



New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

ENGINE NO 1 IS IN THE HOUSE

by Larry Burke

On a bright, cold Thursday morning in mid-February, New Marlborough's brand new Engine 1 roared into Southfield with lights flashing and sirens wailing, and with Dave Herrick behind the wheel. The firefighters on hand to greet the new arrival swarmed around the vehicle, exploring its features, which include a water cannon that can be remote-controlled; a powerful, telescoping lighting tower; and a roomy interior cab that almost resembles the bridge of a ship. One of the decorative flourishes on the fire engine is the slogan imprinted in gold lettering along the driver's side, "Serving the Villages of Clayton, Hartsville, Mill River, Southfield, and New Marlborough since 1930," with the names of the villages arranged within a fire department insignia.

As Fire Chief Chuck Loring worked with his volunteer firefighters to load the truck with hose and otherwise ready it for action, Deputy Chief David Smith spoke of the Town's new acquisition: "In many respects the engine is very similar to the old Engine 1, which was what we wanted. That



Photos by Larry Burke

New Marlborough Fire & Rescue volunteers on hand for the arrival of the new Engine 1 were, from left to right, Rob Scott, Matt Wright, David Smith, Ed Harvey, Mark Lane (up top), Chuck Loring, Brittany Lane, Eli Dvorchik, Bob Litchfield, Jim Redman, Dave Herrick, and Bill Ruane.

engine worked very well for us. This is a 2016 version, so it has the new safety features and one of the big goals was efficiency." The new Engine 1 is equipped with rollover protection and airbags. It carries the same amount of water as the old, 1,000 gallons, but its pump is capable of flowing twice as much water per minute as the old, 2,000 gallons. Mr. Smith says that another improvement is the on-board, hydraulic-powered generator, which, with "the click of the touch screen is ready to go, as opposed to dragging the portable generator out of its compartment, and then starting it." The generator supports the extremely powerful lighting of the telescoping light tower, along

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Engine No. 1, continued from page 1 with ground lighting.

As David Smith describes the new apparatus, it becomes clear that its design is meant to maximize the efficiency of a sometimes-limited number of available firefighters. Many of the truck's functions – including the water cannon, the generator and lighting, and the pump panel – can now be handled by just one or two operators. In the interest of further streamlining the truck, again according to Mr. Smith, "Something else we really wanted was an assigned space for everything. So every tool, radio, fitting, axe, strainer, nozzle – everything, is mounted and secured in place. Chuck [Loring], Ed [Harvey], and I spent a day over at the KME service facility to place everything, and they did a great job mounting it all. Everything has a place, and when something's missing, you notice it." (The truck was fabricated



Photos by Larry Burke

The Town's new Engine 1, piloted by Dave Herrick, as it arrives at its home base in Southfield on February 18.



The telescoping lighting tower is powered by an on-board generator, which is started by clicking on a touch screen inside the truck's cabin.

at the KME plant in Nesquehoning, Pennsylvania, and further fitted out in the KME facility in Albany, New York.)

Speaking for the entire membership of New Marlborough Fire & Rescue, Deputy Chief Smith said, "We are very appreciative of the support of the taxpayers and residents, and we recognize this engine is a significant investment. The old Engine 1 was a big step forward when it was purchased, and this engine is as well. It's as much the residents' engine as it is 'ours.' It's our job to take care of it and use it to serve the folks who paid for it." He added that there will be an open house once warmer weather arrives, so the public can get a closer look at this powerful new resource for New Marlborough's emergency services. □

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INTO THE WOODS

Mike Levitas Brought a Literary Hit to Rural New England

By Joe Poindexter

How do you get dozens of smart, urbane, witty authors to visit a small, off-the-grid New England town? Answer: You get lucky and become the place Mike and Gloria Levitas choose to move to. That may be as good an explanation as there is for the success of the long-running literary hit, Award-Winning Authors, that has played New Marlborough since 1994.

That was the year Harold Lewin conceived of a series of summer programs to be held in the Village Association Meeting House that he called Music & More. Mr. Lewin (who died in late 2014), a professional pianist and well-connected to the classical music world, supplied the music. For the More, the obvious choice lived just down the road. Mitchel (a name mostly reserved for mastheads) Levitas was then editor of *The New York Times Book Review* and as a result may have been better connected to books than just about anyone else in the English-speaking world.

Not only did he know the world of publishing, but also, through his colleagues at work, he had a ring-side seat on what was new in thought-provoking, well-crafted literature. He parlayed this knowledge into a selection of authors with an interesting subject or a provocative point of view and persuaded them, three a year, to come and talk to the people of New Marlborough. They would ruminate on recent books and their own hands-on experience of the art and craft of writing.

Early on, Mike says, he wanted to go into medicine, but his father was editor of *The New Leader* (a socialist magazine that turned anti-communist under his guidance), and the pull toward journalism was too strong. After Brooklyn Technical High School and Brooklyn College (where he was the college's first Phi Beta Kappa), Mike took a job at a Jewish fund-raising magazine. In the early 1950s, he wrote about eastern Europe for the *Voice of America*. From there he went to the *New York Post*, where he reported on such diverse subjects as the assassination of Jesus Gelindas (a critic of Dominican Republic dictator Rafael Trujillo), the separation of conjoined twins (he wore a white jacket to a talk on this rare medical success to blend in with the doctors at the event), and what shoppers typed on a sleek new Olivetti typewriter displayed in a Fifth Avenue showroom. While at the *Post* he won the prestigious George Polk Award for his reporting on corrupt union leaders.

In 1957 he won a Nieman Fellowship, awarded to exceptional journalists for a year's study at Harvard

University, and parlayed that into a job on the international desk at *Time* magazine. Soon realizing, as more than a few of the magazine's alumni have put it, that *Time* was a good place to have worked, Mike moved on — to the *New York Times* as an editor of the Sunday Magazine. During a *Times* career that spanned five decades, he also edited the Metropolitan section, the *Week in Review*, and the *Book Review*.



Award-Winning impresario Mike Levitas

Mike was starting a *New York Times* publishing imprint when he was tapped for Award-Winning Authors. He brought to the project a secret weapon: Gloria. While Mike reads mostly non-fiction, Gloria's tastes are broader, and she had a better knowledge of potential fiction candidates for the series. Though it is perhaps irrelevant, she outranked him academically. Mike has a PBK key; Gloria a PhD — in cultural anthropology (from Rutgers). But her work has spanned the cultural spectrum: She was editor for a time at *Suspense* and *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine* and has written five books and numerous magazine pieces and book reviews. In fact, she was a regular contributor to the *Times Book Review* until she ran afoul of a rule against assignment to spouses when Mike became editor.

Gloria advised Mike on fiction writers and, by the tenth year, began writing the introductory remarks on these authors. It wasn't until another ten years, however, that Mike finally acknowledged the source of the words he had been reading. At the 2014 program, the final offering under the Levitas banner, Mike, in an act of contrition, gave credit where credit was due and handed the microphone to Gloria. Peace was restored in the Levitas household. (The program continues under the leadership of Simon Winchester, himself an Award-Winning Author in 2002.)

In the 1960s, the Levitases had been going to Martha's Vineyard as a respite from city life. But the long drive began to pall, and they wanted their children to learn to ski. They began looking in Columbia County and were returning to the city by a somewhat indirect route one day when they spotted a house in New Marlborough village. They had hardly looked inside when Gloria said, "Okay, we'll take it." Mike and Gloria are still there, so her instincts must have been right. They certainly were right for the town of New Marlborough, which, because Mike and Gloria one day took the long way home, has enjoyed two decades of spirited discussion on books, writers, and writing. □

Town Business Is Your Business

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



January 25: After approving the minutes from the January 11 meeting, the Board, with all three members present, reviewed an email from Fran Lartigue, a member of Southern Berkshire Regional School District's School Committee, inviting the selectmen to take part in a walk-through of New Marlborough Central School to discuss capital needs for the building. The email goes on to state that the School Committee's Building, Grounds, and Technology subcommittee, of which Ms. Lartigue is also a member, would like to discuss with the Town the development of a "shared responsibility" model, similar to ones already in place with the towns of Monterey and Egremont with regard to their school buildings. She closed by asking the Board to provide several possible dates for the walk-through, which the Board then did. Ms. Lartigue is one of two New Marlborough representatives on the School Committee.

Selectman Nat Yohalem summarized for the Board the January 19 meeting with Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), noting that much of the discussion focused on the construction and configuration of the network, with MBI indicating a strong preference for a large regional model comprising twenty to thirty towns, with a common system operator. The two MBI representatives present, Todd Corcoran, construction manager, and John Furey, technical program manager, said the network would have to be built in such a way that any town or group of towns could withdraw from the system at any time and go their own way, whether it be to set up a stand-alone system or a semi-regional system comprising

three or four towns. This is in sharp contrast to the WiredWest model, which calls for a ten-year lock-in period, where towns leaving the consortium early would, in Mr. Yohalem's words, "be left with nothing but their wires and their debt." The MBI team indicated that negotiations with WiredWest regarding its operating agreement, business plan, and financial model, are ongoing

and said MBI is hopeful that the differences could be resolved in the February timeframe, prompting Mr. Yohalem to note it doesn't leave the Town a lot of time for committing to a system operator before the June 30 state funding deadline. The MBI representatives declined Mr. Yohalem's request for help in identifying and vetting a system

operator, saying that they were not the appropriate people to discuss it with.

