



# New Marlborough 5 Village News

VOL XVIII  
NO 12  
April 2018

Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

## THE OASIS CAMPUS SPECIAL PERMIT HEARING *Round One*

By Larry Burke



photo by Larry Burke

Former selectman Courtney Turner (with mic) received hearty applause from the large crowd, following his remarks on the intent of the Town's protective bylaws, which, in his view, would find the Oasis proposal ineligible for a special permit.

Long story short, the Oasis Campus LLC special permit application will not be decided upon until Wednesday, April 25, at the earliest. After more than two hours of presentation by the applicant, follow-up questions from the members of the Board of Selectman and comments from abutters and other citizens, a request from the applicant's

lawyer for a continuance was granted by the Board.

Scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, March 12, the special permit hearing could not be called to order until 6:17 p.m., due to the large number of people filing into the Great Room of Town Hall – an indication of the enormous interest this permit application has aroused in the town. (A conservative head count found there were 110 attendees, not counting the elected officials.) Following a call to order and a laying down of the rules of procedure and etiquette, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Tara White turned the podium over to the Oasis Campus LCC attorney, Peter Puciloski. Mr. Puciloski then presented the PowerPoint show that had been a bone of contention at the February 28 Planning Board meeting (See article on page 10).

Mr. Puciloski, with occasional input from Oasis Campus CEO Joshua Seitz, proceeded to make the following claims about the proposed marijuana facility: the nearest home to any structure on the site would be at a distance of 600 feet; the entire campus, with the possible exception of the security building, would be shielded from public view by the “existing topography” of the gravel pit on which it would be built; run-off water would be captured in a cistern, to be recycled; the four 13,000-square-foot greenhouses would be outfitted with blackout curtains

*continued on page 2*

### INSIDE:

Board Findings - Oasis.....	4
Board of Selectmen .....	5
Planning Board .....	10
Grassroots .....	14
SBRSD Assessment .....	17
Broadband Update .....	18
Upcoming .....	19
The Way We Were .....	20
Neighbors .....	22
Wildlife Neighbors.....	23
Mount Everett Students.....	20
The Log .....	26
School News.....	28
Library.....	30

*Oasis Special Permit, continued*

during nighttime; air from the greenhouses would be filtered as it is exhausted to remove the odor of cannabis; all nutrients generated within the greenhouses would flow into drains and be contained; reverse osmosis (the process most commonly employed to desalinate salt water) would be employed to recycle the same water over and over again; and each cannabis plant would use no more than one-half gallon of water per day. Mr. Puciloski went on to cite studies from the California Department of Food and Agriculture on environmental impact and a "Best Practices" document from Denver, Colorado, on energy usage, both documents which he felt pointed to a positive picture of industrial-scale cannabis production. The attorney then spoke of the intense security that would be in effect throughout the campus, including on the tenants themselves. They would be, she said, "more scrupulously observed by the security people, who are the employees of the landlord [Seitz], than any other tenants in Massachusetts." He wrapped up his remarks by pointing to the monetary advantages to the Town, not only with property taxes, but personal property taxes on the tenants and the 3 percent tax on tenants' gross revenues.

The three selectmen then had their opportunity to pose questions to the applicant and his lawyer. Michele Shalaby asked for further information on the uses of the buildings other than the greenhouses. Mr. Puciloski spoke of the need for office space for each of the tenants, classroom space for training employees in the rules and regulations of marijuana production, as well as 15,000 square-feet of "preparation space, which is baking, making products with cannabis, making extracts, and things like that."

In trying to get an estimate on water use, Nat Yohalem asked how many plants would be grown in the greenhouses



Photo by Larry Burke

*An attentive audience listens closely to Conservation Commission Vice Chairman John Schreiber as he reads through a list of particulars that the commission found wanting in the Oasis Campus special permit application.*

at any one time, but Mr. Seitz had no clear answer to that, saying that it would depend on the individual grower's use of the space. Mr. Yohalem then asked a series of questions on security: how many guards, whether they would be armed, what would be the involvement of local police in the event of an intruder. Mr. Puciloski's answers: two guards, "twenty-four/seven;" weapons "not needed at this point;" and yes, the New Marlborough police and the private security team would respond to any suspected criminality, the cost to the Town for its policing being covered by the "impact fees." Following on the notion of impact fees, Mr. Yohalem then asked how the Town would know if it is truly receiving its 3 percent of revenues, given that every transaction is on a cash-only basis, making record-keeping murky. Mr. Puciloski said they are wrestling with that question themselves, and looking to answers from California and Colorado.

Over a period of around forty minutes, the selectmen and Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard peppered Messrs. Puciloski and Seitz with questions about: the extensive parking areas; the average number of workers on site; precautions around the large amounts of cash and product being

**Goewey Painting Services**

Interior / Exterior Painting  
Pressure Washing  
Residential & Commercial

Your need is our job, no matter the size

goeweyservices@hotmail.com

413-229-2787 



[linda@southcountypetsitting.com](mailto:linda@southcountypetsitting.com)  
[southcountypetsitting.com](http://southcountypetsitting.com)

**Bonded & Insured**  
**Local References**

**Loving, Gentle,**  
**Professional Care**

**South County**  
**Pet Sitting and Walking**  
It makes me happy to make them happy!

**Linda Fass**  
**Certified Professional Pet Sitter**  
**Dog & Cat First Aid Certified**

**413.248.6101**



carried in and out of the location; fertilizer storage and usage; signage and lighting; exact location of, and potential odors from, the kitchens; the tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) extraction process; the Conservation Commission having input on the newly proposed cistern; the Board of Health's input on siting of septic systems; length of time in construction of the facility; limits to the normal workday hours of operation; the lack of information on who the tenants might be; and the identity of the owners/investors (other than Mr. Seitz). Some of the answers to these questions were simple and straightforward, others more speculative, and, in the case of the cistern, triggering a request from Mr. Puciloski that a two-week extension would be in order, to satisfy the Conservation Commission's need to analyze the plan.

The floor was then opened to comments from the Planning Board, the Conservation Commission, and the Board of Health. No representative of the Planning Board was present, but the Board's official findings were subsequently submitted to the Board of Selectmen (a summary of which appears at the end of this report.) Vice Chairman of the Conservation Commission John Schreiber then took the floor to detail the areas of concern that the Conservation Commission had, and he was followed by Chairman of the Board of Health Scott McFarland, who did the same. (The findings of the Conservation Commission and Board of Health will also be summarized below, along with those of the Planning Board.)

Chairman White then invited abutters to address the Board. First to speak was the lawyer representing a group of abutters, Jesse Belcher-Timme, from Easthampton, Massachusetts. Mr. Belcher-Timme spoke of the application as being "full of question marks, most specifically the fact that we do not know who is going to be on-site, running any of these operations." He went on to speculate that the size and scope of the proposed enterprise would be "more akin to dropping a prison down in the middle of New Marlborough." He wrapped up his comments with a litany of details he sees as missing from the application,

leading him to the opinion that "for something like this, that goes so far afield and tries to push the envelope so much, there should be an over-abundance of caution and an over-production of details, and that hasn't happened in this case." Mr. Belcher-Timme's remarks were greeted with loud and sustained applause.



*Dan Doern, a Mill River resident, addressed the selectmen and the audience, sharing a number of questions regarding Joshua Seitz's previous experience as a developer, and noting that a professional analysis of the possible financial benefits to the Town would help it to assess the trade-offs.*



*At left, Joshua Seitz, CEO of Oasis Campus LLC, stands as his attorney wraps up the PowerPoint presentation on the company's proposed marijuana growing and processing plant on Route 57 in Hartsville.*

Among the abutters who wished to be heard in opposition to the Oasis Campus were Michel Paul Richard and his wife Peggy (the closest abutters to the property, being within seventy feet of the perimeter and presumably closer to the Oasis structure than the 600 feet claimed by Mr. Puciloski). Mr. Richard said he felt that the plan was illegal, based on the provisions of the subdivision covenant that came into being in 1993, which he is bound to honor and thinks the same should be true of Oasis. Claudette Callahan spoke of the "special gift that deserves to be protected," that being the qualities she and her family enjoy – seeing the stars in the night sky, admiring the wildlife, and drinking the pure water – and she concluded by asking the Board of Selectmen to consider the "moral obligation" to safeguard the protection of these things.

Other abutters included Doug Newman, who revisited many of the same themes he had voiced during the February 28 Planning Board meeting, including his plea for the safe-keeping of the yellow-spotted salamander; and Rick Mielke, whose land on Arroyo Way includes a 2,500-foot section of a brook that he views as being in jeopardy. He asked that the Board of Selectmen be just as protective of his personal property as they are of the applicant.

The period of commentary then expanded to other landowners, and the first was Michael Shocket, also of Arroyo Way in Hartsville, who asked the people in the room who disapprove of the Oasis project to stand up, whereupon a vast majority did just that. He was followed by former Planning Board member Holly Morse, who engaged in a dialogue with Jeremia Pollard on the definition of "agriculture" as an accepted use under the protective bylaws. Mr. Pollard said that it seems to be that

*Oasis Special Permit, continued*

every town has its own definition of the word; however, new language from the state seems to be redefining the growing of marijuana as not being an agricultural activity. Ms. Morse concluded with the recommendation to the selectmen that they familiarize themselves with the recently released guidelines of the state's Cannabis Control Commission.

Many other citizens stood to express their reservations about the special permit application, and those included Joyce Hackett, Laurence Rosenthal, Paula Hatch, Douglas Trumbull, Courtney Turner, Daniel Doern, Peter Scala, and Barbara Marchione. The range of their comments largely restated the issues that had been voiced before the Planning Board the preceding week – light pollution, water pollution, water usage, degrading of the natural beauty, lack of engineering specifics in the application, whether the application's scope was within the intent of

the protective bylaws – and a few new thoughts, including Douglas Trumbull's doubts, based on his research, as to the choice of greenhouse being structurally able to withstand the elements of a New England winter. One lone citizen spoke up in favor of granting the special permit, and that was Tom Stalker, who viewed the potential economic windfall to the Town as outweighing other concerns.

The hearing came to a close at 8:30 p.m. As mentioned at the outset of this article, the request by Peter Puciloski for a one-month continuance was granted by the selectmen. Michele Shalaby asked Town Counsel Pollard what the Board's responsibility would be in preparing for the April 25 resumption, and his answer was that "the burden is on the applicant" to supply the many details that are missing. As Barry Shapiro likes to say in concluding his reports on broadband, stay tuned. □

## SUMMARY OF TOWN BOARDS' FINDINGS ON THE OASIS PROPOSAL

### ► PLANNING BOARD:

In its letter dated March 6, the Planning Board had the following concerns:

- 1) Lack of specificity on design aspects of the commercial greenhouses, making for a difficult conclusion as to their potential environmental impact, as relating to the Protective Bylaws' injunction against uses that would be "injurious, noxious, or offensive," as stated in Section 3.4.1.
- 2) The special permit applicant not being "the same entity as the one that will actually operate the use permitted," thus making enforcement of the provisions of the special permit difficult.
- 3) Lack of a definition in the bylaws or the application as to what constitutes a "commercial greenhouse," and furthermore, the applicant's seeking of a permit for "other activities," an insufficient and "vague, general overview of the business plan."
- 4) Lack of detail on the cultivating and processing intentions of the tenant growers, lack of sufficient detail on the potential environmental issues created by a large parking area, and lack of a plan for a traffic study on the impacts to the Route 57 corridor.
- 5) Questions regarding water usage and storm-water management in an area of New Marlborough overlying its only documented aquifer, with excessively draining soils. Lack of specificity on the amount of water to be consumed in the growing of cannabis, and lack of a plan to address water run-off in the Campus area.
- 6) Concern over the potential invasion of privacy of the abutters, as a result of the fencing, lighting, and video surveillance.

### ► CONSERVATION COMMISSION:

In two letters, dated February 12 and March 19, the Conservation Commission expressed these concerns:

- 1) Lack of an environmental impact statement and mitigation plan, and lack of an engineering plan, making it "very difficult to fully evaluate the proposal."
- 2) Wetland proximity which would require filing a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA).
- 3) Magnitude of the project triggering the requirement for a mandatory environmental state review.
- 4) Likelihood that the number of employees on site would exceed twenty-five, thereby requiring that the water source be considered public, and regulated by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.
- 5) Likelihood that the amount of water required by the site would necessitate a water management permit from the state.

