



New Marlborough 5 Village News

VOL XXII
NO 11
March 2022

Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

THE SHOW MUST “ZOOM” ON!

By Robbi Hartt

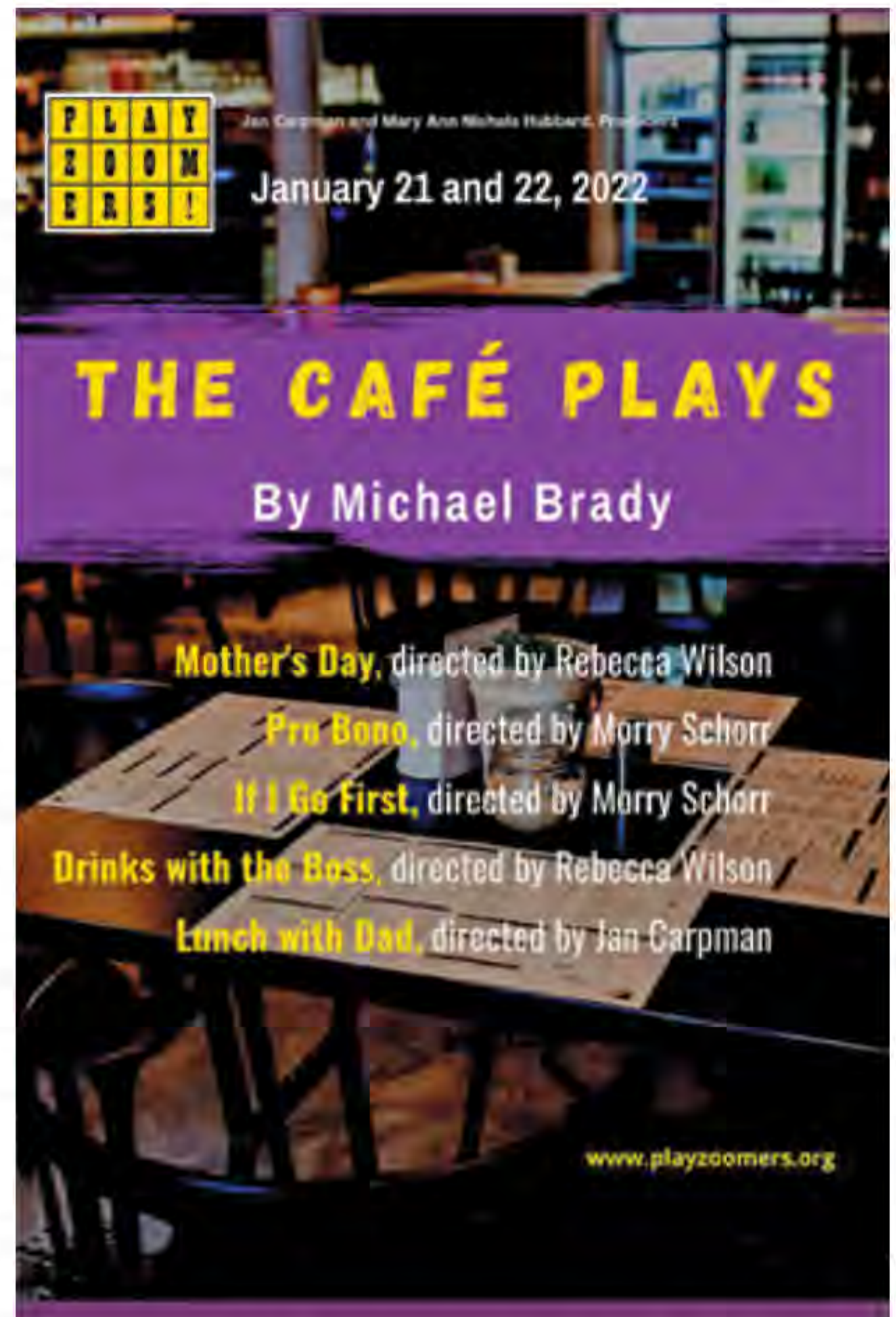
Maggie O’Farrell’s historical novel *Hamnet*, centered on the death of William Shakespeare’s eleven-year-old son, traces the challenges a mother faces holding her family together when her husband’s livelihood as a writer depends on theaters staying open. *The New York Times*, which declared it “one of the ten best books of 2020,” praised the novel as “All too timely.” Five hundred years ago, it was the bubonic plague that devastated public life and shuttered theaters. Theater closings are a crisis playwrights, actors, and producers have had to deal with ever since, but perhaps never with as great an impact on careers as the strictures imposed in the past three years by the Covid pandemic.

Michael Brady had planned to stage his collection of short dramatic pieces, “The Cafe Plays,” in the spring of 2020 at the Southfield Church. “Then, of course, Covid took over our lives,” he said.

Michael and his wife, Patricia Jacobsen-Brady, have been residents of Southfield for over thirty-five years. But many locals know him through his work with Berkshire Voices, Great Barrington Public Theatre’s workshop for local playwrights. Or they have seen his work, the most prominent of which was “To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday,” developed by The Ensemble Studio Theatre in New York City and produced as a film by Sony Pictures. Other stage works shown in the Northeast include “Sara” (Equity Library Theatre at Lincoln Center); “Semper Fi” (Gloucester Stage Company); “Hard Time” (Main Street Stage, North Adams); and “Two Bears Blinking” (New Theatre, Miami). His play “Pipeline” was featured in Barrington Stage Company’s 2019 10x10 New Play Festival.

“The Cafe Plays” appeared to be headed for the storage bin — along with countless other pre-Covid activities. But then PlayZoomers stepped in. An online theatre company that produces affordable monthly performances featuring original plays of different genres, lengths, and cast sizes, PlayZoomers offers audiences a way to experience theatre and connect with artists regardless of their location, finances, or health status.

Michael Brady has collaborated with PlayZoomers in the past for readings of “Aisle Five” and “Reunion.” His most recent collaboration, a reading of “The Cafe Plays,” took place in mid-January. Of the seven plays in the series, written between 2018 and 2021, PlayZoomers performed five: “Mother’s Day,” “Pro Bono,” “If I Go First,”



Playbill for the Zoom presentation of Michael Brady’s *The Cafe Plays*.

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The Show, continued

“Drinks with the Boss,” and “Lunch with Dad.” Each play, featuring two or three actors, is set in a café.

In notes for the PlayZoomers program, Michael writes: “These short plays began as an exercise for Berkshire Voices, the writers group I moderate for Great Barrington Public Theatre. A simple set-up – two chairs and a table. Do I hear music? I do. Do I smell coffee? You bet. Who is at the table? Why are they here? What do they want? What do they need? Understanding? Forgiveness? A good laugh? I hear a father and daughter. An old couple. Who else? Some kids. Okay. Invite them in. Be a gracious host. But above all else – listen. For if you listen carefully, without judgment, they will tell you all their secrets, all their dreams, all their fears.”

The plays explore a variety of themes, each laced with humor and emotion. One shows a first meeting between a mother and the son she gave up for adoption, another highlights a woman with cancer who wants to end her life on her own terms. Perhaps the most intense of the five dramas produced by PlayZoomers features a young woman who, in turning to her music teacher for comfort as her father is dying, makes a life-changing discovery.

“The Cafe Plays” were presented as a live production on the Zoom platform. “I’m not sure of the total number of tickets sold,” said Michael, “but the producers, Mary Ann Nichols Hubbard and Jan Carpman, said this was their best-attended production.” The actors were located all over the country — New York, Boston, Washington, DC, Los Angeles, Florida, and the Midwest; several played multiple roles. “Scheduling rehearsals in four time zones was a bit of a bear!” said Michael, but after two weeks of rehearsals, they were ready to perform.

To retain a “live performance” feel, the writer, directors, actors, and producers remained on screen after the performance for a Q&A session with the online audience. Asked about his choice of subjects and characters, Michael Brady commented that the plays represent “Looking at certain milestones in life through different eyes, often one younger and one older.” The key to writing a short but poignant play? “A short play is defined by the situation rather than the characters,” he explained. “The key is to present a fully formed character dealing with an immediate situation that needs an immediate resolution.” One viewer expressed his gratitude, saying, “Staying home has been a challenge, lasting way too long. Your Zoom event brought great joy, like going to a real event.”

