



New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

THE WAY WE WERE

*An Occasional Visit with Folks Who Grew Up in Our Town —
This Month: Norm and Lucy Hankey*

By Joe Poindexter

Today there is eHarmony, Match.com, OK Cupid, and dozens of other digital ways of finding a date. Back then, there was the milk-delivery route. Lucy Decker grew up in Mill River, where her family kept a pig, a few chickens, and two cows, a Holstein and a Guernsey, that produced about a dozen quarts of milk a day. What the Deckers didn't need for themselves — Lucy's mother made her own butter and cottage cheese — they sold to Mill River villagers. "My mother bottled and chilled it, and I delivered it house-to-house on my bike," says Lucy.

One of her customers was Norm Hankey, who at age fifteen — the year was 1945 — had moved from Great Barrington to Mill River with an older brother after the death of their parents. It didn't take long for Lucy to catch Norm's eye. "I said, that's the girl I'm going to marry," Norm recalls. When Norm turned sixteen, they started dating, and, true to his promise to himself, he married Lucy five years later. They rented a place across from the Town Hall in Mill River, while Norm built them a house just up the hill on Church

Road. They moved in in 1957 — and they are still there.

Building their own house is characteristic of the way Norm and Lucy Hankey have always lived. Work has been woven into the pattern of their lives since they were teens. Aside from delivering milk, Lucy had other daily chores, such as bringing firewood into the house and



photo by Joe Poindexter

Lucy and Norm Hankey in their Church Road residence living room

gathering eggs from the chickens. Was she paid an allowance? "No, you were just expected to pitch in. It was expected of us to do our share," says Lucy. She went on to become a school-bus driver, a job she kept until she retired at age sixty-five.

For Norm, the equation was simpler still: "If you didn't work, you didn't eat. I worked after school from when I was twelve," he says. "Started with Charlie Wyman [of Hartsville] hauling slabs from the mill to the side of the road where people would pick them up. Paid me good — maybe a dollar an hour." And he was well worth it. Norm wasn't getting along with a fellow worker, who was trying to show him up by regularly reporting to work ahead of him, and so he went to his boss and said he was going to quit. As Norm recalls it, Charlie Wyman said, "Look, Norm, don't quit. I'm going to give you 25 cents an hour more, and I'm not giving it to him."

Norm was a natural around machinery. He was operating tractors at age twelve and began driving a logging truck for the Wyman mill when he was fifteen. Then, one day, his driving career hit a pothole.

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Hankey, continued

Dave Burroughs, his school bus driver, who was also an auxiliary policeman in Great Barrington, was directing traffic through an intersection when he spotted Norm in the cab of a truck. "So the next time he had the cop there waiting for me," says Norm. "I got stopped and the police said, 'What are you doing driving? You haven't got a license.' I said, 'Well, I gotta work.' So I had to go to court, and the judge said, 'I'm going to take this man out back.' I thought they were going to beat me up, you know. So the chief of police came out, and we went into the back room. The chief said, 'The fella's gotta work.' The judge said, 'Look, he's got to get himself a different job. He can't be driving trucks.' I stopped driving until I was sixteen."

After high school, Norm went to work for Homer Stanton, first helping him on his farm and then, much to his satisfaction, operating excavating equipment. When Homer Stanton retired, he turned the business over to Norm.

It wasn't all work, of course, but playtime did not include much in the way of sporting equipment. "We played tag and hide-and-go-seek," says Lucy. "In winter, the roads weren't plowed until they got four to six inches, and you could slide down the hill into Mill River on the main road." Traffic was generally light and not a threat to pedestrians. In the 1930s and early '40s



Lucy and Norm in 1948 ...

when Lucy was going to New Marlborough Central, every student who lived within a mile of school was required to walk. Norm recalls walking to Great Barrington ("I couldn't afford a bike") and not seeing a single car. "But if somebody did come by, they'd pick you up, because they knew you," says Norm.

By age sixteen, Norm had saved enough for his first car, a 1930 Chevrolet. "What happened is some fella went off the road with it. He hit a stump and bent the front axle," says Norm. He paid him \$15 for it. That was followed by a Model A Ford — for \$25 — and then a '41 Plymouth coupe. Wheels meant that Norm and Lucy could indulge in their favorite activity: country dances in Pittsfield. Closer to home, there

were the regular Saturday night dances at the Town Hall and Sunday suppers in the church (now a private residence) overlooking Mill River village.

While Norm and Lucy were still working, they agreed they would retire together when Lucy hit sixty-five. "Well, I retired, but he kept right on working," Lucy says, with the little burst of laughter that punctuates much of her conversation. "I worked until about two years ago," replies Norm, more in pride than apology. "Had my knee operated on, or I'd still be working."

Lucy has been easing Norm into the transition, and he now cooks breakfast. "Then I put the dishes over there," he says, pointing to a kitchen counter, "and hope that somebody will get to them."

"I got a little more training to do," says Lucy. □



... and during a trip in the '50s



Bus driver Lucy Hankey with four of her regular passengers: son, John, far left, daughter Deb, far right, and her nieces, Linda and Patty

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A RESOUNDING 'YES' FOR EDUCATION

The Southern Berkshire Regional School District project to replace the roof on the main building of the Sheffield campus and its three boilers nicely cleared its final barriers, as New Marlborough residents said yes to a bond that would pay for it. At a Special Town Meeting on March 16, crisply moderated by Barry Shapiro, New Marlborough representative to the School Committee Fran Lartigue presented a comprehensive defense of the project, and Superintendent David Hastings exhorted his fellow townspeople "to come through for the kids in the school." That they did — without a single dissenting vote.

Two days later, this decision was confirmed in a Special Election vote, 137 in favor of the bond, 34 opposed. (While supporters of the bond won by a four-to-one margin, democracy lost: Only 17 percent of New Marlborough's 1,029 registered voters cast a ballot.) Because the other four towns in the District (Alford, Egremont, Monterey, and Sheffield) have also voted in favor, the project is on. Mr. Hastings said he expected work to begin right after the last day of school, June 22. □

Joe Poindexter



Photo by Joe Poindexter

Fran Lartigue, a New Marlborough representative to the School Committee, presented a spirited defense of the school bond.

BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE

On Saturday, March 14, New Marlborough Fire and Rescue received a cell-phone call from a female who had been snow-shoeing in the Southfield woods with her fiancé. They were lost, she said, but that wasn't the worst of it. Her fiancé had gone up to a huge boulder, spread his arms around it, and said, "This is how much I love you," when the boulder tipped toward him and rolled onto the toe of his right boot. He was trapped. According to Alf Porilo, the Fire and Rescue officer on duty at the time, the woman started sobbing hysterically, something to the effect that her fiancé was going to freeze to death.

Alf finally got the woman to calm down, then asked her to recall where they had entered the woods, how



Tipping Rock, so-called because it can be tipped back and forth, is located in a wooded area of Southfield.

Photo by Ed Harvey

long they had been out, how far they might have gone. After the woman reconstructed their adventure as best she could, Alf, a long-time New Marlborough resident, had an idea. "Go to the side of the boulder where it has your fiancé pinned down and give it a little push," he said. He heard footsteps — and then a shriek: "He's free! It's a miracle!" Alf's hunch was confirmed: they had stumbled on New Marlborough's famous Tipping Rock.

The couple, from Greenwich, Connecticut, has decided to get married in June — at the site of this near tragedy, she in an organdy wedding dress, he in tails, both in snowshoes.



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Town Business Is Your Business



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

February 19: Because of President's Day on Monday, the Board met on Thursday at 5:30 p.m., with Tara White and Nat Yohalem present and Michele Shalaby conferencing via phone. The meeting began with a discussion of the Town Hall renovation project to renovate the assessor's office and make the bathrooms handicapped accessible, which it was noted, has been in a "holding pattern" since last August, when the Board received an estimate of \$80,000, nearly twice what it had expected. It modified the scope of the project and put it out for bid again in December, but this time there were no bidders. So the selectmen asked Interim Administrative Assistant Joe Kellogg to take on the project and see if he can move it forward.

With Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring present, the Board discussed creating a set of personnel policies specific to employees of the Highway Department. These would include permitting them to take comp time at time-and-a-half instead of overtime pay, calculating vacation time on a pro-rata basis for part-time/occasional (read seasonal) workers, and permitting

Highway Department employees to take comp time when asked to work when Town Hall is closed because of weather. The Board also considered awarding longevity pay of, say, \$500 for all full-time Town employees (those working a forty-hour week) with ten or more years of continuous service. No decision, however, was reached on any of the items discussed.

Despite reservations, the Board voted to approve the warrant for the Special Town Meeting on March 16, where voters will be asked to approve the school bond issue to pay for the replacement of the roof and three boilers at the Sheffield campus main building. As previously reported, the overall cost of the project is upwards of \$7.7 million, but subtracting the value of grants from the Massachusetts School Building Authority and the Department of Energy Resources, the amount the bond has to cover would be \$4.6 million.

The Board expressed concern that the town's winter road materials contractor, Joe Wilkinson, has apparently run out of sand, forcing the Highway Department to purchase sand from J. Donovan & Son of Stockbridge at a price nearly 16 percent higher. The Board said it expects the Wilkinson firm to make good on the difference.

February 23: The meeting was convened at 6:00 p.m. with all three selectmen present. The first order of business was a discussion of the job description that will be used to advertise for an administrative assistant to replace the recently retired Mike Skorput. Drawn up by Joe Kellogg, the ad describes a twenty-plus-hour-per-week part-time position to include benefits and an annual salary of up to \$35,000. It also specifies that candidates should have a bachelor's degree and five years of municipal administrative experience or the equivalent. According to Mr. Kellogg, the ad will run on the Massachusetts Municipal Association's website, in its monthly publication, *The Beacon*, and on the Berkshire Jobs web site. It will also be posted on the Town web site.

As reported previously, the Board, as part of its shared services initiative, is interested in sharing the administrative assistant position with Monterey, which in effect would make it a full-time job for whoever holds it. Selectman Yohalem, who has been heading up the shared services initiative, said the Monterey Board of Selectmen is apparently not ready to move forward with the idea but has indicated it is willing to revisit the issue after town elections in May.

At her request, the Board met with New Marlborough Land Trust Executive Director Martha Bryan, who has



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received property tax bills for the Joffe Nature Sanctuary and the adjacent 8.1-acre parcel the Land Trust purchased at auction from the Town last March for \$45,000. She said she had filed an appeal for an abatement as a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization but wanted to clear up any confusion about the matter and to answer any questions. Early last year, the Land Trust and the Board discussed an agreement that would have included putting both parcels back on the tax rolls, but the agreement was ultimately rescinded (see Selectmen Report in the March 2014 NM5VN). Both sides admitted there had been miscommunication over the issue. That led, in turn, to a discussion of the town's shortage of cemetery space and the fact that the Land Trust owns a relatively flat, twelve-acre parcel adjacent to Lee Memorial Cemetery in Southfield that would be suitable for additional cemetery plots. Ms. Bryan said she was open to the idea of deeding the land to the town and said she would take it back to her board for its consideration.

The Board approved the minutes for the February 11 meeting and the minutes from an executive session held the same night. That was followed by a discussion of the Town's Annual Report, which is published just prior to the Annual Town Meeting in May. **The Board approved Mr. Kellogg's recommendation to revert to the more traditional 6-by-9-inch format that is used by a number of nearby towns rather than the 8½-by-11-inch size that has been in use in New Marlborough for the past several years.** It also endorsed the idea of soliciting photographs from town residents, one of which would be used on the cover of the report. Finally, Mr. Kellogg informed the Board there would be no financial data included in the Tax Collector and Town Treasurer sections of the report because there are new people in those jobs and "they're just not comfortable putting their names on somebody else's numbers." However, he said that next year's report will include two years of financial data for both departments.

Finally, the Board increased the Transfer Station fee for fiscal year 2016 by \$5 to \$105 but kept the late fee at \$125. The new fee will go into effect July 1.

February 25: The Board met in special session on Wednesday at 11:00 a.m., with Chairman White and Selectman Shalaby in attendance and Selectman Yohalem participating by phone. The entire meeting was given over to approving budgets, level-funded unless otherwise indicated, as follows:

Moderator: \$145

Website Expenses: \$2,425

Selectmen Salaries: \$8,550

Selectmen Expenses: \$4,000

Contingency: \$3,000

Administrative Assistant: \$38,000, a \$485 increase

Administrative Secretary: \$28,000, a \$1,500 increase

Audit: \$15,000, a \$7,000 increase

Accounting Officer Salary: \$17,366, a \$341 increase

Assessor's Salary: \$6,000

Assessor's Clerk: \$17,695, a \$347 increase

Tax Collector Salary: \$26,200, a \$514 increase

Town Clerk Salary: \$30,172, a \$592 increase

Clerical: \$8,300, a \$163 increase

Street Lights: \$5,000, a \$500 increase

Library Salaries: \$53,518, a \$1,050 increase

Building Inspector Salary: \$19,589, a \$385 increase

Berkshire Regional Group Purchasing: \$600

Group Insurance: \$150,000, a \$13,000 increase

Social Security/Medicare: \$11,700, a \$275 increase

Reserve Fund: \$50,000

Emergency Management Expenses: \$2,250, a \$425 increase

March 2: Tonight's meeting was a brief one, with only two selectmen present, Ms. White and Ms. Shalaby. The first issue on the agenda, after approving the minutes from February 25, was a discussion with Tim Newman, the Town's delegate to Wired West, of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute's (MBI) request to the Board to verify the number of residences and business units in the town, as shown on MBI-produced maps. As explained by Mr. Newman, the build-out costs being allocated to the town for the Wired West network will be based on a combination of two factors: the number of road

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miles in the town and the number of network "drops," or connections, to residences and businesses. For New Marlborough, the MBI maps show a total of 1,067 "premises," which Mr. Newman noted "is very likely a significantly inflated number." So he said it is important for the Board to get back to MBI with an accurate count. In its letter to the Board, however, MBI asked the Town to respond by Friday, March 6, which, all agreed, leaves insufficient time. Mr. Newman volunteered to take over responsibility for the count, while Mr. Kellogg said he would call MBI Outreach Manager Christine Hatch to request an extension of the deadline.

The Board said it has been contacted by four potential candidates for the treasurer's position, and it asked Mr. Kellogg to set up interviews with two of them. Finally, the Board approved the Town's participation in this year's Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program, which allows New Marlborough residents to dispose of hazardous materials such as paints and motor oil at designated collection sites. **The fee to the Town for participating in this year's program, based on a combination of the town's population and the number of residents who participated in last year's program, is \$1,336.**

Peter Schuyten

March 9: With all three selectmen present, the Board interviewed Peter Gay, a New Marlborough resident, for the position of treasurer. The interview lasted approximately twenty-five minutes, after which Mr. Gay departed. A second candidate, John S. Sullivan, failed to appear for an interview.

Next on the agenda was a discussion regarding the Southern Berkshire Regional School District's proposed bond issue that would raise funds to replace three boilers and the roof at the Mount Everett campus in Sheffield. Each selectman voiced her or his concerns and reservations about the district's proposal, but in the end all three voted their support of the measure.

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) had sent the town maps that indicate the number of residences, commercial establishments, and other sites in New Marlborough that might be wired for Broadband. MBI says now that the estimated cost to New Marlborough for providing broadband throughout the town is \$3,070,000, an increase from an earlier estimate of \$1,750,000 to \$2,500,000. The Board indicated its lack of support for the project, not only because of its cost, but also because it feared saddling the Town with debt over and above current obligations, including that of the looming school bond issue. Nevertheless, the Board will include an article on the Warrant for Annual Town Meeting in May allowing the voters to make the final decision.

Joe Kellogg pointed out that March 31 is the deadline for the Town to receive applications and resumes for the

position of administrative assistant.

Chairman White told the Board that the Winter Roads account has \$54,000 remaining, and she raised the possibility of the Board having to authorize spending beyond the budgeted amount, should the need arise before winter finally ends.

Ms. White also referred to a request by John Schreiber to insure recently restored grave headstones in Town cemeteries. Mr. Kellogg will contact the Massachusetts Association of Insurance Agents to see whether this is viable.

