



# New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

## OUR TOWN ROADS

*They won't be a smooth ride for quite some time*

By Barry R. Shapiro

It's been the hottest topic around town, probably edging out the tough winter weather and, as spring finally arrives, the prospects for the Red Sox.

"Worst ever!" says life-long Berkshires resident Sally Turner of Mill River.

"Worst we've seen since we're here", says thirty-three-year Southfield resident David Lowman.

"[Expletive deleted]", say an unknown number of townfolk, accompanied by the dreaded sound of the front-end alignment and tires absorbing a mighty blow, while another lurking pothole gleefully claims its hapless victim.

Yes, despite the tireless efforts of the New Marlborough Highway Department, the condition of our roads, infested with potholes and frost heaves, and afflicting every driver and the few courageous bikers in town, is part of everyone's conversations these days.

Where, you might ask, do these potholes (or "tire biters") and frost heaves come from? And when are our roads going to be in good shape again? The answer to the first question is actually pretty simple. The answer to the second is far from it.



County Road potholes ...

photos by Barry Shapiro

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Roads consist of a layer of asphalt over compacted dirt and gravel for drainage. Heat and traffic inevitably cause the asphalt to crack. Snow and rainwater then seep through the cracks into the underlying dirt and gravel. Simple physics then takes over. The water turns to ice, expands, and displaces some of the dirt and gravel. The ice then melts and leaves a hole where the water once was. Vehicles pass over these unseen holes, the asphalt soon collapses, and the pothole monster looks up, sees the light of day, grins, and awaits its next victim.

The Highway Department Road Warriors fight back with two basic weapons. During the winter, the worst potholes are filled with a cold patch winter mix. This fix — reserved for only the largest and fiercest potholes — consists of soft asphalt poured into the holes after they have been cleared of debris. The mix remains somewhat pliable and does not last as long as the more durable summer hot mix — typically lethal to the pothole. This hot combination of asphalt and aggregate is designed to last for years, but it can only be applied during dry, warm weather (of

*continued on page 2*

*Our Town Roads, continued from page 1*

which, as you know, there hasn't been much lately.)

Unlike potholes, which stick around until vanquished, frost heaves (which result from the freezing and thawing of the soil below the road) usually subside on their own when the warmer weather arrives. There's no effective way to address them during the winter since adding asphalt to them will only make them worse when the frost heave subsides.

So, you ask, when will our roads be in good shape again? As is often the case, it comes down to the availability of resources.

While there is, no doubt, disagreement in town about where the roads have deteriorated the most, there appears to be some consensus that County Road (see photos), Clayton Mill River Road (from Mill River heading toward Clayton), Mill River Great Barrington Road (from County Road to Adsit Crosby Road) and Route 57 (from Route 183 to Sandisfield) are noteworthy for bearing little resemblance to a billiards table.

Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring stated that the past winter was particularly tough. "Our winter work on the roads started before Thanksgiving and kept on going. We usually don't get started until around Christmas. I used twenty-five tons of cold patch this winter, more than usual. The Town has forty-five miles of paved roads and with the amount of money we have, it's impossible to catch up."

Some roads, however, may soon provide a smoother ride. "We get money from the state under Chapter 90 and received approximately \$340,000 recently," Mr. Loring noted. "Most will go to a full-depth reclamation of the left side of County Road heading toward Sheffield where the drainage is a real problem. Remaining funds along with about \$51,000 of 'emergency pothole money' released by the state will be applied to improve Mill River Great Barrington Road and perhaps a particularly bad spot on Lumbert Cross Road. We try to address the roads which are the busiest and which are in the worst



... and one driver's way of coping

condition considering their usage."

Mr. Loring added that, "The seven miles of Route 57 in town have about two years of life left and will cost about \$8 million to repair. In order to get this kind of money from the state, we need to do an engineering study which could run \$300,000 which we don't have. We're going to need to look for funding for this study so we can get it done and improve our chances of getting the state aid we need. The MassWorks grants are available for us only every two years, and we need to compete with other towns for the money.

"The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission has done an overall assessment of our roads and will be reporting to the Board of Selectmen in the near future," he noted.

Nat Yohalem, chair of the Board of Selectmen, echoed Mr. Loring's sentiments. "We look forward to the Commission's report. After we receive the report, we'll continue to work with Chuck Loring to prioritize the roads which need the most work. We will also be applying for the MassWorks grant later this year and seek the full \$1 million available to us. This is a top priority and we'll be reaching out to our state and federal elected officials for their help."

*continued on page 3*



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

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The process of getting our roads in top shape would appear then to be a long one, requiring millions of dollars, with numerous bureaucratic hurdles to clear and fierce competition among towns throughout the state for the available funds.

There is, however, one small bright note. According to Steve Berkel of Ormsbee's Garage in Mill River, his service station has not seen a marked increase in repairs

due to the road conditions. "We haven't seen appreciably more front end and tire work. Suspensions are more forgiving now and tires better built. People are also aware of conditions and drive more slowly or avoid the worst roads altogether."

A small bit of good news on an otherwise bad stretch of road. □

## WANTED: ELEPHANTS AND AUCTION ITEMS

The New Marlborough Cultural Council is again collecting items for the giant white elephant table at this summer's Elihu Burritt Day. Collections are held at the front of the Whip Shop in Southfield (a new location this year) on the second Saturday of each month between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon. Collection dates are May 10, June 14, July 12, and August 2 and 9.

What a great way to finally get rid of those unnecessary, unused, unneeded, and unwanted items that occupy space in your closets, kitchens, workshops and other places! Your trash can be someone else's treasure only if it arrives at the white elephant table.

We are collecting kitchen utensils and cookware, tableware, jewelry, tools large and small, fabrics, lamps, hobby and craft supplies, toys, exercise equipment, games and puzzles, musical instruments, sporting equipment,



*This utility cart, shown by Alan Lombardi and Barbara Lowman, is one of the items already donated for the silent auction.*

*Photo by Michele Shalaby*

pictures and/or frames, and more.

Please do not bring large or obsolete electronics, clothing, furniture, or books. The Friends of the Library are collecting books for their always-popular book sale. Check with the library for the time and place of their book collection.

Once again a silent auction will be a featured part of the white elephant tables. The categories listed above also apply, but silent auction items generally have greater value, are unique one-of-a-kind items or have special appeal. Among your belongings, see if

there is that something special for the auction table. If you need help in getting that "something" out of your house (large, awkward, or heavy), call Ned MacDowell at 229-2637 and we'll arrange the necessary help. □

*Ned MacDowell*

**Transfer station permits, valid until June 30, 2015, are now available.**

**Cost is \$100, increasing to \$125 after August 15.**

**They may be obtained at Town Hall or at the transfer station.**

**New Marlborough Fire Company**

# 2014 Spring Dance

**Saturday May 3 at Gedney Farm 6:30 - 11:00**

**Buffet Dinner      Cash Bar  
Live Music and Dancing**

*Tickets \$35. each*

*Available at the Mill River General Store or from any Fire Company Member*

*More info: (413) 229-0291*

## Town Business Is Your Business BOARD OF SELECTMEN



**February 24:** With all three selectmen in attendance, tonight's meeting focused largely on budget issues, with the Board approving the following requests:

Southern Berkshire Regional School District  
Capital Account: \$83,703 (a decrease of \$2,121)  
Southern Berkshire Regional School District  
Operating Account: \$2,422,293 (a \$105,592 increase)  
Group Insurance: \$137,000 (an \$11,122 decrease)  
Assessor's Cyclical Review (New): \$10,000

All previously had been approved by the Finance Committee.

Board Administrative Assistant Mike Skorput reported that **John Landor, the recently hired Clerk of the Works for the Canaan Southfield Road bridge**, has resigned. According to Mr. Skorput, he has accepted a full-time job with an area engineering firm, and although Mr. Landor suggested transferring the Clerk of the Works assignment to his new employer, the Board decided **instead to give it to Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring**, working under the direction of BSC Group, the engineering consultants for the project.

In a related move, the Board announced the **Canaan Southfield Road bridge near Foley Hill will officially be closed starting March 31**, and will remain so until sometime in August, when the work is expected to be completed. Mr. Skorput confirmed that a press release to that effect is being sent out to the local media and that notices are being posted around town and on Maggie's List. Detour signs will follow in the next few days.