In a related discussion, Michele Shalaby said she has drafted follow-up letters to both Mr. Corcoran and Mr. Furey thanking them for their time in meeting with the Board and another letter to MBI Director Eric Nakajima asking whether MBI would consider extending the June 30 funding deadline and urging it "on behalf of the towns interested in a regional model, to gather and evaluate proposals from potential operators."

Reporting on the Finance Committee's first budget meeting of the year, Town Administrator Mari Enoch said thirty-three line-item budgets were approved by the committee and sent on to the Board for its approval, but did not deal with any of the major Town budgets, such as highway and public safety, nor did it include any salaries. The latter are typically held until the end of the budget process and then dealt with as a whole.

In discussing the budget process, Chairman Shalaby said she would like to try something new this year. Rather than going through the budget line-item by line-item, as the Board and the Finance Committee usually do, she would like Ms. Enoch to put together a complete budget and present it to the Board, "so we're looking at it as a whole rather than discussing things in a vacuum." (For a more detailed look at the new budget process see "Remaking the Budget Process" on page 7.)

At the suggestion of Ms. Enoch, the Board approved a minor wording change to the recently approved personnel policy that would correct the erroneously stated policy on sick leave.

*There are fifteen
potential project grants
in Berkshire County,
including one for
\$500,000 earmarked for
New Marlborough*

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The Board appointed Tom Stalker to the Finance Committee, filling the seat formerly held by the Town treasurer. Mr. Stalker, who along with Richard Long, has been advising the Board on its broadband deliberations, has a marketing background and currently works remotely from his home in New Marlborough for the Boston-based engineering firm BSC. His appointment is effective until Town elections in the spring.

Josh Irwin, co-owner with his wife Emily Rachel of La Cantina restaurant on Route 57, appeared before the board to inquire why a special permit to operate a restaurant in the building is no longer valid. He said it was their understanding from Building Inspector Tom Carmody when they bought the building, which was previously the site of Parada Vida restaurant, that the special permit would transfer with the change of ownership as long as it was within two years of the October 2014 purchase of the building. He said they're currently in the process of applying for a liquor license but are now being told by Mr. Carmody they have to reapply for the special permit first. The Board asked Ms. Enoch to check with both Mr. Carmody and Town Counsel Jeremiah Pollard about the status of the permit.

In another matter, Ms. Enoch said she has received an email from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Executive Director Nat Karns, saying there are fifteen potential project grants in Berkshire County, including one for \$500,000 earmarked for New Marlborough for bridge repair work, added to the list by Rep. William (Smitty) Pignatelli. Mr. Karns, indicating that the governor's office has asked him to prioritize grants in anticipation of the release of some of that money, asked whether the Town was still interested in seeking the grant. He also noted the governor's office is particularly interested in so-called shovel-ready projects. Ms. Enoch

said she has checked with Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring, who confirmed there are several bridges in town, including one on Canaan Southfield Road, that need repair to stay open. However, as Ms. Enoch pointed out in response to a question from Selectman Tara White, being on the list is no guarantee of getting the money.

Mr. Yohalem said he met with the fire chief and three members of the rescue squad to discuss the problem of declining membership in the rescue squad. He said the problem was particularly acute during the daylight hours, when there are few volunteers available to go out on calls. Instead, the calls are usually handled by

Southern Berkshire Volunteer Ambulance Squad. Noting that neither Monterey nor Sheffield have their own ambulance and that their calls are handled by Southern Berkshire Ambulance Squad, the Board decided to contact Southern Berkshire's operations director Bill Hathaway to see if he has any ideas for increasing the membership role, or absent that, ways to regionalize the service. Mr. Yohalem said he

would also bring it up at his next shared services meeting on February 9.

Also discussed at that meeting, according to Mr. Yohalem, was an offer by Rosemary Masters, a long time weekend resident of New Marlborough, to provide trauma response training to members of the Fire and Rescue squad. Ms. Masters is a psychotherapist in private practice and founding director of the Trauma Studies Center of the Institute for Contemporary Psychotherapy in New York City. Fire and Rescue "thought it was a wonderful idea," he said, and he's now working on setting up a date for the training.

Ms. Shalaby reported there is community interest in forming an agricultural commission and distributed to the Board copies of an article by the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture summarizing some of the

'Declining membership in the rescue squad is a particular problem during the daylight hours when there are few volunteers available for calls'



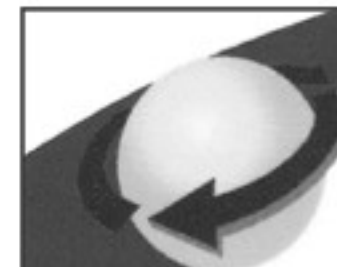
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things such a commission might do. She said it would be a good time between now and Town elections to sound out citizens on their interest in joining such a commission.

Following up on a January 11 discussion of how to replace Conservation Commission Chairman Ned Wilson, who has indicated he's planning to resign, Ms. Shalaby reported the Conservation Commission has come up with its own proposed solution to the problem, which is to pay Mr. Wilson a \$4,000 stipend to stay on. As previously reported, the Board is also considering the hiring of an agent to handle Conservation Commission business, along much the same lines as Sanitary Inspector Scott McFarland does for the Board of Health.

February 1: After approving the minutes from the January 19 meeting, the Board met with three representatives of Frontier Communications, which, through its acquisition of Southern New England Telephone fifteen months ago, owns and operates most of the telephone systems in Connecticut. Frontier was one of four potential broadband system operators to respond to the Town's request for information (RFI). Even though it is fairly new in Connecticut, it already is in discussions with an ad hoc group of northwest Connecticut towns, calling itself Northwest Connect, about a fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) broadband solution. "So when we saw your RFI, it seemed a natural extension of those conversations, especially since it's right over the border from some of the communities Northwest Connect represents," said Michael Cicchetti, Frontier's director of governmental and external affairs.

For its part, the Board explained that the Town is looking at three possible network configurations: a stand-alone system, a semi-regional system of three to four towns, or a large regional system of twenty to thirty towns. The selectmen also described the crucial

role being played by MBI as the gatekeeper on state funding, explaining that the Town stands to receive \$1.7 million in state money towards its \$4.7 million broadband network construction costs, but only if its network plans are approved by MBI. "So if you're interested in the build," Mr. Yohalem told the Frontier representatives, "you've got to get in touch with MBI and give them a plan

they can approve." The selectmen also noted that it's the board's preference that the Town own its own system, but said it's willing to explore other options. As Ms. Shalaby explained, "We're open to ideas and models that would mitigate the tax burden on our payers," including a possible Town-broadband company financial partnership. Frontier responded that it generally owns the systems

it operates, but is not necessarily wedded to doing it that way. The Board concluded the meeting by saying it was definitely interested in continuing the discussions with Frontier and gave the Frontier representatives contact information for officials at MBI.

In other business, Town Administrator Enoch said the Planning Board was successful in securing a District Local Technical Assistance grant from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission for assistance in updating the town's open space and recreation plan. She also said that Bryan Slack, a transportation program planner for the state Department of Transportation, will be meeting with Town officials on February 9 to discuss right-of-way of issues in connection with the replacement of the Hadsell Street bridge, scheduled for next year.

In an update on the La Cantina special permit discussed at the January 25 meeting, Ms. Enoch reported that Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard and Building Inspector Carmody are now in agreement that the special permit does in fact transfer with the ownership of the restaurant building, and that the new owners, Josh Irwin and his wife Emily Rachel, can now go ahead and apply for a liquor license.

Selectman White said she's researching, with Town Counsel Pollard's help, the question of whether the Town needs to revote its override of the Proposition 2½ levy limit in connection with the upcoming vote on the broadband bond. As previously reported, an override was approved by the voters at last year's Town election, but the vote on the bond itself was tabled at the last minute. So the question before the Board is how long does the override stay in effect before it needs to be resubmitted for voter approval.

Senior Services Director Prue Spaulding appeared before the Board to ask it to make a change in the senior work write-off program that would base the tax abatement

"If you're interested in building a broadband network, you've got to get in touch with MBI and give them a plan they can approve."

