



New Marlborough 5 Village News

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The Way We Were SILVIA EGGENBERGER

By Joe Poindexter

Talk about growing up in the country! You don't get much more rural than the childhood of Silvia Eggenberger, who was raised in New Marlborough, not in one of the villages — or even close to one — but on a 200-acre farm at the top of Hayes Hill.

The farm, of course, was the reason Silvia was in New Marlborough in the first place. Karl Suter, an executive with the Swiss pharmaceutical company Ciba-Geigy and living in Rye, New York, wanted not just a country retreat but a farm to go with it. In the early 1950s, he bought Crystal Farm on Hayes Hill. But then, he needed a farmer to run it. Mr. Suter went back to his native



Eggenberger family photo

From left, Annemarie, Grandma Eggenberger, Walter, Martha, Silvia, Edie, Henry

Switzerland and found what he was looking for in a little village in the far eastern part of the country. According to Silvia, he knew he had his man when the candidate, Henry Eggenberger, upon being introduced, cleaned the engine grease from his hands by rubbing them in a handful of soil.

Henry Eggenberger first came to New Marlborough in the mid '50s, went back to Switzerland to get married to his sweetheart, Martha, and returned with her to Crystal Farm in 1957. Silvia, the youngest of the four children,

was born in April 1961. Her sisters, Annemarie and Edie, were enough older than Silvia that her principal sibling bond was with her brother, Walter. In the days before video games and smart phones, "We were left to our own imaginations," says Silvia — Walter had a miniature barn filled with wooden cows, Silvia a dollhouse. Of course, they also had chores. The farm had fifty cows, chickens, and "a massive vegetable garden." Silvia recalls feeding calves with warm milk taken from a cow and put into a baby bottle. Whenever Henry needed chores done, Silvia or one of her siblings was on call. Then, too, there was Prince, the family horse, which Silvia began to ride when she was around six.

The cows, with Henry perhaps taking a cue from his Swiss farming days, were free to wander beyond the farm's meadows, with fencing extended well into the bordering woods. The farm produced its own hay and corn to tide the herd over the winter. Martha baled the hay (and, until a recent move into an assisted living facility, mowed the lawn with a push mower — "she was a powerful, amazing woman," says Silvia.) The family butchered a cow every year and would appreciatively identify the cuts of meat they were consuming by the name Henry gave the animal that had produced them.

"We all knew how to speak German before we spoke English," says Silvia,

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but the parents spoke both, and with her sisters bringing English home from school, Silvia had no problem becoming bilingual. She began New Marlborough Central in the first grade and was, by her own account, very shy. She recalls being seated next to Jennifer Edelman (the desk assignments were alphabetical in those days) and palling around with Anita Cook and Marilyn Litchfield. But aside from hanging out in Southfield from time to time, says Silvia, “there was not a lot of social life.” One of the limitations: Martha Eggenberger refused to get a driver’s license. According to Silvia, Henry was so attached to the farm, Martha feared he would never leave it if she were available to do the driving. (She did know how to operate a car, however, and would sometimes ferry the kids to the intersection of Hayes Hill and Brewer Hill Roads to meet the school bus.)

Sunday had a rhythm of its own. After the milking of the cows and breakfast, the entire family attended the United Church of Christ, in New Marlborough village in the summer and Southfield in the winter. Both parents sang in the choir and Henry was a deacon. Until they got older, the kids went to Sunday School, which was held in what is now Pat and Michael Brady’s house across Norfolk Road from the Southfield Church. Chores were suspended for the day.

Silvia went on to Mount Everett, gathered social skills, played on the field hockey team, served on the literary magazine and the yearbook, and performed in the senior class play, *Our Town*. At virtually the first possible moment, at age sixteen and a half, she got a driver’s license and then her first car: a ’68 Chevy Malibu. Following



Silvia today.

photo by Joe Poindexter

graduation, at the bidding of her father, who wanted someone in the family who could get him low-cost — or free — air travel, Silvia became a licensed travel agent. But that gave way almost immediately to a desire for more schooling, and she took a degree in agricultural economics and food marketing at the University of Massachusetts.

Silvia tried her hand at farming when she and then husband Nick Hardcastle — they married after her graduation from college — purchased the family farm from her parents, who had been deeded it by Karl Suter. The debt the young couple

incurred proved too great a burden, and eventually the farm — and the marriage — failed.

And maybe this is where all those years of childhood independence kicked in. Silvia reinvented herself, first as a statistician for a Great Barrington research firm,

the American Institute for Economic Research, then in administrative jobs at the Berkshire School in Sheffield and Kripalu in Lenox. For the past two years, she has been operations coordinator for the admissions office at Bard College at Simon’s Rock. “We were the kids on the hill,” says Silvia, sipping from a glass of wine in the house she shares with Paul Hess, her partner of sixteen years. “I guess the isolation helped make me self-sufficient.” □



The Eggenbergers on their farm: front to back, Silvia, Annemarie, Edie, and Walter, and Margret Suter, with Cereus and Lock “just two of the many we grew up with,” says Silvia.



Silvia in her high school years



The original farmhouse

PROPERTY TAXES: SHUFFLING THE DECK

by Joe Poindexter

New Marlborough (along with all other towns in Massachusetts) is required to regularly appraise the value of its properties for tax purposes — a formal appraisal every five years, a site visit at least once every ten, and adjustments in interim years as necessary. Over the long run, property values in town have risen — we have all been lifted by a rising tide — but this year is proving to be an exception. The total appraised value of residential property in New Marlborough, \$460,293,445, is about \$6 million less than in 2017, representing an overall decline of 1.3 percent.

The real story, however, is that the declines in individual appraisals are markedly uneven. An “Appraised Value Change Report” from the New Marlborough assessor’s office indicates that, while most properties in New Marlborough remain unchanged, almost all those in the Lake Buel area saw values drop — in some cases by more than 20 percent. The appraisals of Lake Windemere properties, most of them valued in the \$1 to \$2 million range, declined by around 5 percent.

Real estate professionals are quick to point out that tax appraisals and market value are different entities, with tax appraisals typically lagging current market value. Even so, lake-front properties historically have held their value. According to Mary White, a New Marlborough resident and founder of Barnbrook Realty in Great Barrington, “In real estate, two things don’t change: views and lake front.” (But don’t get her started on broadband. “That’s the first question asked,” she says. “If there’s no broadband, potential buyers won’t even look at the property.”)

So what happened? For the past fourteen years, New Marlborough appraisals have been conducted by Paul S. Kapinos & Associates, a South Hadley firm that handles this work for thirty-five towns throughout the state. The drop in values, says Paul Kapinos, is based on arm’s length transfers in each of these two areas, which,

Ms. White’s dictum notwithstanding, have shown price drops. Extrapolating from these sales, Mr. Kapinos has reduced the premium that historically has attached to water-front properties. Up until last year, Lake Buel properties bordering the lake were valued at a premium of 6.9 percent compared to properties elsewhere; those off the lake but with water rights got a value upgrade of 2 percent. This year, those numbers have dropped to 5.25 percent and 1.9 percent, respectively. At Windemere, the premium has gone from 6.9 percent to 6.25 percent. (For houses with panoramic views — according to Mr. Kapinos, there are 104 of them in New Marlborough — the premium of 1.4 percent remains.) Even two or three transfers are meaningful indicators in areas as small as Windemere and Lake Buel, says Mr. Kapinos

Elsewhere, property values do change — positively with renovations and additions that increase value (a building permit will trigger a visit from the assessor), negatively over time with depreciation. But the Change Report shows little or no movement in regular properties. “New Marlborough is a challenge,” says Mr. Kapinos. “It’s large, with forty-eight square miles, there is a dichotomy in property values between lower-end and luxury estates, and sales are few and far between.” But with fourteen years of experience, Mr. Kapinos has gotten to know New Marlborough well. “We have a lot of comparisons,” he says.

