



New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

THE NEW SUPERINTENDENT

David Hastings Looks to the Future of SBRSD

By Jane Burke

“I see this as a time where all my life’s work comes together.” This, as much as anything in his resumé, is a measure of the commitment David Hastings brings to the position he will assume starting this summer as superintendent of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. On February 14, he was chosen from a group of four finalists in one of the first official acts of the newly elected School Committee. “I was confident that the leadership style he described and the communication style he displayed would allow everyone in the school community and the five towns to have a voice in district affairs,” says Committee member Kristen Sparhawk, who supported his candidacy (see box).

In a sense, David, who lives on Rhoades and Bailey Road, has been preparing for this job since he was a fifth grader in Orange, Massachusetts. “It was either be a cowboy or be a teacher,” he says. Perhaps through his mother’s influence – she taught sixth grade, where she drilled her students on the multiplication tables – he chose teaching. In 1971, he received a degree in math education from Springfield College (while developing proficiency in German during a junior year abroad in Austria), and he would have begun teaching had a number fifty-one in the draft lottery not interrupted his career plans. He went on active duty in June 1971 and put his language training to good use as a translator at the East German border. Under the G.I. Bill, he took another degree, this one in German, from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Ready to start his teaching career in 1975, he took a position at the Kolburne School where he began working with special needs students. After two years there, he was recruited to fill in as a high school math teacher at Mount Everett. This initial relationship with the district did not go smoothly, marked, he says, by the conflicting messages he was receiving from the administration. So he decided to take a teaching position at Avalon Center in Lenox, another special needs school. He was elevated to Program Director there in 1985, a transition he describes as the beginning



Superintendent elect, David Hastings

of his career in educational leadership. The job, demanding ten- to twelve-hour days and many weekends, inculcated in him a work ethic and built his organizational skills, he says. It also persuaded him to seek a masters degree in education, which he earned in 1986 at North Adams State College (now, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts). Armed with this degree, he was appointed education director of Valley Head School in Lenox.

The frequent moves helped develop pedagogical experience but did nothing to build a retirement plan. At age thirty nine, he entertained two pathways to a pension: thirty years in public education or fifteen years with the military. He chose the quicker route. For nine years he was chief training officer for an Army Reserve unit in Waterbury, Connecticut, where he developed a curriculum and trained interrogation units focused on strategic debriefing. He finished out his Army career at Fort Dix, New Jersey, where he worked on large international exercises for interrogators and the Military Police.

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Long-term plans took on added urgency when the Hastings decided in 1989 to start a family. Unable to have children of their own, they adopted a daughter, Emily, an African American. (They were told that at the time they were the only couple in the state willing to consider the adoption of an African American.) This happy experience led to the adoptions of Jocelyn and Matthew, also African Americans. Today, the younger two are in college, while Emily is working at Side by Side, an assisted care facility in Pittsfield.

Upon mustering out of the Army in 2005 as a chief warrant officer 5, David moved with his wife, Mary (they were married in Southfield in 1980) back to New Marlborough. But plans for retirement were soon interrupted by a request from his neighbor, Bruce Bona, to take on the job of education director at the Eagleton School, a special needs school for boys in Great Barrington. His guiding principle that "There is always more to give" was, he admits, not one well designed for retirement. After two years at Eagleton, he returned to teaching math at Mount Everett and in 2008 was appointed chairman of the department. After analyzing test-score data with the faculty, he inspired changes in teaching methodology that had a profound impact on effectiveness. Mount Everett recently tested ninth in high school math achievement out of the state's almost 300 school districts.

The next opportunity for leadership at SBRSD arrived with the resignation of the director of curriculum and instruction in 2010. It was a natural next step for David. He enlivened that program, bringing accountability and data analysis that has led to curricular redesign in the elementary schools. He brought in professional development programs, including graduate courses offered at the school, which were enthusiastically embraced by many teachers.

As of last spring, David was looking forward to yet another retirement, within two years. That was before he served on the Elementary Task Force with Louise Yohalem, which he describes as a "life-changing experience." He saw the district and its possibilities in a new light. When it became official that the superintendent search was starting, he apologized to his wife that retirement might be put off again for a few more years.

Asked what he wants to accomplish as superintendent, David responded that he is already thinking about his three primary concerns: improving the curriculum in the elementary schools, building relationships with parents and the community so that the district is more responsive to what they feel is important, and finding ways to elevate Mount Everett, despite its relatively small size, to the top rank of Massachusetts high schools.

"My goal," he says, "is to heal the district and to be able to look back and say we did things right." □

THE SELECTION PROCESS

The initial screening for a superintendent was overseen by Pat Correia, a consultant from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees, who outlined key qualifications for the fourteen-member search committee: Glenn Devoti and Sandra Hubbard, administrators; Andrew Rapport and Brenda Ullrich, teaching staff; C. Betsy Agar, support staff; Jennifer Gaenzle Smith, Sabrina Wilson, Susan Silk, and Adam Kerzner parent representatives; Karen Ketchen, Alford; George McGurn, Egremont; Jon Sylbert, Monterey; C. William Dunsay, New Marlborough; and Julie Hannum, Sheffield. They selected five candidates; one withdrew before final considerations began.

In addition to David Hastings, the three other candidates had significant strengths. Dr. Patricia Lally, assistant superintendent of Tewksbury schools for the past year, oversaw the funding of a new high school building. Pat Gardner, high school principal in the Gills-Montague regional school district, was the only external candidate with experience in a

regional school district. She had a brief tenure at Westfield State College and before that many years of service in the Springfield public schools. Dr. Linda Carrier was director of curriculum and professional development at Monson public schools.

Two or three members of the School Committee visited the district in which each applicant was employed to talk with employees, school committee members, and parents about the candidates. Starting February 12, each candidate spent a day touring SBRSD schools, met with members of the communities, and, finally, sat for a two-hour interview with the School Committee.

At the final meeting, with an overflow crowd stretching from the Mount Everett High School library into the computer lab, a straw poll found four School Committee members in favor of Dr. Carrier and six for Mr. Hastings. Following a brief discussion, the Committee voted unanimously to offer the position to Mr. Hastings. □

Jane Burke

STRETCHING AND KICKING IT CLOSE TO HOME

How Cassie, Bridget, and the Folks at Mepal Manor Are Shaping up New Marlborough

by Jodi Rothe

We've been hearing a lot of talk lately about eating local or buying local – but perhaps folks in New Marlborough don't know how easy it is to “exercise local.” There are some exciting classes and places just around the corner (or a few corners) right here in New Marlborough.

If you've been spending too much time hunched over your computer screen or the steering wheel, you can find relief in Southfield, Mill River, or New Marlborough village. You might begin your “exercise local” experiment in the hall of the Southfield Church by stretching out the kinks with Cassie Keeley. She offers hour-long stretch classes three times a week, or for a more challenging class, there's “Kick-it with Cassie” four times per week.

