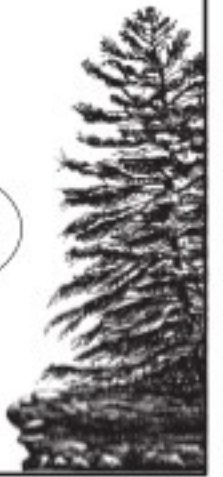




New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

THE ANVIL VS. THE BOULDER

What Belongs Atop the Elihu Burritt Memorial?

By David Hosford

Who is Elihu Burritt, and why should anyone care about his monument on the New Marlborough Village Green? Well, there's the annual August fair named after him, where you can buy old books and white elephants, take a hay ride, see classic cars, enjoy kids watching Roger the Jester, pet animals, and eat tasty treats. But there's much more to the story.

Elihu Burritt, born in New Britain, Connecticut, never completed his formal education, which was cut short because of his father's early death. He was apprenticed to a local blacksmith, and then, with a half dozen other young men from his hometown, he joined a small team of artisans recruited in 1831 for a small brass foundry opening just south of New Marlborough village near the former Kolburne School campus. The venture was not a success, and Burritt stayed in town only two years before moving to Worcester, where he plied his trade but also studied at the American Antiquarian Society.

Clearly a talented student, Burritt was largely self-taught in an age before formal academic credentials were important. Within a decade, he had gained recognition as an intellectual and embarked on a career as an author and persuasive spokesman for international peace. He became a powerful advocate for the establishment of



photo by Joe Poindexter

a world court to adjudicate disputes between countries. He was also a strong opponent of slavery, and he helped raise American awareness about the plight of the Irish during the Great Hunger. In 1847 he organized the League of Universal Brotherhood, and by mid-century he had become a prominent figure at international congresses, promoting world peace in cities as far afield as Brussels, Paris, Frankfurt, London, Manchester, and Edinburgh. Such activities earned him renown as "The Learned Blacksmith."

The American Civil War and other conflicts eventually dimmed the light of the nineteenth century peace movement, although Burritt remained active until the end of his life. He was invited to revisit New Marlborough in early 1879, but rapidly declining health denied him the opportunity — he died in March of that year at age sixty-nine. Nonetheless, memory of the man and his passionate belief in world peace survived in the local community.

At the 1906 New Marlborough Old Home Day rally at Gibson's Grove on Lake Buel, a campaign was launched to raise funds for a permanent memorial. That effort culminated with the unveiling of the Burritt monument on the village green on July 23, 1908, before a crowd

continued on page 2

BROADBAND UPDATE

By Barry R. Shapiro

Since the Massachusetts Broadband Institute announced that it would not fund any town which signs with WiredWest as its operator under its proposed operating agreement, there have been several meetings between MBI and WiredWest focusing on the disagreement between them, including the operating

agreement (particularly who should own the system) and the business plan and financials. Tim Newman, the Town's representative to WiredWest, reports that technology may also be discussed. Mr. Newman described the meetings as positive and conciliatory.

Meanwhile, four companies (Crocker Communica-

continued on page 3

Anvil, continued from page 1

numbering over 500, according to a front-page article in *The Berkshire Courier*. The event was also commemorated in *Elihu Burritt: The Apostle of Peace*, a booklet published by the Memorial Committee and reissued by the New Marlborough Village Association in 1966. It identifies Patrick A. Brennan, a Mill River resident and building contractor, as the designer of the monument, which as pictured in a contemporary photograph by Frank E. Sisson, was topped by a large, flint boulder.

Originally the Memorial Committee had set a goal of \$300 for the Burritt monument but managed to raise only about \$175. (A list of donors and gift amounts appears in the 1908 commemorative booklet.) Could the flint boulder have been set atop the plinth simply for lack of funds to do otherwise? Certainly it was not an obvious choice to one Southfield resident, speaking to the *Courier* reporter at the 1908 dedication. "Henry M. Baldwin, while admiring the memorial, said there was one change in the plan which he would have suggested had he had the op-



portunity, that of placing an anvil on its cap."

So matters stood until 1977, by which time the Burritt memorial had fallen into a serious state of disrepair. Funding of \$1,200 was then raised by the New Marlborough Village Association for a restoration, and a careful

reconstruction of the monument and its brass plaque was undertaken during the early summer of 1978, followed by a re-dedication ceremony held on August 12, along with the very first Burritt Day fair and flea market.

But the boulder was not reinstalled. Instead, an antique brass anvil took its place, presumably because it conveyed

a more specific aspect of Burritt's life. In time, the brass anvil was stolen. It was replaced by the cast-iron replica still there today.

For some the change was controversial. The original boulder has been preserved by Southfield's Alvin Stalker, who rescued it from the side of the New Marlborough Monterey Road, where it had been discarded, and who would like to see it restored to its rightful place atop the monument. "Don't you think that looks better than what's up there now?" he says, looking down at the large, rectangular rock that sits next to his shed. Elihu Burritt, of course, is not around to voice an opinion. We know, however, that he took pride in his working-class roots as a blacksmith. Among his thirty-seven articles and books, one of his favorite writings was entitled *Sparks from the Anvil*. □

Top, The Elihu Burritt monument with its original flint boulder, in an early twentieth century photo

Left, Alvin Stalker, who rescued the boulder, hopes it will one day be restored to its rightful place atop the monument. Photo by Joe Poindexter

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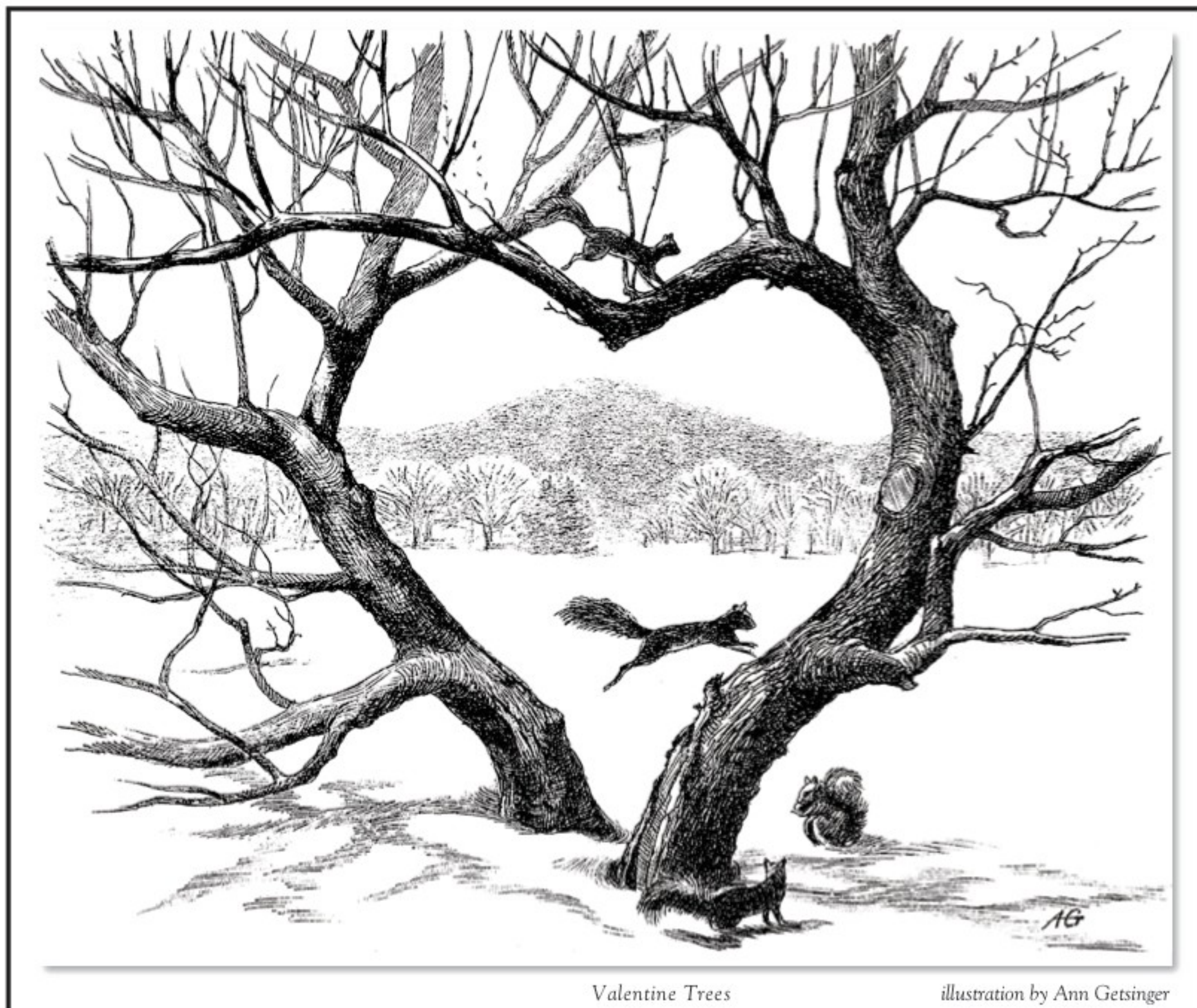


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Valentine Trees

illustration by Ann Getsinger

Broadband, continued from page 1

tions of Greenfield, Collins Electric of Springfield, Frontier Communications of New Holland, Pennsylvania, and Berkshire Broadband, a New Marlborough company represented by Edward Zyskowski and Joe Krejci) have expressed an interest in becoming the Town's network operator and have submitted responses to a request for information.