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they receive on the number of hours they work, up to 125, rather than cap it at \$1,000. The reason for the change, she explained, is that the recent increase in the minimum wage has reduced the number of hours they can work. So with the program based on the number of hours, instead of a dollar-denominated limit, their abatement will keep pace with increases in the minimum wage. She said she has asked Rep. William (Smitty) Pignatelli to get the

state legislature to make the change, but the proposal is still in committee. The selectmen asked Ms. Enoch to check Massachusetts General Law to make sure the Board has the authority to make a change like that. She subsequently determined this change can only be enacted by a vote at the Annual Town Meeting — not by the selectmen. □

Peter Schuyten

REMAKING THE BUDGET PROCESS

By Peter Schuyten

The Board of Selectmen can't see the forest for the trees. That, at any rate, is the opinion of Chairman Michele Shalaby when it comes to creating an annual budget. Traditionally, the Board, in collaboration with the Finance Committee, inspects each spending request, no matter how large or small, from the Town's myriad departments, accepts, rejects, or adjusts it, and then moves on to the next item.

As Ms. Shalaby explains it, this is a very labor-intensive process, first with the Finance Committee going through the budget requests. "Then we go through it line-item by line-item," she says, "but without having an overall view." That's because the overall budget is not put together until the very end of the process, after all the spending decisions have been made, which means there's no easy way for the selectmen to gauge how their spending decisions impact the bottom line. Whether a budget request is level-funded or challenged, the debate takes place "in a vacuum," says Ms. Shalaby. "These debates take up so much time without there being a basis for debate."

So this year, Ms. Shalaby is trying something new: She has asked Town Administrator Mari Enoch to present to the Board a complete budget that is the sum of each and every line item budget request from the town department heads. (In past years this was done only after all individual spending requests had been approved.) "We can then go through it and request changes and gauge the effect of those changes on other parts of the budget," she says. Additionally, she may ask Ms. Enoch to create a separate version of the budget based on Ms. Enoch's understanding of the needs of each department weighed against anticipated town revenues. The Board could then compare the two versions. "There could be discussion of the differences between the two, and then if necessary we could go through another full iteration," she says. She points to precedents for this methodology in the budgeting of larger towns and at the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. The SBRSD superintendent and business manager, for example, present a budget to the School Committee, which reviews it and then, if it

sees fit, kicks it back to the administration with requests for modifications.

Ms. Shalaby admits that at this juncture the budgeting process may not be more efficient than in past years. The Finance Committee will still be doing things the old line-item-by-line-item way, at least this year. "So it could get a little messy paperwork-wise," she acknowledges. "But in future years, if we decide this is the way we want to go, both the Finance Committee and the Board would follow the same [top-down] process." The result for the Finance Committee, says Ms. Shalaby, could be, instead of several monthly or weekly budget meetings each year, there could be as few as three. She laughs, then adds, "I mean like, realistically."

Aside from its inefficiency, Ms. Shalaby is also bothered by the way the current process handles Town salaries: at the very end, after all the other spending decisions have been made. Instead, Ms. Shalaby thinks it only fair that salaries be established at the beginning of the process so that they are independent of other budgetary considerations. The present system "doesn't seem totally right," she says.

A further complication is that the school budget, which accounts for nearly half the Town budget, isn't due for release until the middle of March. New Marlborough's selectmen, however, make it a habit to attend School Committee budgetary meetings, so its final budget request does not come as a surprise. Besides, none of this prevents the Town from prioritizing other expenditures.

Ms. Shalaby is well aware that the school budget, plus expenditures for the Highway Department and Public Safety (Police Department and Fire and Rescue) account for nearly three quarters of the Town's spending. "But we can still shift money around, maybe it's small amounts, but we can move it to areas that are consistently underfunded," she says. "Really, we just want the discussions to be more efficient and more effective. It's the first time through. In the end, however, we will have more time to talk about important things, like capital spending this year and a few years down the road." □

FINANCE COMMITTEE

January 21: With Committee members John Pshenishny, Ira Yohalem, Mark Carson, David Herrick, and Prudence Spaulding, joined by Tom Stalker, Town Administrator Mari Enoch, and Selectmen Tara White and Michele Shalaby, the Committee noted that the \$1,295 expense of erecting a water guard around the front door of the New Marlborough Town Library may have to be repaid out of the reserve fund if the library's operating budget is adversely affected.

Members expressed their approval of Mr. Stalker to fill a vacancy on the Committee and unanimously voted to communicate its endorsement to the Board of Selectmen.

The committee then voted in favor of the following line-item budget requests:

Moderator: \$145
Finance Committee Expenses: \$500
Town Clerk Expenses: \$2,200
Town Records Preservation: \$5,000
Election Expenses: \$2,225
Street Listings: \$1,000
Planning Board-Clerical: \$1,300
Planning Board-Expenses: \$873
Cemetery Officers' Salaries: \$400
Cemetery Expenses: \$2,700
Health Agent Revolving: \$17,000
Library Expenses: \$46,977, an increase of \$3,277 to qualify for state grant money
Library Trustees: \$320
Village Green Maintenance \$3,508, a decrease of \$972
Memorial Day: \$900
Police Office Rental: \$6,000
Police Department Expenses: \$22,900
Emergency Management Expense: \$2,150
Emergency Management Notification System: \$2,500
Animal Expense: \$1,600
911 Coordinator Expenses: \$500
Berkshire County Communications: \$9,411
Board of Health Salaries: \$1,250
Board of Health Expenses: \$2,500
Community Health Program: \$1,000
Visiting Nurse: \$2,520
Council on Aging Transportation: \$5,607
Council on Aging Expenses: \$550
Senior Tax Work-Off Abatement Program: \$150
2014 Highway Truck Loan: \$25,680
2013 Highway Truck Loan: \$39,795
Loader Loan: \$18,714
2015 Highway Truck Loan: \$48,168

January 28: With Messrs. Pshenishny, Carson, Herrick, Mrs. Spaulding and Mari Enoch present, along with guests Thomas Stalker, Robert Miller, Jennifer Miller, Nat Yohalem, and Tara White, the following

budget requests were approved:

Selectmen Stipends: \$8,550
Town Counsel: \$10,000
Assessor's General Expenses: \$2,900
Property Cards On-Line: \$1,500
Assessor's Computer Contingency: \$4,804
Assessor's Tax Map update: \$2,900
Assessor's Consultant: \$5,000
Assessor's Revaluation: \$16,000
Assessor's Cyclical Re-Inspection: \$10,000
Tax Collector Computer Services: \$6,500
Tax Collector's Expenses: \$5,700
Tax Title (Collector) \$2,000
Town Officer's Bonds: \$1,250
Building Inspector's Expenses: \$2,617
Building Inspector's Software: \$2,700
Regional Planning Commission: \$1,117
Mental Health: \$200
Interest : \$2,000
Banking Services: \$200
Veterans Benefits Chapter 115 Trust: \$8,000
Fire Truck Loan: \$77,000

A request for \$500 for Grant Writers Expenses was voted down.

At the beginning of the meeting the Committee was presented with the Conservation Commission expense budget request of \$6,000, an increase of \$4,000 over last year to be used as a stipend for Conservation Commission Chairman Ned Wilson, who has announced he intended to resign from the Commission because the complex and time-consuming work is interfering with other of his priorities. A discussion ensued on whether the selectmen should explore sharing a Conservation Commission director with neighboring towns. This budget was put on hold, and the Committee suggested that the need for Commission members with requisite skills be advertised in the *Berkshire Record* and the *5 Village News*.

With Finance Committee member Burt Imberman out of state, as is typical for him in the winter, and unavailable during the busiest time for the Committee, Mr. Carson said that he would ask his son to contact Mr. Imberman and ask for his resignation. If and when the resignation becomes effective, Robert Miller offered to take his place until a permanent member can be elected in May.

February 4: With Messrs. Pshenishny, Herrick, and Stalker, Mrs. Spaulding and Ms. Enoch and guests Messrs. Miller, Nat Yohalem, Marsha Pshenishny, and Ms. White, present, plus Maureen Krejci representing the New Marlborough Ambulance Squad, and Chuck Loring, Highway Superintendent and Fire Chief, the following budgets were approved:

New Marlborough Rescue Expenses: \$56,350

Roads and Bridges: \$205,000
 Highway Dept. Training Expenses: \$2,300
 Highway Dept. Electricity: \$4,500
 Highway Dept. Propane: \$18,000
 Highway Dept. Diesel: \$59,000
 Highway Uniforms and Gear: \$4,500
 Winter Roads: \$266,334
 Street Lights: \$5,000
 Town Garage Maintenance: \$13,000
 Highway Machinery Expense: \$86,046
 Cultural Council: \$1,000
 Constable Salary: \$475
 Constable Expenses: \$95
 Fire Protection: \$60,900

Firefighters Stipends: \$40,000
 Fire Department Clerical: \$1,700
 Town Hall Renovations Loan: \$13,715
 Website: \$2,425
 Audit: \$15,000
 Accounting Officer's Expenses: \$4,515
 Treasurer's Expenses: \$3,300
 Tax Title (Treasurer): \$6,000
 Board of Appeals: \$600
 Town Officer's Expenses: \$750
 Printing: \$2,000

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

January 23: With Commission members Ned Wilson and John Schreiber in attendance, Stuart Lawrence and Diane Nerwin presented a Request For Determination (RDA) for work at their property at 123 Canaan Valley Road. The residents said that the scope of work involved building a stone wall set back from the road. A significant tree had been removed in the vicinity and the proposal was to extend an existing wall an additional thirty feet. The permitting included the removal of the tree stump and finish grading of the area. Following a brief discussion, the Commission approved the permit with the condition that a silt fence be installed and maintained during the site excavation.

