
- Add the honey to the Dutch oven. Stir to incorporate.
- Return the chicken to the Dutch oven.
- Add the chicken stock, brown sugar, and red wine vinegar.
- Bring to a simmer, cover the pot and cook for at least 40 minutes until the chicken is no longer pink and registers about 170° on an instant read thermometer (although it will taste even better at 195°).
- Add the dates or raisins along with the chickpeas to the Dutch oven and stir.
- Return the chicken to the Dutch oven and add salt and pepper as needed.
- Serve over steamed rice or orzo.
- Garnish with parsley and almonds.

The School Report A SEASON OF POSITIVITY

By Jane Burke

Looking back over the fall 2022 at Southern Berkshire Regional Schools, there has been much to celebrate. There is a positive energy about new programs, along with the return of old traditions, contributing to a post-pandemic healing process. To start with, our high school students found new opportunities with the opening of the new Mount Everett Early College. All of the seniors were able to take a college course, and 70 percent of them have succeeded in earning three college credits. Many are now feeling the pride in this accomplishment, some as the first in their families to do so. As part of the introductory exposure to college, during the week of December 19, Simon's Rock staff introduced all students in grades 9 and 10 to college-level sample lessons where students read selected texts and then participated in classroom discussions.

Students were also excited to resume live theater, with rehearsals starting in September. The return of the grades three-through-six musical attracted forty-seven eager student actors, working with musical director Courtney English and choreographer Tom Masters on a production of *The Lion King*. Seven Mount Ever-



Captains of all the Mount Everett sports teams were honored at the home of the New England Patriots, with a big salute to them on the Gillette Stadium jumbotron. *photo courtesy SBRSD*


ett middle and high school students took roles of assistant director, stage manager, lighting, and sound. After a two-year hiatus, the audiences packed the house for the performances on October 21 to 23. Overall, 700



left, The craft room at the NMC Holiday Fair was overflowing with children intent on using the piles of enticing art supplies to make festive creations. Center, NMC Kindergarten teacher Lynn Webster transformed her kindergarten classroom into a Second Hand Shop brimming with toys, books, and kitchenware. Preschool teacher and elf Jaimi-Lyn Schieb in the clothing section of the Holiday Fair's secondhand store loaded with just purchased toys *photos by Jane Burke*



The *Lion King* performances were joyful for those onstage and in the audience. *photo courtesy SBRSD*



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people were captivated by the exuberance of the skilled young actors, as well as the beautiful sets and costumes.

A dedicated group of Mount Everett students were able to be part of the county-wide Fall Festival of Shakespeare. In addition to working with professionals from Shakespeare & Company on a challenging production of Macbeth, they were able to participate in workshops with other schools. Performing without masks in November for two performances at school, followed by another at Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, allowed the actors and crew full immersion in this valuable experience.

Mount Everett athletes have been in high spirits too. The girls' soccer team won the Western Massachusetts Class E championship on November 2. Captain Emma Goewey said, "What puts us apart from other teams is that we played and acted like a family. Our coaches have taught us that when you play as a good person, act as a good teammate, and show great sportsmanship, it can help you win a championship." On November 10, eleven student-athletes representing Mount Everett attended the 28th Annual Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association's Sportsmanship Summit at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro to receive the District 1 Sportsmanship Award. By a vote of representatives of the ninety schools in District 1, the entire athletic department, with all its individual sports teams, was recognized for outstanding sportsmanship.

The premier community service event for the District, the Senior Citizen Luncheon returned on December 9. In preparation, visual arts students made decorations, the band and chorus spent hours in rehearsal, and the culinary arts students planned the menu. Over one hundred Mount Everett students helped make the



The three witches prowled the stage in the Mount Everett staging of Macbeth

photo courtesy SBRSD



The Mount Everett girls soccer team celebrating their victory in the title game of the Western Massachusetts Class E championship

photo courtesy SBRSD



Choral Director Xander Stephan leading the Mount Everett Chorus in seasonal songs

photo courtesy SBRSD



Emma Goewey serving the first course to attendees of the Senior Luncheon.

photo courtesy SBRSD

event special for the eighty guests from the five towns. Students transformed the cafeteria into an elegant restaurant with table decorations and artwork. They graciously greeted guests, hung coats, and escorted them to tables. In the kitchen, the culinary students outdid themselves under the direction of culinary arts teacher Connie Gott and special guest teacher Odille Carpenter, who started the tradition twenty years ago. Members of the Honor Society waited tables. The high school band, under the direction of Courtney English, and the chorus, led by Choral Director Xander Stephan, played holiday music.

Perhaps the most enjoyable event for New Marlborough residents was the return of the Holiday Fair at New Marlborough Central School on December 10. The New Marlborough Monterey Parent Teacher Association brought back this delightful fundraiser to great success. The school was crowded with people in the basement level craftmaking room, the secondhand store in the Kindergarten room, and the photo booth in the pre-Kindergarten room, all cheerfully hosted by teachers and parents. The much anticipated silent auction items were displayed as usual, but, in a new, digital-age twist, bidding was an online event, concluding on December 17. PTA President Arla Downing reported, "Our Holiday Fair and online auction was a success. With your help we were able to raise over \$13,000 with all profits going directly to support educational field trips, new books, classroom supplies, teacher appreciation gifts, student scholarships, critical school improvements, and more."