The upshot, of course, is that relative to properties in the rest of the town, lake-front properties in New Marlborough will shoulder a little less of the town’s tax burden. Then, too, the change could be short-lived. Available properties in surrounding towns are becoming more scarce, says Mary White. “New Marlborough will come back.” □



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BOARD OF SELECTMEN



January 8: With all three selectmen present, the Board began its first meeting of the new year by approving the minutes of the December 4 and December 18 meetings followed by a broadband update from Selectman Michele Shalaby.

Summarizing, she said the Broadband Committee at its most recent meeting on December 21 finally set a date for the long-promised informational meeting, where it will review and compare for the public the Town's remaining broadband options. That's expected to be especially noteworthy now that the Frontier deal is dead. That meeting was scheduled for January 20, she said.

However, she went on to say that on the very same day that the Broadband Committee was setting that date, the Board of Selectmen received a letter from Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) stating that it would like to meet with the Board to go over its new Flexible Grant Program. Under that program, according to its website, MBI for the first time will consider funding broadband providers who either don't meet MBI's financial or operational criteria or who are proposing broadband solutions that achieve less than MBI's long-stated goal of providing 96 percent coverage of a town.

Since this could have a major impact on the Town's future broadband plans, Ms. Shalaby said that very likely means the informational meeting will be postponed by the Broadband Committee until after the MBI meeting. The only problem with that, as Selectman Nat Yohalem noted, is that MBI hasn't yet given the Town a date when that meeting will take place. So he said he would

give MBI Deputy Director a call to try to get things moving.

The Board appointed Southfield resident David Hosford to the Conservation Commission. His appointment is effective immediately and runs until June 30. Mr. Hosford is currently a member of the Land Trust Board and the Historical Commission. His appointment leaves the Conservation Commission with just one remaining vacancy. Separately, the Board voted to renew the annual contract with the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA), subject to approval at the Annual Town Meeting in May of the VNA's \$2,580 annual fee.

In other matters, Ms. Shalaby said she'd like some input from the other Board members regarding the Town's response to the ambulance survey sent out by Southern Berkshire Volunteer Ambulance Squad (SBVAS).

SBVAS is working with nearly a

dozen South County towns to develop a framework for sharing emergency medical services. She said she's already met with Fire Chief Chuck Loring and Police Chief Graham Frank on some of the factual or data-related questions, but needs the Board's help on some of the broader questions regarding the Town's service expectations. Specific questions include what kind of response time does the Town expect from its ambulance service and what is the Town willing to do to achieve that response time? Mr. Yohalem suggested getting in touch with Fire & Rescue Chief Medical Officer Maureen Krejci and her husband and fellow EMT Joe Krejci. "They should be able to give you all the answers," he said.

Town Administrator Mari Enoch said applications for this year's District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) grants from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) are due this week. She said she checked with the Planning Board, but this year, other than possibly for the marijuana question, doesn't have any projects for which it needs that kind of help. As she noted, for the calendar year just ended, the Planning Board used a DLTA grant for its work on a solar bylaw, which she said is now in draft form.

As for the marijuana question, Ms. Enoch said she talked with BRPC's Assistant Director Tom Matuszko, who said it's his understanding that **BRPC expects to have resources available for any town in the region**

MBI wants to meet with the Board of Selectmen about its new Flexible Grant Program, but it's unclear when and what that means.

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that wants to address the marijuana issue. This leaves the Town free, she pointed out, to apply for a DLTA grant to help it with its Americans with Disabilities Act Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan, which the Town is required to complete before it can apply for state money to assist in paying for the work needed to bring Town Hall into compliance with the ADA.

The Board voted to authorize Ms. Enoch to apply for a DLTA grant for that purpose. DLTA grants are typically given in the form of technical expertise rather than money. (For more on how the Town is approaching its ADA compliance problem at Town Hall, see Board of Selectmen report in last month's NM5VN.)

Under Town Administrator updates, Ms. Enoch said the Board received a letter from the Town of Monterey saying it's participating in a mattress recycling program and would like to extend an invitation to residents of both New Marlborough and Sheffield to use the Monterey transfer station to dispose of unwanted mattresses at no cost. Ms. Enoch said she also wanted to thank publicly the Highway Department for coming out on Christmas Day. "They were out there for many, many hours," she said.

And finally, Mr. Yohalem said he received a phone call from Chairman David Smith of the Sheffield Board of Selectmen and Sheffield Town Administrator Rhonda

LaBombard regarding the sudden resignation of Sheffield Building Inspector Tom Carmody, who, as Mr. Yohalem noted, is also New Marlborough's building inspector. He said Sheffield officials have already appointed an interim building inspector, but would like to talk to New Marlborough and the Town of Alford about sharing a permanent one.

According to newspaper reports, Mr. Carmody resigned with just three days notice to take a full-time building inspector job with Pittsfield. Ms. Enoch noted that **he has not said anything officially to New Marlborough about his plans**, other than to indicate he wants to talk to the Board about some "anticipated changes."

Because of the Martin Luther King holiday next Monday, the next meeting of the Board will be on January 22. □

Peter Schuyten

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FREE PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Thanks to the New Marlborough Cultural Council and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, two new programs for children are starting in February. Science Saturdays for six- to twelve-year-olds will meet on the first Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the New Marlborough Library in Mill River. Starting on February 3, Jane Burke will invite children to do hands-on investigations learning about how scientists find answers to their questions. Families should register one week before each session. Space is limited to twelve. Children can attend the sessions that interest them: Physics in February, Chemistry in

March, Biology in April, Engineering in May, and in June, a bit of everything.

Ceramics for Kids will be held in the ceramics studio at Mount Everett High School starting on Monday, February 26, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. until the April vacation. Jane Burke will help children who love to create to explore the properties of clay and to do hand-building with clay. The program is open to children from grades one through four. All materials and firing are included. Space is limited to twelve.

If interested, please contact Jane Burke at 229-3321 or email janesburke@gmail.com. □



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SECOND WINTER HOUSE CONCERT

The second New Marlborough Winter House Concert of 2018 will take place on Sunday, February 18, and will feature a string trio (violin, viola, and cello) playing Bach, Beethoven, and Dohnanyi. The repertoire for string trio is less often heard than that for string quartet, but the richness and quality of that repertoire is very rewarding. The performing musicians hold positions in major New York City orchestras but also have extensive experience and commitment to chamber music. Violinist Sarah Crocker Vonsattel, of the Metropolitan Opera, performed in our series in 2013 with the Memling Ensemble. Her

colleagues will be violist Chihiro Allen, now with the New York City Ballet Orchestra, and cellist Ru-Pei Yeh, who is a member of the New York Philharmonic.

