



# New Marlborough 5 Village News

VOL XXIV  
NO 1  
May 2023

Clayton ♦ Hartsville ♦ Mill River ♦ New Marlborough ♦ Southfield

## THE DETOUR WON'T LAST FOREVER



Progress on the Southfield Bridge advanced rapidly on March 27, when the operator of a 104-foot crane skillfully maneuvered six precast bridge units, each weighing 44,000 pounds, into place to form the deck of the new structure. Use of these concrete units greatly increased the speed with which the bridge can reach completion. It was an awesome, day-long spectacle for this bridge watcher, whose home gives her a front-row seat. Better, indeed, than any TV reality show. Work since then has included fitting rebars (reinforcing bars) between the units to close and strengthen the gaps, and pouring concrete for the curbs, and the posts, and railings that will follow. photos and text by Ellen Sweet

### INSIDE:

Select Board .....	3
Planning Board .....	5
View From the Board .....	6
Town Hall Update .....	6
Town Meeting Synopsis .....	7
Candidate Statements .....	8
Questioning .....	10
Save the Triplex .....	12
Land Trust .....	13
Neighbors .....	14
Wildlife Neighbors .....	16
Recipe of the Month .....	17
The Log .....	18
School Report .....	20
Library News .....	32

## BRIDGE BUILDING

By Barry R. Shapiro

“I’m so glad they’ve started, and I can’t wait for them to be finished.”

So spoke Alex Platt, proprietor of the Southfield Store, about the closing of the “steel bridge” (aka the “iron bridge”) at Norfolk Road, a closure which cuts off easy access to the Store from the north.

“Obviously,” said Mr. Platt, “the closing of the bridge has a direct impact on some of our customers who now have a longer drive to reach us. It’s the quiet season now but this closing will certainly impact us once it gets warmer and more people are up here. We’re putting up some additional signage to help people find us and we hope that our loyal customers, whom we appreciate so much, will still stop by often!”

According to information received from the Town, the construction is expected to be completed by early July.

“We can’t wait,” said Alex.



## Town Business Is Your Business SELECT BOARD



Heading into the last quarter of the fiscal year of 2023, the Board's focus was preparation for the fiscal year 2024 (FY24), Annual Town Meeting and Town Election.

All meetings were held with an option for remote participation via Zoom due to the Massachusetts legislature's passage of bill H. 3458, which extended authorization for remote and hybrid participation for public bodies through March 31, 2025. Without this extension, remote and hybrid participation would have ended on March 31. Offering this option is at the discretion of the chair of each committee or board.

Solid Waste Coordinator Freddy Friedman attended the March 27 meeting to cover FY24 business of the Transfer Station. To begin, the **Board authorized a three-year contract with Roger Trucking** for equipment, hauling and disposal of non-recyclables. According to Mr. Friedman, this service will be "about forty percent more" than current the year. The company was chosen because it submitted the lowest-priced proposal in a procurement bidding process.

With the July 1 permit-renewal deadline approaching, the **Board decided to raise the annual price to \$225 per household and eliminate a "late fee."** Traditionally, the "late fee" was charged to those who purchased after August 15. Town Administrator Mari Enoch suggested the change: "For people who are struggling to come up with \$200 or \$225, and they might need a couple extra weeks to get there...they're not throwing away any more garbage...to me that is an undue [fee]". Fees for other disposed items, such as tires, will be determined at a future meeting.

The Board also approved the \$4,150 purchase of Full Circle software, funded by a grant, that will en-

able online purchase of Transfer Station permits and automatically generate next year's renewal notices. Not covered by the grant, but also approved by the Board, was a \$2,050 annual software support fee.

In other Transfer Station news, the **Board approved the hire of an occasional employee, Will Worth.** The collection of organics will also begin in approximately eight weeks and will be carted to farmer Tom Brazie's compost pile. And books are now being collected next to the container for textiles.

For our town elections on May 8, **there will not be an option to vote early.** In consideration of cost, the Board granted the request of Town Clerk, Kathy Chretien, to opt out of early voting by mail and was informed of a similar decision by the Board of Registrars to opt out of early in-person voting. Absentee voting, which requires a stated reason, is still allowed.

**What will not be considered at this year's Annual Town Meeting is a by-law regarding short-term rental (STR) properties.** In a letter to the Select Board, the Planning Board stated it does not believe "STR presents a current problem in New Marlborough but [they] do believe a proliferation of STR in New Marlborough could potentially be a concern in the future," and would like to wait until next year to address the topic. They did include some initial thoughts on ways STR might be addressed in a future by-law. Ms. White requested a list of registered short-term rental properties from the state and received one containing approximately 90 properties.

It was noted there are two aspects a by-law might address: restrictions and a local tax. Ms. Enoch noted these to be separate issues, but Ms. White would

### DOWNING LANE, PC ATTORNEYS AT LAW

623 MAIN STREET, SUITE 1  
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230

TEL: (413) 528-5040  
FAX: (413) 528-5095

COURTNEY S. LANE  
COURTNEY@DOWNINGLANE.COM

## PRECISION AUTOCRAFT INC



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

PERFECTING THE ART OF COLLISION REPAIR SINCE 1979



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

www.precision-auto.com

email: precision.auto@roadrunner.com



like both in place so registration for taxation can serve as a prompt for the Fire Department to inspect these properties. Present at the meeting was Fire Chief Chuck Loring who voiced dissatisfaction with calls from short-term renters who are not familiar with properties and houses. He said they tend to set off alarms and generate unnecessary emergency calls.

Following last year's approval of immediate participation in Other Postemployment Benefits (health insurance for retirees of Town) a **study is required to determine the amount of liability the Town might face, and the size of a trust fund needed to meet the expected liability.** On the ballot will be \$6,000 for a study, which will be required every two years. Ms. Enoch estimated the Town will need to establish a trust of roughly \$600,000, based on the current number of employees, which she said was a "ballpark" figure. This can be funded over a period of time still to be determined.

Not on the agenda, but prompted by Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring and Highway Planning Working Group Chair, Barbara Marchione, was a discussion of the hourly wage for the Highway Department Office Manager. Ms. Marchione and Mr. Loring advocated to increase the hourly wage for the position, as it bears more responsibility than a clerical position and is below the hours-per-week threshold that would require including benefits. The Board agreed to consider at a future meeting.

Lastly, related to FY24 budget preparation, the Board agreed to a commitment regarding **funds to be received each year by the Town from a settlement reached by the attorney general of Massachusetts with six pharmaceutical companies considered responsible for the opioid epidemic.** It is the Board's intent that future Annual Town Meeting warrants will contain articles appropriating the settlement funds to

the South County Rural Recovery Center. Director Gary Pratt and Rebecca VanDeusen of the Recovery Center explained that they have requested these funds from all South County towns. According to the Attorney General's website, funds will be disbursed to towns based on "federal data on opioid use disorder, overdose deaths, and 2006-2016 opioid shipments into Massachusetts, by region and community". The Board of Health, police chief, and fire chief have all voiced support for the Recovery Center as the best local resource to deliver "substance use prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery support," as directed by the attorney general.

*The annual Transfer Station fee has been raised to \$225, reflecting the increased costs of operation*

**In brief:**

Prudence Spaulding was reappointed as animal inspector. This appointment is for the period April 1, 2023, until March 31, 2024, the period required by the commonwealth.

The Board agreed to sign a commitment to be a member town of the Southern Berkshire Health Collaborative. Ms. Enoch reported that participation "has been really successful. The Board of Health is very much in favor of it." This will be the second year of New Marlborough's participation.

Ms. Enoch reported progress and next steps on the Hartsville Riverbank Erosion project: Trout Unlimited is moving forward with its work on the bank restoration and, after surveying and Town possession of the property, New Marlborough will apply for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant.

Responding to the Board's request that the Conservation Commission create a by-law to prohibit riverbank mowing, Co-Chairman Freddy Friedman reported that such a by-law exists. Mr. Friedman will discuss with Co-Chairman John Schreiber about any need for revision.

**SCOTT**  
  
**MacKENZIE**  
**EXCAVATING**

Email: [excavatorscott@gmail.com](mailto:excavatorscott@gmail.com)  
**(413) 528-2921**  
 381 Adsit Crosby Road  
 New Marlborough, MA 01230

**SUSAN M. SMITH**  
 Attorney At Law

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

Marc Trachtenberg was present on April 3 to request a drainage resolution at his property at 200 Brewer Hill Road. Mr. Carson suggested a site visit by the Select Board and Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring. All agreed and a site visit took place on April 14.

