

New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton ♦ Hartsville ♦ Mill River ♦ New Marlborough ♦ Southfield

NEW MARLBOROUGH IS GOING IN CIRCLES

It's Roundabout Time

By Larry O'Barry



photo by Lee J Buck

A composite photo rendering of the Mill River roundabout, as it will appear in the very near future

So taken were they with the mini-rotary that now graces the south end of Great Barrington that the New Marlborough Select Board has voted to use the Town's remaining ARPA funds to install five roundabouts – one for each of the township's villages. With full backing and additional funding from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), construction will begin on or about Monday, April 1 on the first roundabout in Mill River, at the three-way intersection in front of the Town Library.

The MassDOT's letter of agreement to the Select Board reads, in part, "Studies which our office has conducted indicate that driver and pedestrian safety will be greatly enhanced by this construction and that the environmental impact caused by idling cars at the intersection will be significantly reduced, aligning more closely with pollution standards adopted by the Baker administration and endorsed by Governor Healey."

Police Chief Graham Frank noted that he has discussed the safety aspects of roundabouts with police chiefs in other towns and most are in favor of them. "They are coming, like it or not," said Chief Frank, "and the taxpayers should be happy that this will be paid for entirely out of federal and state funds."

As word has spread around town, some residents are unhappy about the new roundabout, branding it "bureaucratic overreach," but on the other hand, Bob and Robbi Hartt, whose home fronts on the intersection and will be most dramatically impacted by the Mill River roundabout, were foursquare behind the project. "If it's good for the community, we're in favor of it," said Mrs. Hartt. "Also, we often play gin rummy in a room at the front of our house and sometimes a car's headlights will shine directly into our cardroom, disrupting play. I think that the roundabout will reduce that glare, so win-win!"

Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring, taking a well-deserved break following his and his crew's heroic efforts in the recent snow event, was reached by phone. Asked what his thoughts were on the news, after a moment of pause, he responded, "Well, you know, what goes around comes around."

So as not to disrupt traffic unduly all over town, the MassDOT has created a five-year plan, one new rotary each year through 2027. Next April it will be the five-way intersection in the center of New Marlborough Village, followed by Southfield at East Hill Road, Hartsville at the Grange, and, last but not least, Clayton at what will no longer be known as Clayton Corners.

A bound edition of detour routes is in the works.



Town Business Is Your Business SELECT BOARD



February 27: Select Board members Mark Carson, Tara White, and Bill West, along with Town Administrator Mari Enoch and Administrative Secretary Michelle Castellano attended the meeting, which was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

The first matter for discussion resolved in the Board agreeing to move forward on a municipal small bridge program grant application to be submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) for repair of the Campbell Falls bridge. Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring and New Marlborough Historical Society Vice President John Schreiber were present to describe the grant and the collaboration. The bridge, built in the decade of the 1820s, has largely survived in its original condition, but repairs are necessary.

The Historical Society had hoped to fund the entire cost of the needed repairs but, upon inspection of the bridge by MassDOT, it has been determined that the cost will be well beyond the approximately \$40,000 the Historical Society has been able to raise. Because the Campbell Falls bridge is historically significant, and because New Marlborough has never been a recipient of this grant, Dr. Schreiber and Mr. Loring believe the Town has a good chance of getting it. The grant covers the cost of engineering and design, estimated to be \$70,000 (the maximum grant award is \$100,000). The Town can then put in a second application for construction estimated to be \$350,000 (the maximum grant award is \$500,000).

Mr. Loring's next step is to secure the services of a MassDOT-certified engineer to assist with the application and do the design. Dr. Schreiber noted that Representative Smitty Pignatelli has requested a copy of grant when it is submitted so he can advocate for the project with MassDOT, as well as visit the site when

the weather is warmer. The site has already been approved by Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and no further permitting is required. Mr. Loring noted that, after repair, a weight limit may need to be enforced.

Mr. Loring then gave some highway updates related to the timing of ordering culverts and catch basins, the status of the new Mack truck being outfitted at the dealership, the marking of potholes, and the deployment of signs requesting drivers to avoid dirt and gravel roads during the muddy spring season. A second round of bids have been requested for top-coating Mill River Great Barrington and Adsit Crosby Roads as well reclamation and resurfacing of Knight Road. Bids were requested and received in August but the prices were well beyond budget, so the decision was made to rebid in the hopes the prices will be lower.

Discussion then focused on Tom Loughlin, an engineer with the firm of GM2 who has been hired to design road and drainage on the portion of Route 57 through the village of New Marlborough. This work is to be completed with a \$1-million MassWorks grant. Mr. Loring has been attempting for two weeks to contact Mr. Loughlin to discuss a design and bid sheet he had provided but has received no response to his calls. The Board determined that the best course of action will be to hold off paying Mr. Loughlin's invoice while Chairman Carson continues to attempt to contact him. The intent of the Select Board and Highway Superintendent was to have the construction work put out for bid in February and the lack of response has caused delay.

Mr. Carson then gave an update on the scheduling of a site visit for the Hartsville riverbank stabilization project. He is setting a date with Erin Rodger of Trout Unlimited, surveyor Michael Parsons, and CarrieAnne



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Petrik, who is regional coordinator of the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program. The target dates for the site visit are March 9 or 10.

Next up, the Board approved use of the New Marlborough Village Green for a farmers' market. The request was made by Richard Long, representing the people who sell their produce and wares there. The market will be held on Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. from May 6 through September 2.

At the recommendation of Solid Waste Coordinator Freddy Friedman, the Board then awarded a Transfer Station bid for hauling, container rental, and tipping of wet garbage to Roger Trucking. Currently the Town is contracted with Casella Waste Systems, but that contract ends on March 9. Bids were received from both Casella and Roger Trucking, with Roger Trucking submitting the lower bid. Mr. Friedman expressed an interest in requesting larger containers so less hauling is necessary.

After several meetings of reviewing and discussing various scenarios, the Board decided to recommend a cost-of-living wage adjustment of 3.5 percent for all non-contracted Town employees, plus an additional 1.5 percent for those who are not in the middle quartile for their position class. At this point in the budgeting process, the Board believes this to be an approach to meet their goal in a way that is fiscally cautious and reasonable for Town employees. The affirmative vote was made by Mr. Carson and Mr. West, with Ms. White abstaining.

Ms. White then requested, and the Board agreed, to grant authority to Ms. Enoch to sign and submit a master contract with Massachusetts that will allow the Town to apply for multiple small grants related to waste disposal and management.

At the request of the Linda Fass, chair of the New Marlborough Cultural Council, the Board appointed Dorothy Sinclair to the Council for a term beginning

March 1 and ending December 31, 2025. The selectmen had no updates and proceeded to sign vendor and payroll warrants. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

March 6: All three members of the Board, along with Town Administrator Mari Enoch and Administrative Secretary Michelle Castellano were present for the meeting, which was called to order at 6:00 p.m. First up, though not on the agenda, the Board agreed to allow the Southfield Store to place six to eight lawn signs to direct customers on detours to the store, during the time the Norfolk Road bridge is closed for construction. The Board considered this to be an emergency issue to address.

John Halbreich and Police Chief Graham Frank were then granted permission to submit a grant application to the United States Department of Agriculture for a Rural Development Grant to pay for a portion of a new police vehicle. Mr. Halbreich explained that, based on U.S. Census data, New Marlborough qualifies to have 35 percent of the cost of a cruiser paid by the grant. This will be approximately \$28,381 of the estimated \$81,091 cost of the new vehicle, which will be a four-door Chevrolet pickup truck. A decision on the grant is expected two to three weeks after the application is submitted.

