



New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

THEN & NOW

Herewith, the second in a series of reprints from *New Marlborough Then & Now*, a Historical Society publication that appeared every six months from 1978 through 1997. This month: a 1981 Louise Hart piece on the intrepid Ethel Stannard, who was born in a house near Umpachene Falls. This is followed by excerpts from a 1987 interview of Ethel (ninety-one at the time and the widow of Clarence Martin) by Claudette Callahan. We hope you will enjoy reading these recollections of the rich history of New Marlborough.

A SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL STAGE DRIVER

By Louise Hart

Charley Stannard of Southfield was the regular stage driver from Southfield to Mill River and continuing on to Canaan, Connecticut. He was taken ill in 1912 and his sixteen-year-old daughter Ethel took over the responsibility of delivering the mail and the preparation of the team of horses and large delivery wagon, with two seats and a large box to contain and protect the mail from rain.

She had to leave the Southfield Post Office at 7:00 a.m. and pick up passengers and mail at places along the way. Mill River was the first stop, and then she proceeded to Canaan, picking up more passengers and mail along the route and was scheduled to arrive in Canaan by 9:00 a.m. At times, the wagon was so occupied that she had to sit on the large box to drive.



Ethel Stannard

Besides the regular duties, many people requested her to do errands while in town, such as buying necessities at various stores, and this she managed to do in the few hours before the return trip, which was scheduled to leave Canaan shortly after the 1:00 p.m. train arrived from New York City, and after the mail was sorted.

The various boxes and containers had to be loaded, passengers seated, and the mail from Canaan stored in the box.

Cartons and boxes often had to be dropped off at the Clayton Store. There was an R.F.D. that delivered mail to boxes along another route from Clayton to Canaan Valley and Sodom.

Ethel left mail along the return route at boxes that were grouped together where side roads met the main road to Mill River. There were also stops at various boxes from Mill River to Southfield, where she was due to arrive at 4:00 p.m.

For passengers, the fare to Canaan from Southfield was 75 cents, from Mill River 65 cents, and from Clayton 35 cents. Mail postage was 2 cents for a letter and 1 cent for a card.

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Then and Now, continued

Ethel Stannard was born in 1896 in the brick house opposite the grist mill at the top of Umpachene Falls. The house was once the Brewer homestead, and years later it was purchased by the Saxton family, who made it their home for many years. Ethel started school at the Wadsworth School, but when she was about eight years old, her family moved to Southfield, into what was then

the Hall place. Her father, Charley Stannard, was the son of Levi Stannard, who was a veteran of the Civil War. Ethel was married twice. Now [in 1981] the widow of Clarence Martin, she lives in Sheffield. In my opinion, young people of earlier days took responsibilities more seriously than they do today. □

From Claudette Callahan's 1987 interview:

Ethel's father's uncle was Edward Wheeler, who, Ethel says, was credited with putting in Mill River's first water system. Her father worked at the Mill River General Store, then located on the site of the New Marlborough Public Library.

... One day her father became ill with kidney stones and Ethel, being the oldest, was allowed to drive the stage. She was sixteen, left school to help her family, and never went back. "Something I always regretted," she said. But she added, "I had a ball! I liked doing that."

...She was only late once [on her route to Canaan], the day she met some Army men. Driving the wagon with two horses, Ethel came upon a group of soldiers on Clayton Road. No one is sure what they were doing there. The men stopped Ethel and joked with her. "I couldn't drive through them," she said. She was fifteen or twenty minutes late arriving in Canaan. She met the soldiers one more time, but she made sure they didn't make her late again.

...The stage often had room for ten passengers. Ethel also picked up bread for the Mill River Store from a bakery in Canaan. She giggled when she recalled that one day twenty-five loaves slid off the wagon as it bumped along Clayton Road. She said, "I was strong back then, picked up the box, and put the twenty-five loaves back on the wagon."

...Aside from not returning to school, Ethel said she had one other regret. She was offered the opportunity to be a companion for Marcus Rogers' wife when the couple went to Florida. Ethel didn't go, she said, because she had a boyfriend. □



HELP WANTED!

Dear readers, we are looking for help from you – we need more writers and reporters! If you have stories you want told, or if you have an interest in keeping your fellow citizens informed on Town matters, please contact us at 5villagenews@gmail.com.

—The NM5VN Staff

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REVOLUTIONARY WAR MONUMENT DEDICATED

Approximately fifty people, including members of the Harold D. Rood American Legion Post 350, gathered on Patriot's Day, April 19, at the library to dedicate a monument to American Revolutionary War veterans from New Marlborough.

photo by Larry Burke



photo by Joe Poindexter

This plaque is dedicated to Sergeant Moses Adams of New Marlborough whose Minute Man Company marched to Lexington and Concord in 1775. He died at Valley Forge in 1778.

photo by Joe Poindexter



Tom Adams, a descendant of Moses Adams and a member of the Sons of the American Revolution in California, set the wheels in motion which resulted in the monument.



Colonel Courtney Turner outlined the process of developing and constructing the monument, which took five years to accomplish. He also thanked the many people who contributed both time and materials to the project.

photo by Larry Burke



photo by Larry Burke

This plaque honors the 221 veterans from New Marlborough who served in the Revolutionary War.

Town Business Is Your Business BOARD OF SELECTMEN



March 22:

Discussions and actions taken:

The Board asked Interim Building Commissioner Don Torrico to stay through mid-April.

The Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan for 2021 was adopted, making the Town eligible to apply for state and federal grants.

The Board approved the \$70,000 purchase of a used single-drum roller for the Highway Department.

The search continues for funding of the Hartsville riverbank erosion project.

The Board, with all three members attending via Zoom, met for the second time in two weeks with Interim Building Commissioner Don Torrico, who is seeking clarification from the Board on the status of his position with the Town. As previously reported, he's been filling in since last June for Building Commissioner Owen Wright, who's been on an extended medical leave.

Mr. Torrico is also Monterey's building commissioner but has indicated he intends to resign from one town or the other, and seems to indicate a preference for New Marlborough. As he explained, "I just can't keep doing this," he said, referring to the two jobs. "I have a lot on my plate," adding that he's in the process of selling his home and building a new one in New Marlborough.

However, the Board seems equally intent on trying to keep him on an interim basis until it has a clearer idea of when or even whether Mr. Wright can return. Initially, Chairman Tara White pressed Mr. Torrico to stay until June 30, the beginning of the new fiscal year, "and we can reevaluate then," she said, "and see where Owen is at that point." But when Mr. Torrico said no, she asked

whether he could at least stay until mid-April, when the Board may know more about his progress. Mr. Torrico said he'd think about it and let the Board know next week.

Moving on, the Board voted to adopt the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan for 2021. The plan, which is required by the state, addresses the Town's vulnerability to hazards such as flooding, severe weather, and wild fires. It also affords the Town the opportunity to apply for state and federal hazard mitigation grants. Technically, the 2021 plan is an updated version of a multi-town regional plan approved in 2013 of Berkshire County municipalities. But, as Town Administrator Mari Enoch noted, "This is actually a whole new plan, the first plan of our own."

The Board voted to approve the purchase of a used single-drum roller for the Highway Department for \$70,000 from Tyler Equipment Corporation. The Board reviewed the bid last week, but because the roller is nearly ten years old and has some 475 hours on it, the selectmen decided to hold off approving the purchase pending receipt of maintenance records for the machine. There were actually two bids submitted, but one was disqualified because it was for a new roller at \$130,000. The existing roller unit which is being retired, was purchased in 2005 and has become unreliable, mainly due to electrical issues. In addition, parts are becoming hard to find since it is foreign-made and no longer supported in the United States.

Under selectmen updates, Mark Carson reported he'd spoken to Carrieanne Petrick, regional coordinator for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program but said she was of the opinion that MVP money should not be used to help finance the Hartsville riverbank erosion project. As a result, he said Erin

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Rodgers of Trout Unlimited, who's been driving the project, will be looking elsewhere for funding. Mr. Carson estimates the price tag for the work at between \$40,000 and \$50,000 but cautioned that those numbers are based on engineering work that was completed two years ago, so the actual amount could be higher. In the meantime, he said, Ms. Rodgers is working on the permitting required for the work.

March 29:

Discussions and actions taken:

Considerable discussion of possible causes of runoff from Town roads onto private property.

Jan Johnson discussed her plans for the purchase and redevelopment of the Mill River General Store.

Discussion of Transfer Station permits and fees.

Plans for Memorial Day celebration are still uncertain.

Interim Building Commissioner Don Torrico agreed to continue until mid-April, by which time whether or not Commissioner Owen Wright returns may be clarified.

For its first order of business, the Board, with all three members again attending via Zoom, met with the owners of 373 Mill River Southfield Road, who were there to complain about water runoff from the public roadway onto their property and to see what the Town is willing to do about it.

They said they'd been told that changes the Town made to the road some time ago are the cause of the problem, although they were at pains to say what those changes were or even who told them about it. They just know the problem has gotten steadily worse over the past ten years.

"It all started after the road was [redone] about ten years ago," said Julie Pizzini, one of the owners, "and now it's to the point where the whole land is seeped through with water, and it's pretty much a swamp." She said they've had to replace two pool liners, lost three apple

trees and two willows, and put in three French drains, "and it's not working."

Selectman Mark Carson, who made a site visit to the property the previous weekend, confirmed the land is indeed very wet, but said from what he could tell the largest part of the problem by far is that the house is sitting down at the bottom of a hillside and that large volumes of water are coming down the hill onto the property. His recommendation is to get a contractor in to discuss digging new ditches to control the runoff from the hill. Ditches would make a big difference, he said, "but it's not something the Town is going to do. This is private property and towns just can't be putting in ditches on private land. We'd have to start doing it for everybody."

According to a memo to the Board from Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring, Town records indicate the Town last worked on the road in 2005, when some rusted culverts were replaced and the road was repaved. He said the original concrete boxes were left in place and estimated that they probably date back to the 1960s. "So if water's been introduced to adjacent properties in the past half century, it was caused by nature and not by man," he wrote. He attributed much of the problem to heavy rains brought on by climate change, saying the Town is made up of very hilly terrain and wetlands, and "there will always be runoff from Town roads onto private property."

But Drew Cohen, who identified himself as the grandson of one of the other owners, wanted to know whether the culverts, when they were replaced fifteen years ago, were put back into their original location. He said if they were, "then we'll know it's a long-standing problem, and we'll have to go in a different direction. But if they were installed in a new location back in 2005, "and our problem has been growing worse since that time, there's going to have to be some back and forth between us and the Town." He said that in the meantime, they

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will to try to determine the culverts' original location prior to 2005 when the road was redone.

There's some potentially good news on the horizon for former customers of the Mill River General Store. The Board met with Jan Johnson of Mill River Farm and her son Peter Chapin, who manages the farm, to **discuss their impending purchase of the general store from long-time owner Dave Herrick. The closing is set for May 15**, and it's their intention, according to Ms. Johnson, "to bring back the old general store as we all loved it."