**March 31:** Because of the press of business, tonight's meeting was convened an hour early, at 5:00 p.m., with all three members present. Chairman Nat Yohalem began the meeting by summarizing **the results of the recent auction of the three properties** seized by the Town for nonpayment of taxes. He said the sale, conducted at Town Hall on Saturday, March 29, raised \$87,000, and that the money will be added to the Town's free cash account early in the 2015 fiscal year. He said the unpaid taxes, legal fees, and other costs associated with the three parcels came to \$54,000. "So certainly in my view this was a resounding success, and all three properties will be back on the tax rolls," he said.

At Mr. Yohalem's urging, the Board reversed direction on the awarding of annual salary increases to Town employees, saying that **this year's raises in the amount of 2 percent will be awarded across the board**, with some limited exceptions. Previously, the selectmen had decided the raises would be merit-based, as determined

by the Town's department heads. The change was based in part, he said, on a conversation he had with a member of the Egremont Finance Committee. In addition, Selectmen Tara White checked with eight other similar-sized area towns, all of which award their raises on an across-the-board basis.

In **further budget actions**, the Board approved the following line items:

Administrative Assistant Salary: \$37,547 (a \$737 increase)  
Administrative Secretary Salary: \$26,500 (a \$2,109 decrease)  
Accounting Officer Salary: \$17,025 (a \$334 increase)  
Grant Writer Salary: \$5,000  
Assessors' Salary: \$6,000  
Assessors Clerk's Salary: \$17,348 (a \$341 increase)  
Treasurer Salary: \$17,045 (a \$335 increase)  
Assistant Treasurer: \$5,200  
Tax Collector: \$25,686 (a \$504 increase)  
Town Clerk: \$29,892 (a \$587 increase)  
Assessors Revaluation: \$16,000 (a \$1,000 increase)  
Cemetery Salaries: \$34,689 (up \$734)  
Library Salaries: \$52,468 (an \$1,163 increase)  
Police Department Salaries: \$87,256, (a \$4,880 increase)

The Board questioned the nearly 6 percent increase in police salaries, but approved them as submitted, saying it would let the voters decide.

Fire Fighter Stipends: \$36,500 (a \$10,000 decrease, which is being moved to New Marlborough Rescue Squad Expenses)  
Building Inspector's Salary: \$19,204 (a \$377 increase)  
Transfer Station Expenses: \$61,000  
Transfer Station Salaries: \$17,811 (a \$350 increase)  
Board of Health Salaries: \$1,250  
Board of Health Expenses (Consultant): \$2,500 (a \$1,000 increase)  
Board of Health Clerical: \$5,000

The Board also approved the following special articles:  
Insurance Trust Fund (New): \$3,500 (from Free Cash)  
WiredWest Fee: \$1,000  
Stabilization Fund: \$50,000 (Free Cash)  
Fire Truck: \$550,000 (Borrow)  
Highway Truck: \$228,000 (Borrow)  
Highway Truck: \$93,000 (Free Cash)  
Building Inspector's Computer Program: \$7,400 (Free Cash)

Chairman Yohalem signed the lease with the **Fire Company for housing the police cruiser** at the fire

station and asked that a check for \$3,000 be issued to the Fire Company for rent retroactive to November 2013. As previously reported, the lease runs from November 2013 until June 30, 2014.

**A report commissioned by the selectmen strongly supports the purchase of new fire truck** by the Town. The report, prepared by fire truck consultant Robert J. McDermott, not only confirms that a new fire engine is needed but that its cost would probably exceed \$500,000, which he characterized as a reasonable amount for a truck of its kind. Mr. McDermott, who has more than thirty years' experience in the business, says that if anything, the existing town's fire-fighting fleet "may actually be insufficient to handle certain emergencies," given the town's size, number of significant structures, and the closely-spaced nature of the structures in the five village centers. To claims that the Fire Department is asking for a truck loaded with "frivolous," or parade-worthy options, the report is very clear in stating that what the department is actually seeking "is an all-purpose vehicle, tailored to local needs," that complies with 2014 regulatory and safety requirements, while remaining forward-looking given its twenty- to twenty-five-year life span. This is the third time the town will be voting on the fire truck. Last year it was voted down. If approved, the new truck will replace a twenty-two-year-old pumper known as Engine 1. (For a summary of the report see box on page 7).

In a letter to the Board, Fire Chief Chuck Loring **outlined the modifications that need to be made to Old Hitchcock Road to make it accessible** to fire trucks and other emergency vehicles. As previously reported, David and Heather Ralph are seeking a special permit to build a single-family home on the upper portion of Old Hitchcock Road, but the Board raised concerns about the lack of access to the property by emergency vehicles. Mr. Ralph indicated at the Board's March 3 meeting he'd be more than willing to consider making changes to the road, as specified by Chief Loring (See Board of Selectmen report in the April issue of the NM5VN). Those changes, according to the chief's letter, would include clearing trees and installing gravel to create a twelve-foot wide road, with appropriate grading, the installation of a gravel turn-around at the house, and the creation of two "pull-offs," each a minimum of twelve feet wide and thirty feet long, "appropriately spaced along the roadway to the Ralph property." The letter also recommends that current homeowners on the road consider widening the entrance to the road from Route 57 to make it more accessible to emergency vehicles. The letter will be forwarded to the Ralphs and their attorney.

Chairman Yohalem reported on the **results of the Town Caucus held March 25**. He said ninety-three people participated and that as a result of the balloting the only contested position at the May 12 election will

be for the Board of Selectmen, where he will be opposed by former Highway Superintendent Peter Marks, who received twenty-one votes as a write-in candidate. Mr. Yohalem received sixty-one.

On Police Chief Scott Farrell's recommendation, the Board signed off on a **county-wide mutual aid agreement** providing guidelines governing what local police officers can do when crossing town lines in pursuit of a suspect. The agreement is being circulated to county towns for approval by the Berkshire County Law Enforcement Council.

**April 3:** The Board held a special Thursday morning session devoted largely to **budget issues**. The meeting was convened at 10:10 a.m. with all three members present, and the Board began by reviewing budget items previously put on hold at Monday night's meeting. These included Roads and Bridges Salaries, which were approved at \$260,547, for an increase of \$8,154, and it deferred action for the second time on the Town Hall Account, Transfer Station Renovations and Town Hall Renovations, pending further clarification of the amounts involved.

The Board announced that Highway Superintendent **Chuck Loring will receive a \$1,500 raise** effective April 1. This will increase his annual compensation to \$60,000 and is based on a favorable nine-month performance review.

The Board said it has now received official notification from the state Department of Transportation **ordering it to close the Campbell Falls bridge**. But as previously reported, the Town had already been alerted to the fact in an informal phone call from the state, and has already taken steps to shore up the bridge and reduce it to one lane. The next step, according to Chairman Yohalem, will be for the town to send the state engineers a letter with photographs describing the work that was done and asking them to look at the bridge again, in the hope that the state will approve the modifications and allow the bridge to remain open with one lane.

The meeting was then adjourned as the Board went into executive session to discuss Town Hall clerical duties.

**April 7:** With all three members present, the Board approved the following **budget items**:

- Assessors Computer Contingency: \$4,325 (up \$90)
- Board of Appeals: \$600
- Town Hall Account: \$38,000
- Winter Roads: \$256,334 (up \$12,659)
- Cemetery Officers' Salary: \$400
- Veterans Benefit Trust: \$6,000 (a \$2,000 decrease)
- Reserve Fund: \$50,000

There was a brief discussion about complaints that have come to the Board's attention regarding the **confusing and in some cases misleading detour signs** erected by

*continued*

*Board of Selectmen, continued*

the contractor for the Canaan Southfield Road bridge. Highway Superintendent Loring said he's aware of the problem and has posted new signs that should clear up some of the confusion. He also said he'll be talking to contractor J.H. Maxymillian Inc. about modifying some of its signs.

The Board approved the text of a **warrant article** to be voted on at the Annual Town Meeting **establishing an Agricultural Commission** to support commercial agriculture, forestry, and other farming activities in the town. The commission will be comprised of five members plus two alternates, a majority of whom have to be "substantially engaged in the pursuit of agriculture or forestry activities" in the town; they will be appointed by the selectmen.