As the outcome of several discussions, the Board decided it will not, at this time, adopt the step salary plan presented by Police Chief Graham Frank. The Board expressed a desire for more clarity before adopting the plan, but did agree to grant an additional 1.5 percent increase in salary to officers who complete training at the full-time academy. This is an exception to the previously adopted strategy for all town employees, adopted at the last meeting.

At the request of the Planning Board, Becky Wilkinson was appointed to a vacant position on the Plan-

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ning Board for a term to begin immediately and last until the next election. Ms. Wilkinson will be holding the position from which Paul Marcel recently resigned. The Board then approved and signed the warrant for the Town Caucus to be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 28 at Town Hall.

In town administrator updates, Ms. Enoch announced that Berkshire Regional Planning will be holding a do-it-yourself workshop on projects to manage stormwater and bank erosion as well as making homes energy efficient on Wednesday April 19 at 6:00 p.m. at the Firehouse. Dinner will be provided!

New Marlborough's share of Chapter 90 road funds for Fiscal Year 2024 will be \$337,747.38. This is approximately the same amount received in FY23. Ms. Enoch expressed disappointment at a lack of increase in these funds, given that the price of road maintenance has increased substantially.

In response to the Board's letter to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation requesting the omission of grooved centerline rumble strips on the next section of Route 57 to be repaved, MassDOT holds that the rumble strips are a proven best practice and will continue to include them.

In selectmen updates, Mr. Carson reported that he received an email from Construct Executive Director Jane Ralph stating that she continues to work on a payment-in-lieu-of-taxes agreement with the Town. He also received a return call from engineer Tom Loughlin, who claimed the Highway Department should have received plans, but Mr. Loring states he has not received them. The meeting was then adjourned, at 7:46 p.m.

March 13: Convened at 4:00 p.m., this hybrid meeting included all three members of the Board, plus Town Administrator Mari Enoch. Mr. West and Ms. Enoch were present in Town Hall and the others joined via

Zoom. Administrative Secretary Michelle Castellano joined later.

In the first order of business, the Board awarded a contract to Williams Paving for the jobs of top coating Mill River Great Barrington Road and Adsit Crosby Road,

The Board awarded a contract to Williams Paving for the jobs of top coating Mill River Great Barrington Road and Adsit Crosby Road, as well as full reclamation and resurfacing of Knight Road.

as well as full reclamation and resurfacing of Knight Road. The Williams bid was \$484,563.75 for all three jobs. The Town will finance the top coating with Chapter 90 road funds and the Knight Road work with the \$278,598.86 of Winter Recovery Assistance Program (WRAP) funds that New Marlborough received from the state. Back in August, the Board had put out bids for all three jobs but declined to award any con-

tracts because the bids were approximately \$230,000 more than the current Williams bid. The decision to re-bid at this time produced the reduced-cost result the Board had hoped for.

Next, the Board addressed several road sign matters. At the recommendation of Police Chief Graham Frank, the Board approved a stop sign to replace a yield at the triangular intersection of Mill River Great Barrington Road and County Road near the Ormsbee farm. Additionally, the Board confirmed that Lumbert Cross Road speed limit is 30 miles per hour and additional speed limit signs can be added as needed. This was deemed important, as it is now the detour for the bridge closure on Norfolk Road in Southfield. Mr. Carson would like to inquire of Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring if he can add "trucks entering" signs in both directions near the transfer station to prevent people from attempting to pass. Such signs, it was agreed, could be paid for from the Highway budget.

In town administrator updates, Ms. Enoch announced that the executive session planned for that Wednesday morning had been canceled at the request of Chairman Mark Carson. It will be rescheduled after

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Mr. Carson listens to the Town Hall Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday afternoon to see what additional information they have and how they're feeling about the projects. He believes he "jumped the gun" in planning the executive session.

In Selectman updates, Mr. Carson thanked everyone for joining the site visit for the Hartsville riverbank remediation project. The significant finding from the engineer at the site visit was the importance of addressing the backflow of water into Lake Buel when the water level of the Konkapot River gets too high. Next step is to secure a proposal from surveyor Mike Parsons.

Mr. Carson announced that Town Emergency Management Director Barbara Marchione has arranged for active shooter training by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency to be streamed for Town employees at Town Hall on Thursday, March 23, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

The purpose is to instruct how to develop plans and train employees to respond to an active shooter.

Next, Mr. Carson presented a Reserve Fund request of \$25,000 from the Highway Department for the fuel account for both propane and diesel. The

Board agreed to recommend it to the Finance Committee. The reason the budget does not cover this year's fuel expenses is that the bid prices for fuels were not available until after the budget was set at Town Meeting and the unit costs are higher than anticipated.

Lastly, Ms. Enoch announced an opportunity for the Town to sign on to join suits against opioid producers, to collect a portion of lawsuit settlements. This must be done in an executive session to be scheduled at a later date. The meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m. □

Michele McAuley

Mr. Carson presented a Reserve Fund request of \$25,000 from the Highway Department for the fuel account for both propane and diesel.

THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING APPROACHES

As it turns out, the first Monday in May, which is the traditional night for New Marlborough's Annual Town Meeting, falls on May 1st. This complicates things for the NM5VN because, routinely in the May issue, we try to give our readers a leg up by supplying a synopsis of the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting, but with the uncertainty factor of postal delivery, we know that copies may show up in mailboxes a week, sometimes two, later – well after the meeting has taken place.

With this in mind, the staff reached out to Town Administrator Mari Enoch in mid-March to see if she could indicate roughly what would be included in the warrant (which will not be finalized until mid-April).

Ms. Enoch's reply was, "At this time I do not know of anything on the warrant besides the budget and general housekeeping type items. I have no knowledge of any bylaw amendments, zoning or otherwise. That doesn't mean that nothing will come up, but as far as I know, there will be no school merger vote or town hall vote at the Annual Town Meeting."

Regardless of what items pop up as the warrant is developed in April, we will do our normal synopsis in the May issue and hope it gets out in time, and copies of the warrant will be available at Town Hall and on the Town's website in the week or so before the meeting. □

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TOWN HALL UPDATES

Most conspicuously missing in the process of determining the future site of Town Hall have been the executive sessions of the Select Board in furthering the purchase and sale agreement for the winery property, Les Trois Emme, on Mill River Great Barrington Road. At the Select Board meeting of March 6, Mr. Carson conceded that the process has been put on hold due to his concern over the cost of construction to convert the winery buildings to Town Hall use. He declined to say anything further because the Board had not conducted a meeting on the topic.

At the meeting of the Town Hall Planning Committee on March 15, consultant David Allard presented cost estimates for four alternatives being considered for a Town Hall site: renovation of the current site at \$2,633,117; purchase and renovation of the winery at \$2,022,568; purchase and renovation of 4,948 square feet of the Robin's Hall building at The Farm New

Marlborough at \$1,771,061; and the purchase of land and construction of a new, 5,000 square foot building in a range of \$1,959,688 to \$2,555,938. The Committee requested some clarifications and noted that the contingency factor of 5 percent, typically used in cost estimates, might understate actual cost overruns. Mr. Allard will present updated estimates at the next meeting.