Mr. Kellogg was asked to contact Mr. Sullivan to determine if he still wanted to be considered for the position of treasurer. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

David Lowman

March 11: A catchup meeting, mostly to approve Town employee salaries, was convened at 1:00 p.m. Police Chief Graham Frank, appearing before the Board, explained that his requested increase in departmental salaries was mostly due to his decision to add an eight-hour-per-week shift to the duties of one of the part-time officers. This, he explained, was needed to compensate for patrol time he has had to give up because of his increased administrative workload. "There is definitely crime in town," said Mr. Frank. "We need to be proactive."



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Because the Police Department is no longer paying rent for garaging its cruiser, however, the total departmental budget would decrease by \$4,500.

The following budgets for FY16, level-funded unless otherwise indicated, were approved by the Board:

- Town Accountant Expenses: \$4,306, an increase of \$201 for software (Ms. White recused herself from this vote)
- Grant Writer Salary: \$0, a decrease of \$5,000 (a grant writer would be hired on an ad hoc basis)
- Grant Writer Expenses: \$750, an increase of \$250
- Treasurer Salary: \$17,386, an increase of \$341
- Assistant Treasurer Salary: \$5,304, an increase of \$104
- Town Officer Expenses: \$1,000
- Town Hall Account: \$39,000, an increase of \$1,000
- Town Officers Bonds: \$1,250
- Printing: \$2,700
- Cemetery Salaries: \$35,383, an increase of \$694
- School Committee Expenses: \$1,500
- Memorial Day Expenses: \$900
- Constable Salaries: \$475
- Emergency Manager Notification: \$2,750, a decrease of \$563
- New Marlborough Rescue Salary: \$6,300
- Animal Control Officer: \$2,100
- Animal Control Expense: \$1,600

- Animal Control Office Expenses: \$3,411
- Tree Warden Salary: \$1,000
- Tree Work: \$15,000
- 911 Coordinator Expenses: \$500
- Berkshire County Communications: \$9,412, an increase of \$274
- Household Hazardous Waste: \$1,336, an increase of \$57
- Board of Health Salaries: \$1,250
- Board of Health Clerical: \$5,000
- Transfer Station Salaries: \$18,168, an increase of \$357
- Transfer Station Expenses: \$63,000, an increase of \$2,000
- Children's Health Program: \$1,000
- Worker's Compensation Insurance: \$23,000, an increase of \$4,450
- (General) Insurance Expense: \$78,000, an increase of \$12,000
- Veteran's Benefits Ch 115 Trust: \$8,000, an increase of \$2,000
- Regional Planning Commission: \$1,063, an increase of \$27


The duties of the Town treasurer were described to John S. Sullivan of East Canaan, who was the second and last applicant to be interviewed for the position. After explaining that he had missed the original interview date because, perhaps understandably, he