Selectman Nat Yohalem noted at a Board of Selectmen meeting that, given the work needed, it is unlikely that a special town meeting to vote on the broadband bond will take place in April as originally anticipated, and will more likely be held sometime between the May 2 Annual Town Meeting when the Town votes on its budget and the June 30 deadline for receiving state funds.

A public meeting with MBI to discuss the design and construction of the proposed network and criteria for the selection of a network operator took place in New Marlborough on January 19. The MBI representatives noted that the June 30 deadline to obtain MBI funding may

be extended to permit time for input from the towns and design work. Selectman Yohalem noted the complexity of the process and opined that a regional network with a common operator where each town maintains direct ownership of and control over its portion of the network appears to be in the Town's best interests.

The selectmen are completing a "decision tree" from MBI about system design, and more discussions with MBI will be forthcoming as the selectmen formulate their recommendations to the Town. The MBI representatives stated their willingness to work with the Town on system design and operator selection, reiterated that the estimated cost of \$4.7 million, with \$1.7 million to come from the state, is a "worst case scenario", and noted that the buildout of the network is unlikely to be completed before 2020 or 2021.

For more details on this evolving subject, please see the Selectmens column on page 4. □

Town Business Is Your Business

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



December 28: The Board held its last meeting of the year at 10:00 a.m. with the only item on the agenda an Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission hearing. With Chairman Shalaby and Selectman Tara White present and Selectman Nat Yohalem conferencing in by phone, the Board voted to renew liquor licenses for Gedney Farm, the Old Inn on the Green, and the Southfield Store, and a package store license for the Mill River General Store. The town receives a \$500 fee for each renewal.

January 4: With all three members present the first item on the agenda was an update from **Tim Newman on the WiredWest – Massachusetts Broadband Institute imbroglio.** As previously reported, WiredWest's bid to become the broadband service provider for a consortium of Western Massachusetts towns, including New Marlborough, suffered a stunning reversal on December 1, when the MBI notified the towns it would not authorize state funding for any town that signed up with WiredWest. According to Mr. Newman, the town's WiredWest delegate, several meetings have taken place "since MBI dropped its December 1 bombshell," with another one scheduled for later this week. He said the negotiations have been divided up into subgroups covering the different areas of contention, with one focusing on the WiredWest operating agreement where the main, and only significant topic, according to Mr. Newman, is the question of whether the towns or WiredWest should own the broadband systems. The other subgroup is looking at the WiredWest business plan and financial model,

and WiredWest, according to Mr. Newman, would like to add a third subgroup to the mix to discuss technology, "since they're all related," he said. He characterized the meetings so far "as very positive and conciliatory," and that while he can't predict when the issues will be resolved, "my hope is that by the end of the month, we'll put Humpty Dumpty back together again in one form or another."

'...my hope is that by the end of the month, we'll put Humpty Dumpty back together again in one form or another.'

In other broadband developments **four companies have expressed an interest in being the town's system operator** and have submitted responses to its request for information, or RFI. They are Crocker Communications of Greenfield, Collins Electric of Springfield, Frontier Communications of New Holland, Pennsylvania, and a local

New Marlborough entry, Berkshire Broadband, headed by Ed Zyszkowski and Joe Krejci.

And finally, Richard Long, the retired engineering consultant who along with Tom Stalker is helping the Town with its broadband deliberations, reported that the Massachusetts Technology Collaboration, an state umbrella agency of which MBI is a division, recently issued a draft of a request for proposal, or RFP, on behalf of MBI, for an engineering systems design which, according to Mr. Long, appears to shed light on how MBI's thinking has evolved regarding the network's design, construction, and technology. He said based on the RFP, **MBI seems to be planning for a much more flexible and open approach than previously thought, both in terms of system configuration and technology.** For example, the document specifies that the overall network must be designed in such a way that participating towns can join or leave the consortium at any time, unlike the WiredWest operating agreement which provides for a ten-year lock-in. Also, unlike WiredWest, the RFP anticipates that towns will own their systems and that the design has to accommodate any of the following configurations: a unified regional network, a multiplicity of smaller, clustered networks, or even stand-alone systems. According to Mr. Long, the document also "strongly implies" that towns can go in different technological directions, opting for an all-fiber network, the most expensive route; an all-wireless network, cheaper and easier to install, or a fiber-wireless hybrid network. "This creates the opportunity for us

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to consider the most effective broadband solution that meets our needs," he explained.

The Board is not so sure. Given its April timeframe for holding a vote on the broadband bond, the selectmen seemed ambivalent about having such a wide variety of options. "I have a hard time understanding how all this openness and flexibility is going to be very efficient," Ms. Shalaby said, and urged the other members of the Board to be sure to review the RFI's that were submitted to the Town. Meanwhile, Mr. Yohalem said he will get in touch with MBI about sending someone as soon as possible to go through the network design options available to the Town.

In other matters, the Board reviewed the goals it set for itself back in September for the 2016 fiscal year, noting that three of them have been accomplished in the months since then: updating the Town's personnel policy; codifying the Town's finance policies and procedures; and obtaining funds for the reconstruction of the Clayton Mill River Road. Still to be accomplished is the completion of a five-year road plan; setting a broadband direction for the town; clearing up past IRS notices; filling all Town Hall positions and appointing backups for each; and clarifying with written job descriptions the roles of all Town employees.

There was also a discussion of the **problem of unlicensed dogs in the Town**, with the Board asking Town Administrator Mari Enoch to research the issue and put a proposal on the table for dealing with it by next week's meeting.

Selectman White reported on the **signing of the Community Compact Agreement** sponsored by the Baker-Polito administration at the Great Barrington Town Hall, which both the governor and lieutenant governor attended. Ms. White, who signed the compact on behalf of New Marlborough, said seventeen towns and six school

districts were represented. They included Alford, Becket, Egremont, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, Mount Washington, Otis, Richmond, Sandisfield, Sheffield, Stockbridge, Tyringham, Washington, and West Stockbridge. The purpose of the compact is to **increase collaboration on shared services among school districts and towns, while also reducing costs.**

January 11: With all three selectmen present, the Board began tonight's meeting by approving minutes from three previous meetings, December 14, December 28, and January 4, and then followed up on last week's discussion of unlicensed dogs in the Town by reviewing

and approving a proposal by Town Administrator Enoch for dealing with the issue. According to the proposal, the Town will send a letter to delinquent dog owners offering to waive any fines that have been assessed this year in return for their obtaining licenses for their dogs by February 15,

including providing proof of a current rabies vaccination. The letters will be personalized with the name of the owner, the number of dogs and the amount of the current fine. Town Clerk Kathy Chretien estimates there are as many as twenty to twenty-five dogs whose licenses have not been renewed this year and whose owners have been assessed fines of at least \$25. Explaining the rationale behind the proposal, Ms. Enoch said, "The goal is not to raise money but to get the dogs licensed so we know they have rabies vaccinations and the town is safe." The license fee for spayed or neutered dogs is \$7.00 and \$15 for one that's intact.

The Board reviewed and approved a letter to Southern Berkshire Regional School District Superintendent David Hastings asking for the district's cooperation in helping the Town meet its goal this year of staying under the Proposition 2½ percent budget cap. Alluding to a similar letter sent last year in which

'The goal is not to raise money but to get the dogs licensed so we know they have rabies vaccinations...'



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the Town “communicated to the School District our hopes for” a level-funded school assessment and the animosity that generated among members of the School Committee, this year’s letter states that the Town looks forward to working with the District as a “partner” in the development of this year’s budget, and goes on to emphasize that “together we can continue to fund our School in a way that is reasonable for our taxpayers and highly effective for our students.” The letter also suggests it would be very helpful to the Town’s planning if the district were to develop a ten-year capital plan. The letter is being signed by Board Chairman Shalaby and Finance Committee Chair Dave Herrick.