Contacted for an update on the Planning Committee's work, Committee Chairman Richard Long stated that he has submitted his resignation from the Committee for personal reasons. The agenda for the meeting on March 22 contains items including "Read letter of resignation – Richard Long" and "Elect new Chair." Whether this will delay Committee work and whether the Select Board will decide to add a replacement member remains to be seen in the coming weeks. □

Michele McAuley

A RELAUNCH FOR THE NM5VN?

In an effort to make up for the heavy financial losses he has suffered in his takeover of Twitter, Elon Musk has been aggressively acquiring community newspapers across the country, and has most recently made a bid to purchase the *New Marlborough 5 Village News*. In addition to an undisclosed cash offer, the heretofore volunteer staffers would each receive a robotically controlled Tesla and a two-day journey to space on the next SpaceX launch. One of Mr. Musk's conditions for purchase is that



editorial control of the newspaper's content will henceforth be in the hands of Chat GPT-4. This may, or may not, sour the deal. If the Select Board report in the upcoming May issue seems a bit more melodramatic than usual and is delivered in rhyming couplets, then readers may safely assume that the NM5VN staff is off enjoying the weightlessness of low Earth orbit. □

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THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

March 16: Commission members Doug Hyde, John Schreiber, and Nanci Worthington convened the meeting via Zoom. The Commission invited Matt Puntin of SK Design Group to continue the hearing for the Notice of Intent (NOI) for Kristin Mallory and Terry Lush of Mill River Great Barrington Road. Mr. Puntin addressed concerns from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection by submitting a revised site plan, which included moving the route of the proposed driveway ten feet west of the original route and further away from the existing wetlands. In addition, the two culverts for the driveway proposed on the first plan were eliminated. The Commission requested that there be one-to-one replacement of the six trees indicated for removal. It was agreed that the replacement plantings would be native vegetation planted in the buffer zone. The Commission also requested permission to visit the site during construction. With everyone in agreement, the permit was approved.

Next, the Commission accepted the request to continue the NOI hearing from the New Marlborough Highway Department until next month.

As its last item of old business, the Commission revisited the three enforcement orders issued to residents on Windemere Lake at numbers 5, 35, and 881 Stratford Road. Stu Mayerson of 5 Stratford Road joined the Zoom meeting to give evidence that the meadow on his property that runs down to the bank of the lake pre-existed the Wetlands Protection Act and therefore is exempt from current protection enforcement. Matt Schafer of Huntley Associates addressed the Commission for the owners at both 3 and 881 Stratford Lane, requesting a continuance for both hearings until next month, and this the Commission granted.

In new business, the Commission members enthusi-

astically endorsed the current Hartsville River Restoration Project led by Selectman Mark Carson in partnership with Trout Unlimited. Mr. Carson invited the Conservation Commission members to join a recent site meeting in Hartsville. The Commission proposed that the Town consider a local bylaw which would augment the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act to give further protection and management standards for work abutting our town rivers. Dr. Schreiber suggested that he, Mr. Hyde, and Mrs. Worthington, form a sub-committee to research precedent in other Massachusetts towns, with the goal of submitting a proposal to the Select Board for such a local bylaw amendment.

Lastly, the mail was reviewed. A letter from White Engineering verified the deed recording for the order of conditions on the NOI for Jane and Eliot Rennert, owners of the former Rooney house at 346 New Marlborough Southfield Road. The next meeting was scheduled for April 20. □

Martha Bryan

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Town Governance

Continuing a series on the men and women who serve on our Town boards and committees, a brief profile of . . .

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT CHUCK LORING

By Joe Poindexter

New Marlborough is famous for its spaciousness — 48 square miles with a population barely exceeding 1,500 — and its miles and miles of roads, ninety in all. But it's the thirty-eight of them that are dirt that makes the work of the highway superintendent so challenging. Dirt, however, is where Chuck Loring excels. Before joining the Highway Department in 2011, Chuck had spent years in excavation work, first with brother-in-law Scott MacKenzie and later, on his own. In 2013, he was named superintendent and has helped keep New Marlborough residents on the move ever since.

Charles Loring III (the given name goes back to his grandfather) grew up in Otis and graduated from Lee High School in 1983.

He started off in carpentry and, upon his marriage to Kathy MacKenzie in 1990, built a house on land she owned near Lake Buel. But traveling to construction sites became disruptive to family life, especially with the birth of their first daughter, Mackenzie, in 1993, followed by their second daughter, Michaela, in 1999, and Chuck moved into the excavation business with Scott. He formed Chuck Loring Excavation in 2008.

When then Highway Superintendent Peter Marks retired in 2013, the Select Board recognized that his successor was already working for the Department.



Chuck Loring in the Fire House conference room

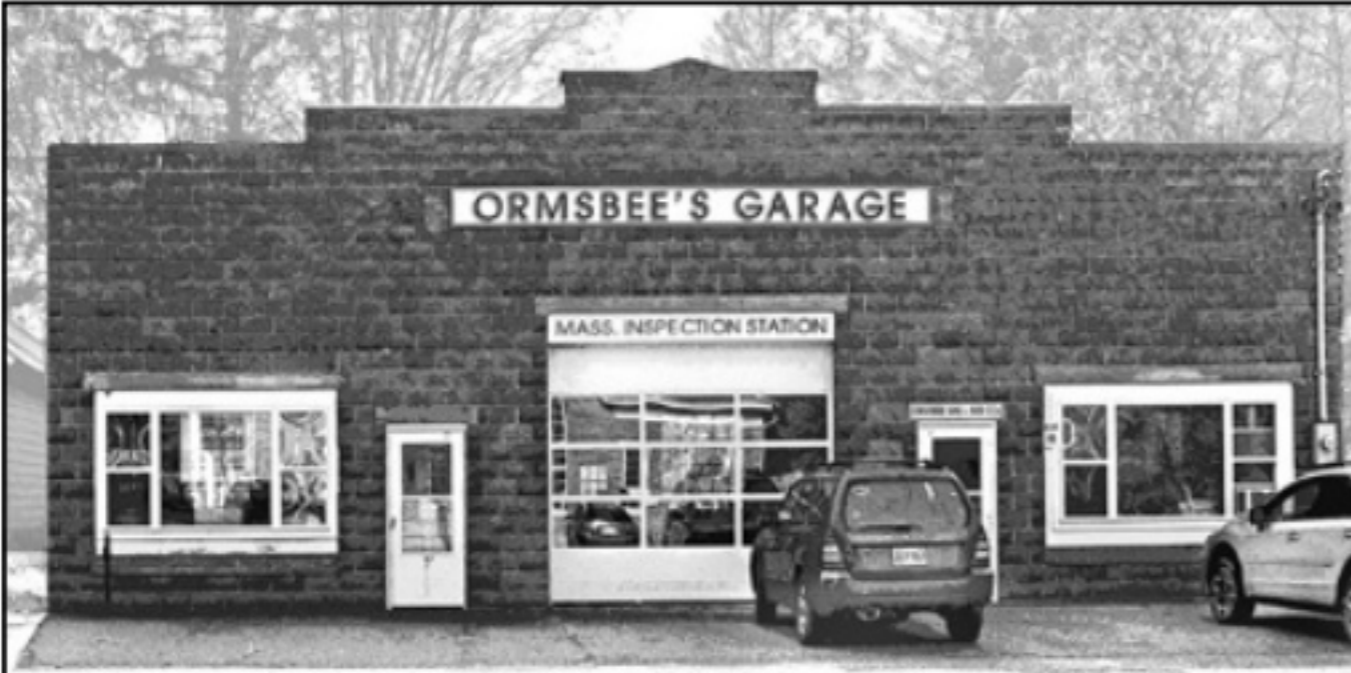
Photo by Joe Poindexter

Chuck will celebrate his tenth year as superintendent this spring. Many in town have noted a significant smoothing of the town's highways and byways, paved and unpaved. But Chuck's analysis of the improvement is muted. "I was able to get more money for projects," he says. Funding is particularly urgent at present, with inflation sending the cost of materials through the roof. "Gravel has gone from \$10 to \$15 a ton," says Chuck. "Other road materials have nearly doubled."

