



# New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

## THE WAY WE WERE

*An Occasional Look Back Through the Eyes of Long-time Residents*

**This Month: Fred Fehn and Yvonne (Fehn) Stephens**

By Joe Poindexter

Every once in awhile it pays to have a big sister. When the Fehn family moved to New Marlborough from Mill Neck, Long Island, Yvonne (now Yvonne Stephens) was almost eight and Fred was four, and, as might be expected, they found their own friends and went their own way. Eight years later, however, Yvonne turned sixteen, acquired a driver's license and, with the help of her father, a 1941 Plymouth. "That's when he became my friend," says Yvonne. He wanted to go places; she had the wheels.

There were times, however, when not even a car was of much use. The Fehns arrived in April 1944 to help run Steepletop, the estate east of New Marlborough village then owned by Rodney and Katherine Williams, and now by their grandson, Ian Devine and his wife, Kerri. The following winter produced epic snowstorms. Yvonne's photo album has a snapshot of her outside their house, standing on snow pack that reaches the second story. New Marlborough Central was closed for three weeks, and when the groceries ran out, Fred and Yvonne's father, Alfred, had to take a horse-drawn sledge to the Southfield Store to stock up. Eventually, the roads were cleared, but the winter was still a challenge. Girls, Yvonne recalls, were required to wear skirts to school. "I remember many winters when I froze in the wind and snow to reach Harry Alexander's bus at the bottom of the hill from the house," she says.



*Yvonne and Fred at the Stephens's home last month*

photo by Joe Poindexter

Fred had a different problem: In November 1946, the family traveled to Alsace-Lorraine for a five-month visit to the extended Fehn family. (Both parents had emigrated from that part of France, then met each other in New York City.) By the time they returned in April 1947, Fred had lost his command of English and had to stay back a year in school to regain fluency.

As with many New Marlborough young people of the time, bicycles were the principal mode of transportation. Yvonne made regular bike trips to Cassilis Farm, where her friend Betty Daley lived – and remembers vividly the long climb back to New Marlborough village on the way home. Fred biked to fishing streams. "The brooks were loaded with native trout," he says. (He also, by his own admission, managed to run a motorbike into a bass pond on the Williams estate.)

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*The Way We Were, continued from page 1*

Yvonne enjoyed her years at New Marlborough Central and fondly recalls the names of her elementary school teachers – Agnes Call, Marion Garraghan, and Eileen Cassidy Kane. A member of New Marlborough High's Class of '54, that school's last official graduating class (there was one more, even though the town by that time had joined the newly formed Southern Berkshire Regional School District), Yvonne was Queen of the Prom and an American Legion Award winner. She played guard on the basketball team until she fouled out so often, the coach moved her to forward. She went on to Berkshire Business College in Pittsfield and landed a job working for the principal of Mount Everett High School — much to the good fortune of brother Fred. "I was his ride again," says Yvonne.

Fred, too, excelled in high school. The senior class yearbook lists him with three mosts, "most attractive," "most athletic," and "most popular." His baseball skills proved to be an asset: he played center field for the Seventh Army team while he was in the service. As a civilian, Fred claims to have been the first in town to have offered lawn service, carting his mower to jobs in his first car, a used '54 Dodge, "with a big trunk."

The move north must have agreed with the Fehn kids. Now living at opposite ends of town — Fred with his wife, Brooke, on the New Marlborough Monterey Road, Yvonne and Jerry Stephens, whom she married in 1960, on Norfolk Road near the Connecticut border — they are this month starting their seventy-first year in New Marlborough. □



Yvonne, far left, and Fred, far right, have company



Yvonne, center, and classmates at the 1954 senior prom



High school yearbook photos:  
Yvonne, 1954 ... and Fred, 1960

**Effective Monday, March 31, 2014, the bridge  
located by Foley Hill Road on Canaan Southfield Road  
will be closed until further notice for the replacement of the bridge superstructure.  
Detour signs will be posted and travel will be using Keyes Hill Road.**

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## PLOWING A LONG, COLD WINTER

By Joe Poindexter

If you found the cold and snow this past winter relentless, imagine how it felt to a New Marlborough snowplow driver. “From December 1 to the end of February,” says Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring, “there were forty-nine snow events and five with freezing rain.” Each of these required a response from the Highway Department — more often than not, a series of responses. There is more to keeping winter roads clear than meets the eye.

First of all, there is constant vigilance of weather forecasts. The Highway Department subscribes to a sophisticated forecasting service, Weather Sentry from Schneider Electric, which pinpoints weather activity not just to South County but to New Marlborough itself. If a snow storm is imminent, Mr. Loring sends his trucks out to “pre-treat” the roads with a coat of salt. “Snow melts more readily from the bottom up than the top down,” he explains. Once the roads are cleared, typically two passes for each lane of travel, they are salted again — or, in the case of dirt roads, sanded.

If it’s a weekday nighttime storm, the highway crew reports in at 3:30 a.m. to get school-bus routes plowed. The department’s six trucks can clear the entire town in about six hours — “if everything is running,” cautions Mr. Loring. On weekends, the department might wait until the storm ends to avoid having to re-plow the roads. Multiply this times fifty and you get a rough idea of the Highway Department’s workload this winter.

As precise as the forecasts are from Weather Sentry, they can’t tell the whole story in a town as hilly as New Marlborough. Frequently, Paul Krom, foreman of the department, conducted a 3:00 a.m. reconnaissance of the higher elevations — Route 57 in New Marlborough village, Route 183 near the transfer station, for instance — to determine whether rain on those stretches had turned



Superintendent Chuck Loring and Foreman Paul Krom in the Highway Department office

to ice. The prevalence of sub-freezing temperatures, though, had one benefit: domes of plowed snow insulated drainage trenches, which allowed roadside water to continue to flow even as surface water froze.

The Highway Department’s expenditures, not surprisingly, bumped up a bit this winter, “a little more for salt, a little more for sand, a little more for overtime,” says Mr. Loring. He estimates he has spent \$125,000 for salt, compared to about \$110,000 last year. Mr. Loring would like to equip his trucks with computerized spread control devices, which meter a constant amount of salt regardless of the speed of the truck. (Counterintuitively, Massachusetts now prefers salt, which dissolves with minimal environmental damage, to sand, which becomes contaminated and must be swept up and delivered to toxic material dumps.) Then, there was the overtime. But when the 3:00 a.m. alarm went off, Mr. Loring’s men reported. “The winter crew has been awesome,” he says.

Next: the potholes. □

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## Town Business Is Your Business BOARD OF SELECTMEN



**February 24:** All three selectmen were present as the Board met with Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring for a follow-up discussion of **why the Town makes so little use of civilian flaggers to direct traffic at roadside work sites.** Two weeks ago the Board heard from Police Chief Scott Farrell, who said it's standard practice for third party contractors such as Verizon to go through the police department for their traffic control needs. (See Board of Selectmen report in the March issue of the NM5VN.) Mr. Loring, on the other hand, said the highway department typically uses its own personnel for flagging duties, but will occasionally use a police officer when a high traffic area is involved. Tree Warden Larry Davis III was also invited by the Board to comment but did not respond.

The Board approved a recommended **salary increase of thirty cents per hour for Highway Department employee Bill Ruane**, following a favorable ninety-day review by Superintendent Loring.

The Board authorized a **\$2,500 payment to Foresight Land Services for preliminary engineering work on Route 57.** According to Superintendent Loring, the work is basically to update a form that has to be filed with the state by March 3 to **keep the Route 57 project on the state's TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) list, where it has been since 2005.** He said the entire length of the road "from town line to town line" ultimately will need to be rebuilt, and the cost is likely to be in the millions of dollars, money which realistically could only come from the state. However, to get that money, he said the Town is going to have to spend money in further engineering studies to move the project up the list. He noted that Monterey, which recently received \$4 million from the TIP program to rebuild Route 23, invested over \$100,000 in engineering work in order to get its funding, and he suggested New Marlborough consider using some of the Chapter 90 highway improvement funding it receives from the state.