She said she sees the store as a natural complement to the farm and that in addition to their own products, they'll carry produce from other local farms. They're also planning to stock traditional general store items such as batteries and trash bags, and will be working with the Board of Health to restore full permitting to the kitchen, not only to offer deli-type sandwiches but also to do some cooking "that would be supportive of the farm," she said. They also intend to continue with the liquor license and having a state biologist from the Fish and Wildlife Division out front during hunting season.

One big item on their agenda is to get the Post Office back into the store. As she said, "We're trying everything we can to get to whoever is the decision maker on this, because frankly I don't know what the real problem is. But any support the Town can provide would be terrific," she said, adding that if successful, she's "going to throw a big party when we do get it back, and I'm serious about that."

For their part, the Herrick family is "delighted there's now a viable succession plan in place for the store and that it will continue as a going concern for the community," said Dick Herrick, brother of Dave, who was also on the call. "We've been on a long journey during the past year just restoring and stabilizing the building," he said.

The damage caused by water runoff from public roads onto private property was discussed.

Also on the agenda was a **discussion of transfer station permits and fees**, with Solid Waste Coordinator Freddy Friedman saying he'd like to increase the transfer station fee for the coming year starting July 1 to \$180, from \$150, which he said would bring in approximately \$13,000 more in annual revenue. That would bring the total to \$67,000. He said the permit fee has been at \$150 for the past four or five years now, and that even at \$180 he thinks it's still a bargain when compared with the \$40 or so per month charged by private haulers for weekly curbside pickup.

He's also proposing to eliminate charges for some of the smaller electronic appliances, such as microwaves, in a bid to encourage recycling. He said what happens now with some of these units is that instead of paying the \$25 disposal fee, "people are simply putting them in garbage bags and chucking them in with the wet garbage."

He said he'd like to start selling permits for the coming year on June 1, and to charge users with two vehicles an extra \$10 for a second sticker, as Sheffield does, instead of providing them for free as was done in the past.

In other matters, the Board met with Memorial Day coordinator Dave Hastings to discuss the Town's traditional Memorial Day celebration, which last year had to be cancelled because of Covid. Mr. Hastings said he's been in touch with Mount Everett High School about the marching band, but was told it's too early to know yet whether the band will be available because of the virus, although he thought it would at least be possible to get a trumpeter to play taps. Adding that he also doesn't yet know the status of the Town chorus at this point, he asked the Board to let him know as soon as possible where the Town stands regarding Memorial Day.

But Ms. White said it's hard to know at this point. "It's like a moving target," she said. "Every day the figures

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change. It would be lovely if we could do it. But we just don't know yet." "Well," Mr. Hastings said, "I just want to get it on the radar, that's all."

Under Town Administrator updates, Ms. Enoch reported that Interim Building Commissioner Don Torrico said is willing to stay on until mid-April when more may be known about Building Commissioner Owen Wright's possible return following his next doctor's appointment. Ms. Enoch also said that starting today **Town Hall is again open to public**, "but that for contact tracing purposes anyone coming into the building, including Town Hall staff, has to sign in and out and attest to the fact that they're healthy. The facility has been closed for much of the past year because of the pandemic.

Peter Schuyten
schuytenp@gmail.com

April 5:

Discussions and actions taken:

Lengthy review of FY22 budget requests

Major budget requests postponed to April 8 and 12

The meeting opened with thankful acceptance of **Right of Way easements**, some temporary, to enable repair of bridges over the Umpachene River. The easements were granted by Jayne Kurzman and Ellen Sweet and Ari Korpivaara, who have facing properties on the north end of Norfolk Road; Richard Goewey for repair of the bridge on Lumbert Cross Road; and Claire and Bill Gillette of Canaan Southfield Road.

The Board then moved to a lengthy, line-item review of FY22 budget requests from Town departments and commissions. Working from a spreadsheet, **the Board devoted an hour and a half to some 100 budget lines**, discussing not only the original departmental requests, but also the adjustments recommended by the Finance Committee. For the most part, the Board

gave its blessings to the dollar amounts specified — from \$145 for the moderator to the addition of a human resources consultant, \$15,360, to a 5.5 percent increase in library expenses to \$50,470 and a \$150 increase in the stipend paid to each of themselves — adding or subtracting a dollar here and there, but for the most part concurring with recommendations from the Finance Committee.

Because they had had little time to review the spreadsheet, the selectmen elected to **postpone their decision on major budget requests to future meetings on April 8 and 12** (see below). They particularly expressed a need to look more thoroughly at Police Department staffing, questioning the Department's continued employment of six part-timers hired to fill in during the absence of Chief Graham Frank, who had been sidelined because of an injury.

Selectman Richard Long noted that, while the budget received attention on the Town's website as well as in the 5 Village News and on Maggie's List, the Board needed to do a better job of educating New Marlborough citizens on the Town's financial and capital needs. His recommendation that **a letter explaining the thinking behind budgetary changes be mailed to all of the town's residences** was embraced by the other two selectmen. They concurred with Town Administrator Mari Enoch's recommendation that such a letter be sent out twice a year — after the Annual Town Meeting and then again in the fall.

Updates: Ms. Enoch told the Board that the **repaving of a section of Route 57 east of New Marlborough village would run about six weeks starting April 19**. This will require detours, the signage for which is already in place. In response to a question from Chairman Tara White on payment for repair of culverts on Route 57, Mr. Long said that sufficient money remained in the culvert

Jan Johnson and her son, Peter Chapin, of Mill River Farm are planning to purchase the Mill River General Store. They outlined their plans to redevelop the store.

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budget to make good on the contract. He added that a \$1 million grant request for an additional section of Route 57 repair was filed ahead of the April 2 deadline.

Ms. Enoch said that the Town has an opportunity to join six or seven other towns in applying for a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant. Administrative Secretary Sharon Fleck reported that Jan Johnson's purchase of the Mill River General Store would be completed May 15 and that she would be applying for a liquor license. Ms. White noted that consultant Jim Mazik would soon present his report on what was needed to bring Town Hall into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Following approval of the minutes of three previous sessions, the meeting was adjourned.

April 8:

Discussions and actions taken:

Further decisions on budget line items

Postponed recommendations on Police Department to April 12 meeting

The one-hour meeting was devoted to **tackling line items on the FY22 budget spreadsheet not covered at the previous meeting**, with an occasional tweaking of a dollar amount on previously discussed line items. For example, as to what amount to budget for two informational mailings, various suggestions ranged from zero — the cost of the mailings could be covered by the contingency fund — to \$1,000. The Board settled on \$500. The Board suggested a further cut of \$15,000 in the Highway Department's roads and bridges budget, in addition to the \$20,000 already offered by Superintendent Chuck Loring. The other two selectmen were unswayed by Chairman Tara White's suggestion that the cut be \$13,000, so as to leave roads and bridges with a nicely rounded \$200,000 budget.

In a discussion of the Police Department budget, Ms. Enoch informed the Board that Chief Graham Frank planned to request added amounts to cover sick leave and personal time off. The Board concluded it needed more time to study various aspects of the budget and **postponed its recommendation on the Police Department** to its April 12 meeting. Finance Committee Chairman Steve Klein, who was auditing the meeting, pointed out that that the police budget requests contained no substantive reductions, only a reduction in administrative assistant hours.

Mr. Klein clarified the Town's obligation to the state for repayment of broadband installation costs. The contract, he said, stipulates that payments start in the fiscal year following the completion of wiring of the town, not

the hook-ups to individual residences. Spectrum is on course to complete this phase by June 30, which will, "unfortunately," he said, trigger the initial payment of \$62,500 in FY22.

Turning its attention to warrant items, the Board decided that, while the Town needed a Town Meeting vote to accept donations, which it has, none was needed to allow a donor to direct a gift to a specific department.

Selectman Mark Carson said that the Planning Board, of which he is chair, was grappling with a junk car bylaw. "Everyone seems to have a different view," he said, adding that if the Board was unable to come up with a bylaw by its next meeting, it would have to be "kicked down the road" to next year.

Finally, Ms. White, having looked into the matter, discovered that a bylaw allowing the Police Department to issue parking tickets was passed at the 2009 Annual Town Meeting. There was no need, she said, to put the issue on this year's warrant.

April 12:

Discussions and actions taken:

Transfer Station fee raised to \$180.

Highway Department roller purchase revised.

Approved applying for Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant with Pittsfield, Lenox, and Stockbridge.

The meeting began with the approval of takings of easements for bridge repairs donated by Jayne Kurzman, Ari Korpivaara and Ellen Sweet, Bill and Claire Gillette, and Richard Goewey, and sold by Richard LaRose, Jr. After hearing from Selectman Long that the farmers' market, held annually on the New Marlborough Village green, was "very successful" last year, the Board voted a permit for this year's market, open Sundays from

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Memorial Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day (previously Columbus Day).

The Board, noting that the Transfer Station was currently operating in the red, voted in favor of a \$30 increase in the cost of a permit, **raising the sticker price to \$180 for FY22**. New stickers will go on sale June 1.

Next up was the purchase of a Highway Department roller. Superintendent Chuck Loring had earlier expressed his satisfaction with a ten-year-old used roller offered at around \$71,000, despite misgivings about the unavailability of replacement parts. In the meantime, the Board learned that **a new roller** (a Volvo SD75 for the roller aficionados among us) **could be purchased for \$110,000**. It concluded that increased life-span and parts availability warranted the price difference and voted to approve a \$35,000 warrant item that would make up the difference between this price and the \$75,000 designated for roller replacement at last year's Annual Town Meeting. (Mr. Loring, who was tuned into the meeting, said he might favor a third option, a year-old machine being offered at \$100,000 and that he would inform the Board of his decision soon.)

Mr. Long proposed that **the Town proceed with hiring an engineering consultant** to review the town's road-repair and rebuilding needs and draw up a five-year plan that would prioritize projects. Citing the \$2.5 million debt that will be incurred in such maintenance, Mr. Long said it is "important to get a third-party perspective." The Board agreed.

The Board voted to approve **joining Pittsfield, Lenox, and Stockbridge in applying for an MVP (Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness) grant** that would help assess how the town's culverts would be affected by climate-change flooding. The grant would assess the vulnerability of the town's seventy culverts and draw up a replacement design for one of them.

Repaving a section of Route 57 east of Mew Marlborough village began on April 19 and will continue for six weeks; this requires detours.

Moving on to the meeting's main agenda item, **cleaning up remaining budgeting differences with the Finance Committee**, the Board started off by settling on a compromise of \$16,500 to the reduction of the budget request of the Highway Department — between the Finance Department's \$20,000 and the Board's \$15,000.

Town Administrator Mari Enoch reported that in a discussion with Graham Frank, the police chief said he could not go along with the Finance Committee's proposed cut of \$5,000 from his requested FY22 budget increase of \$20,936. After Mr. Long noted that other towns were increasing Police Department budgets to pay for newly required training, **Ms. White proposed that the \$4,100 of training in New Marlborough's budget be placed in a separate line item** — to assure that the amount was not used for other activities if it did not go specifically to training. The Board agreed to this strategy.

