



New Marlborough 5 Village News

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TAKING CHARGE

New Marlborough Steps Up to the Challenges of Past and Future

By Joe Poindexter

Preserving history, sustaining the environment, New Marlborough is looking ahead. Even as the pandemic puts a damper on present-day activities, civic-minded citizens have been drawing up strategies to guide New Marlborough toward a future that honors its past and strengthens its ecological sustainability. In addition to the efforts of the Housing Committee to promote economically diverse housing in town (see *5 Village News*, March 2021, page 16), the Historic Commission and a newly-formed Transfer Station Working Group have been thinking about how to address future challenges. Here, a look at their deliberations to date:

The Historic Commission's quest for a preservation bylaw: At its February 27 meeting, the Commission put forth a proposed bylaw that would impose a one-year moratorium on the demolition of historically important buildings. These it defines as having at least one of the following qualities:

- "Character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the town of New Marlborough, Berkshire County, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or the nation"
- Situated in a place of a "historic event"
- "Identification with a person or group of persons who had some historic influence on society"
- "Exemplification of "the historic, cultural, political, or economic heritage of the community"
- "Representation of an established and familiar visual historic feature" of its neighborhood
- By the Commission's reckoning, a structure "at least 100 years old in whole or in part."

The bylaw would require that a demolition application be sent to the building inspector and forwarded to the Commission for its determination of historical significance. The bylaw goes on to specify that if a structure is deemed by the Commission to be "preferably preserved," the proposed demolition must be postponed for twelve months. A tear-down sooner would subject the owner to a fine of \$500 a day until the structure is restored.

According to John Schreiber, chair of the Historic Commission, the proposed bylaw,

Come on, Spring

Goodbye to all that slush and mud -
Nearly more than flesh and blood
(Or bears) can bear! In other words,
Goodbye March! Hello birds,
And blooms, and, okay, ticks.
All part of the springtime mix -
And to be sure the ticks do suck.
But sunshine now does not mean muck
So much as warmth, which may inspire us
To melt away coronavirus.

— Roy Blount Jr.

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Taking Charge, continued

which has been under discussion with the Planning Board, will be offered for public review at an open meeting, probably outdoors, sometime this summer. Dr. Schreiber hopes it can be submitted as a warrant item no later than the 2022 Annual Town Meeting. As with all changes to the Town's bylaws, passage requires a two-thirds vote.

Designing waste disposal for a sustainable future: Throwing things away will get more complicated. Spurred by a state edict to eliminate all landfills in Massachusetts by 2030, managers of the Transfer Station are, even now, considering how it will comply. The basic plan is to maximize recyclables and minimize that which now goes to landfill and by 2030 will have to be incinerated. The Town's recently created Transfer Station Working Group — its members: Solid Waste Coordinator Freddy Friedman, Andrea Ferrara, Philip Nolan, Carrieanne Petrik, Joan Elmer, Cecelia Caldwell, and Nat Yohalem — is tasked with developing strategies for a cost-efficient forward-looking operation of the Transfer Station.

It will begin by addressing such issues and needs as:

- A notification that the Town has a Buy Recycled Product Procurement Policy, a requirement to apply for state Department of Environmental Protection grants;

- Possible purchase of equipment for composting and for recycling such materials as glass, plastic, metal, metals, and fabric;
- A “pay-as-you-throw” incentive program;
- A program aimed at increasing conversion of waste to organic composting.

Embedded in all these issues is a trade-off — on the one hand purchasing capital equipment, for example, a paper shredder, a plastic baler, a glass crusher, and on the other, having outside contractors handle these jobs. The working group must also identify an incineration facility for handling non-recyclable waste. And then it will need to tackle the question of how operation of the Transfer Station is paid for — through sticker fees, as at present, or with a town-wide tax that would allow any and all to use the facility. At the outset, the working group would like to develop a recycling policy that could be posted to the Town website.

Both of these initiatives are driven by the need to forge an increasingly complex social contract — the agreements that balance individual rights and the health and vitality of community. They present thorny challenges, but grappling with them now will avoid a crisis of rushed — and possibly expensive — decision-making in the future. □

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OFF THE SHELF GOES OFF THE WALL

You would think that keeping up with the care and feeding of 3,000 laying hens, sorting the 800,000-odd eggs per year, and then marketing their iconic, bright pink Off The Shelf cartons would be more than enough to keep Mill River farmers Anna Houston and Rob Perazzo busy. But no, apparently not, because over the winter the pair managed to find the time to come up with a startling new product, something that could really make a difference, not just to their personal fame and fortune, but to the egg-laying community nationwide, perhaps even globally.

In an exclusive interview with *The New Marlborough 5 Village News*, Ms. Houston, while extremely careful to withhold any proprietary information that could compromise the exclusivity of Off The Shelf Farm's breakthrough, is willing to make public for the first time the essence of their discovery – that they have been able to induce a small number of their hens to lay ornately decorated eggs. The impact on the Easter Egg Industry (EEI), it goes without saying, could be shattering.

Beta-testing on just thirty hens has produced extraordinary (we are tempted to say eggs-stro-dinary, but will resist) results, as the accompanying photographs prove. The means by which the hens have been induced to lay intricately patterned technicolor eggs is, naturally, a closely-guarded secret. Ms. Houston felt it safe to say that the chickens are receiving a patent-pending feed supplement that incorporates certified organic food dyes and locally-sourced tetrahydrocannabinol. Given the wildly brilliant coloration of the eggs, she was asked if the formula might also include trace amounts of psilocybin. She declined to answer.

Anna Houston says that she and Mr. Perazzo are



Anna Houston, holding one of her special hens and a very special egg



In the Off The Shelf coop, eggs, both ordinary and extraordinary funneling into the collecting trough



Coming soon, Off The Wall eggs by the dozen

continuing to refine the process. One hurdle they have yet to overcome is the color-fastness of the eggs; hard-boiling causes some running and loss of vibrancy. Until they come up with a solution to this problem, customers who wish to retain the original intensity of the eggs will need to resort to blowing out the eggs the old-fashioned way.

As far as rollout goes, Houston and Perazzo have only limited inventory for this Easter season, and so their product, under the brand name Off The Wall©, will be available only to family and friends. One of those friends, Scottie Mills of New Marlborough village, an Easter Egg decorator of local

renown, says she is deeply impressed by the innate design and decoration skills that the hens are showing. She thinks that, by this time next year, if Off The Shelf Farm goes all in on Off The Wall eggs, the EEI will be in total shellshock, and just scrambling to keep any small share of the market.

As if their innovation is not stunning enough in itself, Ms. Houston says that Mr. Perazzo has now acquired a dozen lop-eared bunnies and has entered into research and development on the production of very tiny chocolate eggs.



Lee J. Buck

BROADBAND UPDATE

FINAL INSTALLATION ON OUR DOORSTEPS

By Barry R. Shapiro

Julius Caesar famously wrote that, "All Gaul is divided into three parts." By contrast, Spectrum has decreed that New Marlborough is divided into five parts, each of which will shortly be blessed with the installation of high-speed internet, after a wait which seems to extend back to the time that Caesar first put quill to parchment.

At a much-anticipated Zoom meeting held on March 13 and attended by 100 households, Steve Klein, chair of the Town's Cable Advisory Committee, along with representatives from Spectrum, spelled out for the very interested attendees details of when and how broadband services will finally be available to residents. (Unknown to the organizers, the meeting was capped at 100 participants, and a number of frustrated residents could not log on; a recording and a transcript were subsequently made available to those who were inadvertently turned away, and these are available on the Town website).

Chairman Klein began by thanking the members of his committee for their efforts and noted the long and winding road which the town had followed to get to the point where the arrival of broadband is finally (for real! no kidding!) imminent.

Attendees learned the following:

- The five "zones" into which the town has been divided for purposes of installation have either been entirely wired (Zones 1 and 2), 95 percent wired (Zones 3 and 4) or will be wired starting the week of March 22 (Zone 5). A color map of town showing each zone is available on the town website.
- On March 31, Zone 1 will be tested to make sure everything works as it should and, assuming that it does, shortly after April 1, salespeople will begin contacting residents in Zone 1 to discuss their options, to enroll them, and to set dates for the physical installation of service. All visits from salespeople will take place outside, socially distanced, with masks being worn. The salespeople will be wearing badges identifying them as Spectrum employees and will be driving their personal vehicles. Residents who miss the salesperson or who are not comfortable with an in-person meeting can enroll over the telephone at a number to be provided by the salesperson.
- Residents will not be required to sign any contracts with Spectrum and can change or cancel service at any time without penalty.
- The zones will be "lit" sequentially with Zone 1 being first and Zone 5 being last. Enrolling residents in each zone and installing service to their homes is

expected to take about three weeks per zone, so that all zones should be live, and service provided to all residents in town, by late June or early July.