Reporting on the latest broadband developments, Selectman Yohalem said he was successful in setting up a **meeting with Massachusetts Broadband Institute to go over the options for the design and construction of the proposed network.** That meeting, which has been posted and will be open to the public, is set to take place Tuesday, January 19, at 10:00 a.m. at Town Hall. He said two to three MBI representatives are expected to attend, along with Richard Long and Tom Stalker, the resident volunteers who are assisting the Board in its broadband deliberations. To facilitate the discussion, the Board has already sent MBI for its advanced review copies of the four RFI responses it has received from potential system operators. In addition, **Chairman Shalaby has submitted to the agency a list of questions and subject areas the Board would like to see addressed at the meeting.**

These include clarifying the options for designing, building, and operating the network, including the technology options, and the implications of one choice or another; how does the choice of a system operator or Internet service provider, or ISP, affect design and construction costs; what are the cost implications of

driveway lengths in connecting homes to the network; can the Town consider connecting to a broadband network in Connecticut, given that one of its RFI respondents, Frontier Communications, operates a system that abuts New Marlborough just across the state line, and finally, besides approving the construction bond, what other steps does the Town need to complete by the June 30 deadline

to receive state funding. And in all of this, Ms. Shalaby noted, the Town’s greatest concern is limiting design and construction costs.

Separately, Mr. Yohalem said that holding a special town meeting in April to vote on the bond doesn’t seem realistic any longer, given the tasks the Board needs to complete before the vote takes place, including identifying a system operator for the network. As he pointed out, it’s

unlikely the Board can issue an RFP for a system operator until sometime in February and that three out of the four system operators that responded to the RFI indicated they would need from thirty to sixty days to submit a bid. So instead, **Mr. Yohalem envisions holding a vote sometime between the Annual Town Meeting in May when the Town votes on its budget and the June 30 deadline for applying for broadband funding from the state.**

Chairman Shalaby said the Board received an email from Representative Smitty Pignatelli asking for someone to represent the Town at a February 4 meeting at the Great Barrington Town Hall **to discuss the specific shared services the Town “would like to work towards this year”** in connection with the Community Compact Agreement. In it he asks each participant to list in advance three to five potential areas of collaboration “that you would like to consider as we move forward with implementation of the Compact.” According to Ms. Shalaby, for New Marlborough these would include emergency services, benefits for shared employees of the town, capital equipment, and the schools. Both Ms. Shalaby and Ms. White said they would be attending.

Under town administrator updates, Ms. Enoch said there will be no meeting next week because of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday and that Town Hall will be closed. She also reported that the new single-stream recyclables compactor at the transfer station is currently out of service. She said it’s not entirely clear what the problem is, although it was later noted that it might have something to do with the cooling system for the hydraulics, and that the system came off warranty in October. The Board asked Administrative Secretary Sharon Fleck to contact Maguire Equipment Co. of Readville, Massachusetts, which sold the system to the town, and have them come out and fix it.

The Board reviewed and authorized Selectman White

Since a vote on broadband spending as early as April isn’t realistic, the Board envisions a special town meeting after the Annual Town Meeting but before the June 30 deadline.

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to send letters to Mr. Pignatelli and State Senator Ben Downing, inviting them to a January 20 meeting in Tolland to provide guidance on how to approach the legislature and appropriate state agencies about getting the state to take over maintenance and repair of Route 57. The letter also spells out various options for how a maintenance "partnership" between the state and the five area towns through which Route 57 passes might work. Similar letters will be going out from the other four towns to their legislative representatives asking them to attend.

In the final discussion of the night, Chairman Shalaby reported she met recently with Ned Wilson who said he's planning to resign as chairman of the Conservation Commission, indicating that neither of the other two members have the time or background to take over as chairman. He suggested instead the Board

consider hiring a salaried agent to handle the work of the Commission similar to the Board of Health model, where Scott McFarland serves as agent reporting to a board that then makes decisions on behalf of the Town. She said Mr. Wilson is amenable to staying on until possibly July 1 to give the Town time to find someone to fill the position and to get a salary approved by the voters at the Annual Town Meeting. She said she also talked with an environmental engineer who indicated there are people in South County who are qualified and would want the job. She asked Town Administrator Enoch to check with other towns who have such agents to get a feel for what they are paid them. It was also agreed that an effort should be made to recruit more members for the Commission, bringing the number to as many as five. □

Peter Schuyten

THE VIEW FROM THE BOARD

Protecting taxpayer money is our most important task. As managers of New Marlborough, the Board of Selectmen is obligated to ensure that financial controls provide accuracy, timeliness, and completion, ensuring against loss due to error or malfeasance. We take this task seriously, and although we spend a great deal of time discussing other efforts, this is our first priority.

Managing New Marlborough finances is not, in itself, a complex task. For us it has been made complex by the existence of practices that have long outlived their effectiveness, along with frequent turnover of personnel in financial offices. In the nearly three years of my term, I have worked with three town administrators, three tax collectors and five treasurers.

Our direction is clear: We had plentiful feedback in our last audit and in the Department of Revenue's review. Unfortunately, the turnover has severely limited our ability to make progress. Currently, we are challenged by a vacancy in the treasurer position. Fortunately, we have turned this into an opportunity to make progress.

In December, we decided to redistribute three treasurer

tasks to current personnel: payroll, vendor payments, and tax title. The rest of the treasurer duties are being completed by a treasurer consultant, David Genereaux, Director of Municipal Finance, from Baystate Municipal Accounting Group. David has extensive experience in municipal treasury and will not only complete regular work, but is capable and has the time to advance our financial controls in the areas recommended by our auditor and the Department of Revenue. Additionally, we have added a month to his contract to overlap and train the next person we hire to take on the role of treasurer. The entire financial team (assessor, collector, treasurer, clerk and accountant) will benefit from his services and our financial controls will be improved.

We look forward to a new era of financial management. This will not be a stagnant state. We will continue to prioritize and make improvements, working toward a stellar audit review and confidence from New Marlborough taxpayers. □

Michele Shalaby, Chairman, Board of Selectmen

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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

December 12: Commission members Ned Wilson, Freddy Friedman, and John Schreiber convened the meeting. Mark Stinson from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection was also present as a visiting circuit rider and consultant to the Commission.

First up was Shannon Boomsma of White Engineering presenting a Request For Determination (RDA) for Kenneth Unger of 138 Woodleigh Avenue on Lake Buel. Ms. Boomsma said that the scope of work included a new well and new septic system for an existing residence, as well as a new dock at the lake. She explained that the proposed locations for the well and septic comply with regulatory setbacks to the lake. The new dock is to be fifteen feet longer than the existing dock (which will be removed) and will be constructed of wood composite materials with aluminum posts and footings. The proposed tree removals involve dead and/or damaged trees. Without much discussion the Commission agreed to issue a negative determination meaning the work could proceed without further permitting.

Representing the New Marlborough Highway Department, Chuck Loring came before the Commission for clarification on the permitting needed for continuing culvert work on Brewer Hill Road. Discussion ensued weighing the options and best construction solution for the challenges of the site. Mr. Loring decided that he would consult possible state funding options, referred to him by Mr. Stinson, and return to the Commission with his preferred construction method. At that time the Commission would decide whether the existing permit could be amended or whether, if there are substantial changes with additional impact to the water resource, a new notice of intent would be required.

Next up was an informational session with the Lake Buel Preservation District. Christopher Hassett and Peter Hagen were in attendance as representatives of the District. They described the long, complicated history

of activities undertaken by the District to maintain the water level of the lake while managing the beaver activity. The Commission made it very clear that any further meddling with the Lake Buel water level would necessitate a Notice of Intent. Mr. Stinson also advised the District to coordinate any future permitting with the Monterey Conservation Commission.

Finally Dr. Schreiber inquired whether the Commission had received permission from Victor Mulholland to visit his parcel. The secretary noted that permission had been granted.

Mr. Wilson agreed to call Berkshire Mountain Spring Water to ask that they file an RDA for the recent site activity involving a newly driven well and the associated culvert installation.

The mail received included a Forest Cutting Plan for twenty-three acres on Cross to Canaan Valley Road owned by resident Arthur Regan.

The minutes from last month were read and approved with minor edits.

The next meeting was scheduled for January 23, and the meeting was adjourned. □

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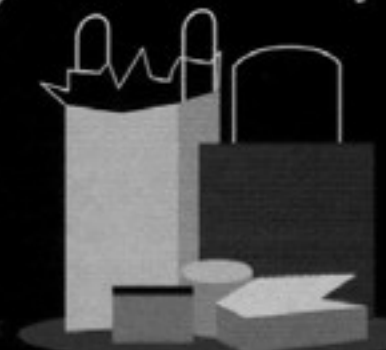
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FINANCE COMMITTEE

December 10: A joint meeting, attended by Chairman Michele Shalaby, Tara White, and Nat Yohalem of the Board of Selectmen, and Chairman David Herrick, Mark Carson, John Pshenishny, and Prudence Spaulding of the Finance Committee, focused on laying the groundwork for the FY17 Town budget.