### ► BOARD OF HEALTH:

From comments by Chairman Scott McFarland made at the March 12 special permit hearing:

- 1) Reiteration of the Conservation Commission's concern that the water source be a public water supply, to be regulated by the state.
- 2) General lack of specifics in the application, making the issuing of permits highly problematic, particularly in trying to predict "property-use creep," particularly in relation to water use. □

Larry Burke

## Town Business Is Your Business

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN



**February 26:** With all three members present, the Board's first item of business was to meet with a group of residents concerned about the establishment of marijuana businesses in Town. But before convening, the Board moved the meeting upstairs to the Great Room to accommodate the overflow crowd.

Once everyone was settled, Chairman White opened the meeting by reading a statement prepared by Board with the help of Town Counsel that said: "Any speculation or intent to have bylaws governing this type of industry would make us a biased party when making a decision on the Special Permit before us." That permit application, as reported previously, was filed with the Board earlier this month by Oasis Campus LLC, seeking approval of a 106-acre industrial park to grow, test, and manufacture marijuana products. The Special Permit hearing is set for March 12.

She then turned the floor over to Becky Schreiber, who announced that earlier in the afternoon a group calling itself Concerned Citizens of New Marlborough had filed a citizens' petition with Town Clerk Kathy Chretien with signatures from 262 registered voters. It requested that a special town meeting be held to vote on a temporary zoning moratorium on marijuana establishments, and asked that the meeting take place prior to the April 1 date when the state's Cannabis Control Commission will begin accepting license applications from recreational marijuana businesses.

The purpose of the moratorium, Ms. Schreiber explained, is to give the Town time to put protective bylaws in place governing and regulating commercial marijuana activities. According to state law, a minimum of 200 signatures was needed to petition the selectmen to hold a special town meeting, and the moratorium, if approved, would be in effect until December 31.

Ms. Schreiber said the group had grown from just four people – herself, Deanna Mummert, and Julia and Doug Trumbull – to over 300, including more than seventy-five second home owners, "who came together in the last three days with the common goal of gaining a voice on the issue of New Marlborough's future as it pertains to recreational marijuana establishments in our town."

As she noted, "small towns like ours do not have bylaws in place to address this new industry," and that the state, recognizing that, has given towns two courses of action. One is "to completely opt out of all recreational marijuana establishments," and the second is to pursue a temporary moratorium until protective bylaws are in place. But she said there's also a third, and "that's to do nothing."

So when the Planning Board, on December 13 of last year, voted unanimously not to pursue a temporary moratorium – "three people made the decision for 1,088 voters," she said, "but we did not agree" – the group decided to mount a signature drive, and today's petition is the result.

When she was finished addressing the Board, she asked if she could make a motion for the Board to take immediate action in calling a special town meeting. But as Ms. White explained, because it's not on tonight's agenda, "it can't be discussed or voted on. Besides," she continued, "we came here tonight to listen to you; we did not come here to make definitive decisions."

In the end, though, the Board agreed to do what it could to speed up the processing of the petition, so that a special town meeting could be called, if not by March 31, at least by mid-April. They agreed to ask Town Clerk Kathy Chretien to verify the signatures on the petition and get it certified by the Board of

### DOWNING & LANE, LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW

17 MAHAIWE STREET, SUITE 1  
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230

TEL: (413) 528-5040

FAX: (413) 528-5095

DENNIS J. DOWNING  
DENNIS@DOWNINGLANE.COM

COURTNEY S. LANE  
COURTNEY@DOWNINGLANE.COM



**WEBSTER**  
design landscape horticulture

413-229-8124 [websterlandscapes.com](http://websterlandscapes.com) Sheffield, MA

Registrars as quickly as possible. Simultaneously, they will send a copy of the petition to Town Counsel for his review, and they will add an item now to next Monday's agenda to act on the petition, rather than waiting for the petition to be certified.

Regardless of the outcome, **none of this will affect the Oasis Special Permit application since it was submitted prior to a vote on the moratorium, and as such it will be considered under the Town's existing bylaws.**

As Selectman Yohalem pointedly said, "Ultimately, it's the Board that makes the final decision on the special permit, and the truth is we have an awful lot of discretion. So have a little faith in us. We believe in this town, we love this town, and we will do what in our estimate is in the best interests of the town. Trust us," he said, "We hear you."

In other business, the Board approved the minutes from the February 5 and February 12 meetings; this was followed by a Broadband report from Selectman Shalaby, who said that the **Broadband Committee has a draft of a new Request for Proposal, or RFP, that it will review at its March 1 meeting.** Once it's been finalized by the committee, it will be sent to the Board of Selectmen and to Massachusetts Broadband Institute, or MBI, for their review.

The Board reviewed and **approved a road layout and right-of-way plan for the Umpachene Falls Road bridge,** subject to approval by Town Counsel. The bridge is due to be replaced by the state in 2019. The plans now go to the Planning Board for its approval, and there will be a public hearing on the project by the state Department of Transportation at Town Hall on March 22.

The Board also voted to **send the solar net metering credit purchase plan contract from Seaboard Solar Holdings LLC to Town Counsel for his review.** As

previously reported, Seaboard Solar is proposing to sell the Town discounted solar net metering credits that it can use to pay its electric bills with National Grid, resulting in a savings to the Town of about \$4,500 per year, or about \$100,000 over the life of the twenty-year deal. (For more details on the net metering credit program see the February 5 Board of Selectmen report in the March 2018 issue of the NM5VN.)

Under Town Administrator updates, Mari Enoch said the Board received a special permit application from Park Avenue Solar Solutions for a 3-megawatt ground-mounted solar project to be located on the site of two gravel pits across from the Highway Department garage just off Mill River Southfield Road.

The Board set a tentative public hearing date of April 23, subject to a review by the building inspector. (Again, see the February 5 Board of Selectman report in the March issue of the NM5VN for details.)

**March 5:** With all three selectmen present, Chairman White opened the meeting by announcing to the standing-room-only crowd that the Board's first order of business will be to **act on the citizens' petition requesting a special town meeting,** and then quickly added, "And there will be no discussion from the audience."

She outlined a timeline for holding the meeting, which **tentatively will take place on Friday, April 13, at 7:00 p.m.,** a date that is just within the forty-five-day window mandated by state law after a petition has been certified by the Board of Registrars. The petition was certified on March 1.

The purpose of the meeting, as reported earlier, is to **vote on a temporary moratorium on commercial marijuana enterprises in the Town.** Since that's a zoning bylaw change, the Planning Board must hold a

*The Concerned Citizens of New Marlborough met with the Board of Selectmen and requested a special town meeting to vote on a temporary zoning moratorium on marijuana establishments.*

*Your Local Family Owned Propane Company for over 60 years*

**We provide friendly, prompt & reliable service for all your propane needs**



839 Mill River-Southfield Rd.  
New Marlborough, MA

**413-229-2800**

**Low Prices  
Budget Plans  
Bulk & Cylinder  
Deliveries**



**Please call to join our family of satisfied customers!**

public hearing on it first and then provide a report and recommendation to the special town meeting.

According to the timeline, the Planning Board is tentatively set to meet Wednesday, March 14, to set a date for the public hearing, and Chairman Peter Tiso has indicated he's going to propose that the meeting be held April 11.

So assuming everything falls into place, the moratorium vote will take place on Friday, April 13. And with that the selectmen approved the petition.

Next on the agenda, Mr. Tiso and Planning Board member Mark Carson met with the Board to get its input on the Planning Board's proposed solar bylaw and to ask the Board whether it has any concerns about it.

They also indicated there have been two changes to the original draft of the bylaw. One would permit the Special Permit Granting Authority, which in this case is the Board of Selectmen, to require a viewshed analysis to determine where a large-scale solar installation is visible from. The other would permit the selectmen to require a production report from a large-scale array to insure it has not been abandoned. Both changes, Mr. Tiso said, are in response to issues brought up at the public hearing on the bylaw on February 28.

Noting that Town Counsel had questioned whether the special permit requirement for small-scale ground-mounted installations was too restrictive, Mr. Yohalem asked whether the Town had the power to require it. But Mr. Tiso said other towns have bylaws that require it and that Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, which advised the Planning Board on the bylaw, said the language is essentially the same as that used by the other towns.

*The Broadband Committee has developed an RFP for potential providers, but the process won't be completed in time for a vote on broadband borrowing at the Annual Town Meeting on May 7. That will be handled at a special town meeting this summer.*

Mr. Yohalem then thanked Messrs. Tiso and Carson on behalf of the Board "for the incredible amount of work you people have put into this."

In a related matter, there was a **discussion about an existing ground-mounted solar installation just off Hatchery Road in Hartsville**, prompted by a question from Hartsville resident Doug Newman. He wanted to know why it had been approved by the building inspector without a special permit, since, as Mr. Tiso had just pointed out, all solar installations under the existing bylaw require special permits. Mr. Newman also wanted to know what the Board intends to do about it.

But as Town Administrator Enoch pointed out, the building inspector at a recent selectmen's meeting had explained that it's his feeling that the existing bylaw is too restrictive and that he views a residential solar installation "as accessory to a house" and so doesn't require a special permit. At which point, given that the building inspector had previously approved the array and it had already been installed, Mr. Carson remarked, "We may be looking at something we can't do anything about," a position with which the Board agreed.

Moving on, the Board received an update from Broadband Committee Chairman Richard Long on the Town's efforts to restart its search for a broadband provider now that the Frontier deal is dead.

According to Mr. Long, the Broadband Committee was putting the final touches on a new RFP in preparation for sending it out to potential providers on March 7. However, a number of questions were raised at the last minute having to do with the financing and whether the RFP should be issued by the Town under Section 30B of the state's procurement law or by the Town's Municipal Lighting Plant, in which case the strictures of 30B would not apply.

He said the RFP can be restructured, **but he doesn't believe it can be done and be properly vetted by legal counsel in sufficient time to hold a vote on a broadband borrowing at the Annual Town Meeting on May 7. Instead it will have to come before a special town meeting sometime in the summer.**

In other matters, the Board voted to authorize Ms. White to sign a three-year contract for tax map services with Cartographic Associates Incorporated (CAI) for \$7,500, which works out to \$2,500 a year. It was the second vote on this matter. Originally, she was to have signed a one-year contract for \$3,100, after Assessor's Clerk Marsha Pshenishny reported that it has always been a one-year contract. But at Ms. Shalaby's urging,



# SunBug Solar

## Ned Wilson

NABCEP PV Technical Sales #TS-102415-004308  
NABCEP PV Installation # PV-041115-004308

413 854 1453

ned.wilson@sunbugssolar.com

P: 413 884 1000 | F: 413 417 2225

66 Westfield Industrial Park Road | Westfield, MA | 01085

www.sunbugssolar.com

the Board asked Ms. Pshenishny to go back and check with CAI to see if there's an option for a multi-year contract that includes a discount, which, as she learned, there is.

The Board also agreed to continue using Harpers Payroll Services to process the Town's payroll, print the checks, and handle the Internal Revenue Service reporting requirements. The cost of the service, about \$3,100 per year, works out to roughly what it used to cost the Town in license and support fees for the software the Treasurer was using to do the payroll in house.

Under Town Administrator updates, Ms. Enoch announced that Highway Department Foreman Paul Krom has been awarded the designation Master Roads Scholar by the Baystate Roads Program, an arm of the state Department of Transportation. Mr. Krom joins Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring as the second member of the department to be so named. The designation requires the completion of twenty-two training workshops and seminars, requiring at least six hours of participation each. The Board asked Ms. Enoch to send a letter of congratulations to Mr. Krom.

And finally, Ms. Enoch said Courtney Turner has indicated in a letter to the Board his interest in filling an empty seat on the Zoning Board of Appeals. So according to procedure, Ms. Enoch will forward the letter to the Board of Appeals so it can make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.

**March 9:** There was some good news as the Board convened a special Friday morning working session to discuss the FY 2019 budget. As Town Administrator Enoch noted, the Town has \$166,000 in excess capacity – that is, the amount of money by which it can increase

the budget this year over last before bumping up against the 2½ percent levy limit, assuming revenues (i.e. local receipts and state aid) remain the same.