The Board discussed raising the transfer station permit fee by \$10 to \$110 a year, but deferred a decision until next week's meeting to give Selectman White a chance to run a report determining what the impact of the \$25 fee increase last year had on permit sales. And with that, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

**April 14:** With all three Selectmen present, the first order of business was a meeting with Emergency Management Director Ed Harvey to **clear up some confusion about his salary request**. Initially, it appeared as though he had requested a \$250, or 6¼ percent increase on top of his \$4,000 salary, which the Board was inclined not to approve. However, when he explained the \$250 was not for him, but was to be put aside and used to pay a backup or interim person to fill in for him if there's an emergency and he is away from the area, the Board voted to increase his salary by 2 percent to \$4,080 and "to include in the budget an additional \$250 to be used on an as-needed basis" for an "interim person to be paid from that account."

With Mr. Harvey still present, the Board also discussed the **closing of New Marlborough Central School on Friday, April 4, due to a CO2 alarm that went off**. As a result the students were not able to use the building for two days but instead were bused to the main campus in Sheffield. Initially, speculation focused on the boiler, which has been problematic in the past, but according to what Chairman Yohalem learned from School Superintendent David Hastings, the problem was not the boiler per se but a faulty fuel line that triggered the alarm, a problem that has been fixed. That left the question of why parents weren't notified by the school district's AlertNow email system until 10:00 a.m., some two hours after the children were sent to Sheffield, and why Town Hall wasn't notified of the problem. The Board asked Mr. Harvey to look into it and to generally **review the school's emergency management plan with school officials and the Town's emergency services providers**.

In an unrelated announcement, Chairman Yohalem

reported that Superintendent David Hastings, a New Marlborough resident, will once again organize and officiate at the town's **Memorial Day parade**, which this year will take place on Monday, May 26, starting at 9:00 a.m.

The Board said it is planning to apply for a **state grant to partially fund the purchase of a new compactor** the Town is planning for the transfer station later this year. The grant application is due June 12, and the grant awards will be made in September.

Chairman Yohalem moved to **rescind a resolution approved by the Board at last week's meeting** to establish an Agricultural Commission (See April 7 Board of Selectmen report). As he explained, "I feel as though we acted too hastily. I have not looked at the law nor have we submitted it to counsel." He said he wanted to make sure there's nothing "detrimental in there to the town," adding, "what I don't want to do is appoint a commission if we're unclear about what its powers and duties are. We can always approve it again in a month or two, but I definitely want some time on it." His motion was approved by the Board.

The Board decided **not to raise the transfer station permit fee** by \$10 to \$110, as discussed at last week's meeting. Instead, it voted to raise the late fee for permits purchased after August 15 by \$15 to \$125. New permits are due July 1.

The Board received a letter from the governor's office indicating the Town will be receiving \$344,489 in **Chapter 90 local road and bridge funding** for the coming fiscal year. That is down from the \$365,000 it received last year. In addition, the state's Department of Transportation has indicated the town is in line to receive a one-time draw-down of \$51,673 from the \$40 million Pothole and Winter Recovery Program announced by the state earlier this month. And finally, there's another \$30,000 in state money that may be available to the town from the MassWorks program, Mr. Yohalem said, which, if awarded, might be used to help fund repairs to the Mill River Great Barrington Road.

In further budget actions, the Board approved the following:

Selectmen's Salaries: \$8,550

Transfer Station Renovations: \$10,000 (Free Cash)

Town Hall Renovations: \$10,000 (Free Cash)

Highway Truck: \$93,000 (Free Cash)

Clayton Mill River Bridge: \$180,000 (Borrow and Free Cash)

The rest of the meeting was devoted to a lengthy discussion of **how to pay for the so-called big-ticket capital items on the warrant**, including the fire truck, the larger of the two highway trucks and the Clayton Mill River bridge. The options discussed were to use a combination of borrowing and \$100,000 from the Town's free cash account or to borrow the entire amount and

use the \$100,000 in free cash to lower the tax rate. “My feeling is we should definitely borrow for the big highway truck and absolutely borrow for the fire truck and also the Clayton Mill River bridge,” Mr. Yohalem said, “and in principle I like the idea of reducing the tax rate.” But as Selectman Shalaby noted using free cash to lower the tax rate would only lower the rate for one year. “But if all three special articles are passed, the town would have debt payments to make on almost \$1 million in borrowing starting in the 2016 fiscal year,” and she urged the Board to use the \$100,000 in free cash “to reduce capital expenditures instead.” In the end, the Board

agreed and voted to recommend borrowing \$550,000 for the fire truck, \$228,000 for the highway truck, and \$80,000 for the bridge, to be supplemented by \$100,000 from free cash. With that, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m. □

*Peter Schuyten*

**Correction:** In the February 24 Board of Selectmen report in the April issue, Larry Davis III was erroneously identified as the tree warden. Peter Marks is the tree warden.

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## ABSENTEE BALLOTS

For registered voters who will be away or unable to get to Town Hall on Election Day, May 12, absentee ballots are available from Town Clerk Kathy Chretien. They are available now and will be until noon on Friday, May 9. To obtain an absentee ballot one must complete and submit an Absentee Ballot Application, also from Ms. Chretien. A word of caution: If you want the absentee ballot mailed to you, you'll need to submit the application in a timely fashion to allow the ballot to travel from and back to Town Hall. If you have questions, Ms. Chretien is usually at Town Hall Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Her phone number is (413)229-8278. □

## FIRE TRUCK ASSESSMENT REPORT

In a report commissioned by the Board of Selectmen, consultant Robert J. McDermott provides what amounts to a strong endorsement of the Fire Department's request for a new pumper. Mr. McDermott, with thirty years' experience in the fire apparatus industry, was hired in March to evaluate whether a new fire truck is needed and, if so, what it should cost.

He begins the thirteen-page report by surveying the department's existing equipment, namely its two pumpers, a tanker, and a pick-up-sized brush truck that serves as a “forest/grass fire truck” that's “suitable for off-road operations.”

Then under the heading “The Necessity,” he surveys the Town, its size, number of households, significant structures, and the number of village centers with closely spaced structures, and concludes “there is little doubt that the exposure for loss of life and property, spread across the five village entities, justifies . . . the general and special purpose fire apparatus as currently used by the town.” But he then goes on to warn that “the current fleet may actually be insufficient to handle certain emergencies until Mutual Aid arrives.”

In terms of whether the proposed truck and its projected \$550,000 cost are reasonable, he begins by making a detailed comparison between the new truck and the 1992 pumper it would replace, known as Engine 1, and finds the two trucks are quite similar, with the obvious exception of “regulatory updates” that have been mandated since 1992 and some crew safety features that were unavailable back then, plus some options added by the fire department, including an onboard generator to power scene lighting, ventilation equipment, and other electrical accessories, like a power-operated ladder rack.

His strongest argument is on the cost side, where he uses historical inflation rates to show that the same truck purchased in 1992 for \$250,000 would cost more than \$410,000 today, and the equipment necessary to bring the truck into compliance with today's regulatory standards would push the cost to more than \$500,000. Then the fire department specified options would raise it even more to the \$550,000 budgeted figure. But he seems to feel that it's all reasonable and justified, and that the price of the proposed truck is in line with those recently purchased by Great Barrington, Stockbridge, and other area towns.

Finally, the report asks whether the Fire Department is asking for a truck with “frivolous features?” The answer, according to Mr. McDermott, is no, and he concludes by saying that what the Fire Department is “trying to acquire is an all-purpose vehicle, tailored to local needs,” one that complies with 2014 regulatory and safety requirements, but also is forward looking given its twenty- to twenty-five-year life span. □

*Peter Schuyten*

Photo by Larry Burke



## HARMONIOUS SUPPORT

Top, left: About forty New Marlborough residents and supporters of the Berkshire Children's Chorus gathered on a dazzling spring evening at the home of Michele and Dave Shalaby, to attend a benefit concert, directed by Julie Bickford, on April 12. The organizers of the concert hoped to introduce the chorus to a new audience, in a neighborly and casual setting. The benefit was a great success, with proceeds from the ticket sales directly benefiting the children's musical, educational, and social experiences as a part of the chorus. Alumni of the choir, including New Marlborough resident Danielle Guidi, attended and spoke highly of the role Berkshire Children's Chorus had in their lives as children and young adults. The chorus would love to have a second house concert this year, perhaps this fall in a neighboring South County town... if you'd like to

suggest a space please contact [voices@berkshirechildrenschorus.org](mailto:voices@berkshirechildrenschorus.org)

If you missed the house concert, the chorus will be singing on Thursday, May 22 at 7:00 p.m. to benefit Dewey Hall in Sheffield (the current rehearsal space for the chorus), and at the Berkshire Children's Chorus Spring Concert, Sunday June 8 at 4:00 p.m., at Hevreh in Great Barrington.