Ms. Enoch presented the Board with bids for products, suppliers, prices and terms from Colonial Power, which is soliciting bids for Berkshire Municipal Aggregation of Electricity. On April 10, the Board authorized Ms. Enoch to accept any bid under \$.17 per kW and to choose standard electric supply or retail supply purchased through National Wind Recs. The new period of service will begin in November.

The Board awarded the bid of Joe Wilkinson for FY23 equipment rental. This is for the remainder of FY23 and a new process will take place for FY24 so that the agreement terms will be congruous with the fiscal year.

A grant for Police Department software, eCitation was accepted. The software prints citations, so officers don't have to handwrite them, and automatically submits them to the State, avoiding the need to mail. The grant covers the cost of installation of two printers (each @ \$300-500) and related hardware. The only maintenance cost is the purchase of paper and ink.

On April 14, the Board met briefly with the sole agenda item of "Approve and sign Annual Town Meeting Warrant."

**Town Administrator Updates:**

The Board agreed to Ms. Enoch's suggestion that, following the resignation of Richard Long, it seek an additional member of the Town Hall Planning Committee. An announcement would request that

interested residents contact the Board for possible appointment.

**Selectman Updates:**

On March 27, Ms. White reported that she observed, that day, the construction crew placing the deck on the Norfolk Road bridge which is currently closed due to this construction.

On this same date the Board ended the state of emergency that had been declared on March 13 during a heavy snowstorm. No funding for storm cleanup is available from the state but the Highway Department is able to cover expenses from the Winter Roads budget.

As a follow-up to an earlier meeting discussion about the status of engineering of Route 57 for drainage replacement and surface repavement, Mr. Carson reported that he and Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring had met with the engineer. Requests for bids on the Town's repaving and drainage project will be in Central Register with a scheduled bid opening on April 18.

Mr. Carson reported that he attended a meeting of municipalities with six state senators to discuss the topics of Payment In Lieu Of Taxes agreements, increasing PILOT funding on state lands, increasing Chapter 90 (road) funding, and prevailing wage requirement as problematic for small towns seeking contractors. □

Michele McAuley

*Early voting by mail and in person will not be an option in town elections. Absentee voting, which requires a stated reason, is still allowed.*

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

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



839 Mill River-Southfield Rd.  
New Marlborough, MA

**413-229-2800**

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



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

# THE PLANNING BOARD

The April 12 meeting of the Planning Board got underway with three attending members – Chairman Bob Hartt, Jon James, and Becky Wilkinson. Mr. Hartt reported that the results of a search for a secretary to replace Sharon Fleck had yielded two applicants, Jenny Wright and Kenzie Fields. The Board was in favor of hiring Ms. Fields, a resident of Mill River, over Ms. Wright, a New Marlborough native who currently lives in the Boston area, but a job-sharing plan was not ruled out.

Mr. Hartt spoke briefly about the Board’s inquiry into a large house on Lake Buel, at 156 Woodleigh Road, that was built in 2016, seemingly without a special permit, despite the fact that its footprint well exceeded that of the building it replaced. He said that the current building inspector, Matt Kollmer, could find no evidence of the residence ever having been issued a Certificate of Occupancy, and he added that Conservation Commission Chair John Schreiber, when asked if he knew any circumstances relating to the construction, told Mr. Hartt that “the processes [in Town Hall] were not good at that time.” While Mr. Hartt does not necessarily see the Town seeking penalties against the owners of the house, he does hope to get to the bottom of “why that was built.... It’s a big oops.”

The main agenda item, which occupied the rest of the meeting, was a continuation into examining the Town’s Protective Bylaw, focused in particular on sections that Building Inspector Matt Kollmer had singled out as being unclear or at odds with other sections. Mr. Kollmer had sent the Board a list of points on sections that deal with accessory dwellings, non-conforming lots, expiration dates on variances and special permits, authority over building permits, and customary home occupations. The Board spent the better part of an hour working through Mr. Kollmer’s list, making tentative changes to the language in some

of the noted sections and reserving judgement on others. By the end of the session Mr. Hartt felt that the Board had gotten to the next step, which is to invite Mr. Kollmer to the next meeting, on April 26, so the changes can be decided upon in a joint fashion. The outcome of this work will need to be voted upon at a future town meeting. □

Larry Burke

**Heating Systems and Repairs , Oil tanks,  
Chimney Liners, and Air Conditioning**

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



James "Jesse" Lane  
Southfield, MA 01259  
413-229-2370  
Independenth heating@gmail.com

License# BU 056967 MA  
License# 31674 MA

**LOCAL MARKET EXPERTISE MADE TO ORDER**

# WEWORKHARDER

We believe that you deserve an exceptional home, and an exceptional home buying and selling experience. We bring you the most thoughtful, most comprehensive Berkshire real estate service. Whether you're buying or selling a home or commercial property for the first time or fifth time, we'll be there to advise you, encourage you, and walk you through the process from beginning to end. We know the market and we can steer you in the right direction. **Call us today for a free property consultation @ 413-528-4423.**

**BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY | BARNBROOK REALTY**

**barnbrookrealty.com • 413-528-4423**



**OFFICE & STUDIO SPACE**  
High Speed Fiber Optic Internet

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

**FOR AVAILABILITY, CONTACT:**  
413-229-3576

## VIEW FROM THE BOARD

As we approach the Annual Town Meeting, the Select Board would like to thank everyone who put so much effort into the FY24 budget you will vote on May 1.

This budget presented unusually difficult challenges. Many of the departmental budgets increased simply because of the higher costs of fuel and electricity. Other increases were for software support, new programs, cost-of-living increases for employees, and the need for additional hours by employees to do their jobs. The Transfer Station saw a significant increase in its budget. The previous three-year contract expired on March 9, and the new contract came in with much higher hauling and container costs.

In New Marlborough, the principal source of revenue is property taxes. As we developed the FY24 budget, the potential increase in property taxes was a main concern. Some budget increase requests were cut back to help keep the increase to a minimum.

The capital budget requests are for a new truck, loader, leaf blower, police pickup, Geographic Information System Mapping, an OPEB study (to gauge post-employment benefits beyond pensions), and money for Town Hall planning. Previously approved budget increases include \$50,000 for the ambulance (approved in May 2022) and \$8,000 for the highway truck (approved in May 2021).

The Annual Meeting will be held at the Fire House in Southfield. Remember that the bridge into Southfield is under repair, so give yourself some extra time to take the detour. If you didn't attend last year's meeting, then you did not get to use the clickers, an electronic vote-tabulating system that not only allows you to vote anonymously, but also reduces the time in counting and recording the votes.

We look forward to seeing all of you on May 1 at 7:00 p.m. for the Annual Town Meeting. □

*Mark Carson, Chairman, New Marlborough Select Board*

## TOWN HALL PLANNING UPDATE

The only meeting of the Town Hall Planning Committee during this reporting period was on March 31. The first order of business was to read the letter of resignation from Committee Chair Richard Long. He resigned as both Committee member and Chair. Barbara Marchione was then elected Chair and the Committee agreed to request that the Select Board appoint a replacement member. As of this reporting, the Board has not appointed another member but has requested that interested residents contact them.

Present at the March 31 meeting was consultant David Allard, who has provided estimates of construction costs for all options explored. The Committee spent most of the meeting reviewing the cost estimates for the current Town Hall building complete renovation, repurposing of the Les Trois Emme winery property, repurposing the Robin's Hall building on Tom Brazie's The Farm property (formerly Kolburne School), and a newly constructed Town Hall building.

The only conclusion reached by the Committee is that the winery property is not a cost-effective option. The construction quality of one building is not at a level necessary for town hall and would have to be demolished; the other requires extensive, costly renovation. There was then discussion about the necessity of informing the winery owners in a courteous and timely way, as well as a desire to understand any remaining legal obligations of the Town to the owners. Town Administrator and

Committee Member Mari Enoch will ask town counsel about the procedure to end the procurement process, which resulted in an unsettled negotiation of a purchase and sale agreement. On April 18 the Select Board held a meeting in executive session "To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate (MGL C. 30A Sec 21)." Without any other known real estate business of the Select Board, it might be surmised that this was a meeting to determine the next steps in this issue.

General next steps in the quest for a Town Hall location involve a great deal of research into grant possibilities, financing, and public-private partnerships. □

*Michele McAuley*



**Sachs Reisman, Inc.**

**jewelry design & fabrication  
appraisers & diamond brokers  
buyers of gold, platinum,  
& bulk silver**

**25 Maple Avenue ~ Sheffield, MA.**

**413-229-0050**

**[www.sachsreisman.com](http://www.sachsreisman.com)**

# THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT SYNOPSIS

The warrant for the May 1 Annual Town Meeting opens with a notice to voters of the May 8 annual Town elections. The polls at Town Hall will be open from noon until 7:00 p.m.