Not only that, but the Town is expecting a \$166,600 reduction in its school assessment. That's in sharp contrast to last year when the Town found itself looking at a \$217,550 assessment increase. **So the budget outlook for this year is good one.**

This should make the selectmen's job a little easier when it comes to making those final budget decisions on what to fund and what not to fund.

But today's session was not about making final decisions, but instead simply to review some of the larger departmental budget requests.

Noteworthy among these was a request for an addition to staff for the Highway Department at a cost of some \$47,600 in salary plus benefits, plus \$4,000 for four additional hours plus a small salary adjustment for the department's administrative clerk. From the Police Department, Chief Graham Frank is proposing to increase his coverage by upgrading a part-time position on the force to full time and adding four eight-hour shifts at a cost of about \$35,000. And finally, there's a proposal from Town Clerk Kathy Chretien to buy a \$5,700, voting machine to tally town election results, but it wasn't so much the outright cost of the machine that prompted questions from the selectmen, but rather the \$5,000 a year in estimated support costs to program it and print the ballots every time there's an election.

There were also budget decreases that will help improve the bottom line. They include the health insurance offset (\$2,291), interest expense (\$2,000), worker's compensation (\$2,107) and Highway Department diesel fuel costs (\$10,000).

*The budget outlook for the coming year is encouraging: The Town may avoid reaching the 2½ percent levy limit. Increased departmental budget requests are largely offset by the reduced school assessment and some budget decreases.*



**ALL TYPES OF SERVICE  
FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC  
CARS AND TRUCKS**

- Tires • Oil • Brakes • Exhaust
- Mass Vehicle Inspection
- Commercial Inspection

**ORMSBEE'S GARAGE 839 Mill River Southfield Road, Mill River 413-229-2515**



One area where the Board has **little or no spending control is in non-discretionary, or mandatory, increases, which this year total \$26,435.** These involve assessments and contractual obligations, including the Berkshire County Retirement assessment (\$19,678), the veterans benefit fund (\$2,000) and the police chief's contract (\$3,000).

**March 19:** After approving the minutes from February 22, February 26 and March 5 meetings, the Board, with all three members present, **voted to appoint Courtney Turner to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA).** As previously reported, Mr. Turner had indicated in a letter his interest in serving on the ZBA, which met today and recommended to the selectmen that he be appointed. In addition, the selectmen designated Mr. Turner, Jack Bellinger, and Sharon Fleck as members of the ZBA and Dan Litchfield and Helen Liveten as associate members, in accordance with the Town bylaws.

The Board reviewed **the proposed capital budget for the 2019 fiscal year. Four items totaling \$701,000 have been requested, all by the Highway Department.** They include a medium truck at an estimated \$115,000 to replace a Ford F550 truck that's scheduled to be retired; a road grader at \$325,000, \$183,000 for road projects and finally, a request to pave the highway department garage area for an estimated \$75,000. Broadband is also on the list, but according to Town Administrator Enoch, it's too soon to assign an amount to it, and "besides that's likely to be a borrowing," she said.

Ms. Enoch also noted that the Town has nearly \$733,000 in certified free cash and \$557,000 in stabilization funds that could be used to fund capital items, but as she reminded the Board, it's Town financial policy to reserve an amount equal to five percent of the town's current revenues, or \$564,000, against a revenue shortfall, leaving \$725,000 available for use.

In a separate but related discussion, Ms. Enoch said that **while the library building is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the library doors, according to Librarian Deb O'Brien, are not.** Instead, they need to be able to be opened with the push of a button. So Ms. O'Brien is working on getting a quote and believes it will be under the \$10,000 threshold for a capital expense. Instead it's likely to show up as a separate line item on the library budget.

The Board then scheduled a joint working session with the Finance Committee for next week to review the FY19

budget including the capital items.

Under Town Administrator updates, Ms. Enoch said Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC), which in her words "is committed to getting towns to work on bigger issues with other towns," has **two county-wide surveys in the works.** One is on **the regionalization of shared services** and seeks to determine "where the needs are and what's the willingness on the part of county towns to share services and personnel," which she will work on with Mr. Yohalem on behalf of the Town.

The other concerns the state's Chapter 90 road repair funding, which as she noted is a source of frustration for towns throughout the county. She said **the goal here is to collect very detailed data on what the Chapter 90 money is used for, what kind of projects it funds, and how much is needed.** She said, "I think it's well worth putting in time on this one, and taking advantage of BRPC's effort to consolidate all of our opinions into making a statement." She said she'll work with Highway

Superintendent Loring on it but would welcome the selectmen's input.

Under selectmen's updates, Ms. White reported on last week's Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee meeting and its decision to rescind its earlier votes to close the Monterey and Egremont schools. She said the reason for this, in her view, was an effort on the Committee's part to avoid "a free-for-all" on the budget this year, with towns rejecting it because of the school closure votes. **The Committee then voted to approve the district budget at \$16,690,000, which is a 1.98 percent increase over last year.** □

Peter Schuyten

*The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is conducting two surveys: One is on the willingness of towns to share services and personnel. The other is to collect detailed data on the use of Chapter 90 funds for road repair – a source of frustration for most highway superintendents*

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

**BULK SILVER (FLATWARE, ETC.)**

**DIAMOND BROKERS**

**APPRAISERS**

**Sachs Reisman, Inc.**

**jewelry manufacturing**

**25 Maple Avenue**

**Sheffield, MA 413-229-0050**

## THE PLANNING BOARD

### An Earful on the Oasis Campus LLC Plan

On the evening of Wednesday, February 28, before a crowd of nearly fifty townspeople, the New Marlborough Planning Board convened its regular monthly meeting in the Great Room of Town Hall. Planning Board Chairman Peter Tiso was joined by members Patricia Hardyman, James Mullen, and Mark Carson, and by Planning Board secretary Jane Tant, as well as Chris Gruba, a senior consultant with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.

Chairman Tiso informed the attendees that the Planning Board needed to dispatch other business before moving on to taking comment from the public on the marijuana production facility called Oasis Campus LLC, proposed for the O'Connor Brothers gravel pit in Hartsville. He added that Mark Carson, who is an abutter to the proposed Oasis Campus, would recuse himself from the part of the meeting that pertains to the Oasis proposal.

The board then viewed recent correspondence – a letter from the law firm of Cain Hibbard and Myers, which represents a group of abutters to the Oasis project, a packet of information also pertaining to Oasis's application for a special permit from the newly formed group Concerned Citizens of New Marlborough, and a letter from Claudette Callahan and her son Erik Callahan, whose home in Hartsville abuts the property in question. Paula Hatch, representing the Lake Buel Association, informed the board that she would be sending a letter from Lake Buel Association president Peter Hagel, also on the Oasis matter.

The main order of business for the regular meeting was to revisit a few of the points that had been raised at the public hearing on the proposed solar energy bylaw on February 10 (see page 1 of the March issue of the NM5VN for details on that meeting). Suggestions had been made to add some detail to the language on the screening of solar arrays, but Mr. Mullen held that “the language is fine as is.” After a few further remarks from members of the audience, it was agreed by the Board not to change the wording on screening for either the small-scale or large-scale ground-mounted photovoltaic



Planning Board members James Mullen, Patricia Hardyman, and Peter Tiso, along with secretary Jane Tant, listen at their February 28 meeting as a succession of citizens expressed their feelings about the proposed Oasis Campus facility in Hartsville. photo by Larry Burke

systems. The pertinent sections of the proposed bylaw will state that such installations “shall be screened year-round with dense native vegetation from all adjoining properties and public and private ways.”

Somewhat related to screening, another suggestion from the public hearing had to do with “viewshed analysis,” which would provide topographical information on siting of future large solar arrays, such that their visual impact on the land would be knowable from any vantage point in the town.

Chairman Tiso stated that it was his feeling that such an analysis would not be an unreasonable requirement to place upon the applicant. Mr. Mullen objected, saying that would be “too regulatory,” and that it should be left to the Special Permit Granting Authority (SPGA), which is the Board of Selectmen. It was agreed that new language would be added to the section on design requirements, giving the SPGA the discretion to require such an analysis on a case-by-case basis.

Deanna Mummert of Mill River posed the question to the Planning Board as to whether or not there should be some way to know what the Town will get back economically, other than through property taxes, from the companies that create large solar fields. Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard said he had not seen any bylaws with language on that subject. James Mullen said that he was aware of two pieces of legislation under consideration

**CURTIS  
INSURANCE  
AGENCY**

**Serving Mass. and  
Conn.  
For 60 years**

Office: 860 • 824 • 7327  
Res: 413 • 229 • 2966

**Paul Koneazny**  
Certified Insurance Counselor

49 MAIN ST. • P.O. BOX 748  
CANAAN, CT 06018

on Beacon Hill that would help towns in this regard. Peter Tiso stated that protective bylaws do not deal with monetary issues; those would be dictated by our General Bylaws, which are under the purview of the Board of Selectmen.

Finally, Mark Carson expressed concern about the Town's ability to monitor the output of large solar arrays, to determine if a solar field has been abandoned. The responsibility is in the hands of the building inspector, who may have difficulty proving abandonment. Ned Wilson of Mill River stated that online monitoring of solar installations is a simple and clear way to determine the level of electrical production from moment to moment, and should be something that solar companies would make available to the building inspector.

With that, Chairman Tiso wrapped up the regular business of the meeting, saying that he would next present the Board of Selectmen with the amended draft of the proposed solar bylaw, with expectations that it will be voted upon at the Annual Town Meeting in May.

At 8:05 p.m., turning to the matter that had brought so many people to Town Hall, Mr. Tiso opened by saying that the Planning Board, based on its understanding of the Oasis Campus application for a special permit, would be making comments to the selectmen, and these comments would contain neither approval nor denial of the project. As he was still stating the ground rules, a tall, older man in a dark suit approached the Planning Board from the back of the room and stood silently, directly in front of the table at which the members sat. The man's purpose in doing so began to become apparent as a second, shorter and younger man drew up beside him with a portable screen and digital projector in hand. Amidst growing questions and calls from the public to know what was going on, the first man finally identified himself to be Peter Puciloski, a lawyer representing Joshua Seitz, who is the principal figure behind Oasis Campus LLC, and that his purpose was to set up a Power Point demonstration on the virtues of the proposed enterprise.

Commotion in the room built as the lawyer and the second man (who later in the meeting identified himself as Joshua Seitz), went about setting up their equipment for the screening. With voices raised throughout the

room in objection to Mr. Puciloski's unilateral actions, control of the situation was not entirely in Mr. Tiso's grasp, but eventually he prevailed upon the lawyer and his companion to take a seat while other members of the audience expressed their thoughts on the proposal, with the proviso that all speakers be limited to two minutes per statement.

With order somewhat restored, Jocelyn McGrath, a lawyer with the firm of Cain Hibbard and Myers representing a group of abutters to the property, made a brief summary of the letter that had earlier been submitted to the Board. She made particular reference to the plight of one of her clients, a couple who had just within the last year bought a home in what they had believed to be a subdivision, only to find themselves on the verge of being in the middle of a large-scale marijuana growing

and processing facility. She was followed by Michael Shocket of Arroyo Way in Hartsville, who expressed his incredulity that a proposal that would draw so much water from the underlying aquifer would even be considered. Planning Board member James Mullen dismissed Mr. Shocket's concern by saying that there was a "robust supply" of water, according to the 2004 New Marlborough Open Space and Recreation Plan. Further back and forth discussion about the water resources in this



Barbara Marchione voices her concerns to the Planning Board about the proposed marijuana growing and processing facility in Hartsville. Oasis CEO Joshua Seitz, seated near right, listens, as his lawyer Peter Puciloski examines his laptop computer. photo by Larry Burke

area of town became increasingly prickly, at which point Barbara Marchione, a former selectman, stood to request that Mr. Mullen, as an elected official, treat the members of the audience who were raising concerns with more respect than he had been showing since discussion on the Oasis proposal had begun. Her statement was greeted with a round of applause.

Following on the concerns about the quantity of water that might be consumed by the extensive greenhouses (exceeding 52,000 square feet, according to the Oasis plans), Paula Hatch from the Lake Buel District expressed her concerns about the potential detriment to water quality, particularly to the Konkapot River, which receives runoff from the land in question. She added that, during times of flooding, high volumes of water in the Konkapot has been known to back up into Lake Buel, presenting a risk of contaminants entering the lake.