That led to a **more general discussion of the deteriorating condition of the Town's roads**, many of which, it was agreed, need major work. Chairman Nat Yohalem asked Mr. Loring to list by priority roads needing repair over the next five years for capital planning purposes. This, he said, would assist in capital planning.

The following **budget requests were approved:**

- Contingencies: \$3,000
- Selectmen Expenses: \$4,000
- Grant Writer's Expenses: \$500

Audit: \$8,000

Accounting Officer Expenses: \$4,105, (a \$500 increase)

Town Website Expenses: \$2,425 (up \$25)

Police Expenses: \$21,550 (a \$3,000 increase)

Highway Department Machinery Expenses: \$71,046 (up \$5,000)

In reviewing the monthly expenditure report, the Selectmen noted that the harsh winter has **nearly exhausted the Highway Department's winter roads budget**, with only \$6,700 remaining of the \$243,675 originally budgeted.

**March 3:** With all three selectmen present, Chairman Yohalem said the Board received a **letter of resignation from the Board's administrative secretary, Jessica Bosworth.** Ms. Bosworth, who joined the Town Hall staff last September, is leaving to rejoin Guido's as manager of the natural foods department. She had previously been the assistant manager there. Her last day will be March 14, and the board is currently interviewing candidates to replace her.

Chairman Yohalem reported that **some progress — although not enough in his view — had been made by the School Committee in reducing its FY2015 budget.** He said that based on the cuts made so far, New Marlborough is **probably looking at a 4.3 percent, or \$103,500, increase in its assessment. That's down from the original increase of \$136,000.** He then returned once again to the idea of how much money the district could save — approximately \$250,000 — if it closed the outlying schools in Monterey and Egremont. But he also acknowledged that it is an unlikely prospect at this point, and that in any case it could not be accomplished in time to save any money in the upcoming budget year. The Board was to return to this subject later in the meeting, agreeing to send a letter to the Alford and Sheffield boards urging them to join New Marlborough in petitioning the School Committee to put the issue to a vote by the member towns at their upcoming annual town meetings.

In other actions, the **Board voted to allow members of Town boards and committees to participate in meetings remotely, such as via conference call or Skype, as long as the chairman and a quorum of its members are physically present.** The Board also declared a snow emergency for the remainder of the winter, which effectively allows the Town to continue paying snow removal costs even though the Highway Department's winter roads budget

is totally depleted. And finally, the Board announced it had no budgets to approve this week because the Finance Committee lacked the necessary quorum at its last meeting to review and approve budget requests.

The Board reconvened — for the third time — its **special permit hearing for David and Heather Ralph** regarding their application to erect a single-family house on an existing foundation on Old Hitchcock Road. (See Board of Selectmen reports for January, February, and March, 2014.) At a previous meeting the Board raised concerns about the lack of potable water on the property and the lack of access to it by emergency services vehicles. In response, Mr. Ralph furnished the Board with a lab report indicating there is potable water on the property and said he'd be more than willing to work with Fire Chief Loring and Police Chief Scott Farrell to make the road passable for emergency vehicles. Mr. Yohalem asked Board Administrative Assistant Mike Skorput to facilitate a site visit between the Ralphs and police and fire chiefs.

Selectman Michele Shalaby reported on a meeting of officials from the **Wired West consortium at which they laid out a plan for completing “the last mile” of high-speed internet connectivity to businesses and homes in the western part of the state.** According to the presentation, there are forty-two towns in the Wired West coverage area with a total of 28,000 homes and businesses. The estimated cost to wire them into the system would come to \$100 million, of which the state would contribute half. The other \$50 million, according to the proposed plan, would be financed by a general obligation bond backed by the credit of the member towns. Ms. Shalaby said there are still a lot of details to be worked out, including how the costs would be allocated among the towns. But the officials said they expected the service to generate enough revenue to pay off the bond in twenty years, so the towns would end up not having to pay anything. Chairman Yohalem seemed especially dubious about this last, saying, “We’ll need to proceed very, very slowly with it. We’d basically be tying the Town’s credit to it and be on the hook for whatever our percentage turned out to be.” But then he added in somewhat lighter vein, “but fortunately we don’t have to vote on it tonight.”

Mr. Yohalem noted the **Town is now eligible to apply for another MassWorks infrastructure grant of up to \$1 million and said the Board is looking to Highway Superintendent Loring to identify likely projects the town could put forward for possible funding.** Towns are eligible to apply for the grants every two years. In 2012 the town applied for and received a \$500,000 grant, money that is currently being used to fund the repair of the bridge on the Canaan Southfield road near Foley Hill Road. Grant applications are due in September.

The Selectmen received a **letter from the Board of Health raising concerns about the drinking water at the Town garage.** Earlier this winter, the water supply line from the building’s well froze, leaving the garage temporarily without water. Superintendent Loring was able to obtain a used water tank that was set up in one of the garage bays and connected to the building’s plumbing system to provide the building with sanitary water. He also arranged for drinking water to be brought in by Berkshire Mountain Spring Water. But that was not good enough for the Board of Health. Calling it “an unacceptable solution, due to the potential for bacterial contamination,” the letter ordered the Town to make repairs to the supply line by March 28. But as Selectman Tara White noted, the ground is currently frozen and it may be another month before a new line can be run to the well. Mr. Yohalem directed Mr. Skorput to send a letter to Board of Health Chairman Larry Davis describing the repairs that have been made to date and requesting an extension of the deadline to the end of April.

*Peter Schuyten*

**March 10:** To accommodate a heavy agenda — plus an awards ceremony in recognition of organizations that had won grants from the New Marlborough Cultural Council — the meeting, with all three selectmen present, was called to order at 5:24 p.m. The following budget requests were approved:

- Conservation Commission expenses: \$2,000
- Finance Committee expenses: \$500
- Berkshire County Retirement: \$100,953
- Village Association: \$3,108
- Medicare: \$11,425
- Zoning Board of Appeals expenses: \$600
- Memorial Day expenses: \$900
- 911 administration: \$500
- Household waste: \$1,279
- Interest expense: \$5,000
- Banking Services: \$500

Two items were put on hold for further explanation: assessor’s computer contingency of \$4,235, and Board of Health expenses of \$2,500, a \$1,000 increase over the present year. Mr. Nat Yohalem then raised **the question of salary increases for Town employees, saying that the range under consideration was 1.5 to 2.5 percent.** Mr. Yohalem recommended that department heads be given leave to distribute raises as he or she saw fit as long total raises did not exceed the recommended percentage increase. In the ensuing discussion, Michele Shalaby said she favored an increase of 2.5 percent; Tara White, citing the Town’s school district allocation, which is expected to be \$103,500 higher than in the current year, said the increase needed to be lower. A motion to set the overall

*continued*

*Board of Selectmen, continued*

salary increase at 2 percent was approved two to one, with Ms. Shalaby dissenting.

Fire Company President David Smith, Emergency Services Fund President Ned Odegaard, and Police Chief Scott Farrell came forward to talk about **what to do with the old firehouse to make it usable for office, storage, and garage space.** A discussion of whether to tear it down and build anew or leave it standing and do a total or partial rehabilitation was interrupted by Mr. Odegaard to introduce the question of how any of this would be financed. The question is all the more relevant because of a \$330,000 mortgage — presently paid down to \$230,000 — on the new firehouse. The thirty-year note has a fixed rate of 4.7 percent for the first ten years but floats thereafter. It can rise as much as 3 percent a year to a maximum of 11 percent. So far, said Mr. Odegaard, debt service of \$24,000 a year has not been a problem. The Emergency Services Fund, guarantor of the loan, has been averaging some \$36,000 a year in donations. Last year, however, it took in just \$24,000 — a major donor was no longer available to the fund. What happens, Mr. Odegaard asked, if debt services rises to, say, \$48,000 a year?