The rest of the reconciliations were relatively minor. The Board agreed to a cut of \$800 to the Conservation Commission's \$2,000 request for training, to allow three members, not five, to take the training. And Mark Carson, putting on his hat as chairman of the Planning Board, agreed to a cut of \$150, resulting in a budget of \$1,350 for a Planning Board clerk.

Mr. Carson noted that a consensus on a junk car warrant continued to elude the Planning Board and that a bylaw on the issue may have to await next year's Town Meeting. Ms. White said that the Board would know by May 20 if a grant application, filed with Great Barrington, Monterey, Sheffield, and Stockbridge to share a human resources consultant for one year, had been accepted. Then, with a reminder to the selectmen to sign a grant application for \$500 to support Elihu Burritt Day and the award of a business license to Butternut Tree and Land Care, the meeting was adjourned. □

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VIEW FROM THE BOARD

Our Annual Town Meeting will be held on May 22 at 9:00 a.m. Once again, to comply with Covid-19 regulations, it will be held under a tent at New Marlborough Central School.

As this column is due in mid-April, the meeting warrant has not been finalized. The process of setting budgets and determining what needs to be on the warrant has been on-going for the last four months. Not only do salaries and expenses of the departments need to be determined, but also what capital purchases have been requested by departments and how those will be funded. In addition to that, there are articles that may not have anything to do with money. These articles may deal with updating and introducing new general regulations to our bylaws.

Annual Town Meeting is your opportunity to join other town residents to discuss and vote on what you

believe is good for our town. The recommendations that will be presented to you in the warrant are just that, recommendations by the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen. If you do not understand an article or do not agree with a recommendation, this is your opportunity to ask about it.

Information on obtaining the Annual Town Meeting warrant will be available as soon as the warrant is completed. I hope that all of you will have the opportunity to view it before the meeting on May 22. If you have specific questions before the meeting or will not be able to attend the meeting but have questions, please feel free to call the Board of Selectmen. It is the residents of the town who make the final decisions on the warrant and it is important that you understand what you are voting on. □

Tara White, Chair, Board of Selectmen



photo by Larry Burke

The March 30 Town Caucus:

The Caucus procedure for the second year in a row had to be altered to accommodate Covid restrictions. Voters remained in their cars until the required quorum of twenty-five voters was reached and the caucus was convened. At that point voters were admitted, four at a time, to cast their ballots.



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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

March 20: Mark Stinson, Circuit Rider from the Department of Environmental Protection, joined the Zoom meeting convened by commission members Freddy Friedman, Doug Hyde, and John Schreiber. Mr. Stinson assists and educates Massachusetts commissions in the interpretation and enforcement of the Wetlands Protection Act. Katelyn Dawson-Lalvay, a Berkshire Community College environmental studies student, also joined the meeting as a potential candidate for membership to the Commission.

The meeting started with a proposal to re-organize the structure of the Commission. The current chair, Mr. Friedman, asked for a vote to assign Mr. Schreiber as co-chair. The members agreed unanimously to support the reorganization with John Schreiber and Freddy Friedman acting as co-chairs in the future.

Mike Parsons addressed the Commission on behalf of his client, Jack Bellinger of 103 Hayes Hill Road for a Request for Determination (RDA) to reroute a residential driveway in order to replace a failed existing septic system. The proposal involves connecting to an abutter's driveway in order to share an existing bridge to cross an intermittent stream. After some consideration about potential impact in the buffer zone, the Commission agreed to continue the hearing to next month so that

Mr. Parsons can revise the route of the driveway to minimize the impact to the wetland, particularly at the start of the driveway.

Next up, the Commission revisited the continued hearing for Cornelia Lenherr of 167 Hartsville Mill River Road. The work involves removal of an existing barn, renovation of the residence, and associated site work. The Commission is waiting for more site data from Stockman Associates to better understand and properly review the project. The Commission agreed to continue the hearing until next month.

The Commission recognized receipt of a certificate of compliance for the Ravine Falls Trust project involving dam work on North Road, a project requiring shared review by both Monterey and New Marlborough commissions.

Mr. Stinson suggested several changes to Commission operations. He recommended that, when permits are submitted for review, the Commission assign a member as lead coordinator to each project. Mr. Stinson also recommended that the Commission maintain a "spreadsheet" of active projects. The Commission agreed that these strategies would be valuable for team building and learning.

Finally, the February meeting minutes were approved. □

Martha Bryan

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PLANNING BOARD

April 14: After a slightly rough start with the phone technology, the Planning Board's bi-monthly meeting got underway with four members (minus Paul Marcel), and Sharon Fleck serving as secretary. After approving several sets of minutes from previous meetings, the Board spent about twenty minutes on the subject of Dark Sky regulations. Ms. Fleck spoke enthusiastically of the International Dark Sky Association website and encouraged the Board to join up for the modest fee of \$35. Chairman Mark Carson thought that Bob Hartt and Tom Sebestyn, who have been the de facto sub-committee on this subject, could make that decision. Mr. Sebestyn said he thought he could have a bylaw draft very soon. Mr. Carson interjected that there is no urgency at this point, as it will not be under consideration at this year's Annual Town Meeting (ATM). The pace at which this bylaw is developed can be slower, with plenty of opportunity for posting materials on Dark Sky on the Town website, seeking feedback from citizens, and eventually holding a public hearing on the draft that results. Mr. Sebestyn said there is a great deal of Dark Sky compliant material available, and the Board's job can basically be one of educating the public.

The next subject on the agenda was the junk car bylaw, or "unregistered vehicle bylaw," as it is being termed. Mr. Carson is aiming for this to be on the warrant for the ATM. His understanding is that, since an earlier version of this bylaw (Bylaw 9) already exists in the Town's General Bylaws, it can be put to the voters at the Town Meeting without being preceded by a public hearing in time to get the proposed bylaw written up and worked into the warrant.

One of the changes to the bylaw that is under

consideration is the reduction in the number of complaints on a given unregistered vehicle from six to two, with one of those being an abutter and the other simply a resident of New Marlborough. Bob Hartt expressed some concern, not about the reduced number of complainants, but about the abutter requirement. He said that, in his experience, when a person is unhappy with something going on next door, that person is more likely to "be seething on the inside but quiet on the outside." In other words, an abutter is more likely not to lodge a public complaint, for fear of heightened bad relations with the neighbor. He concluded that this aspect of the proposed bylaw would be a very good topic for a public hearing – to get feedback from a cross-section of citizens.

Turning to the curb cut bylaw proposal, Mr. Carson said he is also aiming for this to be presented at the ATM, as he sees it as a needed tool for the Highway Department's effort in limiting erosion on the Town's gravel roads. If the bylaw is approved, it will be also be added to the Town's General Bylaw.

Regarding the outcome of a special permit hearing for an additional driveway on a Clayton Mill River Road property, Bob Hartt suggested that, in future, when the Planning Board is asked to give opinion on a special permit application, the Board should make it a practice to do a site visit. All concurred. Mr. Hartt asked Chairman Carson if the issue that had come up over the posting of the cannabis bylaw at the time of last year's Annual Town Meeting had been resolved. Mr. Carson replied yes, and, with no other business to discuss, adjourned the meeting. □

Larry Burke

THE ROLLOUT BEGINS

After so many years of waiting for highspeed internet, at last it is happening. In mid-April Spectrum started its sales campaign door to door to sign up residents who are in phase one of the rollout. There are five phases in total. With a few exceptions, those who have had salespeople call report a very smooth sales call and easy ordering of services. In this initial round, service is only available through these direct sales calls; do not call the Spectrum 800 number. If you want Spectrum's phone service for a land line, please have a recent bill handy so the account number for your current service can be given to Spectrum.

Exactly as Spectrum had forecast, if a resident is not

at home, a card will be left with telephone numbers to call, so the sales person can return. All salespeople were Covid 19 prepared, were wearing masks, stood six feet away, and required no contact. There wasn't even a need to sign the order.

The Advisory Committee prepared a list of frequently asked questions (available on the Town website) to help prepare for your visit. Installation for each residence varies, but on average is about two weeks after signing up. □

Michael Shocket, for the Cable Advisory Committee





LAND TRUST NEWS

As the weather eases and spring settles into the ground, like everyone, we are celebrating returning to the freedom of the outdoors and our properties. We have gotten

a jump on several maintenance tasks to keep our properties safely accessible and comfortable for use by the public.

We have finally (we hope) resolved the muddy parking area at the Goodnow Preserve. Who would have thought that a beautifully manicured new surface of gravel would be so uplifting?! The newly-designated parking area should provide for easy access. We are also planning on installing a bicycle rack at the preserve, so feel free to grab your bike or ebike rather than the keys to your car next time you head out for a hike.

Spring cleanup and trail maintenance continue. Thanks to additional assistance from area high school students (see photos of the real deals!) we have kept up with the various blowdowns. In addition, thanks to the leadership of Tes Reed, an environmental and outdoor educator, students have made a significant effort at cutting back the proliferation of invasive plant growth at the Joffe Nature Sanctuary. Under Tes's supervision, the students are encouraged to work hard, play hard, and learn from experience and each other. We are hoping to pay attention and record site data to help understand the changes observed in the habitat at Joffe.

Thanks to our lessee, Tom Brazie of The Farm New Marlborough, the New Marlboro Preserve pastures are poised

to benefit from another season of fertilization from Tom's grazing animals. Timing is everything when working to restore lands by working with natural systems. Cutting at ground level the competing growth in early spring helps to encourage the vigor of the grass. When Tom's animals rotate through the Preserve and Phillips land for this season, the soils will be enriched by the animal manure. Feeding the soils in turn results in healthy grass growth which, in turn, feeds healthy animals and in turn healthy humans. It is so satisfying to be part of local food production and to support a natural-systems loop that enriches the earth.

Bring on spring! □

Executive Director Martha Bryan



photos by Martha Bryan

Girls Rock! Pausing after cleaning up a hemlock blowdown on the blue loop at Goodnow.



Boys Rock Too! Burning a massive pile of invasives at the Joffe Nature Sanctuary with Tes Reed.



DEFUND? NO, REFORM

The Cost of Policing New Marlborough Just Went Up

By Joe Poindexter

The police reform movement has reached Massachusetts. Beginning this year police departments in the Commonwealth will be shouldering additional costs to comply with a bill Governor Charlie Baker signed into law on the last day of 2020. Driven at least in part by nationwide protests against excessive use of force in the wake of the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, the measure appears certain to increase the budgets of police departments throughout the state.

In New Marlborough, the most immediate impact will be the cost of ramped-up training and more stringent certification requirements of police officers. The legislation stipulates that not just full-time officers but also part-timers be trained and certified. In recent years, New Marlborough's PD bolstered its coverage — beyond that of Chief Graham Frank and Officer John Mullen — with the addition of six part-timers. Although their number will decrease in July by two, that still leaves the Department with the obligation to accredit four.

