



New Marlborough 5 Village News

VOL XIV
NO 10
February 2014



Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

THE COMPLEX QUESTION OF SCHOOL REPAIRS

What Will They Cost? Who Pays?

By Barry R. Shapiro

The trouble with capital needs is that they require capital. That seems to be the sticking point behind the very (some would say maddeningly) deliberate pace at which the capital needs of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) are being developed. At the same time, this little truism has raised, in some minds, an even more basic issue: Who pays?

First a little history: Starting early last year, SBRSD's Buildings, Grounds, and Technology Subcommittee began analyzing the long-term capital improvements necessary to maintain the schools in good repair. The objective has been to assess the capital needs, to present findings to the School Committee, to provide for improvements within each year's budget, and, if necessary, to put before the voters a proposal for financing the improvements.

The Subcommittee last met in September, 2013, when representatives of Monterey and Egremont made presentations on each town's school building needs. In October, Vito Valentini, chairman of the Subcommittee, said that he expected the Subcommittee to meet again in early November when representatives of EDM, an engineering firm, would report on the capital needs for New Marlborough Central. As this issue of the *5 Village News* goes to press, this meeting had not been held. Mr. Valentini explained that scheduling conflicts persisted through the end of the year. He also indicated that plans were being developed to make pre-kindergarten more accessible, which would help grow enrollment at the outlying schools and enhance their usefulness.

Regardless of the reasons, these delays have not been well received by the New Marlborough Board of Selectmen, which has been participating in the Subcommittee meetings. At the Board of Selectmen meeting on January 6, Chairman Nat Yohalem voiced considerable displeasure with the delays and the lack of communication from Mr. Valentini (see page 4). He also noted that there was to have been an engineering inspection of New Marlborough Central that did not occur. Mr. Valentini performed his own "walk-through" and offered his "personal impression" that all the school needed was some paint, railings and a new kitchen, a conclusion which Mr. Yohalem stated was superficial and not based on an engineer's expert assessment.

Mr. Yohalem was vocal in his opinion that the Subcommittee's work is incomplete and the work done by others has been ignored. He also stated that since the preliminary school budget is due to be considered in the next few weeks, it is virtually certain that the long-term capital needs of the schools will not be addressed in 2014, what he called, "a regrettable outcome."



New Marlborough Central School

photo by Diane Swartz

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The Complex Question, continued from page 1

Kenzie Fields, one of two School Committee members from New Marlborough, has a different view. Ms. Fields, who also serves on the Buildings, Grounds, and Technology Subcommittee, noted that “committee work takes time and everyone is doing their best and working hard and working well together.” She was encouraged that the District is finally taking a long-term approach to the schools’ capital needs and that New Marlborough Central is now getting the attention it had not received in the past. She thought that the recent walk-through by Mr. Valentini and others was a significant step and revealed targets of renovation that could be addressed in this year’s budget.

In a lengthy interview, Mr. Valentini reviewed his efforts to help craft a long-term capital improvement strategy for all of the District’s schools. He noted that a few years ago the voters rejected a bond to fund needed improvements. “There’s reluctance in Sheffield, which contributes 57 percent of the District’s school budget, to pay 57 percent of New Marlborough’s costs,” he noted.

The potential costs are not insignificant. An engineer’s report submitted in October, 2006, by EDM evaluated the needs of New Marlborough Central and concluded that, over the ensuing fifteen-plus years, approximately \$470,000 of repairs would be needed, ranging from minor interior and exterior maintenance, replacement of the entry stairs to make them code-compliant, and renovation of the restrooms to a replacement of the boiler. Mr. Valentini stated that additional requests for improvements to the building have increased the estimated costs to more than \$1.2 million.

“The bottom line,” Mr. Valentini noted, “is, in all probability, it will not be possible to do significant capital changes without some money coming from the towns where the buildings reside. It is impossible to put this kind of money into New Marlborough without seriously hurting Sheffield, which really needs the money and has a far greater number of students. This does not mean that the District can walk away from its responsibilities and that’s why I recently toured New

Marlborough Central to address the school’s needs.”

Mr. Valentini stressed the District’s desire to address the school’s capital needs, “within the context of its ability to afford.” Given the limited budget for capital repairs and an electorate that has shown little appetite to fund the community schools through a bond issue, the long-term future of New Marlborough Central, Mr. Valentini suggests, may rest with the town’s willingness to pay for capital improvements at the school beyond its mandated allocation to the District budget. “Can the New Marlborough voters make a contribution to the school’s needs?” he asked. (It should be noted – and no doubt will be – that while the Town owns New Marlborough Central’s building, SBRSD is obligated by District by-laws to maintain it. Whether it is also obligated to pay for “capital improvements” that go beyond “maintenance” appears to some as yet unresolved.)

Mr. Valentini said that his subcommittee would continue to work with the boards of selectmen of each town to identify their schools’ needs and to work toward solutions. He expected that there would, in fact, be an update to the 2006 EDM report on New Marlborough Central in the near term.

“We are trying to do a balancing act, keep on top of our needs for immediate repairs, work with the communities, and find creative ways to address everyone’s needs,” he said. “This is an ongoing process.”

Francine Groener, New Marlborough Central’s Building Leader and a teacher at the school, was optimistic about the school’s future. “The school has a great reputation and is filled to capacity with students coming from as far away as Otis,” she said. “There are no safety hazards. While it needs some attention and may need a new boiler at some point, I think it can be maintained without spending significant amounts. This school is solid and will be here for a long time”.

A report on the District’s budget, scheduled for preliminary approval on February 6, will be published in the next issue of the *5 Village News*. □

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ONE VOICE, ONE INSTRUMENT

A Choir Bonds Under Southfield's Julie Bickford

By Kenzie Fields

Julie Bickford, Southfield resident, is the new artistic director of the Berkshire Children's Chorus. In addition to directing two choral ensembles, and teaching music theory in the Berkshire Hills School District, Julie is introducing the young singers of BCC to a repertoire of classical music that is more challenging than typically found in such music programs. Her goal is to expand the musical and cultural horizons of each member.

When she accepted her new position, Julie spent time getting to know her predecessor, and the founder of the chorus, Nancy Loder, who she observed had a genuine and special connection to the children, above and beyond the relationship of music teacher and student. Following someone so beloved has inspired Julie to continue the choir's mission, while expanding its role in the local community and fostering awareness of what the choir is, and has been doing, for over two decades in the Berkshires. Divided into three ensembles according to age group, the chorus includes children from nine schools ranging from second through twelfth grades. It rehearses at its home in Dewey Hall, Sheffield.