Further discussion of how additional space would be used and how to separate “needs” from “wants” led Mr. Yohalem to loft another approach to financing a renovation. The Town, he suggested, could buy the firehouse properties for a nominal sum and then take out a mortgage large enough to retire the loan, finance a rehab of the old firehouse, and pay for other of the Town’s capital needs, all at a rate significantly lower than the one the Emergency Services Fund is now paying.

The Board and the heads of the three departments — Fire, Emergency Services, and Police — agreed that it made sense to have all three under one roof. Mr. Yohalem asked that, as a starting point, the department heads convene and determine their needs. The department heads agreed to do so.

At 7:00 p.m., individuals and members of organizations that had won **Cultural Council grants** gathered to receive award certificates for their 2014 projects. (see story, page 12).

Following the presentation, Thomas and Theresa Eichstedt took seats at the meeting table to voice a **complaint about the slow response of the police department.** An intruder, said Mr. Eichstedt, had pounded loudly and persistently on the front door of their house, traumatizing their sixteen-year-old daughter, who was the only one at home. Officer Graham Frank eventually reached the house, but not until forty minutes after the original 911 call was made. “This is unacceptable,” said Mr. Eichstedt, who noted that he was not in favor of adding more full-time officers but thought that Sheffield police should be summoned when New Marlborough

personnel were not available. Mr. Yohalem said he would review the matter of response time with the police chief.

The Board agreed to hire Robert McDermott, at \$50 an hour for up to twenty hours, to evaluate Fire Department equipment and determine the cost of necessary replacement.

Mr. Yohalem asked that Treasurer, Pat Mielke, write a memo to the Board expressing her agreement that Jessica Bosworth, who is leaving her job as administrative assistant for a position as manager of natural foods at Guido’s, continue in her role as the Town’s assistant treasurer. With that, the Board adjourned its meeting to 10:00 a.m., March 12, to select a new administrative assistant from among three candidates it had interviewed.

*Joe Poindexter*

**March 17:** With Mr. Yohalem and Ms. White present and Ms. Shalaby participating by phone, the **Board voted to send a letter to the Southern Berkshire Regional School District School Committee calling for the closure of the Monterey and Egremont schools, saying it could save the district more than \$225,000 a year** (see box on page 7). The letter was addressed to School Committee Chairman Carl Stewart with copies going to the boards of selectmen of the other four towns in the district as well as to School Superintendent David Hastings, who was sitting in on the meeting but did not speak. The letter recommended moving the Monterey students to New Marlborough Central School and the Egremont students to the main campus in Sheffield. It was just a week ago the Sheffield selectmen voted to send a similar letter to the School Committee recommending the closure of the Monterey school.

Board Administrative Assistant Mike Skorput said he has been told informally by the state Department of Transportation’s Highway Division that there are **problems with the Campbell Falls bridge that may result in either the outright closing of the bridge or the reduction of traffic down to a single lane.** He said he’s now waiting for an official notification in writing from DOT.

Selectman Shalaby proposed that the **Board consider holding what she described as office hours in the week or two leading up to the Annual Town Meeting in May so residents “can come in a talk to us one-on-one about anything that’s on the warrant or in the annual report.”** The other members of the board agreed.

The Board reviewed and **approved the town’s lease with the Fire Company for garaging the police cruiser in the old firehouse.** The lease covers the period from November 1, 2013, through June 30, 2014, at a rent of \$500 a month.

The following budget items **were approved:**

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission: \$1,062  
(a \$25 increase)

Veterans Benefit Trust: \$8,000  
 Town Counsel: \$10,000 (a \$2,000 increase)  
 Insurance Expense: \$65,000 (a \$1,000 increase)  
 Transfer Station Expenses: \$62,000  
 (a \$1,000 increase)  
 Workman's Compensation: \$18,550  
 (a \$2,050 increase)  
 Berkshire Regional Purchasing: \$600  
 Animal Control Officer Expenses: \$3,411  
 (a \$361 increase)  
 Animal Control Officer: \$2,100  
 Police Department Rental: \$12,000  
 Wired West Fee: \$1,000

Following up on a discussion at last week's meeting

regarding the response time by the police department to a resident's call about an intruder, Chairman Yohalem said that a check of both the sheriff's log and the state police log revealed that the time it took for the officer to appear on the scene after the call was received was actually twenty-one minutes and not forty minutes, as originally described by the resident (See Board of Selectman Report for March 10). He said that considering the call came in during evening hours, when no one was on duty, "that's a pretty reasonable time for an officer at home to get a call, dress appropriately, pick up the cruiser and appear at the resident's house." □

Peter Schuyten

## SELECTMEN'S LETTER TO SCHOOL COMMITTEE

In a letter dated March 17, addressed to Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee Chairman Carl Stewart, the New Marlborough Board of Selectmen has called for the closing of both the Monterey and Egremont schools.

In a carefully worded document, the Board begins by commending the School Committee for the long hours and many meetings that went into developing the proposed FY2015 budget, which it "fully" endorses, even though "it resulted in an additional assessment of over \$103,000 to our Town." And while the letter never actually uses the word "close" in referring to the two schools, it asks the School Committee to "place on its agenda the movement of the educational program in Monterey to New Marlborough and the movement of the Egremont educational program to the Sheffield campus."

Stating that the most important criteria, in the Board's view, are "the education of the students, followed closely by the cost of that education," the letter ads that "transferring" the educational programs could save the district more than \$225,000 per year. It also points out that the two schools have very few students, that the buildings are in poor repair, and that the School Committee will not fund "a replacement building" in Monterey or "substantial capital improvements in Egremont."

The letter goes on to emphasize that although the Board recognizes this may be "an emotional issue for residents of the two affected towns," it's an issue that nonetheless should be addressed.

Finally, the letter stresses that the Board is not taking the position that all or even any of the cost savings be used to reduce future budgets, but, if the School Committee so decides, could use the savings "to improve the educational opportunities of all of the students of the District." □

Peter Schuyten

## MEET SHARON FLECK

The newest addition to the Town Hall staff is Sharon Fleck, who started work as the Board of Selectmen's administrative secretary on March 13. She replaces Jessica Bosworth, who resigned to rejoin Guido's as the manager of the natural foods department. Sharon and her husband, George, built a home on the Mill River Great Barrington Road ten years ago, and moved there full time from Mahwah, New Jersey, in 2012. She previously owned and operated three Curves for Women gym



She previously owned and operated three Curves for Women gym

franchises and also worked in international marketing and sales. She has a Bachelor of Science degree from Marymount College and an MBA from Long Island University. George, who retired as the chairman of the Speech, Communications and Theater Arts department at the Borough of Manhattan Community College, now hosts a radio program on community station WBCR in Great Barrington devoted to the Great American Songbook. □

Peter Schuyten

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

**February 20:** With Edgar Zukauskas presiding, and David Herrick, Mark Carson, and Prudence Spaulding attending, Police Chief Scott Farrell presented his department's budget. In response to a question from Mr. Zukauskas about a \$5,000 increase in police salaries, Mr. Farrell explained that, because of increasing demands on his professional and personal life, he expects to serve only one more year as police chief and has increased the responsibilities of Officer Graham Frank in running the department, for which, in Mr. Farrell's view, he should be rewarded. Should Mr. Frank eventually be promoted to police chief — Mr. Farrell praised him as an excellent police officer — and be replaced by two part-time officers, Mr. Farrell foresaw no significant increase in the police budget.

In a review of the police expenses budget, Mrs. Spaulding questioned the \$1,300 requested for "subscriptions, legal references, and professional associations." Mr. Farrell stated that the legal references, while expensive, were necessary and that networking with other professional associations was beneficial.