The pages that follow lay out the thirty-three articles of the warrant for the meeting, which will convene at 7:00 p.m. at the firehouse in Southfield. As in previous years, the first ten articles are straightforward organizational items that are routinely dispatched in a single vote. **Article 11** is the first article that deals with FY24 spending, under the heading of General Government, and it is recommended for passage by the Finance Committee (as are all the articles in this warrant relating to Town finance). The article deals mostly with salaries and expenses associated with the running of Town government, and reflects an increase over FY23 of less than \$22,000.

**Article 12** concerns the budget for the Highway Department and cemeteries. The requested increase is roughly \$69,000; the biggest single increase over the previous year is \$26,500 extra for fuel, reflecting the nationwide rise in petroleum-based fuels.

**Article 13** is about the Town's share of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District's budget, totaling \$2,823,275 – an increase of \$104,425 (\$84,383 of which is to cover operating and transportation costs). The remainder of the increase, \$20,042, is for capital expenses, including bonds.

**Article 14** covers cultural and recreational aspects that are Town-funded – with the Town Library being the most significant, cost-wise, accounting for roughly \$139,000 of the \$150,765 total.

**Article 15**, Protection of Persons and Property, deals primarily with police salaries and expenses, but also includes fire protection, firefighter stipends, building inspector salary and expenses, animal control, and Berkshire County Communications, which handles the Town's 911 calls. The biggest single increase in this article is for police salaries - \$55,225, bringing the total in that line item to \$278,799.

**Articles 16 through 18** all concern the financing needed to cover the expenses, including the salaries of the two daytime shift EMTs, to maintain and operate the New Marlborough ambulance.

**Article 19** Health and Human Services, requests an increase of \$36,365 over last year, and that is primarily due to the hike in Transfer Station expenses of \$33,765.

**Articles 20 and 21** are, respectively, about debt payments on loans and about various unclassified expenses – two articles that generally pass without objection.

**Article 22** asks the voters “to raise and appropriate the sum of \$150,000 for the purpose of funding the Sta-

bilization Fund.” **Article 23** then requests that \$215,000 be transferred from the Stabilization Fund to the Highway

Loader Account, to be used in the purchase of a three-yard loader. (This article will require a 2/3 vote.)

**Article 24** also requires a 2/3 vote, which will be to approve the transfer of \$50,000 from the Stabilization Account to cover the remaining balance on the purchase and equipping of the ambulance that had been authorized at

the 2022 Annual Town Meeting.

**Article 25** asks permission to transfer \$223,000 from the Free Cash Account to the Highway Truck Account for the purpose of purchasing a 23,000 GVW truck; the article also includes a request to authorize the sale or trade of the Highway Department's 2013 International truck.

**Article 26** seeks to transfer \$82,000 from Free Cash to the FY24 Police Cruiser Account for the purpose of purchasing and equipping a 4WD truck/cruiser with crew cab.

**Article 27** asks that \$25,000 be transferred from Free Cash to the Town Hall Planning Account for costs associated with the planning and/or procurement of a new or renovated Town Hall.

**Articles 28 and 29** are Highway Department-related, a request for \$18,000 from Free Cash for a debris/leaf blower, and \$8,000 from Free Cash toward the remaining balance of a truck purchase that had been authorized at the 2021 Annual Town Meeting.

**Article 30** asks for \$6,000 from Free Cash for consulting services related to post-employment benefits other than pensions for Town employees.

**Article 31** proposes the transfer of \$3,000 from Free Cash to the Assessors GIS Mapping Account for the purpose of implementing a geographic information system.

**Article 32**, another standard article in the yearly warrant, asks that the Town fix limits on the maximum expenditures of the Town's revolving funds.

And finally, **Article 33** seeks to amend the Historic Structure Demolition Pause section of the Town's General Bylaws by reducing the penalty for demolishing a structure without permit from \$500 to \$300.

All in all, according to data from the Town Hall, the total operating budget for the Town for FY24, if all articles pass, will be \$6,477,800 – an increase of \$377,717 (5.8%) over FY23. □

Larry Burke

## CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

The annual town caucus, held on March 28, established the ballot for the town election on May 8. All candidates were invited to submit statements for publication. The statements of those who responded appear below.

### MODERATOR, ONE YEAR:

#### ► BARRY SHAPIRO

I am honored to respectfully seek re-election as your town moderator, a position I have proudly held since 2015. I greatly enjoy the responsibility of presiding at our town meetings and am excited to have introduced state of the art electronic voting at our last annual meeting. Electronic voting is fast and accurate, allows for privacy, and was received with great enthusiasm by voters. I must say, however, that what is most important to me, as I preside at the oldest democratic institution in the United States, is creating a respectful and open atmosphere where everyone can feel comfortable speaking and where people can listen, think, and act in the best interests of our wonderful town. I also salute our dedicated town employees and volunteers who help our meetings run flawlessly. My efforts continue to identify the best practices to run our meetings and I am grateful to my colleagues at the Massachusetts Moderators Association, with whom I regularly exchange ideas and where I recently chaired our Western Regional Meeting, hosting moderators from all over western Massachusetts. I look forward to serving the town again and would be honored to receive your vote. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions. [barryrshapiro@gmail.com](mailto:barryrshapiro@gmail.com); (413) 229-3993.

### SELECT BOARD, THREE YEARS:

#### ► ELIZABETH DEAN

Hello, fellow New Marlborough residents,

My name is Elizabeth (Beth) Dean, and I will be running for the open seat on New Marlborough's Select Board. I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself and share a bit about my interest in town government.

I grew up in New Marlborough and attended the Monterey Kindergarten, New Marlborough Central School, Undermountain Elementary, and am a graduate of Mount Everett High School. I earned a bachelor's degree in social work from Gordon College and returned to the Berkshires after graduating. I met my now husband, and, after living in Lee for eleven years, we returned to New Marlborough, where we now reside with our three young children.

Although I took it for granted at the time, I now have a deep appreciation for having grown up in this

beautiful rural area and for having the opportunity to attend its small schools. It gives me great joy to now provide my children with the same experience.

My family has deep roots in civic service. My grandfather served as a selectman in New Marlborough for thirty-four years and was known to be deeply committed, fair, and well-respected in his role. My father continued this tradition, having served on the Finance Committee for the past nine years. Being part of this community and being invested in its well-being is of paramount importance to me as I raise my family here.

Select Board members must have certain skills and qualities that lend themselves to successful service to the town. In my professional background as Guest Services Manager at Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health, I gained experience creating and managing budgets, as well as hiring, training, and leading teams. I gained invaluable management skills, budgeting skills, and, perhaps most importantly, interpersonal skills that helped me resolve conflict, and provide mutually beneficial outcomes to clients and the organization. My training as a social worker helped me exercise my strong belief that every person has inherent dignity and worth.

It is with great humility that I enter this race. My intention is to approach the role with an abundance of curiosity, openness, and willingness to learn. My desire is to listen to all sides of an issue, to support others who work in service to the town, to help make necessary decisions that benefit our residents, and to help our town continue to thrive.

I respectfully ask for your vote on Election Day, May 8.

In service,  
Elizabeth Dean



**Keep on TRing**  
Pediatric, Sports, Pool,  
Manual Therapy: Cranial Sacral,  
METs, MFR

**Tamera S. Gebo-Wilber P.T.**  
C: (413) 717-7218  
H: (413) 644-9198  
[tamerapt35@gmail.com](mailto:tamerapt35@gmail.com)  
[www.triptoftheberkshires.com](http://www.triptoftheberkshires.com)

**TRI PT.**  
*of the Berkshires*



**TOWN CLERK, THREE YEARS:****► KATHERINE CHRETIEN**

I have been your town clerk, since May 12, 2008. I obtained the Massachusetts Municipal Clerk Certification in October 2013, received my first re-certification in October 2017, and second re-certification in September 2021. I have also obtained certification through the International Institute of Municipal Clerks Association in October 2017. I continue to attend classes through the Massachusetts Town Clerk Association with your support. I have been dedicated to, and have worked for, our Southern Berkshire community while serving as your town clerk. I thank you for your continued support.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE, THREE YEARS:****► EUGENE GRAF**

Hello to friends and neighbors,

I have volunteered my candidacy for the Finance Committee in this year's town election.

My wife and I moved here from Great Barrington in 2015. New Marlborough is a wonderful place to live; this is my second time as a resident. The first span was from 1979 to 1990. Several of my children went to Mount Everett High School, and in the not-too-distant past, two of my granddaughters graduated from there.