With no further business on the agenda, the Commission turned its attention to old and new business. It noted that Berkshire Mountain Spring Water will file an

RDA for recent site work at its Southfield plant and that further inquiries would be made by the Commission into work being done under a forest cutting plan on forty-nine acres off Canaan Valley Road owned by Gary Cookson. Five new forest cutting plans were received by the Commission: fifty-plus acres owned by Sisson Nominee Realty Trust, 100-plus acres by Joan Laskoff, forty-five-plus acres by Allen Bachetti and Jean Christman, eight acres by Richard LaRose, and eight acres by Josh Labshere. Lastly Mr. Wilson and Dr. Schreiber agreed to register for an upcoming conference convened by the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions to be held in March in Worcester.

Upon scheduling the next meeting for February 27, the meeting was adjourned.

Martha Bryan



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SINKING ROOTS IN NEW MARLBOROUGH

Al Lenardson Found a Teaching Job — and Never Left

by Sandra Walker

Roots in New Marlborough are cultivated in assorted ways. Some residents are born here, their families woven through the town's history. Some grow up here, leave for a career or a marriage and return years later to the beauty of the Berkshires, a place they always think of as home. Some stumble onto our little corner of Massachusetts by accident, a ski trip, a friend's wedding, or perhaps a weekend drive seeking autumn's paintbrush. Some seek purpose or follow their passion finding the Berkshires just the right spot to plant and feed their special talents.

The '60s were a time when our country was in chaos, losing a beloved president to an assassin and nightly news reports of riots and protests by those tired of prejudice and the mass exodus of young men shipped off to fight an unpopular war. It was also a time when Al Lenardson found his way to New Marlborough and brought his passion for teaching and photography.

Raised in Middleton, Massachusetts, in the eastern part of the state, Al spent his youth attending Catholic schools in preparation for the priesthood, a life career he embarked on without question. But after receiving an AB from St. Johns Seminary in Brighton, Massachusetts, he realized the priesthood was not the right path for him. He left the seminary and set out for Washington, D.C., where his cousin lived.

Undecided as to what he wanted to do, Al felt teaching might suit him. Although his cousin encouraged him to pursue a position north of Washington, D.C., where the population was rapidly expanding, Al was drawn to Massanutten Military Academy, an all-boy's school in Woodstock, Virginia, west of D.C. He taught English classes and at the end of his first year discovered that not only did he like teaching, he was also good at it.

There may have been a guardian angel guiding Al's course through life, but from one angle, at least, the dynamic looks a lot like serendipity. An early instance of this was a Jaguar automobile owned by a colleague at Massanutten. Back then, rural Virginia's country roads, which sometimes forded streams, were not well suited to the refined, low-slung Jaguar, and the owner found limited opportunities to drive it. Al convinced him to sell him the Jag and then turned to his mother back home,

who had charge of his savings, to help finance it. She said yes — on the condition that she come down to see the car, see Washington, and shop.

When it was time for her to go home, with all her new acquisitions, it only made sense for Al to provide transport, which he did in his new car. Amazingly, the Jaguar made it to within thirty miles of Middleton before breaking down. But luck smiled on them when a good samaritan not only stopped for them but was mechanically adept enough to fix the problem, a broken fuel pump, and send them on their way.

Al soon learned of an opening at Cornwall Academy in Great Barrington. He drove the length of the state and was immediately offered the job. He taught at

Cornwall for several years and finally, with ideas of his own about teaching, embarked on another impulsive acquisition: the property off Route 57 that in more recent years has been the New Marlborough location of Mepal Manor and, now, the Center for Motivation and Change. With a large mortgage and a firm view of proper pedagogy, Marlboro Academy for young men opened in the early 1960s. At a time when politics and passions ran high, Al insisted all his teachers keep their personal political views out of the classroom, sticking to the curriculum and leaving the young men to learn how to think for themselves.

Though the large stone manor at the center of the property was perfect for academics, the playing field was not. But removing rocks from the field itself became a teaching opportunity. Dissuaded by a local hardware store from blowing up the rocks with dynamite, Al and his students heated them with fires in trenches dug around them and then split them by dousing them in cold water. Al had to admit that not all learning comes from books.

His students appreciated Al's commitment. In *Centaur*, the school yearbook, students wrote: "As Marlboro Academy is dedicated to its students, so is this man dedicated to Marlboro Academy. In turn, we, the class of 1967, dedicate this, our yearbook, to Mr. Alfred R. Lenardson, Jr." In that same yearbook, Al relayed the story of Elihu Burritt's quest to educate and make the world a better place, and revealed his own educational philosophy: "Education produces a clear view in proper perspective of the futility of war and its evils. Education fosters a desire to end this futility." Al ended his message



Al Lenardson today and as a high-schooler



with a hope that his graduates would one day carry on the work of Elihu Burritt.

Throughout the '60s, Marlboro Academy's students came not just from the Berkshires and the United States, but even a few from overseas. There were not, however, enough of them. Saddled by heavy debt service and without outside financial backing, the Academy closed in 1969, with Al selling the property to the Kolburne School.

Since boyhood, when he was given a Kodak Brownie, Al has always had a camera. During his years teaching, he'd become the person everyone called when they needed photos taken. Now, with time on his hands, he began working as a photojournalist for the *Berkshire Courier*. Al teamed up with Edgar Zukauskas, a graduate of Marlboro Academy, in starting a photography business. In 1984 they purchased



property in downtown Mill River; they moved into the house, converted the small ice house into their studio, and Ice House Studio was born. They became sought-after photographers in the Berkshires for all occasions, including weddings, town events, and family portraits. Beginning in the early 1990s they moved the business to Great Barrington, downstairs from the old *Courier* offices, but ten years later they moved it back to the original Ice House Studio.

Documenting three decades of changes in families and the landscape, Ice House photos tell stories of the Berkshires. One of its visual histories, I was surprised to find, hangs on the walls of our own house. Taken at a family wedding in the Berkshires more than twenty years ago, those photos keep alive special moments of

a young couple's life and images of our three perfectly dressed, well behaved for the occasion, young children. They are among our most cherished possessions.

Shortly after Al moved to Mill River, he became president of the Mill River Water Takers Association. The Association manages a cistern fed by a series of springs that provides water to thirty Mill River homes. Al also devotes his time volunteering at the Immaculate Conception Church, helping wherever he can.

If Al has a regret, it is that he is no longer a teacher. "I really miss the students," he says, "and those moments when the light bulb goes off and you know you have made a difference." But he has replaced that with almost sixty years of growing and nurturing deep roots in our town. Sharing his time as a volunteer, his expertise as a teacher, and his vision of our town through the lens of a camera, he has done what he hoped his students would do: follow in the footsteps of those who, like Elihu Burritt, try to make the world a better place. □

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REMEMBERING THE WILLING WORKERS

As I gathered items for the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Immaculate Conception Church in Mill River, I found a notebook dated from 1975-1995 describing the activities of the "Willing Workers." The Willing Workers were a group of women who raised funds to support the Immaculate Conception Church. To fill in information missing from the notebook, I went to former members of the group for their recollections.

Ann Broggi, long-time club secretary, moved to her home in 1956 and was introduced to the Willing Workers by her neighbor, Elsie Palfini. Yvonne Stephens' mother Marie Fehn was a member, probably in the 1940s. I also spoke with Virginia Consolini, who had been the club secretary and verified that the club existed in the 1940s. She said that Father O' Dey was the pastor, and that he took her two boys, who were altar boys, fishing.

My earliest recollections include Agnes Murray, long time postmaster, and her sister, Madeline, widow of an Italian count.

The club, which as far as we know was always called the Willing Workers, supported itself with bake sales, tag sales, raffles, and card parties.

The money raised was used to completely redecorate the church for the celebration in 1976. Donations were given to the Summer School of Religion, once taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph. The school continues today and is organized by lay people. The club members annually treated the sisters and the priest to lunch during the summer. Money was given to the Youth Group, including some members of the Makuc and Janucz families, who attended the World Day of Prayer in Denver, Colorado.

The club members took turns providing the altar flowers. They planned the May Crowning. Prior to having a sexton, the club held cleaning bees to clean the church on a regular basis, usually before Easter.

The women were friends and enjoyed time together, often taking time to attend a local theater production, such as *Jesus Christ, Superstar*, at the Mac Hayden Theater or dressing up for a Halloween party.