First, however, Mr. Herrick called attention to two vacancies on the Finance Committee. Mrs. Spaulding suggested that Edgar Zukauskas, a former member of the Finance Committee, and Richard Long might prove to be valuable candidates. Ms. Shalaby stated that she had, in fact, emailed Mr. Long but had not received an answer. Mr. Herrick stated that candidates needed to submit a letter of interest to him, and Ms. Shalaby added that the Board of Selectmen would like to review potential candidates.

Similarly, the office of treasurer, following the move out of New Marlborough by Peter Gay, remains open, and the Town has not as yet received a strong candidate for the position. As a consequence, the Town has decided to hire a municipal treasurer consultant, who will fill the position up to the end of the fiscal year, with the hope that a qualified candidate will be found in the interim.

Ms. Shalaby reported she had just received word that rather than having underpaid into the Southern Berkshire Regional School District FY16 Budget, New Marlborough was being credited with an overpayment of \$20,000.

Mr. Pshenishny asked if an audit of the Town budget was planned. Ms. Shalaby reported that errors made with the Internal Revenue Service had been partly resolved. There remained an interest payment, which the Town hoped it could get waived. Mrs. Spaulding asked whether the bonding agency that bonded the Town employee who created the error could be prevailed upon to cover whatever payment remained outstanding. Ms. Shalaby responded that she was still working with the IRS to get the remainder "forgiven."

The meeting then turned to the main order of business by reviewing revenues and expenditures for FY16. For the benefit of those attending, the following amounts were displayed on charts:

Revenues collected	\$4,432,000
Stabilization Fund (at present)	600,914
Reserve of 5 percent	275,000
Available for capital expenditures	325,914
Free Cash	545,965

Looking ahead, the only formal capital request so far has come from the Police Department for a \$40,000 cruiser. (Later in the meeting, Ms. Shalaby said that an analysis of having state police take over certain policing functions in town revealed that this was not a viable cost-cutting strategy.) The Highway Department has

expressed interest in purchasing a piece of road-patching equipment and a mid-size excavator. Ms. Shalaby pointed out that a balance of \$70,816 remains in the Town Hall renovation budget for a handicapped accessible bathroom and the installation of shelving in the assessor's office. This amount remains unexpended because of lack of interest among state-approved contractors. Mr. Pshenishny asked, since the Town Hall is a historical building, whether grants might be procured to augment the renovation fund.

Next on the agenda was the elephant in the room: highway maintenance. One estimate put the total cost of all road work, if it were to be undertaken in FY17, at \$2,002,896. Chapter 90 funds (from the state) are expected to be \$346,000, and the Town's road budget will yield about \$94,000, leaving a shortfall of \$1,562,896. Though mindful of the possible need to borrow for repairs to the Mount Everett High School building and the installation of fiber-optic cable for high-speed internet connectivity, Mr. Yohalem raised the question of a bond to meet these road-repair costs. The joint committees were reminded that Clayton Mill River Road will be closed for a part of this year during the repair of the culvert on that road, which will place an extra burden on the other roads to carry the added traffic.

Returning to the issue of paying for repairs to the Mount Everett High School roof, one Committee member suggested that the selectmen demand that the school district budget be level-funded in the coming year. Ms. Shalaby reminded the Committee that an increase relating to teacher salaries was contractually binding. Mrs. Spaulding stated that since school enrollment was consistently declining, the school administration needed to re-evaluate classroom structure with the goal of eliminating some staff.

Projected FY17 increases suggest that part of the budget will have to be placed outside the 2 ½ percent tax increase limit. Mr. Herrick requested that department heads be asked to level-fund, or even reduce, their budget requests for the coming fiscal year. Mrs. Spaulding responded that most department heads were extremely careful when spending money and the large ticket items were largely responsible for increased costs. Mr. Carson stated that the cost of computer programs appeared to be continually rising.

Mrs. Spaulding, as Director of Senior Services, asked that the Town's Council on Aging budget be increased from \$200 to \$2,000, which would bring it in line with that of most other small towns in the state. With that, and with discussion having gone on for more than an hour and a half, the meeting was adjourned. □

*Joe Poindexter, from minutes submitted by
Finance Committee Secretary Prudence Spaulding*

VALENTINE'S DAY DELIGHTS

Or How To Please Your Partner Without Leaving Town

by Barry R. Shapiro

Valentine's Day is one of those holidays that tends to strike fear or at least consternation into the hearts of gentlemen and, one supposes, into the hearts of ladies as well. What do I do? What might make her (or him) happy? What shouldn't I do? Can I get away without doing anything (men, do you really need to ask yourself that question)?

Despair not, dear reader, for, happily, those living in New Marlborough have two wonderful venues which promise to resolve your quandary, fill your day with romance and amour and delight both you and your significant other. In fact, with some careful planning, you might be able to make a full day of it (with time for a midday nap).

Let's start with brunch.

Take a short ride to the beautiful environs of Gedney Farm where a creative and romantic fireside brunch put together by Chef Rob Burnell will be offered. Starting at 10:00 a.m., the brunch menu features a spin on classics like eggs benedict, served three ways on the Farm's own English muffins, skillet baked custard apple pancakes, old style waffles (classic, fruity or crunchy), killer maple glazed bacon, and breakfast sausages. Also on the menu will be the Farm's lunch fare, such as lamb shank shepherd's pie, buttermilk fried chicken and waffles, brisket and corn cakes, as well as the popular Swiss raclette cheese service. A selection of festive and warming beverages also awaits diners.

Proprietor Leslie Miller advises that if there's enough snow, guests will have the opportunity to snow shoe or cross country ski on the property before or after brunch (snow shoes will be provided, subject to availability, or guests can bring their own). Guests are also welcome, if there is no snow, to stroll the beautiful Gedney Farm grounds.

And everyone will be sent home with a Valentine's gift from the Farm's renowned bakery.

After a delicious brunch and some exercise, it's time to cuddle with your beloved for a nice afternoon nap. Awakening refreshed and with your appetite no doubt restored, thoughts will likely turn to dinner and that's where a romantic, candlelit meal at the Old Inn on the Green should enter your plans.

Owners Peter Platt and Meredith Kennard will be offering a memorable five course menu in the Inn's historic fireplace lit rooms. Those choosing to dine here will start with Massachusetts oysters with Osetra caviar, and choose from roasted mushroom soup, carnaroli risotto, or the Inn's classic roasted red beet tart. This will be followed by a choice of seared Maine diver scallop and butter poached lobster, ricotta gnocchi, or red salad. Entrees include crispy skin filet of Faroe Islands salmon, miso glazed filet of Casco Bay cod, grilled beef tenderloin and slow-braised Angus short ribs, or braised shank leg, and herb-crusted chop of Colorado lamb. A dessert of Persian Love Cake ensues.

Meredith Kennard notes, "This is always a special night at The Old Inn, we look forward to welcoming everyone and providing a memorable evening with great food and drink in a romantic candlelit atmosphere. Included are complimentary chocolates to finish the meal, and, of course like virtually everything else we serve, we make them ourselves!"

Reservations for both of these fine dining establishments are encouraged and may be made by calling Gedney Farm at 229 3131 (or email cgranahan@gedneyfarm.com) or the Old Inn at 229 7924 (or visit their website at www.oldinn.com).

And, in case you were unsure, the big day falls on Sunday, February 14.

Happy Valentine's Day and don't forget the chocolates and flowers! ♥



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ROASTED RED BEET TARTE TATIN

This recipe is courtesy of Chef Peter Platt of the Old Inn on the Green.

1 cup white sugar

¼ lb. unsalted butter

2 large beets

1 package puff pastry

12 small aluminum tart pans

1 cup chevre, mixed with chopped herbs (chives and parsley) and a little olive oil

To cook beets:

- 1) Trim tops off fresh average-sized beets, wash, and wrap individually in foil.
- 2) Place beets on a cookie sheet in a 350° oven and cook until easily pierced with a knife, about 1-1½ hrs.
- 3) Allow beets to cool until warm enough to handle and peel off skins.

To make caramel:

- 1) Combine sugar and butter in a medium saucepan over medium to high heat and stir with a whisk occasionally until caramel becomes emulsified and turns a light brown color. Caramel is extremely hot and dangerous; handle carefully.
- 2) Pour hot caramel into a two to four cup pyrex measuring cup to make it easier to pour into tart shells. It also stops the caramel from continuing to darken.