After thanking Mr. Farrell for his participation, the Committee approved the following budget requests:

- Police Expenses: \$21,550
- Police Revolving: \$6,000
- Website Expenses: \$2,425 (with the Committee expressing its concern that the website still lacked postings of many town activities)
- Accounting Officer Expenses: \$4,105, an increase of \$470 due to an increase in the charge for contract services and the addition of two three-day training sessions
- Audit: \$8,000
- Selectmen's Expenses: \$4,000
- Contingent Expenses \$3,000 (for supplies and unscheduled expenses)

A request of \$41,400 for Town Hall Expenses was put on hold, because a segment of it was designated for salaries. Tara White, who serves as town accountant as well as selectman and was present at the meeting, suggested that a "Computers" account be established to earmark funds for replacement of outmoded equipment.

**March 4:** With Mr. Zukauskas presiding, and Mr. Herrick, Mr. Carson, Ms. Mielke, Mr. Imberman, and Mrs. Spaulding in attendance, a building inspector request for funds to buy a computer program designed to help residents apply for permits on line was put on hold until it was determined if a sufficient number of townspeople had the requisite internet access.

The following budget requests were approved:

- Assessor's Computer Contingency: \$4,341
- Board of Health

- Clerical: \$5,000;
- Salaries: \$1,250;
- Expenses: \$2,500
- Health Agent Revolving: \$17,000
- Memorial Day: \$900
- Zoning Board of Appeals Expenses: \$600
- Conservation Commission Expenses: \$2,000
- Finance Committee Expenses: \$500
- Medicare: \$11,425
- Berkshire County Retirement: \$100,953, a payroll assessment, required of all towns in Berkshire County
- Interest Expense: \$5,000, for covering interest on short-term loans
- Banking Services: \$500
- Household Hazardous Waste: \$1,279
- Village Association: \$3,108, to help maintain the New Marlborough village green (with Mr. Zukauskas dissenting)
- 911 Coordinator Expense: \$500

A request to fund the Assessor's Cyclical Re-Inspection, a state-mandated program to have one-third of the Town's properties newly assessed each year, was put on hold for further information from the town treasurer.

And finally, a request for \$1,000 to support Wired West was put on hold until the Committee could get a firmer grasp of the viability of bringing high-speed internet service to the widely dispersed residences of New Marlborough. □

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

## Vendors Wanted

For the  
Elihu Burritt Day Town Fair  
on August 16, 2014

Sellers of arts, crafts,  
or other products

Contact Michele Shalaby, Chair  
New Marlborough Cultural Council  
229-9050, or  
micheleshalaby@gmail.com



## FINAL SCHOOL BUDGET ADOPTED BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

*1.99% increase over prior year*

By Barry R. Shapiro

Residents of New Marlborough are going to face a smaller hike in the fiscal year 2015 school budget than originally anticipated. On March 19, 2014, the School Committee unanimously adopted a budget which is \$291,272 higher than last year's but considerably less than the \$385,341 increase preliminarily approved in February. The voters in the five towns comprising the District will get their chance to weigh in on the budget at the town meetings to be held in the first week of May. Four of the five towns must approve the budget for it to pass.

Superintendent David Hastings noted that the District has worked in partnership with the towns to understand their concerns and to acknowledge that the District's population is declining. He stated that staffing cuts have been made but will not affect the delivery of services to the students.

Here are the salient provisions of the budget:

Spending will be \$14,925,833, an increase of \$291,272, or 1.99%, over the prior year (the preliminary budget called for a 2.63% increase). Most of this sum (\$12,050,437) is allocated to and paid by the five towns.

A number of expense categories (administration, other teaching services such as paraprofessionals, professional development, instructional materials, equipment and technology) remained fairly consistent with or decreased from last year.

However, there was a \$176,426, or 5.69%, increase in insurance, reflecting a sizeable jump in contributions to retirement accounts and health insurance. Instructional leadership (which includes the cost of principals and building technology) increased by \$68,868, or 7.80%,

and pupil services rose by \$89,977, or 5.71%, reflecting increased transportation expense and the addition of a food services administrator. The cost of classroom and specialist teachers declined by \$78,282, or 1.95%. The net savings is actually only \$28,282, or .71%, because of lower school choice reimbursement. Some of the savings reflect a voluntary furlough day agreed to by the teachers' union.

New Marlborough's share of the budget allocated to the towns is 20.80% or \$2,505,996, an increase of \$103,522, or 4.31%, over last year. Approximately \$36,862 of this increase comes from the Town's larger allocation under the state formula. The Town's allocation for 2014 was 20.49%.

Capital expenditures are \$402,500, down from \$418,800 last year. Of this, \$30,000 is earmarked for New Marlborough Central. Virtually all of the remaining expenditures are for the main campus in Sheffield, and include \$103,300 for technology, and \$25,000 each for carpeting, heating and air conditioning, ceiling tile replacement, and athletic field and tennis court repairs.

In the view of Nat Yohalem, chair of the New Marlborough Board of Selectmen, "The School Committee and David Hastings have done a terrific job in keeping the budget as low as possible. They have been extremely responsive to the comments from New Marlborough. In the future, I'd like to see continued exploration of the closing of the Monterey and Egremont schools so that we can realize the savings that such closings would achieve."

New Marlborough voters can make their voices heard at the Town Meeting to be held on Monday, May 5. □

### SUSAN M. SMITH Attorney At Law

32 Corser Hill Road  
Great Barrington  
Massachusetts 01230

Telephone (413) 229-7080  
Facsimile (413) 229-7085  
email: ssmithlaw@hughes.net

### SCOTT MacKENZIE EXCAVATING

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

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**February 1:** The meeting opened with four members present: Co-Chairmen John Weinstein and Ned Wilson, Freddie Friedman, and John Schreiber.

The Commission started by reviewing the minutes prepared for both November and December. They were accepted as written by the secretary.

The discussion then moved to the Massachusetts open meeting laws and the policy regarding conference calling during public meetings. A question arose about whether attendance via telecommunication contributes to a quorum. The Commission decided unanimously to ask the Board of Selectmen to vote to enable each committee in town to use telecommunications during meetings. The Commission also noted that they would seek further clarification of the open meeting laws.

The Commission then voted to approve a Certificate of Compliance for 104 Downs Road.

Next, Chuck Loring, superintendent of the New Marlborough Highway Department, asked to discuss bundling Notices of Intent from the Highway Department. The Commission agreed that they were not familiar with bundling permits. They agreed to ask if Mark Stinson from the Department of Environmental Protection would come to their next meeting to consult on the issue.

Finally the mail was reviewed. Eight Forest Cutting Plans were received and approved from the following: Norfolk Road Nominee Trust, 1584 Norfolk Road; Blue Hill Development LLC, 1899 County Road; Harold Crine, County Road; Julia Bickford, 287 Canaan Valley Road; CRD Real Estate Trust, Arroyo Way; Abbe Steinglass, Lumbert Cross Road; Jessica Laine, Leffingwell Road; and Berkshire Natural Resources Council, New Marlborough Monterey Road.

Confirmation was received that a Certificate of Compliance was recorded for Stanley Rossier, 222/226 Lake Road. Two notices for approved Special Permits from James Koneazny and Larry Casey were also received.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

*Excerpted from minutes written  
by Secretary Kathy Chretien*

**March 8:** The meeting opened with three Commission members present: Co-Chairman Ned Wilson, Freddie Friedman, and John Schreiber. Mark Stinson, a Circuit Rider for the Western Regional Office of the Department of Environmental Protection, was on hand to consult with the Commission on questions regarding the implementation of the Wetlands Protection Act (WPA).

Owen Wright, a local contractor, started the meeting with an informal list of questions for the Commission concerning various parcels in New Marlborough and how the WPA might apply.

Mr. Stinson used the opportunity to clarify several key regulations and how they impact the permitting process.

Next, Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring reviewed the option for the Highway Department to bundle several notices of intent into one submission. The conversation evolved into discussing the repair of culverts and what degree of work requires permitting. Mr. Stinson reminded the Commission that any activity which removes, fills, dredges or alters a resource area requires a Notice of Intent. He also referred the Commission to the Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards which help guide culvert repair to ensure the passage of fish and wildlife. Mr. Loring reflected on the fact that "old-school practices" must be updated to reflect the new regulations and that experience and good judgment are keys to implementing the regulations to the maximum extent practical in the field. The Commission agreed to invite the Board of Selectmen and Mark Stinson to visit a site in the spring where the stream crossing standards apply so that everyone can be better informed.