Presentation on Zoom has its advantages, notes



Michael Brady

photo courtesy Michael Brady

Michael. “You can cast from a wide range of actors. Geography is not a limiting factor.” He is quick to add, “We are all learning how to maximize the Zoom experience, make it more intimate and moving, but it is a challenge, especially for the actors, who are so used to reading each other in real time, making real adjustments, and keeping things honest.”

The actors agreed that it is a lot harder to perform over Zoom — due to the green screen, the lighting, and the greater challenge of connecting with emotions than when acting in live performances. Early on, said one actor, the rehearsals were easy, but later rehearsals were much harder than in person. “You need to look

directly into the web cam, and can’t see your partner’s reactions but have to picture them,” she explained.

All involved, however, expressed gratitude for a technology capable of bringing the stage to the living room. Jennifer Jasper, a fellow director who was in the audience, said, “Two years later, it’s amazing what we can get now on this [Zoom] platform. It’s good to see theater still happening, in spite of the ongoing pandemic.” She praised Zoom Directing Advisor Steve Yakutis, who took the scripts and worked with the directors to adapt them to Zoom. Still, all involved missed the close contact with each other and with the audience. “We all hope to be back in theaters with a live audience, breathing together as one,” said Michael. “You learn so much from the audience. If they fidget or don’t pay attention, oh-oh, but if they are with you, really concentrating and listening, there’s no better feeling in the world for a writer.” □



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SPRING'S FIRST LAMBS

By Jordan Archey

Lambing season has begun at Hidden Mountain Farm. Farmer and owner Christian Stovall breeds a flock of fifteen to twenty Border Leicester ewes, a breed originating in the British Isles that is commonly referred to as "the Great Improver." Renowned for their ability to thrive on an all-grass diet, these sheep are well known for their delicious meat and highly regarded wool, which can be used for yarn. The lambskins, too, are highly prized.

Currently, Mr. Stovall, whose farm is located on Stone Manor Drive in New Marlborough village, buys a large group of various breeds for meat production. In an increasingly popular trend among local farm animals, the sheep spend their lives grazing in rotating pastures in and around New Marlborough. By expanding his breeding operation in the coming months and years, Mr. Stovall will be able to start raising lambs that were born and bred right here in New Marlborough.

Although lambs are just beginning to arrive, preparation for lambing begins in the height of summer. While nutritionally dense second-cutting hay is gathered, transported, and stored in the hay loft, saving the "sunshine" for the darker winter days when it's needed, ewes spend their summers on a vacation of sorts, grazing the best fresh grass there is to offer. In September, they are brought back to the barn and the breeding process begins. The ewes then carry their lambs for a gestational period of five months and five days, giving birth



Border Leicester ewes post-birthing, get out for a breath of air. Below, posing for a family photo.



in mid-February to early March. While some farmers are a bit more hands-on with the lambing process, Mr. Stovall prefers to let them thrive on their own. "I don't over-supervise the process because I want to select animals that are hearty and independent enough from birth and give the lambs an opportunity to bond without human intervention," he says. While no-intervention lambing is common amongst this breed, there are exceptions. "If an animal is ever going through a tough time with birth, I will intervene, says Mr. Stovall. "I always put animal welfare first."

In the days after giving birth, ewes are placed with their lambs in cordoned off areas in the barn called "jugs." There, safe from predators, they remain under the watchful custody of Benson, the livestock guardian dog. During this time, they are able to build a strong bond.

"Having sheep in my barn and being with them around lambing time is the best thing about my winters," says Mr. Stovall. "Seeing them go through changes of pregnancy and eventually getting to see them raise their lambs with so much care and protection is an incredible thing to be a part of." □

Jordan Archey is program manager, business members of Berkshire Grown, of which Hidden Mountain Farm is a member.



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BOARD OF SELECTMEN



January 24: The meeting, attended via Zoom by all three selectmen, opened with a presentation by Historical Commission Chairman John Schreiber, assisted by member Deanna Mummert, on the Commission's progress with a demolition delay bylaw. The intent of the bylaw, said Dr. Schreiber, is to encourage rehabilitation and reuse of New Marlborough's historically significant structures. Two years so far in the drafting, the bylaw describes the process whereby a structure is deemed historic, calls for a delay of up to nine months from the time the building inspector receives an application to demolish a historic structure, and lays out a series of penalties if the structure is leveled during the delay period.

Some 150 towns in the commonwealth, including six in Berkshire County, have passed demolition delay bylaws, said Dr. Schreiber. "So far, we have been lucky," he added, citing the preservation of iconic buildings such as the Meeting House, the Old Inn on the Green, Gedney Farm, The Whip Shop, the Southfield Church, and, now in the planning stage, the Hartsville Grange Hall. But with the pandemic-driven rise in property values, he said, "things are changing. The time is now."

As spelled out by the draft, a structure can be deemed to be historic if it was built before 1901, is architecturally significant, or was built on a property of historic importance. The designation would be determined in a deliberative process that begins with the receipt of a demolition application by the building inspector. According to the present draft, this would be followed by presentation of the application within seven days to the Historical Commission, which would then have ten days to render a finding of historic significance and another thirty to have its opinion vetted in a public hearing.

If the designation survives this gantlet of scrutiny, demolition must be delayed nine months, during which time the owner would be encouraged to entertain viable options. At the end of that period, he or she would be free to demolish. The penalty for doing so during the delay is \$500 for every day the demolition remains uncorrected. Further, the owner would be prohibited from building on the property, other than a "faithful restoration" of the original structure, for two years.

To Dr. Schreiber's request for comments, Selectman Tara White said, "I have a ton of questions." The first: how many houses in town are likely to be deemed historically significant? Ms. White noted that a project undertaken by Claudette Callahan for the New Marlborough Historical Society identified some 140 houses in town built before the turn of the century. Dr. Schreiber responded that only those declared to be historically significant in a public meeting would be protected. Later additions, he said in response to another question, would not be protected.

Her main problem with the bylaw, said Ms. White, is that "it gives the Commission way too much power." Citing the authority of as few as two Historical Commission members to render a decision to delay, Ms. White asked that a group vested with that power be made larger and contain individuals with expertise in the matter of historic significance. Expanding on this notion, the selectmen suggested that the building inspector be deputized as the enforcement officer and that the group vetting the demolition application be expanded to include the Planning Board and the Board of Health. "We didn't write the bylaw to give power to the Historical Commission," said Dr. Schreiber. "I love the idea that the building inspector be the enforcement officer."



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Selectman Mark Carson said he has already received “pushback” and that residents would want to know if their home was on the list of protected structures before they voted on a demolition delay bylaw. He suggested that houses out of sight from roadways should be excluded and that the bylaw focus on those located in the town’s villages.

Chairman Richard Long noted that many buildings have already been preserved and questioned why a regulation was needed. **“This bylaw is a solution in search of a problem,”** he said. Dr. Schreiber referred to the “mishmash” of many unregulated New York State towns and cited the need for riverfront protection as an example of putting in a protection before the problem arises. Mr. Long brought the discussion to a close, saying, “I hope the Historical Commission takes the comments tonight as a way of refining the bylaw.”

A signing of the Mutual Agreement for Elderly Transportation was postponed until a contradiction in the contract could be resolved. In one place it specifies a charge of \$10 for a one-way trip; in another, the \$10 covers a roundtrip. In other business, the Board agreed to sign off on a group of culvert assessments and to okay the contract to purchase fire-fighter safety equipment. To fill a vacancy on the Southern Berkshire Regional School District School Committee following the resignation of Carrieanne Petrik, the Board opted to advertise the opening on Maggie’s List and the Town website. Finally, the selectmen agreed to award licenses to more than a dozen New Marlborough businesses — the names of which were read into the record by Town Administrator Mari Enoch.