I work as service manager for a local business in Sheffield, where I started in 1994. A couple of years ago I began semi-retirement by taking the winters off.

I would be new to the Finance Committee. I am not sure of all its tasks and responsibilities. I believe budget reviews, financial feasibility, and recommendations to the Select Board are central elements. I learn quickly. With the help of present and past Committee members, I believe I can come up to speed rapidly.

I have lots of experience working with people. I listen well, respect different points of view and ideas, look for creative solutions, and work for consensus.

I offer my candidacy solely in the interest of serving the town. The Select Board has a large responsibility to all of us. I hope to be a support to them, town employees, and fellow residents to the best benefit of all.

Thank you for your consideration.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE, THREE YEARS:****► DAWN TRACHTENBERG**

My name is Dawn Trachtenberg and I am running for a seat on the Finance Committee.

My husband and I have owned a home on Brewer Hill Road for the past twenty-four years, and before that on Caulkins Cross Road. We have spent a great deal of time here with our two sons, and eventually planted ourselves here full time.

I have missed volunteering after so many years doing so while our sons attended the Rudolf Steiner School, where I volunteered for sixteen years. I wore many volunteer hats, beginning with class representation to the parent council, then development, and on to finance. After three years on the finance committee, I became the treasurer for three years, and ended my time there as board chair.

I have always been focused on the special role that financial stewardship plays in the building of companies, not-for-profits and communities. I have been an entrepreneur, from building a technology consulting business to starting Staged Ryte ([www.stagedryte.com](http://www.stagedryte.com)) right here in New Marlborough, which has now become the Berkshires' largest home staging company.

In all of the roles I have had, I have been considered diplomatic, a good listener and communicator, a leader, and devoted to a cause. My background has been well rounded, working with committees, volunteers, employers, and employees, as well as clients.


I would very much appreciate the chance to serve our town and request your support. If any of you wish to contact me please feel free to email me ([dawn@stagedryte.com](mailto:dawn@stagedryte.com)) or give me a call at 229-2085. □

**MERCIER STONE**

FINE STONE MASONRY  
BRICK OVEN  
FIREPLACE  
HARDSCAPE  
RESTORATION



508.560.7844  
[MERCIERSTONE.COM](http://MERCIERSTONE.COM)



**SunBug Solar**

**Ned Wilson**

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

**413 854 1453**

[ned.wilson@sunbugsolar.com](mailto:ned.wilson@sunbugsolar.com)

P: 413 884 1000 | F: 413 417 2225  
66 Westfield Industrial Park Road | Westfield, MA | 01085  
[www.sunbugsolar.com](http://www.sunbugsolar.com)

## THE TRUSTEES RENOVATE ENTRANCE TO QUESTING RESERVATION

The Trustees (formerly the Trustees of Reservations) is the largest nonprofit conservation land holder in the commonwealth. With over 45,000 acres in protection throughout Massachusetts, the Trustees are dedicated to preserving and protecting biodiverse landscapes of ecological, scenic and historic importance. The Trustees have two reservations in New Marlborough, Questing on New Marlborough Hill Road and Dry Hill on the Old North Road, in addition to managing hundreds of acres in conservation restric-



Left to right Trustees volunteers and employees Tom Eisenman, Josh Reynolds and Tim Cowles photo by John Schreiber

tion in partnership with private New Marlborough land owners.

Recently, the Trustees have reorganized their inland reservations management team to pay more attention to the maintenance and upkeep of these unique landscapes across the state and in Berkshire County. Throughout the coming year, the Trustees plan on a number of stewardship improvement projects at Questing Reservation, including fencing repairs, trail maintenance and field mowing. □

John Schreiber

## MAILBOX



To the Editor,

Whether or not to merge the Southern Berkshire School District with Berkshire Hills School District has been the work of the 8 Town Regional School District Planning Board for three years. Yet, the *5 Village News* has given it scant attention. The April edition contains a reprint from the *Sheffield Times* which gives the impression that the Planning Board is floundering — after three years, why are there still so many questions? I suspect that most of them are answered or being answered, and that is why I am writing, because I think our town wants and needs to know. The reputation and performance of our schools has a direct influence on our real estate values and whether or not young people want to relocate to live here.

The Planning Board will present a plan laying out how the final plan will be implemented, upon which each of the eight towns will vote. For me, there has been too little discussion about our students. We need our schools to meet their academic, social, and emotional needs. Why did 144 students “choice out” of SBRSD into BHRSD? Certainly, their larger school population offers greater options. Academically, there are too few students at Mount Everett High School for it to provide a wide range of options in the core curriculum. For example, with a junior class of twenty-eight students, how can the school offer general math, advanced algebra, and trigonometry? With so few students, there are limited opportunities for vocational education, socializing, and extracurricular activities.

Every year, school assessments and our taxes rise. As our school population continues to decrease, as the state anticipates it will continue to do, our per-pupil costs will continue to rise. We will be paying more and more per pupil as we offer fewer and fewer educational programs and services. The question is not should we merge, but how we do it. This is our time to determine the very best way to do so for the sake of our children and the future of education in our community. Our schools are the single largest item in our Town budget. Let’s make sure that those expenditures are providing the best education possible.

Louise Yohalem, Mill River



NEW MARLBOROUGH  
**MEETING HOUSE**  
 2023 SEASON



Aug  
**12**

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



Aug  
**26**

**Alison Larkin** Hailed by *The New York Times* as ‘hugely entertaining,’ the internationally acclaimed writer/comedian/audiobook narrator will entertain us hugely, before the London premier of her new solo show, “Grief, the Musical... a Comedy”.



Sept  
**2**

**Simone Dinnerstein** The internationally renowned pianist returns by popular demand.



Sept  
**9**

**Melissa Clark and Madhur Jaffrey** “Tasting the World”: *New York Times* cooking legend Melissa Clark, and cookbook author, writer, and actress Madhur Jaffrey share stories and recipes.



Sept  
**23**

**Wincenc – Nikkanen – Asteriadou: Trio Calore** Carol Wincenc, flute; Kurt Nikkanen (concertmaster, NYC Ballet Orchestra), violin; and Maria Asteriadou, piano, in an afternoon of stirring chamber music.



Oct  
**7**

**Simon Winchester** “A Writer and a Robot Walk Into a Bar...” Acclaimed author Simon Winchester returns to New Marlborough to lead a discussion about the art of writing in the age of artificial intelligence with three distinguished figures in the literary world: Chandra Prasad, who just finished a novel about AI, Francine Prose, the author of twenty novels, and André Bernard, former publisher and Vice President of Harcourt Trade Publications.

PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Tickets available beginning June 1  
[nmmeetinghouse.org](http://nmmeetinghouse.org) | 413.229.5045

*Meeting House*

GALLERY

June 23 thru July 23 **Coming Together** Reception June 23

July 28 thru Aug 27 **Motion / Emotion** Reception July 28

Sept 1 thru Oct 8 **The Annual New Marlborough Artists Show**  
 Reception September 1

## SAVING THE TRIPLEX

By John Valente, President of the Advisory Board, Save the Triplex

You may have heard or read that the Triplex movie theater in Great Barrington is set to close on June 1 if a buyer cannot be found. The Triplex has been an essential part of the fabric of Great Barrington for the past twenty-eight years.

As the former general manager of the Triplex and Beacon Cinemas for many years, I have witnessed many changes during my tenure at those two movie theaters. The commercial movie industry is struggling. Covid broke the moviegoing habit and streaming became the norm. It doesn't take a crystal ball to know that moviegoing in our small market is unlikely to return to pre-pandemic levels. Enter the non-profit cinema movement, the only way to ensure the long-term viability of small independent cinemas.

### How did we get here?

Since opening its doors in 1995, the Triplex has been a landmark community center showing commercial, independent, and foreign films, and hosting the Berkshire International Film Festival. Richard Stanley, the Triplex owner, is hailed for having helped revitalize downtown Great Barrington with the creation of this theater. He envisioned the Triplex as the "heartspace" of Great Barrington and for many years it was precisely that. Last year, Mr. Stanley determined it was time to move on.

As reported by local papers, Mr. Stanley was in initial discussions with an out-of-town, commercial, for-profit company interested in purchasing the Triplex, but the deal could not be completed until a remaining amount was raised through community investment.

Concerned that the theater might close, an emergency community meeting was organized by Great Barrington resident and film lover Nicki Wilson. Dozens of residents came together to vote on whether to help fundraise for the outside, for-profit organization, or to create a non-profit entity to purchase and run the Triplex. The community group at Wilson's meetings concluded that it would better serve area residents to purchase the cinema outright and run it as a nonprofit, allowing complete control to remain locally – and the organization Save the Triplex was born.