Mr. Stinson then showed the Commission several online sites offering free mapping software which would greatly help the Commission in reviewing future permits.

Finally last month's minutes were read and approved with one minor change. The mail was reviewed and several upcoming conferences were noted. The next meeting was scheduled for April 12, and the meeting was adjourned. □

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## BLACKJACK!

By David Lowman

*"All I know is what I see in the papers." Will Rogers*

Is it possible? Here in New Marlborough? Blackjack. Poker. Craps. Roulette. Baccarat. Slots!

In 2012, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, after years of holding out, finally legalized casino gambling. The enabling legislation authorized three casinos – two for the Greater Boston area and one for the western part of the state.

While the permitting and siting process has been underway in the eastern part of Massachusetts, the final location of the western casino is still unsettled. Efforts to secure a site in the Springfield area are on-going, but lately the NM5VN has heard rumblings of an attempt to possibly locate the western casino in New Marlborough. Actually, from what we've learned, the site would be in what is now the Sandisfield State Forest which straddles the boundary between Sandisfield and New Marlborough and contains York Lake. The New Marlborough portion of that property is some 727 acres. The Commonwealth in recent years has faced crippling fiscal woes and feels that the continued maintenance and care of an under-used property is an expense it can no longer afford. Governor Deval Patrick, who has a home in the Berkshires in Richmond, was reportedly abashed when he was informed of the possible location of a casino in the Berkshires. To inquiring reporters, he said, "When I said Western Massachusetts, I meant Worcester, for crying out loud."

Rumors had it that two Las Vegas high rollers, billionaire casino developers Sheldon Addledman and Steve Wynn, at first showed interest in bankrolling a casino here, but apparently pulled out when they realized that the surrounding infrastructure was inadequate to their needs. As Mr. Addledman succinctly put it, "Your roads are trash!" When it was pointed out to him that the local roads are suffering from record frost heaves this winter, he said, "In Vegas we got no heaves."



The departure of the two Las Vegas kingpins leaves the field open to Cleopatra's Resorts and Gaming, headed by Mr. Enrico Crusoe. Cleo's, as it's affectionately called, is headquartered in Cairo, Illinois, at the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and owns and manages riverboat casinos there and in other freshwater ports. His posh main office is on The Queen of the Nile. One might speculate as to the possibility of a similar facility on York Lake.

Reports are that the New Marlborough Village Benevolence Society is extremely upset over this recent turn of events. We've learned that the NMVBS has petitioned the Boards of Selectmen in New Marlborough and Sandisfield to halt this development, claiming that failure to do so would destroy the rural character of both towns.

Mr. Crusoe, on the other hand, talks of the many new job opportunities for the citizens of each town and of the increase in local tax revenues as well. He also pointed out that the Connecticut casinos, Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun, have been drawing Massachusetts residents and their dollars for many years. He said, "Folks can save on gas by gambling here." Questioned about reports that he was also planning on building a commercial incineration plant at the York Lake site, Mr. Crusoe scoffed and said, "No one would do something like that, would they? Holy smoke!" He emphasized, however, that final plans for the development were "still on the drawing board."

Watch this space for further developments. □

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## CULTURAL COUNCIL AWARDS GRANTS

At the Board of Selectmen's meeting on March 10, the New Marlborough Cultural Council presented award certificates to the recipients of its 2014 grants. The generosity of New Marlborough donors, combined with the state grant of \$4,250, allowed the Council to distribute \$16,000 to thirty-six projects representing a broad spectrum of activities in the arts and sciences. Several programs support the schools: curricular approaches combining art and science, several creative activities in theater, arts, and music, and programs that augment the social studies curricula at several grade levels.

The Council also supported a number of arts activities in southern Berkshire County, including music and theater activities at the Berkshire Fringe Festival, Berkshire Lyric Theater, Music & More programs at the New Marlborough Meeting House, Berkshire Children's Chorus, and two monthly concert series at the rejuvenated Dewey Hall in Sheffield. Programs specific to New Marlborough address some new audiences: computer usage for senior citizens at the library, preservation of historic church records at the Southfield Church, continuation of the cemetery restoration project of the Historical Society, and a new partnership of the Land Trust with New Marlborough Central students



photo by Anne Sommers

Recipients of Cultural Council grants for 2014 met at the Board of Selectmen meeting, March 10

at the Robert Joffe Nature Sanctuary. Summaries of all the grants can be viewed on New Marlborough's page of the Massachusetts Cultural Council's website at [www.mass-culture.org/New-Marlborough](http://www.mass-culture.org/New-Marlborough). □

Barbara Lowman

## CULTURAL COUNCIL DATES TO SAVE

**April 5:** A community potluck dinner will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the Southfield Church Hall. Bring a dish (see page 18) and view the photo exhibit "A Day in the Life of New Marlborough" of our town, by our townspeople.

**April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, August 2 and 9, 10:00 – noon:** Collection dates for donations to the White Elephant sale on Elihu Burritt Day. The drop-off location has changed this year. It no longer will be at the

barn across from Town Hall in Mill River, but is now at the Whip Shop in Southfield. Take a look around your attic, basement, or garage – but no furniture, please!

**July 19:** Annual Garden Tour: The Council is still seeking gardens for inclusion in the 2014 tour. If you would like to share your garden with the community for a day, please contact Maureen Hosford at 229-0076, Brian Mikesell at 229-0102, or Barbara Lowman at 229-2369. □



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## AN ATTIC TREASURE

Jane Fraser became enamored of the Berkshires as a girl when her family, from Brooklyn, bought a house in New Marlborough village next to Gedney Farm. In 1942, she married Robert Lehman and in 1944 they bought the decrepit Leffingwell farmhouse on Hillingdon Road from the estate of J. Macy Willetts. Over the years they restored the house and also purchased the surrounding hilltop property that Dr. Lehman subsequently contributed to The Trustees of Reservations upon his death in 1996. The house is now occupied by John and Becky Schreiber, close friends of the Lehmans.

Jump to the present where John discovered a yellowing manuscript of a poem, composed in a form perfected by Elizabethan poets, by Jane Fraser when she was, John thinks, a schoolgirl. Its images and ardor seem no less true today. □

Joe Poindexter



*Sonnet Inspired by the Berkshire Hills*

Oh perfect beings, boundless waves of hills,  
 God, growing darker, bluer as they fade  
 Into the dim horizon. How well made  
 Is each exquisite rise and fall! It fills  
 Merc man with awe, and soothes his ills  
 To grasp, within his heart, their strength and aid.  
 Enhancing more their beauty, darkling shade  
 Of passing cloud mores o'er them as God wills.

Oh mortal men! Be wise and make your own  
 The wisdom of these hills; their subtle power!  
 For in this life the one who falls behind  
 Is he who, beauty-blind, has never known  
 The joy of standing, gazing hour on hour  
 At rolling hills, refreshing soul and mind.

Jane Fraser

## BURGLARS!

By David Lowman

Norfolk Now, our "sister" monthly newsletter in Norfolk, Connecticut, ran an article in its March issue discussing a rash of residential burglaries. Greg Naylor, Norfolk's resident state trooper, was featured in the article and talked of how most of these burglaries are "drug-related." He said that the burglars sought possessions that were easy to convert to cash on the street, articles like jewelry and electronics. He specifically talked of one incident in which a burglar or burglars stole cameras and flat screen televisions worth an estimated \$8,000.

Trooper Naylor later pointed out that the main burglary "corridor was along Route 272," which we in New Marlborough know to be the Connecticut extension of our Norfolk Road. He also said that thieves looked for homes that are relatively secluded and, at the time of the crimes, unoccupied.