Add to this the rainy weather of the past year, and you get a perfect storm (so to speak) for costly road maintenance. The Highway Department typically devotes a month and a half each year to the grading of dirt roads,

but with heavier rain comes increased washouts. Chuck would like to invest in proper drainage and the installation of culverts on the hilly portions of the town's dirt roads, but the budget is stressed simply with the necessary basic maintenance. One investment should help alleviate pressure on the budget: Chuck is outfitting five trucks with computers that precisely meter the amount of sand put down on an icy road. If a truck slows down on a hill, for instance, so, too, will the sand spreader.

Then there is the problem of staffing: The Depart-



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ment, budgeted for six plus Chuck, is presently down to five. So far, the only two applicants were disqualified for lack of the necessary licensing. In Massachusetts, the license to operate highway equipment requires 150 hours of training.

Altogether, this sounds like a full-time job, but Chuck has a whole other career, that of fire chief. In 1991, a year after moving to town, he joined the Fire Department, a move apparently foreordained by the family DNA. His uncle was chief of the Tyringham department, and his father was also a Tyringham fireman. In 2013, with twenty-two years in the New Marlborough Fire Department, Chuck was named to succeed Peter Scala as chief. Once again, he is facing the challenge of staffing, a problem somewhat allayed

by an addition to his budget that allows for the hiring of a fireman/EMT to be on call at the firehouse during the daytime hours.

Still, the dual responsibilities as superintendent and fire chief can be taxing. On one recent evening, after a long day on the roads, Chuck was looking forward to catching up on some rest. A call to the Fire Department came in at midnight. Sleep that night: two hours.

No one could blame Chuck for looking forward to retirement; he turns sixty-five in seven years. But then, perhaps he can be persuaded to put in another stint as selectman — he served on the Select Board from 2008 to 2011. Few of his fellow citizens would seem to have a better knowledge of the inner workings of New Marlborough. □

MAILBOX



To the Editor,

This is in regards to the January 9 Select Board meeting report concerning the centerline rumble strips on Route 57. I guess I am going to be a majority of one who sees the advantage of it. When the rumble strip is placed on the side of the road, it helps to alert a driver that he/she is about to go off the highway. When it is in the center of the road, one would hope it will alert a driver that he/she is about to drive into oncoming traffic, which is how head-on collisions happen.

Now I admit I have not contacted the Police Department to ask how many head-on collisions we actually have in New Marlborough, or that might have ended in a death. But, for me, if putting the rumble strip in the middle of the road saves even one life, it is worth the disadvantages.

Sincerely,

Alicia Brazie

New Marlborough

P.S. To the 5 Village News team. You provide a great service to the town of New Marlborough and though it is not said often enough, we owe you a VERY BIG THANK YOU.

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JONATHAN PRINCE, SCULPTOR

Spirituality Meets Steel

By Barry R. Shapiro

Walking through Jonathan Prince's massive art fabrication studio in a stunningly renovated old dairy barn along the Konkapot River below Mill River and looking at some of the titanic works of art he has created, it is hard for one to imagine that this world-renowned sculptor started his professional life far from the creativity of an artist's studio and that a most quixotic journey took him to where he is today.

"I started my career as a maxillofacial surgeon following my graduation from Columbia University, undergraduate and dental school, and then the University of Southern California School of Dentistry for my advanced training," said Mr. Prince, settling into a comfortable chair in his sunlit living room. "I had practiced for four years, following in my father's footsteps. He was also a dentist, a prosthodontist. I realized that this was not the career for me and that I had chosen it for all the wrong reasons. So, I sold the practice and decided to try something new."

What did Prince try? Becoming a film producer.

What qualified him for this?

"Nothing," said Mr. Prince, chuckling. "I was, however, lucky, got some backing and landed a contract with Columbia/Tristar Pictures, making one, ultimately terrible movie, *The Plague*, about the life of Albert Camus with, among others, William Hurt, Raul Julia, and Robert Duvall.

"I did this for five years but became somewhat disillusioned with my limited input on the creative side once production began. I then, around 1994, started my own company doing special effects for films and commercials, sold that company and then was hired to run media and technology operations for a company working on remote surgical stations and holographic imaging where holograms could be viewed without 3-D glasses.

"I then started yet another company to develop an idea I had for streaming over the internet and, when that company imploded during the dot-com bust around 2002, I said, now is the time to follow my dream and pursue sculpture."

A fascination with the art of sculpting was nothing



photos courtesy of Jonathan Prince

Sculptor Jonathan Prince at work in his studio

new to Mr. Prince, a very youthful and energetic seventy-year-old. "About age twelve, I visited the studio of Jacques Lipschitz, the legendary sculptor. He was a patient of my dad, as was Bette Davis. He encouraged me to help him 'put some clay on,' as he put it, and I was bitten by the sculpture bug. I had a studio in my parents' basement, working mostly in stone, learning what I could and taking cues from, among others, the noted sculptor, Isamu Naguchi. I loved doing it and learned so much but, candidly, was afraid of failure and didn't pursue it as a career. Finally, in 2002, after the remains of my last company was sold off, it was time to dive in."

Mr. Prince was living in New York City at the time, discovered the Berkshires, and moved up here, initially renting in Monterey, to "reinvent

myself as an artist." Shortly after arriving, Mr. Prince came upon the huge historic dairy barn on the Mill River Clayton Road, dating from 1904 and known then as the "Pastures."

"The farm had been a working dairy farm," said Mr. Prince, "then was used as a retreat and meeting location for the newly formed United Nations, then hosted herds of Argentine cattle on its 500 acres. By 1970,



Jonathan Prince's showroom

it was a sheep farm with a wool factory on site. This business, however, ultimately failed. When I saw it, the space was perfect, so I rented it with an option to buy, something I finally did in 2006, and dove into sculpting. It is now my home and contains my studio and office space, encompassing over 23,000 square feet.”

“All of my prior experiences were not wasted in terms of my art,” Mr. Prince explained. “I am inspired by science and technology as well as spirituality and my meditation practice – they all shape my artwork. I just create and do what is interesting to me, trying to find a voice to translate thoughts into form and every year I like to think that I’m getting better at it. The first ten years of my practice was with stone, mostly granite, the hardest stone with which to work. I had a huge learning curve when I started to work with steel, but I worked hard, brought in teachers, and studied hard.”

He works now in steel, paper, wood, and even a ceremonial buffalo hide, which Mr. Prince obtained from a Lakota elder. The stunning framed work sits prominently on a wall in his living room.

Mr. Prince’s work ranges in size from items weighing perhaps two pounds for a work in wood to gargantuan works weighing as much as 25,000 pounds, one of which will be on display at a New Marlborough residence that Mr. Prince declined to identify out of respect for the client’s confidentiality. His larger works can be as large as eighteen feet high and twenty-four feet long.