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~~~~~

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~~~~~

Potluck contributions by last name  
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H – N ~ appetizers/snacks  
O – S ~ dessert  
T – Z ~ main dish

~~~~~

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expected the New Marlborough Town Hall to be located in New Marlborough village, Mr. Sullivan won plaudits for the plate of homemade banana bread he presented his interviewers. He said that while he had never worked for a municipality, he has had ample financial experience in business. The Board thanked him and said he would be notified of their decision following their meeting on March 16.

After Mr. Sullivan's departure, the Board expressed the need for an assistant treasurer to manage the office when the treasurer is unavailable and noted that both Jenn Goewey and Pat Mielke (when she returns from Florida in May) will be available to assist whoever is selected.

Joe Poindexter

March 16: Because of the Special Town Meeting scheduled for 7:00 p.m., the Board convened at 5:30 p.m., with all three members present. After approving the minutes from the March 9 and March 11 meetings, the Board reappointed Prue Spaulding as the Town's animal inspector and voted to offer the job of treasurer to Peter Gay, subject to a background check. Mr. Gay, who has economics and accounting degrees, is a Sheffield resident and has an extensive background in the insurance industry. If hired, he would start immediately and be subject to a ninety-day probationary period.

The Board approved Joe Kellogg's suggestion that the warrant for the upcoming Annual Town Meeting not be included in the annual report, as has been the case in the past, but be distributed to voters at the town meeting as a separate handout. This would give the Board additional time to make changes in the warrant.

With Highway Superintendent Loring present, the Board discussed the possibility of getting the state to take over and maintain Route 57 as a state highway. Since this would require an act of the legislature, the Board asked Mr. Kellogg to set up a meeting with Representative William "Smitty" Pignatelli and Senator Ben Downing to explore the idea. As Mr. Loring has noted in the past, Route 57 is severely deteriorated and will need major reconstruction in the near future at a

cost that's likely to be in the millions of dollars. "If [state takeover of Route 57] is something that's even remotely possible, maybe we can just patch 57 for now," Mr. Loring stated. He also spoke about the possibility of the town applying for a MassWorks infrastructure grant this summer and using the money to do as much as a mile and a half of the "upper part of the road" toward the Sandisfield border.

Further discussion concluded that the proposal should take in all forty-five miles of Route 57, from Route 23 in Monterey to Route 91 in Agawam, and that Mr. Kellogg should reach out to other towns along the way for their support. He said he has already talked to the town administrator in Sandisfield, who said she is on board and would sound out officials in Monterey, Granville and Tolland. As Mr. Kellogg noted, "the more towns, the more [state] representatives that'll get involved. It's no longer just the little town of New Marlborough."

After an executive session to discuss salary options for the treasurer's position, the Board adjourned to attend the Special Town Meeting. □

Peter Schuyten

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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

February 28: Commission members Ned Wilson and John Schreiber convened the meeting.

Mike Parsons of Kelly, Granger and Parsons started by presenting two Requests For Determination, one each for Joe and Holly Poindexter of East Hill Road and Joel Cohen of 28 Downs Road. Both permits were given negative determinations meaning the work was approved and in both cases did not require further permitting or Notices of Intent (NOI).

Next, the Commission reopened the public hearing continued from last month for an NOI for Stinson Stroup of 62 Hadsell Street. Steve Mack from Foresight Land Services was on hand to speak to the scope of the work. The permit addressed the impact to the wetland resources on the site, given the proposed construction of a single-family home and associated utilities with an attached one-car garage. Mr. Mack presented a revised proposal from last month's submission, which addressed concerns noted by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The revised plan was approved with

several conditions, including submitting a planting plan and staking out the limits of the work in the area surrounding the construction prior to the beginning of construction.

Finally, the mail was reviewed. The Commission was in receipt of a notice from the DEP regarding the NOI submitted by the New Marlborough Highway Department to repair the culvert on Clayton Mill River Road. The notice stated that the work complied with the standards for stream crossings to the "maximum extent practicable" and that further certification for water quality was not needed. The Commission also received a written explanation from Victor Mulholland of 123 Bockway Road that the trees bordering Lake Buel were removed because of the perceived danger to the residence and property. The Commission agreed to wait for additional information before further review of the tree removal. □

Martha Bryan, from minutes prepared by Conservation Committee Secretary Kathy Chretien

OUT OF THE PAST

Not as much horse power as a John Deere, perhaps, but this rig that cut hay at Casillis and Gedney farms put down a much smaller carbon hoof-print. Joe Dindinger is at the controls. □




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DESIGNING A TRANSITION

Easton + Combs Moves Its Practice to Hartsville

By Barry R. Shapiro

They have studied in London and Rome and practiced in Berlin, Hong Kong, and New York City. So why is Easton + Combs, an award-winning architectural firm distinguished by technologically innovative design, setting up shop in New Marlborough? Their answer, plain and simple: They love it here.

For Rona Easton, their new residence on Adsit Crosby Road in Hartsville is a kind of homecoming. "I feel very at home in the country, having grown up in a small village of a few hundred people," she says in a heavy burr that betrays her upbringing in Scotland. "When I first sat down on the grass outside our new home, the aural landscape was so evocative of my childhood, I almost cried."

The transition from New York City, an urban center with its high-technology infrastructure, to rural New Marlborough with spotty cell and internet service has not proven to be an obstacle for their business. "We actually have very good cell phone service and decent internet service through DSL and have not found any problem in running our practice," notes Rona. "In fact, getting to the airport in Albany is much easier, more convenient, and cheaper than getting to the New York area airports."

The path that brought these two young architects to New Marlborough led them through much of the world.

Lonnn Combs was born near Lexington, Kentucky, and studied architecture at the University of Kentucky. "I knew I wanted to be an architect almost from the day I was born," he says. "I remember drawing bridges and cities when I was six years old, and I have always been fascinated by spatial organization, landscapes, and buildings."

Rona remembers her parents building their own home in Gartocharn, Scotland (on the "bonnie, bonnie banks of Loch Lomond"), when she was ten years old. "When I saw the drawings I got sucked into the world of architecture and abandoned my plans to study law. I've never looked back," she says. She was educated at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow and did graduate work at the University of Westminster.

Rona and Lonnn, who had worked for a number of prestigious architecture firms, met in Berlin in the late



Architects Rona Easton and Lonnn Combs

1990s. "Post unification Berlin was a boom town for architects," explains Lonnn. "There were raging debates about what to do with the architecture of the now unified city. It was a great setting for young architects, and we loved it."

After Berlin, Rona and Lonnn transferred to Hong Kong, just after the British handover to China. They learned a bit of Chinese, now mostly forgotten, and then moved to Brooklyn's hip Williamsburg section, where they got married and opened their own firm, with Lonnn also teaching at Pratt Institute, Columbia University, and elsewhere.

Easton + Combs quickly became known for their award-winning and internationally recognized design strategies. They were described by *Architectural Record's* Vanguard issue as architects "who are already doing some of the most innovative work in the field and who will lead the



A proposal for the entryway to PS1, an adjunct of the Museum of Modern Art in Queens, New York