When contacted, New Marlborough Police Chief

Scott Farrell said that his department has "not seen a significant increase in B[reaking] & E[ntering] crimes, although they are always there." He said in an email that most of these crimes "fall into one of two categories: Someone who knew the house and broke in via knowing key location, access codes, times people would be away," and the house "was known to be unoccupied, and most likely not alarmed."

Chief Farrell stressed that "we are not experiencing any rise [in residential crime] here; if people just use a bit of due diligence in securing their house, or not keeping patterns (using timer lights, using a known caretaker to visit the house, etc.) then many of these can crimes be avoided; and give contractors/realtors/visitors a secondary code that you can control if you have an alarm system – something you can set temporarily or know if they used if your alarm system has that capability." □

## Neighbors



**M**ary Simons, who with her husband, Walter, was a part-time resident of Mill River, died on February 19 at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Hospital in New York City at the age of eighty-two. She had fought a twenty-year battle with leukemia and eventually succumbed to an infection that overwhelmed her compromised immune system.

Mary and Walter were introduced to the Berkshires in the early 1970s. They knew they wanted to spend more time here and rented for a couple of years. In 1976 they bought the 1792 farm house on County Road originally co-owned by the Sheldon and Corser families. The house, occupied by two families prior to the Simons' purchase, had been vacant for six years and required extensive renovations.



Mary and Walter Simons

Mary was a distinguished journalist, both as a foreign correspondent and later as a writer and editor for the *New York Times Sunday Magazine*, that publication's first female senior editor, *Look and Life*, and editor-in-chief of *Food and Wine Magazine*. "She had an

instinct for stories that were ahead of the curve," says a former colleague, "and the skill and tenacity to get socially important stories into print."

Following her retirement, Mary continued to pursue her love for travel, gardening and the arts. She was a marvelous cook — and could do a hilarious imitation of chef Julia Child, whom she had long ago introduced to the U.S. magazine-reading public. She was very supportive of the growth in New Marlborough's arts agenda and was a regular presence at cultural events in the Meeting House. She lived life to the fullest to the very end.

**S**potted during the Academy Awards broadcast on March 2: Southfield resident **Doug Trumbull** appeared with a colleague in a film clip that was shown to the audience. The colleague, Peter Anderson, had received the Academy's Scientific Achievement Lifetime Award, which was presented and recorded a week before the March 2 program.

Compiled by Barbara Lowman: [deeuell@yahoo.com](mailto:deeuell@yahoo.com)

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#### Thank You to our Contributors:

William & Marie Krejci; Elaine & Steve Mack;  
Judy & John Ladd for Roberta Roy;  
Howard & Patricia Nahmias;  
LuAnn Bailey & William Rock Smith;  
Hildreth McCarthy; Howard & Pat Nourse;  
and Edith MacGuire

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Fax: (413)528-5095

e-mail: [downing.law@verizon.net](mailto:downing.law@verizon.net)

## OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

On March 1, **Don Beauchamp**, of Clayton, writes: Today I was going to try to walk across a bridge over the Konkapot – all snowed over – and was doing very well until suddenly, from under the bridge, a pair of **mergansers** took off like a shot, scaring the pants off me, so I gave up walking any farther. That was exciting enough. Plenty of **robins** still around.

And on March 2, Don adds: The **brown creeper** was on the tree today. He just runs all over the place, so it was hard to get a shot. But I think I got one.

And on March 8, he writes: This morning I went out to feed the birds and heard song birds. Later, I noticed movement at the bluebird house and, sure enough, a pair of **bluebirds** was checking it out. Also, the resident **robin** is chasing other birds away from his crab apple tree. I walked up the lane on the far side of the bridge: no birds in the hedgerow on either side of lane, but when I got back to the bridge, there were **cedar waxwings** flying along the banks of the river — maybe half a dozen. Snow was shin deep.

On March 8, **Charlie Parton**, of New Marlborough village, writes: A week ago there was a little **baby squirrel** sitting in the drive. He was in no hurry to move and waited till we blew the horn. Then the next day he was there again; the third day, he ran when he saw the car, so he's learning.

For a long time, we had very few sightings of **gray squirrels** — actually any of the squirrel clan, but over the past three days we've seen as many as three grays, and this morning a black and a gray chased each other up and down and around several trees.

Birds at the feeder are the usual, but not in great numbers. **Robins** and **mourning doves** in the yard, but the snow still covers the seat of the bench by the pool.

On March 10, **Ed Harvey**, of Mill River, writes: Recently I saw a **merganser** on the Konkapot, There appear to be at least two families of **raccoons** on the Mill River-Southfield Road. The **skunk** is back around the Mill River-Clayton Road area just south of Mill River. Lastly, a very hungry **cottontail** has made an appearance in my yard and hung around long enough to be photographed several times.

On March 13, **Don Beauchamp** writes: Today, with sub-zero temps with the wind chill, the **red-winged blackbird** made his appearance, along with **blackbirds** and **grackles**.

On March 14, he adds: Warmer today. A big **red-tailed hawk** in the tall maple tree was being watched by two **crows**, but flew off, pursued by the crows, before I could get in position for a shot.

And, on March 15, he reports: Today the ground was black with **red-winged blackbirds**, maybe just passing through.

On March 20, **David and Barbara Lowman**, of Southfield, report: For the past two weeks we have been visited daily (and sometimes twice) by a group of four large wild tom **turkeys** who are feasting on the sunflower seed that has fallen to the deck and the garden below the bird feeders. We're accustomed to seeing them by the road or in a field, but when they come up on your deck, they are huge! When they have finished, they calmly walk down the steps or fly off the railing, and slowly make their way back into the woods.

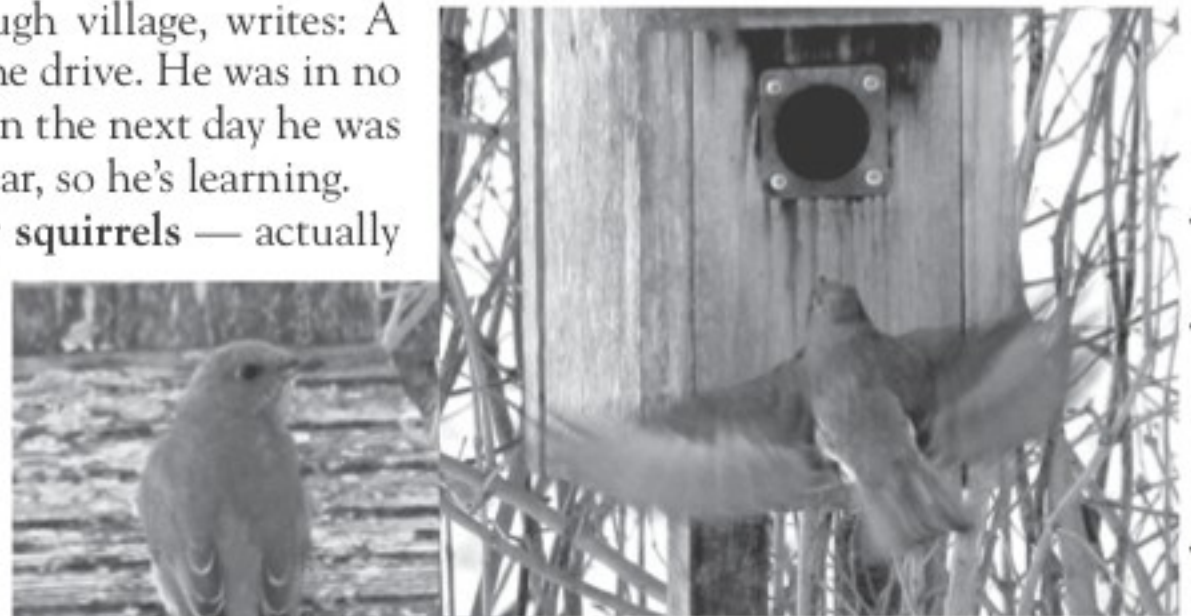
And like others, this year we had no **squirrels** at all under the feeders until a month ago. We now have three regular visitors – a far cry from the hordes in prior years. What happened to them? □

Compiled by Jon Swan, joncswan@gmail.com



photo by Don Beauchamp

Brown Creeper



photos by Don Beauchamp

Bluebirds at the nesting box



photo by Ed Harvey



photo by David Lowman

# THE LOG

The New Marlborough Fire Company's Annual Spring Dance will be held on Saturday, May 3, at Gedney Farm. 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.