Cassie, an exuberant redhead and mother of three, was motivated to become a certified trainer when she went to the gym after her first pregnancy and had lots of questions that no one seemed to be able to answer. She has studied all kinds of activities, from yoga to karate and kick-boxing and believes in cross-training – so every class is different. Recently, she added mini-trampolines to the workouts. “The trampolines are easy on the joints – especially for people who are older,” she says. She takes a personal health history from each client and refers to this history during classes. As she says, “It's not like your history ends up in a drawer at the gym and is never looked at again.”

Cassie makes her classes fun but strongly believes in self-challenge. “It's very important to strengthen your



Cassie Keeley

photo by Jodi Rothe

weak spots in every aspect of fitness and life. One example would be a client who has come to me with low endurance but incredible strength. Then my job would not be to keep increasing their strength, but to increase their endurance. So my philosophy is train your weak spots, exercise doing things you can have fun with, and keep mixing it up in any way and every way you can, for your brain and your body.”

Leslie Miller, the very fit co-owner of Mepal Manor and Spa and a regular client of Cassie's “Kick-it” classes, has been training with Cassie since the fall. “I love it because you don't feel like you're in a factory class with forty other people,” she says. Leslie cites an example of how her fitness and endurance has changed since she

started taking Cassie's class. There was a big blizzard and some equipment issues at Mepal Manor, and Leslie needed to get from Gedney Farm to the Manor quickly, but the roads were impassable. So she decided to snowshoe the back way through the huge drifts. “I realized on the way there that if I hadn't taken Cassie's classes I couldn't have made it,” she says.

Cassie's stretch classes are \$10 each; personal training with a maximum of four people is \$25. She also offers private training for women and men. For information e-mail Cassie at starbrightkeeley@gmail.com or call (413) 229-6030.

Another option for shaping up locally, one that Leslie Miller also takes and recommends, is a class with Bridget

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\$\$\$ BUYING GOLD \$\$\$

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Town Business Is Your Business

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



January 28: Because of hazardous road conditions, the meeting was cancelled.

February 4: An interview with a representative of Arrow Concrete, a fabricator of precast concrete bridges, regarding cost estimates for replacing the bridge on the Canaan Southfield Road near Foley Hill Road, delayed the meeting, which was called to order at 6:58 p.m.

The first order of business concerned a letter from Town Counsel Jeremiah Pollard to Lisa Anker, advising her that, following an altercation she had recently with Tax Collector Caren Adams, Ms. Anker was prohibited hereinafter from entering Town Hall, except to attend Town meetings. Pat Mielke was re-appointed as treasurer with office hours on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, the hours to be announced.

Highway Superintendent Peter Marks reported that the Town's sole front end loader was unable to fully function because of cylinder problems. He said that it had served its useful life and that purchasing a new loader would be more cost effective than a repair. The approximate price of \$88,000 would be partially offset by a trade-in, estimated to be close to \$62,000. The Board asked that Mr. Marks present the cost scenarios to the Finance Committee for its opinion. Mr. Marks further reported that two trucks, a six-wheeler and a one-ton, were experiencing mechanical problems and would soon have to be replaced.

Police Chief Scott Farrell advised the Board that his department will not be moving to the firehouse as planned. The decision to return to the office in the Town Hall was precipitated by an altercation between Fire Chief Peter Scala and Officer Graham Frank. According to Officer Frank, he was at the firehouse on official business when he was confronted by Mr. Scala,

who accused him of trespassing, as a lease had not been signed with the Town and that, until a lease was in effect, the police department should "get their (expletive) out of the building." The Board pointed out that since the proposed lease is with the building's owner, namely the fire company of which Dave Smith is president, rather than with the fire department, Mr. Scala had no authority to act on this issue. Selectman Nat Yohalem stated that the incident, if as reported, was unacceptable and that no Town official should ever be made to feel uncomfortable in performing his or her official duties. (See box, below.)

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Owen Hoberman

February 11: In a review of FY2014 budget recommendations from the Finance Committee that preceded the meeting proper, Mr. Yohalem asked that approval of a \$50,000 contribution to the Stabilization Fund be held for further consideration. It was his opinion that the amount may not adequately cover capital expenditures as they accumulate over the next five years.

The Board reviewed a letter of resignation, effective March 1, from the Highway Department from Chuck Loring and accepted it "with thanks" for his service. Then, taking note of the February 8-9 storm that dropped almost two feet of snow on New Marlborough roads, Selectman Tara White addressed Mr. Marks, who was attending the meeting: "Just so it's on the record, you guys did a great job out there." Replied Mr. Marks, placing credit where felt it belonged, "My men did a great job."

The meeting, all of eight minutes in duration, adjourned at 6:40 p.m. □

Joe Poindexter

CLARIFYING LINES OF AUTHORITY

The following is an excerpt from a November 16, 2012 letter from Fire Company President David Smith to the Board of Selectmen:

"It has been brought to my attention that there have been discussions between the Board of Selectmen and N. M. Fire & Rescue Chief Peter Scala regarding the Town's interest in leasing space for the N.M. Police Department in our planned addition to the Fire Station. Please know that although

Chief Scala heads the Building Committee tasked with constructing the addition, the Fire Company owns the facility, and such conversations regarding any potential lease agreement must be conducted through the Fire Company." □

Stretching and Kicking, continued from page 3

Ford Hughes at The Pastures on the Clayton Mill River Road. Bridget is certified in Power Pilates and is a dedicated yogini (a female master practitioner of yoga). She recently completed a two-year program in Ayurveda, the traditional medicine of India at Kripalu Center in Stockbridge. Her fitness classes are on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. and are a combination of pilates, yoga, and cardio. Interestingly, in her previous life in New York, Bridget was personal masseuse to Tommy Hilfiger and Mick Jagger. (Anyone who has seen Jagger perform "Jumping Jack Flash," can imagine him in need of a post-concert massage.)

Bridget does her private training sessions on a Pilates Reformer and/or a Universal Trainer (a futuristic machine that looks as if it was designed by someone at NASA). Her exercise studio and massage area (with saunas, both steam and dry) is in her beautiful home with interior windows overlooking some of her husband Jonathan Prince's wondrous sculptures. In the summer she plans to add water aerobics to the schedule in the salt-water pool on the property. Bridget is a breast cancer survivor and makes it part of her mission to improve the lives of women with cancer by enabling them to nurture their strength and wellness through a fund she started to provide financial aid. Classes are \$20 for drop-ins or \$15 each for a package of eight. Private training is \$55 per hour. Contact Bridget through her website www.thepastures.org or (413) 229-9035.



If your idea for conditioning is oriented toward yoga, head on over to Leslie Miller and Brad Wagstaff's state-of-the-art Spa at Mepal Manor, located off Route 57 in New Marlborough. They offer yoga classes every Saturday and Sunday mornings from 10:00 to 11:15 a.m. Annie Alquist is the instructor, and each class is varied depending on the level of the participants that day. Leslie says, "Sunday classes tend to be more relaxed."

The Mepal yoga studio has radiant heat flooring, which is lovely this time of year, especially for "savasana" – a resting pose. Classes are \$18 each and a yearly pass for use of the spa facilities is \$150. For information: www.mepalspa.com or (413) 229-3498.

Lastly, if you're truly fit and adventurous, walk over to the huge gym at Mepal Manor for a class conducted by Susan Kapshinske. It's a complete program in gymnastics, acrobatics and dance. For information, phone (413) 637-0743.