Julie set the tone in her very first rehearsal with the youngest age group last September. She said that the chorus would have "one voice, and one instrument." And not just musically speaking. BCC, she said, would provide excellent choral training but also social support, encouragement, and bonding that doesn't exist in other settings in quite the same way.

"There is nothing else like it in the Berkshires, and I would really like to see us perform more often and closer to where our children live, in Sheffield, Great Barrington, and other towns in south county," she says. Since Julie came on last year, enrollment has doubled, which is gratifying both for the organization and its trustees, "but especially for the children," she says.

Julie's experience as a member of Chorus Angelicus, a children's choir in Torrington, Connecticut, very naturally led her to direct BCC. After singing there as a child, she began working as assistant director, leading the fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-grade ensembles for nine years. Julie holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from Ithaca College and a Master of Music Education degree from the University of Hartford's Hartt School. When invited to apply to BCC after Nancy Loder announced her retirement, Julie says she was touched by the natural warmth of the board, and encouraged that the organization had maintained its quality, vigor, and quiet but respected reputation over the last twenty-three



Photo courtesy Julie Bickford

Julie Bickford and the family border collie, Boux

years. "It's difficult for any arts organization to stay alive. The support of the board for all that the chorus does is impressive," Julie says.

After a successful winter concert in Lenox this January, the chorus will perform in March at the Big Sing in Springfield, an event organized by the American Choir Director's Association. It will give a benefit concert for Dewey Hall in May and its Annual Spring Concert in June. For additional information on performance schedules, or to contact the chorus, go to berkshirechildrenschorus.org. □



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BOARD OF SELECTMEN



January 6: To comply with the official meeting notice posted at the Town Hall and on the Town website, which incorrectly listed the start time as 5:00 p.m. (rather than 6:00 p.m.), the meeting dutifully commenced an hour early. All three Selectmen were present.

Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring appeared before the Board to report that, due to the number and duration of winter storms so far this year, he has been “spending a lot of money,” with salt being the biggest expense. “My budget is still fine,” he noted, “but I want to keep you advised as we go, so there are no surprises down the road.” He also said he has been having mechanical problems with some of his trucks, including one “that has broken down during every storm it’s been out in”; another that overheats when it has a plow on it so it can only be used for sanding, and a third that is “so old it probably shouldn’t be driven anymore.” But as he explained, “there’s not much we can do at this point. If you order a new truck now, it takes six months to build. But we’re making it work.” The Board asked him to look into the possibility of leasing a truck with an option to buy, which he said he would do.

Mr. Loring also asked about the possibility of receiving overtime pay, saying he has been putting in more than forty hours of overtime a week. He noted that his immediate predecessors in the job, Peter Marks and Rob Gilpatrick, both received overtime pay. The Board said it would consider his request and get back to him by the following week. The Board then thanked him and the department for keeping the roads clear under adverse conditions. “You and your department have done a terrific job,” said Chairman Nat Yohalem, “and we appreciate it.”

Separately, the Board thanked Mr. Loring in his role as fire chief for the Fire Department’s quick response to the barn fire that broke out just before midnight, December 28, directly across the street from the Mill River General Store (For more details see page 12). “You prevented what could have been a disaster,” the chairman said, noting the number of buildings, including the library, that are in the immediate vicinity.

Administrative Assistant Mike Skorput told the Board that **Town Treasurer Pat Mielke** has a put a value of \$13,300 on the 2.01-acre parcel of land the Land Trust wants to buy to add to the Robert Joffe Nature Sanctuary. As previously reported, the land is part of an 8.1-acre parcel near Cagney Hill Road acquired by the Town through tax foreclosure last February. Mr. Skorput

said half of the \$13,300 figure represents the value of the land, while the other half covers back taxes, interest and penalties.

The Board asked Mr. Skorput to set up a meeting with the Planning Board to determine its plans with respect to the recently defeated proposal to revise the Town’s protective bylaws. “Do they intend to pursue it further,” Mr. Yohalem asked, “or perhaps narrow it, or are they just going to give it up?”

The chairman also asked Mr. Skorput to contact “the person who hung the artificial traffic light” — actually a rectangular piece of metal painted to sort of look like a traffic light — from the telephone wire that crosses the Mill River Great Barrington Road in front of the library. “Ask him to please take it down,” he said, adding, “We’re aware of who did it, and while it’s funny and it’s good, it’s been up there a couple of weeks now, and I don’t want the telephone company to charge us for removing it.”

Finally, Mr. Yohalem expressed his strong dissatisfaction with the School Committee’s Buildings, Grounds and Technology Subcommittee for not finishing its work assessing the capital needs of the district’s four schools. “I’m not happy with the way we, the five towns, have been treated,” he said, noting there were meetings that were never held, enrollment figures and cost estimates that were never distributed, and an engineering inspection of the New Marlborough Central School that apparently never took place. “And now,” he added, “we get a notice that the preliminary budget presentation is about to be made. So whatever hours we’ve spent, whatever thought we have given to the capital needs of the four schools has been totally disregarded and more importantly, our work was halted in the middle, with no conclusions. I don’t like to be made a fool of this way, I don’t like to waste time on projects they have absolutely no intention of completing.” He said he intended to call Vito Valentini, chairman of the Subcommittee, about it and would report back to the Board at the following week’s meeting.

January 13: With all three Selectmen present, the Board reviewed and approved a contract with Prism Energy Services of Quincy, Massachusetts, for energy-efficient light bulbs and ballasts for the library. The \$3,700-purchase is subject to the approval of the Finance Committee, since \$2,500 of that amount is to be paid for out of the Town’s reserve fund, with the remaining \$1,200 coming from National Grid. **The upgrade is expected to pay for itself in lower energy bills over a seven-to-eight year period.** It will also save the cost of maintaining the

existing lighting, which, according to Librarian Debbie O'Brien, comes to several hundred dollars a year. The new bulbs and ballasts are expected to be installed in a matter of weeks.

As promised, the Board got back to Highway Superintendent Loring regarding his request for overtime pay, saying it was premature to be considering additional compensation after only six weeks of winter. The Board added, however, that it would take into account the extra time Mr. Loring has been putting in when he comes up for his six-month performance review in March. "So we're not closing the door," Chairman Yohalem said, "but I think we should hold off until we get to March, when the snow season is almost over."