- Once a zone is live, residents will be able to enter their address on the Spectrum website and obtain detailed information on pricing and services. Residents can obtain this same information from their salesperson.
- Residents who sign up for service will be advised by Spectrum when the installation of service to their home will occur. This involves first running the fiber optic cable from the road to the residence, which can be done using any existing poles along the driveway, through existing conduits, or even by simply burying the cable directly into the ground. Spectrum will, of course, handle this wiring.
- Next comes the actual installation of the service into the residence. Residents will need to be around to provide the technician access to the residence. All Covid protocols will be observed.
- When the cable comes into the home, it will connect to a modem that Spectrum will provide free of charge. The modem will then connect to existing wiring or an internal router to move the internet signal around the home. The wiring in the home and the internal router are the responsibility of the homeowner.
- Once the cable is in the home and connected to the modem, high speed service will be available instantly.
- Certain families with children eligible for the National School Lunch Program or the Community Eligibility provisions of such a program or who are 65 or older and on Supplemental Social Security are eligible for the "Internet Assist Program," which allows them to receive 30 Mbps internet service for \$17.99 per month.
- There is a standard installation fee of \$49.95, which includes 250 feet of cable from the street to the residence. If the distance is longer, residents should discuss this with the Spectrum representative to obtain installation pricing.
- Services from which residents may choose include:
- Telephone service (VOIP) – this service is provided over the internet. Residents can keep their current phone numbers if they wish or obtain a new one (not yet discovered by telemarketers). The Spectrum representative asserted that the internet phone service delivers a better quality than residents are now used to over their existing copper phone lines. Not

mentioned at the meeting is the included software which screens many spam phone calls, sending them directly to voice mail. Residents should know that the phone service will not work if power is out, although a battery available for purchase from Spectrum may be able to power the modem for a brief time during outages.

- Television programming – a complete panoply of options will be available including 125 high-definition channels and over 60,000 on-demand titles. Residents will be able to select from three packages offering between 125 channels to over 200. Residents can obtain the Spectrum television service over an Apple TV device or similar technology, such as Roku or a Samsung Smart TV. Spectrum will sell an Apple TV device to residents if necessary at the discounted price of \$3.99 per month for 23 months (the device typically costs \$180), or residents can use an existing streaming device or purchase a new streaming device on their own.
- Internet – the base package features download speeds of 200 mbps (10 upload). (Contrast this with the less than 3 mbps download speed offered by the DSL service used currently by many residents.) Optionally, service may be chosen that increases the speed to 400 mbps (20 upload) (the so called “Ultra” service”) or even a full gigabit (35 upload).
- Cell phone service – Spectrum offers its own cell phone service utilizing the Verizon network (Spectrum understands that most of New Marlborough is not served by Verizon, so this service may be of limited interest to residents outside of their home (cell phones will function in the home off the modem provided by Spectrum).
- All services can be bundled to obtain discounts.
- Residents who opt for all three primary services (landline, internet at 200 mbps and television with 125+ channels, the so called “Triple Play”) will receive a promotional price of \$103 per month for the first 12 months of service. The price increases to \$153 per month thereafter. Taxes and fees are additional. Other “bundles” are also available.
- The monthly promotional pricing for internet service alone for the first twelve months varies according to the speed selected: 200 mbps, \$49.99; 400 mbps, \$69.99, and one gigabit, \$89.99. After twelve



A handful of the 100 townspeople who made it on to the March 13 Zoom conference with Spectrum
photo by Larry Burke

months, these prices will increase, but Spectrum did not respond to requests for this information. According to the Spectrum website, internet service includes a free modem, no data caps, free access to WiFi hotspots nationwide, and free antivirus software.

- Cost for the landline telephone service, which includes unlimited long distance calling within the United States, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands is \$12.99 when part of a bundle that includes internet and television. Spectrum did not provide information on the cost without a bundle. International calling can be added for \$5 per month.
- Residents who are bound by contracts with other service providers such as DIRECTV, should discuss this with their Spectrum representative. Spectrum may be able to “buy out” the remainder of the contract, allowing the resident to switch to Spectrum now and not wait until their contract expires. The Spectrum website indicates that buyouts are available for up to \$500.

What was not directly discussed at the Zoom session was the cost of other charges and fees, such as DVR service, broadcast TV surcharge, and taxes and fees (a review of a Spectrum bill sent to a resident of a neighboring town revealed a number of such charges). Residents may wish to inquire about these with their salesperson.

Residents with questions about service were encouraged to reach out to John Decker, the Spectrum representative responsible for the New Marlborough installation, at: john.decker@charter.com (518-640-8926). □

Town Business Is Your Business

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



February 17: The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened by telephone at 4:30 p.m.

Also on the call with the three selectmen were Town Administrator Mari Enoch, Building Inspector Owen Wright, and Chair of the Commission on Disabilities Tom Stalker.

Discussion began with the question of hiring a consultant for a town-wide Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-assessment and Transition Plan. The scope of work includes an examination of the New Marlborough Central School building. Board Chairman Tara White stated that presently, the School District handles all ADA requirements, and accommodations are provided at the main campus in Sheffield. Mr. Stalker asserted that the Town, as owner of the building, must comply with the ADA accessibility laws, and thus the school building must be evaluated as part of the report.

The discussion went back and forth for quite some time, until Ms. Enoch asked which party is responsible for making changes or accommodations, the property owner or the entity running the program. Mr. Stalker answered that the school district files a report every three years on the programs it provides to students, and that all town-owned facilities have to be part of that self-evaluation as they are required to be accessible to everyone, including disabled people.

Ms. Enoch then noted that the consulting contract states there are five buildings due to be inspected, but, with the two separate buildings at the firehouse, it's technically six. Mr. Stalker said he had let the contractor know the old firehouse may be used by the Police Department, so it too must also be ADA compliant. Three of the six buildings included in the scope of work, the two firehouses and transfer station, are not owned

by the Town but they are used by the Town, so they must be part of the study.

Following an addition to the contract to make it compliant with the state grant application process, whereby a provision of 10 percent of compensation is available to the consultant if the field inspection of facilities requires greater effort than expected, the Board unanimously approved the contract with James M. Mazik, AICP Consulting Services for the Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan in the amount of \$7,950.

Ms. White then moved on to the proposed Human Resources position that will be shared with the towns of Great Barrington, Sheffield, Monterey, and Egremont. She noted that Egremont did get this position on their town budget and are presently paying someone \$30 per hour, though no figure has been determined for all the towns sharing in this position. She added that, in order to prepare for Town Meeting, a placeholder amount should be established for now. Ms. White thought New Marlborough might need six hours per week to start. She added that any agreement the towns enter into will need to include a review in about six months to address any inequities.

Regarding the FY22 budget, Selectman Richard Long pointed out that the Finance Committee is using a 2 percent raise in salaries as a placeholder, but he would like to let them know the Board is in discussions that might result in a higher number, so they can plan for that possibility. He added that if towns around New Marlborough pay, for example, a 2 percent raise this year, New Marlborough might pay a 3 percent raise or maybe even up to 4 percent. Ms. Enoch noted she has created a spreadsheet for all Town positions, other than the Highway Department, with half-percent increase totals ranging from 2 to 5 percent.



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Moving on to town administrator updates, **Ms. Enoch informed the Board that bids are going out in April for the Lumbert Cross and Canaan Southfield bridges, as the state is trying to get the work done this summer.** She said she is finishing up the last stages of right-of-way negotiations, the certifications of which are required by May 1. She said four of the six property owners have donated the right-of-way to the Town, and she is expecting to hear momentarily from one of the two owners who need appraisals.

Mr. Long started the Board of Selectmen updates with an update on the MassWorks project. The new grant needs to be started and Mr. Loring expressed his thoughts that the Town should do more work on Route 57. Regarding the future of the Transfer Station, Mr. Long proposed, and the rest of the Board agreed, to create a temporary Transfer Station Committee. The meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Sandra Fusco-Walker

February 22: John Dewey Academy owner Dr. David Baum, who had been invited to address the Board, opened the meeting with a preview of his plans for the recently acquired Cassilis Farm. The purchase, Dr. Baum explained, includes not only the two main buildings but also the two barns and two small outbuildings on the property.

He said he will begin by renovating the main buildings, which will be used as residences for the students — a maximum of twenty-one 16- to 19-year-olds — and an office for himself. The outbuildings will be renovated for housing of staff. One barn will be converted into a science lab, yoga studio, and art studio. The other, which looks like “the leaning tower of Pisa,” said Dr. Baum, will be razed.

The septic system, said Dr. Baum, “is up to snuff,” but the main buildings need an electrical upgrade, a new

kitchen, and a sprinkler system, and they need to be made disability accessible. He also plans to put in a new well and upgrade a pond on the property for fire protection. Chairman Tara White asked Dr. Baum when he planned to re-open the school. “We were hoping for summer,” he said, “but given the wintry conditions, I don’t see us doing a lot for the next few weeks.” His target, “fingers crossed” is an October or November opening.

The next item on the agenda: speeding. Mr. Long asked Police Chief Graham Frank, who had been invited to the meeting, “What percent of the time is being devoted to speed enforcement?” Chief Frank responded that he and his fellow officers “run radar” whenever they are on patrol but added that he has five villages to cover and that “we are spread a little thin.” Pressed by Mr. Long for a percentage, the chief said, “I can’t give you an exact figure, but it’s pretty high.” He added later, “Last year we made 438 stops.” Noting that that worked out to

one or two stops a day, Mr. Long asked if they were all for speeding. Most of them, 80 or 90 percent, Chief Frank answered, some of them residents of New Marlborough, but a large number from Great Barrington or other towns.

The discussion shifted to upgrading speed limit signs and the installation of electronic speed readers. Chief Frank said he is talking to the Highway Department about putting in new signs. He hoped, he said, to acquire new readers that would not only show drivers their speed but also make a record that could be transferred to a computer. Finally to a question about instituting parking tickets, Chief Frank said he would talk to nearby towns to determine what is recommended. Ms. White reminded the Board that a parking ticket measure would have to be passed as a bylaw.

Updating the Board on the timing of the Annual Town Meeting, Town Moderator Barry Shapiro said

Board Chairman Tara White stated that presently, the School District handles all ADA requirements and accommodations are provided at the main campus in Sheffield.