The Winter House Concerts begin at 4:00 p.m. and last an hour, with wine and hors d'oeuvres served afterwards. The concert will take place in a private home in New Marlborough. Seating is limited so please make reservations by calling 413-229-2785 or with an email to contact@newmarlborough.org.

The House Concerts are presented by the New Marlborough Village Association. □

MAILBOX

January 7, 2018

Dear Editor,

I wish to congratulate Patricia Nourse, former Town Clerk, upon her completion of a ten-year work, *Stanton and Brewer Genealogy*. This volume has been accepted by The Berkshire Athenaeum and added to their historical collection. These were prominent families in the history of New Marlborough.

Sincerely,
 Claudette Callahan
 Hartsville



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Illustration by Robin Tost

Just drop it, kid! Bow season is over.

YOUR TURN

NM5VN has established a place for our readers' stories. We encourage you to share your experiences, incidents, or thoughts through this space. Reviewing the rules:

Up to 1,000 words, but short and succinct is best; no politics; points of view are welcome but civility is mandatory; editors reserve the right to accept, reject, and edit.

Send your story to Joe Poindexter at joepoindexter@earthlink.net

To Red: Pax Vobiscum

By Ken Fass

About three or four years ago I found myself in need of a new-to-me vehicle. The convertible I was driving at the time was in a slow death spiral, and I knew it was just a matter of time before I was going to be left stranded somewhere. As luck would have it, on my way home from work one afternoon, I passed a shiny red truck at the end of a driveway with a "For Sale" sign in the windshield. A negotiation, a check, and a handshake later, the red truck was mine. With some needed repairs and a new set of tires, Red was ready for whatever I wanted to do. I built some sideboards that looked pretty nice and doubled what I could put in the bed of the truck.

Red helped me move my family twice, and helped my brother-in-law move, too. It seems when you get a truck, people find out, so Red and I helped move all sorts of stuff more times than I can remember. We were OK with that, most of the time. Red turned into a commuting vehicle, putting on a lot of miles. I changed the oil regularly and gave Red new brakes and anything else that was needed. When Red did have trouble, it seemed to happen at the most opportune moments. One time a brake line blew out right in the repair shop where it had been brought for an oil change. Another time, a tire developed a slow leak when we were in Great Barrington, but Red made it to the shop before it was too late.

The best times for Red and me were driving around New Marlborough. Lots of people in the other lane would wave to us as we rolled by. We may have been mistaken for other people in red trucks, but I never told that to Red. My son, Mike, likes riding in Red, since he can sit up front with me.

Last week Red almost let me down. Red started right up as usual, but I could tell something wasn't quite right. Every time I hit the brakes the lights would blink a little. Red got us to work, and at lunchtime I took a look and found I hadn't paid enough attention to battery maintenance. I cleaned up the terminals, and Red was happy again.

Then, on a recent Wednesday, Red fired right up as usual, and at 6:15 a.m. we were on our way to work on a snowy morning. I could feel that the road was a bit slick, so I popped Red into 4WD and off we went. Red went up and over Mount Peter without any hesitation or uneasiness. Then we carefully headed down the other side and into a hairpin turn. What we didn't realize was that the road was just a bit slicker on that side of the mountain. The hairpin turn gets a little sharper at the end, and that's when Red lost traction and began to slide sideways. The hair on my neck went up, and my jaw dropped as I looked out the side window at an oncoming car. Just then Red caught enough traction to head us to the right side of the road and head-on into the rocky uphill slope.

Though the airbag didn't deploy, the force of the crash threw the glasses off my face. Red's front bumper was bashed in and the grill smashed out, leaving one headlight on the ground and the light clusters below hanging by wires. We were spinning clockwise as the oncoming car snuck past us. Then the rear bumper hit even harder than the front



Red

bumper, pushing the truck bed forward so hard that the rear window shattered. We kept spinning and the air was filled with the sound of loose tools, breaking glass, and the now-unsecured truck box banging around in the bed. Red spun across the road and finally came to a stop with the driver's side against a guardrail. We were a mere truck-length short of going past the end of the guardrail and into the trees on the downhill side of the mountain.

Red had stopped running. I couldn't open my door. I was in shock. My shoulder ached a little, but I soon realized I was fine. After a few moments to collect my thoughts, I put the shift in park, turned the key, and Red started right up. I put Red in gear and we were able to limp down the mountain with one headlight. The steering wheel was 90 degrees out of alignment. We passed a few places to pull over but I pushed Red to make it to a well-lit parking area. I parked Red and called home.

I soon realized that when we hit, the impact had locked my door. I unlocked it, stepped out, and assayed the damage. I was surprised. Red's left rear rim was so badly bent, I was astonished that the tire hadn't gone flat. Red was also bleeding power-steering fluid onto the snow. But Red was still running strong. Red kept me warm as I made a number of phone calls.

The insurance company thought that Red was a total wreck, so I took everything out of the truck and removed the license plates. I took some last pictures of Red parked in the snow, leaking and ruined. I turned Red's key off for the last time. Red saved my life and I had to leave that truck, that hero, alone to be hauled away on a flatbed.

I didn't really know until then how much I loved that truck. Of all the thoughts running around in my head at the time, the one that stands out the most is my gratitude to that truck for keeping me safe and sound when I needed that the most. I think I will miss Red the most when I go to the transfer station. Red had a way of helping me blow the toss-to-take ratio way out of proportion, but we just had to have something to haul back home with us whenever we went.

Oddly enough, I have a bottle of wine called Red Truck, bought recently for weekend company. We never popped the cork, but I think I will open it and raise a toast to the best truck I ever had. Here's to you, Red. You never let me down. May your parts fix a dozen other trucks just like you.

P.S. I drank the bottle of wine with a little help, and it seems Red is still looking out for me. Any other time and I would have been so hungover the weekend would have lost a day.

BROADBAND UPDATE

MBI STEPS IN—AND NOW WHAT?

by Barry R. Shapiro



The Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) has announced a concerted effort to get the remaining unserved towns, including New Marlborough, wired for high speed internet as soon as possible, promising “flexibility.” This “flexibility,” however, is tempered with a clear warning from MBI: the fiscal and organizational strength of the potential providers will be critical to obtaining MBI’s financing.

Where this leaves the Town’s discussions with potential providers is unclear. As a result, the Broadband Committee’s planned information meeting for the Town on January 20 has been postponed until meetings with MBI can be scheduled.

Richard Long, Chairman of the Broadband Committee, is interested in moving forward with MBI but is uncertain as to MBI’s position. “We are intrigued to learn more about MBI’s willingness to explore a more flexible approach in working with towns to achieve broadband. Their willingness to work with outfits like Matrix and Fiber Connect, however, is unclear. Meanwhile, we continue our exploration of all our known options at this time.”

This new initiative from MBI came to the attention of the Town on December 19 when the Board of Selectmen received a letter from Edmund Donnelly of MBI. This letter advised that MBI has written to all providers who have submitted a proposal to serve a town.

These letters are intended to provide a uniform understanding of “any key conditions, contingencies, or other factors that towns should be aware of as they consider these proposals.” Responses to these letters were due on December 31 and have just been posted on the MBI website. Responses have come in from Crocker, Matrix, and Westfield Gas and Electric. Any additional “interaction and correspondence”, which, according to MBI, is likely, will be pursued by MBI “as needed.”