Following up on comments he made the previous week, Mr. Yohalem reiterated his dissatisfaction with the School Committee's Buildings, Grounds and Technology Subcommittee with regard to its capital needs assessment effort of the four district schools. **He said it has been three and a half months since the subcommittee's last meeting, "and we still haven't heard a word."** He said he talked to Chairman Valentini a week ago about it, and that Mr. Valentini said he would send out an email to update subcommittee members. "As of tonight's meeting nothing's been received," said Mr. Yohalem. "So we sit here having accomplished nothing; our committee work has been buried, and nothing's apparently going to happen with it." At Selectman Michele Shalaby's suggestion, the Board said it would meet with New Marlborough's two School Committee members, Kenzie Fields and Kristen Sparhawk, to see if they can shed any light on the matter.

Selectman Tara White reported that a program using seniors to digitize the Town's paper documents was about to get underway. Departmental agendas and minutes, special permits, contracts, budget worksheets, and the like will be organized in electronic folders. Conducted under the auspices of the senior tax work-off program, the project will initially use existing computer equipment at the Town Hall, but the idea, according to Ms. White, would be to include money in next year's capital budget for dedicated equipment, including a scanner, desktop computer, and printer.

The Board reopened its special permit hearing for David and Heather Ralph, who are seeking approval to build a single-family house on an existing foundation at 345 Old Hitchcock Road, a private way. As previously reported, the issue before the Board was whether the Ralph's deed includes a legal right of way to access the property. The December 2 hearing was adjourned to give the Ralphs an opportunity either to produce a document granting legal access to a previous owner of the property or to obtain legal easements from each of the current property owners along the road.

Their attorney, Jeffrey Lynch, said that since then the Ralphs had obtained signed easements from seven of the eight adjoining property owners. Only Chuck Wyman and his mother, Miladeen, who own three lots abutting the road, refused to sign the easement document. They were present at the hearing, however, and indicated for the record that they have no problem with the Ralphs using the road. In addition, Mr. Lynch submitted to the Board a corrected deed obtained from the property's previous owner, Sue Deeves, that includes easement language allowing the Ralphs the use of the road to access the property. The Board said it would forward the documents on to Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard for his review, and assuming his approval would grant the special permit. With that, the hearing was concluded.

The Board continued its annual budget review process, giving its approval to the following line items, all of which are unchanged from last year, except where noted; all had previously been approved by the Finance Committee.

Tree Warden Salary: \$1,000
Tree Work: \$15,000, a \$5,000 increase
Library Trustees Salary: \$320
Library Expenses: \$40,651, a \$1,938 increase
Tax Collector Tax Title: \$3,000
Tax Collector Expenses: \$5,500, an increase of \$1,300
Tax Collector Computer Services: \$6,500
Cemetery Expenses: \$2,700
Community Health Program: \$1,000
Veterans District: \$5,813, up \$129
Berkshire County Communications: \$9,137
Planning Board Expenses: \$873
Planning Board Clerical: \$1,300
Visiting Nurse Association: \$2,447
Street Lights: \$4,500
Building Inspector Expenses: \$2,617, a \$1,018 decrease
Treasurer Expenses: \$3,300, a \$170 increase
Treasurer Software and Support: \$3,200,
a \$100 increase
Treasurer Tax Title Expenses: \$5,000
2012 Town Hall Renovation Loan: \$29,042,
a \$538 decrease
2013 Town Hall Renovation Loan: \$14,430,
a \$358 decrease
2013 Highway Truck Loan: \$41,870, a \$1,037 decrease
2014 Highway Truck Loan: \$26,170
2014 Highway Front End Loader Loan: \$18,951
Ambulance Loan: \$28,165, a \$670 decrease

There was no meeting Monday, January 20, because of the Martin Luther King holiday. The following week's meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 28, at 7:00 p.m. □

Peter Schuyten

FINANCE COMMITTEE

December 12: With Chairman Edgar Zukauskas, David Herrick, Ira Yohalem, Mark Carson, Burt Imberman, and Prudence Spaulding present, the meeting was joined by members of the First Responders, Joseph Krejci, Maureen Krejci, and Neil Crawford. The entire Board of Selectmen also attended the meeting.

As noted by Mr. Krejci, the state requires that at least two emergency medical technicians (EMTs) be present whenever an ambulance goes out on call. This puts a burden on the First Responder team of ten EMTs, with the result that the group has been experiencing difficulty staffing night-time duty. The First Responder representatives proposed a plan that would pay two EMTs each \$25 per night (from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.) and \$12.50 an hour to each EMT who was out on call. The proposal, they said, would not only help recognize the valuable service rendered to the community by these volunteers, it would also, they hoped, encourage others to become interested in serving.

Mr. Krejci suggested the added expense – estimated to total about \$18,250 a year – be met by payments into the COMSTAR account. (Total cost of the incentive plan was estimated to be \$28,375 annually, but \$10,500 of that would be defrayed by the yearly stipend currently paid by the Town to the First Responders.) At present, COMSTAR payments, typically made by insurance companies whenever a covered patient uses an ambulance, go into the Town treasury.

Mr. Zukauskas reminded the committee that the town had an aging population and that it is important to maintain this service. Mr. Herrick raised a point of order: Chuck Loring the Fire Chief and the department head under which the ambulance squad serves should have been present to approve of the proposals, an oversight for which Mr. Zukauskas took the blame.

At the conclusion of this discussion, the following fiscal 2015 budgets were approved:

Council on Aging Expenses: \$200

Council on Aging Transportation: \$5,407, for providing transportation to seniors and the disabled.

Senior Tax Work-Off Abatement Program: \$100

Cultural Council: \$1,000

Conservation Commission Expenses: \$2,000

January 9: With David Herrick presiding, and Ira Yohalem, Mark Carson, Burt Imberman, Pat Mielke, and Prudence Spaulding in attendance, the Committee transferred \$532 from the Reserve Fund to make up a shortfall in the Workman's Compensation Account. It then reviewed and approved the following fiscal 2015 budget items:

Planning Board Clerical: \$1,300

Planning Board Expenses: \$873

Berkshire County Communication: \$9,137

Veterans' District: \$5,813

Community Health Program: \$1,000

Cemetery Expenses: \$2,700

Tax Collector Computer Services: \$6,500

Tax Collector Expenses: \$5,500, an increase of \$1,300 over the present year to cover the mailing costs of quarterly (rather than semi-annual) tax billings

Tax Collector Tax Titles: \$3,000

Library Expenses: \$40,651

Library Trustees: \$320

Tree Work: \$15,000, an increase of \$5,000 because of the growing number of trees in town needing attention

Tree Warden's Salary: \$1,000

Visiting Nurse Association: \$2,447

Building Inspector's Expenses: \$2,619, \$1,018 less than for the current year

Street Lights: \$4,500

Tax Title Treasurer: \$5,000

Treasurer Software & Support: \$3,200

Treasurer's Expenses: \$3,300

Six loan repayments were approved: \$18,951 for a **front-end loader**; \$26,170 for one truck; and \$41,870 for another **truck**, all of which are Highway Department equipment; \$28,165 for the First Responders **ambulance**; and two loan repayments for **Town Hall renovations** of \$14,430 and \$29,042.