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profession in the future.” Other recognition includes the League Prize from the Architecture League in 2008, the Museum of Modern Art’s Young Architecture Program in 2010, and a New York State Council on the Arts grant in 2011. The firm received design merit awards from the AIA New York Chapter for 2010, 2011, and 2012. In 2010 it was awarded with the “highest honor” in the biennial New Practices New York competition, recognizing important emerging design firms in New York City.

Then, in 2012, Lonon was awarded the prestigious Rome Prize in Architecture from the American Academy in Rome, and off they went to the Italian capital for two years. After their return to New York City, Lonon accepted an offer to teach at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, in Troy, New York, and New Marlborough came onto their radar. “After a brief stay in Hudson,” says Lonon, “we moved to the Berkshires in 2014. We love the area and, when we found this home, right on the Konkapot, we were thrilled.”

The couple plans a total make-over for their residence. “It’s a 1970s home, which we plan to take down to the foundation and build a state-of-the-art energy-efficient house,” says Rona, using a componentized construction design they created. “This will allow us to put up a shell within forty-eight hours after the current home is razed,” she adds. They expect the home to be completed three months later. “The design, of which we are very proud, is on our website” (www.eastoncombs.com). The couple plans to live offsite or in a trailer during construction,

which they hope to commence later this year.

The firm’s current roster of clients stretches to Texas and beyond, but the partners are now focused on building a client base in the Berkshires. “We hope to bring a new set of expertise to the market and to afford our clients a balance of price, energy efficiency, and aesthetics,” says Lonon.

In addition to their practice, Lonon’s teaching, and raising their eleven-year-old son, Cassius, a sixth -grader at Berkshire Country Day (“Depending on our mood, he’s named either for the Cassius of Julius Caesar fame or a techno band we used to enjoy,” quips Rona), they enjoy hiking and biking. Lonon skis, and Rona practices yoga. On top

of all this, they also find time for pro bono design work for the Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity.

“We look forward to meeting people in the community and getting involved,” says Lonon. □



Renderings of the couple’s proposed new home on Adsit Crosby Road

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CULTURAL COUNCIL ANNOUNCES GRANT AWARDEES FOR 2015

On March 18, New Marlborough's Cultural Council and Board of Selectmen hosted a reception at the town library for the twenty-six organizations that were awarded a total of \$14,000 in grants for 2015. Funds for the grants came from the nearly \$10,000 in private money raised by the Council and from a \$4,300 allocation from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The Board of Selectmen annually provides the Council with a \$1,000 contribution to cover the cost of the Council's fundraising efforts.

"New Marlborough is a small town with an extraordinary Cultural Council," said Selectman Nat Yohalem. "Not only does our Council raise more private money than councils in larger towns, it sponsors events that draw our community together and promote the talents of our many local artists. Although most grants are small, they enable our teachers to supplement curriculums, the survival of excellent but struggling arts organizations, and the preservation of our history."

More than 40 percent of the grant funding was allotted to schools and organizations to expand music programs, offer field trips, supplement history programs, and promote cultural diversity. The innovative Flying Cloud Institute – now celebrating its thirty-first anniversary – received grants for in-school, after-school, and summer programs. Flying Cloud, a New Marlborough treasure, has pioneered programs that integrate arts, math, and science studies.



Grant recipients from New Marlborough gathered at the Library for recognition from the Board of Selectmen. photo by Ned McDowell

A similar percentage of the grant funds went to support organizations that present professional musical performances or operate community-oriented choruses, feature local artists, and encourage promising playwrights and writers. In addition to grants going to the New Marlborough Village Association's gallery and Music & More programs, the Council also recognized groups as diverse as the Berkshire Fringe Festival, the Women Writers' Festival, and the Berkshire Children's Chorus.

Among the general community programs receiving Council support were the initiative to preserve the town's extensive church records, the town's growing Halloween celebration, and library-based youth summer reading programs.

In addition to the funds it privately raises for the grant awards, the Council also covers the cost and administration of such annual New Marlborough events as the Photography Exhibit and Potluck Dinner, Elihu Burritt Day, and the Open Studio Tour. The New Marlborough Garden Tour is also organized and staffed by the Council.

Additional information about the Council can be found on its website <http://www.mass-culture.org/New-Marlborough>, and at [Facebook.com/NewMarlboroughCulturalCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/NewMarlboroughCulturalCouncil). □

Anne Sommers (NMCC member)

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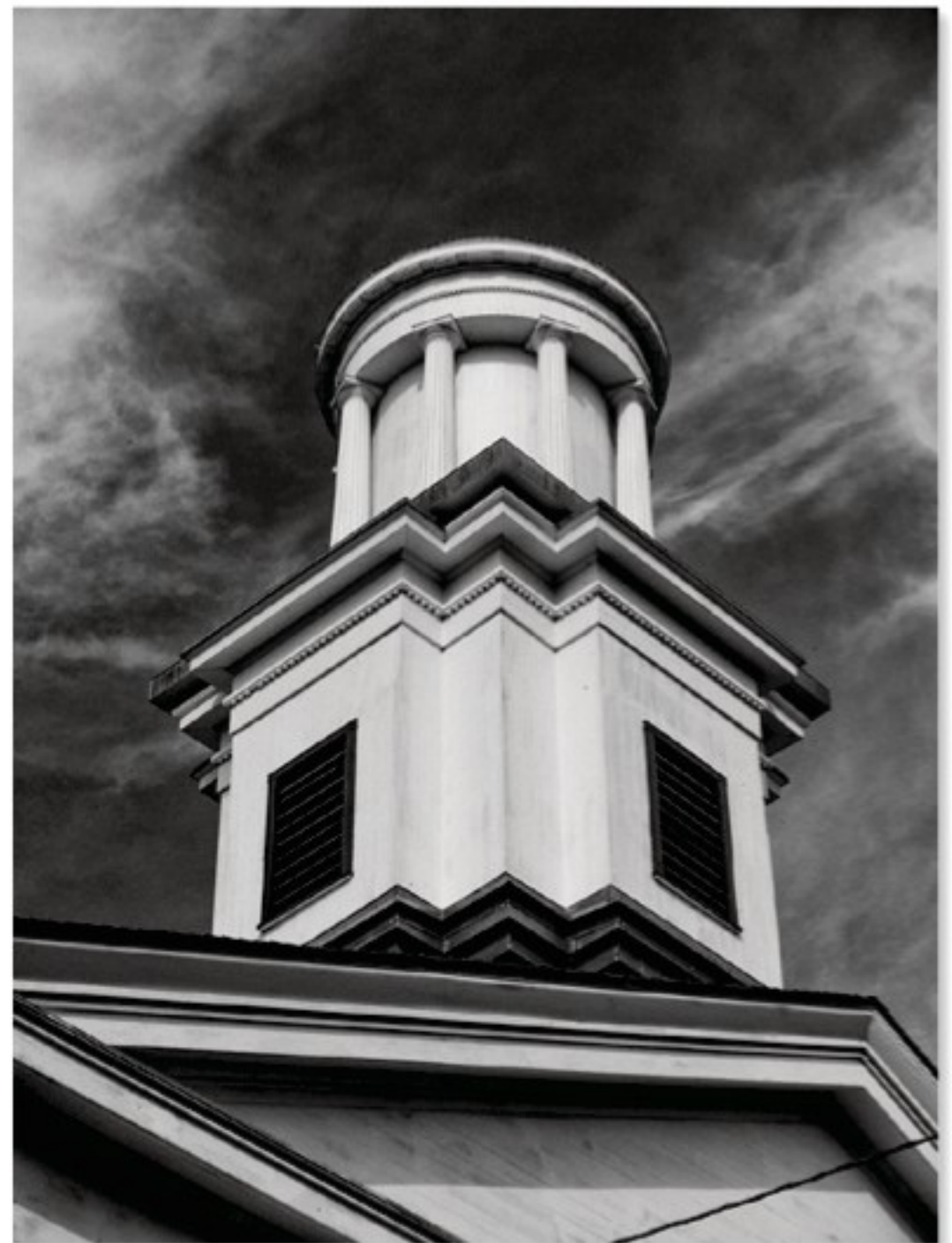
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THE AESTHETICS OF GEOMETRY

I admire the architecture of our historic Meeting House, and I have often stopped to appreciate its special features. In these photographs, I try to draw attention to the patterns created by the repetition of its simple, yet elegant lines and forms. □

—Lee Backer, www.leebacker.com



THE VAN DEUSENS

A glimpse at a remarkable family tree living in New Marlborough

By Jodi Rothe

“In every conceivable manner, family is the link to our past, and bridge to our future” — Alex Haley, the author of *Roots*.

If past is prologue, a little genealogical research could pay dividends — or at least provide for some lively conversation at the next family gathering. Consider just one example: the family of Ron Van Deusen, who with his wife, Sara, lives on Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road and can trace the family tree back to the lord and ladies who occupied a twelfth century castle in the Netherlands. The Van Deusens arrived in America in 1667, according to Alison Leigh Cowen, writing in the *New York Times*, “one of the earliest settlers of Manhattan.” They spread out from there and, fifteen generations later, gave New Marlborough not only Ron Van Deusen and his brother, Tim, on Clayton Mill River Road, but also Ron’s cousins Jim Palmer of Cagney Hill Road, Bob Palmer of Hayes Hill Road, and Dawn Mattie of Canaan Valley Road, and Bette Ann Stalker of Mill River Great Barrington Road, — not to mention the nearby Great Barrington village of Van Deusenville.

In 1626, Abraham Van Deusen was in his late twenties and single when he made the long voyage to America. Some of his companions contracted the plague onboard ship and died. Abraham was obviously of hardy stock, a smart and industrious worker, and this ethic filtered down through the line. (Two of Abraham’s progeny were to become presidents — Martin Van Buren, a great-great-great-grandson, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt, a great-great-great-great-grandson. A third descendant, Elizabeth Kortright, became first lady when her husband, James Monroe, assumed the presidency in 1817.)

Life in the New World was challenging for Abraham. He eventually took up residence on New York City’s DeBreede Wegh — today known as Broadway — and operated a tavern. There are colorful historical notes, such as the time in 1648 his liquor license was suspended when a patron died after being impaled on the sword of a night watchman.

Isaac Van Deusen, (1704-1796), a great-grandson of Abraham, was the first of his family to settle in the Berkshires. His father-in-law, Conrad Burghardt, a fur trader who negotiated purchases with local Indian tribes, once hosted a gathering of thirty-one Indian leaders in his home in Kinderhook that lasted seventeen days. When Massachusetts rewarded him with land in 1742, Burghardt

gave Isaac a parcel in Great Barrington, who then built a manor house. The family prospered and proliferated.