January 28: The Board convened a joint 9:00 a.m. meeting with the Board of Assessors (represented by Marsha Pshenishny, chair, Freddy Friedman, and Wendy Miller) to map out a strategy for the management of tax assessment following the May 1 retirement of Mrs. Psh-

enishny as assessor. **The question at hand: whether to simply hire a replacement for Mrs. Pshenishny, divide her duties between an employee and an outside contractor, or hand off the entire job to an outside contractor.**

In reply to a request from Mr. Long for a summary of the functions performed by the Board of Assessors, Mrs. Pshenishny said that two of its duties are to vote on abatements and approve fees from outside contractor Paul S. Kapinos Associates. Ms. Miller added that during revaluation, the Board meets twice a month to review property sales. In the ensuing discussion, Ms. Miller and Mr. Friedman concurred that the assessor operation required that a clerk be located at a Town Hall office, at least part-time.

Mrs. Pshenishny favored retaining Mr. Kapinos, whom, she said, “goes above and beyond and has the respect of the state board of revenue. Paul is easy to work with,” she added. Ms. Miller and Mr. Friedman were of the opinion that little would be lost by looking into other possible outside contractors. At least for the immediate future, however, the issue appears to be moot: the contract with Kapinos Associates, Ms. White revealed, runs through calendar 2023. Mr. Long said that it still made sense to investigate whether the Kapinos firm could take on work now performed by Mrs. Pshenishny.

Discussion turned to the sharp increase in home values following the 2021 revaluation. Home sales “went wild,” said Mrs. Pshenishny. **“We are seeing prices that are twice what are on the books.”** The increase in stated value (along with the subsequent increase in property tax) is getting some pushback. “People are complaining,” said Ms. White. Mrs. Pshenishny cited a few abatement requests. “One said she hasn’t improved her property — her neighbors had.”

And with this conundrum left hanging, the meeting was adjourned.

Residents would want to know if their home was on the list of protected structures before they voted on a demolition delay bylaw.

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January 31: Meeting at 9:00 a.m. (to accommodate a 6:00 p.m. public hearing on tree removal), the Board tackled once again the question of wage increases to make Town employee salaries competitive with those in nearby towns. A year ago, the Board conducted a round of salary adjustments, raising payment to those employees on the lower end of the salary range by as much as 4.5 percent and up to 2 percent to those on the upper end. Combined inflation of about 7.5 percent over the past two years has, however, triggered the need to consider another increase. After Finance Committee Chairman Steve Klein, also present via Zoom, declined a request to weigh in on the matter of individual salaries — “the Finance Committee thinks in terms of overall payroll,” he said — **Mr. Long suggested that the selectmen look at the effect of an across-the-board pay increase of 4.5 percent and then revisit the issue. His colleagues agreed.**

With that, the selectmen moved on to filling the position of administrative secretary, left vacant by the recent resignation of Sharon Fleck. Citing a description of the position produced by the Collins Center, a department of the University of Massachusetts employed by the Town, Mr. Long asked if human resources administration might be added. Ms. White responded that someone with HR experience would be “incredibly expensive.” **Ms. Enoch said she would complete a job description and asked whether, in the meantime, the working hours of remaining Town Hall staff might be expanded to cover the duties of the administrative secretary.** Mr. Long endorsed this idea, saying that with the pandemic, the staff was “very skeletal.”

Mr. Long updated the Board on a grant to repair Route 57 where it passes the New Marlborough Village Green. The complexity of the engineering would extend completion of the repair into the first half of FY24, he said. After agreeing to sign three business licenses and

endorsing a payment of \$5,000 to the New Marlborough Cultural Council, the meeting was adjourned.

At **6:00 p.m.** the Board was back on Zoom to conduct, in accordance with a state shade-tree law, a **Public Hearing** on the removal of twenty-seven trees and the trimming of two that threaten National Grid power lines on seven Town roads (Mill River Great Barrington, Hartsville New Marlborough, Mill River Southfield, New Marlborough Southfield, Adsit Crosby, Canaan Valley, and Norfolk). There were no objections to the tree work, and the hearing was adjourned.


February 1: A Special Permit Public Hearing was called to order via Zoom at 5:30 p.m. to re-open consideration of a building permit request from Ingo Schweers. Mr. Schweers, purchaser of the Southfield Village plot of land between the Southfield Store and the former Baptist Church,

wishes to replace the house destroyed by fire three years ago. The hour-long hearing focused on two issues: setbacks from the road and neighboring properties and the size of the lot.

The permit application submitted by Mr. Schweers showed setbacks of about eighteen feet from Norfolk Road and sixteen feet from the former church. The Town bylaw calls for a minimum setback of twenty-five feet (an error in the recorded bylaw indicating a twenty foot minimum awaits correction). Mr. Schweers agreed to revise his plans to concur with the twenty-foot minimums.

The bylaw also requires that building lots be at least one acre in size. The size of the lot as shown in Town records is 0.93 of an acre. However, a recent survey, bearing the imprimatur of the state attorney general, shows that the plot of land exceeds an acre in size. Acting on the advice of Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard, the Board accepted the validity of the stamped survey. The hearing was continued to February 22, to allow Mr. Schweers time to present a revised building plan.

Combined inflation of about 7.5 percent over the past two years has triggered the need to consider another increase.



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February 7: With Messrs. Long and Carson in attendance via Zoom, the Board approved the installation of a utility pole on a Town right-of-way to serve a Hayes Hill Road resident. The meeting, not quite yet five minutes old, was then adjourned.

February 14: The Zoom meeting, with all three selectmen present, opened with an update from Historical Commission Chairman John Schreiber on the latest draft of a bylaw to require a nine-month delay on the demolition of historically significant buildings in New Marlborough. In response to concerns raised at a previous meeting regarding the knock-down of later additions to a structure, Dr. Schreiber said that the draft now specifies demolition of 40 percent or more of a historic structure.

Historical significance would be adjudicated by a five-person Historical Committee, comprised of two members of the Historical Commission and three members of the Planning Board. In response to a comment from Selectman Mark Carson, who also serves as as Planning Board chairman, that mustering three Planning Board members might prove to be a challenge, its representation on the Historic Committee was dropped to two and a citizen at large, to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen, was added.

The most significant change to the bylaw draft was to specify that the building inspector, rather than the Historical Commission, be tasked with enforcement of the bylaw. Mr. Carson said that the Planning Board would take up the new draft at its next meeting — in time for it to be placed on the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting in May. **Dr. Schreiber clarified for the record that the measure is actually an ordinance and required a simple majority, not a two-thirds vote as is required for the passage of a bylaw.** He thanked the Board for its guidance, which, he said, has produced “a more community-oriented bylaw.”

Next, Animal Inspector Prue Spaulding rattled off a census of animals living in town (including 5,242 chickens), which, she said, confirms New Marlborough’s status

a “farming community.” Ms. Spaulding went on to urge driver awareness of dogs on town roads. “I really want people to realize there are animals that get on the road,” she said.

Town Administrator Mari Enoch said that a fee discrepancy under the Inter-Municipal Agreement for Transportation Services had been eliminated: a ride would cost \$10 whether it was one-way or round-trip. The Board voted to approve the agreement.

Ms. Enoch then displayed a document showing cost-of-living adjustments (COLA), ranging from 2 to 7.5 percent, for Town employees. Since the COLA percentage was not yet available and other budgetary demands still needed to be defined, the Board declined to specify wage increases. “I have mixed feelings about substantial increases,” said Chairman Richard Long. “I want a better sense of how the rest of the budget is going to play out, but I hope we don’t have to balance the budget on the backs of employees.” The Board agreed to temper the term “level-funded” with an explanation that it was awaiting specific numbers on the COLA increase.

Finally, in a brief discussion of the logistics of the Annual Town Meeting, Selectman, Tara White expressed a preference for an outdoors Saturday morning gathering. “I really like the participation we got on Saturday mornings,” she said of the past two years’ ATMs. After agreeing to sign three business licenses, the selectmen voted to adjourn the meeting. □

Joe Poindexter



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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

January 20: All Commission members — John Schreiber, Freddy Friedman, Nanci Worthington, and Doug Hyde — were present via Zoom to address the month's busy agenda.

The first order of business was a Request For Determination (RDA) submitted by David Madow of 558 Hartsville New Marlborough Road. Mr. Madow explained the scope of the project involving improvements to his driveway, which would involve resurfacing and the relocation of several telephone poles. He offered new locations for the poles, distancing them from the wetland. The Commission agreed to continue the hearing to give Mr. Madow time to draw up a mitigation plan showing the pole relocation.