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that the state is once again allowing meetings to be held beyond June. Ms. White said she would like to hold the meeting before the end of the fiscal year, June 30, and asked Mr. Shapiro what had to be done prepare an outdoor venue. "We don't have to re-invent the wheel," said Mr. Shapiro, referring to the successful outdoor meeting last summer. His contacts for renting a tent and chairs, he said, were still in place. Ms. White said that reimbursement for extra town meeting expenses would again be forthcoming from the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act. With that, the Board settled on Saturday morning, June 19, as the time and date of the 2021 Annual Town Meeting.

Next, the Board took up the problems posed to the operation of the Transfer Station by stricter state regulations on recycling and landfills. Following an extensive discussion emphasizing the need for long-term decision-making, the Board voted to establish a working group of not more than five members, including Solid Waste Coordinator Freddy Friedman, to analyze options and make recommendations.

The Board then divided up assignments for contract renewal discussions, with Ms. White taking on the chief of police, Mr. Long the town administrator, and Selectman Mark Carson, the highway superintendent and fire chief.

The Board declined to exercise its option to buy 4.32 acres of land that Margaret Burnett intends to sell to Gregory Poole — and to inform the Planning Board of its decision. The right of first refusal on the purchase is triggered by the fact that the acreage is currently protected under state law 61B, which allows a tax deduction for land that contributes to open space. Finally, the Board issued a business license to DBA Pontier Construction and shortly thereafter adjourned.

Joe Poindexter

Mr. Long reminded members that the Town has fallen behind in salary levels over the years, and they could address pay ranges this year.

March 1: The Board convened its regular Monday meeting by phone at 6:00 p.m., where the first order of business was to reopen discussion on when to hold the Annual Town Meeting. **Chairman White said she's been having second thoughts about the June 19 date, that holding it that late might make it difficult to get timely bids back from contractors for the road repair work that's being considered for this year.** Noting the Highway Department is looking to rebuild either Knight Road or Hatchery Road or both, she said the concern is that, by the time the money is approved and the requests go out for bids, road contractors' work schedules may be filling up.

So the selectmen discussed several alternate dates in May, talked a lot about the weather, and also considered keeping the June 19 date, but, in the end, decided to give it more thought and try to work it out at next week's meeting.

Police Chief Graham Frank was up next, raising alarms about the impact on the department of the Police Reform Bill signed into law by Governor Charlie Baker at the end of December. As he wrote in a memo to the Board, "This is going to cost ALL communities an exorbitant amount of money, or possibly put the smaller communities out of 'the policing business.'"

He said the reform bill impacts every aspect of policing. It tightens hiring standards, requires the certification of officers and departments to standards that haven't been released yet, and puts a new process in place for handling police complaints. It also ups the training requirements for new part-time officers, who, starting July 1, will have to undergo the same training as full-time officers. While current part-timers will be grandfathered in, they'll be required to take what he thinks may be 250 hours of additional training.

He said it's not yet known whether the state will help

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in funding the cost of the training, which he estimated at upwards of \$20,000 for the Town. As it is, he said, only two of his six part-timers work only for New Marlborough. The rest are shared with other towns, and those towns would share the cost of training.

He said he's also greatly concerned about all the extra paperwork he envisions the new requirements generating, reminding the Board he had put in a request for an administrative assistant in last year's budget. "Is that something I can get now?" he wanted to know. He was reminded that, while his budget request had been approved, he never filled the position, and had, in fact, reallocated the money for it to another salary in the department.

The Board had a number of questions for him, including whether the Town really needs six part-timers. Yes, he was definite about that, saying "There are benefits to having that many," although he didn't spell them out.

The Board also wanted to know whether there's any movement afoot on the part of other towns to lobby the state for the additional funding for the training, since it's basically an unfunded mandate. He said he's heard talk to that effect, but wasn't sure where any of that stands. Town Administrator Enoch said she'll be attending a town managers meeting tomorrow, and that it's on the agenda, and said, "I'll bring our feedback there and see if there's any county-wide effort."

Before signing off, Mr. Frank reiterated his plea for administrative help, to which Ms. White said "okay, if you can find the money," and then quickly added, "but you've got to stay within your budget."

Next on the agenda was a discussion of cost of living adjustments (COLAs) and stipends for Town employees and those serving on Town committees and boards. Working off a spreadsheet provided by Town


Administrator Enoch showing the value of the stipends in FY21 versus what they were worth five years ago, the Board spent much of the next thirty minutes discussing how inadequate most of the stipends seemed, given the amount of work involved, particularly for members of the Town's standing committees such as the Planning Board and Conservation Commission, who, it was agreed, do enormous amounts of work and

receive nothing for their efforts. Mr. Long also brought up the Town's two School Committee representatives, who do receive stipends in the amount of \$825 per annum, but in his view that's not nearly enough for the work they do. "They strike me as grossly underpaid," he said. He also raised questions about some of the smaller stipends – those in the \$100 to \$200 range – which, in his words, are "practically an insult," citing for example the Town moderator, who receives a \$145 stipend.

It was Mr. Carson's opinion that everyone on the list making less than \$3,000 should get a ten percent raise. "It wouldn't be that much money," he said, "and these people put in a lot of work, but don't get much." However, Mr. Long observed that it's difficult making these decisions without knowing how many meetings are involved and the approximate workload, and he wondered whether it would be possible to survey the various boards and committees on that point. "That's an exercise we might want to do some time," said Ms. White, "but now's not the time, considering where we are in the budgeting process."

It was at this point, however, that the discussion took an unexpected turn, with Mr. Long wondering whether anyone on the stipend list has asked for an increase, to which Ms. White replied, "No, but there's nothing stopping them. They all have their budget sheets, and they could all put in a request for more money. So maybe

Police Chief Graham Frank was up next, raising alarms about the impact on the department of the Police Reform Bill signed into law by Governor Charlie Baker at the end of December.



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it's not for us to make a decision at this point," she said. "Maybe all we need to do is make a decision about our own [stipend]."

And that's just what they did. In the end, the only action the Board took was to increase its own stipend to \$3,000 per year per selectman, which is where it used to be prior to a budget crunch years ago, when it was cut back to \$2,850.

Turning to COLAs, the Board is in the midst of an effort to raise Town salaries to make them more competitive with those in surrounding towns. To get there the Board turned to an outside consultant who surveyed salaries in a dozen other similar-sized towns, and then during last year's budget season managed to bring most employees' salaries to at least the bottom of the range.

This year, led by Mr. Long, who's been the driving force behind the effort to put the Town's personnel policies on a more professional and business-like footing, the Board voted salary increases of between 2 percent and 5 percent for seventeen of the Town's employees to make their salaries more competitive with those of the other towns. Excluded were the top four salary earners, three of whom are covered by contracts. Also not addressed were the five Highway Department workers, who will be covered by a contract being negotiated by their new union.

Moving on, for the second time in two weeks, the Board declined to exercise its option to buy a 4.32-acre parcel of landlocked property on which it has the right of first refusal because the acreage is protected under state law 61B, which allows a tax deduction for land that contributes to open space. (See the Planning Board report on page 15, for more on this.)

Under selectmen updates, Ms. White reported the Regional School District Planning Committee, which is evaluating the feasibility of consolidating the two local school districts, did in fact receive the full amount of the \$125,000 grant it had applied for to support its Phase II work. This will likely result in a significant reduction in the \$15,000 contribution it had previously asked for from the eight towns, including New Marlborough, that make up the two districts.

Then it was on to town administrator updates, with Ms. Enoch reporting that the Fire Department's Engine No. 1 is now back in service following a minor accident involving the Fire Department garage. She also mentioned the Town is considering applying for a joint action grant with the Town of Monterey to address the erosion that's occurring along the Konkapot River near the Hartsville bridge. The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

It was Mr. Carson's opinion that everyone on the list making less than \$3,000 should get a ten percent raise.

Peter Schuyten

March 8: All three selectmen, along with Town Administrator Mari Enoch, Administrative Secretary Sharon Fleck, and Jim Mazik of James M. Mazik, AICP – Consulting Services gathered via Zoom for the board meeting which began at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Mazik, the consultant hired to perform the American Disabilities Act (ADA) Self Evaluation and Transition Plan, began his presentation with a brief history of ADA law, pointing out that the law addresses civil rights and is regulated by the Massachusetts State Building Code. He noted that any construction work on public-access buildings costing \$100,000 or more, even if spread out over three years, requires that the building be ADA accessible.

Mr. Mazik has already distributed the self-evaluation survey and plans to speak with department heads and review the Town website. The survey will provide him with present policies and procedures and any mechanisms already in place. This will generate a transition plan covering the facilities reviewed, who is responsible for them, and a narrative covering areas that need to be addressed. He plans to start field work in the week of March 8, by visiting Town Hall, the library, and the highway and fire departments. He will assess New Marlborough Central School at a time when students are not in the building. He assured the selectmen that, as long as he has access to everything he needs, he doesn't expect any problem meeting the deadline of June 30.

Mr. Carson asked what would happen if a two-story building assessed at \$300,000 needed to install a \$200,000 elevator in order to be brought into compliance. Mr. Mazik responded that a lift might be a cheaper option, but regardless, once you have public access in the building, you must have accessibility. He continued that ADA covers employee workspace for reasonable accommodations, and used the example of an employee who works on the second floor and then becomes disabled, needing to have his or her office moved to the first floor.

Following Mr. Mazik's presentation, Town Moderator Barry Shapiro joined the call and the Board moved on to a discussion regarding the date of the Annual Town Meeting. Due to the lack of ADA accessibility, the Town is unable to hold the meeting in Town Hall or at the fire house. The town of Sheffield has already planned their town meeting at the Mount Everett campus the same day New Marlborough would normally hold its meeting, so the Board is considering other options. **The Selectmen discussed the success of the meeting held last August under an enormous tent behind New Marlborough Central School, and, though weather might be a bit cooler in May, they expressed the desire to get back to**

a normal calendar. They decided that they could rent heaters if needed, and agreed to hold Town Meeting, May 22, at 9:00 a.m. at New Marlborough Central School, once Mr. Shapiro confirms availability with all parties involved.