One of Isaac’s forty-two grandsons, Captain Isaac Laird Van Deusen, built cotton mills and a store and tavern in what became known as Van Deusenville. His gifts of land and money also created St. James Chapel, later expanded and named Trinity Church. (In 1964 the decommissioned church building was sold to Alice Brock, a former school librarian who gave a Thanksgiving dinner there that famously inspired one of her guests, Arlo Guthrie, to compose his rambling anti-establishment ballad, “Alice’s Restaurant Massacre.” Since 1991, the building on Van Deusenville Road has been occupied by The Guthrie Center, an interfaith church and foundation with outreach services to the community.) Off route 183 in Great Barrington, there is an overgrown cemetery where generations of Van Duesens have rested since 1738.



A few Van Deusens have been excellent record keepers and diarists. Charles Theron Van Dusen (1838-1873), a grocery clerk from upstate New York, kept a fifty-three-page Civil War diary that was found by a grandson in an old trunk decades later. “Feeling very old,” he wrote on the day before he turned twenty-six. Another entry shows he had spirit and wit, “General Custer read to us some glorious news from the Union’s top brass that ordered the troops ‘to march until we find the Enemy.’... Instead,” he later noted, “the Enemy charged us, striking our Regiment first. We met them as well as we could under the circumstances and such a general mix-up I never saw. The Rebs were dressed in our overcoats.” On Friday, April 21, 1865, he watched the funeral train carrying Lincoln’s body from his hospital bed at Annapolis.

There are dozens of such stories about the Van Deusen clan, which from their beginnings to the present day exceed 200,000 in number. Many of them are recorded in a 1912 history, *The Van Deusen Family* by Albert Harrison Van Deusen, available online at www.openlibrary.org (over the generations, the name has acquired many variant spellings). Ron is retiring from his job as a civil engineer later this year, so perhaps he’ll have time to look into more of the family history. According to Bette Ann Stalker, Bob Van Deusen in Sheffield is said to have quite an excellent collection of memorabilia.

Every family has a history, the investigation of which can provide a lot of entertainment — maybe even, if Alex Haley is right, a bridge to the future. □

TOM MASTERS

A Master in the Classroom and on the Stage

By Jane Burke

Seven days before the curtain went up on the Mount Everett High School production of *Footloose*, Tom Masters arrived for a three-hour rehearsal, having finished a full week of teaching his grade three and four students at New Marlborough Central School. Despite his rigorous week, his energy and concentration were spot on, as he ran the actors through the complex dance routines he had choreographed for them. With a caring authority, he demonstrated what he wanted from them and critiqued their work until he was satisfied.

Just as remarkable, his students remained alert and receptive to his direction throughout multiple run-throughs. After all, they, too, had just completed a week of studies. The main reason, perhaps, is a mutual respect built during past projects. Many in the cast of *Footloose* worked under Tom's guidance last year in *Grease*. Others are his students at Berkshire Pulse, which might account for the unexpected proficiency of the boys in the troupe. Tom has been teaching a dance class for boys at Berkshire Pulse since 2011.

Tom Masters came to Southfield from New York in 2008, but it wasn't until meeting Bettina Montano, formerly also of Southfield, in 2011 that he was able to reconnect with his passion for dance. As the founding director of Berkshire Pulse, Ms. Montano was open to having Tom, who trained in elementary education and dance at State University of New York at Geneseo, form a dance class just for boys. He himself had grown up watching his sister dance, and at age twelve he enrolled in a tap class for boys. "If it had been a class with girls, I probably would not have stuck with it," he said. Even so, peer pressure against dancing increased as he reached high school. He says he found it difficult to remain true to himself, but he stuck with it and went on to dance professionally with ballet and modern dance companies, as well as performing in musical theater.

After several years teaching at New Marlborough Central, Tom was ready to add more dance to his life. Ms. Montano recommended him to Barrington Stage to teach and choreograph the performances for their Kids Act summer program. There he formed relationships with other children's theater groups. This team now works together to mount the high school musicals at the Southern Berkshire Regional Schools. Last year he



Mary Shalaby takes direction from *Footloose* choreographer Tom Masters.

worked with them choreographing *Grease* and this year *Footloose*.

"This production is right up my alley," he says. "I was sixteen when the film came out so I have lived it." His familiarity with the musical has helped him sustain twelve hours of rehearsal and five hours of preparation per week over ten weeks. As an explanation for his remarkable work ethic and dedication, he says simply, "I really enjoy bringing dance to these kids and having them explore beyond their comfort zone."

Beyond art and entertainment, dance, says Tom, has the power to help students understand academic subject matter. In an after-school program, he has used movement to help students who struggle with math to understand

graphs and time measurement. He says he would love to help build dance into the academic school day, a measure, he adds, that would go a long way towards his goal of making dance accepted and accessible to everyone.

Definitely, not just something that girls do. □

photo by Jane Burke

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NEIGHBORS



Congratulations to **Chuck and Kathy Loring's** daughter, **Michaela**, who, as a member of the Mount Everett Higgs Bots robotics team, is going to the First Tech Challenge World Championships in St. Louis, April 22 to 25. Michaela and her team qualified at a regional competition held at Scranton (Pennsylvania) University, March 17 and 18, finishing sixth in a field of seventy-two top high school teams from the East.

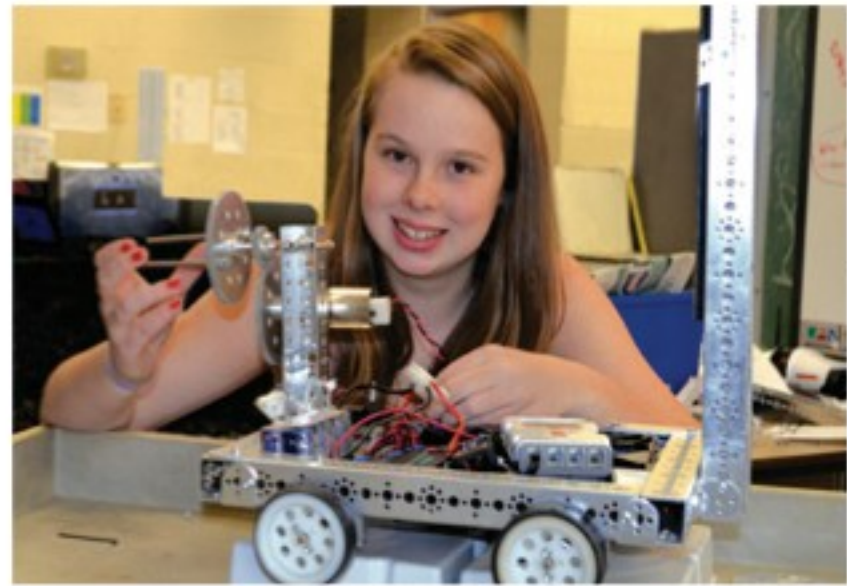


Photo by Diane Barth

Susan Engel, of Mill River, a psychologist and educator at Williams College, has had two new books published in the past few weeks. The first, *The End of the Rainbow*, explores

the effects of viewing education as a purely economic endeavor, rather than including personal outcomes like happiness and fulfillment. The second book, *The Hungry Mind*, focuses on the role of curiosity in childhood, and proposes that children be encouraged to develop their natural curiosity about the world around them. It should be at the center of the classroom, rather than squelched in favor of compliance and discipline. Both books are available at Amazon.com and at the Bookloft in Great Barrington. □



Compiled by Barbara Lowman: deeuell@yahoo.com

DEFENSE COURSE PLANNED

New Marlborough Police Chief Graham Frank is planning to conduct a five-session course for women in the R.A.D. (Rape, Aggression, Defense) system, in conjunction with the Sheffield Police Department. As a certified R.A.D. instructor, Chief Frank has participated in courses in Lenox, Stockbridge, and Sheffield; this is the first to be offered in New Marlborough. This women's course is suitable for all age groups. There are also courses in this system for men, children, and the elderly, with strategies appropriate for each population. The women's course is expected to take place in late April.

Chief Frank noted that the course combines lecture, discussion, and physical defense strategies. The emphasis is on interaction among the participants, reflecting their

individual needs and concerns. The goal is to increase their awareness of their surroundings, to be alert to signs of possible threat, as well as to increase confidence in what they are capable of doing to defend themselves. Part of that confidence, he says, is to be vocal: rather than retreat into silence out of fright, women should make as much noise as possible to scare off the attacker. The final session of the course consists of simulated attack scenarios, where the instructor is the attacker, and the participants demonstrate their proficiency in physically defending themselves. Chief Frank observed that when the course has been effective, the instructor will have had a very rough couple of hours. □

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OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

On February 25, **Don Beauchamp**, of Clayton, writes: The **Carolina wren** is staying around every day, behaving like a bully, not as bad as the **house wren**, though. Still seeing bluebirds, despite all the snow.



On March 1, **Erik Callahan**, who lives in Hartsville, writes: The raucous alarm call of birds mid-morning brought attention to this **barred owl** sitting thirty feet up in a pine tree at the Callahans' house in New Marlborough. The owl remained close to the house throughout the day, at one point even sitting on the window ledge next to the bird feeder.