The club officially disbanded and the treasury was given to the church. Our last official President, Pamela Gillette, continues to contact us about the welfare of the church. She organizes an annual Christmas luncheon, to which non-church members, who generously provide altar flowers, are invited. The women and men of the Immaculate Conception Church are planning the 150th Anniversary Celebration on August 7, 2016. Please plan to join us. □

Claudette Callahan



Left to right, back row: Al Lenardson, Pam Gillette, Virginia Palfini, Anita Ormsbee, Fr. John Lis, Aileen Bove, Yvonne Stephens, Pat Andrus, and Tom Andrus; front row: Ann Ray, Claudette Callahan, and Mary Heath

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UPCOMING: *Events Calendar for March and April*

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

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

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

April 2: Fourth Annual Photography Exhibit and Potluck Dinner, Southfield Church; the dinner begins at 6:00 p.m.; the photos, focused on the theme: Doorways In and Around New Marlborough, will be on view until 1:00 p.m. Sunday, April 3

April 5: Last day for the top two caucus finishers to sign their intention to run for office; see Kathy Chretien at the Town Hall for the form to sign

April 9: Red Hot Blues Bash, a Land Trust welcome to the arrival of spring, with music from The BTUs. Gedney Farm 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.; tickets, \$35, available at the Mill River General Store.

April 25: Last day to register to vote at the Annual Town Meeting and the Annual Town Election; if you are eligible but not registered, see Kathy Chretien at the Town Hall between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or at 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. that evening

WANTED: PHOTOGRAPHS

For the Annual Photography Show, April 2 and 3

The Fourth Annual Photography Exhibit and Potluck Dinner will be held April 2 and 3 at the Southfield Church Hall. This event has become a delightful way to welcome spring and enjoy photographic views of our unique and interesting town. Judging by the rich and diverse subject matter of photographs on view in the first three exhibits, our upcoming show is sure to please. If you, your family, or friends have taken pictures in and around New Marlborough — both amateur and professional photographers are encouraged to submit their work — let your fellow townspeople see them. They will be on display Saturday and Sunday, April 2 and 3. The potluck dinner begins Saturday night at 6:00 p.m. and the photos will remain on display through Sunday until 1:00 p.m.

“Doorways In and Around New Marlborough” is the theme for this year’s exhibit. Front doors, back doors, side doors, garage doors, barn doors, or any other kind of door is the focus around which the photographer can indulge his or her fancy. The door can be the main subject of the picture or serve as the background for a specific interest (pets, family, flora, or fauna). Local residents of all ages are invited to submit old or new photos for this event. They will not be judged, just enjoyed. So look through your snapshots or take some new ones, and submit them so the event can display your talent.

Here are the guidelines:

- Up to five unframed, unmounted photos can be submitted by each photographer
- Protect photos in a folder or envelope that includes name and phone number of submitter
- Include name of photographer and suggested title for each photo, along with a brief description (twenty-five or fewer words) of subject, location, and approximate date of picture. This information will be included on the mounted display
- All photos, color or black & white, should be 8” X 10”, which is preferred, or 5” X 8”. (Nothing smaller, please.)
- Submit your photos no later than Saturday, March 26 at the New Marlborough Town Library during its regular hours. Photos can be picked up from the library after the exhibit closes

Culinary skills will also be on display as a potluck supper kicks off the event. Local talent in tasty culinary offerings is always a treat. Plan to bring an appetizer, main dish, casserole, salad, or dessert to share with your neighbors. Look for more details about the event in the next 5 *Village News*. For more information, contact Maureen Hosford (229-0076) or Ned MacDowell (229-2637). □

Ned MacDowell

BROADBAND: THE PLOT THICKENS

Internet for New Marlborough Takes Some New Twists

by Barry R. Shapiro

The path of broadband to New Marlborough appears to be turning into a labyrinth that gets darker and more convoluted by the day.

When we last tuned in, the Massachusetts Broadband Institute and WiredWest were locked in meetings to see if WiredWest could convince MBI to reverse its position that it would not fund any town that signed on with the proposed WiredWest business model. Leading the charge for MBI was its director, Eric Nakajima. Mr. Nakajima had forcefully asserted that the WiredWest plan to own and operate a regional fiber-to-the-home network creates “unnecessary financial and operating risks” for member towns.

Two surprising developments have since ensued.

First, in early February, Governor Charlie Baker’s administration put an immediate freeze on all funding of broadband by MBI until the governor’s Executive Office of Administration and Finance can conduct due diligence and make sure that the state’s money is being spent wisely.

Then, a few days later, MBI director Eric Nakajima resigned from his post effective immediately, to “pursue a new opportunity.” (In mid-February, he revealed he was running for the office of state representative from Amherst.)

In a statement issued before Nakajima announced his resignation, WiredWest stated that it welcomes the cabinet-level financial review and that it has had “productive meetings” with MBI, asserting that it has a workable “last mile” plan that is supported by member towns, which are expected to pay for two-thirds of the cost of any fiber-optic network built through local taxation.

“This solution will create a multi-generational asset for our region that will sustain growth for decades to come. We would enthusiastically welcome the Baker administration’s support for this solution,” said the statement, sent by Monica Webb, chair of WiredWest’s board of directors.

Paul McMorrow, spokesman for the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, said: “The administration is committed to the mission of the MBI and to addressing the Last Mile challenge for unserved residents. As with any significant project, we have a duty to ensure that the project budget supports the goal of successfully delivering high-speed Internet access to Western Massachusetts residents in a sustainable manner.”

Both MBI and WiredWest say this “pause” has nothing to do with the dispute between MBI and WiredWest.

While the state conducts its review, the status of WiredWest and its criticized operating plans are in limbo, and Nakajima’s departure throws even more uncertainty

into the process. As originally proposed, WiredWest’s profits from the network operation — derived from subscriber fees — would pay for member communities’ debt service, thereby minimizing or eliminating any impact upon property taxes. MBI found this promise unrealistic, and added that the plan overstated revenues and underestimated costs.

MBI also objected to WiredWest’s ownership of the broadband infrastructure, insisting that towns retain ownership of the infrastructure so that they could withdraw from the cooperative at any point and choose another network operator.

MBI is not required to work with WiredWest as a regional network operator and may fund projects proposed by individual towns or regional projects involving commercial entities. By way of example, the town of Leverett, Massachusetts, built its own fiber network, and uses Crocker Communication to provide Internet service and Holyoke Gas and Electric to operate the network.

So, once again, stay tuned as this labyrinthine saga continues. □



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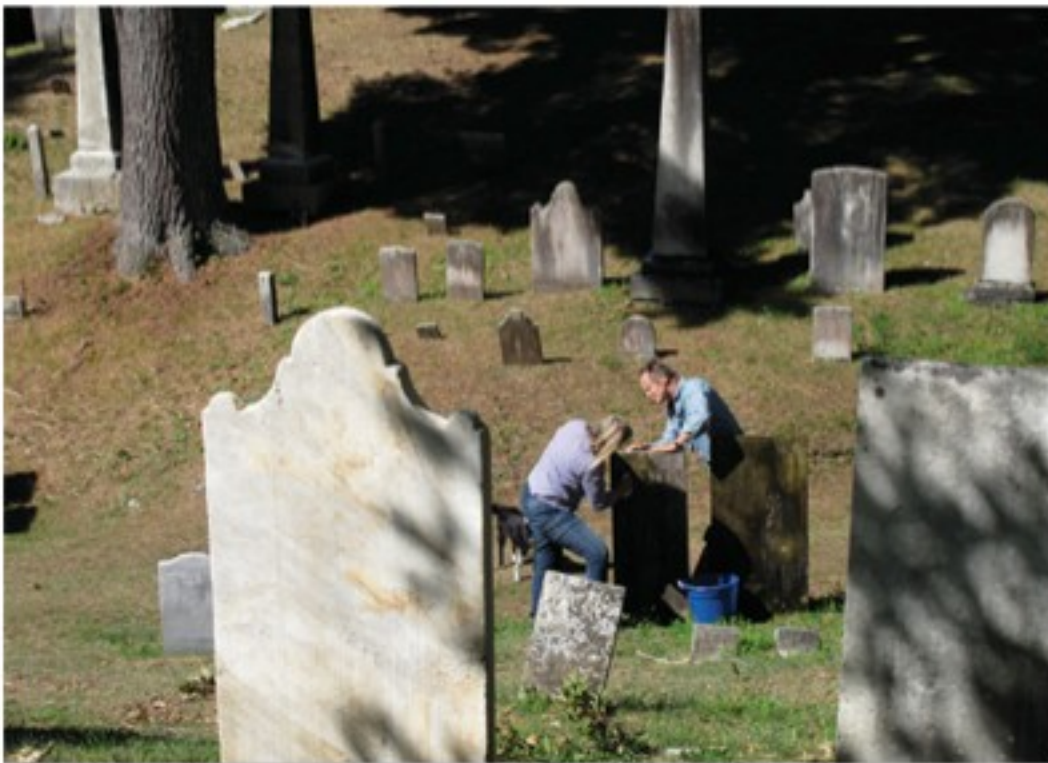
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OUR TOWN

I enjoy photographing everyday scenes in our small town. These images — the general store, the farmer’s market, the cemetery — capture people and places at a moment in time. But they also reflect a continuity with all who have gone before. Timeless yet already historic.