So, the next time you find yourself getting in the car for that drive to the gym in Great Barrington or Stockbridge, think about steering (or jogging) to one of these fitness adventures in your own backyard. You'll reduce your carbon footprint, meet some fascinating neighbors, and your body will thank you – by stretching and kicking up your heels in New Marlborough. □

Above: Bridget Ford Hughes conducts a class

Left: Mepal Manor's spacious gym

photo courtesy of Mepal Manor



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FINANCE COMMITTEE

January 10: With David Herrick presiding and Bill Hattendorf, Burt Imberman, Ira Yohalem, and Prudence Spaulding in attendance, the meeting opened with a lengthy discussion on the financing of repairs to culverts on Canaan Southfield Road and Clayton Mill River Road, with estimated costs of \$500,000 and \$800,000 respectively. A state grant for repair of the Canaan Southfield culvert awaits an engineering survey – the estimated cost of \$13,000 to be borne by New Marlborough – and completed paperwork from certain other towns applying for similar grants. The Committee noted that the Board of Selectmen is pursuing a second grant for the repair of the Clayton Mill River Road culvert. It recommended that the Roads and Bridges Account be sufficiently funded to pay for surveys and other costs associated with these grants.

The Committee accepted an invitation to attend a budget meeting of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District on January 17 at 6:00 p.m. It then approved the following 2014 budgetary requests:

Debt service on the following loans: ambulance \$28,164; highway truck: \$20,410; a second highway truck: \$30,218 (the final payments for both trucks); highway garage: \$46,913; **Town Hall renovation:** \$29,041; (a loan on the fire truck will be fully paid at the end of this month);

Treasurer Software and Support: \$3,100;

Medicare: \$10,700;

Treasurer's Expenses: \$3,130;

Berkshire County Retirement: \$77,978;

Interest Expense, a fund, as explained by Administrative Assistant Michael Skorput, that lets the Town take out short-term loans: \$5,000;

Banking Services: \$200;

Tax Title (Treasurer): an amount established to fund the cumbersome and expensive process of seizing property when all other measures have failed in the collection of taxes on that property: \$5,000;

Board of Health Salaries: \$1,250 and expenses: \$1,500;

Health Agent Revolving Fund, a fund that pays the Health Agent for his inspections and is replenished by the fees charged: \$17,000;

Tree Work: \$10,000 and **Tree Warden Salary:** \$1,000.

January 24: With Mr. Herrick presiding, Mr. Hattendorf, Mr. Imberman, Pat Mielke, and Mrs. Spaulding in attendance, the Committee approved the following budget requests:

Fire Protection: \$60,900; **Firefighters' Stipends:** \$46,500, **Fire Department Clerical:** \$1,700 and **Fire Department Dues:** \$200;

New Marlborough Rescue Salary \$6,300 and expenses: \$26,550

Tax Collector Certification: \$1,000;

Tax Collector Tax Titles: \$3,000;

Assessors Revaluation: \$15,000 (a sum put aside annually to pay the \$45,000 cost of new evaluations that are required every three years), **Assessors Tax Map:** \$2,900 and **General Expenses:** \$2,900;

Website Expense: \$2,400;

Town Officers' Expenses: \$1,000;

Town Officers' Bonds: \$1,250;

Street Lights: \$4,500;

New Marlborough Village Cemetery Preservation: \$5,000 (carried over from FY13);

School Committee Expenses: \$1,500;

Assistant Treasurer's Salary: \$5,200 (the position, still to be filled, that would be paid on an hourly basis if and when needed to back up the treasurer);

Assessor's salaries: \$6,000;

Mental Health: \$200;

Memorial Day: \$900.

January 31: With Mr. Herrick presiding and Mr. Hattendorf, Mr. Imberman, Mr. Yohalem, and Mrs. Spaulding in attendance, the following budgets were approved:

Town Counsel: \$8,500;

Board of Health Clerical: \$5,000;

Hatchery Road Loan: \$25,099 (the final payment on this loan);

Grant Writer Salary: \$5,000 and Expenses; \$500;

Transfer Station Expenses: \$60,000 (to pay hauling fees that exceed income from recyclables); a request for \$15,000 for Transfer Station Repairs was put on hold pending information on how such money would be spent and if the \$15,000 allotted for the current fiscal year was in fact spent.

Audit: \$8,000 (which is one-third of the \$24,000 cost of the state-mandated triennial audit);

Veteran's District: \$5,684 (to pay veterans' benefits);

Tax Collector's Expenses: \$4,200 and Computer Services: \$6,500 (for the Tax Collector's Point Software program);

Town Hall Improvements: \$45,000 (to be used to bring bathrooms and other areas of the building up to the code requirements of the Americans Disability Act)

Selectmen Expenses: \$4,000; .

Contingent Expenses: \$3,000 (to be used to cover unanticipated expenses of town personnel. Printing: \$2,700 (to print the Annual Report);

Plumbing, Gas, and Electrical Inspector Revolving

continued on page 7

Funds: \$7,500, \$5,000, and \$7,500 respectively;

Stabilization: \$50,000 (The approval was preceded by a discussion initiated by Selectman Nat Yohalem, in attendance, who reminded the Committee of his request that each department project its capital needs over the next five years – bridge repairs excepted – so that a more accurate measure of Stabilization Fund needs could be

developed. The Committee agreed to consider this request and stated that such analysis could lead to the need for an increase in the Stabilization fund.)

To date, the Committee has approved the expenditure of \$1,215,869.34 in FY2014. □

*Joe Poindexter, from minutes
prepared by Prudence Spaulding*

TOWN CAUCUS TIME

By David Lowman

It's that time again – well, almost that time. We're approaching Annual Town Meeting (May 6) and the annual Town Election (May 13). But before those events, we must deal with Town Caucus. Veterans of the New Marlborough political scene know what the caucus is, but those newly registered to vote in New Marlborough may be unfamiliar with our brand of caucus. Here's how it works:

In Massachusetts, as larger towns approach their annual spring elections, candidates for open offices are nominated by each political party's members at a kind of primary election, a caucus. So, the Republicans of, say, Pittsfield, might nominate Joe Smith to run for a three-year term on the Board of Selectmen. The Pittsfield Democrats might nominate Patricia Brown to run for the same position. And so on down the line until a slate for each open office has been filled.

In small towns like New Marlborough, however, rather than the partisan Republican/Democrat caucuses, a non-partisan caucus is held. This year's caucus will be held at 7:30 p.m. on March 29 at the Town Hall. Those interested in running for an open position should notify Town Clerk Kathy Chretien no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 19. Everyone who has done so will appear on the caucus ballot, and on March 29, when the caucus is convened, registered voters will vote for their preferred candidate for each of the contested offices. The two candidates receiving the most votes for each office will have their names printed on the May 13 Town Election ballot. This

does not preclude a person whose name is not on the printed ballot from running as a write-in candidate. In effect, then, the caucus functions as a primary election.