Salary requests for cemetery commissioners, librarians, and the tax collector were put on hold, as was a request from Building Inspector Tom Carmody of \$7,400 for the installation of an on-line permitting program.

Following up on a request from the Egremont Finance Committee, Mr. Zukauskas agreed to contact Egremont's chairman to arrange a joint meeting to discuss ways in which each committee conducts its business. □

*Joe Poindexter from minutes provided by
Finance Committee Secretary Prudence Spaulding*

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WINTER LIGHT

The land to the east of us slants upward so that the low morning sun is filigreed by bare branches in winter in a wide variety of ways (depending on the ice and snow coverage on the trees), while also laying down shadows of all shapes and sizes on the snow. I like taking pictures when the light is changing familiar scenes in a way that brings out a new aspect of them. But whenever I think I have taken the definitive photograph, I look out on the copse of trees and see something different. □

Holly McNeely



WHEN LIFE IMITATES ART

Robert Olsen Rescues a Church — Again

By Jodi Rothe

Robert Olsen, the current Lay Worship Leader and Choir Director of the Southfield Church once starred off-Broadway as a pastor with a dwindling congregation who needed a way to bring people back into the fold. The “fix” in that case turned out to be a family of Gospel singers whom the preacher meets when his car breaks down. He persuades them to come to the church, the numbers swell, and the church is saved.

Fast forward sixteen years: Today, Robert Olsen is playing the same role for real. But the fix is not so simple this time, and Robert is not out to bring folks back through Gospel music, although he likes the idea of a Gospel concert. Instead he, along with his partner, Tom Masters, and thier son Mickey, is out to create a church that includes many faiths and ideas and can also function as a gathering place for the community.

If this task seems daunting, Robert is a man who follows his own North Star. A loner during childhood, Robert didn't play sports or hang out with the guys. He played classical violin, watched cartoons, and created puppet theaters. Some time around the age of twelve he discovered the movie *Oklahoma* and Gordon MacRae's voice. One of his fondest childhood memories involves his friendship with a disabled elderly neighbor whom Robert would visit regularly. She taught him how to crochet while they listened to show tunes together. Perhaps this is why he is drawn to performing Truman Capote's story, “A Christmas Memory” – about a young boy's love for an elderly relative and their adventures making fruitcake together during Christmas – each year at the Southfield Church.



Robert Olsen photo by Joe Poindexter

He was picked on during his school years. “I was tiny in stature and when I got my driver's license at age sixteen I had to sit on a pillow to see over the steering wheel of my family's 1968 Oldsmobile.” In junior high he discovered he had a way with words, which he used to defend himself against bullies. He loved acting, and even though not always physically right for the role, he almost always had the lead in his school plays.

At Emporia State University in Kansas City, he majored in music and theater and realized that all his cartoon watching had paid off, since a lot of the music he enjoyed so much from shows such as “Bugs Bunny” and “Yosemite Sam” was written by Rossini, Beethoven, Wagner, and other classical composers. He thought about teaching, but after graduating college, Robert set out to try his luck as an actor in New York City.

Robert's first break came when he was cast in the musical *Smoke on the Mountain* at McCarter Theater in Princeton in 1989. He played the son in a family of gospel singers. (He was now twenty-eight but looked seventeen). In addition to singing, Robert played multiple instruments in the show – fiddle, mandolin, string bass, and piano. The show sold out and it moved to off-Broadway at The Lamb's Theatre for a year-and-a-half run.

For the next ten years, other roles followed in regional theater and off-off Broadway, (shows such as *Dancing at Lughnasa* and *The Beauty Part*) until he was cast in a revival of *Smoke on the Mountain* off-Broadway, this time in the role of Pastor Mervin Oglethorpe, who brings that Gospel family to the church to revitalize the congregation. The production was forced to close when a construction crane fell in the theater district.

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By this time, Robert and his life partner, Tom Masters, who taught at Pace University, had been together long enough to know they wanted to create a family, and after a few years of saving money (while Robert worked in office jobs with time off for auditions), they adopted Mickey at age two-and-a-half.

When Mickey was about to enter kindergarten, they went looking for a house in the Berkshires, because they'd always enjoyed vacations here. When Robert saw the Cook house (formerly belonging to the family who founded The Buggy Whip Factory), he knew right away it was the home for them. They sold their apartment and moved in August, 2008. At first Tom stayed in the city to work during the week, but then took a teaching job at New Marlborough Central School, which Mickey now attends. (Tom is also on the Berkshire Pulse faculty as a choreographer.)


Robert took a job at The Southfield Store and one day, some church members came into the store and told Robert the previous pastor had left and they wanted him and his family to come to the church. It was a strange thing for Robert to hear, since even though their house was a stone's throw from the church, he had never attended. Tom had attended a few services but had never felt welcomed. So they took a leap and went. Joe Bishop

was acting minister at the time, and they became good friends. When Joe left New Marlborough for Boston, and no official cleric from The Church of Christ was sent to lead the congregation, Robert stepped in to keep things going and has been doing so ever since.

While Robert's current life might appear to be imitating his role as "Pastor Oglethorpe," he's also busy working full time for VIM (Volunteers in Medicine) in Great Barrington, a non-profit that provides medical care for people without health coverage. He still loves to perform and puts on a Christmas program at the church each year and not long ago narrated Stravinsky's "A Soldier's Tale" at the New Marlborough Meeting House. Although he's open to performing in a local theater, he's happy with life as it is. "This time," he says, "I would just enjoy going to the audition. I don't even care if I get the part."

When asked what his vision is for the church five years from now, he responds, "I see a full parking lot with parishioners from every religious tradition in attendance – Christians, Jews, Buddhists, all faiths – with children streaming into the church hall to play while a sixteen-voice choir puts finishing touches on the music. The bell peals at exactly ten a.m. and the community, in all its diversity, eagerly gathers to ponder and absorb the mysteries of God, life, and community." □

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Neighbors



On Saturday, January 4, **David Herrick** celebrated the twenty-first anniversary of his ownership of the Mill River General Store with free coffee for all (except Joe Wilkinson, who at any rate had departed for Florida). He reminisced a bit about the helpfulness of his various suppliers, particularly in his early days of setting up, and the skill and dependability of his helpers over the years, giving him some flexibility in what would otherwise be a confining schedule.