A copy of the letter sent by MBI to Crocker Communications on December 19 has been obtained by this paper. Similar letters were apparently sent to the other providers.

In this letter, MBI asks Crocker to answer a series of questions, including, (i) its ability to move forward if state funding was only made available after construction is completed and operational (MBI indicates that it is considering delaying payments until that time); (ii) who will own the network infrastructure (e.g., pole attachment licenses, fiber, equipment, materials, etc.); (iii) whether the proposal is contingent on more than one town agreeing to move forward; (iv) whether there are any costs to be borne by the town and not the subscribers, and (v) whether the proposal is contingent

on a minimum number of subscribers signing up for the service.

MBI intends to use this information to “create the foundation of an initial meeting” with New Marlborough in the second half of January. At that meeting, MBI would review with the Town any proposals which have been made to it. The objective of the meeting would be for MBI to “frame next steps” with the Board of Selectmen, which next steps “could include three-way meetings with the town and potential providers.”

This effort is part of MBI’s Flexible Grant Program, an initiative which was launched on last October. The goal of this program is to “provide grant funding to capable communications network companies...willing to design, build, own, operate, and maintain a communications network in one or more of the Towns that will provide residents with broadband internet access...” This Program seeks “innovative approaches” to this initiative and is willing to be “flexible” in considering alternative solutions including wiring less than 96 percent of the town (a previous requirement for MBI funding), and financing arrangements that incorporate the investment of municipal funds.

Notwithstanding MBI’s professed flexibility, it remains concerned about a provider encountering financial difficulties that will impact its operation of the network, including the worst-case scenario where the network “goes dark.” Therefore, MBI “reaffirms its strong preference to work with providers that possess the organizational capacity, financial resources, and requisite experience to fulfill all grant obligations” and actually succeed in running the network for an initial ten- to fifteen-year commitment. Where this position leaves smaller operations, like Matrix and Fiber Connect, is unclear at this point.

MBI promises, however, to be flexible and work with the towns and any provider that doesn’t meet its fiscal and operational expectations to address these concerns and “mitigate these risks.” Approaches suggested by MBI include performance and completion bonds, a security interest in the network assets, and encouraging the provider to partner with a more experienced or fiscally stronger entity in both network construction and operation.

Once MBI, the Town, and the provider have agreed on an action plan to implement broadband services, MBI will post a summary of the plan on its website to, among other things, afford other private broadband providers the opportunity to come forward and propose their own solution.

The action plan which MBI plans to develop will review (i) the capacity of the project to deliver higher broadband speeds; (ii) the level of broadband coverage (which should meet or exceed 96 percent residential coverage); (iii) the financial capabilities of the provider; (iv) the provider's organizational structure; (v) the provider's experience in constructing, operating, and maintaining similar broadband networks; (vi) the overall costs of the project based on state funding, potential municipal contributions, and overall cost to the subscriber; (vii) the timing for the implementation of the project and; (viii) the quality, range, and pricing of broadband service options.

Finally, MBI will make a grant award directly to the provider in the amount of the Town's designated grant allocation. Funds may only be used to subsidize construction costs. All uncovered costs of construction and all costs to own, operate, and maintain the network are to be borne by the provider.

And where does all this leave the Town? Waiting once again for a meeting with MBI which hopefully will – finally – provide some guidance to the Town as to which potential providers are actually viable from MBI's perspective.

In the interim, the Broadband Committee is continuing its analysis of the potential providers and Richard Long has advised as follows regarding each of them:

- Frontier – negotiations have ended and there appears to be no interest in revisiting the Frontier proposal (which insisted on a Town guarantee.)
- Matrix – this remains a potentially viable option. Matrix has requested that MBI fund the design, engineering, and make-ready work using the New Marlborough grant allocation of \$1.45 million. Were this to happen, the network could be built and operated without any financial risk to the Town. After receiving the initial grant, Matrix would spend its own money to build the network, operate it, and maintain it for a period of up to twenty years. The Town would have the option to purchase it at any time after the first three years. The Matrix proposal

is the most complete before the Committee, although there are additional provisions which the Committee would need to negotiate.

- Town-owned network – discussions have been held with WiredWest to review and further understand their derivation of operating numbers, the most significant of which is the charge from their operating subcontractor, Westfield Gas & Electric. While the Town would have to fund the cost of design, make-ready, construction, and operation beyond the amount provided by MBI (expected to be \$1.45 million), WiredWest asserts that the cost of paying the debt which the Town would incur could be borne by the subscribers. Requests for further clarification of the costs are in process.
- Fiber Connect – Fiber Connect proposes to utilize the MBI grant and its own funding to wire the Town. The question remains as to whether MBI will provide upfront, progress, or milestone payments to Fiber Connect, absent which the Town would need to issue renewable notes and seek reimbursement from MBI once it agrees to provide funding. Discussions are continuing.
- Crocker – Crocker remains a viable option. It has indicated that it might be able to obtain Federal money in addition to the MBI grant. If it obtained both MBI and Federal money, any Town funding would not be necessary.
- Charter (Spectrum) – Charter has not provided any further response to New Marlborough. Charter has also told Monterey that it is no longer interested in proceeding with a network there, so it appears that Charter may not be an option for the Town.

So, once again, the process of bringing broadband services to New Marlborough remains in a state of flux with many moving pieces and the Broadband Committee working hard to try to sort it all out.

More on this saga next month. □

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Land Trust News

The Red Hot Blues Bash 2018 Is Brewing!

We promise another ultimate evening, an exceptional mix of local food (prepared by Chef Rob Burnell), live music, dancing, a unique silent auction and all the fun our community can stir up.

Let's celebrate what makes our town special – our landscape and our people.

Polish your dancing shoes, and hold on for spring until the return of the Red Hot Blues Bash, Saturday, April 14, Gedney Farm.

Tickets go on sale March 10.

Stay tuned for details. www.nmlandtrust.org.

Martha Bryan



New Marlborough Village Association

2018 Winter House Concerts

These intimate concerts in homes of Berkshire residents are sponsored by the New Marlborough Village Association.

Performances last about an hour, followed by a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18 at 4:00 p.m.

**Sarah Vonsattel, violin;
Chihiro Allen, viola; and Julia Bruskin, cello.**



Admission is \$20 for NMVA members and \$25 for non-members

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Budding Picassos New art teacher Anna O'Donnell is a painter with a passion who inspired kindergarten and first grade students at New Marlborough Central to make portraits of owls and lions. In asking students to paint owls, she helped them create texture by using different kinds of lines (regular and irregular) and being bold with color. She also asked the young artists to think about shapes. She introduced the lion project with a look at Calder's Circus. The self-portrait (bottom row, center) is from the pre-school group.

photos by Jane Burke

Neighbors



A collection of 150 pieces of contemporary and modern jewelry has been donated to New York City's Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum by **Susan Grant Lewin** of New Marlborough village. Titled "Jewelry of Ideas: Gifts from the Susan Grant Lewin Collection," the works, according to an announcement, "highlight jewelry design's expressive and innovative achievements." They are on view at the Cooper Hewitt, 2 East 91st Street, through May 28. Caroline Baumann, director of the museum, calls Susan "a champion of the field."