Next, Liz Goodman along with her consultant, Scott MacKenzie, joined the Zoom to present an RDA involving moving the existing driveway at 902 Clayton Mill River Road to a new location which would allow access to a new parcel subdivided out of Ms. Goodman's existing land. The Commission had a hard time evaluating the described work without more information and a site plan. It agreed to meet on site with Ms. Goodman and Mr. MacKenzie to better assess the work proposed. The hearing was continued until next meeting.

Jackson Alberti of Foresight Land Services next addressed the Commission for the continued hearing for his client, Margaret Koerner, regarding the access driveway through a covered bridge at 2118 Canaan Southfield Road. Mr. Alberti provided a detailed description of measures designed to stabilize the eroding riverbank of the Konkapot at the bridge. In response to comments submitted by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Mr. Alberti explained strategies that would main-

tain the quality of the river water by minimizing sedimentation, preserve the vegetation necessary to a cold-water fish habitat, and strengthen the stability of the river bank.

It was noted that the entire area relative to the bridge is indicated as a flood zone. Mr. Alberti explained that he is awaiting input from the Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program regarding the impact of the work proposed. The Commission agreed to continue the hearing until its next meeting and reiterated some general concerns about the project: the overall stabilization of the existing bridge abutments and the fact that the span of the bridge results in narrowing the river at the bridge site; the timing of the construction, considering weather; and the general vulnerability of the site to high water.

The Commission agreed to a request for a two-month continuation of the Notice of Intent (NOI) hearing for Leonard Golub/Benton Hill LLC of Rhoades and Bailey Road.

Next, Eliot and Jane Rennert addressed the Commission regarding a violation notice issued to them for work done at their property, the so-called "Rooney Farmhouse" on New Marlborough Southfield Road. The Rennerts, acknowledging that some site work was performed without a permit, resolved to submit an NOI. They added that White Engineering, which has been retained to do the necessary site engineering, would submit the required permitting.

The Commission reviewed a Forest Cutting Plan for John Ormsbee of Sisson Hill Road, and then, before adjourning, agreed to discuss its FY23 budget, due at month's end, by email. □

Martha Bryan

Thank You to Our Contributors:

Brian Killeen; Jill Jakes; Edward & Claire Stiepleman; Debrah Menin; Gerald & Yvonne Stephens; Robert Anelli; Michele Sacks & Elon Gratch; Leonard & Hannah Golub; Susan Lewin; Marcia & John Doelman

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PLANNING BOARD

January 26: This meeting of the Planning Board, via Zoom, got underway at 7:04 p.m., with members Mark Carson, Bob Hartt, Paul Marcel, and Jon James, plus secretary Sharon Fleck and Sandisfield Planning Board member Bill Taylor. The primary focus of the meeting was once again Dark Sky. Bob Hartt, who has been the lead member on the effort to craft a Dark Sky bylaw for New Marlborough, started by emphasizing the need to accelerate the process so that a proposed bylaw can be submitted by March 18 for inclusion on the warrant of the Annual Town Meeting in May. To that end, Mr. Hartt took the Board members point by point through a draft he had worked on since the previous meeting that eliminated the language he deemed unnecessary.

Over the next hour, the Board worked through the document, looking for sections that could be further condensed or clarified, trying to find the level of specificity that will likely be palatable to the voters who will decide on the bylaw's passage. An example of that was whether or not to define "light trespass" as being above .2 foot candles at a given property line. While the majority of board members felt this inclusion might be "too technical," Bill Taylor, the Sandisfield Planning Board member who is spearheading a Dark Sky bylaw for his town, argued the need to be that specific. Chairman Mark Carson's thought was that the issue of what constitutes light trespass would probably be settled on a case by case basis. This brought up the subject of which authority would be the appropriate one for enforcement, and the Board seemed to lean toward the Board of Selectmen as the final arbiter.

There was general agreement among the members of the Board that the bylaw should key on outdoor lighting and should apply immediately to new construction and major renovations, and that the intention of the bylaw, as regards all other existing structures in town, should be to encourage, but not require, compliance within five years of the passage of the bylaw. It was agreed that a warm quality of exterior lighting would be called for,

that outdoor lighting for sports would be allowed, that lighting of the American flag also be allowed, that outward-pointing spot lights be prohibited, that lighting on public properties be shielded and downward pointing, that hilltop structures minimize exterior lighting, and that an 11:00 p.m. curfew on lighting around commercial structures be considered.

After agreeing that Mr. Hartt would generate a new draft incorporating the evening's discussions – to be further refined at the February 9 meeting – the Board moved on to two other matters. The first was an inquiry by Lori Robbins on the rules pertaining to common driveways, to which Mr. Carson stated that a common driveway can serve two properties as long as it is co-owned by the two parties; for more than two properties, the subdivision control law goes into effect. The other item for the evening had to do with Mr. Carson's meeting with Mr. Ingo Schweers regarding several options for development of a property Mr. Schweers owns in Southfield. It was agreed by the Board that one of the plans would not require a special permit to proceed and would therefore be recommended as the best one to send on to the Board of Selectmen for approval. The meeting was then adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

February 9: Meeting once again via Zoom, the Planning Board convened at 7:03 p.m. with members Mark Carson, Bob Hartt, Jon James, and Tom Sebestyen. Also present were Secretary Sharon Fleck and two members of the New Marlborough Historical Commission, John Schreiber and Fiona Kerr, who were there to discuss recent progress in the development of the Historical Structure Demolition Pause Bylaw. After being welcomed by Chairman Carson, Dr. Schreiber proceeded to give the Board an overview of the bylaw draft, complete with changes suggested by members of the Board of Selectmen at their meeting on January 24.

Perhaps the most significant outcome of that meeting with the selectmen has been the notion of creating a Historical Committee composed of three members of


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the Planning Board and two members of the Historical Commission. (The Commission is an advisory body on historic preservation, as opposed to the Committee, which would have the duties of overseeing the provisions of the bylaw.) The ensuing presentation of the elements of the demolition pause bylaw draft by Dr. Schreiber essentially followed the same lines as his presentation to the Selectmen (see page 4).

Given the news that three of the five members of the Historical Committee would be Planning Board members, the Board listened with great interest and responded with a number of questions. Both Tom Sebestyen and Bob Hartt had concerns about the criteria that would be used to decide on cases, and whether subjectivity on the part of Committee members might be a worry. Mr. Sebestyen felt strongly that a ten-day time limit on the committee's making an initial determination was too short. After some discussion, it was agreed to increase from ten to thirty days. Mark Carson voiced his concern that the nine month pause period was too rigid, and that the committee ought to have the authority, in certain cases, to shorten the process. Dr. Schreiber agreed that, in the instance of a clearly "lost cause" structure, a waiver could be included for the committee's discretion.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Bob Hartt made a motion, which was seconded and approved, to the effect that the Planning Board is supportive of the demolition pause bylaw draft, along with the changes that had been put forward. Dr. Schreiber thanked the Board and said

he would be incorporating those changes and taking the new draft back to the Board of the Selectmen the following week.

Moving once again to the Dark Sky bylaw draft, Mr. Hartt reminded his fellow members of the small window of opportunity that remained if they were to get the proposed bylaw on to the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting. Mark Carson suggested that the issue of "light trespass" be stripped out of the draft and made to stand on its own as a nuisance bylaw. This could then be put forward as an addition to the General Bylaw, rather than the Protective Bylaws, and would be subject to a simple majority vote for approval, rather than the two-thirds required for a protective bylaw.