— Ari Korpivaara



Thank You to Our Contributors!

Abigail Crine; Kathie & Chuck Loring; Joan Hayden; Michael Skrak;
birthday gift for Roberta Roy from Judy Ladd; Tara White; Dave & Jody Soules

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NEIGHBORS



Olivia Marchione, daughter of Ryan Marchione and Kristen Sparhawk, and a sophomore at Mount Everett Regional High School, was selected as one of the student artists from across the county to be represented in the 30th Annual

Berkshire County High School Art Show at the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge. Olivia's acrylic painting, depicting a surreal world, is entitled "Unable to Breathe." The show will be at the Rockwell through March 6.



Photos by Kristen Sparhawk



Photo by Larry Burke

Each year the Berkshire Museum honors those individuals who create, keep, and promote the Berkshires' artistic, historic, and natural heritage, with an award for each area. This year **Jane Burke**, of New Marlborough, has been selected for her work in building Flying Cloud Institute (FCI) into an influential force throughout Berkshire County focusing on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education, emphasizing science learning through the arts.

Flying Cloud did not achieve this result from any grand design; rather, it is the serendipitous outcome of Jane's ability to merge very disparate talents. Jane has had a lifelong love of dance but realized early

on that the career of a professional dancer would be too limiting. She comes from a family that is generations deep in scientists. So in college, she focused on science – chemistry, physics, math – *and* dance. For several years she taught chemistry in the Boston area, in California, and in Australia. Along the way she developed a skill in making pottery, which neatly, from Jane's point of view, combines chemistry with physical and artistic expression.

She arrived in New Marlborough in the late 1970s, where she and her husband Larry took up residence at the Flying Cloud property owned by her father, David Schwarz, on South Sandisfield Road. The three of them formed FCI, a non-profit conservation education center; when that ceased to exist, its non-profit status moved to the Flying Cloud summer program, which began in 1984, initially combining ceramics and dance.

During these years, their son and daughter attended New Marlborough Central School, and Jane was soon applying her interests in science education and the arts to volunteer work at the school, an initiative that continues to affect residencies and workshops at the school to this day. Of course, illuminating science with art and art with science also became the foundation of the Flying Cloud summer program. Additionally, Jane organized the Young Women in Science program, begun in 2000 at Bard College at Simon's Rock in Great Barrington, which gave girls a chance to do real science with working women scientists.

In addition to running a summer program, Flying Cloud Institute was organized as a vehicle for bringing the approach of science learning through the arts into nearby public schools. A major milestone was an award from the Massachusetts Cultural Council's Creative Schools Program in 2000 to New Marlborough Central School, which provided the school with \$20,000 per year for ten years to integrate science learning and the arts.

Word began to spread to other school districts that had pretty much given up on science education. Over the years, Jane has developed an extensive network of talented scientists, science educators, and artists who can work with interested schools to plan and implement the integration of art and science in their curricula. There are currently active programs in four districts: Southern Berkshire Regional, Berkshire Hills, Lee, and Pittsfield, with Farmington River joining the group in April.

Jane's approach is to identify a problem, find talented people to plan and implement a solution, and go on to the next problem. She is tenacious and not easily dissuaded, but she is not didactic. Rather than proselytize the FCI approach, Jane responds to interest from other districts and helps them get the resources to plan their own solutions.

What began as a small program, literally in Jane's back yard, now affects 3,500 students throughout Berkshire County. Her achievement will be recognized and honored by the 2016 Berkshire Award, presented on March 4 at the Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield. □

OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

Don Beauchamp reported in from Clayton: “My **bluebirds** are still around, coming every day but the rainy ones. It’s a rare treat to have had them here all winter, although what started out as seven pairs is now down to three or four. They come at different times, from 7:00 a.m. to around 10:00 a.m., staying as much as two hours. Then they are gone until the next morning. Somebody in Canaan also has a bunch of bluebirds in their yard, and I was over by the Housatonic River on Sunday on my bike and saw three pair eating berries.”



photo by Don Beauchamp



photos by Don Beauchamp



Other wildlife sightings from Don: “On January 21, I was walking over a bridge and just to the north was a pair of **mallards** swimming upstream, checking me out but not too disturbed. And on the 23rd, a pair of **purple finches** stopped in for a quick bite to eat, staying not more than five minutes. Another pair came two days later. The body of the purple finch is red all over, whereas the house finch is reddish mainly on the breast and head.

“On Sunday night, February 7, two owls were hooting back and forth very close to the house. **Pileated woodpeckers** are around everyday, and a pair of **cardinals** has been showing up lately.

“I photographed the purple finch through insulated glass, early in the morning, with not enough light, and the cardinal just through the glass, so that’s why the photos are a little fuzzy. I need a heated outside photography blind!”

In February there were three **bobcat** sightings in town within several days of each other: one by **Larry Burke**, when a large specimen bounded across the road in front of his truck as he crossed from Monterey into Hartsville on Route 57; a second by **Ben Harms**, who saw, on Monday morning, February 15, “...on the banks of the Umpachene along the Southfield-Canaan Road near its intersection with River Road, a bobcat – no tail, tawny-colored, and with ‘feathers’ extending out of its ears.”



photo by Matt Poindexter

And thirdly, a houseguest of Joe and Holly Poindexter, **Lauren Becker**, wrote this account of her stay here in early February: “Snow was still falling when we arrived in Southfield on Monday afternoon, and a distinctive trail of footprints cut across the yard. The hind feet of this animal had stepped right into the prints left by the front feet to leave a direct register track, and I remembered reading that **bobcats** walked like that in the snow.

“On Tuesday morning we woke up early and as I was pouring a second cup of coffee, I saw a dog-size animal trot alongside the house and up to the porch. It stopped at the screen door, pausing to look inside, and then scampered around the porch toward the hill. The animal was about the size of an Australian shepherd, but with a longer body. Its fur was mostly grey/brown, with white around the face, and brindled along the flanks. The funny thing about this animal was its silly little tail — short, tabby-colored, and ending in a bold tuft of black.

“I was awestruck, pretty sure what I’d just seen was a bobcat. A little later I noticed it pawing around the base of a tree near the far bird feeder. The creature stuck around for about three hours, sitting vigilantly, almost motionless, under the tree as the clouds cleared.

“Just when we began to get used to the cat, thinking it’d sit there all day, it vanished. That kind of stealth probably serves a predator well.”

Ari Korpivaara, from the Far Side of Southfield, sent this Valentine: “Here’s to all the neighbors who contribute so knowledgeably about wildlife for this column. Me, I don’t know a bluebird from a blue bird or a groundhog from a woodchuck (I think they’re the same. Or are they?) But I can spot a deer, unlike the hunters from Boston who, according to Laura Davis, took aim at her horse from the road until she came running out of her house to stop them. She had to paint HORSE on the poor animal’s flanks to keep it alive. Or the guy who brought the animal he shot to the Mill River store for checking and weighing.

‘That’s a good-looking deer, isn’t it,’ he said.

‘It’s good looking all right,’ Dave replied, ‘but it’s a goat.’

“True tales? Or tall tales? No matter. It’s seventeen below zero outside, not a creature is stirring, not even a mouse, and what else is there to do but sit by the fire and tell wondrous stories.” □

Compiled by Larry Burke, lburke2@me.com

THE LOG

POLICE DEPARTMENT (SELECTED ENTRIES)