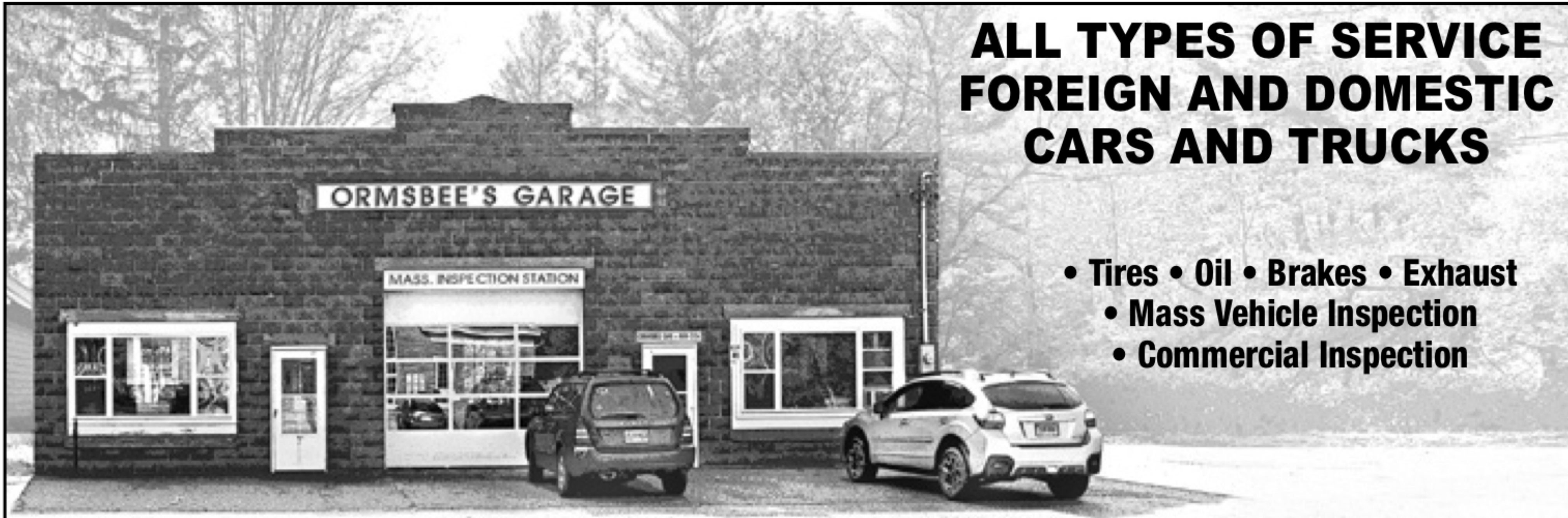
The process entails 200 hours of training, according to Chief Frank, about eighty of them at a so-called bridge academy campus. Although academy tuition is expected to be covered by the state, lost hours will not. This adds up to a cost, at their current hourly rate, of about \$4,100 per part-timer, or \$21,500 spread over the three-year period in which the training must take place. The training is no joke: To illustrate, Chief Frank pulls down a three-and-a-half-inch-thick manual from a shelf in his office detailing dozens of policies that must be mastered for certification. And there are two more of them just like it, he says.

Officers Frank and Mullen are both certified, but the Massachusetts Police Reform Law, as it is called,

adds a new layer of administration to the police chiefs' workday. They will have to answer to a new, nine-member Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) commission with the power to investigate misconduct and the subpoena power to compel witnesses and documents as part of its investigations. POST will require police departments to respond to any and all citizen complaints about police conduct. This results in a need for administrative help, says Chief Frank, who has requested that the FY22 budget cover an administrative assistant. Without it, "I will be stuck in the office doing paper work," he says. (Money was budgeted for an assistant last year but went, instead, to augment the salary of Officer Mullen.)

Another added cost of the new law: body cameras. All officers on patrol will now be required to wear one. The Department owns two, says Chief Frank, but neither is in working condition. New cameras, one each for Officers Frank and Mullen and one for the part-timers, will, at \$800 apiece, add another \$2,400 to the cost of policing in New Marlborough.

Even in socially progressive Massachusetts, legislators felt a need to respond to a nation-wide call to curb abuse of power within its police forces. The bill restricts the use of physical force and expressly prohibits the use of chokeholds. Unless less forceful tactics have failed to de-escalate unruly mass demonstrations, the use of tear gas or rubber bullets is prohibited. The issuance of no-knock warrants is prohibited without prior judicial review. And the law limits the use of facial recognition technology. It is 128 pages long — and many dollars deep. □



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SIGNS OF SPRING

By Nan Smith

I recently reread *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett. The messages about race and class were a bit of a shock to discover reading it as an adult, and that would be a different topic to discuss. Still, I found the chapters describing the magic and healing powers of watching plants grow to capture how I feel when observing even the slightest hint of green starts to show. The early bulbs have already arrived and have been covered in heavy snow while writing this. For the

past month, I have been searching for people who grow and observe plants to share their stories. Here is a small taste of what New Marlborough residents were growing as we head into spring. I would love to continue this by sharing your stories in the future. Please email any pictures or stories about what you are growing or observe around New Marlborough to nansmith225@gmail.com. □



photo by Steve Cunningham

Last fall gardener Steve Cunningham tossed a handful of wildflower seeds in an empty garden bed, and by early March the seedlings had begun poking through the snow. He also has basil, parsley, kale, scallions, tomatoes, and pepper seedlings started under lights getting ready for garden projects. Outside he has beets, peas, garlic, and carrots thriving in a cold spring weather greenhouse.



photo by Nan Smith

I have snap peas growing inside with my new toy, an indoor garden. I harvested basil in late March and now should have peas before the ones I planted in my garden are ready.



photo by Liz Goodman

Liz Goodman has several citrus trees producing hardily in her greenhouse.



photo by Pamela Hardcastle

Pamela Hardcastle shared a photo of ferns, or specifically *Polypodium aureum* 'Mandaianum', also called *Phlebodium aureum*. "They flourish inside and grow incredibly tall." She will move them outside in warm weather but keeps them up high because the slugs love them. At her recommendation, I picked one up at Ward's and will try to find the right spot for it and hope it is happy there.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Why not join us?

By Barry R. Shapiro, Town Moderator

For many, the New Marlborough Annual Town Meeting is one of the highlights of the year. The town meeting is the last vestige of true democracy in the country, predating the American Revolution, and is close to the sort of government practiced by the Greek city-states that invented the form over 2,500 years ago. In fact, some commentators draw a straight line from the town meeting to the Declaration of Independence and the Revolution.

It is an institution which is unique to New England. It is the one opportunity citizens have to engage in direct democracy, to be magically transformed by the rap of the moderator's gavel, from merely residents to actual legislators (no filibuster or hyper-partisanship here!). It is an opportunity to come together, to listen and learn, to debate (politely!) and then to vote on key decisions affecting the Town. In these days of isolation, it's also an opportunity to see friends (socially distanced!) and get some fresh air under the tent.

The meeting typically runs a few hours, moves quickly and can actually be quite entertaining. Yet, of the approximately 1,000 voters in town, typically only 10 to 15 percent come out, missing the chance to impact the manner in which the town is governed.

Why is that? There are probably as many reasons as there are voters but for those who don't attend because they don't know what to expect or how to participate in the meeting, here's a quick guide, which perhaps will seduce you into joining us on Saturday, May 22 at 9:00 a.m., in the field behind New Marlborough Central School. Of course, all appropriate Covid-19 protocols will be observed.

What exactly is a town meeting?

It is just what the name says: a deliberative, legislative meeting open to all registered voters in town, something which is required by Massachusetts law.

Do all towns have town meetings?

Virtually all Massachusetts towns have town meetings, although a few have town councils. Towns with fewer than 6,000 residents (like New Marlborough) have "open" town meetings where all registered voters may vote on all matters. Towns with more than 6,000 residents can have an "open" town meeting or may determine to have a "representative" town meeting where elected "members" are the only ones who can vote at the meeting. Great Barrington, which has more than 6,000 residents, has an "open" town meeting format while Lee, which at one point had more than 6,000 residents (it appears to have fewer now), has had a representative town

meeting since 1967. Towns with more than 12,000 residents can elect to be a "city" and adopt a "city" form of government.

When is the annual town meeting held?

Each town is required by state law to hold an annual town meeting prior to June 30 of each year. Additional "special" town meetings can be held as necessary. New Marlborough's bylaws require that the annual meeting be held on the second Monday in May, although state legislation to address the pandemic permits it to be delayed, which it was last year (to August) and this year to later in May.

What does a town meeting decide?

Some major things and lots of less major things: the types of programs and services the town offers; how much money the town will spend on services such as police, fire, education; what other activities it will finance; amendment of the town's local laws, called bylaws; and other items which impact the quality of life in town.

Who are the key players at the town meeting?

The moderator, the Board of Selectmen, the town administrator, the town clerk, the town counsel, and the Finance Committee. There may also be other important participants, such as members of the School or other committees.

What are the moderator's responsibilities?

The moderator's job is to preside, regulate and decide all questions of order at the meeting. By law, the moderator has the absolute authority to recognize the speakers, to rule on all points of order and to determine the outcome of each vote. All rulings by the moderator are final. The moderator is elected annually.

What's is the role of the selectmen?

The selectmen (sometimes called the "select board members" for gender neutrality) are the town's executive officers. They are elected annually to three-year terms. In New Marlborough, there are three selectmen, although some towns have five. The selectmen run the town and supervise town workers. At the town meeting, the selectmen often introduce the agenda items to be discussed and answer questions from the attendees. Importantly, the selectmen are bound to carry out effect the policies and decisions made by the voters at town meeting.

What does the town administrator do?

The town administrator is the chief operating officer of the town and assists in the preparation of the warrant.

He or she is present to answer questions regarding the business of the town that arise at the meeting.

What does the town clerk do?

At the town meeting, the clerk records all votes and takes the minutes, which are the official record of the proceedings.

What does town counsel do?

As the title indicates, town counsel is an attorney retained to advise the town on all legal matters and, at town meeting, to answer any legal questions which arise.

What does the Finance Committee do?

The Finance Committee, which is elected (except for the town treasurer who is appointed to the committee by the Board of Selectmen), prepares a draft of the town's budget in advance of town meeting and recommends its adoption by the Board of Selectmen. The Committee is also responsible for analyzing the fiscal impact of proposed warrant articles and making, when appropriate, recommendations to town meeting. The chair of the Finance Committee will often seek to address the meeting about budgetary matters.

What's a warrant?

The warrant, also known in some states as the "warning," is the key document for the meeting. It sets not only the time and place for the meeting, but also the topics to be discussed and expenditures to be allowed. It is prepared and issued by the selectmen. Only items (called "articles") in the warrant may be discussed at the meeting. In effect, the warrant is the agenda for the meeting with each article being discussed and voted on, generally in turn, although the meeting may, with the consent of the moderator, decide to change the order by majority vote.

When can I see the warrant?

Copies of the warrant are made available at the town meeting and are posted at least seven days in advance of the meeting in public places, such as the post office,

library, and the transfer station. A copy is also posted on the Town website.