All in all, an extremely positive ending to 2022 for the children of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. □

THE NEW MARLBOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

New Aquisitions

Adult Fiction

- Babysitter*, by Joyce Carol Oates
- Hunting Time*, by Jeffrey Deaver
- The Marriage Portrait*, by Maggie O'Farrell
- The House of Fortune*, by Jessie Burton
- Bleeding Heart Yard*, by Elly Griffiths
- Stella Maris*, by Cormac McCarthy
- A World of Curiosities*, by Louise Penny

Adult NonFiction

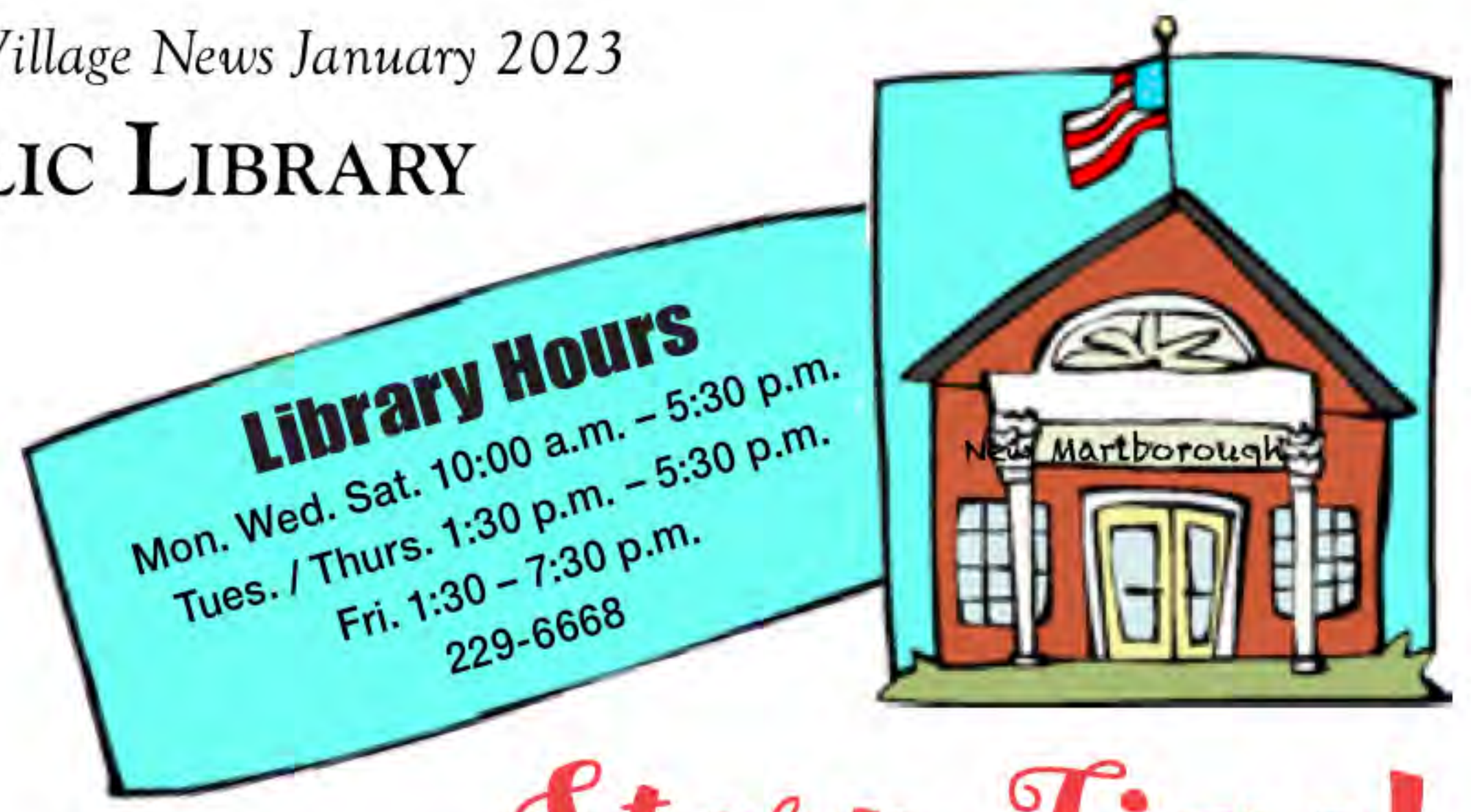
- The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times*, by Michelle Obama
- Formidable: American Women and the Fight for Equality 1920-2020*, by Elizabeth Griffin

Children's Fiction

- Little Owl's Love*, by Divya Srinivasan
- I Did It!*, by Michael Emberly
- Pokko and the Drum*, by Matthew Forsythe
- The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, by Mac Barnett
- Turkey's Valentine Surprise*, by Wendi Silvano

Children's Nonfiction

- It's Tough To Be Tiny: The Secret Life of Small Creatures*, by Kim Ryall Woolcock
- Who is Ketanja Brown Jackson?* by Sheila P. Moses
- Luminous: Living Things That Light Up the Night*, by Julia Kuo
- The Bird Book*, by Steve Jenkins



Library Hours
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- 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: By appointment only; call 413-229-0277
- 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
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- Southfield (413) 229-8476
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- Town Treasurer: Monday & Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
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- Selectmen's Administrative Secretary: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Animal Control Officer: Graham Frank, (413) 229-8161
- Town Clerk: 229-8278; 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. weekdays; Saturday by appointment
- Town Hall: 229-8116
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Other businesses can be listed in the Service Sector (see back page). Questions, rates? Call Barbara Lowman: 229-2369

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