This year, the following positions (and the current incumbents) will be filled by election:

- 1 Selectman – three-year term
(currently held by Lawrence Davis III)
- 1 Moderator – one-year term
(currently held by Scott Farrell)
- 2 Finance Committee members – three-year term
each (currently held by Prudence Spaulding
and David Herrick)
- 1 Library Trustee three-year term
(currently held by Brian Mikesell)
- 1 Planning Board member – one-year term
(currently held by Charles Parton)
- 1 Planning Board member – two-year term
(currently held by Judith Hattendorf)
- 1 Board of Health member – three-year term
(currently held by Jack Bellinger)
- 1 Cemetery Trustee – three-year term
(currently held by Tammi Palmer)
- 1 Tree Warden – one-year term
(currently held by Lawrence Davis III)
- 1 Board of Assessors member – three-year term
(currently held by Marsha Pshenishny) □

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FIBER OPTIC: GETTING CLOSER

by Tim Newman

In New Marlborough, fiber optic, the state-of-the-art internet delivery technology, is getting tantalizingly close. But it will remain just beyond the reach of homes and businesses – until one final step is taken toward connectivity. MassBroadband123, the state's fiber-optic network under construction for the past two years by the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative (MBI), is nearing completion. It will be "lit" beginning in March, months ahead of schedule. New Marlborough is fortunate to be among the first towns to be served. By July, all 123 towns on the network will have fiber optic connections up and running.

Funded with \$45 million of federal money and \$20 million from the Commonwealth, the network will connect the internet to key municipal facilities, Community Anchor Institutions, as MBI calls them. In New Marlborough's case, this includes Town Hall, the fire station, the library, and New Marlborough Central School. Within the state, MassBroadband123 spans the "middle mile," much as the U.S. Interstate Highway System spans the country and provides off-ramps to cities

and towns. It does not, however, provide the so-called last mile, the local streets and back roads, as it were, to homes and businesses.

This is the role WiredWest was created to serve: the planning, financing, building, and operation of a last-mile fiber network in its forty-one member towns. This will require the installation in each town of a centrally located facility that is secure and protected with back-up power. In New Marlborough, WiredWest is considering space in the firehouse in Southfield.

The commonwealth has created a state-of-the-art fiber-optic highway that stretches from Boston to the Berkshires. Now it's up to us to build the last-mile, creating a robust network from end-to-end that finally connects the unconnected and provides all of us with access to affordable, reliable, and high-capacity broadband.

Potential investors need to know there is interest. The best way you can help WiredWest is by completing a support card (go to <https://hugo.jf-olm.com/~wiretnet/card.php>) indicating you would be interested in taking service on the WiredWest network once it's available. □

Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten 2013-14 Classes REGISTRATION

Undermountain Elementary School

491 Berkshire School Road, Sheffield (413-229-8754)

New Marlborough Central School

Hartsville-Mill River Road, Mill River (413-229-8867)

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For the following 2013-14 programs:

New Marlborough Central School – Pre-Kindergarten (½ day, a.m.); Early Kindergarten (students who turn 5 years of age between Sept. 2 and Dec. 31, 2013); Kindergarten

Monterey School - Early Kindergarten (students who turn 5 years of age between Sept. 2 and Dec. 31, 2013); Kindergarten

South Egremont School - Kindergarten

Undermountain Elementary School -

PreKindergarten (classes based on enrollment); Early Kindergarten (students who turn 5 years of age between; Sept. 2, 2013 and Dec. 31, 2013); Kindergarten

The Southern Berkshire Regional School District participates in the Massachusetts School Choice Program. While residents of any Massachusetts town are invited to apply for acceptance, residents of our member towns (Alford, Egremont, Monterey, New Marlborough, Sheffield, plus Mt. Washington) will be afforded first consideration. Spaces are limited.

QUESTIONS?

Please call 413-229-8754 for Kindergarten, or 229-8265 for Pre-K.

Kindergarten FAMILY VISIT

Undermountain Elementary School Thursday, March 7th

1-2 PM enjoy a live classroom experience!

OR

5-6 PM see what Kindergarten is all about!

Tour:

Early Kindergarten & Kindergarten Classrooms
Undermountain Elementary

Meet:

The early Kindergarten/Kindergarten team
Other early Kindergarten & Kindergarten families

Have:

- Your questions answered
- A great and fun filled-time with activities & snacks!

491 Berkshire School Road Sheffield, MA

please email

tpalfini@sbrsd.org with questions
or call (413)229-8778 ext.377

THE INDOMITABLE BETTY TAYLOR

By Larry Burke

Elizabeth Eyre Taylor, known to most in New Marlborough as Betty, died on January 27, just a few months shy of her ninetieth birthday. Much of her life was spent right here, on her farm just below Southfield Village, and in the running of her highly successful real estate business, and most of us know Betty in this context. But part of her life was also spent accomplishing incredibly exciting, ground-breaking feats on a national and even global stage.

In 1943, recently graduated from Miss Porter's School in Farmington, Connecticut, and with a few hours of flying time under her belt, Betty became one of the select few across the country to join the newly formed Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP). As detailed in the April 2010 issue of the NM5VN, Betty was one of the 1,074 women who flew bombers and fighter planes to and from bases within the United States, testing their airworthiness and shuttling them to destinations where they would then be turned over to male combat pilots for duty overseas. One of her more hazardous duties was towing a target for gunnery trainees. The WASP corps was disbanded in late 1944, and in 2010 the surviving members of these veterans, Betty included, traveled to Washington, D.C., to receive the Congressional Gold Medal.

After the war, and for many years following, Betty used her aviation skills, commercially as a co-pilot in the Northeast, and as a volunteer to Albert Schweitzer in what was then called French Equatorial Africa. Her work with Dr. Schweitzer involved facilitating care for both people and animals, and it is there, perhaps, that Betty developed the deep attachment to animals, both wild and domestic, that many people in New Marlborough remember about her.

Over the six decades that Betty resided in Southfield, her farm has been home to many creatures – donkeys, goats, chickens, horses, cats, and birds, and, especially, Betty's many beloved dogs. These days it is almost chic to have a "rescue" dog, but Betty made it her mission to rescue all sorts of animal, going back for years, just because she cared so deeply for the well-being of all animals.

Her tenderness toward animals extended to those that had perished along the roads. If Betty came upon a dead squirrel in the road, as Barbara Kelly remembers, she would stop the car, get out, and move the corpse off the road,

to avoid its being repeatedly run over. Once, according to David and Barbara Lowman, "Betty came upon a lone calf wandering aimlessly along East Hill Road. She promptly loaded the calf into the back of her Wagoneer and took it home with her. Later on the owner was located and the calf returned.

Another snapshot of Betty's colorful history comes from Barbara Bean: "My friendship with Betty dates back to the 1950s, when I first came to New Marlborough as an eight-year-old, and she was one of the members of the adult set, hard-partying, tennis-playing, an independent woman who kept an ill-tempered pet monkey named Pepe, the bane of any cocktail

party held at her house. To me, she seemed mysterious and glamorous. I mean, who else kept a monkey?"