The check-in requirements for the various hunting seasons have changed this year. For bear, turkey, and bow-and-arrow deer seasons, check-ins are optional; the only mandatory check-in period is during the two-week deer shotgun season. **David Herrick**, the license and check-in agent for southern Berkshire County, recorded 110 to 115 deer this year, down twelve to fourteen from last year's shotgun season. Some hunters did opt to check in with bear or turkey because they were curious to know the weight, but the picture is incomplete.

A traffic light has graced the intersection in Mill River by the library and the store for the past month. Although he would neither confirm nor deny it, **Joe Wilkinson**, one of Mill River's premier pranksters in his youth, is a prime suspect. He has since decamped to Florida, perhaps to avoid the long arm of the New Marlborough Police Department. Reports that Officer **Graham Frank** was spotted heading south through Georgia remain unconfirmed.

On January 11, **Dorothea Burnett**, of Southfield, celebrated her ninety-ninth birthday. She was joined by her daughters **Rebecca**, who flew in from Atlanta, Georgia, and **Margaret**, for a birthday luncheon at Margaret's home in Norfolk,



Dave Herrick

photo by Larry Burke



photo by Larry Burke

Connecticut. Dorothea taught at New Marlborough Central School from 1951 to 1981. She still participates in town activities such as the library's book group and the senior potluck luncheons and awards the medals to the 5K race winners on Elihu Burritt Day. Still an active quilter, she was a member of the group that created the New Marlborough quilt for the Town's 250th Anniversary and New Marlborough's square in a quilt for Fairview Hospital. She was recently honored in Great Barrington as one of only five original members of the Berkshire Quilters. □



photo by Barbara Lowman

Compiled by Barbara Lowman: deeuell@yahoo.com

Thank You to Our Contributors!

Joby Baker; Priscilla J. Beers; Dr. Bruce & Lois Brown; Mr. & Mrs. Marcus Consolini; Brian Dugan; Steve & Jeri Johnson; Alan & Elizabeth Lombardi; Scott MacKenzie; Nancy McWilliams; Mr. & Mrs. Justin Miller; Thomas O'Connor; Howard & Virginia Sheldon; Carl & Renee Sloan; Michael Thaler & Laury Kassel; and Andrea Marks & David Warmflash

OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

On December 31, **Don Beauchamp**, the early bird of Clayton, writes: Yesterday two pairs of **bluebirds** came by to check out their house.

On January 1, Don adds: I put out suet today and two female **woodpeckers** – a hairy and a downy – showed up and moved around the tree, trying to figure out who should go first, but then a female **yellow-bellied sapsucker** – with her down all puffed up against the cold – arrived and beat them to the suet.

On January 3, he reports: Today the male **downy** and the male **red-bellied woodpeckers** came, and the sapsucker was back again.

On January 5, **Ari Korpivaara**, of Southfield, writes: I spotted an elusive **snowy owl** in the willow outside our kitchen window, fixedly watching the basement for any mouse fool enough to venture out into the cold. The following morning it had melted into the rainy landscape, perhaps to return with the next snowfall.

On January 10, **Don Beauchamp** writes: A small **brown creeper** came to the suet feeder, but no suet, so he left real quick. Also, the yellow-bellied sapsucker, which comes every day to peck at the apple tree. The odd thing is that there is no red on the head, only a black crown, which seems to be rare, but that's the way it is.

On January 15, **Scottie Mills**, of New Marlborough village, writes: Why is there a flock of **robins** on my lawn? Don't they know about the polar vortex? The worms must be pretty confused by now: zero degrees, then 50! □



photo by Don Beauchamp

A yellow-bellied sapsucker



photo by Ari Korpivaara

The elusive (very) snowy owl

Compiled by Jon Swan, joncswan@gmail.com

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THE LOG

New Marlborough Fire and Rescue

The Kennedy Fire – Mill River

A quick response from New Marlborough firefighters helped limit the damage to a local family's barn after it caught fire in the days after Christmas. The outbuilding, owned by Bill and Krista Kennedy, of 11 Mill River Great Barrington Road, in the village of Mill River, sustained heavy interior smoke and water damage but remained structurally sound after the fire, which began just before midnight on December 28. Krista Kennedy, however, lost a considerable amount of art that she had created in the barn's second-floor studio.

Billy Kennedy said that their daughter discovered the fire when she went outside on her way to spending the evening in the barn's second floor family room-type area for a sleepover with friends. "She saw smoke billowing out at that point, and ran inside to tell me," said Bill, who dialed 911, then quickly moved cars away from the barn.

New Marlborough firefighters were dispatched shortly after midnight on December 29. As it so happened, three firefighters were at the station in Southfield. They responded with New Marlborough Engine 1 and were on the scene in less than eight minutes from the initial call. New Marlborough Tanker 2 and Engine 4 quickly followed, as did Rescue 1, the town's ambulance.

Upon arrival, Engine 1 reported smoke showing from the barn, located behind the Kennedy's house. Because of the fire's size and its location in downtown Mill River, New Marlborough Fire Chief Chuck Loring immediately called for mutual aid assistance from fire departments in Monterey, Great Barrington, Sheffield, and Canaan. Firefighters from Norfolk were requested to cover the New Marlborough station.

New Marlborough firefighters, meanwhile, made an aggressive interior attack on the fire, which was burning in the structure's first-floor ceiling and making its way into the second floor. They also established a water supply on Clayton Mill River Road, behind the Library, while mutual aid crews responded with additional tankers and firefighters.

After extinguishing the initial fire, New Marlborough and mutual aid firefighters spent considerable time overhauling the building and checking for additional fire. Mutual aid departments remained on the scene until about 1:30 a.m., and New Marlborough firefighters remained until about 2:30 a.m., making sure the fire was completely extinguished.

Bill and Krista, who moved into the home fourteen years ago, remodeled the barn, originally a three-car garage, about eight years ago. At the time, they added the second floor to the structure. The building housed

Bill Kennedy's first-floor woodworking shop and Krista's second-floor art studio. The second floor also featured a living room space.

Due mainly to the prompt suppression of the fire, much of the damage was contained between the first floor ceiling and the second-story floor, but heat and smoke from the fire destroyed much of the second floor's contents. As of early January, the Kennedys were still taking inventory of the losses and working with their insurance company to account for damages. They were also very thankful for the work of the firefighters.