Below, left: The youngest members of Berkshire Children's Chorus await their performance time on April 12.

Photo by Kenzie Fields



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## COUNCIL ON AGING NEWS

Senior citizens of New Marlborough have benefitted from three generous gifts during the past month:

- Eight seniors accepted the invitation from the Berkshire Hills Regional School District for their spring musical *Into the Woods*, and enjoyed dessert at intermission!
- The Southern Berkshire Regional School District invited the seniors to attend and enjoy their spring musical *Grease*. Fourteen were able to attend.
- In addition to this, one of our own farmers donated extra produce to be shared amongst the seniors.

All of these gifts were greatly appreciated.

Seniors are invited to celebrate the arrival of spring at a luncheon at noon on Friday, May 9, at the Southfield Church Hall. This luncheon is being sponsored by the New Marlborough Council on Aging, and will be catered by the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. Reservations are necessary, and can be made by calling Prue Spaulding at 229-8407.

Please feel free to call her with suggestions or needs.

*Prudence Spaulding*

*It's Spring!*

### Come And Celebrate at a Delicious Luncheon

*Sponsored By  
The New Marlborough Council On Aging*

WHERE: Southfield Church Hall

WHEN: Friday May 9, 2014

TIME: Noon

WITH: Entertainment!

Catered by the Southern Berkshire Regional School District's Culinary Department

Please try to call Prue Spaulding at 413-229-8407 by May 1 so the culinary department will have a head count

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## CANDIDATES FOR MAY 12 TOWN ELECTION

The Town Caucus, held on March 25, set the ballot for the town elections on May 12. Below are the candidates for election, along with the statements provided by them. Polls will be open at Town Hall from noon until 7:00 p.m.

### ►Moderator, one year: SCOTT FARRELL

#### Board of Selectmen, three years: NATHANIEL YOHALEM

My thanks to the community for electing me to serve as a selectman for the past three years. Here are highlights of what was accomplished during my first term:

- Obtained a \$500,000 grant to replace the Foley Bridge. Only two towns in the Berkshires obtained such a grant.
- Ended the need for interim borrowing and decreased tax delinquencies by implementing quarterly tax billings, supporting the suggestion of the tax collector.
- Began interdepartmental cooperation through quarterly meetings.
- Signed a lease with the Fire Company to garage the police cruiser so that all emergency department equipment would be under one roof.
- Convinced Massachusetts Department of Transportation to replace the Hadsell Street Bridge (scheduled for the coming year), saving the Town over \$2,000,000.
- Met with school representatives and our Finance Committee resulting in a reduction of almost \$160,000 in the proposed school budget, saving the Town almost \$33,000.
- Sold tax-foreclosed properties, bringing in \$75,000 to the Town.

Here is some of my agenda for the next three years:

- Apply for the maximum \$1,000,000 grant from Mass DOT for our roads and bridges.
- Collaborate with neighboring towns to share equipment and services to reduce costs. (Discussion with Sheffield has begun.)
- Structure a financial plan to cover capital expenses over the next five to ten years.

I am asking you to re-elect me so that I can continue to work with you for the betterment of our town. If you want to talk to me about any issues, please call me at 528-1409. Thank you.

#### ►Board of Selectmen, three years: PETER B. MARKS

My name is Peter B. Marks and I am running for selectman in the Town of New Marlborough. I am a native of this area, born in Salisbury, Connecticut. Forty-five years ago I moved to New Marlborough and married my wife, Candace, a life-long resident of this town.

The reason that I am running for selectman is to bring "common sense and accountability" to the selectmen and taxpayers. I will listen to the people's concerns. In the

past money has been appropriated for different projects which have not come to pass. I realize sometimes more important things can come up, which use the funds, but there is a lack of communication between the selectmen and the taxpayers. Sometimes the reasons are very inadequate, incomplete, or nonexistent.

In August 2009, I assumed responsibility for the Highway Department as superintendent until June 1, 2013. Being responsible for the second highest budget in the Town for four years, I operated the department without ever going over the appropriated amount each of those four years. By being conscientious and efficient in the spending of my budget, I was able to return excess funds to the Town. During this time, the Town had three major storms that caused devastation to the roads. I worked closely with FEMA and state and local officials to secure funding to get repairs done for the Town in a timely fashion. This takes leadership, coordination, and commitment to do the job right. I intend to bring this work ethic to the selectman's position. I also procured state Chapter 90 funds which provide money for road maintenance and projects. Everything I did, I documented. There is a long record of accomplishments. For three years I served on the Conservation Commission and I am presently Tree Warden.

In these economic times, it's ever increasingly important to hold costs and taxes down and spend our money wisely.

Please consider voting for me, Peter B. Marks for selectman, on Monday, May 12.

#### ►Town Clerk, three years: KATHERINE M. CHRETIEN

My name is Katherine Chretien and I am running for re-election to the position of town clerk. I am a native of New Marlborough and have lived here all my life. My family roots in New Marlborough go back several generations. My son attends our local school district and my daughter graduated last June. I am dedicated to, and have worked for, the benefit of our Southern Berkshire community while serving as your town clerk.

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I have been your town clerk for the past six years and have been employed by the Town for a total of twelve years. I have been educated as a town clerk by attending Massachusetts conferences and classes, along with attending New England Municipal Clerk Institute & Academy (NEMCIA). I have taken the Massachusetts Town Clerk's Association exam last year and passed with a 92.60 (Massachusetts' required passing grade is 80 or above.) New Marlborough is one of the 112 cities/towns with a Massachusetts certified town clerk, out of a total of 351 cities and towns. I also graduated from NEMCIA in 2011 and will continue my education with the support of the Town.

I would like to continue to serve the Town and if re-elected I will be available when you need me. I will continue to attend seminars and classes to keep up my certification, and to keep my skills up to date. My goal is to make a difference in making the Town of New Marlborough a better place to live.

I would appreciate your support and thank you for re-electing me as your town clerk. Polls hours are from noon until 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 12.

► **Assessor, three years: FREDERICK FRIEDMAN**

► **Planning Board, five years: JAMES MULLEN**

► **Planning Board, four years: CHARLES PARTON**

I believe strongly that one who has the advantages of living in such a beautiful place as New Marlborough is obligated to participate as needed in one or more of the town's operating boards, commissions, committees, or governing bodies. There are those who may disagree with the goals these organizations put forth toward those ends, but fail to make their opinions heard in the many public educational or open meetings, and simply say "No" by their vote.

Thomas Jefferson had real reservations about the success of the Republic's experiment, concerned that the electorate would not participate by educating themselves and contributing their guidance. I served as a volunteer for four years in World War II and two years as an FSR Peace Corps program director, and on local town boards or government functions, in every year of my life since I completed my medical training (1959 - 2014). I hope more people will sign up for some local service, and participate in the process.

► **Finance Committee, three years: BURT IMBERMAN**

► **Finance Committee, three years: JOHN PSHENISHNY**

My name is John Pshenishny. I am a candidate for a seat on the Finance Committee.

I have been married to my wife, Marsha, for forty-one years. We moved to Clayton in 1983. I have been an active member of the fire department for forty years. I am still active as a radio dispatcher.

I am a 1966 graduate of Housatonic Valley Regional

High School. I worked at Wash & Dry for ten years, until they closed. Then I was employed at Sheffield Plastics for thirty years.

I am retired now and have the time to give to the town. I feel that I could offer some of my experience and knowledge to the town. I would like to learn more about municipal finance and how the taxes work.

I would appreciate your support on Election Day.

► **Board of Health, three years: LAWRENCE H. DAVIS III**

► **Tree Warden, one year: PETER B. MARKS**

► **Cemetery Commissioner, three years: JAMES PALMER**

► **Library Trustee, three years: MAUREEN HOSFORD**

I, along with my husband David, have been part of the New Marlborough community since 1992. I have been an avid reader most of my life and a great supporter of libraries and what they stand for.

My goal as library trustee would be as an advocate and support to Debbie and the library, to continue its mission as a cultural, educational, and social "gem" in the New Marlborough community. I believe my forty-year career in the bookstore world has given me the financial and operational knowledge to provide that support.

I would appreciate your vote.