“Every piece we do is one of a kind, fabricated separately and never cast. That is a huge differentiator for us since most sculptures are produced using a mold and are part of a series. Ours never are. All of my pieces are made here at the studio, and each has their own unique story about how the work manifests from concept to structure. Typically, I draw out an idea on the computer and then discuss the concept with my studio director Marc Palumbo, an artist who trained at the Rhode Island School of Design and who has been working full-time with me for over a decade. Together we come up with a plan for how the work will be fabricated and then it gets slotted into our studio schedule along with other pieces that are either commissions or things we just want to do. Usually, we are working on several projects at once. Each of the sculptures are fabricated by hand from blocks of stone or plates of steel that are shaped and/or welded – nothing is cast. The

process for each work can often take several months or even years to create.”

Mr. Prince described his creative process as it relates to his work, *Rumination*, a photograph of which appears below: “My work is often informed by the topics I am looking at in my meditation and spiritual practice. Before going out on a bike ride, I was reading about how we often cycle our thoughts – to ruminate – to chew on something. Ruminating about the future can cause anxiety and about the past, depression. On the ride I saw a tree that had been felled by beavers and I felt that this was a perfect manifestation of the idea and the inspiration for *Rumination* was born. This is a work that for me looks at the delicate balance between our thoughts.”



Jonathan Prince's recent nature-inspired work, Rumination

Mr. Prince’s works are now found in notable public and private collections including Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, ExxonMobil, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Norwegian Cruise Lines, and the SNS Collection in Moscow. Exhibitions of his work have appeared

in North America and Europe, and he is currently working on a project for the largest bank in Taiwan. During the past summer, Chesterwood in Stockbridge hosted a showing of his larger pieces on their grounds.

Many of Mr. Prince’s sculptures, like those at Chesterwood, are designed to be placed outdoors and each is created with its long-term placement in mind, built to withstand environmental conditions with minimal upkeep.

Mr. Prince credits much of his success to his business and personal partner, Stephanie Manasseh, who splits her time between her home in Belgium and New Marlborough. “I owe so much to her. She has helped me develop my art practice so there is now interest all over the world.” Ms. Manasseh is a strategic advisor, curator, art advisor, and art project developer originally from Montreal, Canada. In 2021, she was appointed as curator of the Sol Lewitt exhibition at the Jewish Museum of Belgium and is currently advising the Jewish Museum of Amsterdam on its upcoming Lewitt exhibition, set to open this coming October.

Although his work keeps Mr. Prince extremely busy, he welcomes a closer relationship with the New Marlborough community. “We are happy to welcome visits by members of the community to see the work. Anyone interested in art and creativity should reach out and make an appointment. I’d love to show them around.” □

Upcoming: Events Calendar for April and May

April 14: Registration of voters with the town clerk, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

April 19: A **Do-It-Yourself Workshop**, sponsored by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission as part of the Town's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant. This workshop runs from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and provides tips on preparing for the impacts of climate change. Dinner is included and space is limited. To sign up, contact the BRPC at 413-442-1521

April 22: **Land Trust Road-side Clean-up**, meet at the Goodnow Preserve at 9:45 a.m., choose your road, then stick around for a bit of lunch starting at noon

May 1: **Annual Town Meeting**, 7:00 p.m. at the Firehouse in Southfield

May 8: **Annual Town Election**, noon to 7:00 p.m., Town Hall

NEW MARLBOROUGH MEETING HOUSE 2023 PROGRAMS (A SNEAK PEEK!)

By Barry R. Shapiro

The season hasn't officially been announced yet, but the New Marlborough Meeting House wanted to provide an advance look at what, according to organization President Ben Harms, promises to be "a spectacular season and one that is sure to sell out."

August 12 – Actor and director, **Karen Allen** (*Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Animal House*, *The Perfect Storm*, *Starman*) will be interviewed about her life and career by Barry R. Shapiro.

August 26 - *New York Times* cooking legend, **Melissa Clark**, and cookbook author, writer, and actress, **Madhur Jaffrey** in conversation.

September 2 - Internationally renowned pianist **Simone Dinnerstein** returns by popular demand.

September 9 – Singer **Maureen O'Flynn**, a Berkshires legend who has sung all over the world, including at the Metropolitan Opera, in an afternoon of wonderful music.

September 23 – **Carol Wincenc**, flute, **Kurt Nikkanen**, violin (among other credentials, concertmaster of the New York City Ballet orchestra) and **Maria Asteriadou**, piano, in an afternoon of beautiful chamber music by some of the world's greatest composers.

October 7 – "A Writer and a Robot Walk into a Bar...." **Simon Winchester** and guests **Chandra**



photo by Lisa-Marie Marzucco

Pianist Simone Dinnerstein will return on September 2

Prasad, who has just finished a novel about artificial intelligence, **Francine Prose**, the author of twenty novels, and **André Bernard**, former publisher and vice president of Harcourt Trade Publications and current vice president of the Guggenheim Foundation, will discuss AI and its impact on our lives.

All events will be held at the Meeting House and commence at 4:30 p.m. Check the website nmmeetinghouse.org in the coming months for further details and to obtain tickets. □



NEW MARLBOROUGH LAND TRUST

EARTH DAY ROADSIDE CLEANUP

It's that time of year again, hard to believe after the blizzard in mid-March, but Earth Day is on Saturday, April 22, and that means it's roadside cleanup time! This is a wonderful opportunity to give back to our amazing community, make new friendships, and rekindle old ones. Always a great time!

4/22/23 Roadside cleanup schedule:

9:30 a.m. - Meet at the Goodnow Preserve to designate your roads and collect supplies. Then proceed to collecting!

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Garbage drop off at the Old Inn on the Green, unless you are able to take it directly to the Transfer Station

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Bringing back an old favorite, hamburgers and hot dogs for roadside cleanup participants at the Old Inn on the Green

Please email nmlandtrust@gmail.com if you plan to help with the cleanup and enjoy the lunch that follows so we can be prepared with enough materials and food.



FAMILY CAMP

Sunday, April 30, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Thousand Acre Swamp: Bring the family for a fun adventure as we explore primitive skills that allow us to thrive in the wild. Led by Tes Reed, Land Trust board member and outdoor enthusiast.

Ages 8 and up. Space is limited so please email nmlandtrust@gmail.com for a reservation.



BIRD WATCHING

Saturday, May 20, 8:00 a.m.

At Goodnow Preserve with Chip Blake and Greg Ward.

Space is limited so please email nmlandtrust@gmail.com for a reservation.

Sylvia Eggenberger, Executive Director

Thank You to Our Contributors:

Joe Baker & Bonner McAllister; Leonard & Hannah Golub; Walter Agar;
Ellen & Stuart Hochberger; Patt Scarlett



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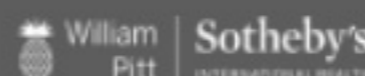
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Source: Berkshire M.S. 1/1/2022-1/1/2023 residential total dollar volume by office, Berkshire County

Each office is independently owned and operated.

NEIGHBORS



Addendum to the March issue's Neighbors: This remembrance arrived just a little too late for inclusion in or previous issue. **Janet Brown** and her husband had a home on Canaan Valley Road and resumed a friendship with **Adele Holman** that had begun in New Jersey. Now, at age 103, Janet reflects on her friendship with Adele:

Adele was a longtime summer resident of Mill River, who died on Christmas Day at the age of ninety-six. She and her husband, Alex, became known in the community for their restoration of the Congregational Church in Mill River.