"Many years later, Ron and Gwen Melvin and I spent many winter evenings at her house, eating dinner under the watchful eye of her parrot and then playing hours of bridge as the winter deepened outside. One night, there was a commotion outside, and her dogs started a ruckus. 'Must be a bear out there,' Betty announced, and out she went, empty handed, to do battle and protect her animals. Ron, Gwen and I cowered inside, expecting the bear to burst through the window. A few minutes, later, Betty returned, having scared him away, picked up her cards and played on. Very little fazed her."

Of course, Betty's significance in our town is not limited to her zeal toward species other than ourselves. She was among the first to join the nascent New Marlborough Volunteer First Responders in 1982 and remained a firm supporter of that organization after she ceased active service. Perhaps Betty's most lasting and important legacy to our town is to be found along the perimeter of 1,000 Acre Swamp, where she, Rita Mathews, and Nancy Craigmyle joined together to designate a large tract of their properties as a public conservancy, now under the auspices of the New Marlborough Land Trust. On May 4 a memorial service will be held at the New Marlborough Village cemetery. Further details will be given in a future issue of this paper. □



Betty Taylor in 2010, and 1944

Neighbors



On January 18, **Debora O'Brien** celebrated the twentieth anniversary of her first day as the librarian at the New Marlborough Town Library. The building then was solid, but old, so Debbie set about making it more child-friendly. In June of 1996 the library burned down, and Debbie spent two and a half years in the Town Hall parking lot, first in a Bookmobile, and then in a trailer with makeshift heat and plumbing, while the new library was being built. Since its opening on January 1, 1999, the library has become a center of community activity with workshops, book discussions, the Summer Reading Program, playgroups, and library visits by school classes – to name just a few. Debbie's leadership has caused this to happen. We thank her for it, and congratulate her for twenty years of excellent work.



photo by Maureen Hosford

Welcome to **Troy Hunter Davis** of Mill River, son of Justin Davis and Bonnie Dupont, and grandson of George and Laura Davis. He arrived on January 29, weighing in at seven pounds and measuring twenty inches long. For further details, feel free to ask proud Grandma Laura at the Mill River Store.

In Western Massachusetts Division 3 Wrestling, **Bradley Lupiani**, of Mill River and a student at Mount Everett, was chosen as High School Player of the Week on January 26. He had just won the 113-pound weight class in the Mountie Invitational at Mount Everett, and has a record of 23 – 1 for the year.

Tess Hardcastle, who grew up in Mill River, daughter of **Silvia Eggenberger** and **Nick Hardcastle**, has been accepted at the Middlebury Breadloaf Writers Program in Asheville, North Carolina. Tess is one of fifty who have been accepted in the program, which takes place over four summers and leads to a master's degree. Since graduating from Kenyon College in 2010, she has been living in Athens, Georgia, where Tess has been teaching high school English at Athens Academy.

compiled by Barbara Lowman: deeuell@yahoo.com

OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS



On January 27, **Holly Poindexter**, of East Hill Road, writes: Yesterday a **bobcat** carried off a **squirrel** that had been cleaning up around the base of our two bird feeders and consumed it within view just beyond the edge of the woods. This morning, it was back in residence – about seventy-five feet from the house on a rise above the feeders. We first spotted it at 7:00 a.m. It stuck around past 9:00 and seemed only slightly concerned as I approached to take this photo. One of our cats, who has been watching from a window, is still on alert.



Prints in the snow: the bobcat's and Holly's boot

photos by Holly Poindexter

On February 4, **Robin Tost** of Mill River, writes: About a week ago when I drove up my driveway, a **pileated woodpecker** arrived at the same time. There was an enormous swoosh in front of the car, and he lit in the pine tree in my yard and started hammering. I watched him from the car for a while, then tried to sneak closer. He took umbrage and his leave.

On February 4, **Elizabeth Goodman**, who lives on the Clayton Mill River Road, writes: At around 8:00 a.m., I spotted a **bald eagle** perched in a tree on the east side of the Konkapot River near the intersection of Konkapot and Clayton Mill River Roads. It surprised me to see smaller birds perched in the tree with him. He wasn't bothered in the least by my presence, and I stopped and watched him for a long time. Two days later I saw a **pileated woodpecker** flying west at the end of Konkapot Road, where it runs into Canaan Southfield Road. Then I saw another **pileated woodpecker** – or was it the same one? – near my driveway.



photo by Larry Burke

On February 6, **Larry Burke**, who lives on Route 183, writes: The big news here is that, for the last two days, a **kestrel** has been coming to visit our big maple tree, which holds one of our bird feeders. I thought kestrels would be far to the south at this time of year, and even in warm weather they are few and far between, so it has been great to see this one, although the tweety birds may not agree with me.

We have had droves of **redpolls** coming to the feeders, maybe forty or fifty, joining the **goldfinches, nuthatches, downy woodpeckers, and chickadees**.

We've also had a **barred owl** show up some evenings and early mornings (and in between, I suppose). The small birds are not pleased, but I think the owl is intent, not on them, but on the **red squirrels** who have more or less taken over our barn and who hang out beneath the bird feeders. About a week ago, at daybreak, Jane noticed the owl right outside our bedroom window. The squirrels had also noticed the owl, and one of them popped out on the ridge of the barn just beyond where the owl was perched, sort of as a challenge. As the sun rose, the small birds arrived in numbers and

were pretty upset to find the owl. At one point the owl flew to the big maple tree, directly over the bird feeder. The birds swooped from one tree to another and eventually persuaded the owl to abandon the area.

On February 7, **Don Beauchamp**, of Clayton, writes: I saw a **bluebird** yesterday up at Joe Boyers' old house by the bridge on Canaan Southfield Road. And last Friday I watched a **hawk** climb up into the sky and when he was really high, I took a photo but didn't look to see what I had until Monday: two birds, the hawk and a diving eagle. I never saw the eagle when looking at the hawk.



On February 8, **Barbara Lowman**, of Southfield, writes: Our feeders were active in November and early December, but fell off noticeably in January. So far this month we've had almost no birds. We went a full week with each of our three feeders being depleted by two inches or less – for the whole week! I filled them anyway this morning in honor of the approaching storm. In other years, on a day like this the birds would be lined up six deep waiting to get to one of the sixteen perches. Today they are almost totally deserted. Where did they all go? (Evidentially to the Burke's feeders)

Janice Boults, of Canaan Valley Road, provides a footnote: When I moved to a new place and was attempting to attract birds, my mom told me to put out aluminum pie plates with seed – the birds are attracted to the shiny metal – and it worked! Plenty of birds in no time.

On February 9, **Terrill McDade**, of Sisson Hill Road, writes: I was just reading the February issue of 5VN and want to corroborate (belatedly) **Jodi Rothe's** amazing sighting: One morning in late September, I saw a **big cat**, golden brown, with a very long tail disappearing into the woods at the bottom of my south field. He or she caught my eye by a beautiful rippling motion as it moved. It was magnificent. My place on Sisson Hill is not so far from Jodi's January sighting. So thanks, Jodi! I'll add it to my bear, bobcat, and moose sightings in the "confirmed" column!

On February 14, **Laura Endacott**, of Mill River, writes: Last weekend I spotted a **pileated woodpecker**. It was in a tree next to John Manikowski's house, about a hundred yards away from my front porch. I adore woodpeckers and sapsuckers and have had my eye out for a pileated for a long time.