- Jan. 2 3:52 p.m. A Hartsville New Marlborough Road resident complains of an unauthorized car parked on his property, but then reports that hikers who own the car have been located and have agreed to leave
- 8:49 p.m. During a routine check of the Fish Hatchery, two men parked in a red truck say they work at the hatchery and are shooting coyotes
- Jan. 5 9:41 a.m. The owner of a newly purchased lake-front property on Lake Buel reports that the seller is removing a wood stove from the residence; later he states that the sales agreement is ambiguous as to whether the stove was included in the sale
- Jan. 6 9:00 a.m. A blown tire disables a dump truck near the intersection of Norfolk and New Marlborough Southfield Roads
- 4:58 p.m. A potential problem regarding an issue with Mt. Everett Sanitation is seemingly resolved as a call to the Police Department from a Hatchery Road resident is interrupted by a conciliatory call to that resident from a Mt. Everett employee
- Jan. 8 7:11 a.m. As two school buses, lights flashing and stop signs out, exchanged students, a gray Ford pick-up swerves off the road and around the buses; but an alert bus driver records the plate number, a check of which reveals the owner's home address in Housatonic
- Jan. 9 10:18 a.m. Owner of a 2015 black Cadillac Escalade from Manhattan's East Side is issued a citation for driving with a suspended license
- Jan. 18 10:09 a.m. A Subaru pulling an unregistered trailer on Route 57 is stopped and towed
- Jan. 24 10:11 a.m. A dead deer is removed from the side of Norfolk Road
- 11:15 a.m. A Ford Escape and Chevrolet Silverado collide on New Marlborough South Sandisfield Road; two individuals are taken to Fairview Hospital; the vehicles are towed
- Jan. 25 2:58 p.m. A Mill River Great Barrington Road resident claims he is being harassed by a former employer trying to seize equipment the employee says is now rightfully his; the employer is told to stay off his ex-employee's property and seek redress in small claims court
- 10:07 p.m. A Clayton Mill River Road resident reports three rifle shots fired near the intersection with Alum Hill Road
- Jan. 26 8:23 p.m. A Corashire Road resident alerts Police Department to possible retaliation by a heating contractor, whom she claims was paid in advance for services and then failed to do the work; they were both to appear in court the following week
- Jan. 29 7:26 p.m. Following the pursuit of a Ford Ranger traveling erratically on Canaan Southfield Road, police officer discovers that the vehicle is unregistered and uninsured and is carrying open containers of alcohol; the unlicensed driver, a resident of Canaan Southfield Road, is placed in custody in the Sheffield Police Department

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FIRE AND RESCUE

Jan. 1	7:17 a.m.	Konkapot Road Medical Call	Jan. 13	12:45 a.m.	Mutual Aid to Monterey
Jan. 2	12:56 p.m.	Corashire Road Medical Call			Stand By
Jan. 2	4:23 p.m.	Peter Menaker Road Medical Call	Jan. 24	11:19 a.m.	New Marlborough South
Jan. 5	18:02 p.m.	New Marlborough Sandisfield			Sandisfield Road Vehicle Accident
		Center Road CO Alarm	Jan. 24	12:26 p.m.	New Marlborough Southfield
Jan. 6	5:28 p.m.	Rhoades and Bailey Road			Road Fire Alarm
		Fire Alarm	Jan. 25	12:28 p.m.	Hadsell Street Medical Call
Jan. 8	9:19 p.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough	Jan. 25	9:41 p.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road
		Road Fire Alarm			Medical Call
Jan. 9	9:19 p.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough	Jan. 26	9:12 a.m.	East Hill Road Medical Call
		Road Fire Alarm	Jan. 27	11:16 a.m.	Hayes Hill Road Medical Call
Jan. 12	11:00 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Monterey	Jan. 27	6:44 p.m.	Konkapot Road Medical Call
		Structure Fire	Jan. 29	9:23 a.m.	Brewer Hill Road Fire Alarm

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

New Marlborough Fire Company Rabies Clinic & Bake Sale: The annual Rabies Clinic & Bake Sale will be held from 10:00 a.m. to noon on Sunday, April 10, at the New Marlborough Fire Station on Norfolk Road in Southfield. New Marlborough Town Clerk Kathy Chretien will be on hand to issue dog licenses, and the clinic will include coffee and a bake sale for pet owners. Massachusetts law requires all dogs, cats, and ferrets be vaccinated against rabies. The cost at the clinic is \$10 per vaccination.

Spring Dance: The New Marlborough Fire Company's Annual Spring Dance will be held on Saturday, May 7, at Gedney Farm in New Marlborough village. Tickets will soon be available at the Mill River General Store or from any New Marlborough firefighter. Call David Smith, (413) 229-0291 for more information.

Safe Burning Season Reminders: With burning season underway until April 30, New Marlborough Fire & Rescue would like to remind residents of rules for open burning. Burning permits may be acquired, at no charge, at the Mill River General Store. Prior to burning on any given day, call 229-0246 to determine if burning is permitted that day. A change from previous years: you do not need to leave a message. Simply listen to the pre-recorded message to learn if burning is permitted. A reminder: burning is allowed between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., at which time all fires must be out. Call 911 to report any emergencies.

A few additional reminders:

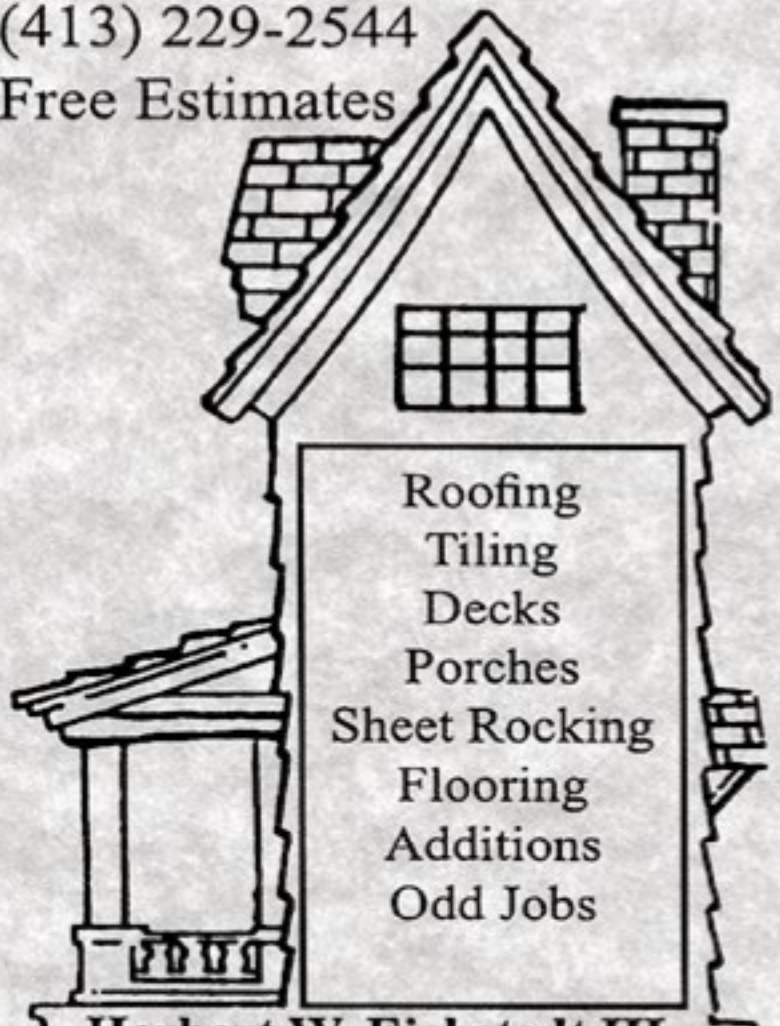
- Avoid burning on days with high winds.
- Keep fires at least seventy-five feet from all dwellings
- When possible, have a garden hose or other water supply available, as well as a rake and/or shovel
- Do not leave fires unattended.
- Burn the fire down to coals and drown with water to extinguish.
- Call 911 if the fire gets away from you.

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GOING GLOBAL

A New Program Brings the World to Mount Everett

By Jane Burke

It was pure Glenn Devoti. “Thanks for the offer and thinking of me,” said the principal of Mount Everett High School when asked for an interview, “but I’d really love to see a story about Mount Everett and our global education effort instead.” It is Mr. Devoti’s leadership style to stay out of the limelight himself and let his teachers shine.

Over a decade ago a social studies teacher from Australia, Mike Farmer, brought a global perspective to the Mount Everett experience by creating Kidmocracy, a program that brought educators and students from Egypt to the U.S., which included weeks at Mount Everett. There were reciprocal visits to Egypt for Mount Everett students and teachers. Since the Arab Spring, this program has been suspended, but a group of teachers has been rebuilding a new global program. Although there is no school funding for their efforts, the group, which includes teachers from science, language, history, and arts, and the librarian and the curriculum coordinator, has been meeting weekly to share ideas and plan diverse opportunities for Mount Everett students. One notable success so far: the Global Studies Program, an effort fueled by the group’s passion for broadening students’ educational experience, made possible by the support of parents and donors.

One aspect of the Global Education Program involves short student exchange programs. In February eight students and one teacher from Hong Kong visited Mount Everett for a week. The connection with China developed through Mount Everett’s participation in the World Education Alliance, which brings students together for an annual week-long conference and includes visits to cultural sites in the region. David and Michele Shalaby in Mill River hosted one of the students, whom Michele accompanied on trips to New York City and cultural resources in the area. A surprising benefit of hosting a Chinese student, says Michele, is the renewed appreciation of things the Americans all had taken for granted: a quiet town with a dark, star-filled night sky, siblings (until recently Chinese families were restricted to a single child), more relaxed school days. “These are things our students wouldn’t see as special without being prompted by someone who lacks them,” says Ms. Shalaby.