These pictures were taken when the owl was perched on a broken limb of a spruce tree just outside the porch area where the mice like to take refuge during the winter.

On March 12, **Larry Burke**, who lives on Route 183, writes: Not much in the way of wildlife sightings, only a couple of **porcupines** and a small flock of **wild turkeys** strolling along Route 57 in New Marlborough village.



On March 15, **Ann Getsinger**, of New Marlborough village, writes: This morning the snow's finally melted enough for the arrival of a few **turkeys**. Often in winters past, with less snow cover, they'd stop by daily, twenty or thirty at a time, to pick at bits of things under the apple trees — but not this year. It's wonderful to see them here again, pecking in the small melted patches.

On March 17, **Matthew Wright**, who lives on Canaan Valley Road, writes: I was lucky enough to capture a photograph of a beautiful **red-tailed hawk** today on Canaan Valley Road while driving home. □

Compiled by Jon Swan, joncswan@gmail.com



photo by Matthew Wright



photo by Erik Callahan

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UPCOMING: Events Calendar April and May

April 3: Last day for nominees for Town offices to sign up with the Town Clerk

April 4: New Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department Spring Dance, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; buffet dinner

April 11-12: Annual Photography Show and Potluck Supper; an exhibit by local photographers at the Southfield Church Hall, followed by potluck supper at 6:00 p.m. on April 11; exhibit closes at noon, April 12; sponsored by the New Marlborough Cultural Council

April 18: New Marlborough Land Trust 1000 Acre Swamp hike and work; 10:00 a.m.; park at the Land Trust trailhead on Hotchkiss Road

April 25: New Marlborough Land Trust Spring Road Cleanup; embarks from the Town Hall parking lot at 10:00 a.m.

May 4: Annual Town Meeting; 7:00 p.m., Town Hall

May 11: Annual Town Election; noon to 7:00 p.m., Town Hall

AN ART-FULL SUMMER

The New Season of Exhibits at the Meeting House Gallery

By Pam Stebbins

Neither record snowfalls, arctic winds, nor icy roads deterred the Gallery Committee from meeting over the winter to plan the 2015 Meeting House Gallery schedule. Abbe Steinglass was elected as the new chair of the committee, and Nikki Hayes was welcomed as the committee's newest member. After considerable discussion the following shows were decided on for the 2015 summer season.

The first exhibit, "Fine Lines: A Juried Drawing Show," runs from June 19 to July 12. It will be the first drawing show the gallery has ever held, and it is an opportunity for any artist over eighteen to try for a place in our lovely gallery. Each artist may submit three drawings. Jacob Fossum, who teaches drawing at Bard College at Simon's Rock, will select the artists and works to be exhibited. A prospectus with details for submission — and information on the duties of exhibitors — will be available starting April 15 from Nikki Hayes at nikkihayes@earthlink.net (413) 229-8256, or Elizabeth Lombardi at elizabeth.mill.river@gmail.com (413) 229-8972.

The second scheduled event is an invitational theme show. Titled "Idols and Icons," it will bring together the art work of approximately thirty area artists using a variety of media, including three dimensional work. While the theme might bring to mind movie stars and Russian churches, the world abounds today with people, places

and things that have taken on an elevated significance and the potential for rich visual interpretation. The show will run from July 24 through August 23.

The season will close with the annual New Marlborough Artists Show from August 28 through October 4. This is a showcase for local artists that, year-in and year-out, illustrates the tremendous artistic talent in our community. The *5 Village News* will provide further details as the season progresses. □

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WIREDWEST: A COST ANALYSIS

What will a fiber-optic broadband network in New Marlborough cost? On March 13, residents gathered at Town Hall in a meeting sponsored by WiredWest, got a detailed breakdown of the financials from Jim Drawe of WiredWest and Joe Markarian, formerly with the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, and now a consultant to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, an organization allied with WiredWest to bring broadband to underserved towns in the western part of the state. A followup query to Mr. Markarian yielded these answers:

The total cost of wiring New Marlborough has been put at \$3.07 million. How was that figure derived?

The project cost to extend fiber along all streets in New Marlborough and to all premises is \$4.78 million. The town's share of the \$40 million promised by the state to help defray these costs is projected to be \$1.71 million. So, the town's net contribution to the project cost is estimated at \$3.07 million. That figure is intended as the high end of costs. If, as expected, less than 100 percent of residents choose to take service, connection costs to their house would be omitted. Also, the town was costed-out as a stand alone project. Certain efficiencies and savings associated with a regional project are not yet accounted for.

How would New Marlborough pay for this project?

It is expected that the Town will need to borrow,

through the issuance of notes and/or bonds, to cover this cost. It will then have to pay annual debt service over the term of the loan. Most towns are looking at raising property taxes to make these annual debt service payments. In my analysis, I applied a mix of notes and bonds that would result in the lowest overall cost to the Town. It takes advantage of the requirement to pay only interest on notes for two years, plus only interest and partial principal payments on notes for three additional years, before the borrowed amount is rolled into a fifteen-year bond, when full interest and principal are due annually.

So, keeping in mind that these are estimates, how much would a New Marlborough homeowner's taxes increase?

Based on the above assumptions, the owner of a property assessed at \$150,000 would pay \$1.80 in extra taxes in Year 1. This amount would increase to \$76 in Year 6 and remain constant until the borrowing was paid off. For the owner of a \$300,000 property, the figures double — \$3.60 in the first year, \$151 in the sixth. The annual cost in additional taxes for a \$500,000 property would be \$252 in the sixth year. □

Next month, the 5 Village News will look into potential net costs to WiredWest subscribers and the implications to the Town of adding \$3 million to its total debt burden.

NEWS FROM THE LAND TRUST



As soon as the area's invasive plants leaf out in the spring (they are the first, giving them a competitive advantage over the natives), the New Marlborough Land Trust plans to host four goats at the Land Trust's Crosby Mill site. The goat's browsing palette is part of a strategy to clear the site of

its invasive multiflora rose, bittersweet, and barberry. Once these plants are managed, the site can be developed and maintained as a public space for the community. The stone work and remains of the old mill — not unlike those at the Lower Carroll Mill — are truly spectacular, but they are now buried in weeds.

The Land Trust has an active calendar of events for the upcoming season, focused on providing fun and educational experiences in the outdoors: a bird walk hosted by a professional birder, a hike for exploring native flowers, goat lessons, and lots more. □

Martha Bryan



photo by

Land Trust hikers on the first day of spring, dwarfed by what is believed to be New Marlborough's oldest oak tree, located off North Road in New Marlborough village.

THE LOG

POLICE DEPARTMENT (SELECTED ENTRIES)

Feb. 1	11:58 p.m.	Assisted the driver of a Subaru Outback, who blew out two tires on a large Norfolk Road pothole			intersection of Mill River Great Barrington and Knight Roads two days in a row, but that the raccoon appears to be healthy
Feb. 5	2:50 p.m.	Two horses loose on Mill River Great Barrington Road	Feb. 20	4:45 p.m.	A New Marlborough resident reports a theft
Feb. 7	4:13 p.m.	Severe injury incurred as motor vehicle hits telephone pole on Hartsville New Marlborough Road; bad weather prevents helicopter rescue	Feb. 21	1:08 p.m.	A Hartsville resident reports a breaking and entering, although, upon investigation, nothing appears to have been taken
Feb. 8	12:52 p.m.	Suspect arrested for breaking and entering a residence.		4:16 p.m.	A Mill River resident reports his iPhone 4 missing after his son and son's friend stayed the night
Feb. 9	7:39 a.m.	Car disabled after driver spins out and hits a snowbank on Route 57 in Hartsville	Feb. 23	1:39 p.m.	Caller reports that a red Mazda hatchback with Connecticut plates passed a school bus while it was picking up children on Mill River Great Barrington Road