Dan Doern, a Mill River resident, then posed a series of questions that had arisen from his reading of the

*Planning Board, continued*

Special Permit application: What are the short- and long-term job benefits? What are the environmental benefits? What are the local and state tax benefits? He then stated that it was clear in his view that the Town's existing protective bylaws "disfavor manufacturing, and it would be irresponsible of the Town to approve this application."

Paula Hatch stood again to declare that she had personally visited the applicant's stated address in Sandisfield and found it to be most unlikely as a bonafide residence for Mr. Seitz, and she further stated that she had checked with the Massachusetts Secretary of State's office to discover that Oasis Campus LLC is not registered in the state.

Deanna Mummert then quoted from the section of the protective bylaws that addresses uses by Special Permit, Section 3.4.1, which states that the Board of Selectmen "shall determine that the use will not be injurious, noxious or offensive, and that such use is consistent with the intent of the by-law." She also quoted Section 3.4.4, which says that the Board must find "that the use is in harmony with the general purpose and intent of this bylaw and not offensive or detrimental to the neighborhood." From these stipulations, Ms. Mummert concluded that the Oasis Campus plan does not comply with the Town's bylaws. Her sentiments were later repeated by others at the meeting, including Doug Newman and Erik Callahan, both abutters to the proposed site in Hartsville.

Douglas Trumbull, of Southfield, was next to speak, and, after airing his displeasure at having "strangers attempt to hijack the meeting" (referring to the earlier actions by Mr. Puciloski and Mr. Seitz), he listed a number of concerns for which he could find no answers in the application: what type of runoff there would be, and where would it end up; what about off-gassing of carbon dioxide; what about the extent of light pollution at night; what are the specifics of the security required – fencing, razor wire, policing, and what about the temptation for law-breaking as a result of the all-cash financial dealings of marijuana transactions.

David Cicchetti of Mill River asked what consideration had been given to the possibility of such a large facility being built and then being shut down if the Federal Department of Justice moved against states that have legalized marijuana.

Barbara Marchione queried the Planning Board as to whether industrial parks were even allowed under New Marlborough's protective bylaws, to which James Mullen replied that the town has a single zone, and besides, he added, "it's a greenhouse." This triggered a number of questions as to what exactly is the definition of a greenhouse, and whether the types of greenhouses and marijuana processing buildings envisioned in the Oasis plan were comparable to the types of greenhouses that existed when the protective bylaws came into being in 1966. Dan Doern asked, "How can we approve something we can't even define?"

More residents stood to voice their concerns, including Michel and Peggy Richard, who are the new owners of a home in the middle of the proposed marijuana facility. Mrs. Richard spoke of her fears of being surrounded by lights, alarms, and surveillance cameras, and Mr. Richard spoke sardonically of the ways by which he must abide the conditions of a basically failed sub-division's covenant (no chickens, no log cabins), while potentially living in the midst of an enormous pot farm.

At a point where the questions and concerns from the assembled crowd seemed to be rehashing the same points, Chairman Tiso gave the floor to Mr. Puciloski and Mr. Seitz, but not without continuing vocal displeasure from some attendees. Some of the crowd seemed unhappy that the Power Point show was being allowed to proceed, while others appeared angry that they could not see the screen well enough or hear the comments of the two men, and a few people seemed, somewhat paradoxically, to harbor both complaints at once.

Nevertheless, Mr. Puciloski forged ahead, stating to the Planning Board members that the greenhouses would be "like terrariums," recycling the water that the plants would require. He also spoke of the creation of "impervious areas," likely meaning that any runoff would not make its way through the gravel to the underlying aquifer. He said the interiors are isolated, so there would be no air contamination, and there would be no light pollution at night from the greenhouses or from the security measures that would surround the site. He further stated that there would be no guns allowed on site, as per state regulations, and that fencing would be also according to state regulations.

Mr. Puciloski went on to say that Oasis Campus LLC



*Michel Paul Richard, who, with his wife Peggy, owns the house that is nearest to the proposed marijuana facility, addresses the Planning Board meeting, spoke of the ironies he has found in the couple's situation. Joshua Seitz, in the near foreground, listens.*

*photo by Larry Burke*

would become “the largest taxpayer in town, by far.” On top of that, he reminded the Planning Board members that 3 percent of the gross income of the operation would go to the Town. At this point, Mr. Seitz, who had been largely silent throughout the meeting, added that, since he would not run the actual marijuana farming and manufacturing himself, there would be “multiple tenants, which would mean multiple inputs.” He clarified that statement by saying that each of the independent contractors would be considered as separate entities, each giving 3 percent of their earnings to the Town.



Oasis Campus CEO Joshua Seitz looks at a rendering of a proposed greenhouse during his lawyer Peter Puciloski’s attempt at a PowerPoint presentation during the February 28 Planning Board meeting.  
*photo by Larry Burke*

At the conclusion of the Oasis slideshow, Mr. Tiso invited further comment from the attendees. Barbara Marchione stated that, in her former capacity as Emergency Services Director for the Town, she had seen that whenever bad weather arrived, that area along Route 57 in Hartsville was always the most prone to flooding. She added that she thought a traffic study of this sector should be added to the list of requirements for the application.

Lucinda Shmulsky, who lives on Adsit Crosby Road in Hartsville expressed her concern about water usage by the Oasis Campus project, saying that “Dry Hill is named that for a reason.” She said that she knows of four wells that had gone dry in the summers, just since 2010. She then went on to invoke the New Marlborough Open Space and Recreation Plan’s primary goals for New Marlborough’s future: the preservation of open spaces and rural character, access to recreational space, protection of natural resources, most especially our water, and furthering New Marlborough’s historic integrity and scenic beauty.

In bringing this bumptious meeting to a close, Peter Tiso summed up the concerns that he and the Board had heard and would be passing on to the Board of Selectmen. The leading issue was clearly that of water supply and the threat of pollutants to the water table, on the latter of which he speculated there may be some design solutions to mitigate potential damage. Next there are concerns over signage, fencing, the large parking areas, and the threat of light pollution. Patricia Hardyman said that the application did not sufficiently answer some of these issues. Mr. Tiso added that he felt that the application’s request for “other related activities” was too general. He also expressed concern that the actual users of the property will not be the applicants, but third parties, creating potential difficulties in enforcing the conditions of the Special Permit. The uncertainty about who might bear ultimate responsibility to the Town led him to wonder out loud, “Are we permitting the right person, or persons, in this process?” With that the meeting was adjourned, right around 10:00 p.m. □

*Larry Burke*

# POTLUCK DINNER

April 7, 6:00 p.m.

at the New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery

Bring a dish and enjoy conversations with your New Marlborough friends and neighbors and music by singer-songwriter Christa Joy

Potluck contributions by last name initials ~ bring

A - G ~ main dish

H - N ~ salad or vegetable

O - S ~ dessert

T - Z ~ appetizers or snacks

Please feel free to bring your own wine or beer

Sponsored by the New Marlborough Cultural Council

## PRECISION AUTOCRAFT INC



- PPG Paint Guarantee
- BBB Accredited Business
- Eco-Friendly Waterborne Paint
- Laser Frame Measuring
- Plastic Welding
- We Arrange For Rental Cars
- Open Mon-Fri 8:00-5:00

PERFECTING THE ART OF COLLISION REPAIR SINCE 1979

1939 N Main St (Rt 7), Sheffield MA 01257  
(413) 528-1457

[www.precision-auto.com](http://www.precision-auto.com)

[email: precision.auto@roadrunner.com](mailto:precision.auto@roadrunner.com)



# GRASSROOTS ALIVE AND WELL IN NEW MARLBOROUGH

By Sandra Fusco-Walker

Rebecca Schreiber, a research scientist, hadn't planned to become a grassroots activist when she attended a meeting last year in Lenox about the state's new recreational marijuana law. Attorney Raymond Miyares presented information about the new law and reviewed potential steps towns could take to regulate the new industry before the state starts accepting license applications April 1, 2018. Concerned about this issue, Ms. Schreiber approached town officials to share what she'd learned and inquire what they planned to do to prepare New Marlborough in advance of applications for marijuana businesses.

Meanwhile, last spring Doug and Julia Trumbull of Southfield attended Board of Selectmen's meetings to learn more about efforts by a developer, Joshua Seitz, who had started conversations at Board meetings about his desire to open a marijuana campus near the Trumbulls' backyard in Southfield. Mr. Seitz's vision is to provide a space for businesses to cultivate, manufacture, and test medical and recreational marijuana. Although the former Kolbourne School property Mr. Seitz was interested in purchasing was sold to local farmer, Tom Brazie, the Trumbulls continued to attend meetings, including Attorney Miyares' presentation, and researched neighboring towns' attempts to prepare for this new industry.

Throughout the end of 2017, Ms. Schreiber and the Trumbulls continued to share information with town officials and question what steps they were taking to protect New Marlborough's interests. At their urging, the Board of Selectman invited Tom Matszuko of the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission for a public meeting about the new law. On November 29, Mr. Matszuko explained the different types of marijuana licenses, discussed upcoming draft regulations, and informed the town that all applications will be subject to the protective bylaws that are in place at the time an application is submitted. In New Marlborough's case, current protective bylaws do not include language specific to marijuana businesses.

Ms. Schreiber was surprised when she heard in January of this year that the Planning Board had determined they would wait for final regulations to be issued by the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission before addressing whether New Marlborough needed more regulations beyond the town's special permit process.

On January 29, 2018, Mr. Seitz, doing business as Oasis Campus LLC presented an application to the Board of Selectman for a marijuana business at an old gravel pit located on Hartsville New Marlborough Road.

Frustrated and concerned that a decision made by three people on the Planning Board did not reflect the voice of the town and, now, with an application in process, Ms. Schreiber found herself reaching out to people she knew, and people she didn't know, to ask for help and discuss options voters in town might have.

Running into Deanna Mummert was an alignment of the stars, as both women agreed a lack of bylaws left the town unprotected and unprepared to regulate the new industry. Determined to give voters a voice, they investigated how to go about filing a petition for a moratorium, believing it was the best solution to give the town the time needed to study the implications and what, if any, bylaws needed to be put in place.

Ms. Mummert stated, "We were watching the Cannabis Control Commission and following what other states had done around this issue. On April 1, there will be people knocking on our town's door. A realtor told me they are getting phone calls from people looking for large pieces of land in towns where they can grow and manufacture marijuana."

Massachusetts, a state with a long history of government by the people, has a process whereby

## CALLING FOR SUBMISSIONS JURIED ART SHOW

"Small Works"



AT THE NEW MARLBOROUGH  
MEETING HOUSE GALLERY  
ON RTE 57, NEW MARLBOROUGH



TO BE JURIED BY  
JACOB FOSSUM AND DAN KARP  
FACULTY IN TWO-DIMENSIONAL  
AND THREE-DIMENSIONAL ARTS AT  
BARD COLLEGE AT SIMON'S ROCK



OPENING JUNE 22, 5 TO 7PM  
THE SHOW WILL RUN FROM  
JUNE 23 TO JULY 22, 2018

Interested artists should contact  
Elizabeth Lombardi for a prospectus.  
Email her at [elizabeth.mill.river@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.mill.river@gmail.com)  
or at 413-229-8972

SPONSORED BY THE NEW MARLBOROUGH VILLAGE ASSOCIATION AND THE NEW MARLBOROUGH CULTURAL COUNCIL



citizens can petition their boards of selectmen for a special town meeting. An article for the warrant and a petition signed by 200 registered voters or 10 percent of registered voters, whichever is less, must be submitted to the town clerk. Once the special town meeting is scheduled, others may add articles to the warrant with a petition signed by either 100 registered voters or 10 percent of registered voters, whichever is less.

The group is adamant that the petition for the moratorium is not about banning marijuana. They all supported legalization; however, they strongly believe if marijuana is to be grown, manufactured, or sold in a town, the town should have a plan and that bylaws are the way to do that. "It wasn't about my agenda. I am not anti-marijuana," Ms. Schreiber said. "I wanted all of us to have a vote on the issue, that everyone in town, who wanted to, could actually vote. We can all disagree on lots of different things, but on this issue many people in town came together and agreed we need to plan."