- |         |            |  |         |            |  |
|---------|------------|--|---------|------------|--|
| Jan. 2  | 4:30 p.m.  | Unsuccessful attempt to serve summons. Reached by phone, summons recipient said she would be home at 5:30 p.m.           | Jan. 14 | 8:30 a.m.  | Resident reported a possible breaking and entering at some time within the previous week   |
|         | 5:15 p.m.  | Waited at home of summons recipient for half hour; party never arrived   |         | 10:30 a.m. | Resident asked that police department be aware of a citizen who had recently been released from jail   |
| Jan. 3  | 11:00 a.m. | Assisted with traffic while Highway Department removed tree fallen across Canaan Southfield Road south of Hadsell Street | Jan. 16 | 3:00 p.m.  | Clayton resident reported a smashed mailbox, possibly with baseball bat; requested extra patrols   |
|         | 4:40 p.m.  | Assisted driver whose vehicle slid into ditch on Mill River Hartsville Road.   | Jan. 17 | 10:30 a.m. | Delivered to their home two small dogs found on Brewer Hill Road   |
| Jan. 6  | 9:30 a.m.  | Removed tree from New Marlborough Monterey Road  | Jan. 17 | 1:00 p.m.  | Gave Fed Ex truck driver on Norfolk Road directions to Pittsfield  |
|         | 2:30 p.m.  | Attempted to serve summons; negative contact   |         | 1:30 p.m.  | Driver of large tractor trailer near Berkshire Spring Water Co. on Norfolk Road, seeking an address in East Canaan; advised he had made a wrong turn   |
| Jan. 7  | 4:00 p.m.  | Received BOLO (be on the lookout) request from Stockbridge PD for New Marlborough resident accused of shoplifting        | Jan. 23 | 9:35 a.m.  | Investigated scene of hit and run on Adsit Crosby Road, in which vehicle ran over mailbox and continued through bushes and trees before re-entering road   |
| Jan 8   | 1:05 a.m.  | Report of domestic disturbance, Mill River   |         | 12:30 p.m. | Report of suspicious female taking photos of New Marlborough Central School. Same took photos from all sides of school; was driving a green Jeep Cherokee type vehicle, Mass. plates. Checked area; negative contact; spoke with school employees; later identified as photographer from 5 Village News. |
|         | 9:45 a.m.  | Advised shoplifting suspect at his home to contact Stockbridge PD  |         |            |  |
| Jan. 9  | 5:45 p.m.  | Attempted to serve summons; negative contact   |         |            |  |
|         | 6:00 p.m.  | Party visited police department to pick up summons   |         |            |  |
|         | 7:30 p.m.  | Party served summons   |         |            |  |
| Jan. 10 | 10:15 a.m. | Found utility trailer back gate on County Road with license plate attached; notified owner                               |         |            |  |

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- Jan. 23 3:30 p.m. Resident reported that a minivan with a Vermont plate was parked outside her house on Route 57 at 12:30 a.m. with the engine turned off. It later left.
- Jan. 24 8:00 p.m. Unwanted intoxicated individual removed from house.
- Jan. 25 9:50 a.m. Report of possible stalker.
- Jan. 29 4:30 p.m. Report of dog on leash on Alum Hill Road with leash caught on a bush.

Not listed here, numerous vehicle accidents occasioned by hazardous road conditions throughout the month. Also of note: The department issued ten LTC (license to carry firearms) permits and renewed four others in

January. According to Police Chief Scott Farrell, the Sandy Hook (Connecticut) Elementary School shooting fifteen months ago and the threat of gun legislation have led to an increase in LTC permit applications throughout the Commonwealth. Eighty-eight LTCs were issued in New Marlborough last year, and as of this writing, there are twelve applications pending, in a process that takes four to six weeks.

Applicants must be over twenty-one and pass a background check to determine that he or she does not have a criminal record. To handle what it calls "a dramatic increase" in permit requests, according to the Town website, the department has set aside the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. to process applications and asks that applicants call 229-8161 for an appointment. □

## FIRE AND RESCUE

- |         |            |   |         |            |  |
|---------|------------|---|---------|------------|--|
| Feb. 1  | 4:19 a.m.  | Canaan Southfield Road MVA                    | Feb. 15 | 2:00 a.m.  | Brewer Hill Road CO Alarm                      |
| Feb. 1  | 2:13 p.m.  | Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call   | Feb. 15 | 10:30 p.m. | Hadsell Street Medical Call                    |
| Feb. 4  | 9:35 p.m.  | Brewer Hill Road Fire Alarm                   | Feb. 17 | 11:10 a.m. | Corashire Road Medical Call                    |
| Feb. 6  |            | Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call   | Feb. 20 | 3:33 p.m.  | New Marlborough Hartsville Road Equipment Fire |
| Feb. 6  | 2:48 p.m.  | Route 183 MVA                                 | Feb. 21 | 1:10 p.m.  | Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call    |
| Feb. 7  | 5:11 a.m.  | Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call   | Feb. 21 | 2:10 p.m.  | Downs Road Fire Alarm                          |
| Feb. 7  | 11:30 a.m. | Stone Manor Drive Fire Alarm                  | Feb. 21 | 2:40 p.m.  | Downs Road Fire Alarm                          |
| Feb. 7  | 3:00 p.m.  | Mutual Aid to Monterey Medical Call           | Feb. 23 | 7:21 p.m.  | New Marlborough Hartsville Road Fire Alarm     |
| Feb. 11 | 10:00 a.m. | Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Structure Fire | Feb. 25 | 7:14 a.m.  | Mutual Aid to Sheffield Structure Fire         |
| Feb.    | 2:32 p.m.  | New Marlborough Hartsville Road Fire Alarm    | Feb. 28 | 9:46 p.m.  | Clark Way Medical Call                         |
| Feb. 14 | 9:34 p.m.  | Mutual Aid to Norfolk, Conn. Structure Fire   | Feb. 28 | 11:55 p.m. | Norfolk Road Fire Alarm                        |

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**MAILBOX**



To the Editor,

I would like to thank Don Beauchamp and Larry Burke for their outstanding snapshots of the eagle and the chickadee in the March edition of *New Marlborough 5 Village News*.

“Our Wildlife Neighbors” is my favorite column. I thank you for compiling it.

We have had a summer/winter/ spring/ fall house in New Marlborough for approximately sixty-five years. However, the wildlife do not always present themselves for our viewing. Therefore these pictures that you publish are wonderful reminders of our mostly unseen neighbors.

Tom Callahan  
 South Sandisfield Road  
 New Marlborough

# POTLUCK DINNER

April 5, 6:00 p.m. at the Southfield Church Hall

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Bring a dish and see

“A Day in the Life of New Marlborough”

A photo exhibit of our Town by our Townspeople

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Potluck contributions by last name

*initials ~ bring*

A – G ~ dessert

H – N ~ main dish

*initials ~ bring*

O – R ~ appetizers or snacks

S – Z ~ salad or vegetable

Sponsored by the New Marlborough Cultural Council



- Environmental Permits
- Lake, Pond, and Fisheries Management
- Invasive Plant Management

Thomas Coote, Director: 413-644-4509  
 tcoote@simons-rock.edu



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## UPCOMING: *Events Calendar for April and May*

**April 5-6: Second Annual Photo Exhibit** of everything New Marlborough, Southfield Church Hall, 5:30 - 9:00 p.m., with a Potluck Dinner at 6:00 p.m. on April 5. Exhibit also open on April 6, 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**April 12: Collection for the Elihu Burritt Day White Elephant sale** 10:00 - noon at the Whip Shop, Southfield (also May 10)

**April 28: Last day to register** to vote in the Annual Town Meeting and Town Election; if you are not already registered, see Kathy Chretien at the Town Hall

**May 5: Annual Town Meeting**, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall

**May 12: Town Election** for Town officers, including a selectman for a three-year term, and warrants

## CALL FOR ARTISTS: Otis Arts Festival, Sat. July 26


indoors at Farmington River Elementary School, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For application, go to:

[www.townofotisma.com/culturalcouncil](http://www.townofotisma.com/culturalcouncil), or Otis Town Hall.