The Board then talked about the overall approach to the remaining bylaw draft, with Mr. Sebestyen voicing the general feeling, "the less onerous the better." Mr. Hartt said that he would create a final draft within the next several days so that notice of a public hearing can be posted in a timely fashion. The Board then decided on Thursday, March 10, 6:30 p.m., as the date and time for a public hearing via Zoom. Any changes to the draft that result from the public hearing can then be made before the March 18 deadline for submission of warrant articles for the Annual Town Meeting in May. Having concluded the two most important items on the evenings agenda, Mark Carson adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m. □

Larry Burke

HELP WANTED

Administrative Secretary

The Town of New Marlborough, acting through its Board of Selectmen, is seeking an Administrative Secretary (thirty hours/week). Position involves a wide range of administrative duties, including minute taking, maintaining records, and correspondence. Must be available for evening meetings. Position requires attention to detail, organization, ability to multi-task, Microsoft Office skills, and ability to interact with the public. Qualifications require prior experience in related office functions. Wage range is \$21-\$23 per hour plus benefits. Please submit cover letter and resume to Town Administrator at nmbos@newmarlboroughma.gov. The position will remain open until filled.

New Marlborough Board of Selectmen



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LAND TRUST NEWS

The weather is beginning to shift, days are getting longer, and the sun is warmer. Say goodbye to cabin fever and get outside! We have a lot going on.

Upcoming Event
Saturday, March 19
10:00 a.m. to noon (two hours)
Fire Making at the New Marlboro Preserve, hosted by Tes Reed



Hikers enjoy a mid-February outing at Goodnow Preserve.

Learn how to make a one-match fire in all weather conditions using only what is naturally available from the land. We will learn what makes good tinder (fire starting material) and how the different trees and their wood burn. Experience the ancient technique of a bow drill (friction) fire and experiment with different fire starter kits. For ages twelve and up. Space is limited so please email nmlandtrust@gmail.com for a reservation.

Save the Dates

We will hold our annual **Spring Roadside Clean-up** on Saturday, April 23 (a day after Earth Day). More information will soon be available on our website, nmlandtrust.org.

New Marlborough Land Trust is happy to host **Bird Watching with Chip Blake** at Thousand Acre Swamp, Saturday, May 7, and Saturday, May 21, 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. Birds are delightful to look at in any season, but never more so than mid-May, when many species from the subtropics are moving through the Berkshires, on their way to their breeding grounds farther north. Please join local birder Chip Blake for a two-hour bird walk through the Thousand Acre Swamp.

The New Marlborough Land Trust will be partnering with Berkshire Camino LLC (berkshirecamino.com) to offer two special walks on our properties in June and September. Berkshire Camino's founder and CEO, Mindy Miraglia says, "When we follow a ritual to walk with intention, curiosity, and a willingness to let something weighing on us go, it elevates an ordinary walk to a sacred walk." □

Executive Director Silvia Eggenberger



Calling All New Marlborough Artists

The New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery Committee is in the process of updating its data base on artists who have a residence in New Marlborough.

Anyone wishing to be included on the Gallery's artist list should contact Caryn King at caryn@carynking.com. If possible, include information on your medium, along with several digital images of your work or, if you have one, a link to your website.

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NEIGHBORS



Owen Edwin Wright, age sixty-two, passed away on February 3 at his home in Mill River, after a two-year battle with cancer. Owen is survived by Deborah, his wife of thirty-five years, his son Matthew, and mother Prudence Spaulding, all of Mill River, as well as several brothers and sisters. Owen graduated from Mount Everett Regional High School in 1977 and then attended GMC Automotive Training School. He started his career in the autobody industry working with high school classmate Thomas Andrus at Precision Autocraft in Monterey.

While building his house in Mill River, he changed his career to carpentry, beginning to work for other carpenters and then starting his own business. In 1989 Owen became a founding partner of Mill River Builders with longtime friend Scott Davis. Owen remained active as a general contractor/builder until 2019, when after extended study and successfully completing multiple exams, Owen became the building inspector for the Towns of New Marlborough and Alford as well as assistant building inspector for the Town of Monterey.



photo courtesy of the Wright family

Owen, as a child, skating (sort of) on the family pond



photo by Paul Marcel

A lunch stop, somewhere in the middle of the country, last September

enjoy life and end his day sitting out on his porch enjoying an evening sunset. A Celebration of Life Memorial is being planned for this coming May.

Prudence Spaulding, Owen's mother:

Many folks use the term "family," but Owen lived it! Owen's family included many of his customers and his community of New Marlborough.

When something needed fixing it was Owen we called. He even installed my new dishwasher after his first radical surgery, crawling about on the floor! He helped Deb's nephew to build his first home. He always plowed around the mailboxes at the bottom of Sisson Hill after a snowstorm, so that the recipients would be able to get their mail easily and safely. He helped family and neighbors fix frozen pipes in the winter and sky lights in the summer.

Owen's dog, Elliot, knew the importance of the word family, and what it meant. If friends brought their dogs to visit, Owen just had to say "Elliott family" and all was well. One morning Owen's wife Deb called out to Owen that Elliot had a baby rabbit in his mouth. Owen ran downstairs and opened the door, calling "Elliott family!" The dog released the rabbit who ran away unhurt.

After his final diagnosis Owen insisted that the whole family come together to share Thanksgiving dinner. Twenty of us sat around rejoicing having him with us and being together.

Owen died surrounded by his family. We will cherish his memory and carry on his vision of caring.

Contributed by Jennie Wright, Owen's sister

Paul Marcel of Mill River:

It's hard to believe, but I have been a friend of Owen Wright for about fifty years. In our teens and twenties, we shared the common interests of most boys at that time, the pursuit of motorcycles, girls, and beer, not necessarily in that order.

In our thirties and forties, we shared with each other the trials and tribulations of marriage and fatherhood, both of us experiencing these mileposts at almost the same time. He was a great husband and father. In our fifties, we were both very active in the Cincinnatus Masonic lodge, which originated in New Marlborough in 1795. Owen was a very capable cook in lodge, and as a boy scout leader, where he would put out meals for large groups, always enjoyed by all.

In our sixties, we still enjoyed motorcycle camping events and planning the many things that we would have time for in retirement. Last September, after his leg was removed, and it seemed like his cancer was finally eliminated, we enjoyed a carefree car trip to California together, stopping anyplace that looked interesting, he never once complaining about doing it on one leg. We had a lot of laughs these fifty years. I'm going to miss you, Owen.

John Ormsbee also of Mill River:

Owen was like a brother to me. Some of my fondest memories of O (we all called him O) were growing up on the farm with me when we were young, riding dirt bikes, fishing, hunting, haying, and eventually chasing girls together. O was three years older than I; he could do no wrong in my father's eyes (and that's saying a lot.) So, I was let loose at an early age, under O's supervision. I remember O, Tom Andrus, and I dated three sisters from Egremont – what good times we had!

Owen was a great auto body mechanic and fabricator, working for his stepfather, Ed Spaulding. He then went on to become a great carpenter, owning and operating Mill River Builders with Scott Davis. He was self-taught, very smart, and well read. He could do anything! I learned a lot from him. Owen was our town's building inspector. He was good-natured and had a lot of common sense. Contractors around our area will miss Owen, for he was easy to work with and made the permitting process easier. We could use a lot more Os in this world.

Owen's life was cut short by a grueling battle with cancer. He went through it with good spirits and never complained. He was so strong. My sincere condolences go out to Deb, Matt, and family. Rest in peace my old friend. I'll see you on the other side.

Scott Davis, Owen's business partner at Mill River Builders:

Owen and I were long-time friends; we both worked for Michael Briggs Carpentry. When work slowed down, we decided to make a go of it ourselves and started our own business, Mill River Builders. Owen had a gift for talking with the customers. The business was a success and continued to be a success for Owen after I retired.

I will always remember him for his work ethic and kindness towards everyone. His strength and courage through his illness is an inspiration to me. He will be missed by me and many others, including my wife, Dawn.

Tara White of Southfield:

I met Owen many years ago and was impressed immediately with his work ethic and generosity to others. If you called him and needed something, he would be there to help you. He could do anything and if he did not know how to do it, he would study and find out how to do it.

When the building inspector position came open, we talked about it and I encouraged him to do it. I knew immediately that he would be a great resource for all the contractors and would give his all to the Town to be sure everything was done correctly. He knew he would work more hours than he would get paid for by the Town but decided to take on the challenge. He loved the Town, and this was his way of giving back. He studied, took classes, and was determined to take on the duties of building inspector as quickly as he could.

We sat many times after Board of Selectman meetings and talk about a wide range of subjects. We did not always agree, but he never made you feel you were wrong, just gave you a reason for thinking about something in a different way. I will be forever grateful that we had these conversations and that I got to know him better.