Northern New Jersey and New York City were their home base. I recall that our first contact was in the mid-1950s. We met at an event in Teaneck, New Jersey, drawn together by mutual interests in community life and professional training. She was a social worker with a specialty in family therapy. I am a social worker, too. Our friendship grew via the telephone as driving distances and personal commitments were limitations.

Distance and other issues were no longer a problem when, in the summer of 1976, I stood as part of the crowd in the church (no longer with pews) to listen to Adele at the lectern, welcoming the community at large to enjoy the church/home with the Holman family. Distance was no longer an issue because we had purchased a home on Canaan Valley Road in Southfield. Fast forwarding... phone calls were most likely about which Berkshire pleasures and treasures to enjoy together. The agenda was likely to be heavy on the music side as Alex was an opera buff and Adele was always pleased to accompany him to the Metropolitan Opera during the winter.

Adele was soft-spoken and well spoken. She was a gracious hostess with many guests at the annual 4th of July church bell-ringing party. She was a good listener when someone wanted to talk, and a reassuring voice when one was needed. She will be missed.



Adele Holman



Michel Paul Richard

Artist **Michel Paul Richard**, a resident of Hartsville for the past five years, is a painter and, more recently, a sculptor. His work has been shown in exhibits at the New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery. Community Television for the Southern Berkshires (CTSB) has produced two shows, one on Michel's painting and one on his sculpture, that are available at ctsbtv.org, Solo Creatives. Episode 3 features his current sculpture, and Episode 14 describes sixteen of his paintings.

Michel earned his PhD in sociology at New York University in 1967 and was a sociology professor at SUNY Geneseo for twenty-two years. He retired in 1990 when his wife, **Peggy**, was appointed an associate professor at the University of Miami. When she retired in 2003 he and his wife moved to the Berkshires,

which they had been visiting for many years.

Michel began painting and sculpting while in high school but did not resume these activities until they lived in Rochester, New York, and Miami. In addition to his own work, he also taught painting and sculpture, and has continued to teach at the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires.

Michel became interested in W.E.B. DuBois ten years ago, when he and Peggy moved to Great Barrington. He created a bronze bust of Great Barrington's native son three years ago; the accompanying photograph was taken by his Hartsville neighbor, **Erik Callahan**. □

Compiled by Barbara Lowman:
deeuell@yahoo.com



photo by Erik Callahan

Richard's bronze of W.E.B. DeBois

OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

photo by Barry Shapiro



A barred owl outside the Shapiros' window

March 12, Barry Shapiro wrote, "I had just sat down on the couch when something caught my eye through the roof window. I grabbed my binoculars and saw this **barred owl**, silently surveying the land below. I grabbed my camera and shot away. It was a rare sighting for me, and absolutely thrilling."

On March 22, as the snow receded, **John Schreiber** emailed the following cautionary tale to all of us who like to feed the birds: "Bears! Big prints! Completely nuked bird feeder! Darn, I was going to take it down this weekend!"

And earlier in March, the **Burkes** had another visit to their pond from a very handsome and healthy **otter**. □

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



photos by John Schreiber

Bear paw prints feeding toward the Schreiber's bird feeder...

photo by Larry Burke



A reflective otter

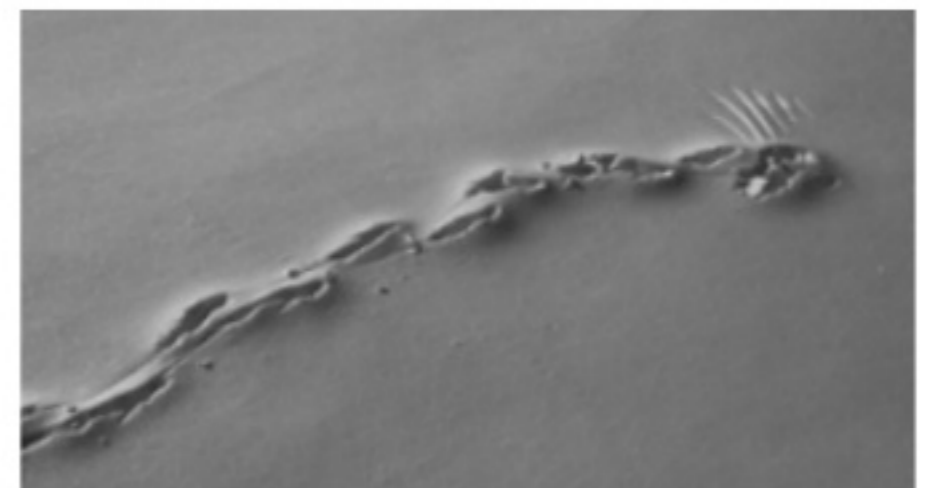


...and the bird feeder after the bear's visit

And here is a small salute to Winter Storm Sage, who visited us on March 14 and stuck around for a few days, making her presence felt particularly in the higher elevations in town. As much disruption as she caused, the beauty she bestowed upon our landscape was equal to or surpassing the inconveniences we experienced. Up to this point we were largely missing the full experience of winter, and now, on the cusp of spring, Sage has completed the seasonal cycle.

So, below, two long views of the storm's sculptural effects and at right, one closeup of what may appear to be a reptilian spinal cord, but are actually the tracks of a ruffed grouse, right up to the moment of her taking flight. □

Larry Burke



photos by Larry Burke

THE LOG

Police Department (selected entries)

- Feb. 1 6:58 p.m. A caller expresses his concern for a dangerously low-flying aircraft near his Mill River residence.
- Feb. 3 9:15 p.m. The highway superintendent is advised of a downed tree blocking Alum Hill Road.
- Feb. 4 2:02 p.m. A caller asks if care is available for a dog whose owner has been removed from his Southfield residence.
- Feb. 7 12:03 p.m. The animal control officer is alerted to a dog missing from a Mill River residence.
- Feb. 8 10:33 p.m. A pedestrian in Mill River village verbally accosts an officer who has stopped to check on his well-being.
- Feb. 11 4:22 p.m. An officer assists a driver whose disabled vehicle is partially blocking the intersection of Brewer Hill and Brewer Branch Roads.
- Feb. 12 4:03 p.m. A driver stopped for speeding on Hartsville New Marlborough Road is taken into custody when heroin and an unregistered firearm are found in his pickup truck.
- Feb. 13 6:05 p.m. A Mill River resident reports that her pet dog has gone off and has been missing for two hours.
- 6:47 p.m. A caller reports an altercation at her Southfield residence.
- Feb. 16 12:33 p.m. A caller complains of barking dogs at a residence in New Marlborough village.
- Feb. 17 4:37 p.m. An officer assists in the retrieval of property from a Southfield residence.
- Feb. 18 10:06 p.m. An officer assists in the further retrieval of property from the Southfield residence.
- 3:45 p.m. A caller complains of trespassing on his Southfield property.
- Feb. 21 10:13 a.m. Following a call from a Mill River village resident regarding a neighbor's four dogs crossing onto his property unleashed, the dogs' owner is issued a leash-law citation.
- Feb. 22 9:36 p.m. A caller reports three visits by an unidentified sedan to the parking area next to his Hartsville residence, the last of which occurring after he had blocked off entry to his driveway.
- Feb. 23 5:35 a.m. National Grid and the Highway Department are both alerted to a fallen tree that has brought down wires on Hayes Hill Road.
- 10:55 a.m. National Grid is notified of a tree on wires on New Marlborough Southfield Road.
- Feb. 24 8:39 a.m. A caller reports a tree down and blocking both lanes of Hartsville Mill River Road.
- 9:21 a.m. Tree down at the intersection of Hartsville New Marlborough and Corashire Roads.
- 9:59 a.m. Fiber Connect is informed that a fallen tree has taken down its internet wire on North Road.
- 10:09 a.m. National Grid advised of a tree on wires on Wright Lane near its intersection with Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- 11:00 a.m. A caller reports a tree on wires on Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road.
- 12:30 p.m. National Grid informed that a falling tree has snapped an electric wire on Canaan Southfield Road.
- 12:57 p.m. A caller reports low-hanging wires on Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- 3:29 p.m. A caller reports a tree and downed wires blocking Hotchkiss Road at its intersection with Norfolk Road.
- Feb. 27 3:09 p.m. The animal control officer is called to dispatch a possibly rabid fox near a residence on Hayes Hill Road.
- Feb. 28 1:52 a.m. A driver asks for assistance after having slid off South Sandisfield Road due to icy conditions.
- 11:44 a.m. The animal control officer is informed by a nurse at Fairview Hospital of a dog-bite wound suffered by a hiker on a New Marlborough property.