Doug Trumbull shared, "When we applied for our special permit, we had to provide detailed drawings – complete engineering plans had to be included with our application. I don't understand how the town accepted the Oasis application without those details. There's nothing about light manufacturing or industrial businesses covered in the town bylaws, and I think the town needs to really look at this. We need to separate the cannabis issue from the issue of a large manufacturing facility."

Ms. Schreiber and Ms. Mummert working with the Trumbulls pulled their resources together quickly and the Concerned Citizens of New Marlborough was born. They wanted people to decide on their own if a moratorium was to the town's advantage and if so, sign the petition to hold a special town meeting where a vote would occur. Ms. Schreiber, although not a lawyer, called other small towns and found help creating the article to address a moratorium that needed to accompany the petition.

The group scheduled three two-hour informational meetings on February 24, 25, and 26 at the New Marlborough Meeting House. Through emails, phone calls, and visiting local establishments to get the word out, the group shared packets of information and answered questions while standing ready with their clipboards supporting pages of the petition.

As word of the petition spread, the group heard from people who couldn't make it to the Meeting House. Volunteers from town stepped up and took clipboards to their neighbors' homes. "We went door to door, even at night," Ms. Mummert stated during an interview at the Southfield Store. "We visited people in their kitchens and living rooms and they told us their stories."

Ms. Mummert went on to share that people had misconceptions about what a moratorium would do. "They thought it would stop people from growing plants in their backyard and they didn't agree with that. People were adamant they wanted their rights. We showed them information about the Oasis Campus application and showed them the proposed map. They were surprised and asked, 'This? In our town?' Then they signed their name and said they were glad we told them."

Some people stated firmly they wouldn't sign the petition but were asked to just take the information with them and call if they had any questions. Several returned and signed. "We told people that without protective laws we actually lose our freedoms. It's a free-for-all, then, for companies. Protective bylaws give you freedom, if done correctly," said Ms. Mummert.

Their goal was to provide information about the current Oasis application and the implications of manufacturing businesses moving into town without the protection of bylaws. They hoped to hold a special town meeting before the April 1 deadline when the state began accepting applications.

It was a goal they believed could be achieved. And they did achieve it, for the most part; 262 voters signed the petition, which was then presented to the town clerk on Monday, February 26. With the clock ticking, the group learned that due to legal requirements (ratifying signatures, committee meetings, public postings, and a required public hearing) the date of the meeting would need to be pushed further out.

The Planning Board scheduled the Public Hearing on the moratorium for Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. The Board of Selectman scheduled the Special Town Meeting for Friday, April 13, 2018 at 7:00 p.m., at which time two-thirds vote of the town meeting must approve the moratorium in order for it to pass.

When asked if there was a plan if the moratorium fails, Julia Trumbull responded, "Well, I believe in consensus, and the town has a voice. There are the individual voices and then the one voice of the entire town. My feelings are, if it doesn't pass, then we have to deal with it. As unfortunate as I think that would be, and as unprepared as I believe we are to manage this, we would have to deal with it."

Ms. Trumbull continued, "I found this to be a rewarding experience, to see people from all walks of life responding and having a passion for our town. I love it, and it reinforces the feeling of caring in our town – the sense of community." □

## ANNUAL POTLUCK SUPPER SCHEDULED

The New Marlborough Cultural Council is planning the annual town potluck supper for Saturday, April 7. It will again be held in the New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Past potlucks have shown that this is a fine opportunity to enjoy the culinary talents of our townsfolk and relax in conversation with our friends and neighbors. There will be an interlude of local musical entertainment, followed by further informal conversation.

The alphabet has been divided to ensure a balance of dishes, depending on your last name:

- A – G Main dish
- H – N Salad or vegetable
- O – S Dessert
- T – Z Appetizers or snacks

Plates, cups, glasses, and cutlery will be provided, as will tea, coffee, and a variety of soft drinks and juices. Please feel free to bring your own wine or beer if you wish – many people do.

The food is delicious, the evening is fun, and the Council hopes to see you there, hopefully to welcome springtime! □

Barbara Lowman



**Sweet:** On February 10, the Library held its annual “Sweets for Your Sweet” Valentine’s chocolate celebration. The chocolate fountain is always popular, with the predictable facial results. And what an impressive array of treats! All proceeds from the event benefit Library programming. photos by Debbie O’Brien

**Reiner White & Sons, Inc.**  
Remodel - Additions - New Construction  
**413-229-8450**

Call today to join our family  
new customers welcome

**KIMBALL FUEL**

FUEL OIL • PROPANE • DIESEL •  
• BIO FUEL • SERVICE & INSTALLATION

168 Main Street Great Barrington 413-528-1410



## The SBRSD Assessment

### UP FOR THE DISTRICT — DOWN FOR NEW MARLBOROUGH

The good news is that New Marlborough's contribution to the FY19 Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) is slated to decline by \$166,616. Under the new budget proposal, New Marlborough will be assessed \$2,840,455, compared to just over \$3 million last year.

The bad news is that the total assessment for the District will rise once again — despite another decline in student enrollment. In the proposed budget, adopted by the School Committee March 15, operating and transportation costs will rise — to \$16,690,011, an increase of \$373,298, or 1.98 percent, over the FY18 budget. Continuing a decades-long trend, enrollment will be down eighteen students to 644 districtwide in the school year starting in September — on top of a drop of 110 students in the three previous years. (The decreases this year, however, are uneven: New Marlborough will send twenty fewer students to District schools; Sheffield, whose assessment increases by \$542,321, eight more.)

So, why does the budget keep rising while enrollment drops? The answer, says SBRSD Finance Committee Chairman Dennis Sears, is the cost of educational excellence. In high school, for example, there are more honors programs, more advance placement courses. At the elementary-school level, there is the growing use of the "Individualized Education Program," a one-on-one, customized learning protocol fashioned by paraprofessionals to help students who have fallen behind or have come to school ill-prepared. "It's relatively easy to reduce costs," says Mr. Sears. "Give students a poorer education, but then families will not move here."

Giving students a better education shows up on the balance sheet. The budget line for paraprofessionals increases by 5.3 percent in FY19; the dollar value of

textbooks more than doubles; the salaries of classroom teachers are budgeted at \$3,168,953, an increase of 15.9 percent over FY18. "We are trying to be as lean and mean as we can be," says District Superintendent Beth Regulbuto, "but the budget process is all about keeping qualified people."

As this issue of the *5 Village News* goes to press, negotiations on three contracts — for teaching professionals, secretaries and paraprofessionals, and food service and maintenance personnel, all of which expire June 30 — are underway. The District administration hopes it has sufficiently budgeted for the new contracts; if not, it will cut staff or find savings elsewhere. It will not increase the overall dollar figure.

The budget must be ratified by least at least four of the five district towns at their annual town meetings, all of which occur in the first two weeks of May. New Marlborough's Annual Town Meeting is May 7. □

Joe Poindexter

### Heating Systems and Tank Installations Repairs and Services

"We don't sell oil, we save oil!"



**INDEPENDENT  
HEATING**

License# 059667 MA  
License# 392664 CT

James Lane  
Southfield, MA 01259  
413-229-2370

## THE WHIP SHOP



OFFICE & STUDIO SPACE  
High Speed Fiber Optic Internet

**\$375 to \$400 / Month**

- In Southfield Village Center
- Cell Phone Service
- On Site US Post Office
- Steps from the Southfield Store

FOR AVAILABILITY, CONTACT:  
413-229-3576  
thebuggywhipfactorysouthfield@gmail.com  
Southfield, MA | thebuggywhipfactorysouthfield.com

## BROADBAND UPDATE

# SOME MOVEMENT, MORE DELAYS

by Barry R. Shapiro

At its meeting on March 1, the Committee determined that it would take the important step of issuing a request for proposals (RFP) to prospective internet providers by March 7. Required by procurement law, the RFP is a critical step in which bidders present their detailed, formal proposals to the Town. The hope was to issue the RFP, get responses in two weeks, quickly determine the bidder best suited for the Town's needs, hold an information meeting for the Town's residents, and then, if all fell into place, propose a borrowing authorization at the Annual Town Meeting on May 7.

These best laid plans, however, went astray when a series of complex questions arose; the advice of counsel was required, and time was lost.

The primary questions involved the intricacies of procurement law and whether the RFP should be issued by the Town under Section 30B of Massachusetts law or issued by the Town's Municipal Lighting Plant, in which case the rules of Section 30B do not apply.

"There are lots of moving pieces," said Richard Long, chairman of the Committee. "There are many restrictions under 30B, including the possible need to file a home rule petition with the state, something which would cause further delays."

Addressing the large crowd that attended a Committee meeting on March 12, when the delay in issuing the RFP was announced, Mr. Long added, "I see lots of confused looks. I don't blame you. We need advice of counsel on these issues. We would like to issue just one RFP for both construction of the network and our long-term maintenance contract. We need to make sure we can do this."

All internet options will require that the Town borrow some funds for construction. "All options require borrowing," confirmed Mr. Long. He further indicated that financing the project through a lease arrangement, something which was discussed last month and which would require only a simple majority at town meeting rather than a two-thirds vote for a borrowing, is now considered "problematic" and likely not a viable alternative.

The interested providers that have submitted informal proposals to the Committee have not changed since last month and include Westfield Gas and Electric, Crocker Communications, Matrix Communications and Fiber Connect. Charter Communications (also known as Spectrum) has recently expressed an interest. Mr. Long also confirmed that a Town-owned network remains a possibility. The Committee's objective is for internet service to be provided to at least 96 percent of the entire town, something which not all of the informal propos-

als would accomplish without the Town incurring significant debt. To further complicate matters, a transaction with Charter would be governed by existing cable law and not have to go through the procurement process.

Mr. Long advised, subsequent to the March 12 meeting, that counsel has advised that just one RFP under Section 30B is required, not two, something that Mr. Long characterized as good news. Mr. Long confirmed that the Committee plans to issue the RFP not later than the second week in April.

Coordination with the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), the state agency that will provide a significant grant to fund a portion of the project, is also critical. MBI recently formally outlined the criteria that will have to be met for the Town to receive its grant for the Matrix and Fiber Connect proposals. These grants will not be paid to the Town until the project is completed (the Town will need to fund its share of the project cost until MBI reimburses it). Both Matrix and Fiber Connect would wire at least 96 percent of the Town. The Westfield and Crocker grants would be paid by MBI upfront, but neither Westfield nor Crocker would wire the entire Town, with the Town borrowing significant additional funds.

The criteria for funding Matrix and Fiber Connect outlined by MBI closely parallel those described verbally to the Committee by MBI representatives at a meeting on February 16: (1) compliance with all procurement and other applicable laws, (2) completion of construction, (3) no litigation pending or threatened, (4) at least 50 percent of all customers who are eligible to receive service are actually being served, and (5) a long-term service agreement has been entered into by the Town and the provider.

In light of the recent delay, the ambitious plan to have the citizens vote on the project at the Annual Town Meeting on May 7 has now evaporated. The Committee hopes that a special town meeting will be called as soon thereafter as possible. The meeting would be dedicated solely to the broadband project and voting on the required funding. Prior to the town meeting, the Committee still plans to hold an information meeting for the town's residents so that all options for the town can be explored.

"The sooner we get this done, the better," Mr. Long said, a sentiment with which not many in town would argue. □

## Upcoming: Events Calendar for April and May

**April 7: Annual Pot Luck Supper**, cook it, bring it, and enjoy the culinary skills of your fellow townspeople; 6:00 p.m. New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery on the village green, sponsored by the Cultural Council. Musical entertainment by singer-songwriter Christa Joy, accompanied by dobro player Michael Stevens

**April 8: Rabies Clinic**, at the Firehouse in Southfield, 10:00 a.m. to noon; rabies shots (required for dogs and cats in Massachusetts, \$10 per vaccination), dog licenses, cake sale

**April 11: Planning Board hearing** on temporary moratorium on commercial manufacturing of marijuana, Town Hall, 6:00 p.m.