### What happens now?

The first step is to buy the cinema and plan for extensive renovations and repairs. Save The Triplex is working to raise the required amount to purchase the cinema and additional sums for renovation and early operations. Upgrades to the cinema are essential for the experience to match the expectations of today's moviegoing public.

The new nonprofit Triplex Cinema, Inc.'s mission is

to provide entertainment and artistic and educational opportunities to the local community and general public. This will be accomplished through cinema, including independent, commercial, foreign language, and classic films, and, of course, continuing as the home of the Berkshire International Film Festival.

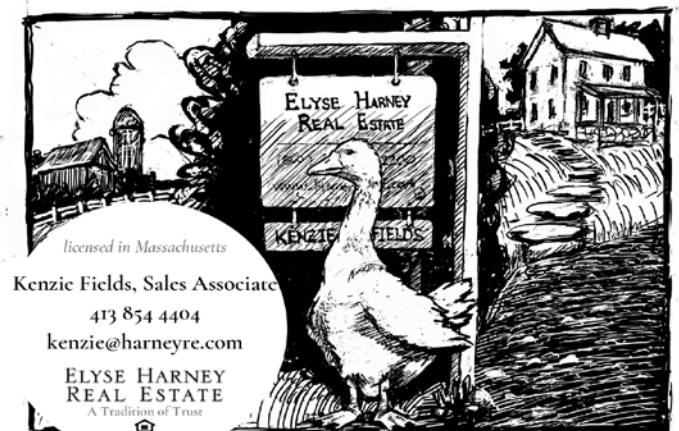
Overall attendance will still be key to the success of the Triplex, but ongoing donations and memberships in the not-for-profit model will allow for expanded community programming while ensuring the long-term life of the theater.

Specifically, you can expect:

- A fully renovated local movie theater that shows an interesting mix of big Hollywood hits, small independent films, standout foreign films, and classic and revival cinema.
- A gathering place where you can not only see a movie but also see friends, enjoy a glass of wine, and make an evening of it — all of the things you love about the Triplex with the community working together to make it even better.
- Programming that engages all ages — commercial and popular films with community collaboration, seasonal screenings, midnight openings, theme-based showings, children and teen-themed events, revival nights of cult classics, films voted on by the community.
- Interactive events in collaboration with local businesses, restaurants, and organizations to engage with the films.

I am confident this plan of action rivals any other. It is a plan that invests our dollars in and for our wider South County community. I hope you'll go to [savethetriplex.org](http://savethetriplex.org) to learn more and, if you can, make a tax-deductible donation to The Triplex Cinema, Inc. □

*John Valente and his wife, Holly are long-time residents of New Marlborough*



## Upcoming: Events Calendar for May and June

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

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

**May 20: Birdwatching at the Goodnow Preserve**, Land Trust event, 8:00 a.m. at Goodnow Preserve parking area

**May 20: "Ask a Muslim Anything"**, 1:00 p.m. at the Southfield Church; presented by Robert Azzi, sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the Southfield Church

**June 3: Vocalis Youth Choir**, directed by Julie Bickford, Southfield Church, 7:00 p.m., free, contributions thankfully accepted

**June 10: Oakes & Smith**, guitar and vocalist presenting their own brand of folk, Southfield Church, 7:00 p.m., free, contributions thankfully accepted

**June 17: The Southfield Church Community Choir**, with pianist Manon Hutton-DeWys, Southfield Church, 7:00 p.m., free, contributions thankfully accepted

**June 23: Coming Together**, the season's first show at the New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery, opening reception 5:00 p.m., artwork on display 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays until July 23.

**June 24: Rhythm and Blues with Wanda Houston and Robert Kelly**, Southfield Church, 7:00 p.m., free, contributions thankfully accepted



## NEW MARLBOROUGH LAND TRUST

### Bird Watching at Goodnow Preserve

Saturday, May 20 8:00 a.m.

Birds are delightful to look at in any season, but never more so than in mid-May when many species from the subtropics are moving through the Berkshires, on their way to their breeding grounds farther north. Please join local birders Greg Ward and Chip Blake for a two-hour bird walk through the Goodnow Preserve. Meet at Goodnow Preserve parking area at 8:00 a.m.

Space is limited, so please email [nmlandtrust@gmail.com](mailto:nmlandtrust@gmail.com) for your reservation.



**About the Goodnow Preserve:** Some 300 acres of open fields, dense forest, and woodland roads comprise the Goodnow Preserve. Edward "Ned" Goodnow donated these 312 acres to the New Marlborough Land Trust. The land holds extraordinary natural resources, prime agricultural soils, hemlock and northern hardwood forest, habitat for rare plants and resident birds and mammals, and perennial and seasonal streams originating from the Umpachene River and Konkapot River.

The Lower Carroll Mill manufactured manila paper from 1875 to 1884. We encourage you to walk this magical land and remember a time when the area was treeless and cattle grazed along the stone walls, and a railroad was promised but was never built.

Every day you can be out and about and notice the cars in the parking area. The Goodnow Preserve has become a haven for families to explore and dogs getting their daily exercise. In the summer you can drive by and smell the freshly cut grass from a local farmer (it is a smell I treasure having grown up on a dairy farm) and you can't help but look towards the sky in hopes that he has enough days of sunny weather to let it process. □

*Silvia Eggenberger, Executive Director*

## NEIGHBORS



**Leon Joseph Eichstedt**, of Southfield, passed away peacefully at the age of ninety-three, surrounded by his family. Leon always maintained a full and active life which included dancing, gardening, and traveling well into his later years. In January, while tending to his daily activity of bird feeding, Leon fell and sustained a hip fracture. He later developed complications as a result of the injury and after a short battle, lost his life on February 18 at Berkshire Medical Center. He leaves his wife Mildred "Millie" of forty-seven years, four children, and four step children.

Leon was born on April 4, 1929, to Emeline and Herbert Eichstedt of Hillsdale, New York, and was raised in Sheffield, along with his eight siblings. At the age of

thirteen he worked odd jobs to supplement his family's income after the untimely death of his father. As a young man Leon joined the Navy where he worked in the Construction Battalion better known as the "Seabees." During this time, he developed a strong passion for the building trades. After his Navy discharge, he pursued a career which led him to become known as one of the area's leading carpenters. Over his four decades of work Leon trained many eager hands who apprenticed by his side, and further, trained their own children and others. He became a legend in this area because of his skills and creativity. His desire to pass those on is a legend in itself.

Leon had numerous friends, hobbies and passions. In his free time, he was famed for being an accomplished hunter. Tales of his prized bow, which he won in a hunting club draw competition, and the 'squirrel and deer with a single arrow' story will be passed down from generation to generation.

Leon leaves a legacy so strong that he'll be remembered and spoken of for generations to come. A memorial service in his honor will be held on Saturday, June 17, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the New Marlborough Meeting House.

**Brad Wagstaff**, former owner and developer of the Old Inn on the Green and Gedney Farm, worked with Leon for many years: Leon Eichstedt was one of the few carpenters/contractors whose skill earned him widespread respect and confidence from New Marlborough settlers over the past fifty years. He contributed extensively to many local homes and properties.

He rebuilt a large section of our fire-ravaged house in New Marlborough village, and was responsible for the renovation of the Lodging Barn at Gedney Farm. Leon was a prominent and well thought of New Marlborough resident.

**Bruno Quinson** and his wife, **Mary Ann**, were thirty-year residents of Hotchkiss Road: Whenever I saw Leon it brought a smile to my face. He was one of the most congenial, friendly, and honest of individuals I have ever met. There never was a task or problem that he couldn't undertake and solve. I thoroughly enjoyed his company and depended on him for all sorts of assistance and help. Even though it has been over thirteen years since Minkie and I have moved from Southfield, whenever we think of Leon we always remember him with great affection."