► **Finance Committee, one year: MARK CARSON**

► **Planning Board, three years: HOLLY MORSE**

Our family home was built in Mill River just over thirty years ago. My husband and I became full-time residents with our boys (then four and nine) in 1999. I have served on the Planning Board since the winter of 2010. Before serving as a Planning Board member, I covered the Board for the NM5VN. Over time, I have become a qualified citizen-planner. Despite the rejection of the bylaw revisions on November 18, 2013, I believe, as a community, we have a shared passion to protect the Town from unwanted change. Often, however, this goal comes into conflict with the march of time and with residents' legitimate interest in disposing of their property as they see fit. As I watch a field being cleared along Hayes Hill Road, the same road I have run for thirty years, I wonder what its future use will be — a McMansion? a new business? an affordable home for longtime residents? or another use for the Hayes family that has owned the property for so long? Whatever is built, it will alter Hayes Hill Road. As a community, how do we decide what is wanted or unwanted change? What planning documents reflect what we decide while protecting property owners' rights? If elected, I promise to continue to review these questions, to work towards consensus, and to plan and draft ordinances that reflect the shared goal of protecting what New Marlborough's residents clearly feel passionate about — as Scott Ryan put it, our "little bit of heaven." □

## PLANT SWAP PLANNED

Do you love plants? Do you want new plants to add to your garden? Do you have plants that need to be divided in your garden? Please come to the plant swap on Saturday, May 10. Fun awaits you.

Here is the plan: Bring your labeled plants to the garden behind the New Marlborough Central School (NMCS) between 9:00 and 9:30 a.m. Coffee is being provided by the Southfield Store, and bagels & cream cheese by the New Marlborough Cultural Council. After the plants are organized, and we have browsed a bit, the swapping will begin at 9:30 a.m. We will draw numbers and go in order for three rounds. Then we will take what we would like from the remaining plants.

Please RSVP or contact Nan Smith with questions at 229-0291, or email to: n.oshaughnessy.smith@gmail.com. She will be listing plants that will be available on the NMCS Weebly at [www.nmmpta.weebly.com](http://www.nmmpta.weebly.com) so check it out. The more people and plants the more fun we will have. Please plan on joining us.

After the plant swap you may want to stay for the Garden Clean-up/Cookout. Also on May 10, beginning at 10:00 a.m., is the NMCS annual garden clean up. School parents will be working with New Marlborough

Land Trust members this year. If you want to lend a hand, please join us. Adults will help with gardening projects while children will take part in activities such as a hike up the hill behind the school, face painting, and birdhouse construction.

At noon the cleanup will end and the eating will begin. So stick around and join the cookout. The school provides hamburgers and hotdogs from kindergarten teacher Erna Lampman's farm. The volunteers all bring a dish to share. If you would like to attend the clean-up/cookout, check out the school's Weebly for RSVP information ([www.nmmpta.weebly.com](http://www.nmmpta.weebly.com).) We need a headcount for grilling. This is a great event that brings together the school, the Cultural Council, the Land Trust and other members of our community. Please join in the fun!

Rain date for both events: May 17 at the same time and place. □

Nan Smith

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## PHOTOGRAPHS BY BOB BRADLEY

Bob Bradley, of Old County Road in Mill River, started fooling with cameras as a child, and has continued, he says, "off and on my whole life. I became more 'serious' about it after I retired in 2004." He roams the woods with his 35mm camera, largely around Old County and New Marlborough Hill Roads, photographing wildlife, old barns, derelict houses and cars – whatever he finds that's of interest. At other times he has to plot and wait, sometimes for hours. □



Young herons in nest



Canada geese on nest



Squirrel feasting on pumpkin



Wild turkeys in full display



Nest-building herons

## Neighbors



**N**ancy Dinan, of Hartsville, died on March 25 after a brief illness. She was born in New York City but her family relocated to New Marlborough when she was a young child. Nancy graduated from the former New Marlborough High School and was a graduate of the Scudder School in New York. In 1966 she got her real estate license, formed her own company, Corashire Realty, and was actively involved in the business until her death. She was a member of the Berkshire County Board of Realtors, Fairview Hospital Auxiliary, Rotary Club of Great Barrington, and former member of Save the Mahaiwe, Chesterwood Museum, and Bidwell House Museum. Nancy served on the New Marlborough Planning Board for nearly two decades, starting in the early 1980s, and was a member of the Bylaw Revision Committee in the mid-1990s. Her deep interest in the civic affairs of New Marlborough was borne out year after year by her unfailing participation in the Annual Town Meeting.

Nancy is survived by her husband of sixty-seven years, John Dinan, and also by her son and daughter, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

**N**orman Rosenfeld, a devoted weekend resident for forty years, passed away on April 10 after a very brief illness. A graduate of Pratt Institute School of Architecture in 1956, he was known as an innovator in the design of healthcare facilities, promoting a humanistic approach to creating hospital environments. He maintained a close relationship with Pratt throughout his career; in semi-retirement, he mentored young architects and established the Lee and Norman Rosenfeld Award of financial assistance for deserving students at the Pratt School of Architecture.

Norman and his wife, Lee, who passed away in 2008, purchased their home on the Southfield Canaan Road in August, 1974. They were active participants in many aspects of local life, fondly remembering community square dances at Town Hall, regularly enjoying York Lake, being staunch customers of the Southfield and Mill River Stores, and being active supporters of local crafts- and trades-people, artists, and arts events in New Marlborough. □



Norman Rosenfeld

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



Photos by Barry Shapiro

Approximately sixty people turned out on April 5 for the second annual photography exhibit and potluck supper at the Southfield Church Hall, sponsored by the New Marlborough Cultural Council. Seventeen local photographers contributed a total of seventy-nine pictures of many aspects of life in New Marlborough. Above, Cultural Council Chair Michele Shalaby is flanked by former Council members Ann Getsinger and Owen Hoberman.

**Vendors Wanted** For the Elihu Burritt Day Town Fair on August 16, 2014  
Sellers of arts, crafts, or other products

Contact Michele Shalaby, chair, New Marlborough Cultural Council  
229-9050, or [micheleshalaby@gmail.com](mailto:micheleshalaby@gmail.com)

## OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

On March 31, **Don Beauchamp**, of Clayton, writes: The Housatonic has flooded its banks, and the returning **ducks and geese** are loving the high water. **Bluebirds** keep coming back to visit the birdhouse, but with a buddy — the **house sparrow**. Maybe they travel as a comedy team: the sparrow isn't around unless the blues are there, too. They fight, then leave together, then return together.

A young **Cooper's hawk**, who sat long enough for me to take a shot of him, is keeping a eye on the neighborhood bird life, and a **piliated woodpecker** is chipping away up at a tree at the base of the hill.



photo by Janice Boultz

Phoebe

On April 4, **Janice Boultz**, of Canaan Valley Road, writes: Slowly but surely spring is unfolding. The **phoebes** have returned (seventeenth year in a row at the same nesting spot in the corner of our house.) A **fox** has been spotted in the yard a few times, and the **raccoons** and **skunks** are out in full force at night, but no bear sightings yet.

On April 8, **Richard Tinker**, who lives on Leffingwell Hill, above Clayton, writes: I've seen **Carolina wrens** at the feeder (which is now in the barn.) I'm hoping they'll nest here, but who knows?

On April 8, **Don Beauchamp** writes: This morning a **yellow-belly sapsucker** was working its way around the apple tree at Tinker Farm.

On April 9, **Emily Newman Stanton**, of Southfield, writes: We are an active **bear** stop every year. This year we have only seen a youngster, maybe a one-year-old. In years past we would see a really big one that we named "Bear Clinton" because one time Jeremy impersonated it and gave it a voice and somehow sounded like the former president. We naturally call this year's baby "Baby Bear Clinton."

We have to keep our memory on to save the bird feeders! I think the store and dumpster across the street is another stop on the route!

Other than that, a rowdy pack of **raccoons**, the occasional **hawk**, many birds, though nothing unusual. The **finches** are changing colors every day. P.S. A wildlife footnote: **ticks!** Do inform your readers of the need to take precautions. I refuse to live afraid of infection and so, regardless of how inconvenient it is, if I have been out in the garden or hiking, I strip off my clothes and get in the shower. The kiddos get a bath every night. I never re-wear yard-work clothes without first throwing them into the washer because whenever I do, I receive a tick!