Assemble:

- 1) Pour hot caramel into tart pans to just cover bottom. Caramel will harden, which is fine. (This can be done up to a day in advance).
- 2) Slice beets about a ½ inch thick and use a round cookie cutter to cut the beets the same diameter as the bottom of the tart shells.
- 3) Cover with a round of puff pastry that is the same diameter as the top of the tart pan.
- 4) Bake in at 425° until pastry is brown and the caramel is bubbling, about 10 minutes.
- 5) Turn out beet tarts onto plates while still hot, this can be a little messy and dangerous because caramel is liquid and hot. Pastry should be on the bottom and the beet on the top after it has been plated.
- 6) Garnish beet with a quenelle of herbed chevre and serve immediately.

CARAMELIZED APPLE KAISERSCHMARRN

This recipe is courtesy of Chef Rob Burnell of Gedney Farm. When translated, it means "The King's Mess." It is similar in appearance and texture to a popover. Commonly, it would be shredded into a pile, but I love the presentation of the whole "Pancake." It is baked in a very hot oven in butter and is laced with caramelized apples.

Peel and core 3 apples and cut into medium dice.

Melt 4 tablespoons butter in a 12-inch frying pan. (Cast iron works well.)

Saute apples in butter until soft.

Combine and whisk: 3 eggs, 1/2 cup milk, 1/2 cup flour, 1/4 teaspoon salt, 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Pour this batter over the apple and butter in the pan.

Place pan in a pre-heated 400 degree oven for 10-12 minutes, until the edges are puffy and browning.

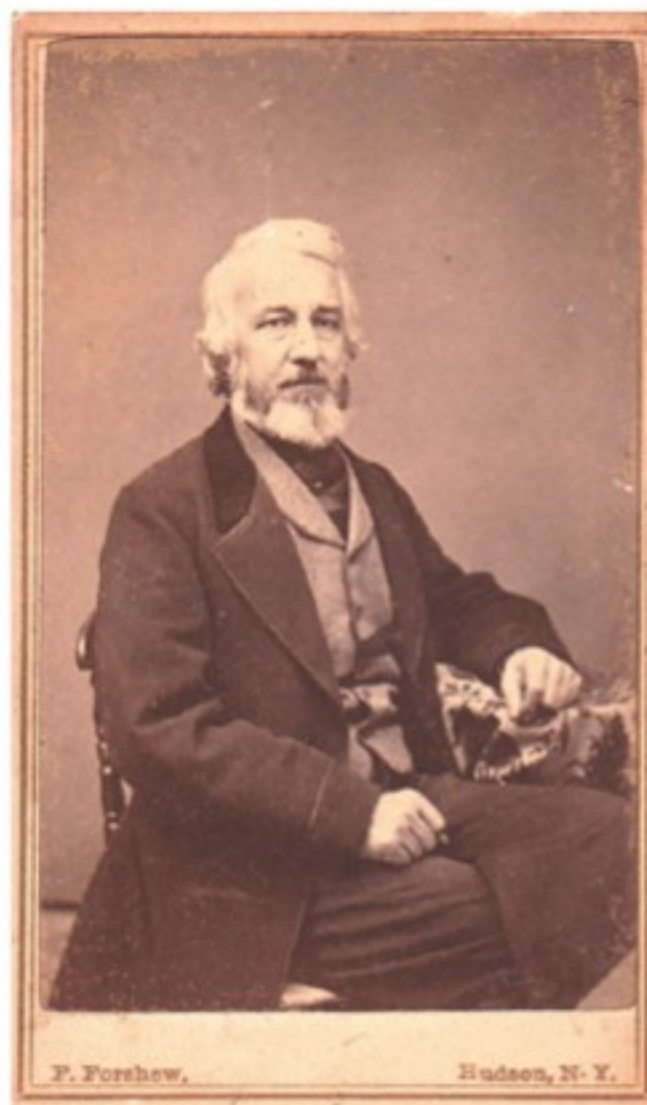
Baste the top of the pancake with additional melted butter and sprinkle with cinnamon sugar

Return to oven for 3-5 minutes to melt sugar topping.

Finally, after removing from oven, squeeze half of a lemon over the pan.

Serve immediately. Best enjoyed hot.

LOVE IN 1847



Charlie Parton has provided the background for this valentine, sent by his great-grandfather to his great-grandmother in 1847:

George Frederick Parton was born in Wednesbury, just north of Birmingham, England, in 1812. At twenty he set sail from London to Quebec; he then migrated down to Hudson, New York, arriving there in 1832. He was a cabinet maker by trade and settled on Warren Street. In 1834 he met and married nineteen-year-old Elizabeth Woodbridge, of Mystic, Connecticut, who was studying art in academies in Red Hook and Catskill, under the supervision of her mother. In 1836 they settled into a house at 290 Warren Street, now known as the Zeisenitz Paper Store. George and Elizabeth birthed thirteen children, six of whom died before their fifth birthdays. In 1847, George gave Elizabeth the pictured valentine, as well he should have; He was to leave her with seven children for over two years while he sought gold in the California gold rush. But that's another story... ♥



Thank You to Our Contributors!

Betty Reba; Scott MacKenzie; Laura Chang & Arnold Chavkin; Mike & Katherine Jaffe; Steve Cunningham & Daryl Wickstrom; Anonymous*; John McGinley; John Johnston; Jayne M. Kurzman; Jon & Sandy Sullivan; Robert & Irene Dvorchik; Leslie Armstrong; Priscilla J. Beers; Sally & Eugene Stamper; Dennis Sears & Rene Wood; Melissa Elstein & Eric Katzman; Ronald & Jean Paro; Brian Mikesell & John Weinstein; Laurence & Virginia Chipurnoi; Marc & Dawn Trachtenberg; Sheila Baird; Mari Enoch; Joyce & Tom Sachs; Dr. Sidney Schreiber; JR Wilkinson Construction; Edward & Claire Stiepleman; Sy Rotker & Barrie Stern; Len & Judy Polisar; Edward Zyskowski & Lori Fena; Mary Kerr.

* We received a generous contribution via Citibank, but we've had to list it as anonymous because the donor was not identified. We'd like to send a thank-you letter if the donor would contact us.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The New Marlborough Land Trust's
first annual...Saturday, April 9
6:00 until 10:00 p.m

Gedney Farm

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Red Hot Blues Bash

An exceptional evening with
specialty cocktails, great food, music, dancing,
unique silent auction

\$35 per person in advance (\$40 at the door)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Music by the
BTUs

UPCOMING: Events Calendar for February and March

February 10: Last voter registration day for the presidential primary (March 1); if you are eligible and not yet registered, see Kathy Chretien at the Town Hall by this date

February 29: Last day to fill out an absentee ballot, for the presidential primary; see Kathy Chretien not later than 12 noon

February 13: Sweets for your Sweetheart, A Chocolate Celebration at the New Marlborough Town Library, featuring homemade confections, a chocolate fountain, a children's activity table, and free hot chocolate; 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. — and just in time for Valentine's Day

February 14: Winter House Concert, Larry Wallach, Anne Legene, and New Marlborough's own Lucy Bardo perform French and German baroque music for violas da gamba and harpsichord; call (413) 229-2785 for tickets — \$25, \$20 for members of the Village Association

March 1: Presidential Primary, Town Hall, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

March 22: Last Day for filing as a nominee for Town office; see Kathy Chretien at the Town Hall by 4:00 p.m.

March 29: Town Caucus, top two vote-getters for each office will be listed on the ballot for the Town election (May 9); caucus starts at 6:00 p.m.



Community Police Advisory Committee
Interested in joining?

See Town Clerk Kathy Chretien. Town Hall, 229-2878

OUT OF THE PAST

At the turn of the twentieth century, before it became an arms race in muscle cars, horse power was a thing of beauty. Sleek teams carried passengers in style from Great Barrington to New Marlborough — or just around town. □

From the New Marlborough Historical Society photo archive, recorded on computer discs by Claudette Callahan. A portion of the collection is now available for viewing at the New Marlborough Town Library in Mill River.



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SECOND WINTER HOUSE CONCERT

“Music for a Private Royal Audience” is the theme for the February 14, 2016, house concert sponsored by the New Marlborough Village Association. Simon’s Rock colleagues Anne Legene and Lucy Bardo, playing violas da gamba, and Larry Wallach, harpsichord, offer a lush trio by Marin Marais, who was an important member of Louis XIV’s musical establishment. They will also play a duo by Johannes Schenck, who was employed by the Elector Count Palatine of Dusseldorf. Other music

on the program will be contemporary musical fare with composers David Loeb, Brian Fennally and Larry Wallach for our New Marlborough private (royal) audience.