**April 13: Special Town Meeting** on moratorium, Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.

**April 14: The Land Trust's Red Hot Blues Bash**, the annual hoedown with food, drinks, and two special auctions; at Gedney Farm, tickets on sale starting March 10

**April 23: Last day to register to vote** at the Town Annual Meeting; see Kathy Chretien at the Town Hall, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. or 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**April 23: Special permit hearing** on ground-mounted solar projects, Town Hall

**April 29: Spring road cleanup**, sponsored by the Land Trust. Meet at 10:00 a.m. in Town Hall parking lot; lunch to follow at Old Inn on the Green

**May 7: Annual Town Meeting**, Town Hall, 7:00 p.m. This is the way democracy works in small New England towns; let your voice be heard

**May 12: Collection for Cultural Council's white elephant sale** at Elihu Burritt Day; 10:00 a.m. to noon, Rooney House on New Marlborough Southfield Road

**May 14: Annual Town Election**, noon to 7:00 p.m., downstairs in the Town Hall

## VOTERS TO CONSIDER TOWN-OWNED POT FARM

A warrant article at May's town meeting will ask for voters to approve construction of a "marijuana production facility to be wholly owned and operated by the Town of New Marlborough." Initial production would be medical marijuana, or as Uncle Jessie Duke often said of his moonshine, "for medicinal purposes

only." Proponents have stated that this concept could pay the entire cost of broadband infrastructure in one year, as all labor would be provided by senior citizens in lieu of property tax payments. Residents would be eligible for discounted pricing by showing their Transfer Station sticker.



**Hill Town Recycling**

**413.854.8866**

**Residential Recycling & Waste Removal  
at Your Curb or Doorstep**

p.o. box 46 • sandisfield, ma 01255 • hilltownrecycling@gmail.com

SCOTT  
  
MacKENZIE  
EXCAVATING

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

## The Way We Were

# JANICE STILES BOULTS

By Joe Poindexter

If New Marlborough had royalty, Janice Stiles Boults would be wearing ermine and a tiara. Her family goes back to the New Marlborough of the 1700s. She was raised in the distinctive Victorian manse, still a landmark in Southfield village, that was built in 1900 by her great grandfather Howard Augustus Cook (of Turner and Cook fame), right next door to an equally grand house built in the 1800s by her great-great grandfather, James Monroe Cook. (This house burned to the ground in the mid-1950s.) The Howard Cook house passed on to Janice's grandfather Palmer Cook, and then to her mother, Martha Cook, who married Henry (Bud) Stiles. "The house was my security, my comfort, my anchor," says Janice.

What it was not, however, was her castle. The Southfield of the 1950s and '60s — Janice was born in 1957 — was a kind of paradise of social equality. "Every single house was bursting with children," she recalls, "and everybody knew everybody." In the evenings, people would stroll Norfolk Road, Southfield's main street, and stop to chat with families seated on their front porches. You knew you were welcome as long as the porch light was on. "We were porch people," says Janice.

After-school and weekends, when swarms of Southfield kids were in perpetual motion throughout the village, were a different story. In the summer, they played softball on the corner lot at the intersection of Norfolk and East Hill Roads (the Southfield Store parking lot is there now), biked Norfolk Road, and hiked in the surrounding woods. "We made our own trails," says Janice. In the winter, they skated and sledged. All year round, they were continually in and out of each other's houses.

They would gather at the Southfield Store for sodas — in glass bottles, Janice recalls fondly — and build forts on Sunset Rock, on the hill above the village. But for all their freedom, they did observe a set of what Janice calls "unwritten rules": You didn't cross the bridge at the head of Norfolk Road or go farther than its intersection with Branch Road to the south. And you didn't play in the



Neighborhood kids, back row, from left: Janice, Bruce Consolini, and brother Stuart; front row, from left: Tom Sanford, David Edelman, brother Bruce, and Laurie Carson

Photos courtesy Janice Stiles Boults



Janice at her college graduation, flanked by her mother, Martha, grandmother Frances Cook, and father, Henry (Bud) Stiles

cemetery. Otherwise you were on your own. "We'd go out in the morning, and not come back home until the street lights came on," she says.

Janice was so independent that as a three-year-old she would, as she recalls, toddle off by herself to visit her grandparents a little ways down Norfolk Road. Was this allowed? "No," says Janice, "I just did it. I was a little headstrong." She is the youngest of five Stiles children, but her closest sibling is nine years older. They were off on pursuits of their own, so there was not a lot of

supervision from them.

From first grade to fourth, Southfield children went to New Marlborough Central. There were so many of them that the school bus made three stops right in the village, picking up, by Janice's recollection, fifteen kids at the Southfield Store, eight to ten in front of the Whip Shop, and another eight in front of the Stiles house. For three of those years, Janice was taught by a neighbor, Dorothea Burnett, which turned out to be a mixed blessing. Janice was struggling in math, so Mrs. Burnett told her to stop by after school for a bit of extra help. Not Janice's first choice of afternoon activity, but she did it, learning fractions, for instance, with the help of Mrs. Burnett's measuring cups — and managed to pass math.

Then there was middle school at Mount Everett and

bus rides with teenage girls, where Janice was introduced to the mysteries of nylon stockings, make-up, and making out. During high school, she had summer jobs. She was sixteen when she worked at the whip shop — she can still remember the acrid smell of rawhide — the first of many jobs. She also worked at Flying Cloud Inn and Berkshire Mountain Spring and did a lot of baby-sitting.

Five years after graduating high school, Janice took off for Boston, soon realized she needed further education, and entered a two-year program in business management at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. After earning her degree in 1981, she returned to Boston for work with an investment firm. On the plus side was the energy of the city. “It left me with my mouth hanging open,” she says of her initial reaction. “I loved it.” On the minus side was the lack of community. “People were not friendly, and there was no sense of neighborhood,” she says. She made frequent trips back home and, after ten years of city life, decided she was a country girl after all.



Three-year-old Janice on her front porch with pals Bobby and Alvin Stalker. Alvin staged a re-enactment of the long-ago photo, complete with tricycle



Janice, at her home on Foley Hill Road  
photo by Joe Poindexter

She returned to New Marlborough in 1988, and married Chris Boults — in a ceremony atop Mount Everett — in October 1989.

Ten years ago, with their mother deceased and their father in an assisted living facility, the five Stiles children, scattered to homes of their own, decided to sell the homestead. For the first time since it was built, the house was owned by someone (actually two people, Robert Olsen and Tom Masters) not named (or maiden-named) Cook. But Janice has held onto one small shard of family history: The Boults’ car bears Massachusetts license plate number 9429, the same number that was attached to her great grandfather’s 1905 Knox two-cylinder Model D. □

## Thank You to Our Contributors!

Helen Maher; William & Claire Gillette; Raymond Tryon;  
Sandra Contreras & Lisi DeHaas; Graeme Whitelaw; Anonymous.



Buying,  
Selling,  
Daydreaming...

**Berkshire**  
**Real Estate Guide**

## NEIGHBORS



Added to the roster of New Marlborough employees who have mastered the art and science of road maintenance the name of **Paul Krom**. Our Highway Department foreman was recently recognized by the Baystate Roads Program as its newest Master Roads Scholar. To earn this distinction, Paul attended some two dozen workshops of six hours or more each. He joins Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring in this elite group of road cognoscenti.



Paul Krom

**Walter Simons** died at his home on County Road in Mill River on February 16 at age eighty-nine. He and his wife **Mary**, who pre-deceased him, bought their house there in 1974. An accomplished artist, he was a frequent

exhibitor in New Marlborough Village Association Gallery shows. He was known among his friends in New Marlborough as a man of compassion, understated wit, and trenchant observation.

Walter graduated from Dartmouth College in 1952 and then earned a Master's degree at New York University. He held executive positions with Standard Oil in Indonesia and with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome, Italy. Upon his return to the United States, he founded the Industry Council for Development, an NGO dedicated to agricultural development in third world countries.

Walter's daughter, **Alex Houston**, remembers both parents: "My mother loved to entertain and garden, and her kitchen was designed to allow her to cook for many. My dad made sure that her gardens continued to be cared for after she died, and they remain a true testament to her love of flowers and nature. My dad's passion was his art and his studio in Mill River. He also loved the outdoor; he and my mother enjoyed long walks in many places in New Marlborough."

**Sheila Baird**, of Mill River, was very familiar with Walter's professional as well as personal life: "Walter was a Renaissance man: A wonderful painter who poured his heart into his work, a culture hound who loved the opera and the ballet, an engaging story teller. He was a globalist before we knew what that work meant. He and Mary spent the early years of their marriage in Indonesia. He continued to be deeply involved in third world projects throughout his life, often to do with the provision of clean water to the local populations. Right to the end he was helping a silk worm producer in Madagascar establish a sustainable business. His life was rewarding and full of accomplishments. He adored his loving and devoted family and was proud of each and every one.

From **Pam and Dick Stebbins**, of New Marlborough village: "The Simons have been a lovely addition to the New Marlborough second-home community since the early 1970s. Walter and his wife Mary, who pre-deceased him in 2014, rented for several summers before buying an old house on County Road. Following an extensive renovation, the house became the well-loved meeting place for a somewhat far-flung family.

Walter's passion in life was art. His paintings were shown regularly in the Meeting House Gallery and adorn the walls of several friends and neighbors. He was greatly inspired by the beauty of the Berkshires, and his abstract paintings often reflect that. He also created whimsical sculpture from objects found on his many walks around neighboring properties.

His appreciation of the rural charm of Mill River and interest in protecting it made Walter an active member of the New Marlborough Land Trust. He was particularly interested in protecting the former farmlands surrounding his house. He will be missed.

**Gloria and Mike Levitas**, also of New Marlborough village, recall decades of friendship: "Mike and I met Walter in Rome in 1971 or '72. He was working there with his wife, Mary, whom both of us knew from the New York Times. We liked him immediately and the four of us spent a week or so sampling the best restaurants in that city. When they returned from Italy, we invited the Simons here for a weekend. They fell in love with New Marlborough and shortly afterwards, acquired the lovely Victorian farmhouse (then a wreck with good bones) and transformed it into the beautiful home that it is today. We spent a glorious week at their home in Umbria, partied together on numerous New Year Eves; ate wonderful meals at both our homes, and engaged in endless



Walter Simons

political discussions – often focused on agriculture because Walter was working for the FAO and our son was farming in Iowa.

What Mike and I loved about Walter (and there was a lot to love) was his gentle nature. I can't imagine him losing his temper, although he could be quietly ferocious when addressing social injustice or agricultural crime. And when he talked with you, no matter who or how old you were, he gave you his full attention and respect.

In some ways, despite his keen intelligence and his often-grim encounters with political realities, he viewed the world with optimism and wonder – as if each day promised a new adventure. Walter loved his work, but his joy came from within: he adored his wife, his children and his grandchildren, and took enormous pleasure in sharing his passion for painting with them. The last time we spoke with him, he told us how happy he was that his granddaughter had decided to live in New Marlborough and farm — a truly meaningful contribution to sustainable agriculture, a goal he sought throughout his life.”

With sadness, we learned that **The Reverend Joseph P. Bishop** passed away on March 12, less than two weeks before his 100th birthday. Joe was a retired Episcopal minister who lived in Mill River and was deeply involved with the Southfield Church for many years. He will be interred in the New Marlborough Cemetery on April 7. A memorial service and reception will be held at the Southfield Church following his interment.

A tribute to Reverend Bishop will appear in the May issue so that those affected by his presence may share their memories. □

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



Reverend Joe Bishop

## OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS



photo by Don Beauchamp

A photogenic bobcat in Clayton

An SOS email to some of the folks in town who contribute on occasion to this column bore fruit, some of it quite rare and delicious, as you shall see. Our stalwart wildlife reporter **Don Beauchamp** wrote in, saying, “Not much going on in Clayton, but between snowstorms I was riding my bike and a **bobcat** ran right behind me and then sat down and just looked at me.” One could say that an encounter like Don was so fortunate to have had is not exactly “not much going on!” Don went on to say that, on March 16, he observed between twelve and eighteen **red-winged blackbirds**, a **grackle**, and **several robins**. The red-wings have been noted in Hartsville and up on Woodruff Mountain as well, always a welcome sign that spring can't be too, too far away. The snowstorms of March may have had the blackbirds and the early-arriving robins trying to reset their internal clocks.

**Sandra Fusco-Walker** sent a mysterious photo in on March 7. “I'm attaching a photo here, un-retouched and with the date and time stamp from my Moultrie outdoor camera. This is my **ghost bird** that we've caught on camera a couple of times now. I'm sure it's the flash or ...is it?” Any thoughts from our readers?