Can a voter add an article to the warrant for the annual meeting?

Yes, but only in advance of the issuance or "closing" of the warrant. At least ten registered voters must sign the request and follow the statutory guidelines precisely. Rules to insert an article in the warrant for a special town meeting require the signatures of 100 registered voters or 10 percent of the number of registered voters, whichever is less (the numbers work out to about the same in New Marlborough). Citizens wishing to call a special meeting need the signatures of 200 registered voters or 20 percent of the number of registered votes, whichever is less. Speak to the moderator if you have any questions about how to do this.

Who can attend a town meeting?

All residents, whether primary or second homeowners, registered to vote here or not, are welcome! Guests are generally welcome although, during the pandemic, their attendance is politely discouraged.

Is there a quorum for town meeting?

No. If only a single voter shows up, the meeting may start and conduct its business.

What happens when I arrive at the meeting?

Park your car in the area provided and proceed to the check-in tent. There, you'll receive your voter packet which contains the warrant, a yellow voter card (this identifies you as a voter), a ballot (in case there is a secret ballot vote), a pencil, a 4 x 6 index card and a small bottle of hand sanitizer. Bottled water will be provided at your seat. Take your packet and find a seat in the tent. By state law, only residents who are registered to vote in town may vote, which means that second homeowners may not vote.

Who may speak at the meeting?

In New Marlborough, all registered voters may speak



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as may residents who are not so registered, all when recognized by the moderator. Invited guests, such as school administrators or others who have something important to share with the meeting, may also speak with the prior consent of the moderator.

How do I speak at the meeting?

If you wish to speak at the meeting, simply raise your hand and wait to be recognized by the moderator. By statute going back hundreds of years, to preserve order, no one may speak until recognized by the moderator. Go to the microphone, state your name and address and then speak what's on your mind, being sure to keep your remarks pertinent to the topic being discussed, to address the moderator and not the town meeting, and to keep your remarks civil, respectful, and not personal. The moderator will make certain that your question is properly answered by the appropriate official. You will have two minutes to complete your comments, except by pre-arrangement with the moderator. You are welcome to return to the microphone, when recognized, after others have spoken.

How does the voting work?

Very simple. The moderator calls for a motion on each article. Typically, the motion to approve the article is made by a member of the Board of Selectmen, but that is not essential (the motion can actually be made by anyone who is recognized by the moderator). The moderator calls for a "second," and then asks for discussion, if any, on the motion. After the discussion, the moderator calls for the vote. To vote, raise the yellow "voter" card you were given when you checked in. The moderator then visually determines if the motion has carried and announces the result, for example, "The motion carries," or "The motion fails." If the moderator is uncertain as to the result, he may utilize a "standing self-count" or other method to verify the result.

Once made and seconded, can a motion be amended?

Generally, yes. Amendments typically seek to add,

delete or modify words in the motion. Any amendment must be made by a motion, seconded, and be within the "scope" of the warrant article, meaning that the proposed amendment must be sufficiently close to what was stated in the article that voters have been adequately warned about the potential action in advance of the meeting. If the amendment is not within the "scope," the moderator has the responsibility to rule the amendment out of order and not allow it. This determination is in the sole discretion of the moderator. If the amendment is complex, the moderator may require that it be submitted in writing and distributed to all attendees. If the amendment is permitted and then approved by a majority of those voting, the meeting will then vote on the original motion as amended.

Is voting determined by majority or 2/3 vote?

Almost all votes (including amendments) are determined by majority vote, although some votes, such as those relating to zoning bylaws or purchasing land, may require a vote of 2/3 of those voting.

Do I need to know "parliamentary procedure" to attend the meeting?

Absolutely not. The intricacies of procedure can be complex, and you need not have a mastery or even a passing familiarity with them. You can rely on the moderator to handle all procedural issues and, if you have any questions, don't worry. Just stand up when recognized, state your point and the moderator will help you achieve what you want to do or explain why it can't be done.

How does the meeting end?

When all articles have been addressed, the moderator will ask for a motion to dissolve the meeting, ask for a second and then the meeting will vote to dissolve. Typically, the motion is accompanied by a round of applause from a group of voters who have, for a morning, become legislators and taken direct control of the Town's future. □

A Message from Our Animal Control Officer and Animal Inspector

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

Please mail a current rabies certificate and a check covering the appropriate fee to:

Town of New Marlborough, P.O. Box 99, Mill River, MA 01244.

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



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

TOWN MODERATOR UPDATE:

GUIDELINES FOR ANNUAL TOWN MEETING SATURDAY, MAY 22, 9:00 A.M.

This year's Annual Town Meeting has been set by the Board of Selectmen for 9:00 a.m., on Saturday, May 22, under an open-sided tent in the field behind New Marlborough Central School.

As your town moderator, I look forward to seeing many of you there.

To maintain everyone's safety during the pandemic, we will observe the following protocols:

Responding to Covid-19

- We will continue to review and revise these guidelines as necessary right up until the meeting starts to assure everyone's safety.
- If anything should change prior to the meeting and we are not comfortable proceeding, the moderator has the statutory right to postpone the meeting, and I will not hesitate to do so if necessary.
- You should consider not attending Town Meeting if:
 - You are feeling sick.
 - You have possible symptoms of Covid-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell).
 - You have been exposed to someone with confirmed or suspected Covid-19.
- If the answer to any of these questions is yes, you are encouraged to remain at home.
- If you do attend the meeting and feel unwell afterwards with any symptoms of Covid-19, we ask that you please immediately contact the Board of Health in New Marlborough.
- The Town will have a record of attendees who check in for the meeting and this record can be accessed should there be a need for contact tracing.
- Please consider bringing a food donation of canned or boxed staples for those of our neighbors experiencing food insecurity. Donation drop off boxes will be located at each check-in entrance point. All donations will be delivered to the People's Pantry.

Venue

- The meeting will be held outdoors under a very large tent in the field behind New Marlborough Central School in Mill River.
- The tent will have socially distanced seating.
- The tent will be open on all sides with excellent air flow. It does tend to be cooler under a tent so please dress accordingly.
- Parking will be on the field behind the tent. If you are coming from Mill River, drive past the school and then follow the signs and the police officer to be directed to the parking area. Someone will also be present in the field to show you where to park.
- Handicapped parking will be available on asphalt, adjacent to the tent. Enter the parking lot immediately after New Marlborough Central and you will be directed to the reserved parking area.

Pre-meeting and Check-in Tent

- Check-in will begin at 8:15 a.m. Please arrive early.
- **Voters and attendees should proceed from their cars to the clearly marked check-in tent. Please remember to remain six feet apart at all times and to wear a mask when leaving your car (more on masks below).**
- Family members and others sharing the same household may stand and sit together. The line to check-in will be managed by Town Emergency Management personnel in order to ensure sufficient physical distancing (markings will be placed on the ground).
- Signage detailing safety guidelines will be posted at the entrances.
- To minimize lines and bottlenecks, there will be two check-in tables, widely spaced. Hand sanitizer will be available at each table.

- By Governor Baker's Covid-19 Order No. 31, all persons (including children five years of age or older) are required to wear a mask, unless exempted by medical or other reasons set forth in the Order.
- Accordingly, masks or face coverings will be required upon exiting your automobile and must remain in place throughout check-in and during the meeting. If a resident cannot wear a mask for medical reasons, please advise one of our on-site volunteers and a separate seating area will be provided. The Town will provide a limited number of masks for those who do not have them or who forget them, so please try to bring your own. Masks should cover both the nose and mouth.
- Check-in personnel will be masked.
- All voters will be provided a warrant, ballots, voter card, pencil and paper at check-in.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at various places outside and inside the tent.
- Assisted listening devices will be available at a table provided for that purpose. All will have been sanitized in advance of the meeting.

Seating

- All seats will be sanitized before the meeting.
- Seats will be set up in rows for single attendees, for two attendees in the same household, and, if more than two in a single household group attend, specially arranged. This allows for aisles six feet wide and six feet between each row of chairs.
- Please do not move the chairs without the consent of one of our on-site monitors and please follow their instructions to assure a safe seating process.
- Seating near the check-in area will be reserved for those unable to walk long distances on grass; some chairs with arms will be provided for those requiring them.
- Please remain in your seats at all times except to speak, utilize a rest room, or exit the venue.
- Thanks to the New Marlborough Emergency Rescue Department, bottled water will be provided to all attendees.
- Childcare will not be provided, and attendance of children is politely discouraged.
- Only registered voters, second homeowners and family members will be allowed in the tent. Any other person with business at the meeting must be pre-cleared for attendance by the moderator at least seventy-two hours before commencement of the meeting.

The Meeting

- The meeting will be conducted as close to our normal deliberative process as possible.
- Comments and questions will be limited to our traditional two-minute limit unless otherwise approved by the moderator in advance. Please try to limit comments and questions to that which is necessary and non-repetitive so we can move the meeting along expeditiously.
- To expedite our business, we will use a consent agenda for routine and non-controversial articles, as we have done in the past few years, so that such articles can be taken up together.
- As in the past, all votes will be by use of handheld voter cards, first visually observed with a declaration of the moderator, then with a standing self-count, if necessary.
- **Considered debate and discussion is a hallmark of our Town Meeting and is encouraged. Microphones will be set up at the front of the seating area. Should you wish to speak, after you are recognized by the moderator, please go to the closest microphone and stand in the spot marked on the floor. Do not approach any closer to the microphone. Please do not touch the microphone. We have retained a professional audio company to manage the sound system and they are using professional quality, condenser microphones which are quite sensitive and will pick up your voice even if the microphone is below or above your mouth. Only one person at a time is allowed in the speaker's area.**
- Face coverings may be removed when speaking at the microphone. The face covering should be worn when walking both to and from the microphone.
- If you have a comment or question and do not wish to speak from the microphone, please write your name, address, comment or question down on the paper provided when you checked in and wave it. One of our monitors will take it from you and deliver it to the moderator who will then read it and confirm with you its accuracy.
- **Of course, no smoking is permitted in the tent or anywhere on school grounds.**
- Please do not bring food into the tent.

Accessibility and Other Matters

- Every effort is being made to make the meeting fully accessible. If you require any assistance due to a disability, please reach out to Owen Wright, ADA Coordinator, at 413 229 8116, preferably at least seven days in advance of the Meeting.
- New Marlborough Emergency and Fire Department staff and an ambulance will be on scene.
- New Marlborough Police Department will assist with traffic.
- Since the meeting will take place under a tent, we expect that the meeting will convene even if it rains. However, in the event of a significant weather event that endangers voters' safety, the Moderator has the authority to postpone the meeting. In such event, an email to everyone on the Town's email list, a reverse 911 call and notice on the Town web site will all be used.
- Bathrooms in New Marlborough Central School will not be open, but two accessible portable toilets will be on site.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be available throughout the venue.