"I have been collecting jewelry for decades," says Susan. "I like to find the leaders and innovators — the most experimental jewelry designers — and I am thrilled that Cooper Hewitt is exposing their revolutionary work to the public." A 176-page catalog accompanying the exhibit explores the creative thinking of ninety jewelry designers represented in the show.

Fairview Hospital, in Great Barrington, was recognized as A Top Rural Hospital of 2017, one of only eighteen hospitals nationwide. The Top Hospital designation is awarded by The Leapfrog Group, an independent hospital watchdog organization. Performance across many areas of hospital care is considered in establishing the qualifications for the award, including infection rates, maternity care, and the capacity to prevent medication errors. Each hospital must submit an extensive Leapfrog Hospital Survey: the 2017 Top Hospitals were selected from surveys from nearly 1,900 hospitals. It's impressive to know that such nationally-recognized high-quality service is available locally and consistently — this is the fifth year that Fairview has been named A Top Rural Hospital.

In mid-January, pianist **Manon Hutton-DeWys**, who moved to town just five months ago, became only the third resident of New Marlborough to play a Winter House Concert, according to Ben Harms, (who along with Lucy Bardo, were first and second). Her innovative program, featuring the works of three women composers from three centuries, was delivered with flair and flourish. Her husband, however, Simon's Rock biology professor **Donald MacClelland**, missed it. He was leading a group of students on a field trip to the Caribbean island of Monserrat.

Two long-time second homeowners passed away in January. Each of them had lived here for around forty years:

Julian Jadow, of Mill River, passed away on January 11. He successfully put his skills as an entrepreneur and negotiator to work in the family business, importing and distributing precision jewelers' tools, producing plastic lenses and high-strength adhesives, and developing commercial real estate. Julian was also a gifted ceramic artist who developed his Japanese-influenced style over five decades. His work is included in the permanent holdings of the Brooklyn Museum.

Harriet Whitelaw, a part-time resident of Southfield for forty-six years, died in the early morning hours of January 17. She was originally drawn to New Marlborough by memories of happy summers as a teen at a Berkshires camp. Harriet was the founder of Harriet Griffin Fine Arts in New York City, which was noted for its expertise in 19th and 20th century art. She is survived by her husband, **Graeme**, sons **David** and **Daniel**, a stepson, **Andrew**, and a sister, **Inez Weinstein**. At this writing, plans were for burial in New Marlborough Cemetery in a private ceremony. □

compiled by Barbara Lowman: deeuell@yahoo.com

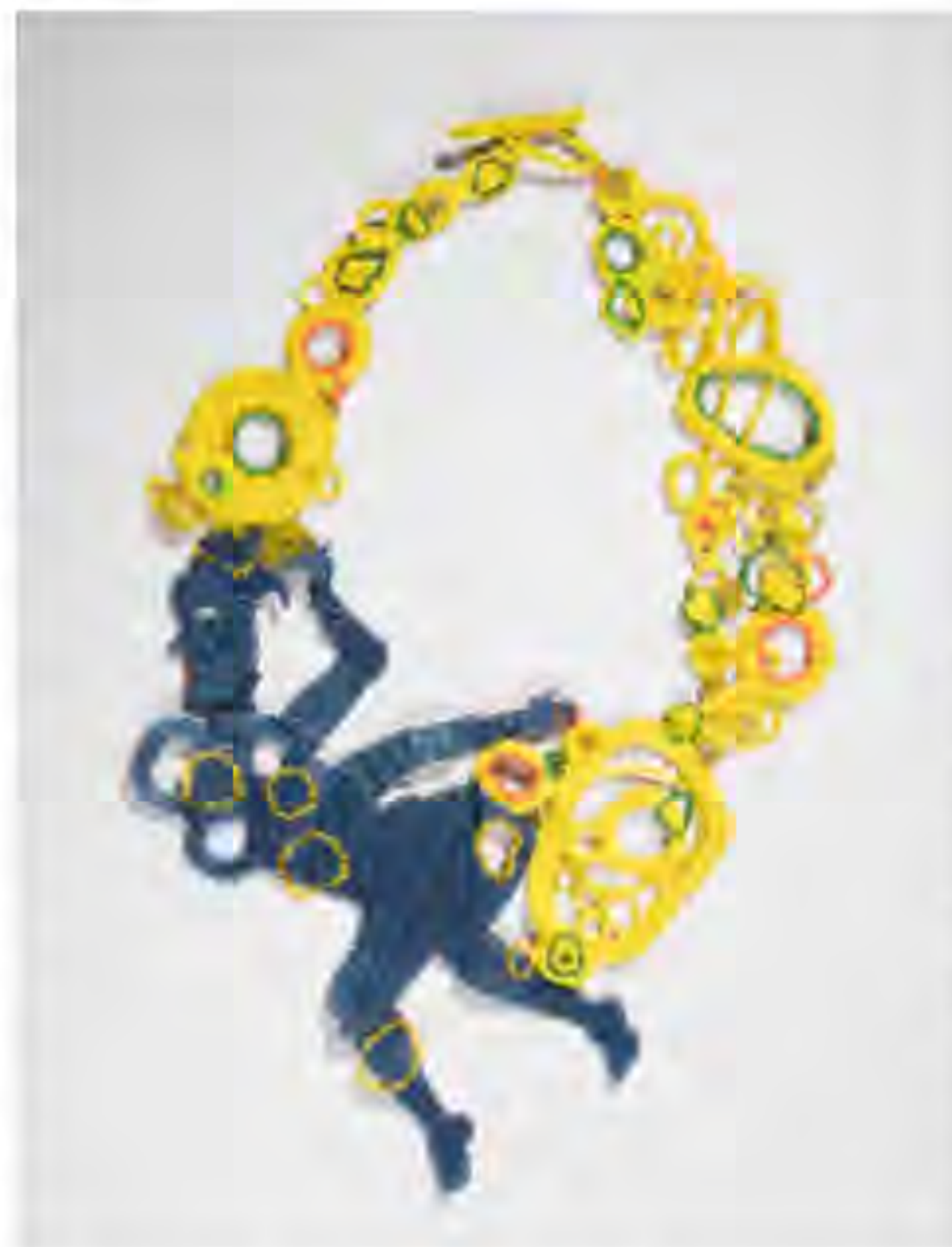


photo courtesy Cooper Hewitt

A necklace by designer Joyce Scott

Thank You to Our Contributors!

Chris Hobbie & Neil Brander; Henry & Julie Jadow; Leslie Wheeler; Marilyn Fracasso; Scott MacKenzie; Nancy McWilliams; Michele Shalaby; Brian Mikesell & John Weinstein; Priscilla J. Beers; Neil Lidstone; Eileen & Edgar Koerner; Ellen Sweet & Ari Korpivaara; Tom O'Connor & Megan Hinman; Anita Fleury; Sy & Edi Mayerson; Jim & Kathy Palmer; New Marlborough Friends of the Library; and Mary Barton

OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

From **Larry Burke**: “This winter I’ve been studying our bird feeders a bit, trying to figure out if there is any sort of “pecking order,” or ranking of dominance, by one species of bird over another. Watching the goldfinches in particular, it seems as though they will congregate around the feeders in big numbers, maybe a dozen or more at a time, but as soon as any other bird, large or small, flies in, the **goldfinches** freak out and head for the hills.”