Leon was terrific. □

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



photo courtesy the Eichstedt family's

Leon Eichstedt



**William E. Morrow**  
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson

**561.707.8779**  
[wmorrow@williampitt.com](mailto:wmorrow@williampitt.com)  
[williammorrow.williampitt.com](http://williammorrow.williampitt.com)

William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty  
306 Main Street, Great Barrington MA  
[williampitt.com](http://williampitt.com)

Each office is independently owned and operated

**LEISURE POOLS**  
DESIGN • CONSTRUCTION • SERVICE

---

**Pools • Spas • Saunas**

208 Norfolk Road  
P.O. Box 112  
Southfield, MA 01259

Tel: {413} 528•1765  
Fax: {413} 528•3039

[www.leisurepools.net](http://www.leisurepools.net)

## SOUTHFIELD'S NEWEST NOVELIST

By Joe Poindexter

Donnaldson Brown does not create fictional characters, she discovers them. Leni O'Hare, the protagonist of Ms. Brown's just-published novel, *Because I Loved You*, escapes the confines of East Texas to pursue a career as an artist in New York City. She seeks self-realization, just as Ms. Brown sought an understanding of Leni. "If I try to interfere too soon," she says of her first work of fiction, "It doesn't work. I follow this girl [Leni]. I ask, what is she running from? Where is she going?" Her novel began to take shape as she paid attention to the answers that ensued.

Ms. Brown grew up in Greenwich, Connecticut, went to college on the West Coast (spending part of a semester in France and at Trinity University College in Dublin), earned a law degree in New York City, and practiced law until she realized it was not what she wanted as her life work. Remaining in New York City, she ran the cinema production office of actor Robert Redford. And she wrote movie scripts, one of which came close to being produced. She and her husband (now deceased) moved to the Park Slope area of Brooklyn, had a son, Lyle (now twenty-five), and in 2001 bought a place in Southfield.

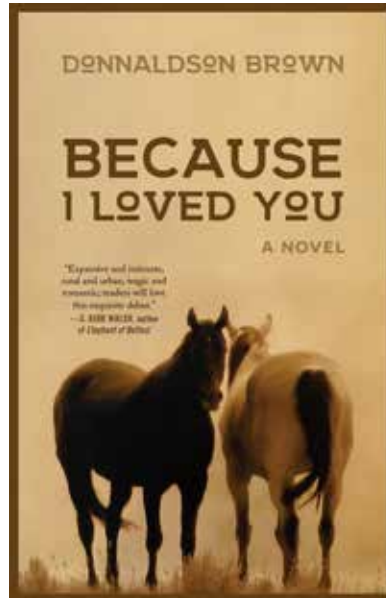
While spending most of her time in Southfield, Ms. Brown continued to write. Her play, *Spell Breaking*, was produced by the Berkshire Theater Group in 2015. She has also developed meditation and yoga practices and spends one or two days a week with the Equus Effect, a non-profit treatment center based in Sharon, Connecticut, that uses contact with horses to help combat veterans and emergency responders allay the symptoms of post-traumatic-stress disorder. Does it work? Ms. Brown cites one Viet Nam vet, who said after his third day at the center, "For the first time in forty-seven years, I slept through the night."

She began *Because I Loved You* in 2011, took a break, returned to it in 2017, and finished the novel in 2019. Then came the pandemic and, with the publishing industry in disarray, difficulty in getting a serious reading of her book. Last year, She Writes Press agreed to take the novel. A so-called hybrid publishing house, She Writes Press, dedicated to the work of women authors, shares production costs with its writers but provides a full array of distribution outlets and grants

its writers a more generous percentage of royalties than traditional houses. The official publication date was April 5.


Donnaldson Brown is now at work on a second novel, this one, set in southern Vermont, about a man, in the midst of his grief over having lost his partner, being handed the care of his seven-year-old niece. Again, the writing is a process of discovery. The first draft, she says, "involved telling the story to myself; the second, going deeper into the characters." The third draft, now underway, will "craft" the story so that what Ms. Brown has learned about its characters will be communicated to others. "It's taken many years for me to truly appreciate and trust that giving my characters free rein at the outset is, more often than not, the way to a story's heart," she wrote in address to other writers. "And there'll be time to rewrite. And rewrite again. And again."

One other thing: that extra "n." Named after her grandfather Donaldson Brown, Ms. Brown's given name didn't exactly have a feminine ring to it, so when she was a girl, it became Donna. As she grew older, however, she didn't feel like a Donna either, so it was back to the original — except with the retention of both of Donna's n's. Just as she remains alert as the motivations of her fictional characters reveal themselves, Donnaldson Brown seems keen on venturing into the wilderness of her own identity. □



The cover of Donnaldson Brown's novel

(413) 229-2544  
Free Estimates



Roofing  
Tiling  
Decks  
Porches  
Sheet Rocking  
Flooring  
Additions  
Odd Jobs

**Herbert W. Eichstedt III**  
**Jason W. Eichstedt**

## OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

photo by Larry Burke



*A hungry bear on its way to grab some chicken dinner*

has been quite active: “Don and Eugene [Cleary] saw an osprey down at the Konkapot on Easter Sunday. I’ve seen a pair of pileated woodpeckers along the Clayton Mill River Road near our house. The robins have been coming to eat the worms along with our regulars – bluebirds, titmice, chickadees, junkos, red-bellied woodpeckers and several others. The red-winged black birds have been invading, and the male goldfinches are almost all yellow now.”

photo by Larry Burke



*A flicker and a robin, seemingly contemplating something*

photo by Graham Frank



The alarm clocks in bear dens all over New Marlborough had clearly gone off by the second week in April. Bird feeders became bear feeders. Scott and Sandra Walker have video recordings of a large bear patrolling around their house just outside of Hartsville. Larry Burke’s trail camera caught a glimpse of the bear that trashed his chicken coop on April 9, and Liz Goodman sent in a shot of a bear she and her husband Don Cook have come to know. She writes, “We’ve been visited by a two-year-old bear a few times. This is a bear we’ve been watching since he/she was a baby. We finally brought the seed feeder inside for good and only feed the birds dehydrated meal worms now.”

Liz added that the bird life in Clayton has been quite active: “Don and Eugene [Cleary] saw an osprey down at the Konkapot on Easter Sunday. I’ve seen a pair of pileated woodpeckers along the Clayton Mill River Road near our house. The robins have been coming to eat the worms along with our regulars – bluebirds, titmice, chickadees, junkos, red-bellied woodpeckers and several others. The red-winged black birds have been invading, and the male goldfinches are almost all yellow now.”

Ann Getsinger, who lives midway between Hartsville and New Marlborough Village, wrote, “I’m swimming in wildlife here, just no exceptional stories. Chickadees eating from my hand, red squirrel, grey squirrels, deer, so many birds, saw a hawk flying with snake in beak, woodchuck under the shed, arrival of buzzards, arrival of phoebes, a porcupine shredded both pear trees, bluebirds choosing nest box... and I’m just getting rolling!

Larry Burke has observed a number of yellow-shafted northern flickers foraging in the backyard, presumably on the hunt for their favorite food, ants. Though they are in the woodpecker family, they much prefer drilling into the ground rather than trees. They are handsomely marked birds, darkly striped and spotted through the body, with a prominent black breast plate and a red splash at the nape of the neck. They are also a very cautious bird, one that will take off at the least threat, so what one mostly sees of flickers is their white rump as they fly away!

In the evenings during the warm spell in mid-April, the call of the American woodcock, a nasal *peent* sound, was in the air. Walking along the edge of a field at dusk on April 14, Larry came within a few feet of a well-camouflaged woodcock which may have been nesting nearby.

This is the best time of year to find white-tailed deer antler drops, and Graham Frank sent in a shot of a good good boy who found his very own. □

Compiled by Larry Burke;

send your sightings to him at [larryjburke@gmail.com](mailto:larryjburke@gmail.com)

*Happiness is a found antler*



*Another hungry bear, about to find the bird feeders have been removed*

photo by Liz Goodman



# RECIPE OF THE MONTH

This delicious side dish elevates a weeknight meal. What's also appealing about it, is that it's simple and easy to prepare. ENJOY!

Marjorie Shapiro



photo by Barry Shapiro

## Easy Crispy Parmesan Potatoes

Serves: 4 Time: about ½ hour

### Ingredients

- 4 small potatoes (russets or Yukon gold)
- 4 tbsp melted butter
- 1/3 cup grated parmesan cheese
- ½ tsp onion powder
- ½ tsp paprika

- 1 tsp salt
- Ground pepper to taste
- Chopped parsley

### Directions

- Preheat oven to 425 degrees.
- Wash the potatoes.
- Slice the potatoes in half.
- Using a sharp knife, carefully score each potato on the inside surface.
- Pour the melted butter, parmesan cheese, onion powder, paprika, salt and pepper into a baking dish. Stir to thoroughly mix and coat the bottom of the baking dish.
- Place the potato halves flat side down in the butter parmesan mixture.
- Bake for 25 minutes.
- Sprinkle with parsley and serve.

nm5vn.org



Local and organic fresh greens, produce, eggs, meats, milk, and shelves of groceries await at the newly reopened store.

Stop by and say hello!