Working with our Board of Selectmen, our dedicated town employees, Police, Emergency and Fire Departments, Board of Health, and Commission on Disabilities, I have endeavored to make the conduct of the meeting as safe as reasonably possible. I am very grateful to all of our town personnel for their assistance with this meeting.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Annual Town Meeting as we gather to make the important decisions which will guide the great Town of New Marlborough in the future.

Respectfully,

Barry R. Shapiro, Town Moderator
413 229 3993
barryrshapiro@gmail.com

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT: A Rough Idea of What It Might Contain

As the NM5VN goes to press in late April, the warrant for the May 22 Annual Town Meeting is taking shape but will not be finalized and posted until May 7. So, what follows is the educated guess of Town Administrator Mari Enoch as to what might be contained in the warrant.

On the operating side of the budget, one considerable savings will be in New Marlborough's share of the school district's budget, due primarily to a smaller number of students from New Marlborough – nearly \$178,000. As for compensation of Town employees, the effort to bring salaries more in line with surrounding towns will result in an increase in wages of 4.5 percent to most employees in the coming year. Five Highway Department worker's salaries will also increase as a result of their new union's negotiations with the Town.

Decisions on capital expenditures have not been finalized, so figures for such things as road repair and large equipment purchases are not yet available. Consequently, the percentage of change in the overall budget from FY21 to FY22 is unknown, but is expected to be relatively modest.

As for other Town business that is likely to be included in the warrant, there are the following:

- A proposed bylaw to establish the Capital Planning Committee
- A revision of the existing dog bylaw to bring the Town's fee structure in line with the state's
- A proposed bylaw on requirements for future driveway curb cuts
- A proposed revision of the existing unregistered vehicle bylaw
- A vote on whether the New Marlborough should expend \$8,000, an amount that has been requested of all towns in the regional school consolidation effort that is underway, involving Southern Berkshire Regional School District and Berkshire Hills Regional District.

Larry Burke

NEIGHBORS



New Marlborough resident **Josephine Halvorson** is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship in fine arts. For this honor, she was one of a group of 184 fellowship winners in a broad range of fields, chosen by a rigorous peer-review process from almost 3,000 applicants. Since 2016 she has been teaching and is chair of the graduate program in painting at Boston University. The Guggenheim Fellowship will relieve her of those responsibilities for one year, funding her replacement at Boston University.

Josephine purchased land on County Road in 2013, planning to build a studio, which turned into a house. She moved into it in 2015. Her connection to New

Marlborough goes back to 2002 when she was a student of painting in the Yale Norfolk summer program. At that time, she created a painting of the New Marlborough Meeting House. Currently she has been painting unique objects at the Mill River General Store. Her painting of Crow, Dave Herrick's dog, is on display at the store.

Josephine looks forward to a year when she can fully concentrate on painting. Our congratulations to her for receiving this great honor. □



Josephine Halvorson

compiled by Barbara Lowman: deeuell@yahoo.com

Upcoming: Events Calendar for May and June

New Marlborough is only beginning to emerge from its Covid-pandemic cocoon, so the calendar is still spare, but please take note of two important events this month:

May 10: Town Election Day: For Town officers and committees, including a member of the Board of Selectmen, 12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall

May 22: Annual Town Meeting, your chance to voice assent – or dissent – on a full slate of articles, including the FY22 budget; begins at 9:00 a.m. under a tent pitched behind New Marlborough Central School.

May 31: Farmers' Market: Opening day for the New Marlborough Village Green's offerings from local growers and crafters – continuing Sundays until Indigenous People's Day, October 11

June 1: Transfer Station permits go on sale at Town Hall – this year at \$180 per sticker. The earlier the purchase the lower the number.

Thank You to Our Contributors:

Barbara & Matthew Kelly; Pat & Howard Nourse; Myles Schumer & Anne Riney; Mauro Brussani & Susan Finkelstein; Eugene & Elizabeth Rosenberg; Marilyn Fracasso; Gillian Wells; and Hope Crocker

FAREWELL AND BEST WISHES TO TOM BORDEAU!

By Robbi Hartt

It seems like just yesterday we were gathering to thank and honor Paul Borelli, New Marlborough's UPS driver for over twenty-five years. Now, almost a year and a million packages later (only a slight exaggeration!), it is time once more to express our appreciation for someone who has quickly become not only a familiar face but also a household/business lifeline and respected friend.

Tom Bordeau began his career with UPS thirty-three years ago in Northern Berkshire County – first making deliveries involving “countless flights of stairs” in downtown Pittsfield, then delivering for eighteen years in Hancock and Lanesboro, followed by shorter stints in Southern Great Barrington and Sheffield, Tyringham and Monterey, and finally coming to New Marlborough last June. Paul and Tom are great friends, which gave Tom a leg up when he took over Paul's old route. “He helped me a lot,” Tom acknowledges. “These residents were like his family.”

Looking back on his early days, Tom notes, “When I first started, there was no 911 or GPS—only P.O. boxes on the side of the road. Once you found an address, you remembered it.” Now there are more tools available, but there are still many addresses with no documentation to guide you to them and plenty of pockets with no cell service. (Tom recently bailed out an eighteen-wheeler on Cagney Hill Road when the driver lost his GPS signal trying to get to Route 7.) There are certainly more people on the move due to Covid, too. Keeping track of their circumstances in transition has been a special skill for Tom, possible only because he takes the time to get to know the people receiving the packages.

Tom has been driving more than ten hours a day over ninety miles of road, forty-seven of them dirt, since being assigned to New Marlborough. A pre-pandemic delivery day in New Marlborough typically involved 50 stops; however, with the delivery business boom since last March, the average skyrocketed to 115 stops per day. “One day last summer I had 175 stops,” he recalls, adding that he didn't finish until 10:00 p.m. On many occasions during the summer, his daughter (home from college) helped him on the route to ensure



Tom Bordeaux with his familiar brown truck.
photo by Robbi Hartt

that they could empty the truck by the end of the day. “Looking back, the most important thing to me is that everyone got their packages when they were supposed to,” he notes, regardless of the volume, weather, or road conditions. “There are really nice people out here – considerate and understanding,” he adds. That and the chance to be out here in the country made for a career-ending walk-off homerun, in his opinion.

Janice Stiles Boults had the opportunity to experience Tom's generosity firsthand with the Scholastic book deliveries this year. “He has been amazing. He delivered thirty boxes of books each month, loading them into the storage space, and was willing to step up wherever

he could with book distributions,” she states. “He even came on a weekend as a volunteer to pick up books for the Pittsfield public schools.”

What is he looking forward to in his next chapter? Tom doesn't hesitate for a second with his answer: “Spending time with my family and friends—finally!” While he laments that he missed one daughter's violin concerts and another daughter's softball games when they were growing up, he looks forward to making up for that now. At age fifty-nine he plans to take time to play golf with Paul Borelli, fish with his three-year-old grandson, and enjoy his family during his retirement. “I thank you all for welcoming me to your town,” Tom smiles. As a grateful community, we add our heartfelt thanks for a job well done and our best wishes to a wonderful friend. □



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CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Thirty-two voters turned out for the annual town caucus on March 30, which established the ballot for the Town election on May 10. All candidates were invited to submit statements for publication. The statements of those who responded appear below. The polls will be open at Town Hall in Mill River from 12:00 noon to 7:00 p.m. Four voters at a time will be admitted to cast their ballots.

MODERATOR, ONE YEAR:

► BARRY SHAPIRO

I am honored to once again seek election as your town moderator, a position I have held with deep personal pride since 2015. I enjoy the responsibility of presiding at our town meetings and strive to create a respectful, open atmosphere where everyone can feel comfortable speaking, and where people can listen, think, and act in the best interests of our town. I have worked hard to understand the best practices to run our meetings and have attended many virtual meetings of the Massachusetts Moderators Association to discuss ideas with moderators throughout the Commonwealth. At our town's next annual meeting, the second to be held during the pandemic, I will continue to assure that all reasonable steps are taken to assure everyone's safety so that our citizens can feel comfortable attending. I look forward to serving New Marlborough again and thank you for your vote. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions. barryrshapiro@gmail.com; (413) 229-3993.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN, THREE YEARS:

► TARA WHITE

New Marlborough has always been my home. I went to local schools and have worked with many businesses in the area. It is a wonderful place to call home and having the opportunity to serve as a selectman, working with the community at the same time, has been challenging as well as rewarding.

There are ongoing challenges that will require extensive planning and financing in the future. Roadways, bridges, ADA compliance of Town buildings, and housing are just a few of them facing our community. The decision on which projects are most important and how they are funded is a joint effort of the committees tasked with gathering the information and the residents who will provide the funding for them.

The Town's primary revenue is property taxes to fund these projects. Although there are state grants available to help offset some of the costs of these projects, they are highly competitive statewide. There is never any guarantee that an application will be accepted, funded at the level requested, or funded at all.

I am committed to continue the work that has already

been started and to move New Marlborough forward while continuing to make it affordable for all town residents. I would appreciate your vote on May 10 for selectman. If you would like to discuss any issue, please give me a call at 229-7754 or email me at: tarabw@verizon.net.

ASSESSOR, THREE YEARS:

► WENDY MILLER

For those of you who do not know me, I am Wendy Miller and I have lived in New Marlborough since 2001. I spent over thirty years in the financial industry and retired as vice president of a major bank, administering charitable trusts and endowments. I continue to wear my fiduciary hat with a strong sense of responsibility to the town as well as its property owners. In 2005 I was appointed to the Board of Assessors to fill a vacancy for a term expiring in May 2006. I ran for election in 2006 and have served continuously on the Board since then. My responsibility as a member of the Board is not to raise or lower taxes and has nothing to do with the total amount of taxes collected. The Board's primary responsibility is to determine the fair and equitable value of all real and personal property within the town and establish an appropriate assessment. We are an integral part of the town's financial management team, charged with assessing all property and setting the tax rate. Property taxes are a major source of revenue for the town. By ensuring that town property is properly appraised at "full and fair cash value" (market value) on a periodic basis, the assessors assist in maximizing the revenue available to fund town services expected and often enjoyed by residents. Thank you in advance for having the confidence in me to continue to serve on the Board of Assessors

LIBRARY TRUSTEE, THREE YEARS:

► ROBIN TOST

From the time I moved to Mill River in 1985, I have been an enthusiastic user of the library and all its services, and I would very much like to be a part of its future. As a trustee, I will be able to help support the library's activities and reinforce its role in the community. During this lost year of pandemic, all cultural activities have been cancelled, but, through it all, the library has continued to be a constant light in the isolation, providing books through its own collection and from the wonderful CW-MARS interlibrary loan system. I am extremely grateful for all the escape from isolation that books have given me and would like a chance to repay a bit of my debt to Deb O'Brien and the library by serving as a trustee.

FINANCE COMMITTEE, THREE YEARS:

► **ELIZABETH REYNOLDS**

I am running for a position on the Finance Committee for New Marlborough. By way of background, my husband Peter and I bought 1093 Clayton Mill River Road in September of 2018 as a weekend home for ourselves and our two daughters, Mary and Grace. We have been coming to the Berkshires for over twenty years and our girls spent summers at Camp Half Moon. We have a residence in Manhattan but spent most of the last year in New Marlborough. During that time, I became interested in participating in town government and joined the Capital Projects Committee. Peter and I are in the process of establishing residency in New Marlborough.