Last year the exchange went in the other direction, with Mount Everett students and teachers traveling to China for a conference on water resources. This month, eight students and two teachers will go to Hamburg, Germany, where they will perform at a music festival. Teachers work hard to organize and chaperone travel opportunities during school vacations and in the summer. This spring Danielle Melino, high school biology teacher, is escorting



During a Mount Everett field trip to New York City, students took a breather in Central Park.

a group to the Galapagos Islands. Other excursions in the past have been to Italy and Costa Rica to study art.

With the success of short-term visits, the Global Education Program is expanding to include hosting a foreign student for a full school year, with the objective of more fully integrating the student into the local community — and giving local students a full year’s exposure to a person from a foreign culture. Each exchange student pays the district \$15,000 to attend for a year.

Finally, the Global Education Program has been integrated into the high school curriculum itself. Stephanie Graham, leader of the program, is offering a new academic elective called Global Arts. She credits Glenn Devoti for his iron-clad support. “Every time I have brought Glenn a new idea he has been wholeheartedly behind me. He never says no to anything that will enrich the lives of kids and enable teachers to follow their passion.” Over the decades, Mr. Devoti has brought together a group of passionate teachers and fostered their special projects. As Ms. Graham says, “He is my Captain Kirk; he can never retire.” □

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CT HIC #578070



NEWS FROM THE LAND TRUST

WINTERTIME* (TO THE TUNE OF SUMMERTIME)

Wintertime and the livin' is freezin'
 Fish aren't jumpin' and the snow is high
 Your daddy is grouchy and your mama is whinin'
 But hush li'l neighbors, don't you cry

One April morning you're gonna rise up happy
 Put away your shovel and look up to the sky
 Our local land trust has big plans to warm you
 with the **Red Hot Blues Bash** standin' by

*Lyrics by Robin Tost
 and Rebecca Schreiber

The New Marlborough Land Trust is hosting a smokin' **Red Hot Blues Bash** to celebrate the beginning of Spring!

The **Red Hot Blues Bash**, to be held at Gedney Farm on April 9, 2016 from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m., will feature: a delicious dinner prepared by Chef Robert Burnell of Gedney Farm, dancing to the music of The BTUs (the Berkshires' favorite rhythm and blues band), a cash bar featuring specialty cocktails and craft beer, and a unique silent auction highlighting our incredible community resources, both "natural" and human. Three "Unsung Heros" of the community will receive awards for making New Marlborough a better place to live and raise children. Proceeds from the event will go directly to programs that increase educational opportunities for outdoor learning and place-based education at New Marlborough Land Trust sites such as the Lower Carroll Mill, the Joffe Sanctuary, 1000 Acre Swamp, and the Crosby-Robbins Mill.

Tickets may be purchased for \$35 in advance at the Mill River General Store, through PayPal on the NM Land Trust website, www.nmlandtrust.org, or by sending a check to New Marlborough Land Trust, P. O. Box 275, Southfield, MA 01259.

So, dream, dream, dream of Spring and the **Red Hot Blues Bash**, April 9, 2016 !



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NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE LIBRARY

Adult Fiction

The Bitter Season, by Tami Hoag
The Flood Girls, by Richard Fifield
The Photographer's Wife, by Suzanne Joinson
The High Mountains of Portugal, by Yann Martel
Into Oblivion, by Arnaldur Indridason
The Good Liar, by Nicholas Searle
The Wolves, by Alex Berenson

Adult Nonfiction

Target Tokyo: Jimmy Doolittle and the Raid That Avenged Pearl Harbor, by James M. Scott

Children's Fiction

The Only Child, by Guojing
Night Animals, by Gianna Marino
The Wonderful Habits of Rabbits, by Douglas Florian
Surf's Up, by Kwame Alexander
Paper Wishes, by Lois Sepahban
Pax, by Sara Pennypacker

Children's Nonfiction

How To Swallow a Pig: Step-by-Step Advice
from the Animal Kingdom, by Steve Jenkins

DVD

<i>True Detective Season 2</i>	<i>Everest</i>
<i>Bridge of Spies</i>	<i>Love The Coopers</i>
<i>Doc Martin Season 7</i>	<i>Suffragette</i>

After Peter and Honey Fields researched and wrote a report on the care and housing of Betta Fish, also known as Siamese Fighting Fish, we took a trip to Petco and, based on their research, purchased the tank, accessories, and a very handsome blue Veiltail male (say that three times fast) Betta. His name is Sushi! We encourage everyone to stop in and meet the newest additions to our library family.



On Bring Your Child To The Library Day (February 6), families enjoyed the telling of a German folktale, "The Legend of the Silver Pine Cone," by minstrel storyteller Mary Jo Maichack. Children then made their own silver pine cones and were invited to share their version of the tale.

Library Hours

Mon. Wed. Sat.
 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Tues. Fri.
 1:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Thurs.
 1:30 – 5:30 p.m.



photo by Kristen Sparhawk

Thanks to the generosity of Liz Goodman, the library has acquired two male Zebra Finches, Sherlock and Watson.



photos by Debbie O'Brien

Just a day before Valentine's Day the New Marlborough Friends of the Library held their annual "Sweets for Your Sweet: A Chocolate Celebration." Adults and children enjoyed homemade confections, a chocolate fountain, children's activity table, and free hot chocolate. All proceeds go to funding library programs.

Contributions are needed to continue the paper!

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

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

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

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Town Times

- ◇ **Board of Selectmen:** Every Monday at 6:00 p.m.
- ◇ **Town Administrator:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- ◇ **Planning Board:** Second and fourth Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- ◇ **Board of Health:** First Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.
- ◇ **Conservation Commission:** Last Saturday of the month at 9 a.m.
- ◇ **Board of Assessors:** Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- ◇ **Fire Department training:** Every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the fire station
- ◇ **Building Inspector:** Monday 5 - 7 p.m., Wednesday 8 - 10 a.m.
- ◇ **First Responders:** meeting/training: First and third Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the fire station
- ◇ **Cultural Council:** Second Thursday at 4:15 p.m at the library
- ◇ **Post Office:** Mill River Window: Monday - Friday 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Southfield Window: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
(The Southfield PO lobby is open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)
- ◇ **Town Treasurer:** Monday & Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- ◇ **Tax Collector:** Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- ◇ **Selectmen's Administrative Secretary:** Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- ◇ **Dog and Animal Control Officer:** John Springstube 413-232-7038
- ◇ **Town Clerk:** 229-8278; 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. weekdays; Saturday by appointment
- ◇ **Town Hall:** 229-8116
- ◇ **Police:** Business office: 229-8161

Transfer Station Hours:

Wednesday: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Sunday: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

PERMITS ARE DUE ON JULY 1

They are available at the Town Hall in Mill River for July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016

FEE IS \$105,
AFTER AUGUST 15, \$130
can be paid by mail. please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope

Emergency calls:

**Police, Fire, Medical
911**

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

New Marlborough 5 Village News

appears monthly,

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

The next issue will be dated April 2015.

All copy must be submitted no later than March 15.

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

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- ♦ **Berkshire Environmental Research Center (BERC):** Thomas Coote. Lake & pond management, wetland delineation, ecological research, rare/invasive species assessment. 413-644-4509. tcoote@simons-rock.edu
- ♦ **Campbell Falls Carpentry:** Licensed and insured contracting at campbellfallscarpentry@gmail.com (413)229-6097 and (413)429-7677. Mass Contractors # 7614140, HIC# 170377
- ♦ **Corashire Realty:** Serving New Marlborough for 40 years. Let experience, knowledge, and personal attention work for you. 528-0014
- ♦ **Dellea:** Dellea.biz provides on-site Windows computer services to local residents, small businesses, town governments, and nonprofits throughout southern Berkshire County. (413)528-1141.
- ♦ **Design+Planning:** Christopher Blair; Since 1986, creative, budget aware design. Achieve your goals for additions, alterations to an existing home or new construction. 413- 528-4960. chris@design-planning.com.
- ♦ **DesignFirstBerkshires:** Architectural design, space planning and renovation management. 413-528-6169 or info@designfirstberkshires.com.
- ♦ **DimisWorks.com:** Fine art, hand-painted paper, original designs, individually created; creative gardening, too! Dana Ehninger 413-258-4837.
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- ♦ **Project Bee** meets on the last Saturday of every month from 10:30 until noon at the New Marlborough Library in Mill River. See www.projectbeeline.org or Project Bee on Facebook.
- ♦ **James Edelman:** General Contractor, Real Estate Sales. Best Results. Construction License #090773. Home Improvement Registration #152035. Real Estate Sales License #9086247. 413-528-0006 or cljvedelman@aol.com
- ♦ **Susan M. Smith:** Attorney At Law; Concentrating in the areas of Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Elder Law, Real Estate and Zoning Matters. ssmithlaw@hughes.net or 229-7080
- ♦ **Reiner White:** General Contractor; 413-229-8450
- ♦ **Woodruff Mountain Landscaping:** Excavation and landscape contracting, all forms of stone work and masonry, and outdoor services, including lawn mowing and yard work. 413-229-2919 woodruffmountain@aol.com

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