With remarkably good timing, an article appeared in the January 8 issue of the online zine, **All About Birds**, produced by the **Cornell Lab of Ornithology**, about the very subject of “dominance hierarchies” at the feeder. The author of the piece, Alison Haigh, describes the research being done by Cornell Lab scientist Eliot Miller on 136 species of birds. Dr. Eliot’s findings are, to a large degree, in line with anyone’s casual observations, i.e., that a small bird will give way to a larger bird. A **chickadee**, for instance, does not have much of a prayer of standing its ground as a screeching **blue jay** jets in for a landing. In the study, though, there were one or two exceptions to the “bigger is badder” rule, one being the mourning dove, who, true to its peaceable nature, will give ground to smaller birds. Conversely, small woodpeckers such as the **downy** commonly hold their own against larger species.

The study sizes up the way the thirteen most common feeder species fare against each other. The outright winner, the one that displaces every other species from the feeder, is actually not the **blue jay**, but the **red-bellied woodpecker**. The **hairy woodpecker**, **blue jay**, and **European starling** come in next in the dominance game; the **cardinal** wins about half its face-offs; the **white-breasted nuthatch** turns out to be pretty feisty, given its tiny size, beating out **juncos**, **sparrows**, **chickadees**, **house finches**, and **goldfinches**. The low man on the totem pole, and much in confirmation of Larry’s observations, is that poor, timid **goldfinch**.

Not all contests around the feeder end in one species simply scaring off the lesser one, as **Sandra Fusco-Walker** witnessed in her backyard near Hartsville on January 16. Sometimes birdfeeders become hunting grounds for the top predators. As Sandra reports, “We have a collection of bird feeders strung on a wire from our deck out to a tree in the yard. We enjoy watching the birds feed, and understand that larger birds have learned this is also a good place where they can feed. Today, this **sharp-shinned hawk** found his dinner here. I’m not sure if this is appropriate for the newspaper, but he is a beautiful creature doing what he must to survive.”



photo by Sandra Walker

A sharp-shinned hawk grasps its prey, a downy woodpecker.



photo by Larry Burke

A moment of peaceful coexistence at the feeder: a northern flicker at the suet block, a junco up on top, and a tufted titmouse and a cardinal feeding on sunflower seeds.



photo by Don Beauchamp

A white-breasted brown mallard, or is it a Duclair?

Judging by its size in relation to the **downy woodpecker** that became its prey, this beautiful member of the genus *Accipiter* is most likely, just as Sandra thought, a sharp-shinned hawk, although it could be the very similar, but somewhat larger, Cooper’s hawk. **Diane Barth** has observed how hawks make the most of bird feeders, and at least once, closer than she would have liked: “I’ve noticed in the years with more snow, the hawks are predators at the feeders much more often. And they are known to chase birds into windows to stun them. One day a hawk chased a woodpecker into my glass slider. I went out to pick it up to give it a chance to recover, not realizing that the hawk was lurking behind me on the deck. When I bent down to pick up the woodpecker, the hawk swooped around from behind me, grabbed the woodpecker just inches from my hand, and took off with it. Startled the

continued on page 16

bejesus out of me.”

Don Beauchamp checked in from Clayton to say, “Not much going on with wildlife, though I did hear and see a **piliated woodpecker** fly right over me a couple of weeks ago, and there are lots of tracks of small animals after every snow. Once in a while a **Cooper’s hawk** visits the feeder. The accompanying photo is of a **white-breasted brown mallard** in the Konkapot river, along with a pair of regular mallards, and it seemed like he was guarding them. They left as the rains came. I was not able to find any information on the white-

breasted brown mallard in books, but only online.”

One online site, called **10,000 Birds**, identifies this bird as a “manky mallard,” derived from a pejorative British expression. Mallard ducks, both domestic and feral, seem well inclined to hybridizing themselves. This website has a photo of a duck that closely matches the one Don saw, and in there it is identified as a **Duclair duck**. If any readers have more information on the unusual mallard that Don came across, we would love to hear about it. □

Compiled by Larry Burke, lburke2@me.com

CANADA GEESE

by Angus Kerr

Few sounds evoke the image of the serene, autumn wilderness of the Berkshires like the honking of Canada geese as they fly over us on their southerly migration. Commonplace throughout the United States and Canada, the goose has long been a regular spring and summer denizen of North America’s lakes, ponds, and open fields. Yet, increasingly over the years, we have seen more and more geese staying on here, deep into winter, and, more and more often, becoming essentially non-migratory. Why is it that Canada geese choose to remain on our frozen ponds?

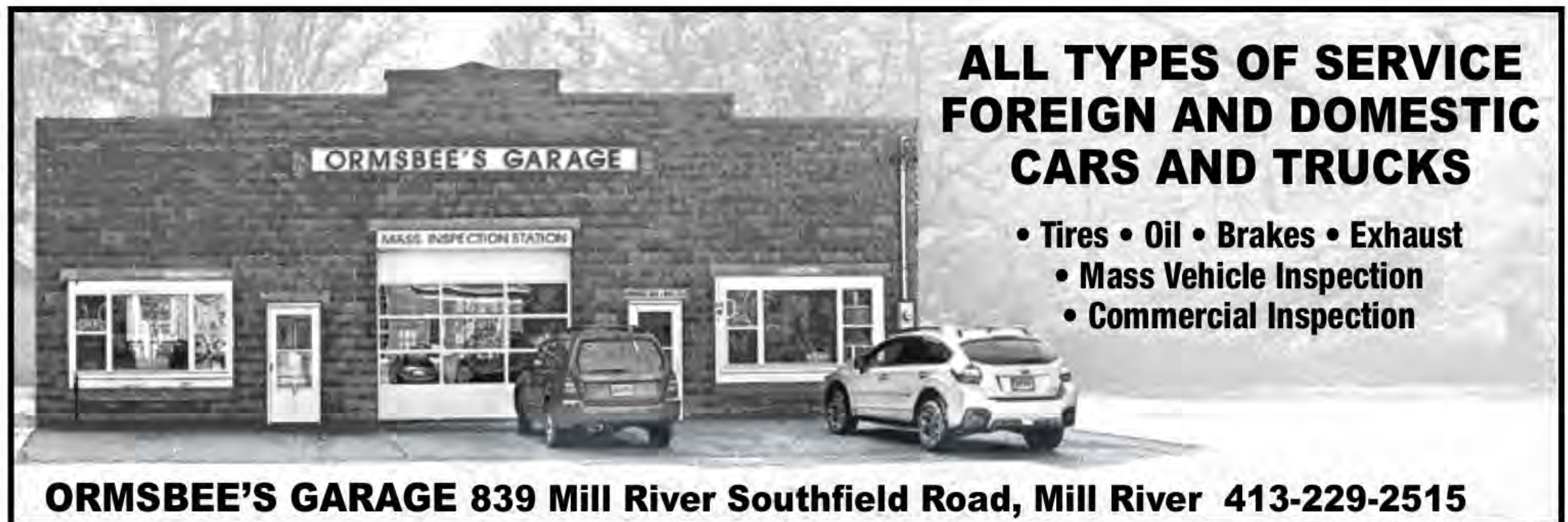
The answer dates back to the 1930s. Previously, the geese only arrived during the period of migration, when they left breeding grounds in Canada, and flew south to find more abundant food sources, and then again in the spring as they moved back to their more northerly habitat. With the introduction of farmed geese within Western Massachusetts, hunters were able to have a steady supply of Canada geese at all times of the year. Escaped birds joined with the steady increase of wild geese into the ecosystem during the 1960s and 1970s, eventually leading to an enormous population explosion, which today has left the bird in abundant supply across the state.