Compiled by Jon Swan, joncswan@gmail.com



THE NEW MARLBOROUGH FIRE COMPANY

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Saturday April 13 at Gedney Farm 6:30 - 11:00

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Tickets at \$35.00 each available at the Mill River General Store

FAREWELL TO MARGARET SMITH

by Barbara Lowman



photo by Larry Burke

Margaret Smith in 2008

Long-time Town official Margaret Smith passed away on February 13. A resident over the years of four of the five villages (all but New Marlborough), she died as a resident of Geer Village in Canaan at age seventy-seven. Margaret moved to New Marlborough in 1972, and shortly thereafter was appointed as clerk to the Board of Selectmen. In 1978 she was also elected Town Clerk. That same year the Board's clerk position was redesigned as a new position, the administrative secretary to the Board of Selectmen, to which she was appointed.

Margaret was the hub of daily administrative activity for many years, as well as being an information center for the townspeople. One of her surprising contributions was the discovery, in 1979, of Annual Town Meeting records from 1759 to 1821. She found these at the very back of the office safe; they had been presumed lost in the Town Hall fire in 1909.

Margaret carried on with each of her positions for thirty years. During that time she witnessed – and coped with – an eight-fold increase in the Town's budget, as well as a similar increase in state and federal requirements governing Town activities. She served through a sort of coming-of-age period for New Marlborough – an evolution of Town governance from an informal and relaxed administration to a more formal and regulated structure. She resigned as administrative secretary in 2002 and retired as town clerk in 2008. She and her perspective on the changing nature of the Town will be missed. □

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Join us at the library in Mill River for a series of hands-on workshops led by Mill River resident Brian Mikesell to study this centuries-old art form from 10am-noon on March 23, April 27, and May 25. You can attend any one (or more!)

Due to space limitations, the workshops are limited to 10 participants, who must sign up in advance at the library. All you'll need to bring is garden shears. The cost for each workshop is \$25 per person (includes flowers). For more information, contact Brian at mikeselb@gmail.com.



About the instructor: Brian Mikesell has achieved the rank of Kakyo (assistant Professor, 3rd degree) in the Ikenobo School of ikebana under the instruction of Toshiko Shindo Alden (Sokatoku rank) and Michiko Baribeau (Junkatoku rank). He has taught ikebana workshops for adults at the New York Tachibana chapter of Ikenobo as well as lessons for high school students.

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UPCOMING: *Event Calendar for March and April*

March 18: Award presentations to the 2013 recipients of New Marlborough Cultural Council grants, at Board of Selectmen meeting, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall

March 19: Deadline for nominees for Town Offices, 5:00 p.m., Town Hall

March 23: Spring Egg Hunt, 10: a.m. at New Marlborough Central, hosted by the New Marlborough Library; eleven-year-olds and younger bring your own baskets. Rain date **March 24**

March 23: (tentative date; watch for poster) Annual Rabies Clinic: 10:00 a.m. to noon, \$10 a shot for cats and dogs at the Firehouse

March 30: Deadline to submit photos for the Local Photographers Exhibit (see below for details)

March 29: Town Caucus to nominate those running for Town offices; top two vote getters go on the ballot at the Town Election

April 6: Community Potluck Supper, 6:00 p.m., Southfield Church Hall, sponsored by NMCC

April 6 – 7: A Day in the Life of New Marlborough Photographic Exhibit at Southfield Church Hall; April 6: 5:00 p.m. through Potluck Supper; April 7: 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

April 20: Open Studios of New Marlborough artists; details available in April

April 25: Spring Dance, the Fire company's annual gala, dinner and dancing 6:30 to 11:00 p.m. at Gedney Farm in New Marlborough village; tickets, \$35, available from the Mill River General Store

PICTURES AND POTLUCK

The New Marlborough Cultural Council is organizing an informal photography exhibit with the theme of "A Day in the Life of New Marlborough." Our community's landscapes, buildings, wildlife, people, and activities will be the focus. All local photographers, amateur or professional, are welcome to share their pictures with others on April 6 and 7. Pictures can be dropped off at the library during regular library hours by Saturday, March 30. They will be on exhibit at the Southfield Church Hall beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 6, through the potluck supper that evening, and again from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 7. There will be no judging. This is simply an opportunity for community sharing of photos. Here are the guidelines:

- Limit of five photos from each photographer
- Identify photos with name of photographer, subject, location, and approximate date; twenty words or fewer
- All photos (color or black and white) should be 8"x 10"
- Submit pictures at the Town library during regular library hours, by Saturday, March 30.

- Photos may be picked up at the library after the exhibit closes.

- Protect your photos in a folder or envelope

On Saturday, April 6, there will be a community potluck supper sponsored by the Cultural Council, at the Southfield Church Hall, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Potluck contributions are determined by the old-fashioned church-supper formula:

Last Name	Bring
A – G	appetizers/snacks
H – N	salad or vegetable
O – S	main dish
T – Z	dessert

Plates, cups, napkins, cutlery, etc., will be provided, as well as a variety of beverages. There have been several community potlucks over the past few years, and the culinary quality has always been outstanding.

In addition to the usual community socializing, the local photography exhibit will be on display. □

Barbara Lowman

Thank You to Our Contributors!

Edgar & Eileen Koerner; Carol Parrish & Paul Clark; Charles Pierce & John Farrell;
Robert & Jennifer Miller; Janice & Charlie McSpirtt; and Michele & David Shalaby

THE LOG

New Marlborough Police Department News

Note: The Police Department's move from the Town Hall has been postponed indefinitely. Office hours in the Town Hall are 0:00 to 0:00 p. m., Mondays and Wednesdays.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