All Winter House Concerts begin at 4:00 p.m. and last an hour, with wine and hors d’oeuvres served afterward. Seating is limited, so please make reservations by calling 413-229-2785 or going to www.newmarlborough.org. □

MAILBOX

December 14, 2015

Dear *5 Village News*,

For years I’ve received the NM5VN and would like to thank you for a most enjoyable read. Every time I receive your paper is like a gift. I pour myself a cup of tea, sit in my recliner, and read about country living. Coming from the suburbs, your paper is like a “breath of fresh air.” Thank you.

Sincerely,
Anita Matthews
Pemberton, NJ



January 4, 2016

Dear *5 Village News*,

Thank you for your thorough coverage of our town’s news, wildlife sightings, and coverage of the town board meetings. When I pick up a copy of “The News”, I always turn first to the “Our Wildlife Neighbors” page. Anita Ormsbee Cook’s account of the bull moose on Route 57 last issue was captivating. We live in a truly wild place!

I am writing to contribute my own wildlife observation: During the early evening and morning of a couple of days in late October this year, I heard the calls of a creature that were familiar to me from a time when I lived in Wisconsin years ago. It was the unusual sounds created by sandhill cranes. Being unsure if sandhills even live in or migrate through this area, I assumed I had heard some other animal that I was unable to identify. This week I received the third issue of *Massachusetts Wildlife* and there was an extensive piece about sandhill crane populations in Massachusetts. I realized that I did, in fact, hear the sounds of sandhill cranes coming from the wetlands adjacent to Lake Buel. From my house on the western shore of Lake Buel, it sounded as though the cranes were calling from the wetlands adjacent to the Lake Buel boat ramp in neighboring Monterey. I hope to hear more of the unusual sounds of sandhill cranes in the future.

Thank you again,
Michael Nahmias
Downs Road

P.S. I plan on objecting to the Lake Buel District’s (LBD) permit application to the Conservation Commissions of Monterey and New Marlborough regarding annual drawdowns. The type of destruction and degrading of wetland habitat along the lake shore that is currently occurring due to the LBD’s unpermitted and illegal drawdown is exactly what a legislative body like the Conservation Commission is employed to protect. By law, the LBD is required to follow the laws of the towns it is located within. The failure to do this has led to degradation of Lake Buel.

NEIGHBORS



Leo Terp Poindexter (here at three weeks) arrived December 24 and loudly declared himself the creator not only of two new parents (Rachel Terp and Owen Poindexter) but also four new grandparents, among them **Holly and Joe Poindexter** of East Hill Road in Southfield.

On December 27, **Elaine Marie Bertoli** of Mill River lost her valiant, three-year battle with cancer. From the steady stream of mourners at her wake, it was obvious that she connected with many people in our community. The heartfelt remarks of her friends from New Marlborough and colleagues in education, made it clear that she was a very special person. **Lisa Marcel** said, "I feel

blessed to have had Elaine as a neighbor. When our kids were growing up she always had an open door. I think my kids spent as much time at her house as they did at home. I remember one time when a skunk sprayed our house, my kids packed their bags and went to live with the Bertolis for a week. I never even got a call from her asking when they were going to go home. The saying goes 'it takes a village to raise a family.' Elaine was the best of our village."



photo by Larry Burke

Elaine Bertoli with children at Flying Cloud Institute in 1994

College. She was an active parent at the New Marlborough Central School which stimulated her interest in teaching, first as a paraprofessional at Stockbridge Plain School and then at the Monterey Kindergarten. **Susan Anderson** said, "I worked with Elaine at the Monterey Kindergarten for twelve years. As a teacher, all Elaine wanted for every child was 'everything.' Her patience and energy could be stretched and stretched like a piece of chewing gum. She knew that further potentials were nourished by inspiration and encouragement. She made every child feel safe and cared for. She showed every student her smile and her love."

Debbie O'Brien remembers fondly her years with Elaine. Together with Francine and Lisa, the foursome created a campfire group at New Marlborough Central. Debbie reflected on the many volunteer hours Elaine also gave to the library over the years helping with the Lego Club and Summer Reading Program, always ready to be there to enhance the experiences for children at the library.

Elaine was also the beloved leader of the youngest group at Flying Cloud Summer program. Though they were only eight years old, she brought neighbor Lindy Marcel, her own daughters Shannon and Joelle, and a neighbor along with her so the little ones would get extra attention from the big girls. She was game for anything the children could imagine. One year she draped a woodshed with bright fabrics and helped them make themselves a magic club house.

Even though she already had a busy life as wife, mother, and working woman, Elaine made time to attend Westfield State College on nights and weekends so she could earn a second degree in elementary education and continued on to receive a master's degree as well. This enabled her to apply for the job of kindergarten teacher at Farmington River School. **Terry Ferrara** worked with Elaine at the school and remembers her saying "Kindergarten is my thing" at her job interview. Terry reflected about Elaine as a teacher, "Indeed, kindergarten was her thing. Elaine taught with passion. She held high expectations for her students and provided them with the tools and encouragement they needed to grow academically and socially. Elaine's wisdom, commitment and dedication, as well as her warmth, patience and humor was visible each day. She shared her love of music, nature, and reading with her students. She ended each school day reading to her students as they gathered around her, pleading for her to read 'just one more page.' Elaine was respected



photo by Dana Terp

and loved by staff, students, and parents. It was a privilege and honor to work in the classroom with her.”

Elaine often invited Teri Scott's preschoolers at Farmington River into her classroom to hear the kindergarten students recite poetry. Teri said, “I remember the first time we visited I was amazed at the poems that the children had learned and their ability to recite them so enthusiastically. Elaine organized a Poetry Night so that families could come to school and see what the children had learned. How wonderful to instill a lifelong love of poetry at such an impressionable age.

Although Elaine is no longer with us in body, she lives on in the hearts of hundreds of children, parents, colleagues, friends and family who experienced her delight in life, her passion for education, and her devotion to helping children develop. □

Compiled by Barbara Lowman: deeuuell@yahoo.com Bertoli remembrance compiled by Jane Burke

OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

Charlie Parton reports from the New Marlborough Village area, “The other evening as I was driving up to our house I had to stop for a **woodcock** who was walking across our dirt road, slowly and with no concern for my car. She was very leisurely. Her partner was in a tree across the road and when she finally got done crossing the road, she flew up to his branch. (I'm assuming these two were male and female, but to be completely honest, I couldn't really detect the gender of either.) On further thinking about the woodcock, I recall that in Canada the woodcock was protected because of its lack of fear toward humans. If you were lost in the woods and needed food and you spotted a woodcock sitting on a branch, you could walk right up it and hit it with a stick. The other animal to fall into this category was the porcupine. This was told to me in northern Canada in the 30s.”

Donald Beauchamp, down Clayton way, checked in with the following: “Still seeing **bluebirds** every day. About a dozen show up early in the morning, and I put out dried mealworms in a cup, which they finish off and then hang around for a while before they leave. Had walked up to base of thick tree area, but can't locate them during day. On January 2, I saw a **pileated woodpecker** close, but as I turned to get camera, a low flying airplane flew by and scared him off. A few days later five **deer** crossed the road and our lawn. I am seeing the usual **woodpeckers, finches, chickadees, doves, jays, nuthatches, titmice, juncos, and cardinals** at my feeder station. On the last day of 2015, I saw over a hundred **crows** in trees on Old Route 7 in Ashley Falls.”

Mathew Meyer of Southfield writes in, “This morning our son Isaac came running down the stairs telling us about all the **turkeys** in the front yard. We looked outside and we counted over thirty. Five younger males could be seen in the group. Fran tried to get outside to take a picture but upon hearing the door open, they all went into the woods. We have also had a lot of activity at our bird feeder this year, most notably **woodpeckers**. So far we have seen the **red-bellied woodpecker, downy woodpecker, hairy woodpecker**, and just this morning our first sighting at the feeder of a **pileated woodpecker**. We have had more than our share of **nuthatches, black-capped chickadees, tufted titmouses**, and the occasional **blue jay**.” □

Compiled by Larry Burke, lburke2@me.com

WHERE ARE THE WOLVES?

By Angus Kerr

In Berkshire County we are surrounded by woods, streams, lakes, and hills. This seems to be the perfect habitat for wolves, and the howling and canine bickering we hear at night seems to prove this. While there have been several supposed sightings of wolves around Berkshire County, there is very little certified evidence of the existence of wolves in Massachusetts. So, in order to find out whether or not wolves live in the Berkshires, I visited the New York Wolf Conservation Center in South Salem. There, I was able to meet professionals who could answer my questions about wolves. Among them was Dan Bogan, Ph.D., who is studying coyotes in the Northeast. He told me that despite many supposed sightings, there are no wolves in New England. Nearly all wolves in North America were wiped out due to hunting prior to the 1930s. While several groups have reintroduced wolves into their native ecosystems, this is highly controversial, and it is unlikely that wolves will be reintroduced into Berkshire County.