As the introduced birds were raised in captivity, their

inherent instincts to migrate were suppressed. Being able to stand the cold due to their large fat reserves, the goose has been able to thrive even during winter. With abundant food sources from farms, golf courses, and housing developments, many geese are no longer risking the long, arduous journey farther south, and instead remaining in the Berkshires.

Of course, the rising populations, along with the geese that now stay here year ‘round has caused repercussions within our ecosystem. The mallard duck in particular has been affected by the boom in goose population. A Massachusetts Wildlife survey in 1993 found over 20,000 ducks to be residing in 218 sites across the Berkshires. However, last year’s survey showed that the number had dropped by more than half, to 9,700 mallards at only 178 sites, with goose populations at 1,600 birds. Competition for food resources and the rapid growth of the goose population has been a leading factor in this decline.

The Canada goose will remain an important, if increasingly problematic, species within our ecosystem. The challenge for us will be somehow managing to balance the admirable qualities of this particularly handsome species with the problems created by its very strong presence in our part of the world. □



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Upcoming: *Events Calendar for February and March*

February 10: Community input meeting for solar energy bylaw; proposed by Planning Board; Town Hall, 10:00 a.m.

February 18: Winter house Concert — Sarah Vonsattel, violin, Chiro Allen, viola, and Julia Bruskin, cello, play string trios by Dohnanyi and Beethoven, 4:00 p.m., \$25, \$20 for members of the New Marlborough Village Association; request reservations at (413) 229-2785 or contact@newmarlborough.org.

March 20: Deadline for caucus nominations for Town offices; place your name with Town Clerk Kathy Chretien no later than 3:30 p.m.

March 27: Town Caucus, Town Hall, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

March 30: Deadline for certification of nominees (top two caucus winners) for election to Town offices; see Town Clerk Kathy Chretien no later than 3:30 p.m.

NMCC GRANTS ANNOUNCED

The New Marlborough Cultural Council (NMCC) has announced the award of twenty-four grants for 2018, for a total of \$16,500. They were selected from thirty applications submitted, requesting a total of \$22,925. The Massachusetts Cultural Council granted \$4,400 to New Marlborough. The remaining \$12,100 was from the generosity of local contributors.

Many of the awards directly benefit New Marlborough children and adults. The renowned Music and More series of the New Marlborough Village Association received support. Future exhibits at the Meeting House Gallery will be enhanced by improved lighting, as well as more extensive publicity. Interpretative signage at the Joffe Nature Sanctuary will be provided through the New Marlborough Land Trust. New Marlborough students at all levels may participate in the Flying Cloud Institute's activities blending the arts and sciences in school, after school, and in the Institute's summer SMArt program.

Eight other programs for New Marlborough children have also been supported.

In addition, the Council was able to support larger Berkshire programs in theater, music, and the arts, which can be enjoyed by New Marlborough residents. Some examples are the Berkshire Ukulele Band, Berkshire Sings!, the Aston Magna Festival, WAM Theatre events, community outreach programs of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and the Berkshire Playwrights Lab.

The Massachusetts Cultural Council supports every town in the state, based on population, so New Marlborough's state allocation is relatively small. Because of the support of our community, however, the NMCC can support a wide range of programs with a clear benefit for New Marlborough residents, as well as the Council's own activities: Elihu Burritt Day, the annual Potluck Supper, and the Garden Tour. □

Barbara Lowman

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THE LOG

Police Department (selected entries)

- Dec. 1 9:06 a.m. Following a complaint from a Leffingwell Road resident, the police chief advises a group of hunters to leave the property.
- 5:53 p.m. A caller reports an injured deer off of County Road.
- Dec. 2 12:34 p.m. Following a stop on South Sandisfield Road, a motorist is issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license and an open container of marijuana.
- Dec. 5 12:27 p.m. Alerted by a concerned resident to a Connecticut-licensed vehicle parked on the side of Norfolk Road, an officer determines that the driver, unable to recall for whom he was waiting and unaware that he is in Massachusetts, is in need of evaluation and has him transported to Fairview Hospital.
- Dec. 7 4:12 p.m. A Mill River resident reports that, after bringing a neighbor's dog back to the neighbor, the resident was assaulted by the neighbor.
- Dec. 11 3:36 p.m. A Mill River village resident reports suspicious vehicles parked near her home; later advises that they are owned by photographers.
- Dec. 16 12:35 p.m. An ambulance is called in when a driver involved in a one-car accident on Norfolk Road complains of head, neck, and knee pain.
- 8:16 p.m. A Mill River resident, whose license had been revoked and whose vehicle had a number plate violation, is arrested after attempting to outrun an officer in a police cruiser.
- Dec. 19 7:56 a.m. A caller alerts the department to a baby blanket, with what appears to be blood on it, in the roadway near her Alum Hill Road residence.
- Dec. 22 3:27 p.m. Assist with a one-car accident on Route 57 near Hatchery Road.
- 11:05 p.m. Assist with one-car accident on Calkins Cross Road.
- Dec. 23 3:22 p.m. Alerted to the presence of a dark brown or black bag in the driveway of a Lakeside Road residence, officer determines that the bag contains plumber's tools.
- Dec. 24 4:20 p.m. A Mill River village resident advises that two windows in her neighbor's house are open and that she received no response to a knock on his door.
- Dec. 26 10:58 p.m. A caller reports that a vehicle has gone off the road near his Mill River Great Barrington Road residence.
- Dec. 28 8:11 a.m. A renter in Southfield asks for help in ushering a man and a woman from her house who have refused to leave; at 12:44 p.m. the son of the original caller requests assistance for her; he reports she is in crisis and in need of transport.
- Dec. 29 9:48 p.m. Vehicle hits a deer on Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- Dec. 31 10:39 p.m. The animal control officer is notified when a caller reports a large white dog running loose on Hartsville New Marlborough Road.