Feb. 12	8:10 a.m.	A Clayton resident reports photographs of her juvenile daughter have been solicited via Kik Messenger, an instant messaging app for smartphones.	Feb. 25	9:00 a.m.	A Clayton resident reports harassment by a fellow passenger on a transit bus as she rides to work
	8:35 a.m.	A Mill River resident reports being harassed and threatened by a friend on Facebook.	Feb. 28	11:41 p.m.	A Mill River resident reports gun shots near his property while out walking his dogs, then calls back to say the sounds were actually from a fireworks show
Feb. 19	1:47 p.m.	Driver reports being stuck in a snow bank on a side road off Route 57			
	3:00 p.m.	Resident reports a raccoon sitting in the middle of the road at the			

FIRE AND RESCUE

Feb. 2	10:28 p.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road Medical Call	Feb. 18	1:35 p.m.	Main Road Medical Call
Feb. 3	8:16 a.m.	Hartsville Mill River Road Medical Call	Feb. 19	6:45 a.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call
Feb. 5	6:10 p.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call	Feb. 23	4:53 p.m.	Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call
Feb. 6	11:48 a.m.	Hatchery Road Fire Alarm	Feb. 23	8:17 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Norfolk, Conn., Chimney Fire
Feb. 7	4:13 p.m.	Hartsville Mill River Road MVA	Feb. 28	1:37 p.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road Fire Alarm
Feb. 8	12:40 a.m.	Konkapot Road Chimney Fire			
Feb. 17	2:57 p.m.	Adsit Crosby Road CO Alarm			

Mark Your Calendars:

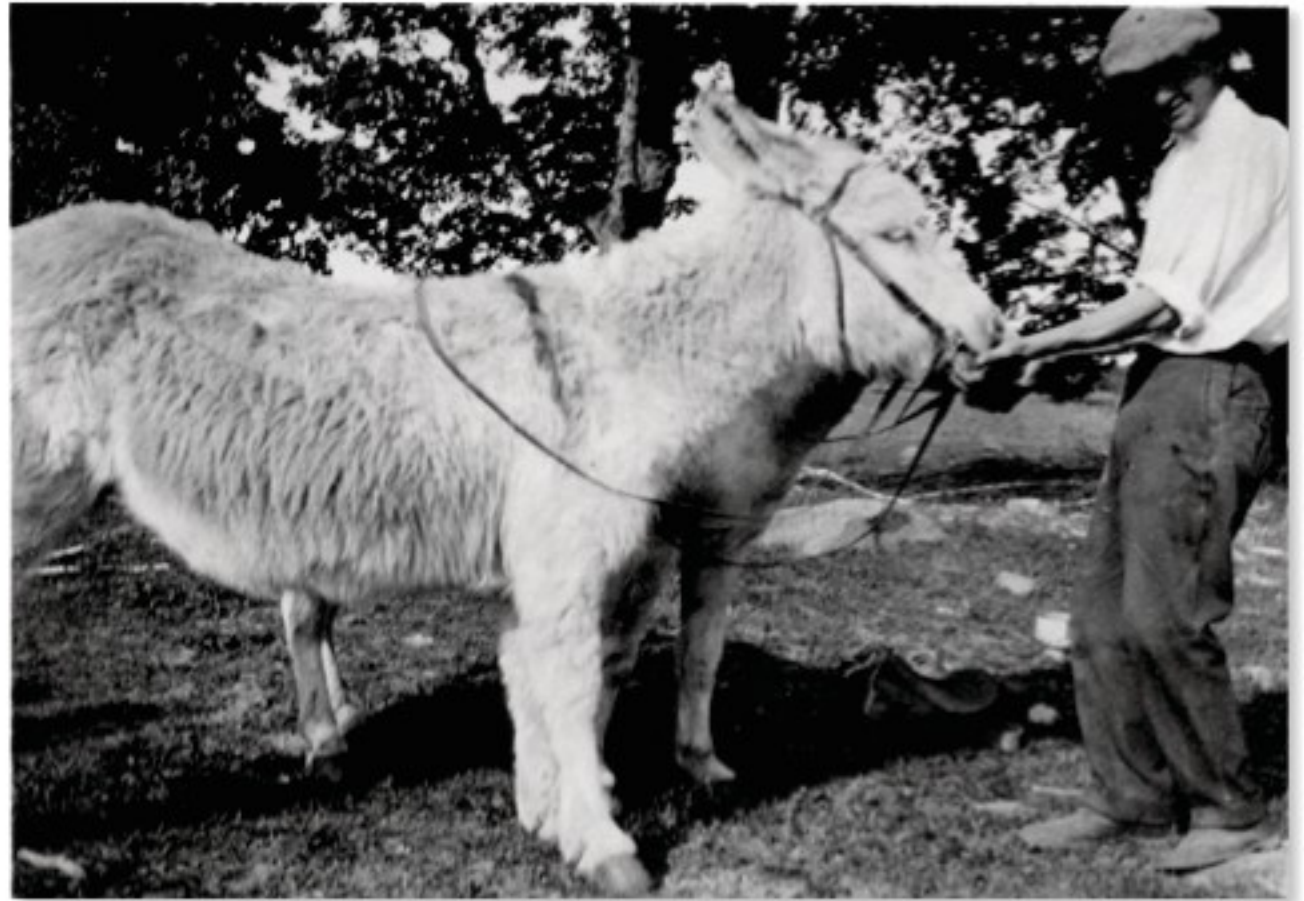
The New Marlborough Fire Company's Annual Spring Dance will be held from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 4, at Gedney Farm in New Marlborough. Tickets will soon be available at the Mill River General Store or from any New Marlborough firefighter. Call David Smith, (413) 229-0291, for more information.

THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS!

John Gillespie; Anita Fleury; Jim & Pilar Oates; Nancy Smith; Joan Hayden;
Katie & Tim Clifford; Maggie & David Brigham; and Julia & Alexander Ginzburg;
Mary Ann Roston and David and Jennifer Feldman

OUT OF THE PAST

They weren't as speedy as the newfangled driving machines that had begun to appear on county roads, but they were more fun. In 1915, Joe Daly's donkeys, harnessed to a cart, gave neighborhood children a jaunty ride around town. From the photo archives of the New Marlborough Historical Society. □



NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Southfield Church Holy Week Services

For the first time in many years, the Southfield Church will observe Holy Week, beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Palm Sunday, March 29, with additional evening services on the following Thursday, Friday, and Saturday leading us to Easter Sunday. Everyone is invited.

Since late August, we have been journeying through the Bible using a book titled *We Make the Road by Walking* by Brian McLaren. An earlier McLaren book titled *Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road?* proposes that it is possible, and necessary, for people of all faiths to learn how to affirm the religious traditions of others, and to go beyond mere tolerance to vigorous hospitality toward, interest in, and collaboration with the other. The Southfield Church Book Club has been reading *Living Buddha, Living Christ* by Vietnamese Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh. "When participants are willing to learn from each other," he writes, "dialogue takes place just by their being together." It is with this in mind that we invite everyone to join us in the Church Hall on Holy Thursday, April 2, to share a simple supper of soup, salad, bread and wine followed by a reading from *We Make the Road by Walking*. Members of the church will provide the dinner, and we will begin serving at 6:00 p.m.

Our Good Friday and Holy Saturday services will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Our Easter Sunday service will begin at 10:30 a.m., with a vigorous ringing of the old bell. Once again we are blessed to be joined by Southfield resident and historian extraordinaire David Hosford, cranking out our joyous hymns on the old Hammond organ. Again, everyone is invited.

Southfield Church Book Group

Our new book group is for anyone interested in reading and discussing books on all forms of religion, spirituality, or just being. Since our first meeting on February 7, we have discussed two books: *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, by Barbara Brown Taylor and Thich Nhat Hanh's *Living Buddha, Living Christ*. Our upcoming books and meeting dates are *Sabbath as Resistance*, by preeminent Old Testament scholar, Walter Brueggemann, on Saturday May 2, followed by *Travels with Epicurus*, by Daniel Klein, on Saturday, June 6. The meetings begin at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited to join in whenever a book strikes your fancy. Also, book suggestions are welcome. For more information, contact Robert Olsen at 229-5903 or by email at robertolsen276@verizon.net. □

Robert Olsen

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

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NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE LIBRARY

Adult Fiction

- The Buried Giant*, by Kazuo Ishiguro
- The American Lover*, by Rose Tremain
- Double Fudge Brownie Murder*, by Joanne Fluke
- Hush Hush*, by Laura Lippman
- Mightier Than the Sword*, by Jeffrey Archer
- World Gone By*, by Dennis Lehane
- Endangered*, by C.J. Box

Adult Nonfiction

- Raising Chickens: Expert Advice Made Easy*, by Kim Pezza
- Grow All You Can Eat in Three Square Feet*, by Kate Johnsen
- Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania*, by Erik Larson

Children's Fiction

- Red: A Crayon's Story*, by Michael Hall
- How Do Dinosaurs Stay Safe*, by Jane Yolen
- Nightbird*, by Alice Hoffman
- Big Nate Lives It Up*, by Lincoln Peirce
- Counting Crows*, by Kathi Appelt

Children's Nonfiction

- A Math Journey Through Planet Earth*, by Anne Rooney
- I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World*, by Malala Yousafzai
- Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai*, by Claire A. Nivola
- Flowers Are Calling*, by Rita Gray

**LIBRARY
SUMMER HOURS!!**
 Monday, Wednesday, Saturday
 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
 Tuesday & Friday
 1:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
 Thursday 1:30 - 5:30 p.m.



photo by Sheila Fitzpatrick



The library had an unexpected visitor. This swallowtail butterfly hatched March 6, after wintering over in our library.

(413) 229-2544
 Free Estimates

Herbert W. Eichstedt III
Jason W. Eichstedt

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.
- * **Planning Board:** Second and fourth Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- * **Board of Health:** First Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.
- * **Conservation Commission:** Last Saturday of the month at 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
for July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016
FEE IS \$105, AFTER AUGUST 15, \$125

CAN BE PAID BY MAIL,
PLEASE ENCLOSE A SELF-ADDRESSED
STAMPED ENVELOPE

New Marlborough Highway Department

Located on Mill River-Southfield Rd.
Hours: Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
PO Box 99, Mill River, MA 01244
(413) 229-8165

We welcome advertisements from businesses owned by New Marlborough residents.

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

NM5VN Editorial Team

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

New Marlborough 5 Village News

appears monthly,
also online at our new website! www.NM5VN.org

The next issue will be dated May, 2015.
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

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- ♦ **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 (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. chris@design-planning.com.
- ♦ **DesignFirstBerkshires:** Architectural design, space planning and renovation management. 413-528-6169 or info@designfirstberkshires.com.
- ♦ **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
- ♦ **Project Bee** meets on the last Saturday of every month from 10:30 until noon at the New Marlborough Library in Mill River. See www.projectbeeline.org or Project Bee on Facebook.
- ♦ **James Edelman:** General Contractor, Real Estate Sales. Best Results. Construction License #090773. Home Improvement Registration #152035. Real Estate Sales License #9086247. 413-528-0006 or cljvedelman@aol.com
- ♦ **Susan M. Smith:** Attorney At Law; Concentrating in the areas of Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Elder Law, Real Estate and Zoning Matters. ssmithlaw@hughes.net or 229-7080
- ♦ **Reiner White:** General Contractor; 413-229-8450
- ♦ **Woodruff Mountain Landscaping:** Excavation and landscape contracting, all forms of stone work and masonry, and outdoor services, including lawn mowing and yard work. 413-229-2919 woodruffmountain@aol.com

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