The Board then discussed the latest Covid-19 regulations. Ms. White stated that the Board of Health had advised Town Hall could be open to the public as long as safety protocols, such as masks and a limit on the number of people inside the building, were maintained. Town Clerk Kathy Chretien stated it was possible to hold the March 30 caucus outside, same as last year, but that would involve leaving caucus workers outside in the March cold. After a brief discussion, the Board decided to hold the caucus inside, and have everyone wait in their cars until a minimum of twenty-five participants gathered, and then allow a few participants at a time to come into the building to vote. They also decided to open New Marlborough Town Hall to the public on Monday, March 29, maintaining safety protocols. Ms. White then summed it all up stating Town Caucus will be held March 30 at 6:00 p.m.; Town Elections will be May 1, with voting from 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; and Town Meeting will be scheduled for May 22 at 9:00 a.m., pending Mr. Shapiro's okay.

The mission statement of the Transfer Station Committee was approved by the Board after some minor changes regarding financing options. The Board then appointed the following members to the Working Group until June 30: Nat Yohalem, CarrieAnn Petrik, Andrea Ferrara, Philip Nolan, and Freddy Friedman, and allowed that there could be up to seven members in the group if anyone else expresses interest. The group will be required to post meetings and take minutes.

The Board then appointed Alicia Brazie, Michele Dawson-Harvey, and Sharon Fleck to the Board of Registrars.

Ms. Enoch, with town administrator updates, advised that the bridge on Umpachene Falls Road is anticipated to be completed this May. She informed the Board that the Campbell Falls Road bridge is next to be replaced and detour signage will be posted sometime in the next two weeks. She added that phone calls will also be made to the entire town with notification of the closing, and information will be posted on the website.

Ms. White informed the Board that Courtney Turner has requested permission to dedicate the Revolutionary War Monument on Patriot's Day, Monday, April 19, at noon, as it was postponed last year due to Covid-19. The Board gave its approval. The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Sandra Fusco Walker

Mr. Mazik, the consultant hired to perform the American Disabilities Act (ADA) Self Evaluation and Transition Plan began his presentation with a brief history of ADA law.

March 15: Gathering at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom, the Board tackled a lengthy agenda, starting with a report from the New Marlborough Housing Committee. Elizabeth Rosenberg, its chair, explained that the group was formed to address a serious lack of affordable housing in New Marlborough. A Committee-initiated study by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC), revealed that, among low-income residents, 60 percent of renters and 80 percent of homeowners are "cost burdened" by housing expenses.

Committee member Will Regan warned that "New Marlborough is heading off a demographic cliff." The BRPC study found that currently 52 percent of New Marlborough residents are 55 and older and that at the present rate their numbers will increase by 50 percent by 2040.

Kenzie Fields, a real estate broker as well as a Housing Committee member, said that New Marlborough is the first choice of young people looking to settle in South County, but that they are thwarted by the lack of lower-priced housing. Joe Poindexter described a promising source of help: the state's Community Preservation Act, which provides matching funds to



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Massachusetts towns that agree to a 1 percent to 3 percent surcharge on Town property taxes to promote, among other things, affordable housing. More than half of the towns and cities in the state have signed on, he said, nine in Berkshire County.

In response, Selectman Mark Carson observed that the problem of an aging population goes deeper than a lack of housing. "Everyone is looking for a silver bullet," he said, "but the problem is a lack of good jobs." He suggested instituting a program in which teens acquire construction skills by joining contractors in building houses. He also noted that a trailer park might be one approach to creating inexpensive housing.

Mr. Regan said of the Committee's presentation, "This is not one-and-done. We just want to get a dialog started." Mrs. Rosenberg urged the selectmen to help communicate the need for housing. She looked forward to hearing from the Board on how the town might proceed.

The Housing Committee was excused, and the Board proceeded to establish Saturday, May 22, starting at 9:00 a.m., as the date and time for the Annual Town Meeting. Once again, it would be held in a tent pitched in the ball field behind New Marlborough Central School. The possibility of designating the next day, Sunday, as a rain date was deferred to a consultation with Moderator Barry Shapiro as to whether the tent would be available then.

Don Torrico, the interim building inspector, sought clarification from the Board on the status of his job going forward. He's been filling in since last July for Building Inspector Owen Wright, who's on an extended medical leave and unable to fulfill the duties of the office. Mr. Long asked that the Board be given time to check with Mr. Wright on his prospects for resuming the job, and Mr. Torrico agreed to postpone his request for a week.

Ms. White informed the Board that Courtney Turner has requested permission to dedicate the Revolutionary War Monument on Patriot's Day, Monday, April 19, at noon, as it was postponed last year due to Covid-19.

Responding to state regulations requiring new training for part-time police officers and increased reporting of Department activities, the Board endorsed a letter of complaint that is to be sent to State Senator Adam Hinds, Representative William (Smitty) Pignatelli, and the chairs of committees that have jurisdiction on this issue. Echoing observations of Police Chief Graham Frank, the letter argues that meeting the new regulations would be costly and result in diminished police protection.

Next the Board approved an Inter-Municipal Agreement between Great Barrington and the towns of Alford, Monterey, New Marlborough, and Stockbridge to provide transportation for the elderly at a rate of \$10 per round trip. The service replaces that of the Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation Corporation, which has ceased operation. Ms. White said that the agreement calls for a representative from each town being served and that the Board would need to solicit letters of interest.

The Board looked favorably on the bid of \$70,350 from Tyler Equipment for the purchase of a used highway roller, but agreed to delay signing off on it until it received maintenance records, information on its age, and how long repair parts would be available. Similarly, it held off on a request from Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring to be named to the Transfer Station Working Group. With a vote to expand the Group from five to seven members, the Board had already added Joan Elmer and Cecelia Caldwell to it. Ms. White, balking at making the Group still larger, said she would confer with Mr. Loring to see if he would be comfortable being designated an ex-officio member.

Moving on to the matter of salaries, Selectman Richard Long reminded the Board that it had last year introduced a new pay structure for employees, intended to provide greater consistency by classifying all employees



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into grades, creating pay ranges, and correcting for certain pay inequities. For the next step, **Mr. Long recommended increases that would make the Town's pay ranges more competitive with those in other towns in the region. On average, the revised increases of between 2 percent and 4.5 percent for Grade 1 through Grade 7 employees would raise the salaries for these positions to between the 16th and 20th percentiles of neighboring towns' compensation.**

A decision on these adjustments, as well as those for the Town's three contract employees, was deferred to a March 18 meeting called for that purpose. However, the Board agreed to a request from Mari Enoch, who said she typically spends in excess of thirty hours a week in the job of town administrator, to increase her contracted hours from twenty-four to twenty-eight.

In a separate matter, Ms. Enoch said that the assistance being provided by Kathy Chretien as acting treasurer during the health-related absence of Treasurer Robert Noonan had been invaluable, and asked that her role in this work be established at ten hours a week, along with its compensation of \$23.42 an hour, retroactive to February when she began doing the treasurer's work. With Ms. White, who is also Town accountant, abstaining, the Board approved.

As the meeting approached the two-and-a-half hour mark, the Board elected to await review by Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard before endorsing a new curbside bylaw. It then postponed to March 18 its decisions on employee compensation — a day after its review by the Finance Committee.

...sixteen of the Town's twenty-four employees fell below the twenty-fifth percentile of employees in comparable positions in neighboring towns.

March 18: The Board held a brief afternoon meeting to ratify proposed pay increase worksheets so that it could pass along its recommendations to the Finance Committee. The action was instigated by a human resources study, commissioned by the Board, that found that sixteen of the Town's twenty-four employees fell below the twenty-fifth percentile of employees in comparable positions in neighboring towns. **Another way of looking at it is that if you take 100 workers all doing the same job in municipal employment, at least seventy-five of them earn more than those in New Marlborough.**

The worksheets detail FY22 raises, most for an adjustment of 4.5 percent, aimed at redressing this shortcoming. All told, the suggested pay adds up to an increase of about \$25,000 more than FY21. The effective rate still leaves town employees short of the mean payment to those in comparable positions in surrounding towns, but it's a start. "We are doing the right thing," said Selectman Long. "It's progress." "This will be an annual process," said Chairman White. With that, the Board approved sending the worksheets, which show the dollar impact of the proposed raises on the FY22 budget, to the Finance Committee. Then, after organizing the paper flow for future approval of minutes, the meeting was adjourned. □

Joe Poindexter

Important New Rule for the Annual Town Meeting

On Saturday, May 22, at 9:00 a.m., the Annual Town Meeting will be held under a tent behind the school in Mill River. A change for this year's meeting is that all motions must be made in the form of a haiku, as in the following example:

**"We vote to raise & appropriate
Amounts recommended or any other amounts
In relation thereto"**

The Town Moderator will exercise leniency in regard to strict observation of the traditional 5-7-5 haiku structure, but will not hesitate to overrule any motions made in the form of a limericks, sonnets, or odes in iambic pentameter. If challenges to the Town Moderator's rulings are voiced, the New Marlborough Fire Company Poet Laureate, Robert Dvorchik, will be called upon to make the final judgement.



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

February 20: Commission members Freddy Friedman, Nanci Worthington, John Schreiber, and Doug Hyde convened via Zoom to take care of the month's business.

The Commission started by agreeing that a site visit was needed before signing off on the Certificate of Compliance for Sanford Panitch of 1143 Hartsville New Marlborough Road. A site visit was proposed during the month of March.