Open daily from 8 AM to 6 PM

shop@themillrivergeneralstore.com 413-229-2663

## COOK BUILDERS

*Superb Craftsmanship*

All Phases of Building & Remodeling  
New Home Construction, Additions & Renovations

CALL TODAY: (413) 229-2793

Serving the Tri-State area for over 45 years

# THE LOG

## Police Department (selected entries)

- Mar. 1 8:59 a.m. Verizon is notified after a resident reports a telephone wire down in front of her Clayton Mill River Road residence.
- Mar. 3 12:47 p.m. A Southfield resident reports that his tractor was sold and the proceeds pocketed by a relative.
- Mar. 5 9:52 a.m. A Southfield resident complains of a neighbor's dog running loose, off-property and off-leash.
- Mar. 7 5:00 p.m. A Mill River village resident reports the attempted theft of a cover to his pickup truck.
- 6:06 p.m. A tow is ordered for vehicle stopped for speeding, operated by a driver with a suspended license.
- Mar. 8 11:26 a.m. An officer assists a caller locked out of their Mill River residence,
- 4:07 p.m. A caller reports a hawk immobilized for a few hours and apparently injured in Southfield village, but calls back at 5:40 p.m. to say that the bird had revived itself and flown off.
- Mar. 10 4:27 p.m. The Department assists a Clayton resident in contacting Verizon to re-install a downed telephone line.
- 7:00 p.m. National Grid is alerted to wires on Clayton Mill River Road emitting a hissing sound.
- Mar. 12 9:59 p.m. A Clayton resident reports that her pet dog has run off and is missing.
- Mar. 13 5:41 p.m. A caller reports that her cat has been missing from her Hartsville residence since morning.
- Mar. 14 8:48 a.m. A caller reports cows loose on Brewer Hill Road.
- 9:31 a.m. The Highway Department is alerted to the potential hazard of a split tree that is overhanging Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- 10:28 a.m. National Grid is notified of a tree on wires on Hayes Hill Road.
- 10:32 a.m. National Grid is notified of trees on wires on Sisson Hill, Norfolk, and East Hill Roads.
- 12:25 p.m. Verizon is alerted to a downed telephone line to a Hartsville residence on Mill River Great Barrington Road.
- 4:08 p.m. A falling tree overhangs Hotchkiss Road.
- 4:35 p.m. National Grid is notified of a tree on wires on Canaan Southfield Road.
- 6:07 p.m. National Grid is notified of a tree on wires on Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road.
- 8:57 p.m. National Grid is notified of an electrical outage after a line hit by a tree on Sisson Hill Road catches fire.
- 11:35 p.m. A caller reports multiple blockages from downed trees on Norfolk Road, starting in Southfield village.
- Mar. 15 9:29 a.m. National Grid advised of a broken utility pole on Brewer Branch Road.
- 11:05 a.m. National Grid notified on a tree on wires on Shunpike Road.
- log entires throughout the day:  
 Rhoades and Bailey Road  
 Canaan Southfield Road  
 New Marlborough Branch Road  
 Idle Hour Road  
 Hartsville Mill River Road  
 Canaan Valley Road  
 Shunpike Road  
 Clayton Mill River Road  
 East Hill and Norfolk Roads  
 Hillingdon Road  
 Keyes Hill Road  
 Hillside Avenue.
- 9:14 p.m. National Grid notified of tree on wires at the intersection of East Hill and Stratford Roads.
- Mar. 16 9:30 a.m. Wires down on Knight Road.
- 11:25 a.m. Caller reports downed trees blocking his egress in either direction on Hotchkiss Road.
- 1:02 p.m. Downed tree and wires block North Road.
- 7:58 p.m. Tree blocking New Marlborough Hill Road.
- Mar. 17 4:31 p.m. Verizon and National Grid notified of wires down on South Sandisfield Road.
- Mar. 18 2:41 p.m. Tree down on Old County Road.
- Mar. 21 9:29 a.m. Wires down on North Road, with the guide wire anchor to a utili-

ty pole ripped from the ground.

Mar. 22 11:48 a.m. An officer assists in freeing a car stuck in its driveway on New Marlborough Hill Road.

12:42 p.m. An officer reports low-hanging wires and partially dislodged guide wire anchors on Mill River Southfield Road.

8:36 p.m. An officer helps resolve a dispute at a Hartsville residence.

Mar. 23 12:18 p.m. Verizon notified after a caller reports phone wires down next to his Cross

Road to Canaan Valley Road residence.

12:38 p.m. A Clayton resident complains of a neighbor's dog loose on his property (and repeats the charge a day later).

Mar. 25 3:52 p.m. An officer assists a driver who has slid off South Sandisfield Road. □

*Graham Frank, Chief of Police*

Year to date, the Police Department has logged 510 calls, investigated four incidents, made thirteen arrests, issued ninety-seven citations, and responded to three serious motor vehicle accidents.

## FIRE AND RESCUE

Mar. 31 1:45 p.m. Clayton Mill River Road Fire Alarm

Mar. 4 9:12 p.m. East Hill Road Fire Alarm

Mar. 14 5:54 p.m. Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call

Mar. 15 9:12 a.m. Mutual Aid to Sandisfield Medical Call

Mar. 15 1:18 p.m. Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call

Mar. 17 9:59 a.m. Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call

Mar. 18 11:58 p.m. Hayes Hill Road Chimney Fire

Mar. 29 2:36 p.m. New Marlborough Hill Road Fire Alarm

Mar. 30 11:53 a.m. Mutual Aid to Sheffield Medical Call

Calls, first quarter, 2023: forty-three (seventeen fewer than in the same period last year) □

*Fire Company President David Smith*



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

MA Lic #20390 CT Lic #4485  
MA HIC #137599 CT HIC #578070

New Construction • Remodeling • Siding • Windows • Interior Finishes  
Decks & Porches • Sunrooms • Kitchens & Bathrooms • Roofs

**(413) 229-8450 | www.reinerwhiteandsons.com**



**WEBSTER**  
design landscape horticulture

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



new construction  
renovation  
interior design  
kitchen and bath

**DESIGN First**  
Alexandra Eidschenk  
[designfirstberkshires.com](http://designfirstberkshires.com) 917.647.8329

## THE SCHOOL REPORT

**A**t the fourth Early College Community Meeting April 4, Early College Internship Coordinator Lindy Marcel presented the results of the fall opening of the Mount Everett Early College with Bard College at Simon's Rock. She reported that the goal of the wrap-around program to introduce all students in grades eight through twelve to the college experience has been met. All eighth, ninth, and tenth graders had at least two sample college classes taught by Bard faculty, and the ninth and tenth graders have visited the college to participate in learning experiences with students there. She reported that since last spring fifty-five juniors and seniors have taken at least one college course held at Mount Everett and earned three college credits. Twenty students have taken two courses, so over all, 220 free credits have been earned. The ultimate goal is for all students to earn three credits before graduation. With the help of four student participants, she conducted a survey to assess student opinion about the program: 75 percent thought every student can benefit from taking a college course; 89 percent said their experience showed them that they are capable of going to college if they choose; and 80 percent said they enjoyed the experience. The administration is pleased with this response to the first year of implementation.

On April 7 Superintendent Beth Regulbuto announced that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) had granted Mount Everett the designation which enables it to apply to DESE for up to \$100,000 per year for Innovative Career Pathways in Advanced Manufacturing and Information Technology, a rigorous sequential career vocational program which will include high school and college courses and 100-hour internships with area employers. Ms. Marcel is thrilled with this opportunity for students to see if these compelling fields match their

interests. She said, "The Innovation Center in Pittsfield and Plaskolite in Sheffield will be key partners." She went on to explain, "We can customize our career vocational approach based on the interests of our students. I have interviewed all of the rising seniors about their aspirations and am in the process of arranging for their internships with local professionals in those fields." Students will be meeting local professionals by attending the Future Fair offered by Bard College at Simon's Rock on April 28 and a Career Fair at Mount Everett May 19. Professionals from all fields are welcome to present on May 19. Contact [lmarcel@sbrsd.org](mailto:lmarcel@sbrsd.org).

Since national studies have shown that teachers, students, and families are still recovering from the events of the past two years, the District has increased its focus on student, staff, and family social-emotional and behavioral health. With a DESE grant of \$179,000 entitled Supporting Students' Social Emotional Learning, Behavioral & Mental Health, and Wellness, the Director of Student Services Sandra Hubbard has implemented new programs. She explained, "These funds have enabled us to determine which students are suffering by using a universal mental health screening program across the district. Additional mental health professionals have been hired to provide increased services as needed. Teachers have received professional development in proven strategies that can help students feel more comfortable in the classroom and better understand their emotions. Through partnerships with community-based mental health agencies and providers, we established a Warm Line that any community member can call to get advice from a mental health professional. Call 413-717-8190 between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday."