That was who Owen was: a friend whom you could rely on, hardworking, generous, and family-oriented. He faced the extraordinary challenges of the last few years with dignity and strength. He was one heck of a great guy in so many ways. He will truly be missed. □

NEIGHBORS



Douglas Trumbull, a resident of Southfield for more than thirty years, died on February 7 at the age of seventy-nine. Doug's reputation as an extraordinarily inventive filmmaker preceded his arrival in New Marlborough, but his years here were marked not only by his continued deep exploration of the possibilities of cinema, but by his generous nature, demonstrated in his loyal support of local institutions like the Mill River Store, the Southfield Store, the New Marlborough Meeting House, Flying Cloud Institute, Bard College at Simon's Rock, the Berkshire Film and Media Collaborative, and the Berkshire International Film Festival. A full

accounting of Doug's truly remarkable life can be read in the February 11 issue of *The New York Times*, and an article on the filmic art and craft he practiced here in New Marlborough appears in the September, 2016 issue of the *New Marlborough 5 Village News*.

Doug's widow, Julia Hobart Trumbull, wrote the following:

"After twenty years, side-by-side, day and night, I say goodbye to my best friend, partner, true love and soul mate Douglas Trumbull.

"When he joined our family, new paths were imagined. He was the sun in our universe, our guiding light. We adventured together on land and sea. His passion was infectious. We worked with him to realize his dreams. He loved his life in the Berkshires on his farm, with all his animals and most of all, his extended family. He was a caring lover, father, brother, grandfather, friend, mentor, true artist, and visionary.

"Throughout his life, he inspired and influenced the lives of countless people throughout the world. He embraced the potential in us all and nurtured it. Doug was a kind, generous, brilliant, compassionate, and respectful man. To those who were closest to him, he was a steadfast friend.

"Doug battled mesothelioma for the last two years. Despite this, he continued to work to the very end on various projects, including a new science fiction movie script, a documentary, immersive cinemas, new film production techniques, and more. He continuously challenged the status quo of the movie industry. He was a fighter, a dreamer, a pioneer, eternally optimistic, perseverant, always inventing and creating. He helped us all imagine the unimagined with his movie magic. Doug's impact will be felt forever." □

compiled by Barbara Lowman: deeuell@yahoo.com



photo by Joe Dully

Douglas Trumbull

Did you know... that you can find back issues of *The New Marlborough 5 Village News* on its website, nm5vn.org? Yes, and there's also a handy index to all the articles that have appeared over the years. Check it out!

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WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS



photo by Larry Burke

Goldfinches ruling the feeders



photo by Larry Burke

A cardinal keeping his feet warm

Since we lost **Don Beauchamp** last year, this column has not been keeping up with the bird population in New Marlborough nearly enough. If there are any birders out there amongst our readers, please identify yourselves and send us reports! March is that transitional time, as winter wanes and the migratory birds start showing up again. **Redwing blackbirds** seem to be returning a little bit earlier each year. Back in late December in fact, **Eugene and Maria Cleary** had a redwing at their feeder in New Marlborough village. That was before the extreme cold of January arrived, no doubt chasing that bird back down to more temperate climes. Right about now we should be seeing blackbirds returning to our backyards, and hearing their welcome cacophony.

As for those avian friends who stick around through the cold months, one species, the **goldfinch**, seems to be here in greater numbers than usual at feeders all over town. Commonly throughout the winter, twenty or thirty finches have been crowding around Larry Burke's feeders, greatly outnumbering the **chickadees, nuthatches, titmice, and juncos**. Their subdued coloration, elegant as it is, is no match for the male **cardinal** that hops around beneath the feeder, filling up on the sunflower seed dropped by the finches.

Ed Harvey sent along a great shot of a very camera-ready **ruffed grouse**. He says, "This is Casper the Friendly Grouse, a resident of Foley Hill who kept me company recently while I was checking the Camp Wa Wa Segowea property." Another bird Ed observed recently, in the big cornfield down in Clayton, was a mature **bald eagle** picking over the bones of a dead **coyote**. "How that apex predator met its fate is a matter of speculation, but getting hit by a car is probably the reasonable explanation."

In the non-avian world, **Scottie Mills** found an interesting set of tracks in the snow in mid-February: "Something fairly large bounding right by my front door. Asked my friend Tes and she said, 'When in doubt follow it out.' But by then snow had melted. Maybe a **weasel**?" A check-in with our friends and wildlife experts **Bonner McAllester** and **Joe Baker** from Monterey confirms the likelihood that a weasel was the visitor to Scottie's doorstep... or possibly a **mink**. Joe said that measuring the size of the footprints would have been the key to knowing which of the Mustelidae family it was. □



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photo by Ed Harvey

Casper the Friendly Grouse



photo by Ed Harvey

An eagle dining out in Clayton



photo by Scottie Mills

Weasel tracks?

Compiled by Larry Burke.
Send your sightings to him at larryjburke@gmail.com

SCHOOL NEWS

THE ONE-HUNDREDTH DAY

By Jane Burke and Lynn Webster

The 100th Day of School is worthy of special attention in many school districts across the country. It is a day when numbers are fun and essential for completing engaging challenges. The three elementary schools in the Southern Berkshire Regional School District were buzzing with excited children, as they celebrated this day on February 14 and 15. Kindergarten teacher Lynn Webster of Hartsville gathered the following information about the goings on at New Marlborough Central School:

Kindergarteners brought in collections of 100 things and noticed that 100 can look very big or very small depending on what objects were used. The collections included a long garland of 100 pieces of assorted pasta, 100 nails in a board that spelled a child's name, 100 crayons glued in rows on a sturdy board, 100 pompoms on a star, a structure built from 100 legos, a playground built out of 100 popsicle sticks, and 100 googly eyes on an alien. Each child made a hat from ten strips of paper, each with ten items glued to it — and discovered that their labors had produced 100-item hats.

First-through-third graders brought in bags, each containing 100 items. The students gave clues about the contents and guessing games ensued. The first grade engaged in a STEM challenge in which students had to build something out of 100 manipulatives. Third graders made two dimensional art with 100 shapes.

Ms. Webster asked children from each grade to think about the 100 days that they had been in school so far and describe one day that was really special to them. Here is a sampling of their responses:

"I liked when we made a water wheel because we got to work with a partner. We had to buy our supplies from Mr. Masters. We started out with a thousand dollars! We used a big bowl of water to make the water wheel move."
— Paige Prisendorf, third grade



"I liked when we had a Snow Day at school because we got to play games at school. I liked playing Twister. That's a fun game because you get to have a judge and I like being the judge."
— Abbie Merritt, second grade

"I really liked when we tried to make pennies float by building a raft. I basically just tied a lot of popsicle sticks together with tape and I got them to float!" — Quinn Bossi, first grade

"I really liked when we earned a whole jar of pompoms and we got to have pajama day! I liked seeing everyone's pajamas. My pajamas were tie dye unicorns." — Greta Downing, second grade

"One of my favorite things I did in school was when I passed out valentines because I got to get candy!"
— Neko Parsons, Kindergarten

"My favorite day of school was when I got to have Paz! Paz is a penguin. Everyone gets a chance to have Paz for one day. He likes to build with legos!" — Mallory Blake, Kindergarten (Paz is a stuffed animal penguin that visits one child in the building each day. They get to take Paz everywhere and then write a page in Paz's journal about what they did.)

"I like going outside. I ride bikes outside. We got gas!" — Asher Dean, Pre-Kindergarten

Seeking a route to education excellence: March is going to be a big month for the Regional School District Planning Board (RSDPB), as it studies a possible reconfiguration of education in South County.

The twenty-four member Planning Board, with three representatives from each of eight towns (Alford, Egremont, Monterey, New Marlborough, and Sheffield of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District and Great Barrington, Stockbridge, and West Stockbridge of the Berkshire Hills Regional School District) has been pondering different options for two years. Using funding from the state Department of Education, the Planning Board has hired consultants to gather data



Photos by Lynn Webster

and make recommendations about how to provide the best educational experience for students that will be affordable for the taxpayers. The Board will bring its recommendations to the boards of selectmen of the eight towns. Ultimately, the voters will decide how they want to proceed. Being informed is of the utmost importance.