"The fire team was amazing, and having all the towns there was incredible," Bill said. "Timing was definitely on our side, and the quick response saved the day. The fire inspector told us that we were lucky. Another few minutes, and the building would have flashed and been fully engulfed. Chuck also made the right call straight-away to call in the neighboring towns." "We are grateful to all of the fire departments for their work," added Krista. "They were so supportive and kind and professional. I couldn't be more thankful, because they saved the building for us."

Because of the initial report of a barn fire in the center of Mill River, Chief Loring said it was a quick decision to request mutual aid. "Our firefighters arrived quickly and did a great job, but my concern was having enough people and water at the scene," he said. "I am grateful to our neighboring departments for their assistance and glad that we were able to limit the damage. This is what we train to do, and that training paid off. I am proud of the work that our department and neighboring towns did at that fire." □

David Smith



Krista Kennedy's damaged art studio

FIRE AND RESCUE

Dec. 2	3:45 p.m.	Canaan Southfield Road Structure Fire	Dec. 19	11:17 a.m.	Hayes Hill Road Medical Call
Dec. 6	11:15 a.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call	Dec. 21	1:15 p.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road CO Alarm
Dec. 7	9:30 a.m.	Norfolk Road Medical Call	Dec. 26	12:47 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call
Dec. 7	10:45 p.m.	Hayes Hill Road Medical Call	Dec. 26	9:57 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Monterey Structure Fire
Dec. 8	11:21 p.m.	Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call	Dec. 29	12:09 a.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road Structure Fire
Dec. 13	3:00 p.m.	Hayes Hill Road Medical Call	Dec. 30	4:01 p.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Fire Alarm
Dec. 15	5:25 p.m.	Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call			
Dec. 16	10:00 a.m.	East Hill Road Medical Call			

NEW MARLBOROUGH POLICE LOG (Selected incidents)

Dec. 3	1:49 p.m.	Hunting complaint, Lumbert Cross Road	Dec. 17	7:55 p.m.	Patrol spotted white van with black ladder backed up to garage of unoccupied residence; check revealed van owner was legitimately working at residence
Dec. 4	11:52 p.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road resident alerts police that party later that day may cause traffic issue	Dec. 18	4:45 p.m.	Cow reported on Rt. 57 near the Center for Motivation and Change (previously Mepal Manor)
Dec. 7	1:00 a.m.	Domestic disturbance; male arrested	Dec. 21	4:20 p.m.	Clayton Mill River Road resident advised to extinguish open fire; wait for burn season
Dec. 7	2:00 p.m.	Call from resident whose home was approached by intoxicated woman, who asked for directions and then sped away westbound on Rt. 183	Dec. 21	6:35 p.m.	Report of disorderly person, aggravated over his missing mailbox; mailbox later found
Dec. 10	1:20 p.m.	Suspicious white van with black ladder reported in driveway on Canaan Valley Road	Dec. 27	8:36 a.m.	Hunters reported trespassing; advised of violation
Dec. 15	10:00 a.m.	Driver reported having had an accident on New Marlborough Hill Road the previous night	Dec. 27	1:00 p.m.	Motor vehicle, for which failed inspection warning had previously been issued, stopped and towed away
Dec. 17	6:25 p.m.	BOLO (be on the lookout) request from Great Barrington PD for New Marlborough resident			

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A LAWMAN'S PRICELESS DIARY

Tom McDade's Journal Goes to an FBI Museum

Thomas M. McDade and his wife, Beatrice, divided their time between Purchase, New York, and the old Hanson farm on Sisson Hill in Mill River. There they often entertained artists, writers, and antiquarians, including publisher Alfred Knopf, P.D. James, Rex Stout, poet Padraic Colum, Curt Gentry, and others. Mr. McDade, who served as an early president of the New Marlborough Historical Society, was a familiar figure during 1970s and 80s in Mill River. He passed away peacefully in 1996 at the age of 88. Last year, his son, Jared McDade, himself a part-time resident of Mill River, donated a diary his father kept during his four years as a special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation to the National Law Enforcement Officers Museum in Washington, D.C.

By Jared C. McDade

My father, Thomas M. McDade, was one of those bigger-than-life people. Long before he and my mother, Beatrice, bought and restored the old Hanson farm on Sisson Hill Road in 1966, he had lived at least five lives of distinction. From 1934-38 Tom was a Special Agent – a G-man – for the Federal Bureau of Investigation under J. Edgar Hoover. Hired by Hoover himself, he was initially assigned to Chicago and had a front-row seat on the short and violent times of the classic Gangster Era. John Dillinger, Baby Face Nelson, Ma Barker, Alvin “Creepy” Karpis, and others weren't yet the stuff of legend. They were front-page news, on the loose, and among the FBI's most wanted.

Tom McDade was young, well-educated, and eager. At 6'4", he was a commanding presence among the new recruits – a professional accountant, a lawyer, and charismatic beyond his twenty-seven years. All of that made him an ideal agent to J. Edgar Hoover. Unlike his FBI colleagues, Special Agent McDade was also a diarist, and kept a detailed account of his four years in the Bureau. It is the only full-length diary by an agent



Tom McDade with the FBI in 1934

known to exist from that fabled time. In its 318 pages, the diary recounts endless hours of “watching and waiting,” what he and his fellow agents did in the off-hours, what they thought of some of the office politics, and what it was like in the midst of those classic confrontations with various public enemies.

Two of them were among the most notorious gun battles in the annals of the FBI and, indeed, in American crime. As a rookie, McDade's first encounter occurred just four months after he joined the Bureau in 1934. On November 27, the Chicago office was on alert for the most dangerous member of the Dillinger Gang, who had been spotted in the area of Barrington, Illinois, after killing FBI Inspector Carter Baum in a stakeout gone wrong. McDade and his partner, Special Agent Bill Ryan, met the car driven by Baby Face Nelson, who became Public Enemy No.1 when John Dillinger was killed.