If you have seen a wild canine, then it would have been a coyote or a coywolf. Coyotes are close cousins of wolves, and they arrived in New England during the mid-1900s. Coywolves originated in Canada, where coyotes bred with wolves and dogs to create a larger subspecies of coyote. This animal has spread across eastern America, and is the cause of so many “wolf” sightings.

While there have been numerous sightings of supposed wolves in Berkshire County, the truth is that there are no wolves left in New England, but that their close cousin, the coyote, and their kin, the coywolf, have taken over the wolf's role in the ecosystem. □

THE LOG

POLICE DEPARTMENT (SELECTED ENTRIES)

- | | | | | | |
|---------|------------|---|---------|------------|--|
| Dec. 2 | 1:24 p.m. | Driver of a logging truck impeding traffic on Alum Hill Road told to move along | | | reports receiving a check for \$1,800 and a request that the balance be wired back to the buyer; advised that the check is fraudulent |
| Dec. 5 | 8:58 p.m. | Campbell Falls Road resident complains of a neighboring dog that has barked non-stop for two hours | Dec. 19 | 5:00 p.m. | Mill River Great Barrington Road resident requests a no-trespassing order, directed at his parents |
| Dec. 7 | 9:28 a.m. | Investigation of a burglar alarm at a New Marlborough Monterey Road residence concludes that an unlatched door was opened by the wind | Dec. 24 | 2:42 p.m. | Unregistered, uninsured Jeep Cherokee owned by Sandisfield resident towed from parking lot at Old Inn on the Green |
| | 9:52 a.m. | Shea Lane resident reports that the street sign at the head of the road has been stolen — for a second time | Dec. 25 | 2:51 p.m. | Unregistered Jeep Comanche with no inspection sticker towed from the intersection of Mill River Great Barrington and Sisson Hill Roads |
| Dec. 12 | 8:15 p.m. | Pick-up truck, lacking inspection and registration stickers and operated by an unlicensed driver, is towed from Clayton Four Corners | Dec. 28 | 3:30 p.m. | Monterey resident, observed to be removing what appears to be a beaver trap from a swamp on Adsit Crosby Road, claims he was catching minnows |
| Dec. 13 | 6:49 p.m. | Animal Control Officer is notified of a Labrador retriever loose on Mill River Great Barrington Road | Dec. 30 | 10:15 a.m. | Brewer Hill Road resident complains of cars lined up at the Transfer Station, which has been closed temporarily because of hazardous road conditions; it is reopened after sanding at 10:30 a.m. |
| Dec. 15 | 7:56 a.m. | Clayton Mill River Road driver reports she has hit a deer | | 2:39 p.m. | Visitor to the Old Inn on the Green asks to be notified if the Nikon camera he has lost somewhere on the inn's grounds is found |
| | 12:00 p.m. | Clayton Mill River Road property owner requests no-trespassing order directed at three family members | Dec. 31 | 3:01 p.m. | Pastor of the Clayton Church of God reports vehicular damage to the church lawn and requests that the area be patrolled |
| | 12:18 p.m. | Suspected trespassers on Mill River Great Barrington Road property determined to be contractors working at the property | | | |
| | 2:10 p.m. | Sisson Hill Road resident requests no-trespassing order directed at a family member | | | |
| Dec. 18 | 4:00 p.m. | Mill River Great Barrington Road resident, selling a \$300 couch on-line, | | | |

A Note from the Police Department

If your home is alarmed against unauthorized entry, the New Marlborough Police Department needs a record of your name, address, and phone number so that we can properly respond when your alarm sounds. Homeowners who have registered this information with us need to renew their registration form. Those who have not done so should register at their earliest convenience. Forms for registration or renewal can be obtained at the Town Hall.

As reported last November, the department is forming a Community Police Advisory Committee to enhance communications between the department and New Marlborough residents. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please leave your name with Town Clerk Kathy Chretien. You will be making a valuable contribution to the effectiveness of your Department.

Finally, the Department is in discussions with the Berkshire South Community Center in Great Barrington toward using this facility for a Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) course. We will let you know when this training, an effective tool for personal safety, becomes available.

Graham Frank, Chief of Police

FIRE AND RESCUE

- | | |
|--|---|
| Dec. 6 4:57 p.m. Hartsville New Marlborough Road
Medical Call | Dec. 20 1:31 a.m. Mutual Aid to Sandsfield Stand By |
| Dec. 8 10:37 p.m. Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call | Dec. 25 7:43 a.m. Hartsville New Marlborough Road
Fire Alarm |
| Dec. 14 12:56 p.m. Norfolk Road Fire Alarm | Dec. 26 8:11 p.m. Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road
Medial Call |
| Dec. 14 11:10 a.m. Corashire Road Medical Call | Dec. 29 10:47 a.m. Stratford Road Fire Alarm |
| Dec. 14 12:51 p.m. Norfolk Road Fire Alarm | Dec. 30 3:54 p.m. Hartsville New Marlborough Road
Fire Alarm |
| Dec. 16 10:30 p.m. Corashire Road Medical Call | Dec. 31 6:49 p.m. Hartsville New Marlborough Road
Fire Alarm |
| Dec. 18 6:58 p.m. Mill River Great Barrington Road
Medical Call | |
| Dec. 19 12:00 p.m. Corser Hill Road Fire Alarm | |

THE OLD AND THE NEW



photos by David Loeman

Recent changes to the driveway at the Town Garage show the old (left) and new (right) routes for access and exit. Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring says the changes are for safety and ease of pperation. Safety because a loaded truck exiting the Highway Department on the old driveway was at a severe disadvantage with the blind corner just a short distance away. Ease of operation so that an exiting loaded truck has more distance to achieve rolling speed before the steepest part of the Mill River Southfield Road in that area. Note that residents will still be able to pull into the top of the old driveway to pick up a bucket or two of sand. The changes are permanent says Mr. Loring.

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FAMILY DAY AT FLYING CLOUD



Parents and children gathered around the table in the pottery room expecting to make clay sculptures. They were surprised to find that they had to make a clay recipe and then mix up a batch of clay first. Figuring out how to weigh thirty grams of dry clay took some thinking. Then it got messy, adding just enough water to make soft clay.



Parents and their children pore over clues to identify the tracks they encountered on their hike around the Flying Cloud Institute fields and forest. Dale Abrams was one of the specialists on this first-ever free Family Day held on December 30 thanks to a grant from the New Marlborough Cultural Council.

Photos by Kristen Sparhawk

THE LIBRARY'S FIRST MAKE YOUR OWN TACO NIGHT



During the school's winter vacation, families were invited to an evening of taco-making, board games, card games and Legos. We all had a great time!

Photos by Debbie O'Brien

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**Effective January 1, 2016,
the hours at the
Transfer Station
are changed as follows:**

Sundays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Wednesdays 9 am. - 1 p.m.
Saturdays 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

SCHOOL NEWS

Stacy Burgess, the new elementary principal, introduces herself to the community now that she has been on the job for several months.

Hello Elementary Families of Southern Berkshire!

I would like to take this opportunity to say hello to the communities of Southern Berkshire. For those of you whom I have not met, my name is Stacy Burgess, and I am the elementary principal for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. I am honored to be here in Southern Berkshire and continue to learn every day about this fascinating community. I became a teacher based on my strong desire to work with elementary students. Elementary education is a critical component in children's education, serving as the foundation for all of their learning experiences. It is my mission to help the children of Southern Berkshire to become confident, competent, and happy students who leave the district as problem solvers, critical thinkers, and productive members of society.

I consider myself to be a teacher at heart and believe the students are the very best part of the job. One of my favorite things is to read aloud to children. I have many, many favorite children's books and find tremendous joy in sharing my love of reading with children. I believe literacy is more than a set of skills; it is an essential part

of life-long learning and success. The more students read, the better readers they become. On a personal note, it has been a long-standing goal of mine to write a children's book. I continue to strive to achieve this goal, but it is a work in progress!

When I am not at school, I enjoy spending time with my family. My greatest accomplishment is my two children. Be it watching my son play basketball, doing an art project with my daughter, or skiing with my husband, my family time is precious. I enjoy every moment with them.

Lastly, the relationship between home and school is a true partnership. Parents are children's first teachers and continue in this important role as they grow. Therefore, I welcome parents' input, questions, or concerns. Please feel free to contact me via email: sburgess@sbrsd.org or at (413) 229-8754. I look forward to building relationships with the community and families of Southern Berkshire!