Three questions are currently being explored:

- How might collaborative programs and shared services save money and improve offerings?
- Would the creation of a third region to support a high school serving students from both districts be affordable and advantageous?
- Would affordability and student achievement be improved by creating a single K-through-eighth-grade school district for all eight towns?

Issues of educational quality, transportation and facilities operations, and finance are being reviewed by Planning Board subcommittees of the full Board. The consulting team reports to these subcommittees and to the full Board.

Responding to a fall 2021 survey revealing that residents of the eight towns are not adequately informed of the issues, the Planning Board has stepped up its effort. Its website www.rsdpb.org (also www.8towns.org) now displays all of the studies that have been presented to the Board. It also provides notice of public information meetings. Important presentations made at full Board meetings on February 7 and 9, have been posted on the site. Recordings can be accessed upon request.

There will be further opportunities this month. The Southern Berkshire Regional School District School Committee and Superintendent Beth Regulbuto invite community members to a Q&A session on March 8 at 6:00 p.m., where community members can ask questions and voice ideas on various topics of concern to them. A Zoom link can be accessed at www.sbrsd.org. The RSDPB's consulting team will present its findings at a Zoom meeting on March 22. A link to this very important meeting will be found at the RSDPB website. □

Jane Burke

Help Wanted

School Committee Representative

There is a vacancy on the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) School Committee that must be filled by a resident of New Marlborough. Following the unexpected resignation of CarrieAnne Petrik, New Marlborough is down to one. The Board of Selectmen will appoint a member to the remaining months of the term, which ends in November 2022. He or she could then run for election in November.

The charge of the School Committee is to improve student achievement. The representative is expected to attend full Committee meetings, which gathers twice monthly on Thursday evenings, as well as participate on sub-committees. Training is provided to bring new members up to speed on the roles and responsibilities of the School Committee as it works closely with Dr. Beth Regulbuto now in her fifth year as superintendent of the District. There are many exciting new initiatives and challenges for this small school district. The prospective member must be a registered voter in New Marlborough and demonstrate a strong commitment to working collaboratively for the good of the students.

If interested, please send a letter describing your credentials to nmbos@newmarlboroughma.gov by Friday, March 4. Applicants will be interviewed on March 7 by a panel of the three members of the Board of Selectman and Jane Burke, a sitting member from New Marlborough and Chair of the School Committee. After being sworn in by the Town Clerk and completing on-line conflict of interest training, the new member will be welcomed at the March 10 meeting of the School Committee.

THE LOG

Police Department (selected entries)

- Jan 4 7:11 a.m. A caller reports a window smashed and equipment missing following a breaking and entering at Ormsbee's Garage.
- Jan. 5 6:51 a.m. An officer assists a Mill River resident who has locked himself out of his vehicle.
- Jan. 6 8:17 a.m. A tow is called for a vehicle stopped on Mill River Great Barrington Road that is unregistered, lacks an inspection sticker, and is being operated by a driver with a suspended license.
- Jan. 10 5:46 p.m. A caller asks that an officer accompany her to her Mill River residence where upon an earlier return to the property she discovered an open front door; when a search revealed nothing out of place, the officer concluded that the door had not been secured when the owner last departed the house.
- Jan.11 10:25 a.m. An officer assists a Clayton resident who has locked himself out of his vehicle.
- 4:08 p.m. A caller's suspicions about a car in her New Marlborough village driveway prove unfounded; the driver had pulled into her driveway to turn around.
- Jan. 14 12:09 p.m. An officer assists a hiker who has locked herself out of her car at Goodnow Preserve.
- Jan. 16 2:36 p.m. An officer helps restore the peace following an altercation at a Mill River residence.
- Jan. 17 6:53 a.m. A request for towing assistance is canceled after a vehicle, seemingly immobilized off Hartsville New Marlborough Road, succeeds in regaining the roadway.
- 7:12 a.m. The Highway Department is alerted to a tree branch blocking one lane on County Road.
- 9:35 p.m. An officer responds to an altercation at a Hartsville residence.
- Jan, 19 6:01 a.m. An officer calls for a tow for a vehicle rolled over on Clayton Mill River Road and for an ambulance for the driver, who has sustained injuries to neck, hand, and ribs.
- 4:58 p.m. A dog, reported loose on New Marlborough Hill Road, is returned to its owner.
- Jan 21 6:24 p.m. Following a helicopter evacuation for an accident on Hartsville New Marlborough Road, the operator is summoned for driving with a revoked license and under the influence of alcohol in an unregistered vehicle.
- Jan 27 7:13 a.m. An officer helps procure a tow for a vehicle driven into a snowbank on Norfolk Road.
- Jan.28 10:45 p.m. An officer assists in procuring a tow for a car stuck on East Hill Road.
- Jan. 29 1:56 p.m. A Hartsville resident reports receiving threats following an altercation the previous evening in Great Barrington.
- Jan. 30 9:45 a.m. An officer assists a caller in removing her car stuck on Mill River Great Barrington Road outside her Mill River village residence.

Graham Frank, Chief of Police



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FIRE AND RESCUE

Jan. 1	4:43 p.m.	Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road Fire Alarm	Jan. 19	10:38 p.m.	Brewer Hill Road Medical Call
Jan. 1	9:09 p.m.	New Marlborough Monterey Road Medical Call	Jan. 20	9:10 a.m.	Clark Way Medical Call
Jan. 6	3:45 p.m.	Konkapot Road Medical Call	Jan. 21	6:28 p.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road MVA
Jan. 11	6:40 p.m.	Underwood Road Fire Alarm	Jan. 27	7:17 a.m.	Norfolk Road MVA
Jan. 14	10:46 a.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call	Jan. 29	5:22 a.m.	Hartsville Mill River Road Medical Call
Jan. 14	3:00 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Sheffield Medical Call	Jan. 29	10:47 p.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call
Jan. 16	2:47 a.m.	Adsit Crosby Road Medical Call	Jan. 30	5:41 p.m.	River Road Medical Call
Jan. 17	4:25 p.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call	Jan. 31	12:15 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Sheffield Medical Call
Jan. 19	7:18 a.m.	Clayton Mill River Road MVA	Jan. 31	1:36 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Sandisfield Structure Fire
Jan. 19	6:10 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call			

Fire Company President David Smith

Making safety equipment safer: In January, New Marlborough Fire and Rescue was awarded a \$10,500 grant from the state’s Executive Office of Public Safety and Security and the Department of Fire Services, under the Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program for FY22. Fire and Rescue will use the grant to purchase a heated dryer for turnout gear, the protective pants and coats worn by firefighters. Having a gear dryer will support the Department’s goal of instituting a successful cleaning and drying program that meets the standards of the National Fire Protection Association. The dryer will also maintain the thermal stability of the gear while increasing its usable life. The dryer will entirely eliminate the risk of mildew growth in damp equipment.

Furthermore, by reducing contamination from pollutants, the new equipment will lower the risk of cancer to our firefighters. In recent years, as part of cancer prevention efforts, the fire service has increased its advocacy for more frequent washing of firefighting gear, particularly after fires, to reduce the risk of exposure to the toxins found in soot and smoke and typically absorbed in firefighter gear.

Currently, gear is air-dried, which can take twenty-four to thirty-six hours, leaving firefighters without gear during that time or relying on backup gear. The new dryer will reduce drying time after gear is cleaned to approximately three hours.

A letter from the Massachusetts State Administration states, “While the last two years have presented great challenges, the Fire Service in Massachusetts has shone brightly, overcoming every obstacle along the way. Please know that we are deeply appreciative for your continued dedication to the mission of public safety, and grateful to be able to provide your department with this important equipment.” □

John Halbreich, New Marlborough Fire and Rescue



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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Who doesn't love waffles for breakfast on Sunday morning, topped with warm local maple syrup, fresh berries, and/or bananas? The batter in this recipe must be made twelve to twenty-four hours in advance and refrigerated until ready to use. The waffles are crisp, puffy, buttery, and flavorful. They freeze well. Double the recipe and put a batch in the freezer for a weekday breakfast.