Since January 1, the New Marlborough Police Department has logged 400 calls, issued sixty-two citations, investigated two incidents, responded to three motor vehicle accidents, and arrested eleven people for various crimes.

Graham Frank, Chief of Police

SUSAN M. SMITH Attorney At Law

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email: ssmithlaw@barringtonlawoffice.com

FIRE AND RESCUE

Feb. 2 3:55 p.m. Mutual Aid to Monterey Medical Call
 Feb. 5 6:18 p.m. Aberdeen Lane Medical Call
 Feb. 6 1:45 a.m. Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call
 Feb. 8 1:29 p.m. Konkapot Road Medical Call
 Feb. 10 12:19 p.m. Norfolk Road Fire Alarm
 Feb. 11 5:06 p.m. East Hill Road Fire Alarm
 Feb. 14 4:35 p.m. Peter Menaker Road Fire Alarm
 Feb. 18 7:20 p.m. Mutual Aid to Monterey Possible Fire

Feb. 23 3:16 p.m. Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call
 Feb. 25 8:10 a.m. Red Fox Drive Medical Call
 Feb. 25 11:42 a.m. Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call
 Feb. 27 7:29 a.m. Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call

Calls for February: 12

Calls year to date: thirty-four (five fewer than for the same period last year)

Fire Company President David Smith

HIGHWAY NEWS

Dismantling the Southfield Bridge:

The four-month closing of the Norfolk Road bridge is, indeed, an inconvenience to residents of Southfield — and to those wishing to reach the village from the north. But the closing poses a more serious problem to New Marlborough Fire & Rescue. As Fire Chief Chuck Loring points out, the detour around the bridge adds at least four minutes to travel times for vehicles garaged at the firehouse in Southfield village that are responding to fires or medical emergencies north of Southfield. Adding another four minutes for Fire & Rescue personnel residing north of the village to reach the firehouse could result in a significant slowing of response time.



Meanwhile bridge replacement proceeds briskly. Having set up shop around the first of the month, New England Infrastructure closed the bridge at the head of Norfolk Road on March 6 and immediately went on the attack. On March 9, just three days after closure, half of the steel decking had been removed and sent to a metal recycling center. The steel beams that supported the deck were on their way to the Amherst campus of the University of Massachusetts for an analysis of their failure by the 12th (photo center). Cracks in the horizontal sections of the remaining support beam revealed a critical deterioration of the bridge. On a misty March 17 (photo right), with all its steel shipped off to a metal recycling plant, the crew started chipping away the concrete of the bridge's southend abutment. Once it's out with the old, it will be in with the new: a pre-cast concrete deck. □



photos by Joe Poirleuxer



Shawn Fields and family were without power for three days in mid-March, and he drew this bit of wishful thinking with the aid of a flashlight!

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Many of us have fond memories of being served Campbell's Tomato Soup alongside a grilled cheese sandwich for lunch when we were children. This easy-to-make version of classic tomato soup is a simple comfort food that will bring back those cozy memories and please the whole family. Enjoy!

Marjorie Shapiro



photos by Barry Shapiro

WORLD'S BEST TOMATO SOUP (or at least close to it!)

Ingredients

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1/3 cup unsalted butter, cut into 6 pieces | A few basil sprigs |
| 2 medium yellow onions, chopped | plus chopped basil for serving, if desired |
| 2 tbsp. minced garlic | 1 parmesan rind (optional), but suggested |
| 1/3 cup all-purpose flour | 2 tsps. sugar or honey, or to taste |
| 4 cups chicken broth | Salt and freshly ground pepper |
| 2 28 oz. cans whole San Marzano tomatoes | |

Directions

- Melt butter in a large (6 quart) pot over medium-high heat.
- Add onions and sauté until slightly browned and caramelized, about 8 minutes.
- Reduce heat to medium, add garlic and sauté for 30 seconds.
- Add flour and stir constantly for about 1 minute.
- Slowly pour in chicken broth, whisking constantly until the flour has blended in.
- Add tomatoes, basil, parmesan rind, sugar or honey and season with salt and pepper to taste.
- Bring to a light simmer.
- Cover and let simmer, stirring occasionally about 25 to 30 minutes.
- Remove from heat.
- Remove basil sprigs and parmesan rind from soup.
- Purée the soup using an immersion blender. If you don't own one, you can use a countertop blender or a Vitamix, which I find is ideal for the smoothest texture. Be sure to let the soup cool first before blending.
- You can add some water or more broth if you want a thinner soup.
- Serve warm.
- Adding a swirl of heavy cream and some chopped basil atop the warm soup is optional, as is the grilled cheese sandwich.



THE SCHOOL REPORT

With the permission of The Sheffield Times, we are printing the following report, which appears in the March/April issue of The Sheffield Times.

MORE ANSWERS NEEDED BEFORE SCHOOL MERGER VOTE, LIKELY IN FALL

The latest update from the 8 Town Regional School District Planning Board says that the Board's recommendations will probably be put before voters at special town meetings in the fall rather than at the eight town's annual meetings in May and June. The press release says that the Board "continues to make solid progress" on how a new regional agreement would operate. The finance subcommittee is analyzing various ways to assess operating and capital costs and expects to present its recommended approaches to the full board in March.

The merger model the Board is recommending would combine the Berkshire Hills Regional School District (Great Barrington, Stockbridge and West Stockbridge) and the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (Alford, Egremont, Monterey, New Marlborough, Sheffield) into a single preK-12 district, maintaining the existing elementary and middle schools as they are, but creating a merged 9-12 high school to be built on the Great Barrington campus.

Community meetings raise questions. The 8 Town Board is working with two facilitators to explore what possibilities community members see for a merged high school. One such meeting was held at the Sheffield Senior Center on January 21 and a second at the Great Barrington Senior Center on March 18. In addition, a larger community meeting is being planned for mid-May.

At the Sheffield meeting and other public meetings, questions made it clear that, despite voluminous and complicated information posted on the Board's website, basic questions have still not been answered in people's minds. For example, why not merge the high schools using the existing Mount Everett building since it was built to accommodate the projected number of students? The Board's answer is that the idea was rejected because Sheffield is too far south to keep travel times more equivalent for all students in the new, larger district. People wondered if the decision shouldn't be revisited, given that it would save millions

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in construction costs. It was also noted that an Ashley Falls sophomore would have at least a 20-minute longer bus ride to a high school in Great Barrington.