A wild gun battle ensued as the agents exchanged fire with Nelson and his companions, their vehicles racing at more than 70 mph, according to McDade, who was driving the FBI car. McDade and Ryan escaped, but within the hour, two other Special Agents (Sam Cowley and Ed Hollis) engaged Nelson and were killed

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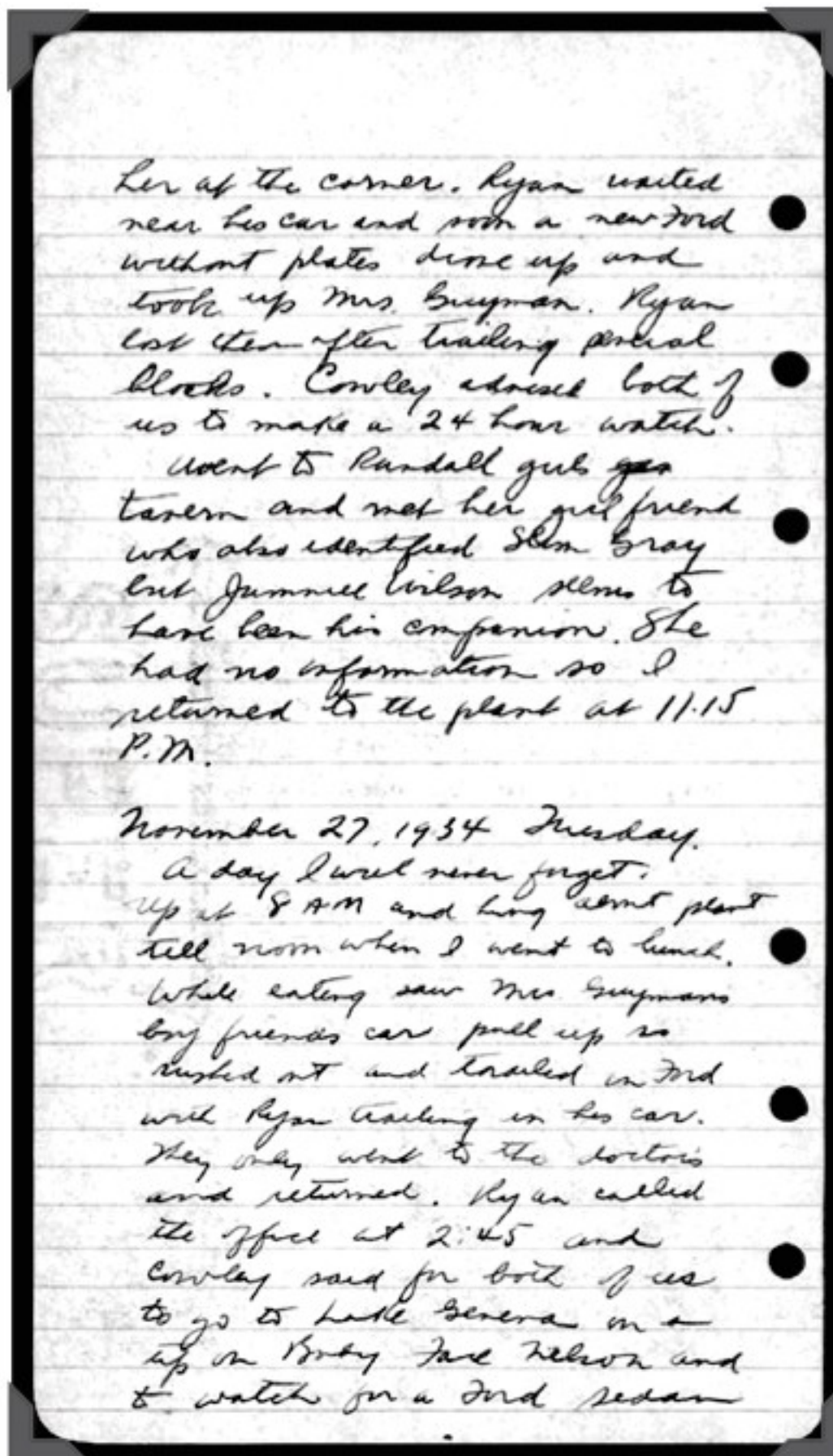
in a furious gun battle. Nelson himself was discovered dead in a ditch the following day, his body riddled with thirteen gunshot wounds from Sam Cowley's gun. He remains the only criminal in FBI history to have killed three agents. His accomplices were picked up, tried, convicted, and sent to prison.

Tom McDade's second encounter took place just two months later with the violent Karpis-Barker Gang. The Gang, made up of the four Barker brothers and Alvin Karpis, was wanted for bank robbery, murder, and two high-profile kidnappings. In January, Freddy Barker and his mother were reportedly holed up in a house on Lake Weir, outside Ocklawaha, Florida. A dozen federal agents, including Special Agent McDade, surrounded the house and demanded the Barkers surrender, but "Ma" and her son refused, answering with a blast of gunfire. The controversial shoot-out (McDade's orders were to bring the outlaws back alive) lasted four hours, as the federal agents pumped the house full of bullets and teargas, and the Barkers returned fire from inside the house. The Barkers were eventually killed, and Special Agent McDade took the only known photograph of the death scene.

My father left the Bureau in 1938, and practiced law until the outbreak of World War II. He rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel with the U. S. Army and was awarded the Bronze Star for helping establish the Manila Police Department in the Philippines in 1945. After a career with General Foods, he volunteered as a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union, and continued his writing career through true-crime short stories that

appeared in such magazines as *Ellery Queen*. In 1962 he was awarded the Edgar Allen Poe Award for his book *The Annals of Murder*, a bibliography of books and pamphlets on American murders from colonial times to 1900. The book is still considered an important reference for students of crime and law enforcement in the United States.

On December 9, 2013, FBI and Museum officials, members of the Society of Former FBI Agents, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, and the Secret Service, as well as others in the law enforcement community gathered for a ceremony recognizing the gift of my father's diary, several unpublished photographs, and related audio tapes. Speakers expressed their gratitude for a gift that will provide unique source material to scholars and researchers about the early days of Hoover's Bureau. I recall once telling my father that perhaps one day someone would find the diary interesting. My father was skeptical. "Oh, I doubt that very much," he said. I'm glad to have proven him wrong – perhaps the only time I was ever able to do so. □



An excerpt from the McDade Diary



Ma Barker

SUSAN M. SMITH

Attorney At Law

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Massachusetts 01230

Telephone (413) 229-7080
Facsimile (413) 229-7085
email: ssmithlaw@hughes.net

ATTENTION, NEW MARLBOROUGH CRAFTERS AND ARTISTS!

Egremont bustles with activity in the summer and is home to many creative and dynamic artists and crafters. We'd love to showcase Berkshire (and beyond!) crafters' and artists' creations at an ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR fundraiser to benefit the Egremont Free Library. Crafters/artists may sell their wares during this two-day summer event. Space for 10'x10' tents (provided by crafter/artist) will be available on the spacious and beautiful property of the Egremont Village Inn in South Egremont.

The Egremont Library Fundraiser Arts & Crafts Fair.
When: July 19 & 20, 2014, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (set-up at 10:00 a.m.)

Where: Egremont Village Inn

Who: All artists and crafters in Egremont, the Berkshires and beyond!

Cost: \$25 for the weekend for a 10x10 space (crafters/artists must provide their own tent.)