Next, Jackson Alberti of Foresight Land Services addressed the Commission for his clients, Michael Carmona and Kerry Tatlock of Brewer Hill Road. The continued hearing for the Notice of Intent considered permitting for the construction of a new driveway off Brewer Hill Road and the related site work. Mr. Alberti reviewed the scope of the work, including establishing erosion controls, clearing a swath for the driveway roughly twenty-four feet wide, construction of an eight-foot-high retaining wall, and managing a stream crossing. The Commission reiterated its concern over the timing of the construction, due to potential erosion and runoff, especially regarding the stream crossing. After some discussion, the Commission approved the driveway permit with several conditions: that the preferred timing for the driveway construction be during dry conditions; that, if construction starts in the spring, an engineer be on site during construction; that the proposal for the house construction requires separate permitting; and that the Commission has after-the-fact jurisdiction to enter the site for the house and driveway constructions.

Nellie Wilson of Butternut Tree and Land Care next presented a Request For Determination (RDA) for Steven Butler of 33 Great Barrington Mill River Road. At issue was the removal of two evergreens that are in rapid decline and threatening the house. The work was allowed without further permitting, with a condition that the trees be replaced with preferably native tree species. Ms. Wilson then moved on to the

RDA for Laura Endacott and John McLean of 37 Great Barrington Mill River Road. Before the new permitting could be considered, the Commission accepted the two certificates of compliance for work completed under earlier permits by McClean/Endicott. At issue for the current RDA were the removal of three spruce trees threatening both the house and the deck to the house. The work was approved, again with the condition that the spruce canopy will be replaced with shade trees, preferably native species.

Next, Phil Nolan described his installation of a koi pond for his client, Sarah Feldman of 815 Hartsville New Marlborough Road. The RDA was allowed, conditional upon there being no impact to wetlands. It was advised that, prior to construction, straw wattles be installed to mitigate any runoff.

Finally, the Commission reviewed two special permits before the New Marlborough Select Board. Mark Carson of the New Marlborough Planning Board was on hand to answer any questions. The Commission agreed that more information was needed before approval of a garage conversion into living space for Peter and Elizabeth Reynolds of 1093 Clayton Mill River Road, due to the project's proximity to a wetland.

The Commission then resumed its discussion of the Berkshire Scenic Mountains Act and its applicability for the town. Mr. Carson agreed that the Planning Board would work with the Conservation Commission to draft a proposed bylaw for the town. Commission member Worthington agreed to contact and assess the possibility for hiring the consultant who worked with the town of Monterey in developing its bylaw.

The Commission members concluded with a discussion of the annual budget and agreed to keep it at the same level as last year, with the addition of funds allocated for technology expenses due to convening meetings during the pandemic. □

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PLANNING BOARD

March 10: The Planning Board met via phone conference with all members in attendance, plus Sharon Fleck taking minutes and Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard on hand to clarify a point of law. Chairman Mark Carson got to the legal issue right off the bat at 7:00 p.m. Several members of the Board had concerns over the impending arrival of the John Dewey Academy in town and wished to know from Mr. Pollard whether the Planning Board had any regulatory powers over the change of use of the former Cassilis Farm property. Member Bob Hartt questioned whether “such a fundamental change of use” could proceed without special permits or other forms of regulation.

Attorney Pollard said that the John Dewey Academy, as a non-municipal educational entity, is entitled to the protections of the Dover Amendment (Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40A, Section 3), which exempts agricultural, religious, and educational corporations from certain zoning restrictions. Bob Hartt asked if the provisions of the Town’s Protective Bylaw, specifically Section 7, which puts in place a number of restrictions, such as a 200-foot buffer zone surrounding the property, could be brought to bear, superseding the Dover Amendment. Jeremia Pollard’s response was, “You can’t unreasonably regulate a religious or educational use.” And he added, “You lose control when something is exempted.” He said that while it is powerless to insist on site plan approval, he advised the Board to keep pushing for it, even if for a future eventuality.

In wrapping up, Mr. Pollard was able to give some reassurance to the Planning Board by saying that the Academy must comply with all state regulations. Mark Carson added that our Board of Health will also have some oversight of the conversion to a school in all matters relating to sanitation.

Turning to other business, the Board approved the minutes of several prior meetings and Mark Carson suggested the coming year’s budget remain as in years past: \$900 for expenses and \$1,500 for clerical work.

Al Thorpe of Accord Engineering then presented a Form A (Approval Not Required) plan which creates a new, 1.24 acre building lot on the present site of the Rooney House on New Marlborough Southfield Road, just opposite the barns of The Farm New Marlborough. The property is owned by the New Marlborough Land Trust and is intended to be put up for sale. The remaining 18.7 acres of the original parcel will be retained by the Land Trust.

Mr. Thorpe then clarified for the Board that 4.3 acres of the Margaret Burnett property on Rt. 57, having been passed on for acquisition by the Town, is being purchased

by abutter Greg Poole. The remaining 88.4 acres will become state property.

Turning to matters that have been under previous consideration by the Board, Tom Sebestyn reported that he has been experiencing problems with his computer that have held back his progress on the Dark Sky Initiative. Bob Hartt said that he had obtained eight or nine Dark Sky bylaws from other towns, which should be very helpful in crafting one for New Marlborough. Mark Carson said that a draft of a curb-cut bylaw is getting closer to completion, and he intends to run it by the Conservation Commission before going public with it. Sharon Fleck wanted to know whether this might become a warrant article for the Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Carson said he was hopeful, but also doubtful.

On the evolution of a junk car bylaw, Paul Marcel had circulated a draft to the other members. In reviewing that draft, Bob Hartt said he thought a “purpose sentence” was lacking and also thought that perhaps the scope of the bylaw should be expanded to include other things that are abandoned eyesores. Mark Carson cautioned against penalizing people who were planning to restore the vehicles or vehicles on their property. To that point, Paul Marcel said, “If it’s been sitting there for twenty years, no one’s going to restore it.” There was further discussion on what a definition of junk might be, and also on the idea of writing in a thirty-day appeal process before removal or imposition of fines.

In closing, Chairman Carson informed the Board members that the special permit for the rebuilding of a deck owned by Michael Randi on Lake Buel had been granted, but the garage conversion on the Reynolds property is still under review. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m. □

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MAILBOX

To the editor, and to all lovers of New Marlborough Central School,

The Southern Berkshire Regional School Committee passed a budget on March 11 which included a change: Next year, fourth grade will not be offered at New Marlborough Central School (NMC). In answer to the concerns voiced by community members, this is not a signal that there are plans to close NMC. To the contrary, this change is making way for a new beginning for the school we all love so much. As one who loves NMC, I have spent decades supporting its continued use. My children went there and continued on to Undermountain Elementary School (UME), and through to Mount Everett Middle and High School (ME). I am totally devoted to the K-12 experience they had there. My son is forty now and still has close friends from his years in this very caring district. As chair of the School Committee, I am familiar with the three educational reasons for the change that is proposed.

There is an acute need for early childhood education in our area. In 2012, the School Committee launched an Elementary Education Task Force led by Louise Yohalem that did an in-depth study of our elementary schools, with input from focus groups held in the five towns. Its final report supported keeping NMC and South Egremont schools and increasing the options for younger children. That led to the formation of our current Early Education Task Force, which analyzes data to determine the needs in our community and to adjust offerings accordingly. The group has identified the unmet need for full-day programs for children before kindergarten. NMC is under consideration for expanded educational opportunities for these young children. The latest thinking from educational scholars suggests a grouping of grades preK-3 is optimal for child development. Moving fourth grade to UME would allow for another group of younger children to be accommodated at the school.

Though NMC students have been placed into mixed-aged classrooms according to the number of students currently enrolled at each age level, it has become more difficult for teachers to ensure that children are progressing at grade level, as required by the state standards. This trend has caused a reconsideration of the continuation of mixed-grade classrooms. Since there is such a small cohort of students at NMC who will be in fourth grade next year, it would not be educationally sound or cost effective to have a fourth-grade-only classroom.

There is a third reason for moving fourth grade to UME: A recent redesign of the Mount Everett Middle School involved moving the sixth grade up from UME for a more age-appropriate experience in the middle school. This left an unfortunate experience for NMC children who transitioned to UME for fifth grade, only to have to transition the very next year to ME. The move of the fourth grade to UME gives these students two years, and the opportunity to interact with the fifth grade.

The School Committee is committed to the best education for all students, keeping in mind the needs of our communities and the changes in our region. The Committee is also called upon by the five towns in our region to be fiscally responsible. Superintendent Beth Regulbuto's FY22 budget presentation included the rationale for the leadership team's decision to offer fourth grade at UME only. The Committee's unanimous vote to support the budget for FY22 reflects its agreement that this decision fulfills both responsibilities.

Soon, volunteers will be sought to help design how early childhood education might look at NMC. Parents and community members are welcome to participate in this exciting project. Please feel free to call me at 413-229-3321 if you have further questions.

Jane S. Burke
*Chair, Southern Berkshire Regional
School District School Committee*



MAILBOX

To the editor:

Thank you for featuring Louise Hart in the initial "Then and Now" feature in your March issue. Shortly after my wife, Barbara, and I moved here in 1980 to take over the Southfield Store, Louise created a stunning and intricate quilt which she donated to the New Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department as a prize in its annual raffle. For several weeks before the raffle, that quilt was on display in the Southfield and Mill River Stores, so we were able to admire it for many days. The quilt raised over \$500 for the Fire Department, at that time a record for any single raffle item.