For further info, call 413 269-4674.

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SCHOOL NEWS

# EAGLE FUND CELEBRATES FIFTEEN YEARS

By Jane Burke

On March 14 parents, students, teachers, and community members gathered in the Southern Berkshire Regional Schools Performing Arts Center to celebrate what has been accomplished by the Eagle Fund. It was established in 1999 to provide funding for special experiences for students in the District. During the evening guests enjoyed the displays of the various funded projects, including the high school robotics team's winning robot. In the theater there were three student musical performances also



funded this year. Catherine Miller (left), one of the founders of the Fund, spoke with enthusiasm about the fact that over the years the Fund has granted almost a half a million dollars. She described the impact of this support for such things as field trips, theater productions, music, and robotics. She is proud that it has become a model for other school districts across the county and hopes the community will continue to generously support students through the fund. □



photos by Larry Burke

*Above: Mia Bills, a senior participating in the agriculture program, kept the school's prize alpaca calm while dozens of onlookers admired her.*

*Drumming, left: Students from New Marlborough Central are encouraged by Kim Waterman of Berkshire Pulse in their performance drumming. She organized the Cultural Perspectives, a month-long residency at the school that introduced students to the drumming, dance, song, and art of Africa.*





*Top right: Robotics - Two members of the Higgs Bots robotics team display their high scoring robot #3085 that carried the team to victory in the FIRST Tech Massachusetts Robotics Competition held at Bridgewater State College on March 8. They will go on to the regionals in York, Pennsylvania, April 3-5. At the Eagle Fund event they were eagerly selling light bulbs to fund this exciting trip to the finals.*

*Madrigal - This group of outstanding madrigal singers thrilled the audience with their impeccable voices and perfect harmony. This after-school program has been supported by the Eagle Fund for years. This year's members include New Marlborough's Kyle Carson and Samantha Twing.*



photos by Larry Burke

## STUDENT TROOPER PROGRAM

The American Legion, Department of Massachusetts Student Trooper Program provides students with first-hand experience in the role of our police in promoting and safeguarding American freedoms and rights, and provides young people an opportunity to consider law enforcement as a career choice. The Student Trooper Program will conduct two classes in July 2014: July 7 to 11 and July 21 to 25, at the Massachusetts State Police Academy.

The Harold D. Rood American Legion Post 350 (New

Marlborough) will sponsor one male or female high school student, 15 to 17 years old, in good academic standing, to attend one of these two classes. Preference for sponsorship is for a New Marlborough resident.

The application process for the Student Trooper Program begins with the high school guidance counselor, and continues through an American Legion post. Completed applications will be accepted by the American Legion, Department of Massachusetts, from April 1 to April 30, 2014. □

## NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE LIBRARY

### Adult Fiction

*Killer*, by Jonathan Kellerman

*Stone Cold*, by C.J. Box

*Thirty Girls*, by Susan Minot

*The Cairo Affair*, by Olen Steinhauer

*Decoded*, by Mai Jia

### Adult Nonfiction

*Pickles & Preserves*, by Andrea Weigl

*The Organic Book of Compost*, by Pauline Pears

*Rodale's Basic Organic Gardening*, by Deborah L. Martin

*Chickens in the Road: An Adventure in Ordinary Splendor*, by Suzanne McMinn

### Children's Fiction

*Horses of the Dawn: The Escape*, by Kathryn Lasky

*Heroes in Training: Typhoon and the Winds of Destruction*, by Joan Holub

*Have You Heard the Nesting Bird?* by Rita Gray

*When Elephant Met Giraffe*, by Paul Gude

*Superworm*, by Julia Donaldson



**LIBRARY SUMMER HOURS**  
**APRIL 1 - OCTOBER 31**

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.

## Lego Mania at the Library!

Every Tuesday  
 from March 11  
 through April 15  
 from 2:45 p.m.  
 to 4:00 p.m.,  
 forty children  
 attend an  
 after-school  
 Lego Club  
 at the Library.



Photo by Debbie O'Brien

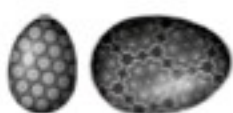
## Spring Egg Hunt

**Ages 3 yrs. - 11 yrs.**

**APRIL 12 at 10:30 a.m. (rain date APRIL 13 at 1:00 p.m.)**

**At the NEW MARLBOROUGH CENTRAL SCHOOL**

**Bring Your Own Basket ~ The Easter Bunny Will Be Stopping By!**



Sponsored by the New Marlborough Friends of the Library  
 For more information contact the library at 229-6668



# *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)

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## Town Times

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

**Emergency calls: Police, Fire, and Medical: 911**

## Transfer Station hours:

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

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

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

## PERMITS ARE DUE ON JULY 1

They are available at  
the Town Hall in Mill River

FEE IS \$100

CAN BE PAID BY MAIL,

PLEASE ENCLOSE A SELF-ADDRESSED  
STAMPED ENVELOPE

## New Marlborough Highway Department

Located on Mill River-Southfield Rd.

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

PO Box 99, Mill River, MA 01244

(413) 229-8165

*We welcome advertisements from businesses owned by New Marlborough residents.*

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

## NM5VN Editorial Team

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

## New Marlborough 5 Village News

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All copy must be submitted no later than April 15.

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

PO Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259

[5villagenews@gmail.com](mailto:5villagenews@gmail.com)

## SERVICE SECTOR 4/14

- ♦ **Benchmark Real Estate:** Nancy Kalodner, Broker/Owner. Offering New Marlborough the finest professional real estate services since 1979. Call 528-9595
- ♦ **Berkshire Environmental Research Center (BERC):** Thomas Coote. Lake & pond management, wetland delineation, ecological research, rare/invasive species assessment. 413-644-4509. tcoote@simons-rock.edu
- ♦ **Campbell Falls Carpentry:** Licensed and insured contracting at [campbellfallscarpentry@gmail.com](mailto: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 offers affordable on-site Windows computer repairs, virus removals, and more to homes and small businesses in southern Berkshire County. Browse <http://www.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. [christopher.f.blair@verizon.net](mailto:christopher.f.blair@verizon.net).
- ♦ **DesignFirstBerkshires:** Architectural design, space planning and renovation management. 413-528-6169 or [info@designfirstberkshires.com](mailto:info@designfirstberkshires.com).
- ♦ **Eileen Fitzgibbons:** Experienced massage therapist with advanced training and 6 years' experience at Mepal Spa wishes to continue work in New Marlborough. [www.efwellness@gmail.com](http://www.efwellness@gmail.com), 860-309-7775
- ♦ **Fine Jewelry:** Designers and manufacturers; custom orders/commissions welcome; expert repairs. 45 years experience. Sachs Reisman, Inc. 25 Maple Ave., Sheffield 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
- ♦ **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](mailto:cljvedelman@aol.com)
- ♦ **Quality Painting Services:** Beautifying homes in the Berkshires. Offering interior/exterior painting, staining, sheetrock repair. Pressure washing decks. Contractor registration #173566. Josh Taber, 413.269.8948
- ♦ **Susan M. Smith:** Attorney At Law; Concentrating in the areas of Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Elder Law, Real Estate and Zoning Matters. [ssmithlaw@hughes.net](mailto: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](mailto:woodruffmountain@aol.com)

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