- | | | | | | |
|---------|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jan. 2 | 1:45 p.m. | Firearms permit | Jan. 21 | 10:00 a.m. | Report of youths leaving garbage in/ around gazebo behind Library |
| | 2:30 p.m. | Parking complaint, Southfield | | 10:30 a.m. | Report of phone scams |
| | 4:00 p.m. | Firearms permit | | 11:30 a.m. | Located stray dog, Hartsville |
| | 5:11 p.m. | 911 hang up call, Southfield | | 1:30 p.m. | Motor vehicle accident, Hartsville |
| Jan. 6 | 11:00 a.m. | Motor vehicle stop, unregistered and unlicensed operation | Jan. 22 | 12:30 p.m. | Assisted citizen with lost property |
| | 2:00 p.m. | Firearms permit | | 1:00 p.m. | Assisted citizen with questions regarding registering vehicles |
| | 3:05 p.m. | Medical emergency, Hartsville | Jan. 24 | 2:20 p.m. | Motor vehicle stop, operator license suspended, Southfield |
| Jan. 8 | 4:30 p.m. | Larceny/fraud, Southfield | | 5:30 p.m. | Report of brush fire, South Sandisfield Road |
| Jan. 9 | 7:11 p.m. | Motor vehicle accident | Jan. 27 | 8:00 a.m. | Medical emergency, Southfield |
| Jan. 10 | 6:00 p.m. | Violation of a restraining order | | 8:30 a.m. | Past MVA with property damage, charges filed; Southfield |
| Jan. 11 | 10:30 a.m. | Firearms permit | Jan. 28 | 1:30 p.m. | Annoying phone calls, Southfield |
| | 7:30 p.m. | Fire alarm, New Marlborough | | 1:55 p.m. | Disturbance, out-of-control party in Mill River |
| | 10:30 p.m. | Motor vehicle accident, East Hill Road | | 5:00 p.m. | Parking complaint, Southfield |
| Jan. 12 | 10:00 p.m. | Patrol check revealed vehicles parked at 1000 Acre Swamp | | 5:30 p.m. | Vehicle impeding snow removal, Southfield |
| Jan. 13 | 12:35 a.m. | Checked area of County Road & Great Barrington Mill River Road for Sheffield PD; vehicle driving across lawns and destroying mailboxes in area | Jan. 29 | 7:40 a.m. | Well-being check, Hartsville |
| Jan. 14 | 1:00 p.m. | Fire alarm, Stratford Road | | 5:50 p.m. | Report of possible drug use/sales |
| | 2:40 p.m. | Medical emergency, Hartsville | | 9:30 p.m. | Well-being check, Mill River |
| | 3:30 p.m. | Firearms permit | Jan. 30 | 8:00 a.m. | Well-being check, Clayton |
| Jan. 16 | 1:30 p.m. | Domestic disturbance, Southfield | | 8:10 a.m. | Annoying phone calls, Southfield |
| | 2:45 p.m. | Complaint of speeders on Alum Hill | | 2:00 p.m. | Report hit-and-run accident, property damage |
| | 3:00 p.m. | Prescription medication dropped off for disposal | | 4:30 p.m. | Disabled vehicle, Route 57 |
| Jan. 17 | 3:34 p.m. | Medical call, intoxicated juvenile, Mill River | | 4:34 p.m. | Speeding complaint, Norfolk Road |
| Jan. 18 | 1:30 p.m. | VIN inspection, Southfield | Jan. 31 | 9:00 a.m. | Car seat installation in Sheffield |
| Jan. 20 | 12:00 p.m. | York Lake with snowmobiles | | | |



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FIRE AND RESCUE

Jan. 3	10:03 a.m.	New Marlborough Hartsville Road Medical Call	Jan. 17	3:34 p.m.	Mill River Southfield Road Medical Call
Jan. 3	1:29 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call	Jan. 18	6:45 p.m.	New Marlborough Hartsville Road Fire Alarm
Jan. 5	2:25 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call	Jan. 18	10:24 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Sheffield Medical Call
Jan. 5	10:09 p.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road Fire Alarm	Jan. 20	3:05 a.m.	Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call
Jan. 6	1:58 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Sheffield Medical Call	Jan. 24	5:32 p.m.	Route 183 Brush Fire
Jan. 8	3:07 p.m.	Hatchery Road Medical Call	Jan. 24		Hill Heights Road CO Alarm
Jan. 11	1:50 p.m.	Peter Menaker Road CO Alarm	Jan. 25	6:40 p.m.	Stratford Road CO Alarm
Jan. 11	7:32 p.m.	Stone Manor Drive Fire Alarm	Jan. 27	7:09 a.m.	Norfolk Road Medical Call
Jan. 11	10:00 p.m.	East Hill Road MVA	Jan. 28	8:07 a.m.	Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call
Jan. 14	2:45 p.m.	Hartsville Mill River Road Medical Call	Jan. 31	11:50 a.m.	Mutual Aid to Sheffield Medical Call
Jan. 16	6:30 p.m.	Hays Hill Road Medical Call	Jan. 31	6:00 p.m.	New Marlborough Hartsville Road Fire Alarm
Jan. 16	6:00 p.m.	Norfolk Road Medical Call			
Jan. 17	8:29 a.m.	New Marlborough Hartsville Road			

**Open burning season runs from
January 15 through May 1.
Permits are required, and may be obtained
(at no cost) at the Mill River General Store.**

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Young Voices

What does our town look like through the eyes of an eight-year-old or a teen? For an answer, *5 Village News* is turning over a page this month to what Kenzie Fields, who has organized this effort, call the “rookie reporters.” Herewith, a sampling of the views and reviews of our newest – and youngest – contributors.



The rookie reporters gather for a planning session.

MY FOUR HORSES

by Charlotte V. Smith

I have always had an interest in horses, and I've always wanted a horse of my own. Well now I know three people who almost make me feel like I have four horses, and they all live in New Marlborough! The first person is Marilyn Fracasso, who lives in Clayton on Happy Acre Ranch. Every Saturday morning, my friend and I muck out stalls and brush and tack up Jet (the horse my friend and I ride). He is the sweetest thing!! Marilyn has another horse, Chip. He spooks easily so only more advanced students can ride him.

Although taking care of a horse isn't all fun, usually mucking out Jet or Chips's stall is worth it – because you get to ride. Jet is always an awesome horse to ride. He always seems to understand me. I've never ridden Chip but he's really sweet. And Marilyn is really nice. She knows exactly what I need to work on and how to help me with it. This last year I started something that is very important in my riding progress: cantering. I was really excited. The first time I cantered without crashing into Marilyn's shed – that is another story. I was really happy and proud of myself. Jet and Chip are

two of my special horses.

Two other people make me feel as if I have two more horses: Anne O'Conner and Glen Chamberlin. They own two horses named Carter and Daisy. Carter is a beautiful white Percheron, and Daisy is a brown and white Belgian Draft. Recently they started spending summers in my neighbor's field. Yeah! I went down to help Anne and Glen feed them every night at 7:00.

One afternoon they were walking down the road. Glen had Daisy on a lead rope. Anne had Carter harnessed to drive a cart, but she was walking behind him. I went with them. And when we were going back, Anne let me drive Carter. She said I was pretty good. Carter and Daisy are really big, but they are really gentle giants. And Anne and Glen are really wonderful, too. They let me come down every night and help them and see the horses, which I really enjoy. Carter and Daisy are “my” horses, too. I don't really have four horses. But with Chip, Jet, Carter, and Daisy, it's more than enough to make me feel like I have a horse. □

Charlotte Smith, 10, lives in New Marlborough Village.



February 13 was Expo Night at Mount Everett, where the labors of seventh graders (language arts and social studies) and eighth graders (math and science) were brilliantly on display. Left, Abby Litchfield revealed the secrets of woolly bear metamorphosis. Right, Katie Brigham of Mill River displayed an aspect of nuclear energy.

BOOK REVIEWS

by Sofia Giumarro

Grades 1-4: *The Magician's Nephew* by C.S Lewis

In old England, there lives a girl named Polly and a boy named Digory. Digory's strange uncle has made rings that transport you to another world. Polly and Digory accidentally let a Narnian queen into their world and must try to figure out how to send her back to Narnia.

Grades 5-8: *Who Could That Be At This Hour?* by Lemony Snicket

This book is about a young man who is working for a rather strange woman. They are not really detectives, but they are trying to figure out an enigmatic mystery about a very odd statue. The young man has to steal the statue to get it to the rightful owner, make a somewhat unwise choice, stay in an unpleasant hotel room, and do many other unusual things.