Such was our admiration for her quilting that we asked Louise to make a quilt for us — which she did, not as elaborate, but nonetheless beautiful. We named it "Louise," and she's still in use today. I can happily say that on winter nights, I get to sleep with Barbara *and* Louise.

Sincerely,
David Lowman
Southfield

LEGION POST 350 VETERAN MEMORIAL PROJECT

Harold D. Rood American Legion Post 350's objective is to honor New Marlborough residents who have served in the nation's armed forces during United States wars and conflicts. Monuments for World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War have been in place on the town library lawn for years. The monument for veterans of the American Revolutionary War is in place but has not yet been dedicated.

Post 350 has now begun working on a monument honoring the town's American Civil War veterans. Existing monuments in other towns have been photographed and studied to determine design and structure typical for those dedicated to Civil War veterans. The right monument for New Marlborough and where it may be placed have not been determined. The Post has extracted the names of Civil War veterans from the Town's Civil War records: *Records of Soldiers and Officers (New Marlborough)* and *Record of Seamen and Officers in the Naval Services*. It was the responsibility of the Town

to pay its residents that enlisted or were commissioned to go off to war, and the Town carefully accounted for each of these bounty payments. The names found in these records were alphabetized into lists of 192 Army and 14 Navy veterans.

Not wishing to leave any deserving veteran out, Post 350 asks the community to help. If you know of or have an ancestor who may have served in the Civil War, contact Post 350 for assistance in confirming service. (Harold D. Rood A.L. Post 350, P.O. Box 231, Southfield, MA 01259.) Confirmed residence and written documentation (e.g. mustered in, mustered out, disability discharge) are helpful.

The postponed dedication ceremony for the American Revolutionary War veterans' memorial will take place on Patriot's Day, April 19, at noon. Also, a replacement plaque listing those veterans inadvertently left off the twentieth century war monuments soon will be installed. □



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PANDEMIC POSITIVES

It was a lost year that most residents in town would like to pack up, put away, and not think about too often. A year full of unrelentingly bad news, severe personal hardships for many, social distancing, faces hidden behind masks, eyes betraying loss of sleep, anxiety, and fear, and hands chapped from constant scrubbing. Asked how the year was, a common response is a sigh and a resigned, "You know. Not easy. Lonely. Depressing. Scary. I've had enough."

Yet, for many residents, the crisis was an opportunity to do something new, to take advantage of their isolated and newly circumscribed world and, whether by design or serendipity, accomplish something that they most likely would not have otherwise done. Some accomplishments were pedestrian. Some were clearly not. But all seem to have delivered a sense of purpose and satisfaction to many residents, who stated that they have achieved something they always wanted to do, or simply stumbled into, or just found something that made them feel, well, a bit better.

A list of achievements, culled from a very unscientific survey of residents, follows:

- learned a foreign language, studying Spanish/Italian/Mandarin daily, even working with a tutor over Zoom or online with tutors located all over the world.
- renovated my house.
- cleaned out file drawers, sock drawers, storage closets, pantries, coat closets, attics, basements, garages, glove compartments, and, when everything else was done, my toolbox.
- read more than ever, from novels to long works of non-fiction.
- taught a foreign language to a friend who always wanted to learn.
- became an expert challah baker which I now do every Friday for the Jewish sabbath; I've even made six braided loaves! Oh, and my white bread is fantastic. I'm so proud of it!
- learned and really become passionate about guitar playing to the point where I think I'm actually starting to get good at it!
- said, "You're on mute!" while on Zoom about 10,000 times.
- spent much more time with my spouse than ever! (For some, who will remain anonymous, this sentiment did not make the list of things to be celebrated.)
- finally learned how to master my computer and even got my own email address. I'm a 21st century guy!
- wrote and self-published a memoir.
- moved to England.
- never left New Marlborough.
- stopped drinking.
- started drinking.
- learned how to: play cribbage, write a computer program, really play a musical instrument. (At least one young resident turned to the guitar to fill the void left by the elimination of high school team sports.)
- walked at least five miles every day in the woods with my dog.
- lost a lot of weight. (Actually, not one person claimed to have accomplished this.)
- became quite a gourmet cook, making one spectacular meal after another and really enjoying it.
- enjoyed watching my husband become quite the gourmet cook!
- organized and repaired everything in the house that

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needed organizing and repairing, including cleaning the windows in the oven, spackling every crack in every wall, fixing every dripping faucet, vacuuming the motor in the refrigerator and every other motor I could find, insulating the attic, rotating the mattress monthly, changing all air filters in a timely way, and not months beyond.

- finally managed to stay up to date with my New Yorker magazines so that they are not stacked up all over the house.
- started to write the novel I always wanted to write (but, alas, didn't get very far).
- came close to watching every episode of the Twilight Zone from beginning to end (perhaps because it reminds me of my life over the past year?).
- repeatedly washed, polished, waxed and vacuumed my car, not that it ever goes anywhere.
- sold things on ebay, just to get them out of the house and to give me something to do.
- stopped watching any television news. It's liberating and I sleep much better not watching Rachel Maddow.
- came close to finalizing a website which will welcome new residents to the Berkshires and

provide them with lots of useful information. It was originally supposed to be a site to entice them to move up here but, given the huge influx of new residents, that has not proven to be necessary!

- joined and actively participate in a fully inclusive, non-partisan veterans' group (Veterans for Responsible Leadership) with the mission of working to protect our democracy from those who would seek to undermine it for personal or political advantage.
- rediscovered my love of horseback riding, going to the stable a few times a week while my son has learned to drive a pony cart.
- started to raise geese along with my chickens and lambs.
- exercised more consistently and intensely than ever, never missing my Monday online yoga class.
- read a poem every day without fail.

While no residents took pleasure in their pandemic-imposed lifestyle over the past year, many can look back and take some comfort in what they managed to accomplish, a small, personal silver lining in an otherwise bleak year. □

Barry R. Shapiro

A Message from Our Animal Control Officer and Animal Inspector

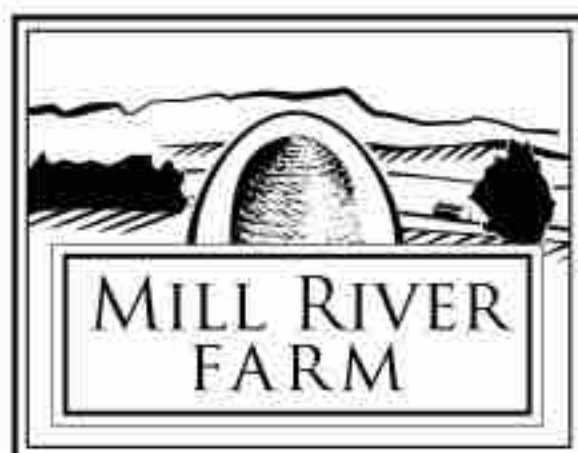
State law (MGL Chapter 140, Section 138) requires that all dogs six months or older belonging to residents of the town (including those belonging to part-time residents), must be licensed. Dogs belonging to part-time residents qualify if they stay longer than thirty consecutive days per year.

Please mail a current rabies certificate and a check covering the appropriate fee to:
Town of New Marlborough, P.O. Box 99, Mill River, MA 01244.

A license fee for spayed or neutered dogs is \$7.00 and for unaltered dogs the fee is \$15.00.



For any questions, do not hesitate to call Cassie Keeley (Animal Control Officer) at 413-429-7603 or Prudence Spaulding (Animal Inspector) at 413-229-8407.



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NEIGHBORS



John Lowman

John Lowman, son of David and Barbara Lowman of Southfield, has received the “Innovator of the Year” award for 2021 from the Owosso, Michigan, Chamber of Commerce. John founded his restaurant, the Wrought Iron Grill, thirteen years ago in Owosso, and it quickly became a central feature of the town with solid community support for the restaurant and its employees. John’s efforts over the past year to keep the restaurant afloat during the pandemic have also been recognized and strongly supported by Owosso’s residents. John’s reaction to the surprise award: “I was given an award today by the local chamber of commerce! There will be a dinner/awards banquet on June 10, and I’ll have to give a ##&&***!! speech! Nice to be recognized, happy for my team. A lot of crap this past year!” □

compiled by Barbara Lowman: deeuell@yahoo.com

OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

photo by Barry R. Shapiro



A young porcupine, getting the hang of tree-climbing

Back in the depths of winter, i.e. mid-February, **Barry Shapiro** sent in the following: “Ever see them [porcupines] fall out of a tree? This guy did it three times while Margie and I were watching him; he climbed up a tree, only to fall out again and again. The last time, he landed on his back and couldn’t turn over. I managed to assist him with a fallen branch and he immediately went back to climbing. I didn’t stay around to watch him any further. Having him almost fall on my head the first time was enough!”

Dan Doern, in Mill River, wrote on March 3, “It seems like a pair of **barred owls** have taken residence around our house. They were very active last summer and fall and now I’m hearing them again. I don’t have any pictures but will try to get some. One did fly real close to us on the screened porch last fall. We barely saw it in the dusk but felt its silent mass go by. They make the wildest sounds — whooping and such across the valley. And now, I’m hearing them around dawn.”

Joan Hulett, who lives in Clayton, sent the following heart-warming message on March 4: “A gentleman named **Don Oberlander**, who hunts on our property and also fishes the Konkapot, sent me a photograph of the **wood duck** nesting house he built in honor of **Donald Beauchamp**. The plan is this June to have a gathering at the farm. The birdhouse will be put on a tree by the river, near where he watched ducks.”