My family has a long history in Massachusetts. I grew up on the South Shore in East Bridgewater. My father and grandfather had a law practice in Brockton, and my dad retired as a district court judge for the state. My parents currently live in Marion. I have two brothers in Massachusetts and a sister in Brooklyn. I attended Thayer Academy in Braintree, and went on to Bates College in Maine. Following graduation, I moved to Manhattan.

I spent the first eight years of my career in Municipal Finance at Moody's (where I met my husband) and at AMBAC, a division of Citibank. I received my MBA from the Stern School at New York University, and

moved to the equity side of investing at a hedge fund where I stayed for eighteen years. I held many roles there and was a portfolio manager when the fund closed in 2018. Since then I have been self-employed, writing a monthly investment letter as well as working with the former partner of my firm teaching a class on hedge funds at Georgia Tech. I also serve on the board and am head of the finance committee for St. Vincent's girls' school in Newark, New Jersey.

As for my candidacy, I believe my general finance education and experience and specifically my municipal finance background would be an asset to the Committee. I am new to Massachusetts finance rules and am interested in becoming more familiar with the finance and budgeting process. I appreciate your consideration of my candidacy and I can be reached with any questions at bethreynolds3@gmail.com. Thank you! □




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THE LOG

Police Department (selected entries)

- Mar. 1 9:02 p.m. A caller reports a fallen tree blocking the roadway at Clayton Four Corners.
- Mar. 2 1:14 a.m. A tree on utility wires causes a power surge at a Rood Lane residence.
- 3:11 a.m. Tree down blocking one lane on Rte 57.
- 6:39 a.m. National Grid notified of a tree on wires on Canaan Southfield Road.
- 7:53 a.m. National Grid notified of a tree on wires on Aberdeen Lane
- 9:18 a.m. National Grid notified of a second tree on wires on Canaan Southfield Road.
- 10:33 a.m. The Highway Department is alerted to a tree down on Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- Mar. 2 8:07 p.m. Following a stop on South Sandisfield Road, a tow is called for a vehicle whose driver has a suspended license.
- Mar. 5 4:07 p.m. A tow is ordered for an unregistered pickup truck, stopped for speeding through New Marlborough village, whose driver is found to be unlicensed.
- Mar. 6 9:48 p.m. The driver of a vehicle, stopped on South Sandisfield Road, is cited for having blue lights mounted on his vehicle without a permit.
- Mar. 8 9:42 a.m. The animal control officer is asked to assist in locating a dog lost on East Hill Road.
- Mar. 9 2:52 p.m. A caller reports that some fifteen pigs are loose on Tamaridge Road.
- 10:41 p.m. A driver who had steered into a field off Clayton Mill River Road is arrested for operating under the influence.
- Mar. 13 7:46 p.m. Pulled over for erratic driving on County Road, the operator admits to using a cell phone while driving.
- Mar. 14 3:15 p.m. An officer checks on a driver who has locked himself out of his truck and is waiting in the cold for the arrival of AAA assistance.
- Mar. 16 2:01 p.m. National Grid is notified after a caller reports wires down on Mill River Southfield Road.
- Mar. 19 4:58 p.m. A driver whose license was suspended because of a recent OUI offense is issued a criminal complaint after a stop on Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- 5:40 p.m. A driver in an accident on Mill River Great Barrington Road is arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol.
- Mar. 20 11:32 p.m. A male is taken into custody following an incident at his Southfield village home.
- Mar. 24 6:42 p.m. An officer tells a Clayton village resident to extinguish an illegal burn.
- Mar. 26 5:36 p.m. A caller's suspicions of a driver stopped in Southfield village and conversing with two young bicyclists are determined to be unfounded when the three reveal they are friends and all of the same age.
- Mar. 27 5:41 p.m. A jogger reports wires down at the intersection of Brewer Hill and Brewer Branch Roads.
- 6:07 p.m. National Grid notified of power lines down on Clayton Mill River Road.
- 8:17 p.m. A resident reports an unattended fire at his neighbor's property in Clayton.
- 9:06 p.m. A Clayton resident reports being harassed by an unknown caller to his cell phone.
- Mar. 28 11:02 a.m. A complaint by a Clayton resident that her neighbor is illegally burning large trees is referred to the fire chief.
- 1:20 p.m. A caller reports an abandoned girl's bicycle off Mill River Great Barrington Road in Mill River village.
- 2:28 p.m. The Highway Department is alerted to a tree on phone wires on Clayton Mill River Road.
- Mar. 29 9:20 a.m. A resident reports a tree on wires blocking both lanes of Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road.
- 11:22 a.m. The Highway Department is alerted to a downed tree blocking County Road.
- Mar. 30 11:14 a.m. Verizon is notified of telephone wires down on Brewer Branch Road.
- Mar. 31 5:33 p.m. The animal control officer is called to help remove a bird from the chimney of a Canaan Southfield Road residence.

Graham Frank, Chief of Police

SCOTT

MacKENZIE
EXCAVATING

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

FIRE AND RESCUE

Mar. 1	9:01 a.m.	Hatchery Road Medical Call	Mar. 13	9:12 a.m.	Aberdeen Lane Medical Call
Mar. 2	8:35 a.m.	Mill River Southfield Road Fire Alarm	Mar. 19	8:23 a.m.	Red Fox Lane Medical Call
Mar. 2	1:20 a.m.	Rood Lane Electrical Fire	Mar. 20	11:40 p.m.	Norfolk Road Medical Call
Mar. 2	2:23 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Sandisfield Medical Call	Mar. 26	9:09 p.m.	Downs Road Medical Call
Mar. 5	9:52 a.m.	Campbell Falls Road Fire Alarm	Mar. 27	3:09 p.m.	Norfolk Road Medical Call
Mar. 5	2:37 p.m.	Downs Road CO Alarm	Mar. 27	6:07 p.m.	Old Hitchcock Road Propane Fire
Mar. 5	9:01 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Sheffield Structure Fire	Mar. 27	10:10 p.m.	Shunpike Road Unattended Burn
Mar. 8	1:21 p.m.	East Hill Road Medical Call	Mar. 28	3:34 p.m.	Campbell Falls Road Gas Alarm
Mar. 10	1:12 p.m.	Sandisfield Road Medical Call	Mar. 29	9:22 a.m.	Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road Tree on Wires
Mar. 10	4:46 p.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road Unattended Burn	Mar. 31	6:37 p.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road Propane Leak
Mar. 12	6:12 p.m.	Stratford Road Fire Alarm			

Fire Company President David Smith

Carbon Monoxide Alarms: In early March, New Marlborough Fire & Rescue responded to a carbon monoxide alarm call that could have ended with tragic consequences. When firefighters entered the home, carbon monoxide levels measured 170 parts per million (50 ppm is the maximum allowable exposure concentration in an eight-hour period, according to OSHA). Levels on the second floor reached 300 ppm. Further inside the home and closer to the source of the trouble, levels reached more than 850 ppm. (More than 800 ppm causes dizziness, nausea, and convulsions within forty-five minutes, unconsciousness within two hours, and death within two to three hours.)

The problem was ultimately traced to a heating system malfunction that caused toxic gasses to be forced directly into the home instead of being safely exhausted to the outside. Wisely, the homeowner had dialed 911 and left the home when alerted by the carbon monoxide alarm.

Alarms can be a nuisance, but they are required by law for a reason: They save lives. This homeowner was extremely fortunate. Increasingly, NMF&R is responding to carbon monoxide alarms that are not false alarms. Please call 911 if your CO alarm activates. Do not disconnect your alarm.

Code requirements vary based on the age of your home, but we offer these reminders:

- Carbon monoxide (CO) is produced whenever any fuel, such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood, or charcoal is burned. CO-producing devices include furnaces and water heaters, gas/propane cooking stoves, pellet stoves, space heaters, gas/propane clothes dryers, generators, vehicles, barbecue grills and camping stoves, and yard equipment.
- Since 2006, carbon monoxide alarms have been required in all residences that have either fossil fuel burning equipment or an attached enclosed garage.
- Alarms must be installed on every level of your home.
- Alarms must be located within ten feet of bedrooms.
- Several types of alarms are allowed in Massachusetts. The types and placement of alarms is determined by the Building/Fire Code.
- Please call us at 413-229-8100 with any questions. We are more than happy to meet with you to review safety requirements.

Fire Company President David Smith

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

I recently received a book on reducing waste in the house and have been steadily removing plastic products from our lives. The shampoo bars, laundry soap sheets that come in a cardboard envelope, and goats milk soap have been popular; my homemade hair conditioner isn't such a hit, nor the deodorant that I made with diatomaceous earth. Our milk already comes in glass, so I've been going to the store, filling up my own jars, and making cashew milk. That was so easy that I figured I'd give yogurt-making a try, since store-bought dairy-free yogurt isn't the best. I began making separate cashew and coconut yogurts, then tried combining the two and preferred the texture, taste, and consistency of the combination. I feel after a few attempts I have it just right.

If anyone has tried making their own coconut milk or coconut cream, I'd love to hear from you; now that I have removed most plastic from the house, it would be nice to move on reducing other packaging. If you have any questions, please email me at fiona.kerr.au@gmail.com. □

Fiona Kerr

Coconut and Cashew Yogurt (pressure/slow cooker method)

Ingredients: 1 cup of cashews, soaked in water for at least 4 hours
1 tin coconut milk
1 tin coconut cream

1 date or 1 tablespoon maple syrup
Probiotics (about 40-50 billion active cells per capsule or equivalent*)



Directions:

- Drain and rinse the cashews, then blend with 1 cup of water and the date or syrup. Once the cashews are blended, add the tins of coconut milk and cream; blend until smooth and creamy.
- Pour into a saucepan, and while stirring constantly, bring to a simmer for a few minutes. This allows the cashews to thicken the mixture.
- Pour into two 24 oz mason jars and allow the mixture to cool until it is warm to touch but no longer hot, stirring occasionally. At this point you can add flavorings of your choice, e.g. a bit more maple syrup, vanilla, coconut, or lemon zest (I love a heaped teaspoon of coconut and zest of 1 lemon together)
- Using a non-metallic spoon, stir in the probiotics.
- Fill the pressure/slow cooker insert with an inch of water, place the lids on the jars and into the cooker on the yogurt setting for eight hours. Taste, and add an extra hour until it tastes right - I find that eight hours works perfectly.
- If you don't have a pressure cooker, wrap the jars in towels, and place in a cooler box (or somewhere they will stay warm) for eight or more hours.
- It may still seem a bit runny once the time is up but will thicken once cooled in the fridge, to a Greek yogurt consistency.

*My capsules are 15 billion, I used three capsules the first batch, and then changed to one capsule and one tablespoon of the yogurt for the following ones.

Enjoy!