**Ann Getsinger** wrote in, also on March 7, with the following account: “I have reliable daily sightings of a flock of about thirty gorgeous **turkeys** who clearly feel safe and comfortable in my yard and field. They clean up around the bird feeder and leave their huge footprints everywhere. If it's sunny out, they occasionally all just stand perfectly still for long periods, or other times have personal cleaning sessions where they fluff their feathers, shake wildly, stretch wings, peck away at their under-feathered parts, while a few energetic ones fly up into the tree tops and just walk around.”



photo by Sandra Fusco-Walker

Sandra Walker's Ghostly bird

Ann goes on to say, "Suddenly **deer** are everywhere. A few of them did me a huge favor yesterday. Around sunset I was approaching the long sharp curve near the river, driving up from Clayton north of the mile-long cornfield, headed for Mill River, when I saw a scattering of beautifully-lit deer on the nearby hillside off to my left. I slowed way down to get a good look, and, just as I was about to accelerate again into that long, blind curve, a lunatic young guy in a big silver truck came barreling around that corner, well over on to my side of the road. I'm sort of sure that those deer either saved my life or me from serious injury. Dear deer!"

In answer to the above-mentioned plea for material for the column, Southfieldian **Ari Korpivaara**, perhaps experiencing a bit of cabin fever, wrote, "I would love to help, but I've checked everywhere and come up with nothing. The **raccoon** in the barn isn't rummaging around. Probably sleeping it off up in the hayloft. The snow has covered up the **woodchuck** hole on the hillside. Never did find the location of the emergency exit. The **deer**, so often strolling through the meadow or daintily crossing the river, are nowhere in sight, not even hoof prints or pellets of scat in the snow. No **skunks**, no **turkeys**. Of course, there are plenty of **mice** in the house, but who

wants to hear more about them? Our beautiful New Marlborough **heron**, which often glides so effortlessly over the Umpachene, is visiting relatives down at the wildlife refuge in Sanibel. I hope it comes back. I hope they all return when the days get warmer and the land turns green again. Just now I caught a glimpse of two **arctic wolves, probably Norwegian**, running from the river toward the cemetery. I won't lie to you, they were so white against the blinding snow that, except for the blur of motion, I couldn't swear to their appearance in court. That's what winter does to you. You see things and wonder if they're real."



photo by Ann Geisinger

Turkey in the straw, er...tree



photo by Daniel Doern

The elusive Sasquorkie

In a similar, perhaps hallucinatory, vein, **Dan Doern** reported on a disturbing situation in Mill River: "I got a shot of a very rarely seen creature feeding at the edge of our woods. It turns out that there was a litter of highly refined, purebred **Yorkshire Terriers** released into the wild just over 100 years ago by a very famous Russian opera singer who had a summer cottage just down the road from here. It turns out that this soprano, Ima Yorkiluvah, was a Bolshevik spy, plotting to overthrow the government of the United States. At this time, unlike today, our government was concerned about hostile influences and aggressively sought to eliminate the hazard they posed to our democracy and freedom. So, the Feds came to arrest her. As they approached, she released her pets up into the woods

of Brewer Hill. Fast forward to today...these amazing creatures have somehow adapted to the wild, become quite predatory and aggressive, and have evolved into the realms of the mythical? **Sasquorkies**. They have made their home in the hills of New Marlborough, though, like the mountain lion, their existence is not acknowledged by the Commonwealth. Have there been any other sightings?"

A rare creature indeed, but perhaps not so rare as the rarest of rare, the **calico catbird**, captured on film, amazingly, on the first day of this month by **Larry Burke**. This bird is currently listed on the Extra Super Endangered List, not because of any man-made or environmental perils, but because of its own very bad habit of stalking itself. Once it captures itself, the calico catbird proceeds to torture itself for a while, before finally settling down to devouring itself, starting at the head and working its way down. It's a naughty bird. □

Compiled by Larry Burke, lburke2@me.com



photo by Larry Burke

Calico catbird, *Mimidis autocannibalis*



## MOUNT EVERETT STUDENTS JOIN NATION-WIDE PROTEST

By Angus Kerr

At 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 14, over 100 students from Mount Everett Regional High School walked out of classrooms to stand in the blustery cold outside of the school. Across the county, thousands of students did the same. For seventeen minutes, they stood to protest the government's inaction to increase gun control laws, and to show solidarity with the survivors of February's deadly mass shooting.

Following the shootings at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, on February 14, which resulted in the tragic deaths of seventeen individuals, survivors called for a nation-wide day of school protests, where every willing student would walk out of class for seventeen minutes, in memory of those who have been killed by gun violence in schools, and in support of tougher gun control legislation. At Mount Everett, students picked up this call to action, and started a deeper conversation with teachers and faculty members about how to equip students with the necessary tools to protest effectively. The result was a series of optional workshops led by teachers, where students could learn how to write appropriately to legislators, how to write informed petitions, how to protest effectively, as well as a workshop on the basic principles of kindness towards one another. Marya Makuc, the student who organized the workshops, talked about how they allowed teachers to spend "time and energy equipping our students with the skills to effect change on any issue at any point in their lives." Around eighty students participated in the workshops on March 14, many from middle school.

At 10:00 a.m., Mount Everett students gathered outside. The seventeen names of those who had been murdered in Parkland, Florida, were read out, followed by a minute of silence in their memory. A rendition of Taps by two Mount Everett trumpet players was followed with



photos by Anna DuPont, a Mount Everett junior

On March 14, over 100 Mount Everett students joined a nationwide student protest against inaction on gun control, and to show solidarity with the survivors at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School. Marya Makuc (above) organized teacher-led workshops on the tools of effective protest, and here, addresses the assembled students.

presentations of the workshops. Then, several short speeches and poems were read aloud by Mount Everett students, asking the United States government to enact stricter gun control laws, or describing the events that have taken place in Parkland and across the country, as students speak out. In theme with many of the workshops and the walkout, students decided to end the event with a symbol of kindness. On Post-it notes, each of the 100 students was asked to write a kind note or compliment, to give to another student. Marya Makuc noted that "the cool thing with the kindness campaign is that you're not only forced to be positive, but someone else's day is made because of what you said." And in a time when so much hate and controversy abounds, this simple message of kindness seemed to be a fitting end to Mount Everett's student walkout. □



## THE LOG

### Police Department (selected entries)

- Feb 2 12:38 a.m. Highway Department advised of icy road conditions town-wide.  
5:05 a.m. The highway superintendent reports that a tractor-trailer has slid cross-wise blocking Adsit Crosby Road.  
7:25 a.m. The driver of a propane truck reports that his vehicle has slid off Hartsville Mill River Road.
- Feb. 3 9:25 a.m. Tree down on Rhoades and Bailey Road.  
4:41 p.m. A motorist reports cows loose on Norfolk Road.
- Feb. 4 3:46 p.m. Department receives a call that a blown transformer has knocked out electrical power to a Sisson Hill Road residence.
- Feb. 5 12:00 a.m. A vehicle slides off Canaan Valley Road.
- Feb 8 8:25 a.m. A report from a County Road resident that she thinks there is a skunk in her attic is referred to the animal control officer and Berkshire Wildlife Solutions.
- Feb 10 6:50 a.m. A Clayton Mill River Road resident, having locked himself out of his car, asks for assistance.  
10:30 a.m. A pick-up truck owner reports that his truck, parked at the Town Hall, was damaged when it was struck by another vehicle, whose operator drove off apparently unaware of the collision.
- Feb. 11 4:48 a.m. A driver runs into a snowbank on New Marlborough Hill Road.
- Feb. 14 5:10 p.m. A resident reports a tree down on Campbell Falls Road.  
7:44 p.m. Caller reports a chainsaw stolen from a Clayton Mill River Road property.
- Feb. 15 2:40 p.m. A resident reports that her license plates have been stolen from her car.
- Feb. 16 1:12 p.m. A Lawrence Avenue resident alerts the Department to a scam hack that has compromised her computer.
- Feb. 17 11:55 p.m. The Highway superintendent is advised that town roads have become snowy and icy.
- Feb. 18 8:22 a.m. Car overturned on an embankment on Adsit Crosby Road.
- Feb. 19 10:29 a.m. Cow loose on Brewer Branch Road.  
4:22 p.m. Two dogs, without collars or tags, reported running loose near Stone Manor Drive.
- Feb. 20 2:35 p.m. Tree on wires on East Hill Road.
- Feb. 21 1:20 p.m. Connecticut State Police request assist-

ance with information on a Southfield resident whose car has been abandoned on the lawn of a Connecticut home.

- Feb. 25 1:48 p.m. Following a complaint from a Southfield village resident, a car is removed from its parking place near the intersection of Norfolk and East Hill Roads.
- Feb. 27 4:25 p.m. Animal Control Officer is contacted after two dogs are reported running loose near the Old Inn on the Green. After determining that the ACO is unavailable, officer transports dogs to a kennel.
- Feb. 28 11:07 a.m. Alerted by a panic alarm, an officer is dispatched to New Marlborough Central School.

*Graham Frank, Chief of Police*

### Fire and Rescue

- Feb. 3 12:31 p.m. Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call  
Feb. 3 6:09 p.m. Mill River Great Barrington Road Medical Call  
Feb. 7 1:58 p.m. Hadsell Street Fire Alarm  
Feb. 8 5:13 p.m. Downs Road Fire Alarm  
Feb. 10 1:13 p.m. Norfolk Road Fire Alarm  
Feb. 16 10:47 a.m. Stone Manor Drive Medical Call  
Feb. 17 12:00 p.m. Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call  
Feb. 17 4:26 p.m. Hotchkiss Road Medical Call  
Feb. 18 11:18 p.m. Mill River Great Barrington Road MVA  
Feb. 21 10:31 a.m. Mill River Great Barrington Road Medical Call  
Feb. 21 2:32 p.m. Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call

*Fire Company President David Smith*

## Barnbrook

Mary White  
Broker Owner

[www.BarnbrookRealty.com](http://www.BarnbrookRealty.com)

271 Main Street

Great Barrington MA 01230

(413) 528-4423

FAX (413) 528-4727

[Mary@BarnbrookRealty.com](mailto:Mary@BarnbrookRealty.com)



## Land Trust News

The Land Trust is busy planning for the second Red Hot Blues Bash, a community extravaganza that celebrates the people and landscape that make New Marlborough special. The Bash will be an exceptional evening with great food, live music, dancing, specialty cocktails, and, a special element of the evening, a silent auction.

The silent auction has two parts. The first will present donations from community members who offer “unique experiences” that draw on what they love to do. It is a way to highlight the creative talents and expertise of local residents and for us all to learn something new about our neighbors. At last year’s Bash, for example, Richard Stebbins offered a two-hour fly fishing lesson on the Konkapot River. Angus Kerr offered a wilderness safari in uncharted New Marlborough territory complete with crawfish hunting and insect trapping. The second part of the auction will feature a limited selection of higher priced “adventures.” Through a wide range of items to bid on, the auction will be accessible to diverse interests and means, reflecting the essence of our New Marlborough community.

Polish your dancing shoes and get down to Gedney Farm on April 14. Tickets go on sale March 10. □

Martha Bryan



## RABIES CLINIC SCHEDULED

**New Marlborough Fire Company Rabies Clinic:** The Fire Company will hold its annual Rabies Clinic & Bake Sale from **10:00 a.m. to noon, Sunday, April 8**, at the New Marlborough Fire Station on Norfolk Road in Southfield. Town Clerk Kathy Chretien will be on hand to issue dog licenses, and the clinic will include coffee and a bake sale for pet owners. Massachusetts law requires all dogs and cats to be vaccinated against rabies. The cost at the clinic is \$10 per vaccination. For more information, please contact New Marlborough Fire Company President David Smith at (413) 229-0291, or David Herrick at (413) 229-8795. □

*Fire Company President David Smith*

# MAHAIWE & CHIROPRACTIC HEALTH SERVICES

*Dr. Lawrence Bronstein  
Dr. Nancy Bronstein*

15 Mahaiwe Street (413) 528-2948  
Great Barrington, MA 01230 www.DrBronstein.com

## Our Patients Say It Best...

**Top 10% of Hospitals in the Nation**  
**24/7 Emergency Department Care**  
**Joint Commission Accredited**  
**Designated Primary Stroke Center**  
**by MASS DPH**

**Fairview Hospital**  
BERKSHIRE HEALTH SYSTEMS

[www.berkshirehealthsystems.org](http://www.berkshirehealthsystems.org)

**Your Health. Your Life. Your Choice.**

# NEWS FROM THE SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

By Superintendent Beth Regulbuto

## SAFETY, SECURITY & WELLNESS

As promised, one goal we have been working on is a commitment to review, revise, and enhance our practices and protocols around ensuring a safe learning environment, which includes the physical plant, social and emotional support, and wellness of the whole child. Our School Resource Officer (SRO) has begun her work in the District; she was introduced to families at the "Coffee with the SRO and Friends," and she is heading to several trainings this spring. I am interested in creating a District Safety Team to address the significant undertakings from above that will be made up of administrators, teachers, support staff, and our community partners. We are hoping to use grant funding for a Safety Summit, which will provide professional development for staff, students, and the community safety personnel, with the hope of hosting an informational forum for families, too. I will continue to share our progress on this goal, as it will remain our highest priority.