Another outcome of the pandemic-related disrupt-



# ACRES

ALDEN COUNTRY REAL ESTATE SERVICES

DANIEL L. ALDEN, TRANSACTIONAL BROKER  
413-335-9300

PO Box 132, Mill River, MA 01244

[dan@berkshireacres.com](mailto:dan@berkshireacres.com) [berkshireacres.com](http://berkshireacres.com)

RESIDENTIAL + LAND + COMMERCIAL

# MAHAIWE CHIROPRACTIC & HEALTH SERVICES

*Dr. Lawrence Bronstein*

*Chiropractor, Board Certified Nutritionist*

73 Main Street #81

PO Box 1519

Sheffield, MA 01257

(413) 248-1366

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

tion has been serious student learning loss. The first priority of the District has been to improve student achievement in mathematics and English language arts. Director of Instruction, Curriculum, & Professional Development Julie Dolan has been working with groups of teachers from these specialties to purchase new curricular materials with grants awarded by the state. She reported on the progress: "At the beginning of the '22-'23 school year middleschool grades six, seven, and eight implemented a new high quality reading program, Into to Literature. The strength of this approach is that it includes authentic literature with diverse, age-appropriate, and culturally-relevant texts compelling for students. By testing students regularly, we have seen that from the beginning of the school year to January there has been a 12 percent increase of students scoring on or above grade level." Similarly, teachers have chosen to add Intro to Literature for grades three through five and a program called Wit & Wisdom for Kindergarten to grade two

next year. These programs also focus on reading that is engaging and relevant to today's students." She mentioned that the mathematics teachers are now in the second year of implementation of the i-Ready math program. Last year's regular testing of students in grades three through eight showed the program produced large gains in math skills, which has continued into this year.

In a recent interview Dr. Regulbuto expressed her pleasure in seeing the academic progress that students are making. She also commented on the expansion of the options for students after school hours, saying, "We have a wide variety of activities that engages 90 percent of our students. Putting the late buses back into the budget made them accessible to all interested students." Her final comments were about the continued success of the expanded pre-Kindergarten program now in its second year. "At this early date, we already have fifty children registered, and it is likely that all seventy slots will be filled this year." □

**Thank You to Our Contributors:**

Pat Merrill Maloney; Judith Papachristou; Leonard & Hannah Golub;  
Caroline Chase; Elizabeth and Eugene Resenberg



**Call today to join our family  
new customers welcome**

**KIMBALL  
FUEL**

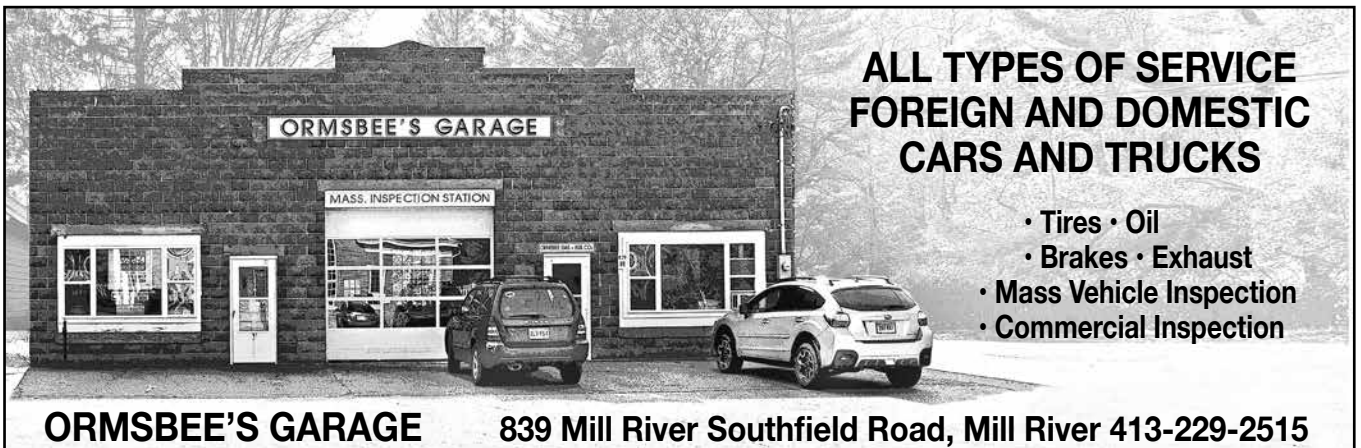
FUEL OIL • PROPANE • BIO FUEL  
• SERVICE & INSTALLATION

**168 Main Street Great Barrington 413-528-1410**



**BILMAR**  
VETERINARY SERVICES

☎ 413-528-1180    ✉ Hello@BilmarVet.com    📍 776 Main Street  
☎ 413-528-1763    🌐 BilmarVet.com    Great Barrington, MA 01230



**ORMSBEE'S GARAGE**

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

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

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

# THE NEW MARLBOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

## New Aquisitions

### Adult Fiction

*Stealing*, by Margaret Verble  
*The Fourth Enemy*, by Anne Perry  
*The Trackers*, by Charles Frazier  
*Fleishman Is in Trouble*, by Taffy Brodesser-Akner

### Adult Nonfiction

*Spring Rain: A Life Lived in Gardens*, by Marc Hamer

### Children's Fiction

*Big Tree*, by Brian Selznick  
*Whale Done*, by Stuart Gibbs  
*Pig the Pug*, by Aaron Blabey  
*Gustave Is Missing: A Tale of Friendship and Bravery*, by Andrea Zuill

### Children's Nonfiction

*Nature's Treasures of North America*,  
 by Alison Limentani



### LIBRARY HOURS

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

## ASK A MUSLIM ANYTHING

May 20 at 1:00 p.m.

at the Southfield Church 413-229-6668

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library and the Southfield Church



## Spring Egg Hunt

After two years of Covid restrictions, the New Marlborough Library was able once again to hold its annual Spring Egg Hunt, on April 8 at the New Marlborough Central School. Thirty children and their parents and grandparents awaited the appearance of the Easter Bunny who arrived on the bed of a pickup truck! Everyone had a great time - especially the Bunny!!



photos by Deb O'Brien

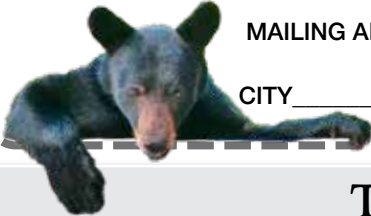
**Please fill in the form and send with your contribution to:  
New Marlborough 5 Village News  
P.O. Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259**

**YES, I WANT THE *New Marlborough 5 Village News* TO CONTINUE!  
HERE IS A TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION OF \$\_\_\_\_\_ (payable to NM5VN)**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



### Town Times

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

### Transfer Station Hours:

Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.  
 Saturday: 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.  
 Sunday: 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

### PERMITS ARE DUE JULY 1

and can be purchased for \$225 by mail or online at [www.newmarlborough.gov](http://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, Isabella Kemp, Michele McAuley, Steven Nester, Joe Poindexter, Peter Schuyten, Barry Shapiro, Marjorie Shapiro, Rachel Perera Weingeist.

### NM5VN Board of Directors

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

### New Marlborough 5 Village News

appears monthly,  
 also online at

[www.nm5vn.org](http://www.nm5vn.org)

The next issue will be dated June 2023.

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](mailto:5villagenews@gmail.com)

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

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

CHANGE SERVICE  
REQUESTED

## SERVICE SECTOR 5/23

- **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](mailto:chris@design-planning.com).
- **Fine Jewelry:** Designers and manufacturers; custom orders/commissions welcome; expert repairs. 45 years experience. Sachs Reisman, Inc. 25 Maple Ave., Sheffield (413) 229-0050
- **One call does it all!:** Vinyl siding cleaning; pressure washing; deck refinishing; floors refinished; window washing; odd landscape jobs; all odd jobs. David Goewey, (413) 229-2787
- **Susan M. Smith:** Attorney At Law; Concentrating in the areas of Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Elder Law, Real Estate and Zoning Matters. [ssmithlaw@barrington-lawoffice.com](mailto:ssmithlaw@barrington-lawoffice.com) or (413) 528-4300
- **Reiner White & Sons, Inc:** A family-run general contractor business serving the MA and CT area since 1988 -new construction, additions, remodeling, and more. Licensed and insured. Call (413) 229-8450 for free consultation.

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