On April 13, **Elizabeth Goodman**, of Mill River, writes: The **bluebirds** have been around all winter, but now they are busy scoping out all our houses. The **goldfinches** are turning yellow, and the **phoebes** are back, but despite my attentiveness I have not seen any **bald eagles**. Yesterday evening, though, at around 8:00, I was very surprised to see a **bat** flying in the sky over my yard. A good omen, don't you think? Thankfully, no **bears** in the yard yet, but plenty of **peepers!**

On April 13, **Don Beauchamp** writes: I went out early this morning and saw a big **fisher** [aka fisher cat or marten] crossing the bridge. I saw him two years ago, and he has grown a bit fatter, but is just as fast.

On April 15, **Peter Schuyten** of Cagney Hill Road writes: This big guy, in the photo at left, somehow managed to pull down and destroy a triple-cylinder bird feeder hanging some seven feet above the ground from a flowering crabapple tree in our backyard. The picture was actually taken on his second visit, which occurred late the next day when he apparently came back to clean up the seeds he left behind. He stayed around for about half an hour, occasionally eyeing us as we gawked and took photos, and then he ambled off across the road in the direction of the Joffe Nature Sanctuary where he'd previously been sighted by our neighbors.



photo by Peter Schuyten



photo by Larry Burke

On April 15, **Elizabeth Goodman** writes: I saw the **bald eagle** this morning! I actually heard him/her before I saw him. On my walk with my dogs down by the river, there he was! I was able to watch him for a good long time circling the river and doubling back.

On April 18, **Larry Burke** of New Marlborough writes: On Monday, April 14, a beautiful, warm day that falsely promised the arrival of spring, this **Northern water snake** came out to bask in the sun on our driveway. Two days later there were two inches of snow in this spot.



Cooper's Hawk

photo by Don Beauchamp



Yellow bellied sapsucker

photo by Don Beauchamp

# THE LOG

The New Marlborough Fire Company's Annual Spring Dance will be held on Saturday, May 3, at Gedney Farm. Tickets will soon be available at the Mill River General Store or from any New Marlborough firefighter. Call David Smith, (413) 229-0291 for more information.

- March 3 12:30 a.m. Disabled car, sitting on rear-right wheel rim, at intersection of Alum Hill and Clayton Mill River Roads
- 6:15 p.m. Car hit deer near 661 Canaan Southfield Road
- March 4 8:26 p.m. Contacted by BCSC to respond to caller alone at home on New Marlborough Hill Road who reported a car driving in and out of driveway
- March 6 10:05 a.m. Pigs loose on Route 183 near Flying Cloud
- March 7 10:00 a.m. Received complaint of noise from augurs drilling into ice on Lake Buel at 5:00 a.m.; advised party to contact Monterey Police Department
- 11:08 a.m. Car hit deer on Hartsville New Marlborough Road near Stone Manor Drive
- March 9 1:16 a.m. Paged for domestic altercation in progress, Mill River
- March 10 3:15 p.m. Received BOLO (be on the lookout) request from Sheffield for blue Chevy with New York plates involved in robbery of Lee Bank
- March 12 10:55 a.m. Assist Canaan Southfield Road resident, who had locked himself out, to gain re-entry to his house
- 4:15 p.m. Party reports suspicious activity on New Marlborough Hill Road
- March 15 12:15 a.m. Car hits pole on Clayton Mill River Road; driver transported to hospital by New Marlborough Rescue 1

- March 21 6:45 p.m. Car hits deer on Mill River Southfield Road
- 6:50 p.m. Two-vehicle accident on Route 57; one party is agitated and hostile, another intoxicated
- March 27 7:00 a.m. Vehicle rollover on Mill River Great Barrington Road; vehicle towed
- March 30 11:00 a.m. Investigated gunshots heard on Hotchkiss Road

The log also notes nine license-to-carry applications or renewals. □



Photo by Steve Graves

## BATTER UP

Despite the slow winter thaw, spring training baseball has started in South County for Cal Ripken League players 8-11 years old. Players from Otis, Monterey, Lee, Great Barrington, Sandisfield, Mill River and surrounding towns have come to the Farmington River school gym in Otis on Sundays to practice and prepare for the upcoming season. Games are scheduled to start by May 1 at Greene Park in Monterey.

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE COMPANY

Members of the New Marlborough Fire Company encourage all town voters and residents to read the March 27 report, prepared by McDermott & Company, Inc., of West Stockbridge, regarding the evaluation of the Fire Department's apparatus.

Summary pages of the report, which was commissioned by the Board of Selectmen, can be found on the Fire Department's page of the Town of New Marlborough's website. The evaluation is titled "2014 Truck Report." Copies of the entire report are available at the Mill River General Store. (See also, in this issue of the NM5VN, the report of the March 31 Board of Selectmen meeting and the boxed summary on page 7.)

In short, the report evaluates the department's current fire apparatus, their uses, and conditions. The report also evaluates the necessity of a new fire engine to replace the current 1992 fire engine, detailing requirements of current firefighting apparatus and evaluating the estimated \$550,000 cost of a replacement fire engine. That request will go to voters at the Annual Town Meeting on May 5 and the subsequent Town Election on May 12.

Please know that the dedicated members of New Marlborough Fire & Rescue recognize that the cost of the proposed new apparatus is significant. Our members are also taxpayers and understand the cost of this investment. We also believe that a new fire engine is a critical component of providing safe, reliable, and efficient services to our community.

We are more than happy to answer any and all questions. Please share your concerns with any NMF&R member or visit the fire station at 7:00 p.m. on any Tuesday night. You may also call us: Chief Charles Loring, 528-6618; and Deputy Chief David Smith, 229-0291, or speak with David Herrick at the Mill River General Store. Thank you. □

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## FIRE AND RESCUE

March 3	7:39 a.m.	Mutual Aid to Sheffield Structure Fire	March 27	6:24 a.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road Medical Call
March 3	1:53 p.m.	Standby Mutual Aid for Norfolk Structure Fire	March 28	7:20 p.m.	Downs Road Medical Call
March 4	10:30 a.m.	Hayes Hill Road Medical Call	March 28	8:13 p.m.	Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call
March 5	5:12 p.m.	New Marlborough Hartsville Road Fire Alarm	March 29	12:56 p.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road Medical Call
March 9	12:27 a.m.	Hayes Hill Road Medical Call	One Last Reminder: The New Marlborough Fire Company's Annual Spring Dance will be held on Saturday, May 3, at Gedney Farm. Tickets are available at the Mill River General Store or from any New Marlborough firefighter. Call David Smith, (413) 229-0291, for more information. □		
March 9	8:50 a.m.	Mill River Southfield Road Service Call			
March 10	9:47 a.m.	Stone Manor Drive Fire Alarm			
March 11	7:37 p.m.	New Marlborough Hartsville Road Fire Alarm			
March 14	8:56 p.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road Medical Call			
March 15	12:07 a.m.	Clayton Mill River Road MVA			
March 18	6:20 a.m.	Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call			
March 22	2:09 p.m.	County Road Car Fire			
March 22	3:11 p.m.	Church Road Medical Call			
March 23	12:11 p.m.	New Marlborough Hartsville Road Fire Alarm			
March 24	12:10 p.m.	New Marlborough Hartsville Road Fire Alarm			
March 25	5:21 a.m.	New Marlborough Hartsville Road Fire Alarm			

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### Thank You to our Contributors!

Burt & Linda Imberman; Elaine & Steve Mack; Mike & Gloria Levitas; Ms. Anita E. Matthews; Ramona Veretto; Debra Bricker Balken; and Burt & Linda Imberman

## MAILBOX



To the Editor:

For those residents who care for New Marlborough as much as we do, we urge you to vote for Nat Yohalem as selectman. Nat has served on the Board of Selectmen for the past three years. He has been fully committed, giving the job his full attention, knowledge, and experience.

Being a selectman is, at times, a thankless job, but Nat has not allowed challenges to discourage him. Under his leadership, the Board has achieved some notable financial successes, including obtaining a \$500,000 grant to replace the Foley Road Bridge and receipt of \$75,000 from an auction of Town-owned foreclosed properties. Nat convened a meeting with school representatives and the Town's Finance Committee which resulted in a reduction of almost \$160,000 from the proposed school budget – a savings of over \$33,000 to the Town.