## BUDGET

The School Committee adopted the FY19 budget on March 15, 2018. The \$16,690,011 represents a 1.98 percent or \$323,298 increase including the debt service. The goal was to develop a budget that was level-service with the flexibility to allocate resources based on program and student needs, while sustaining the commitment to educational excellence. Our recommendation is based on working to ensure that SBRSD is operating as efficiently and effectively as possible, and proactively creating a culture of continuous improvement. My hope is that the budget is approved by the member towns at the annual town meetings. The SBRSD budget documents can be found at [www.sbrsd.org/budget](http://www.sbrsd.org/budget).

## SUPERINTENDENT'S ENTRY PLAN

At the last School Committee meeting, I presented a report containing a summary of my observations, findings, and themes from all the information I have gathered in the last eight months in the District. This data provides the administrative team with a

foundation for developing a strategic plan to ensure our students are prepared for their futures, whether that is college readiness or alternative pathways to a career. The Strategic Plan will be vetted and approved by the School Committee, and will contain action steps with measurable goals. The development of the plan will take place over the next several months and most likely be completed prior to the start of the next school year. The Entry Plan Report can be found at <http://www.sbrsd.org/superintendent/superintendents-entry-plan>. I want to thank all of you, our school community, for sharing traditions, history, information, and for the continued support. SBRSD continues to be better because of it!

## GOOD NEWS

As you know, we have incredibly talented students! There are many wonderful activities showcasing our students happening in the District. Please check out the district activity calendar at [www.sbrsd.org/calendar](http://www.sbrsd.org/calendar), and I hope to see you there!

As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

### DENNIS J. DOWNING ATTORNEY & COUNSELLOR AT LAW

17 Mahaiwe Street  
Great Barrington, MA 01230

Tel: (413)528-5040 Fax: (413)528-5095  
e-mail: [downing.law@verizon.net](mailto:downing.law@verizon.net)



**WOODRUFF MOUNTAIN**  
**Landscaping**

Outdoor Services

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spring Yard Cleanup</li> <li>• Lawn Mowing</li> <li>• Fall Leaf Cleanup</li> <li>• Winter Snowplowing &amp; Sanding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Edging &amp; Mulching</li> <li>• Pruning &amp; Hedges</li> <li>• Planting &amp; Maintenance</li> <li>• Brush Clearing, Chipping &amp; Field Mowing</li> </ul>
---	--

Landscape Construction

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Site Design &amp; Renovation of Old Design</li> <li>• Soil Amending</li> <li>• Garden Beds</li> <li>• Water Drainage Solutions</li> <li>• Driveway Repair</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stone Walls &amp; Retaining Walls</li> <li>• Edging &amp; Mulching</li> <li>• Stone Patios &amp; Walkways</li> <li>• Lawn Installations</li> <li>• Hydro Seeding</li> </ul>
---	--

Proudly serving our area for over 15 years!

Contact Tom Brazie  
413-229-2919  
[woodruffmountain@aol.com](mailto:woodruffmountain@aol.com)

## CHANGE IS AFOOT

By Jane Burke

In the early 1990s the Southern Berkshire Regional School District participated in a two-year study to improve teaching at Mount Everett High School. Students, teachers, staff, and community members were involved. This led to the innovative Odyssey Program that encouraged in-depth learning. This year, under the leadership of superintendent Beth Regulbuto, SBRSD is once again considering how to improve the educational experience of its students. But this time, the focus is on the middle school.

Having spent the last six months listening to the community, the staff, and looking at data collected about the District, Ms. Regulbuto determined that the district would benefit by exploring changes in the middle school, based on current understanding of social emotional needs and the need for project-based learning to prepare students for an unknown future. At the December 5 meeting of the curriculum sub-committee of the School Committee, she talked working backwards with the District calendar to see if the process to create a grade six through eight middle school could be completed for implementation in the fall of 2018. She announced the establishment of a Middle School Task Force composed of staff, administrators, school committee members, and community members. On her superintendent's page posted on the District website dated February 15 she said, "The charge of this group is to review current middle school experience for grades 7 and 8 and to research best practices and exemplars with the goal of developing a reconfigured middle school that would include grades 6-8. All decisions regarding the middle school initiative, including the timing of the grade transitions and the implementation of the programming will be made with students' needs and best interests in mind."

The task force is being led by Curriculum Director Kerry Burke, who is eager to involve the community. She has invited the public to visit the task force page on the District website where information is available and community members can leave comments. The first organizational meeting, held on February 13, was attended by two dozen educators and community members. Ms. Burke said, "We want to hear multiple ideas and opinions so that we don't overlook any good ideas." Ms. Regulbuto assured those in attendance that "there is no preconceived plan." Attendees heard about the birth of the middle school model in the 1960's, and

new concepts for an exemplary program. Mount Everett Principal Glenn Devoti spoke about strengths of the current middle school and the philosophy that drives it.

At the meeting on March 1, Ms. Burke put the group to work. Divided into small groups, they considered questions about how the District could make changes, what the challenges are, and what needs to be done to overcome them. High school teacher Sarah Siket asked, "Are we being asked to be ready to bring the sixth grade to the middle school by September '18? If so, is the urgency to save money?" Ms. Regulbuto responded that it is not to cut costs but to improve education. She called it a three-year process. Task force member Bonnie Silvers, a member of the curriculum sub-committee of the School Committee, added emphatically that this was about improving education in a thoughtful way.

Francoise Lartigue of New Marlborough, a member of the curriculum sub-committee, is excited about this redesign process. There is much hearsay about what will happen next year. It is too early to know anything. First the task force must develop a plan, and then the curriculum sub-committee must bring it to the School Committee for approval.

This is a very fertile moment for Southern Berkshire Regional Schools. With a new leader and a dedicated community, there is the possibility of developing a very special experience for early adolescents not available at other public schools. Given the evidence that a positive experience in early adolescent years correlates with a more successful adulthood, the work of this task force can have far reaching effects.

Further information is available at <http://www.sbrsd.org/middle-school-task-force.html>. □



### SUSAN M. SMITH Attorney At Law

38 Mahaiwe Street, Suite 1 Telephone: (413) 528-4300  
Great Barrington, MA 01230 Facsimile: (413) 528-4306  
email: [ssmithlaw@barringtonlawoffice.com](mailto:ssmithlaw@barringtonlawoffice.com)

## NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE LIBRARY

### Adult Fiction

*Summer Hours at the Robbers Library*, by Sue Halpern

*I'll Keep You Safe*, by Peter May

*The Noel Diary*, by Richard Paul Evans

*The Last Equation of Isaac Severy*, by Nova Jacobs

*Rattlesnake Hill*, by Leslie Wheeler

*The Book Worm*, by Mitch Silver

*Holmes Entangled*, by Gordon McAlpine

### Adult Nonfiction

*The Monk of Mokha*, by Dave Eggers

*Educated: A Memoir*, by Tara Westover

*Brave Tart: Iconic American Desserts*, by Stella Parks

*Lafayette in the Somewhat United States*, by Sarah Vowell

### Children's Fiction

*Chancey*, by Gigi Amateau

*The Word Collector*, by Peter H. Reynolds

*Wings of Fire Graphic Novel #1: The Dragonet Prophecy*, by T. Sutherland

*Marigold & Daisy*, by Andrea Zuill

### Children's Nonfiction

*Joan Proctor, Dragon Doctor: The Woman Who Loved Reptiles*, by Patricia Valdez

*A Seed Is the Start*, by Melissa Stewart

*Rodent Rascals*, by Roxie Munro

### DVDs

*Blue Planet II*

*Mark Felt*

*Darkest Hour*

*Murder on the Orient Express*

*Goodbye Christopher Robin*

*13 Minutes*

*Just Getting Started*

*Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri*

*Lady Bird*

### Library Summer Hours!

April 1 - October 31

Mon. Wed. Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Tues. & Fri. 1:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Thurs. 1:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Happy Easter!



welcome,  
Spring!



(413) 229-2544  
Free Estimates



## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

### Town Times

**Board of Selectmen:** Every Monday at 6:00 p.m.

**Town Administrator:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**Planning Board:** Second and fourth Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

**Board of Assessors:** Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

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

**Building Inspector:** Monday 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

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

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

**Post Office: Mill River** (413) 229-8582

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

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

**Southfield** (413) 229-8476

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

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

(The Southfield Post Office lobby is open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

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

**Tax Collector:** Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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

**Dog and Animal Control Officer:** John Springstube 413-232-7038

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

**Town Hall:** 229-8116

**Police:** Business office: 229-8161

### Transfer Station Hours:

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

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

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

### PERMITS WERE DUE JULY 1

A late fee of \$150 can be paid by mail.

Please enclose a self-addressed,  
stamped envelope.

### Emergency calls:

**Police, Fire, Medical**

**911**

### New Marlborough Highway Department

Located on Mill River-Southfield Rd.

Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

PO Box 99, Mill River, MA 01244

(413) 229-8165

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

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

### NM5VN Editorial Team

Barbara Lowman, issue editor; Diane Barth, designer;  
Martha Bryan, Jane Burke, Larry Burke, David Lowman,  
Joe Poindexter, Jodi Rothe, Peter Schuyten,  
Barry Shapiro, Pam Stebbins, Sandra Fusco-Walker  
Contributing writers and artists: Ann Getsinger,  
Angus Kerr, Mary Richie Smith, Catherine Twing,  
Tara White, and Michele Shalaby. Index: Donna Weaver

### New Marlborough 5 Village News

appears monthly,

**also online at [www.nm5vn.org](http://www.nm5vn.org)**

The next issue will be dated May 2018.

All copy must be submitted no later than April 17.  
For advertising, contact Barbara Lowman, tel: 229-2369

PO Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259

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

New Marlborough 5 Village News  
P.O.Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259  
e-mail 5villagenews@gmail.com

U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Non-Profit Org.  
PERMIT #95  
GT. BARRINGTON  
MA 01230

CHANGE SERVICE  
REQUESTED

## SERVICE SECTOR 4/18

- **Cohen and White Associates, Monterey office:** Nancy Kalodner, Senior Affiliate Broker. Offering New Marlborough the finest professional real estate services since 1979. Call 528-9595 or (413)446-1111
- **Design+Planning:** Christopher Blair; Since 1986, creative, budget-aware design. Achieve your goals for additions, alterations to an existing home or new construction. (413)528-4960. chris@design-planning.com.
- **Fine Jewelry:** Designers and manufacturers; custom orders/commissions welcome; expert repairs. 45 years experience. Sachs Reisman, Inc. 25 Maple Ave., Sheffield (413)229-0050
- **One call does it all!:** Vinyl siding cleaning; pressure washing; deck refinishing; floors refinished; window washing; odd landscape jobs; all odd jobs. David Goewey, (413)229-2787
- **Susan M. Smith:** Attorney At Law; Concentrating in the areas of Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Elder Law, Real Estate and Zoning Matters. ssmithlaw@barringtonlawoffice.com or (413)528-4300
- **Reiner White:** General Contractor; (413)229-8450
- **Ter Mar Triangle Farm:** 106 Sandy Brook Turnpike (Rte 183), Sandisfield; (413)258-2898; fruits and vegetables in season; pork; jam; eggs; honey; sawmill; kiln milling; firewood
- **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 (413)229-2369