Other questions heard at the meetings:

- If Mount Everett’s building isn’t used for a merged high school, what would it be used for?
- How much money would Sheffield taxpayers save by agreeing to the merger, and would those savings last?
- What guarantee is there that the Egremont and New Marlborough elementary schools won’t be closed, since if a merger takes place, decisions would be made by an all-new school committee?
- Which town(s) would have the power in the merged districts?
- What of the two districts’ differing cultures and educational approaches would be maintained in a merged school? It was noted that people can now choose which high school best suits their children’s needs.
- What will happen to Mount Everett’s new partnership with Bard at Simon’s Rock?
- What will happen to the SBRSD teachers, staff and superintendent long-term after a merger? The Board has indicated that union requirements mean very few positions would be lost initially.

Enhanced vocational and technical education. One of the benefits envisioned for a larger, merged district is more state-approved, Chapter 74 vocational programs. Vocational education professionals who live in the community have asked why the current merger plan covers so few programs of study. Currently, students at Monument Mountain can get training in two such programs, for automotive and horticulture careers. Mount Everett offers internships and graduation pathways in six areas, but they’re not Chapter 74-accredited.

Sheffield’s representatives on the 8 Town Board currently are Bonnie Silvers, who is also a member of the SBRSD School Committee; Nadine Hawver, who is also a Selectman; and Colin Smith, a local CPA who

is also on the Finance Committee. They are happy to answer questions, as are Lucy Prashker, chair of the 8 Town Board, and Jake Eberwein, its project manager. Use the contact form on the 8 Town website home page (www.8Towns.org). You can also find the Board’s meeting schedule — and a voluminous Frequently Asked Questions. □

New Marlborough’s representatives on the 8 Town Board are Tara White, Susan Smith, and Nanci Worthington, and our SBRSD School Committee members are Nanci Worthington and Sarah Mather Pollock.



photo by Larry Burke

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Good Dog, Bad Cop, by David Rosenfelt
How to Sell a Haunted House, by Grady Hendrix
Birnam Wood, by Eleanor Catton
Hester, by Laurie Lico Albanese

Adult Nonfiction

The Nazi Conspiracy, by Brad Meltzer

Children's Fiction

Eric Loves Animals (Just Like You!), by Eric Carle
Pizza and Taco Series, by Stephen Shaskan
Our Friend Hedgehog: a Place To Call Home, by Lauren Castillo
Our Friend Hedgehog: the Story of Us, by Lauren Castillo
The Night Before Eid: a Muslim Family Story, by Aya Kahlil
Knitting for Dogs, by Laurel Molk

Children's Nonfiction

An American Story, by Kwame Alexander
At Home with the Beaver: the Story of a Keystone Species, by Dorothy Hinshaw Patent
The Legend of the Beaver's Tail, as told by Stephanie Shaw

Documentary Movie Night at the Library

Cycle of Memory April 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Please join us for a special intergenerational screening of *Cycle of Memory*, an award-winning documentary about two siblings' bicycle adventure to find the



memories of their grandfather lost to Alzheimer's. The film is 72 minutes long and will be followed by a Q+A with the filmmaker Alex Leff.

About the film: Mel Schwartz escaped the Great Depression on a bicycle adventure that he'd remember for the rest of his life. But when Alzheimer's takes Mel's memory away, it's left to his grandkids to recreate the life-changing bike trip and find those memories again. Guided by old photographs of the 1945 trip, they search for places aged by time. But while searching for Grandpa Mel's past, the two are confronted with their own fraught history. If they're going to complete the trek, they'll have to face their own emotional potholes and tumultuous relationship. *Cycle of Memory* explores the importance of intergenerational connection, healing painful pasts, and leaving a meaningful time capsule for the future.

Space is limited. Please contact the Library if you plan to attend: newmarlborough@gmail.com or 413-229-6668. This event is sponsored by the New Marlborough Friends of the Library.

Library Summer Hours
Begin April 1

Mon. Wed. Sat.
10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Tues. / Fri.
1:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Thurs. 1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
229-6668



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Please fill in the form and send with your contribution to:

New Marlborough 5 Village News
P.O. Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259

YES, I WANT THE *New Marlborough 5 Village News* TO CONTINUE!
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Town Times

Board of Selectmen: Every Monday at 6:00 p.m.
Town Administrator: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Planning Board: May - August, 2nd Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.
 September - April, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays
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: By appointment only; call 413-229-0277
First Responders: Meeting/training: First and third Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the fire station
Cultural Council: Second Thursday at 4:15 p.m at the library
Post Office: Mill River (413) 229-8582
 Window hours: Monday - Friday 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 Saturday 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Southfield (413) 229-8476
 Window hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 Saturday 9:00 - 12:00 p.m.
Town Treasurer: Monday & Tuesday 8:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m.
Tax Collector: Monday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tues. and Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Selectmen's Administrative Secretary: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Animal Control Officer: Graham Frank, (413) 229-8161
Town Clerk: 229-8278; 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. weekdays; Saturday by appointment
Town Hall: 229-8116
Police: Business office: 229-8161

Transfer Station Hours:

Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.
 Saturday: 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
 Sunday: 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.
PERMITS ARE DUE JULY 1
 and can be purchased for \$185
 by mail or online at
www.newmarlborough.gov.
 Please enclose a self-addressed,
 stamped envelope. No admittance
 without a permit after August 15

Emergency calls:

Police, Fire, Medical
911

New Marlborough Highway Department

Located on Mill River-Southfield Rd.
 Hours:
 Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 PO Box 99, Mill River, MA 01244
 (413) 229-8165

We welcome advertisements from businesses owned by New Marlborough residents.

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

NM5VN Editorial Team

Larry Burke, issue editor; Diane Barth, designer; Martha Bryan, Jane Burke, Robbi Hartt, Isabella Kemp, Barbara Lowman, Michele McAuley, Steven Nester, Joe Poindexter, Peter Schuyten, Barry Shapiro, Marjorie Shapiro, Rachel Perera Weingeist.

NM5VN Board of Directors

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

New Marlborough 5 Village News

appears monthly,

also online at
www.nm5vn.org

The next issue will be dated May 2023.

All copy must be submitted no later than April 10.
 For advertising, contact Barbara Lowman, tel: 229-2369
 PO Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259

5villagenews@gmail.com

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- **Dellea.biz Computer Services:** has provided local residents with on-site Windows computer repairs and technical support since 1996. Book appointments online at <https://dellea.biz> or call (413) 528-1141.
- **Design+Planning:** Christopher Blair; Since 1986, creative, budget-aware design. Achieve your goals for additions, alterations to an existing home or new construction. (413)528-4960. chris@design-planning.com.
- **Fine Jewelry:** Designers and manufacturers; custom orders/commissions welcome; expert repairs. 45 years experience. Sachs Reisman, Inc. 25 Maple Ave., Sheffield (413) 229-0050
- **One call does it all:** Vinyl siding cleaning; pressure washing; deck refinishing; floors refinished; window washing; odd landscape jobs; all odd jobs. David Goewey, (413) 229-2787
- **Susan M. Smith:** Attorney At Law; Concentrating in the areas of Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Elder Law, Real Estate and Zoning Matters. ssmithlaw@barrington-lawoffice.com or (413) 528-4300
- **Reiner White & Sons, Inc:** A family-run general contractor business serving the MA and CT area since 1988 - new construction, additions, remodeling, and more. Licensed and insured. Call (413) 229-8450 for free consultation.

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