Your partner in education,
Stacy Burgess

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NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE LIBRARY

Adult Fiction

My Name Is Lucy Barton, by Elizabeth Strout
The Expatriates, by Janice Y.K. Lee
The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend, by Katrina Bivald
Blackout, by David Rosenfelt
The Guest Room, by Chris Bohjalian
Even Dogs in the Wild, by Ian Rankin

Adult Nonfiction

Gilded Age Murder & Mayhem in the Berkshires,
 by Andrew K. Amelinckx

Children's Fiction

Golden Yarn, by Cornelia Funke
My Leaf Book, by Monica Wellington
The Find It Book, by Margaret Wise Brown
Here Comes Valentine Cat, by Deborah Underwood
Unusual Chickens for the Exceptional Poultry Farmer, by Kelly Jones
Snow Treasure, by Marie McSwigan

Books on CD

The Sleeper and the Spindle, by Neil Gaiman
The Guest Room, by Chris Bohjalian
My Name Is Lucy Barton, by Elizabeth Strout

DVD

Hotel Transylvania 2 *The Intern*
Vicious (Seasons 1&2) *Irrational Man*
Shetland (Seasons 1&2) *Minions*
Learning To Drive
A Walk In The Woods

Library Hours

Mon. Wed. Sat.
 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Tues. Fri.
 1:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Thurs.
 1:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the New Marlborough Friends of the Library
All proceeds benefit library programs



Save the Dates...

February 6 at 11:00 a.m.

Minstrel storyteller Mary Jo Maichack invites you to a unique winter program with a craft, celebrating "Take Your Child To The Library Day"!

Enjoy Mary Jo telling a German tale,

The Legend of the Silver Pine Cone.

Families will make their own glittery pine cones to take home and to use in the telling of the story themselves.

Admission is free!!

February 13, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

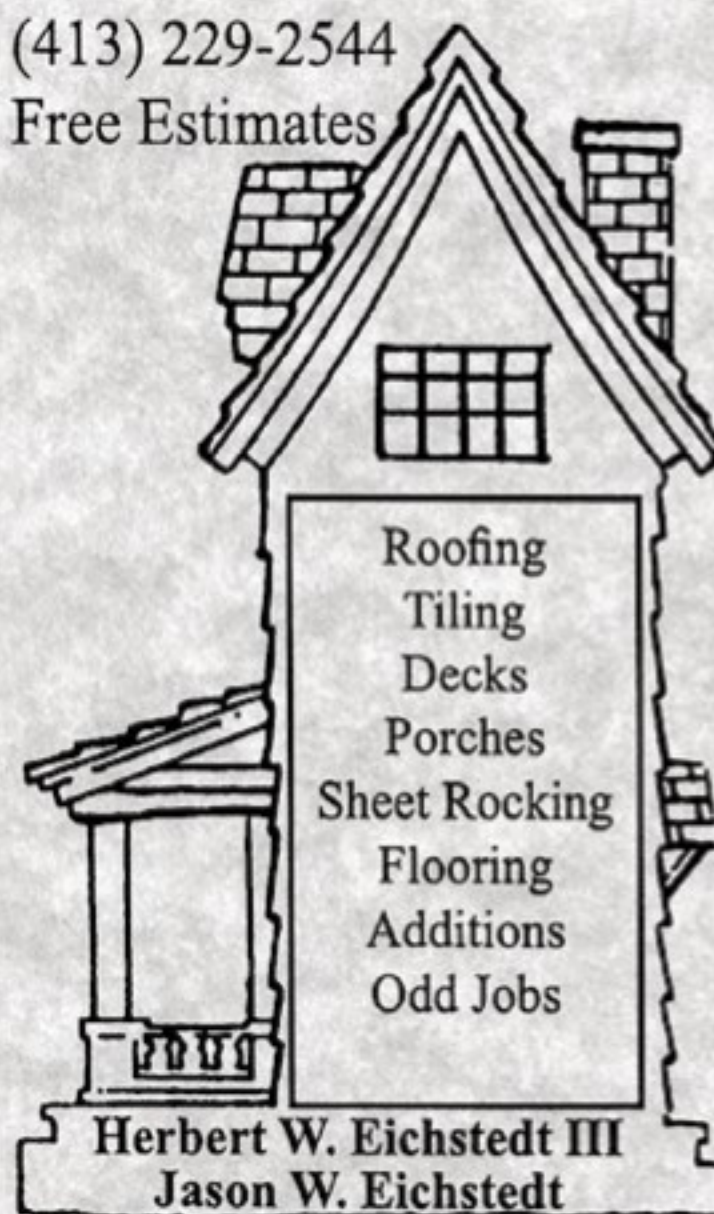
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Just in time for Valentine's Day!

Enjoy Homemade Confections ~ Chocolate Fountain
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 Free Estimates



Contributions are needed to continue the paper!

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

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

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

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Town Times

- * **Board of Selectmen:** Every Monday at 6:00 p.m.
- * **Town Administrator:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- * **Planning Board:** Second and fourth Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- * **Board of Health:** First Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.
- * **Conservation Commission:** Last Saturday of the month at 9 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:** Monday & Tuesday 8:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m.
- * **Tax Collector:** Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- * **Selectmen's Administrative Secretary:** Monday - Friday, 9 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

Transfer Station hours:

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

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

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

PERMITS ARE DUE ON JULY 1

They are available at
the Town Hall in Mill River
for July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016
FEE IS \$105, AFTER AUGUST 15, \$130

CAN BE PAID BY MAIL,
PLEASE ENCLOSE A SELF-ADDRESSED
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New Marlborough Highway Department

Located on Mill River-Southfield Rd.

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

PO Box 99, Mill River, MA 01244

(413) 229-8165

We welcome advertisements from businesses owned by New Marlborough residents.

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

NM5VN Editorial Team

Barbara Lowman, issue editor; Diane Barth, designer;
Martha Bryan, Jane Burke, Larry Burke,
Kenzie Fields, David Lowman, Joe Poindexter,
Jodi Rothe, Peter Schuyten, Barry Shapiro,
Pam Stebbins, Jon Swan, Marianne Swan
Contributing writers: Ann Getsinger,
Mary Richie Smith, Tara White. Index: Donna Weaver

New Marlborough 5 Village News

appears monthly,

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

The next issue will be dated March 2015.

All copy must be submitted no later than February 15.
For advertising, contact Barbara Lowman, tel: 229-2369
PO Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259
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- ♦ **Berkshire Environmental Research Center (BERC):** Thomas Coote. Lake & pond management, wetland delineation, ecological research, rare/invasive species assessment. 413-644-4509. tcoote@simons-rock.edu
- ♦ **Campbell Falls Carpentry:** Licensed and insured contracting at campbellfallscarpentry@gmail.com (413)229-6097 and (413)429-7677. Mass Contractors # 7614140, HIC# 170377
- ♦ **Corashire Realty:** Serving New Marlborough for 40 years. Let experience, knowledge, and personal attention work for you. 528-0014
- ♦ **Dellea:** Dellea.biz provides on-site Windows computer services to local residents, small businesses, town governments, and nonprofits throughout southern Berkshire County. (413)528-1141.
- ♦ **Design+Planning:** Christopher Blair; Since 1986, creative, budget aware design. Achieve your goals for additions, alterations to an existing home or new construction. 413- 528-4960. chris@design-planning.com.
- ♦ **DesignFirstBerkshires:** Architectural design, space planning and renovation management. 413-528-6169 or info@designfirstberkshires.com.
- ♦ **DimisWorks.com:** Fine art, hand-painted paper, original designs, individually created; creative gardening, too! Dana Ehninger 413-258-4837.
- ♦ **Fine Jewelry:** Designers and manufacturers; custom orders/commissions welcome; expert repairs. 45 years experience. Sachs Reisman, Inc. 25 Maple Ave., Sheffield 229-0050
- ♦ **GO TUBING @ SKI BUTTERNUT** - Now open FRIDAY NIGHTS 5-8p.m. just \$10 (non holiday). \$20/2hrs: Saturdays & holiday periods 10a.m. - 8p.m. & Sundays 10a.m. - 5p.m. 413.528.2000 www.SkiButternut.com/Tubing
- ♦ **One call does it all!:** Vinyl siding cleaning; pressure washing; deck refinishing; floors refinished; window washing; odd landscape jobs; all odd jobs. David Goewey, (413)229-2787
- ♦ **Project Bee** meets on the last Saturday of every month from 10:30 until noon at the New Marlborough Library in Mill River. See www.projectbeeline.org or Project Bee on Facebook.
- ♦ **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
- ♦ **Susan M. Smith:** Attorney At Law; Concentrating in the areas of Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Elder Law, Real Estate and Zoning Matters. ssmithlaw@hughes.net or 229-7080
- ♦ **Reiner White:** General Contractor; 413-229-8450
- ♦ **Woodruff Mountain Landscaping:** Excavation and landscape contracting, all forms of stone work and masonry, and outdoor services, including lawn mowing and yard work. 413-229-2919 woodruffmountain@aol.com

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