Graham Frank, Chief of Police

Fire and Rescue

- Dec. 4 6:37 a.m. Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call
- Dec. 4 1:07 p.m. Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call
- Dec. 9 1:15 p.m. Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call
- Dec. 10 1:15 a.m. Old Hitchcock Road CO Call
- Dec. 10 9:30 a.m. Standby for Sandisfield Structure Fire
- Dec. 14 8:12 p.m. Adsit Crosby Road Medical Call
- Dec. 14 10:38 p.m. Mill River Southfield Road Fire Alarm
- Dec. 15 9:39 a.m. Clayton Mill River Road Smoke Investigation
- Dec. 15 5:20 p.m. County Road Medical Call
- Dec. 16 12:38 p.m. Norfolk Road MVA
- Dec. 17 5:30 p.m. Corashire Road Medical Call
- Dec. 22 1:55 p.m. Arroyo Way CO Alarm
- Dec. 22 3:59 p.m. Hartsville New Marlborough Road MVA
- Dec. 23 12:03 a.m. Mill River Great Barrington Road CO/Furnace
- Dec. 24 8:18 p.m. Hotchkiss Road Fire Alarm
- Dec. 28 12:54 p.m. Cagney Hill Road Medical Call
- Dec. 29 7:49 a.m. Mill River Great Barrington Road Medical Call
- Dec. 29 9:50 p.m. Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call
- Dec. 30 2:54 a.m. Hayes Hill Road Medical Call
- Dec. 30 7:02 p.m. Stone Manor Drive Fire Alarm

Fire Company President David Smith



Illustration by Ann Getzinger

2018 BURNING SEASON & ONLINE BURNING PERMITS

For the 2018 burning season, New Marlborough Fire & Rescue is again using an online application for burn permits. Burning is permitted from January 15 to April 30, and permits will be available from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. daily, as conditions allow for open burning.

Permits may be obtained at www.bcburnpermits.com/ or via a link on the Fire Department page of the Town website: <http://newmarlboroughma.gov/pages/index>.

Reminders:

- Burn only brush; no leaves, grass, hay, stumps, building debris, or other material.
- Burning is allowed between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. All fires must be extinguished by 4:00 p.m.
- Avoid burning on days with high winds.
- Keep fires at least seventy-five feet from structures.
- When possible, have a garden hose or other water supply available, as well as a rake and/or shovel.
- Do not leave fires unattended.
- Burn the fire down to coals and drown with water to extinguish.
- Call 911 to report any emergencies.



Fire Department President David Smith



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THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION IN SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE COUNTY

By David Travis and Jane Burke

Dedicated teaching staff, talented administrators, enthusiastic students brimming with ideas and potential – the school districts of southern Berkshire County have many advantages. Enrollment trends aren't one of them. As class sizes dwindle and districts struggle to maintain (let alone improve) course diversity and services to students, the costs per student are rising, and taxpayers are feeling the pinch. What can be done to address this challenge?

The Berkshire County Education Task Force spent two years studying these issues and recommended in July of last year that consideration be given to folding all schools into one countywide district over the next ten years. This reorganization could save the county as much as \$34 million each year but would not be easy to accomplish.

Southern Berkshire Regional School District, along with the districts of Lenox, Lee, and Berkshire Hills, is currently in the process looking at what can be done on a smaller scale in southern Berkshire County. A group composed of the superintendents, school committee chairs, and school committee representatives has been meeting monthly since the fall using the working title the Future of South Berkshire County Education Ad Hoc Committee.

Given that some around the table remember the multiple conversations about mergers and shared services over the last two decades that failed, it is heartening to see that there is a new interest in making progress this time around. At their meeting on January 18 in Stockbridge, the group members committed to finding a way to bring in a paid facilitator to increase the productivity of the group. Since the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission did not get a grant from the state to support the position, the group agreed to have each school contribute to a stipend to hire someone to guide meetings and track progress.

From the beginning, participants have been talking about finding cost savings through shared services such as food services, transportation, college- and career-guidance and database/enrollment management. These areas may offer meaningful opportunities to collaborate with our neighbors and husband scarce resources. Though more complex, it may be possible to explore ways to expand opportunity in the classroom.

In an effort to identify common needs, each district is working on defining its goals, challenges, and ideas for shared services. Lee provided their outline as a model that others can use as they prepare their statements for

the next meeting. In the meantime, the group is eager to find things that can be agreed upon by the end of this school year to indicate to the community that the committee is working in good faith. A suggestion that seemed achievable was to have all districts schedule their professional development on the same days, allowing for the possibility of working together. Everyone was interested in the idea of working together on a much-needed career education program that no school has been able to invest in on its own. Shared psychological services was mentioned as a "win-win" – saving districts money and improving outcomes for students.

Toward the end of the meeting Southern Berkshire School Committee member Dennis Sears suggested that a representative from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education be invited to attend the next meeting to help the group get a sense of what legal structures exist for sharing services and educational programs across districts. All agreed. This might help the work of sifting through the comparative strengths of the participating districts – a delicate task – and steering the discussion towards meaningful collaboration.

Southern Berkshire Regional School District showed its strong interest in this work. In addition to the required two task force members, Principal Glenn Devoti, Curriculum Coordinator Kerry Burke, and two additional school committee members attended.

The group is committed to meeting once a month for one year in hopes of making real progress that would help districts avert the need to cut programs due to lack of financial resources. Meetings are open to the public. Next month the meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. on February 28, at Lee Middle and High School. □

David serves on the SBRSD School Committee and lives in Mill River.

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A JAZZY TRIP

By Odie Fields

Mount Everett annually offers a three-day trip to New York City for students exploring jazz, and this year I attended for the first time. On Wednesday, January 10, the Jazz Band and other students in Jazz Lab left Mount Everett on a bus and a van to Wassaic for the train to Grand Central Station. Our first activity was attending the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra's rehearsal for their *Benny Goodman: King of Swing* concert. We then attended the concert the following night. The concert celebrated the works of Benny Goodman, and it was beautiful. Wynton Marsalis is the bandleader and I was excited to see such a famous trumpeter (I also play trumpet). We also saw the Broadway show *Come from Away*, a story based on planes stranded immediately following the events of 9/11. The play focuses on the welcoming town of Gander, Newfoundland. People have to come together and overcome their differences and face their prejudices. We also went to the 9/11 Memorial and Museum with Mount Everett's Principal, Mr. Devoti. Mr. Devoti had asked some of his friends who are residents of New York and who had very firsthand experiences, to guide us through the memorial. They happily gave up their afternoon to give us a meaningful view of a very important time in history.

Courtney English, Mount Everett's amazing Jazz and Band Director, "orchestrated" the trip so we could have the most fun. During the free time, parent chaperones took us wherever we wanted to go, making the trip extremely exciting and interesting. My group went ice-skating at The Rink looking over the Hudson River. Although these are all things you can do in New York, most students tried many new things they might not have done on their own. The highlight of the trip for me was the rehearsal and concert at Jazz at Lincoln Center. While watching this rehearsal we all noticed a similar atmosphere between the musicians and us at our rehearsals before school, back in Sheffield. They



photos by Robert Olsen

New Marlborough residents on the jazz trip. Standing from left: Kathleen Dillon, Andrew Haiss, Mickey Masters, Julian Edelman, Cole Rosseter, Mary Shalaby, Isabelle and Amelia Kemp; kneeling: Emma Nardi, Odie Fields

were friendly and joking with each other but ultimately cared a lot about the music and cared about making the performance really excellent. This is an important trip that I cherished, and it inspired me. □

Odie is in the eighth grade

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▶ Book Discussion Group
 Please join us February 17 at 10:00 a.m. for bagels and a lively discussion of the book, *Pachinko*, by Min Jin Lee

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David Lowman, Joe Poindexter, Jodi Rothe,

Peter Schuyten, Barry Shapiro, Pam Stebbins,

Jon Swan, Marianne Swan, Sandra Fusco-Walker,

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Mary Richie Smith, Tara White. Index: Donna Weaver

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

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