Grades 9-12: *Freaking* by Lana Krumwiede

In a rather dystopian world, everybody has the ability to use telekinesis, known there as psi. A boy named Taemon is able to see how things work without taking them apart. His brother Yens tries to expose Taemon's secret and will stop at nothing, even murder, to succeed.

Sophia Giumarro, age 10, is a fifth-grader at Undermountain Elementary

Interview With Tom Masters	
Autograph	Mr. Masters
Birthday	August 29
Color of eyes	blue
Color of hair	Bald
Special Virtue	Valor
Favorite color	Blue
Favorite food	Chocolate
Favorite music	Be-Bop Jazzy
Favorite place	Costa Rica
Favorite sound	Children's Laughter
Favorite Book	David Copperfield by Dickens
Favorite Smell	fresh mown grass
If I wasn't a teacher I would be a:	Jap dancer
My funniest moment:	
Motto	Tripping over my sword onstage during a Scottish sword dance, and falling flat on my face!
Find the good in everything	
	By: Odegaard Fields

Odegaard Fields, 8, attends New Marlborough Central, where Tom Masters teaches third and fourth grades

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NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE LIBRARY

Adult Fiction

Proof of Guilt, by Charles Todd

Shiver, by Karen Robards

Shadow on the Crown, by Patricia Bracewell

Aviator's Wife, by Melanie Benjamin

Mistress of My Fate, by Hallie Rubenhold

Me Before You, by Jojo Moyes

Adult Non-fiction

Year-Round Slow Cooker: 100 Favorite Recipes for Every Season, by Dina Cheney

The Hour of Peril: The Secret Plot to Murder Lincoln Before the Civil War, by David Stashower

Children's Fiction

The Kiss, by James Patterson

The Tale of the Ill-Gotten Catfish, by Barbara Hay

Chu's Day, by Neil Gaiman

Smell Like Pirates, by Suzanne Selfors

Children's Nonfiction

Mirror Mirror, by Marilyn Singer

What Was the Battle of Gettysburg?, by Jim O'Connor

What Was the Boston Tea Party?, by Kathleen Krull

Impressive Dance Moves, by Ellen Labrecque

Fifty Cents and a Dream, by Jabari Asim

LIBRARY WINTER HOURS:

Mon., Wed., & Sat.:

10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Tues. & Thurs.

1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Fri. 1:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Summer hours begin April 1!



The New Marlborough Library will be hosting its

Spring Egg Hunt

March 23 at 10:30 a.m. (rain date March 24 at 1:00 p.m.)

at the New Marlborough Central School

Bring your own basket.

All children eleven and younger are welcome.

The Easter Bunny will be stopping by!

Library Events and Workshops

► Book Discussion Group

March 9 at 10:00 a.m. at the New Marlborough Library.

Join us for coffee, bagels, and a lively discussion of the book, *To Algeria, With Love*, by Suzanne Ruta

► IKEBANA, the art of Japanese flower arranging

Join us for a series of hands-on workshops led by Brian Mikesell January 26, February 23, March 23, April 27, and May 25 from 10:00 a.m. – noon. Workshops are limited to 10 participants and the cost for each is \$25.00.

For more info contact Brian at mikeselb@gmail.com

SCOTT

 MackENZIE
 EXCAVATING

Email: excavatorscott@aol.com
 (413) 528-2921 TEL (413) 528-3864 FAX
 381 Adsit Crosby Road
 New Marlborough, MA 01230

Contributions are needed to continue the paper!

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

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

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

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

NAME _____

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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Town Times

- * **Board of Selectmen:** Every Monday at 6:30 p.m.
- * **Planning Board:** First and third Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- * **Board of Health:** First Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.
- * **Conservation Commission:** Last Saturday of the month at 10 a.m.
- * **Board of Assessors:** Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- * **Fire Department training:** Every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the fire station
- * **Building Inspector:** Monday 5 - 7 p.m. Wednesday 8 - 10 a.m.
- * **First Responders:** meeting/training: First and third Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the fire station
- * **Cultural Council:** Second Thursday at 4:15 p.m. at the library
- * **Town Treasurer:** Wednesday 3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.
- * **Tax Collector:** Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- * **Selectmen's Administrative Secretary:** Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 3 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: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

PERMITS ARE DUE ON JULY 1

They are available at
the Town Hall in Mill River

FEE IS \$80

CAN BE PAID BY MAIL,

PLEASE ENCLOSE A SELF-ADDRESSED
STAMPED ENVELOPE

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

Joe Poindexter, issue editor; Diane Barth, designer;
Pam Stebbins, Kenzie Fields, Jane Burke,
Charlie Parton, David Lowman, Barbara Lowman,
Martha Bryan, Jon Swan, Peter Schuyten,
Larry Burke, Marianne Swan, Debra Herman
Contributing writers: Janice Boults, Laura Endacott,
Ann Getsinger, Mary Richie Smith, and Tara White

New Marlborough 5 Village News

appears monthly,

also online at www.newmarlborough.org

The next issue will be dated April 2013.

All copy must be submitted no later than March 15.

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

PO Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259

5villagenews@gmail.com

New Marlborough 5 Village News
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e-mail 5villagenews@gmail.com

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CHANGE SERVICE
REQUESTED

SERVICE SECTOR

- ♦ **Benchmark Real Estate:** Nancy Kalodner, Broker/Owner. Offering New Marlborough the finest professional real estate services since 1979. Call 528-9595
- ♦ **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
- ♦ **Berkshire Geo-Technologies:** Civil engineering – perc testing, septic designs, wetland permitting, residential & commercial site design, structural evaluation & design. Located in Monterey. Please call 413-429-4888
- ♦ **Campbell Falls Carpentry:** Licensed and insured contracting at campbellfallscarpentry@gmail.com (413)229-6097 and (413)429-7677. Mass Contractors # 7614140, HIC# 170377
- ♦ **Cale's Pet Care:** Pet sitting, dog walking, small farm care. Experienced, caring, and reliable. Call Cale James at 229-2271
- ♦ **Corashire Realty:** Serving New Marlborough for 40 years. Let experience, knowledge, and personal attention work for you. 528-0014
- ♦ **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. christopher.f.blair@verizon.net.
- ♦ **Fine Jewelry:** Designers and manufacturers; custom orders/ commissions welcome; expert repairs. 45 years experience. Sachs Reisman, Inc. 25 Maple Ave., Sheffield 229-0050
- ♦ **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
- ♦ **Picture Framing:** Over 30 years experience, archival materials, large selection of mouldings and mats, free local delivery. Call for appointment, Ann Getsinger 229-2119
- ♦ **Quality Painting Services:** Beautifying homes in the Berkshires. Offering interior/exterior painting, staining, sheetrock repair. Pressure washing decks. Contractor registration #173566. Josh Taber, 413.269.8948
- ♦ **Susan M. Smith:** Attorney At Law; Concentrating in the areas of Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Elder Law, Real Estate and Zoning Matters. smithlaw@hughes.net or 229-7080
- ♦ **Reiner White:** General Contractor; 413-229-8450

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