Steve Cunningham sent a spectacular shot of a **bobcat**, along with this back story on March 18: “A month ago, I stumbled upon a dead deer at the base of my property. I decided to set up my trail camera to see what might visit it. I got 1,000 photos overnight of bobcat and fox; most were night photos so not so good, but at the end of them all were eight perfect, color photos of this beauty. It’s like he was posing.” □

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

photo by Steve Cunningham



A bobcat who seems to know how handsome he is



A fitting memorial to Don Beauchamp

photo by Don Oberlander

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Even after almost ten years in the U.S., there are some things this Aussie hasn't adapted to – Fahrenheit still makes no sense, nor do ounces and pounds, and it's aluminium (al-you-minee-ummm). However, seasons are one thing that I am completely in tune with (other than summer being in July; that still throws me). Even before we moved here, spring has always been April to me – I'm pretty sure this comes from having one of those Little Golden Book records of "Little April Shower" from "Bambi" when I was very young. This recipe from Stacie McCormack is what I would call spring on a plate – it's bright green and tastes so fresh and lovely, just what we need after the muddy tones of March.

Stacie grew up in Boston and on Cape Cod before moving to New York City twenty-eight years ago. Growing up, her family would go to the Red Lion Inn for holidays and New Year's Eve. When looking for a house out of the city six years ago, her love for the Berkshires led her to New Marlborough.

I love how food connects people, especially when a favorite recipe is passed between friends; it doesn't seem to matter how many years pass, where you are, or how often you make the dish, making it again brings back so many warm memories. The story of how Stacie came to have this recipe evokes this sense of togetherness that we are all so in need of right now.

"I started making this dish when I was young and living in New York. I had an older friend who used to live in Italy. She and her husband constantly entertained and used to invite me to their amazing dinner parties on the Bowery where there was always an interesting, bohemian crowd and I loved it! She would make this often and taught me how. The bright green is really pretty! I'd always thought Italian sauces were mostly tomato or butter/garlic based over pasta, so it was surprising to me that asparagus was used like this. I do love cooking but I am no Julia Child by any means! This is very easy, very delicious, and looks beautiful on the plate. AND it's inexpensive, so when you have to feed a crowd, you can easily double the recipe to make a large bowl of it." □

Fiona Kerr



photo by Stacie McCormack

Pasta with Spring Asparagus Sauce

Ingredients: 1 box of rigatoni pasta
1 bunch of fresh asparagus
3 Tablespoons of olive oil
Parmesan cheese

Directions:

- Boil the pasta according to the instructions on the packet until al dente. Drain and reserve some of the water.
- Break the woody ends off the asparagus, cut into smaller pieces, season with salt and steam for 8-10 minutes.
- When the asparagus is just softened, put it in a blender with the olive oil, and purée until it forms a sauce. If the asparagus isn't blending well, add a tablespoon of the pasta water to help the sauce come together.
- Season with salt and black pepper, serve over the pasta and top with freshly grated Parmesan cheese.

Enjoy!

nm5vn.org

Thank You to Our Contributors:

William & Claire Gillette; Cindi & Layne Labshere; Julie Sandorf; Rene & Marjorie Biber

THE LOG

Police Department (selected entries)

- Feb. 3 3:02 p.m. The Department puts out a BOLO (be on the lookout) for a Ford Explorer that ran a driver off Hartsville New Marlborough Road and then fled the scene of the accident.
- Feb. 4 7:32 p.m. A Shunpike Road resident reports an unemployment insurance scam.
- Feb. 5 12:46 p.m. An officer helps restore peace in a dispute at a Pine Road residence.
- Feb. 6 3:13 p.m. A caller reports that her vehicle was struck by a delivery truck she was attempting to pass on Mill River Great Barrington Road.
- 6:04 p.m. An officer assists in locating a hiker lost in the vicinity of Thousand Acre Swamp.
- Feb. 8 4:46 p.m. The animal control officer is alerted to a sick porcupine near a residence on Mill River Southfield Road.
- Feb. 9 3:02 p.m. A tow is called for a car that has run into a utility pole on Mill River Great Barrington Road.
- Feb. 14 11:14 a.m. The animal control officer is called to assist a Hatchery Road resident whose dog is stuck under a Fish Hatchery building.
- 4:42 p.m. A tow is ordered after a car, stopped for speeding on County Road, is found to have a suspended registration.
- Feb. 16 7:49 a.m. A tow is called for a car that has slipped off North Road due to icy conditions.
- 5:43 p.m. Stopped for reckless driving while passing through Hartsville village, a driver is arrested when his vehicle, with a false number plate, is found to be unregistered and uninsured.
- Feb. 18 12:30 p.m. An officer, responding to a call about an open front door at an unoccupied house on Clayton Mill River Road, determines that all is in order.
- 10:45 p.m. An officer assists a driver who has locked himself out of his vehicle in Mill River village.
- Feb. 22 4:05 p.m. Responding to a Knight Road resident who reported receiving a phone call threatening arrest, an officer determines that the call originated from a San Francisco area code and that it was a scam.
- Feb. 23 10:42 p.m. A caller alerts the Department to a vehicle apparently abandoned at the intersection of Brewer Hill and Brewer Branch Roads.
- Feb. 24 10:00 p.m. A tow is called for a vehicle stopped for speeding at the intersection of Canaan Southfield and Clayton Mill River Roads, whose operator is found to have a suspended driver's license.
- Feb. 25 2:06 P.M. National Grid is notified of a tree on wires on Campbell Falls Road.
- Feb. 26 7:13 p.m. A Pine Road resident's complaint of fireworks being set off at a neighboring property is determined to be unfounded.

Graham Frank, Chief of Police

SUSAN M. SMITH
Attorney At Law

38 Mahaiwe Street, Suite 1 Telephone: (413) 528-4300
Great Barrington, MA 01230 Facsimile: (413) 528-4306
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LAND TRUST NEWS

Throughout the winter, students from Mount Everett have been volunteering weekly for the Land Trust. We had been relegated to Zoom gatherings until the recent thaw, when we relished the warming air and easy access to the trails. Even the mud was inviting! Students have been working on trail signage for our properties, and have hand-painted directional signs which will help guide visitors at the preserves.

Throughout the winter, we have been working remotely with map maker Peter Tiso to create property maps showing trail details, distances, and topography. Check out the new map now hanging in the kiosk at the Goodnow Preserve. The same is in the works for the New Marlboro Preserve. There is significant trail and property cleanup to be done in the aftermath of the long, windy winter. These tasks are ongoing and we are on it!

Our early spring plans are to make additional property improvements. As soon as the weather allows, we will establish a parking area at the Goodnow Preserve by creating a gravel surface to minimize the slosh of mud that bogs down the current access. When it is safe to do so we will reach out to our loyal volunteers. Time for a party!

The annual Spring Road Cleanup will be held remotely on the last Saturday of April, April 24. Gather your COVID pods, your garbage bags, and good cheer. Send us your pictures from the roadsides to nmlandtrust@gmail.com or share on instagram at [#newmarlboroughlandtrust](https://www.instagram.com/newmarlboroughlandtrust). In these uncertain times, some things remain constant – persistent littering our roadsides being one of them. Break out of your winter shelter and help us clean up and get ready for the summer ahead. It is going to be a good one!

Executive Director Martha Bryan



photo by Martha Bryan

Amelia and Isabella Kemp installing their hand-painted sign at the start of the new loop at Goodnow

FIRE AND RESCUE

- Feb. 2 2:23 p.m. Deerwood Park Road CO Alarm
- Feb. 2 7:02 p.m. Juniper Hill Road CO Alarm
- Feb. 4 8:22 p.m. Mill River Southfield Road Fire Ala
- Feb. 4 8:58 p.m. Hadsell Street Medical Call
- Feb. 4 11:34 p.m. Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call
- Feb. 5 10:20 a.m. Deerwood Park Road CO Alarm
- Feb. 5 5:02 p.m. Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call
- Feb. 6 6:08 p.m. Norfolk/Hotchkiss Roads Lost Hiker
- Feb. 11 11:09 a.m. Standby for Sandisfield Chimney Fire
- Feb. 12 5:59 p.m. East Hill Road Fire Alarm
- Feb. 12 10:42 p.m. Mutual Aid to Sheffield Medical Call
- Feb. 13 6:05 p.m. Canaan Southfield Road CO Alarm
- Feb. 13 9:39 p.m. East Hill Road Medical Call
- Feb. 20 8:04 a.m. Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call
- Feb. 22 8:49 a.m. Hadsell Street Medical Call

Fire Company President David Smith





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THE SCHOOL REPORT

A GREEN LIGHT FOR REOPENING

Ever since the winter break, the Southern Berkshire Regional School District has been hoping for the full return of students. On a March 5 phone call, Education Commissioner Jeffrey Riley explained that, following consultation with medical experts and state health officials, he had been given new authority to direct schools to bring students back into the classroom full time. It would no longer be a local decision. He announced that students would have to be in school full-time or at home full-time, five days a week, starting on April 5, with students in grades K-5. He allowed grades 6-8 to wait until April 28, but a date for grades 9-12 is still under consideration.

Superintendents across the state were required to survey their communities to see which households would exercise their option to continue fully remote learning and which would return full time. With only one month to prepare, Superintendent Beth Regulbuto superintendent of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, administered the survey, which also included whether or not bus transportation would be needed. At the March 11 School Committee meeting, she reported that of the 350 survey responses, 76 percent chose to return full time while and 24 percent will remain fully remote. Only 33 percent want to use the bus transportation, with the remainder choosing to drive children to school.

The state guidance issued on March 10 calls for the continuation of mask wearing, but with a social distancing minimum of three feet rather than six. This is based on a March 2021 peer-reviewed study showing that districts in Massachusetts using a physical distancing standard of three feet in classrooms did not see an increased number of Covid-19 positive cases, as compared to districts that maintained a strict six feet of distance.