For more information please contact Bonnie at 413-528-5637

AMERICAN LEGION SEEKS HELP

(Dates of eligibility, missing in last month's notice, are included here.)

The Harold D. Rood American Legion Post 350, which is promoting the New Marlborough tradition of honoring armed forces veterans by listing their names on the memorial stones on the library lawn, needs the help of New Marlborough townspeople in identifying our veterans who have served during the nation's wars and conflicts.

We may be missing some names on the existing World Wars I and II, Korean, and Vietnam War stones. We know, for example, that Richard Hankey, Sr., should be added for his service during the Korean War; there may be others as yet unidentified.

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

To be eligible for this honor, a veteran has to have been a resident of New Marlborough at the time he or she joined the armed forces and to have served during the dates designated by the United States Government as wartime service. Those dates are:

World War I: April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918

World War II: December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946

Merchant Marine: December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946

Korean War: June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955

Vietnam War: February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975

Lebanon and Grenada: August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984

Panama: December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990

Gulf War/War on Terrorism: August 2, 1990 to cessation of hostilities as determined by the United States Government.

New Marlborough 5 Village News readers who are or know of an eligible veteran are asked to contact Post 350. Write to:

Harold D. Rood American Legion Post 350
c/o Anthony Consolini
P.O. Box 421
Sheffield, MA 01257

Or call: Ann Riou, 229-2589



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NEW MARLBOROUGH IN PICTURES

YOURS! AT THE SECOND ANNUAL PHOTO EXHIBIT

The Second Annual Photo Exhibit and Potluck Supper is scheduled at the Southfield Church Hall (AKA New Marlborough's "South Gallery"). Photographers young or old, male or female, professional or amateur, are invited to submit photos of life in and around the Town of New Marlborough. And the same rules apply to the town's many good cooks who are encouraged to bring their tasty offerings for the supper.

Photos will be displayed at a potluck supper on Saturday, April 5, beginning at 5:30 p.m., and will also be available for viewing on Sunday, April 6, from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. Last year's event prompted a large and appreciative audience which was rewarded with a delicious dinner and a marvelous artistic display of pictures of our town's people, activities, seasonal flora and fauna, and beautiful landscapes. All are invited to enjoy again the wonderful gastronomical and photographic creations of our neighbors. Details of the potluck will appear in the March NM5VN.

So get out your old Zeiss, Kodak, Nikon, point and shoot, tablet, or cell phone and start taking pictures. This is not a photo contest, as all submissions are viewed as "winners." Here are the rules:

- Submit no more than five 5" x 8" or 8" x 10" prints (8x10s display better).
- Identify each picture with a brief description and the date it was taken.
- Place your pictures in a large envelope along with your name and phone number and deliver to the New Marlborough Public Library in Mill River.
- All pictures will be returned following the event.

The event is sponsored by the New Marlborough Cultural Council as one of its many community cultural events. If you have questions or would like to volunteer to help set up the display or the potluck, please call Ned MacDowell (229-2637) or Barbara Lowman (229-2369). □

Barbara Lowman

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Someone, by Alice McDermott
Nostalgia, by Dennis McFarland
The Goldfinch, by Donna Tartt
Innocence, by Dean Koontz
The Way of Fish, by Martha Grimes
The Invention of Wings, by Sue Monk Kidd
Under the Wide and Starry Sky, by Nancy Horan

Adult Nonfiction

Melt: The Art of Macaroni and Cheese, by Stephanie Stiavetti
American Mirror: The Life and Art of Norman Rockwell, by Deborah Solomon
Beauty Pearls for Chemo Girls, by Marybeth Maida

Children's Fiction

Fortunately, the Milk, by Neil Gaiman
Mister Max: The Book of Lost Things, by Cynthia Voight
Come Back Moon, by David Kherdian
Tap the Magic Tree, by Christie Matheson

Children's Nonfiction

Cinders: A Chicken Cinderella, by Jan Brett
How Big Were Dinosaurs?, by Lita Judge
To Dare Mighty Things: The Life of Theodore Roosevelt, by Doreen Rappaport
Malcolm Little: The Boy Who Grew Up To Become Malcolm X, by Ilyasah Shabazz



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

to celebrate "Take Your Child to the Library Day." Mary Jo and the children will tell the story, **THE LEGEND OF THE SILVER PINECONES**, a German folktale. Everyone will make a silver pinecone to take home. Admission is free! For more information call 413-229-6668.

Homemade Sweets For Your Sweet: A Chocolate Celebration

Stop in at the New Marlborough Library
February 8 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Just in time for Valentine's Day:
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Contributions are needed to continue the paper!

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

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

Emergency calls: Police, Fire, and Medical: 911

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

NM5VN Editorial Team

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Barbara Lowman, Marianne Swan, Debra Herman
Contributing writers: Janice Boults, Laura Endacott,
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New Marlborough 5 Village News

appears monthly,
also online at www.newmarlborough.org
The next issue will be dated March, 2014.
All copy must be submitted no later than February 15.
For advertising, contact Barbara Lowman, tel: 229-2369
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- ◆ **Campbell Falls Carpentry:** Licensed and insured contracting at campbellfallscarpentry@gmail.com (413)229-6097 and (413)429-7677. Mass Contractors # 7614140, HIC# 170377
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- ◆ **DesignFirstBerkshires:** Architectural design, space planning and renovation management. 413-528-6169 or info@designfirstberkshires.com.
- ◆ **Fine Jewelry:** Designers and manufacturers; custom orders/commissions welcome; expert repairs. 45 years experience. Sachs Reisman, Inc. 25 Maple Ave., Sheffield 229-0050
- ◆ **Eileen Fitzgibbons:** Experienced massage therapist with advanced training and 6 years' experience at Mepal Spa wishes to continue work in New Marlborough. www.efwellness@gmail.com, 860-309-7775
- ◆ **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
- ◆ **James Edelman:** General Contractor, Real Estate Sales. Best Results. Construction License #090773. Home Improvement Registration #152035. Real Estate Sales License #9086247. 413-528-0006 or cljvedelman@aol.com
- ◆ **Quality Painting Services:** Beautifying homes in the Berkshires. Offering interior/exterior painting, staining, sheetrock repair. Pressure washing decks. Contractor registration #173566. Josh Taber, 413.269.8948
- ◆ **Susan M. Smith:** Attorney At Law; Concentrating in the areas of Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Elder Law, Real Estate and Zoning Matters. smithlaw@hughes.net or 229-7080
- ◆ **Reiner White:** General Contractor; 413-229-8450

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