Nat has shown that he is an able leader, levelheaded, and inclusive. He is dedicated to providing openness and transparency in our Town government. Working with the tax collector, the Board ended interim borrowing and decreased delinquencies through quarterly billings. Saturday selectmen's meetings gave more Town residents an opportunity to be heard. Nat has attended almost every meeting of the town and school finance committees and has implemented quarterly department head meetings.

We urge all voters to cast their ballot for Nat Yohalem on election day: Monday, May 12, between noon and 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

Nat is available to talk about Town issues and can be reached at 528-1409.

Robert Olsen, Southfield  
Mary White, Mill River

To the Editors:

I would like to thank you for the article about my brother's and my early life in the village of New Marlborough, and interviewed by Mr. Poindexter.

To my knowledge, New Marlborough Central School wasn't closed for three weeks (perhaps a few days); we, however, could not leave our home for three weeks because of the snow.

Also, because the prom picture was cropped, my good friend from the village of New Marlborough was not included – Nancy Gallagher.

Thank you again for the article.

Yvonne F. Stephens, Southfield

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

- May 3: Spring Dance**, the Fire Company's annual gala, dinner and dancing from 6:30 to 11:00 p.m. at Gedney Farm; tickets available at the Mill River General Store
- May 4: Birding**, near Umpachene Falls with birding teacher Amber Spring, 8:00 to 10:00 a.m., sponsored by the New Marlborough Land Trust, space is limited; register at [nmlandtrust@gmail.com](mailto:nmlandtrust@gmail.com)
- May 5: Annual Town Meeting**, 7:00 p.m. Town Hall
- May 7: Hike Steepletop** with or without your best friend (canine category), 10:00 a.m. to noon; meet at the New Marlborough Meeting House; hosted by the Berkshire Natural Resources Council
- May 10: Collection for the Elihu Burritt Day White Elephant sale**, 10:00 – noon, at the Whip Shop, Southfield (also June 14)
- May 12: Town election** for Town officers, including a selectman for a three-year term, and numerous warrant items
- May 21: SBRSD on Parade**, free family picnic on Mount Everett campus, showcasing programs in the arts, sciences, and athletics; spring performances by musical groups
- May 31: The Stork Club at Mount Everett**, a 1940s night club with dinner, dancing, and a show, all created by students; 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. For tickets, contact [tdaly@sbrsd.org](mailto:tdaly@sbrsd.org).
- June 13: Wood, Metal, Stone**, opening reception for the Village Association's first 2014 art exhibit, mostly sculpture, all dazzling; 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting House Gallery. The show is on view 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday until July 6

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## SCHOOL NEWS

### SCHOOL DISTRICT DATES TO SAVE

Don't miss two upcoming events from the Southern Berkshire Regional School District:

First, on Wednesday, May 21, we will be hosting our second annual SBRSD on Parade. Enjoy dinner, drinks, and entertainment for all! A free family picnic will consist of popular favorites provided by the school's food service program. During the picnic, district programs and classes including arts, sciences, and athletics will be showcased around our campus. This evening culminates with the spring performance of the High School Choir, Middle School Choir, Madrigals, Retro, and Dial-Tones. For more information about SBRSD on Parade, including a complete schedule of events, visit our website at [www.sbrsd.org](http://www.sbrsd.org).

Our second event will be a reenactment of the Stork Club on Saturday, May 31 at 5:30 p.m. The Stork Club was a nightclub in New York City from 1929 to 1965. Come relive V-E Day (Victory in Europe Day) as we celebrate the end of World War II and transform the high school gym into a 1940s nightclub. Come experience

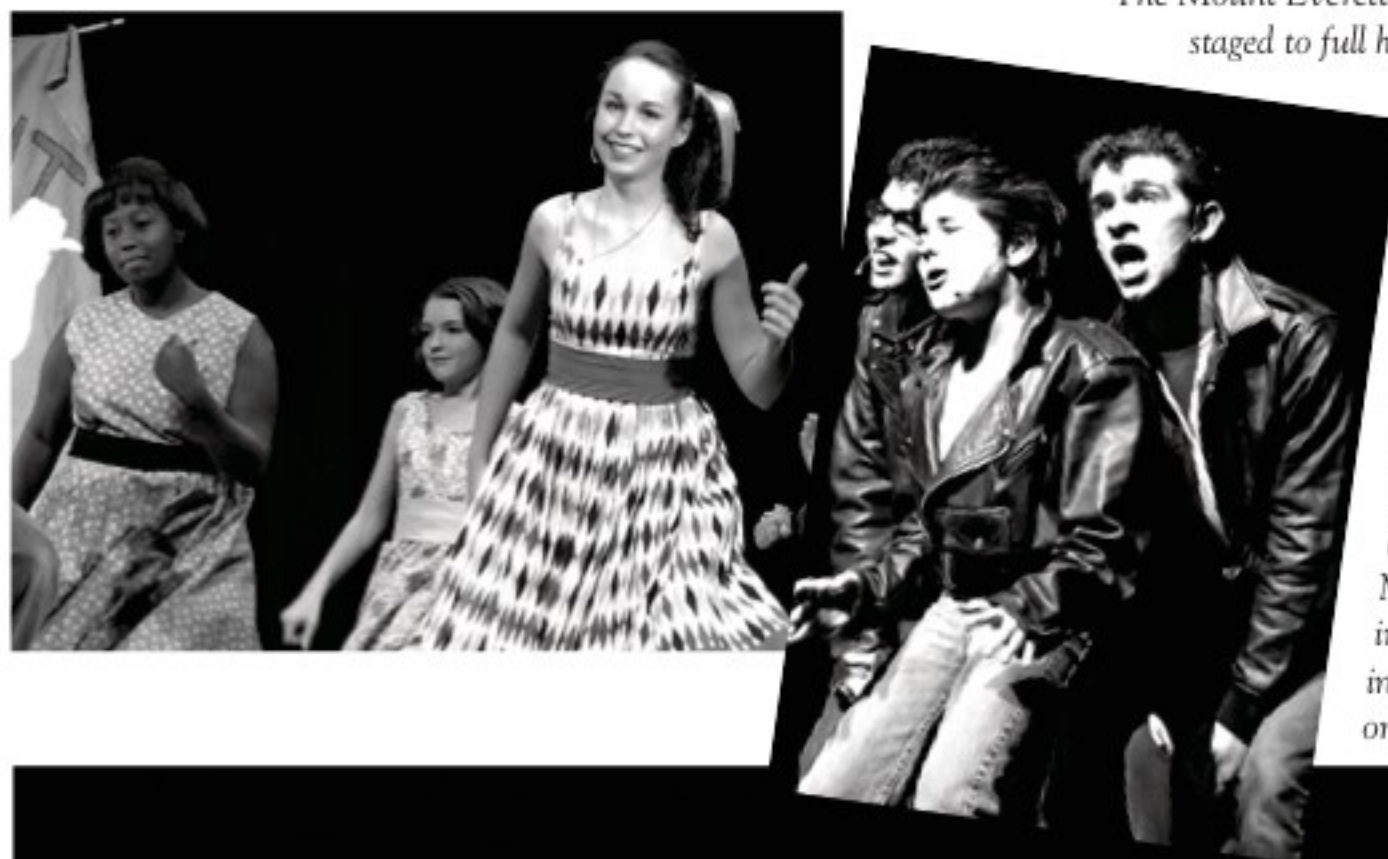
an exquisite night of fine dining, swing dancing, and a show created by Mount Everett students and faculty. The bleachers will be open to those who choose to watch the show and dance, while stage front tables are available for the dinner, dancing, and show option.

Student musicians, artists, actors, dancers, and cooks will come alive. Students will design everything from the dinner, prepared by the culinary class, to the decorations and entertainment. Famous faces such as the Marx Brothers, Marilyn Monroe, and Howard Hughes will be seen as well! Forget the 2014 scene for a night, and boogie-on-down to some jazz as you rejoice in the serenity of the 1940s.

Tickets are \$18 for the show, dinner, and dancing and only \$10 for dancing and the show. The Stork Club will be open for two hours, closing at approximately 7:30 p.m. For more information please contact Travis Daly at [tdaly@sbrsd.org](mailto:tdaly@sbrsd.org). We hope to see you there! □

Travis Daly

SBRSD Public Relations and Events Coordinator



The Mount Everett High School performance of the musical Grease was staged to full houses at the Thomas A. Consolati Performing Arts Center in early April. The show had the feel of a professional production, with outstanding singing, dancing, costuming, and just overwhelming enthusiasm. The cast numbered over thirty players, including a few faculty members thrown in for good measure. It was also the final production for several highly talented seniors, including Hartsville's own Kyle Carson. Pictured here, near left, are Eli Gold, Charles Kerzner, and Jake Smereckniak, doo-wopping their way into the audience's hearts; At far left, Maya Finston-Fox, Olivia Marchione, and Eliza Maggio doing the hand jive; and below, the whole cast in a rollicking finale. This show will certainly go down in the annals of Mount Everett performance history as one of the very best.