Marjorie Shapiro

YEASTED WAFFLES

Ingredients

1¾ cups whole milk	8 tbsp unsalted butter cut into small pieces
2 cups all-purpose flour	1½ tsp instant yeast
1 tbsp sugar	2 eggs (from one of our local farms)
1 tsp salt	1 tsp vanilla
1/8 tsp cinnamon	



Directions:

- Heat the milk and butter in a small saucepan over medium low heat for 3 to 5 minutes or until the butter is melted.
- Let the mixture cool until warm to the touch. This is important. Don't rush it.
- While the mixture is cooling, whisk the flour, sugar, salt, cinnamon, and yeast in a large bowl until they are combined.
- Gradually whisk the milk/butter mixture into the flour mixture until the batter is smooth.
- Using a small bowl, whisk the vanilla and eggs to combine and add this mixture to the batter, mixing until incorporated.
- Scrape the sides of the bowl with a spatula and cover with plastic wrap.
- Refrigerate the batter for no less than 12 hours and no more than 24.
- Heat and grease the waffle iron.
- Remove waffle batter from the refrigerator and whisk to recombine (it will have become foamy and doubled in size).
- Bake waffles and enjoy!

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MAILBOX



Rio

To the Editor,

Chuck Loring, Mackenzie Loring, and Officer John Mullin came to our desperate need for aid last night, Feb. 17. Our unsteady elderly dog Rio had fallen down the stony bank of the Konkapot into the icy river by our house in Hartsville. My husband Jim was able to pull him up onto the ice shelf at the river's edge, and we were able to get his Help-'em-Up harness rig onto him as he lay shivering on the ice in the pouring rain. But we couldn't get him and ourselves up the bank to safety. All I could do was hold onto him to keep him from slipping back into the water.

After our 911 call these three First Responders were there quickly. Officer Mullin climbed down the bank and safely lifted Rio by the two handles of his harness and carefully carried him back up the slippery rocky bank. Then he and Mackenzie came back down and supported my climb off the ice shelf and up the bank to safety. Mr. Loring even came by again today to see how Rio is. So kind. We couldn't have better friends than our town's First Responders. And we couldn't have saved Rio without their strong and expert actions. We want them to know that they will always have our deepest heartfelt thanks.

Linda Skipper and Jim Singelis

To the Editor,

Greetings to the residents of New Marlborough from your neighbors who staff the Fire Trucks and Ambulance. New Marlborough Fire and Rescue is humbled by the outpouring of recognition. Thank You!

Questions regarding how to provide support are quite timely. The residents of New Marlborough have regularly shown their support by approving the town budgets that fund the Fire and Rescue, support that has provided for operational expenses. However, our nation is now suffering from a loss of volunteerism. This problem has reached New Marlborough.

Our greatest need is additional volunteers. We are in need of community members who are committed to train and become the future firefighters and EMTs. We are also in need of non-tactical volunteers to provide support to the firefighters and EMTs when they are involved in long duration rescue missions and structure fires. There are many skills that would be greatly appreciated. Please take a moment to consider if the needed volunteer is you, a family member or a friend. Call, email or attend a monthly meeting to hear about the variety of ways that you can volunteer your time.

All members share the common motivation of serving the community in which they live or were raised. We train and serve as one. Despite the challenges of increasing population / decreasing membership, our mission of community service has continued undeterred. Please consider becoming part of the family.

Respectfully,
 Chuck Loring, Fire Chief
 Maureen Krejci, Medical Officer

THE NEW MARLBOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

New Aquisitions

Adult Fiction

The Murder of Roger Ackroyd:

a Hercule Poirot Mystery, by Agatha Christie

*The Every, or at Last a Sense of Order, or the Final Days of Free Will,
or Limitless Choice is Killing the World, by Dave Eggers*

The Final Case, by David Guterson

Quicksilver, by Dean Koontz

Adult Nonfiction

The Heartbeat of Trees: Embracing Our Ancient Bond with Forests and Nature, by Peter Wohlleben

Assume Nothing: a Story of Intimate Violence, by Tanya Selvaratnam

Children's Fiction

Loyalty, by Avi

Solimar: the Sword of the Monarchs, by Pam Muoz Ryan

Northwind, by Gary Paulsen

Children's Nonfiction

Because Claudette, by Tracey Baptiste

The Wild World Handbook: Creatures: How Adventurers, Artists,

Scientists — and You — Can Protect Earth's Animals, by Andrea Debbink

The Faith of Elijah Cummings: the North Star of Equal Justice, by Carole Weatherford



LIBRARY HOURS

Mon. Wed. Sat. 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Tues. Thurs. 1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Fri. 1:30 – 7:30 p.m.

229-6668



The Banned-Book Table: In January, a Tennessee county school board banned Art Spiegelman's graphic novel about the Holocaust, *Maus*, because it contained, for one, pictures (gasp!) of half nude mice. It is one of dozens of books recently banned — for offensive language, explicit sexuality, failure to reflect community values — in school systems throughout America. In February, the New Marlborough Town Library joined others in expressing its dissent: a table displaying books that have been shunted from view in other parts of the country. Each has a bookmark describing its "offense." Come in and take a look. Better yet, read one. They are all available for borrowing.



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Herbert W. Eichstedt III
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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 TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION OF \$_____ (payable to NM5VN)

NAME _____

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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 7:00 p.m.

Board of Health: First Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Conservation Commission: Last Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m.

Board of Assessors: Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Fire Department training: Every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the fire station

Building Inspector: Monday 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. or by appointment.

First Responders: Meeting/training: First and third Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the fire station

Cultural Council: Second Thursday at 4:15 p.m. at the library

Post Office: Mill River (413) 229-8582 — if and when it re-opens:

Window hours: Monday - Friday 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Southfield (413) 229-8476

Window hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 - 12:00 p.m.

Town Treasurer: Monday & Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Tax Collector: Monday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tues and Thurs 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Selectmen's Administrative Secretary: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Dog and Animal Control Officer: Cassie Keeley, (413) 429-7603

Town Clerk: 229-8278; 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. weekdays; Saturday by appointment

Town Hall: 229-8116

Police: Business office: 229-8161

Library: 229-6668

Transfer Station Hours:

Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

PERMITS ARE DUE JULY 6

and can be purchased for \$180

by mail or online at

www.newmarlborough.gov.

Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. No admittance without a permit after August 15

Emergency calls:

**Police, Fire, Medical
911**

New Marlborough Highway Department

Located on Mill River-Southfield Rd.

Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:00 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, Robbi Hartt, Barbara Lowman, Steven Nester, Peter Schuyten, Barry Shapiro, Rachel Perera Weingeist.
Contributing writers and artists: Ann Getsinger, Fiona Kerr.

NM5VN Board of Directors

Roy Blount, Jr., Larry Burke, Barbara Lowman, Deb O'Brien, Joe Poindexter, Peter Schuyten, Barry Shapiro, Nan O'Shaughnessy Smith, and Tara White

New Marlborough 5 Village News

appears monthly,

also online at
www.nm5vn.org

The next issue will be dated April 2022.

All copy must be submitted no later than March 17.

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

PO Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259

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SERVICE SECTOR 3/22

- ♦ **Dellea.biz Computer Services:** has provided local residents with on-site Windows computer repairs and technical support since 1996. Book appointments online at <https://dellea.biz> or call (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.
- ♦ **Fine Jewelry:** Designers and manufacturers; custom orders/commissions welcome; expert repairs. 45 years experience. Sachs Reisman, Inc. 25 Maple Ave., Sheffield (413)229-0050
- ♦ **One call does it all!:** Vinyl siding cleaning; pressure washing; deck refinishing; floors refinished; window washing; odd landscape jobs; all odd jobs. David Goewey, (413)229-2787
- ♦ **Susan M. Smith:** Attorney At Law; Concentrating in the areas of Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Elder Law, Real Estate and Zoning Matters. ssmithlaw@barringtonlawoffice.com or (413)528-4300
- ♦ **Reiner White & Sons, Inc:** A family-run general contractor business serving the MA and CT area since 1988 - new construction, additions, remodeling, and more. Licensed and insured. Call (413) 229-8450 for free consultation.

To list your business here, contact Barbara Lowman (413)229-2369