Using the information gathered from the survey

and these guidelines, the administrative team began preparing for the change. Given how eager families and school personnel are to have students back in school, the School Committee has approved bringing all students who elect to do so back on April 5. Jeremy Wells, Director of buildings and grounds, determined that he could get furniture out of storage, calculate how to provide the required spacing in the classrooms, and have classrooms ready by that date. Principals, together with their staff, discussed how the school day would look and how to create the optimum learning environment. In the elementary schools, using waivers allowed by the commissioner, it was determined that staff would be reassigned to provide a remote classroom for each grade level K-5. This releases the regular classroom teachers to focus fully on the in-person students rather than continuing the unsatisfactory method used during the hybrid schedule, where remote students participated at the same time. At the middle and high school, the scheduling is a much more complicated and challenging process. How can remote students be accommodated when the majority of students will be coming into school? Teachers have to adjust to comply with the commissioner's requirements for a set number of hours of learning per day that had not been required during the hybrid model.

Luckily, safe transportation should not be a problem, since the buses will only be transporting one-third of the students. The six-foot distancing still required for safety of students during breakfast and lunch presents a challenge. Soon the warmer weather will allow the use of tents that will be set up outside. □

Jane Burke, Chair, SBRSD School Committee

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SPORTS!

That's Sports with a 'P' that Stands for...

In March of 2020, when all interscholastic athletics at Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) were cancelled due to the pandemic, many students, especially seniors, were dismayed by the inability to participate in the spring sports season. Athletic Director Josh King and Assistant Athletic Director Joe McSpirtt knew well what the loss of the comradery and school spirit would mean to these students. Since his arrival as a faculty member in 2006, Mr. King has championed the sports program, both in the classroom as a wellness teacher and in the District's co-curricular sports offerings. He spent the spring and summer months working tirelessly with school administration, the Sheffield Board of Health, and others to bring sports back for the students.

Following the publication in August of *The Joint Guidance on the Modified Sports Seasons for 2020-21* by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA), Mr. King went into action to make a plan for SBRSD participation in interscholastic fall sports that would meet the MIAA and DESE requirements. This meant working with the Sheffield Board of Health, the SBRSD administration, SBRSD coaches, and athletic directors across Berkshire County. The following rules were adopted: All involved must be masked at all times, including coaches, time keepers, and players; six-foot distances are required except during play; no spectators allowed; and frequent sanitizing of hands and equipment must be implemented. The plan for each season must be approved first by the Sheffield Board of Health and then by the SBRSD School Committee.

At the September 10 meeting of the School Committee, Principal Jesse Carpenter joined Mr. King in the presentation of the fall sports plan. When all questions were answered about the manner in which two sports, golf and cross country, would be safely managed, the majority voted to approve the September 18 start. At this time, all learning was fully remote, so parents had to bring students to campus for practices, leave, and come back for the pickup. In this first Covid sports season, there were ten golfers, and five girls and eight boys on the cross country teams. For home cross-country meets, parents of participants volunteered to monitor progress along



Senior Cooper Rothvos, of Southfield, drives the lane in a hard-fought victory over Covid-19 photo by Stephanie Ullrich

the course, but at other meets parents merely dropped off and picked up after the meet. A soccer program was also offered by Berkshire County Youth Soccer League and Berkshire Soccer Club using school fields but not run by SBRSD.

It was not clear what sports would be allowed for the winter season until the next DESE and MIAA guidance was issued in late November. Since Berkshire School campus was closed to visitors, it was not possible to run the popular Eagles hockey team. The proposed boys' and girls' basketball program was presented and approved by the School Committee at its meeting on December 8. Practice

began on January 4 with twenty-four boys on either the junior varsity or varsity team, and nine girls on the varsity. Makenzie Ullrich, senior on the girls varsity said, "It means a lot to know how much work the county, the MIAA, and the school has put into the season so that we were able to play. Going through all the rules and changes my senior year has been difficult, but having the support of my school, coaches, and teammates has been amazing and has made the season special."

The winter/spring season was approved at the March 11 School Committee meeting. It will run March 15 until May 1 with twelve girls on the volleyball team, twenty-four girls playing soccer and twenty-six boys playing soccer. Five boys have opted to join the Monument Mountain High School Cooperative football team. The Spring season which will feature baseball and softball is tentatively scheduled to begin May 5.

Mr. King credited his coaches and players for having no positive Covid tests. For the away games, each team travelled on its own bus for eighteen varsity games and sixteen junior varsity games. The District provides a service whereby spectators could see games on line using this link: <https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/schools/mount-everett-regional-school-sheffield-ma>

In the words of senior Jack Carpenter, "Getting the opportunity to have a full basketball season this winter meant a lot to me. Your senior season is something you look forward to your whole career, and getting the chance to play a full schedule in a year like this was awesome. It is great to be out there with the team, having some sense of normalcy in a year that has been anything but normal." □

Jane Burke

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Adult Fiction

West with Giraffes, by Lynda Rutledge
Consequences of Fear, by Jacqueline Winspear
The Liar's Dictionary, by Eley Williams
The Guest List, by Lucy Foley
Burnt Sugar, by Avni Doshi
Win, by Harlan Coben

Adult Nonfiction

Land: How the Hunger for Ownership Shaped the Modern World, by Simon Winchester
Migrations to Solitude: The Quest for Privacy in a Crowded World, by Sue Halpern
Four Wings and a Prayer: Caught in the Mystery of the Monarch Butterfly, by Sue Halpern
Twilight of the Gods: War in the Western Pacific, 1944-1945, by Ian W. Toll
Animal, Vegetable, Junk: A History of Food from Sustainable to Suicidal, by Mark Bittman
Easy Lace Knits, by Anniken Allis
Knitted Baby Blankets and Cuddle Bags, by Marta Skadsheim Torkildsen

Children's Fiction

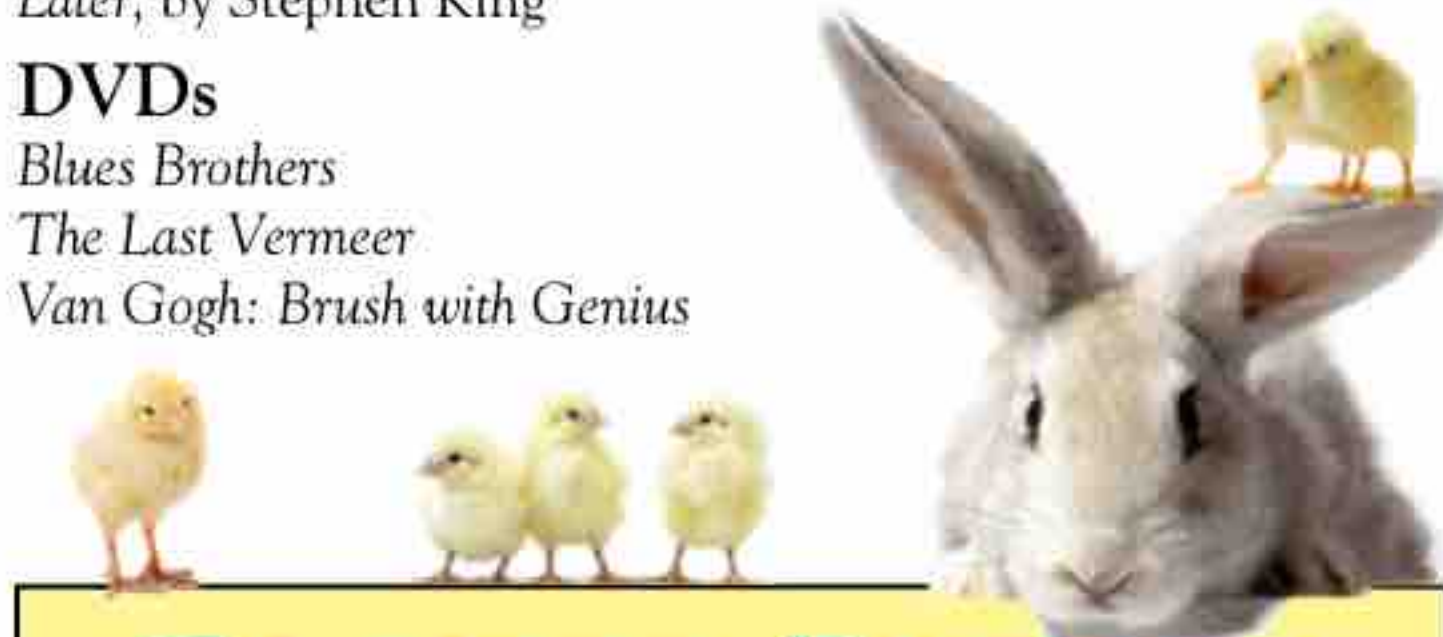
Bear Island, by Matthew Cordell
What's the Matter, Marlo? by Andrew Arnold
It's So Quiet, by Sherri Duskey Rinker

Books on CD

The Four Winds, by Kristin Hannah
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Board of Selectmen: Every Monday at 6:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Town Hall: 229-8116

Police: Business office: 229-8161

Library: 229-6668

Transfer Station Hours:

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

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

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Larry Burke, issue editor; Diane Barth, designer; Martha Bryan, Jane Burke, Robbi Hartt, Barbara Lowman, David Lowman, Joe Poindexter, Peter Schuyten, Barry Shapiro, Sandra Fusco-Walker.
Contributing writers and artists: Ann Getsinger, Fiona Kerr.
Index: Donna Weaver

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

New Marlborough 5 Village News

appears monthly,

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www.nm5vn.org

The next issue will be dated May 2021.

All copy must be submitted no later than April 16.

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

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