THE SCHOOL REPORT

THE SCHOOL BUDGET TELLS A STORY

The word budget implies numbers and formulas. Its contents do not attract the interest of most people who only need to know “how much will it cost me in taxes.” In fact, the budget tells the story of a school district’s vision, the educational strategies to accomplish it, and the plans to keep the district sustainable. The process at Southern Berkshire Regional School District starts in the fall with a conversation among the administration, faculty, and staff about key initiatives for the coming year so that the Superintendent can work with the School Committee to construct a budget that enables progress, yet is affordable to the towns. The public is encouraged to listen into the process by attending Zoom meetings of the finance subcommittee of the School Committee, and of the Superintendent’s Roundtable that brings leaders of the five member towns together.

A key guiding principle this year was to ensure a rigorous program that attracts and retains students despite the decreasing number of families living in the region. The budget will support a number of changes at all levels. There will be continued focus on social and emotional skills across the district. Early childhood programs are a key focus including Pre-Kindergarten to grade three across the district, including consideration of the development of an early childhood center or program at New Marlborough Central (NMC). A new mathematics program for students in Kindergarten through grade eight will be introduced. There will be an expansion of after-school opportunities, accompanied by the return of the late buses to increase access for all.

With the expanded graduation requirements starting with the Class of 2023, Mount Everett will be offering students the opportunity to graduate with a college and career-focused diploma as well as at least one internship experience related to the five so-called Career Pathways developed as a collaboration between faculty and administrators. There will be early college opportunities and the continued offering of Bard College at Simon’s Rock courses held at Mount Everett.

To support these initiatives, the budget invests in technology so that every student will have a device, either an i-Pad or laptop. There will new options for the faculty to engage in professional development and the extended planning time needed for project-based learning and the development of new curricular materials. New assessment tools will be used to track student progress, providing needed data to accomplish the goal of meeting the needs of each student.

Since Superintendent Beth Regulbuto served as a

school business manager earlier in her career, she has worked to provide all these new resources for student success while keeping assessments to towns as low as possible. Since 2017 the District’s budget increases have averaged 1.73 percent. For FY22 the expenditures will be: operating \$15,635,708, transportation \$1,451,698, capital non-bond \$352,000, and capital bond \$355,150 for a total of \$17,794,556 which is an increase of only 1.49 percent over FY21.

This low increase was achieved by keeping the capital budget level-funded at \$358,000. With a return to full in-person programming, attrition, retirements, and reorganization of the District, it is possible to reduce staffing by approximately eight full-time equivalent positions. The School Committee negotiated a one-year extension on all collective bargaining unit contracts with a 2 percent cost of living increase and no health insurance increase for next year.

The assessments, the amount needed to be raised by the towns, total \$14,240,100, which is 80 percent of the total budget. This is an increase of only 0.01 percent due to offsetting revenues, including \$525,000 from the excess and deficiency fund; revenue from tuition students, increased by over \$80,000. The large cost of a coil replacement plan for the HVAC system will be paid using state grant funding. The New Marlborough share is \$2,785,867 down \$177,734, or 6 percent, from last year. New Marlborough’s decrease in operating assessment occurred because of a drop in enrollment from 145 students in FY21 to 123 going into FY22. This decrease of 22 students is reflected in the 3.5 percent decrease in New Marlborough’s share while Sheffield, Egremont and Monterey all increased because of higher enrollments from those towns. Overall, the total district enrollment stayed level and consistent despite the pandemic.

It is hoped that there will be community participation in the development of two initiatives: the Childhood Task Force for the early grades, and the Community Intern Partnership Task Force to strengthen the Career Pathways program. Contact the superintendent at 413-229-8778, extension 304, or email BRegulbuto@sbrsd.org.

The budget will be on the warrant for a vote at the May 22 Annual Town Meeting. Please contact Jane Burke at jburke@sbrsd.org if you have questions about the budget. □

Jane Burke, Chair, SBRSD School Committee

THE NEW MARLBOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library Hours

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

Adult Fiction

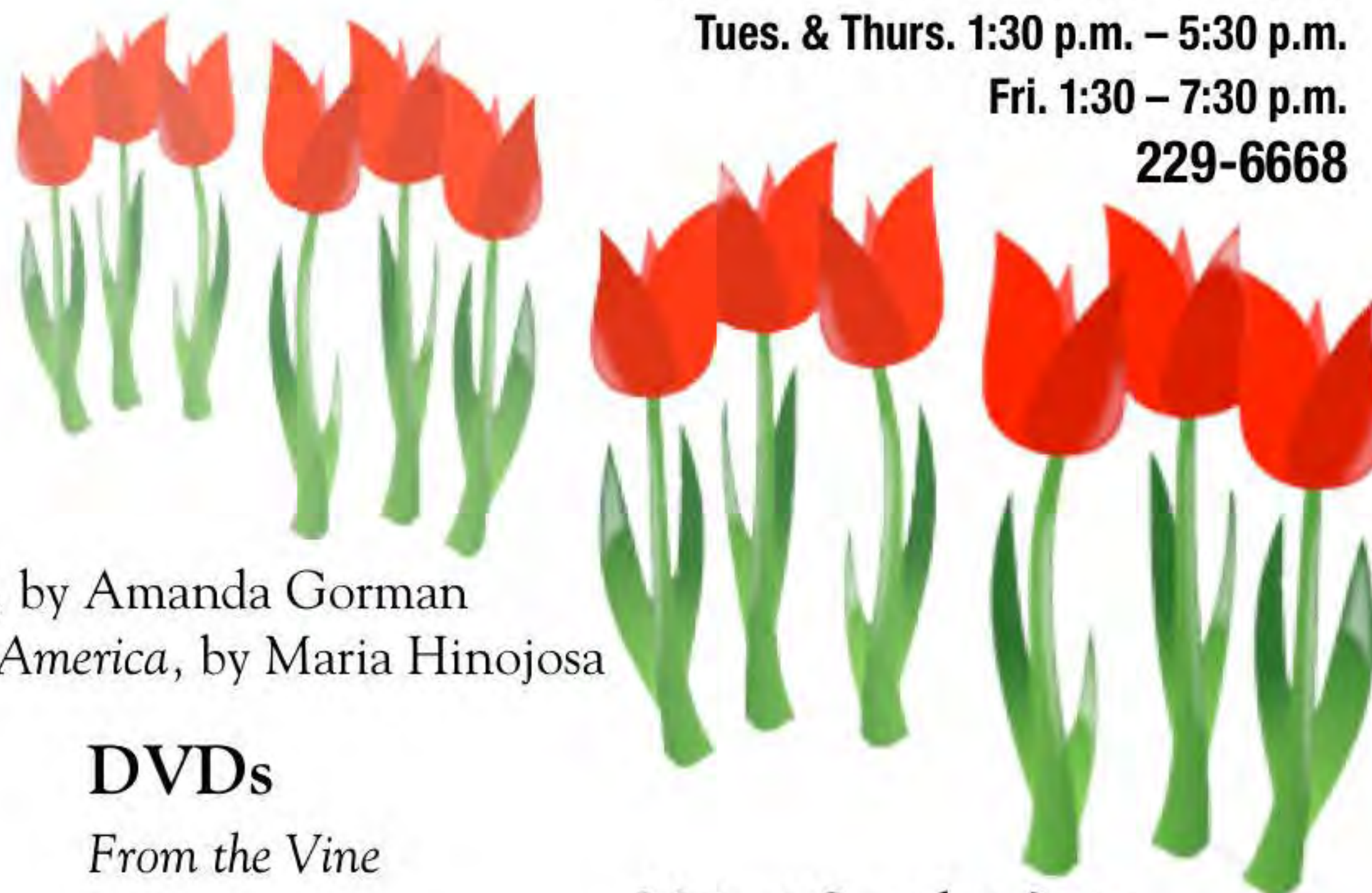
When the Stars Go Black, by Paula McLain
Kitchen Front, by Jennifer Ryan
A Good Neighborhood, by Theresa Anne Fowler
Stargazer, by Anne Hillerman
The Music of Bees, by Eileen Garvin
A Gambling Man, by David Baldacci

Adult Nonfiction

The Hill We Climb: An Inaugural Poem for the Country, by Amanda Gorman
Once I Was You: A Memoir of Love and Hate in a Torn America, by Maria Hinojosa

Children's Fiction

Charlie Thorne and the Lost City, by Stuart Gibbs
The Smartest Kid in the Universe, by Chris Grabenstein
Bug Boys: Outside and Beyond, by Laura Knetzger



DVDs

From the Vine
Good Lord Bird
The Great Season 1
Instinct Season 1 & 2
Maigret Complete Series
Middlemarch
The Undoing



photos by Debbie O'Brien

It's another tribute to the inventiveness of Librarian Deb O'Brien and the library staff in dealing with Covid restrictions. They held an Easter Drive-by on April 3 that was hugely successful. They handed out over sixty-six baskets, and Deb thinks the parents had as much fun as the kids.

(413) 229-2544
Free Estimates



Roofing
Tiling
Decks
Porches
Sheet Rocking
Flooring
Additions
Odd Jobs

Herbert W. Eichstedt III
Jason W. Eichstedt

Contributions are needed to continue the paper!

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

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

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

HERE IS A TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION OF \$_____ (payable to NM5VN)

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

Town Hall: 229-8116

Police: Business office: 229-8161

Library: 229-6668

Transfer Station Hours:

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

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

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

PERMITS ARE DUE JULY 6

and can be purchased for \$150

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

Barbara Lowman, issue editor; Diane Barth, designer; Martha Bryan,

Jane Burke, Larry Burke, Robbi Hartt, David Lowman,

Joe Poindexter, Peter Schuyten, Barry Shapiro.

Contributing writers and artists: Ann Getsinger, Fiona Kerr.

Index: Donna Weaver

NM5VN Board of Directors

Roy Blount, Jr., Larry Burke, Barbara Lowman, Deb O'Brien,

Joe Poindexter, Peter Schuyten, Barry Shapiro,

Nan O'Shaughnessy Smith, and Tara White

New Marlborough 5 Village News

appears monthly,

also online at

www.nm5vn.org

The next issue will be dated June 2021.

All copy must be submitted no later than May 17.

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

PO Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259

5villagenews@gmail.com

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e-mail 5villagenews@gmail.com

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SERVICE SECTOR 5/21

- ◆ **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
- ◆ If you are looking for short term rehabilitation, physical therapy, senior living, skilled nursing or memory care, look no further than **Noble Horizons**, proud recipient of Medicare's premier 5-star rating. Just over the border in Salisbury, CT. www.NobleHorizons.org 860-435-9851; 17 Cobble Road, Salisbury, CT.
- ◆ **One call does it all!:** Vinyl siding cleaning; pressure washing; deck refinishing; floors refinished; window washing; odd landscape jobs; all odd jobs. David Goewey, (413)229-2787
- ◆ **Susan M. Smith:** Attorney At Law; Concentrating in the areas of Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Elder Law, Real Estate and Zoning Matters. ssmithlaw@barringtonlawoffice.com or (413)528-4300
- ◆ **Reiner White & 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