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# AUCTIONING OFF NEW MARLBOROUGH

*Among the Winners, the Town Itself*

By Joe Poindexter

“Even if we get less than is owed in back taxes, we’ve won,” said Selectman Tara White, “because the property goes back on the tax roll.” She needn’t have worried: the March 29 auction of three properties foreclosed by the Town for non-payment of property taxes covered the amount owing — and then some.

At 10:00 a.m., the Town Hall, site of the auction, was buzzing with anticipation. After reviewing the conditions of sale — prospective bidders were required to post a \$5,000 bank check and, if successful, pay an auctioneer’s commission of 7 percent as well as property taxes for both this fiscal year and next — auctioneer Mary



*Auctioneer Mary Ann Sullivan launches into the sale.*

Ann Sullivan of Sullivan & Sullivan launched headlong into the event. First up was the former Twing property at the corner of the Mill River Southfield Road and Hadsell Street, on which \$28,287, counting back taxes, interest, penalties, and legal expenses, was owed. Danny Litchfield opened the bidding at \$25,000. Competition for the one-acre lot notched the price upward by \$1,000 increments until it was gaveled down at Mr. Litchfield’s winning bid of \$30,000. Mr. Litchfield said that at present his only plan for the property is to clear it of its disintegrating structures and return the triangular piece to lawn.



*Danny Litchfield (with wife, Becky, and their great-niece, Aleeha)*

Next up, a three-quarter-acre lot on East Hill Road in Southfield, formerly owned by Cliff Richards, on which \$8,000 was owed. The bidding opened at \$5,000 moved quickly from \$10,000 to \$11,000 to \$12,000, where it stalled, the only sound the insistent voice of Ms. Sullivan as she searched the room for another bid. There wasn’t one. The winner was Zufer Dervisevic, who says he is a building contractor from Queens, New York, who has been

sloping shoulder of Cagney Hill, considered opinion deemed it a buildable property, raising the prospect of competition. Good for the Town but worrisome for the New Marlborough Land Trust, which needed a corner of the tract to gain entry to its newly established Robert Joffe Nature Sanctuary. The bidding moved briskly in \$5,000 jumps from \$10,000 to \$35,000. The Land Trust, represented by its president, Ian Devine, seemed to have taken the measure of the competition at \$40,000, when “Forty-two” sounded from the other side of the aisle. Mr. Devine countered at \$45,000. Ms. Sullivan turned her attention to the other bidder. “Forty-seven...forty-seven,” she pleaded. “Forty-five in the back; forty-five, forty-five once, forty-five twice; ladies and gentlemen, last call, forty-five. [A brief pause] Sold for forty-five thousand dollars.”

“It was a win-win-win,” said Mr. Devine, who was beaming with relief as he and Land Trust Executive Director Martha Bryan made their way to the front of the hall to confirm the purchase. “The Town won, the Land Trust won, and the kids won,” said Mr. Devine, in reference to environmental programs planned for New Marlborough Central students at the Joffe preserve.



*...Queens, New York builder Zufer Dervisevic,...*

It was the rare Town Hall event that, barring a disappointed under-bidder or two, seemed to please everyone. □

It was the rare Town Hall event that, barring a disappointed under-bidder or two, seemed to please everyone. □



*...and Land Trust President Ian Devine (with Executive Director Martha Bryan) celebrate their winning bids.*

photos by Joe Poindexter

## NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE LIBRARY

### Adult Fiction

*The Bones of Paris*, by Laurie King  
*The Auschwitz Escape*, by Joel C. Rosenberg  
*Chestnut Street*, by Maeve Binchy  
*The Target*, by David Baldacci  
*The Serpent of Venice*, by Christopher Moore  
*The Chase*, by Janet Evanovich

### Adult Nonfiction

*Preserving by the Pint*, by Marisa McClellan  
*A Call to Action: Women, Religion, Violence, and Power*, by Jimmy Carter

### Children's Fiction

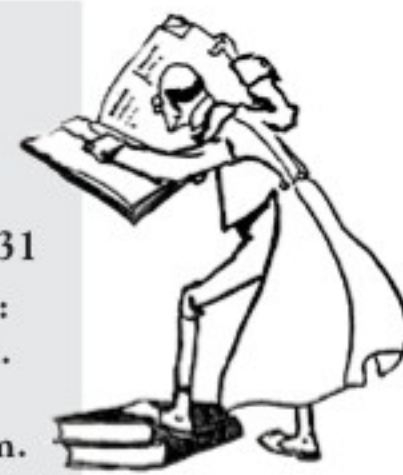
*Hi, Koo: A year of Seasons*, by Jon J. Muth  
*Ophelia and the Marvelous Boy*, by Karen Foxlee  
*The Forbidden Library*, by Django Wexler  
*Fly Away*, by Patricia MacLachlan  
*The Pigeon Needs a Bath*, by Mo Willems

### Children's Nonfiction

*Eye to Eye: How Animals See the World*, by Steve Jenkins  
*Tooth & Claw: The Wild World of Big Predators*, by Jim Arnosky



**SUMMER  
LIBRARY  
HOURS**  
 APRIL 1 - OCTOBER 31  
 Mon. - Wed. - Sat.:  
 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
 Tues. & Fri.:  
 1:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
 Thurs. 1:30 - 5:30 p.m.



*New Marlborough Friends of the Library*

will hold their annual

## Memorial Day Weekend Bake Sale

Saturday, May 24, at 10:00 a.m.

at the library.



The Easter bunny made a surprise visit to the Easter egg hunt at New Marlborough Central School on April 12, where (photo right) he greeted Natalia Tobon and her children Frederico and Aaliyah.

# CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NEEDED TO CONTINUE THE PAPER!

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

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

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

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## Town Times

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

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

## Transfer Station hours:

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

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

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

## PERMITS ARE DUE ON JULY 1

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## New Marlborough Highway Department

Located on Mill River-Southfield Rd.

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

PO Box 99, Mill River, MA 01244

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

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

## NM5VN Editorial Team

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

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All copy must be submitted no later than May 15.

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

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- ◆ **Berkshire Environmental Research Center (BERC):** Thomas Coote. Lake & pond management, wetland delineation, ecological research, rare/invasive species assessment. 413-644-4509. tcoote@simons-rock.edu
- ◆ **Campbell Falls Carpentry:** Licensed and insured contracting at [campbellfallscarpentry@gmail.com](mailto:campbellfallscarpentry@gmail.com) (413)229-6097 and (413)429-7677. Mass Contractors # 7614140, HIC# 170377
- ◆ **Corashire Realty:** Serving New Marlborough for 40 years. Let experience, knowledge, and personal attention work for you. 528-0014
- ◆ **Dellea:** Dellea.biz offers affordable on-site Windows computer repairs, virus removals, and more to homes and small businesses in southern Berkshire County. Browse <http://www.dellea.biz> or call (413)528-1141.
- ◆ **Design+Planning:** Christopher Blair; Since 1986, creative, budget aware design. Achieve your goals for additions, alterations to an existing home or new construction. 413- 528-4960. [christopher.f.blair@verizon.net](mailto:christopher.f.blair@verizon.net).
- ◆ **DesignFirstBerkshires:** Architectural design, space planning and renovation management. 413-528-6169 or [info@designfirstberkshires.com](mailto:info@designfirstberkshires.com).
- ◆ **Eileen Fitzgibbons:** Experienced massage therapist with advanced training and 6 years' experience at Mepal Spa wishes to continue work in New Marlborough. [www.efwellness@gmail.com](http://www.efwellness@gmail.com), 860-309-7775
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- ◆ **Reiner White:** General Contractor; 413-229-8450
- ◆ **Woodruff Mountain Landscaping:** Excavation and landscape contracting, all forms of stone work and masonry, and outdoor services, including lawn mowing and yard work. 413-229-2919 [woodruffmountain@aol.com](mailto:woodruffmountain@aol.com)

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