



New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

The Way We Were

by Joe Poindexter

Reminiscences of long-time residents of New Marlborough.
This month:

Beverly Litchfield

The Southfield of Beverly Litchfield's (nee Stevens) childhood was both simpler and more complex than it is today. There were almost no weekenders and few TV sets, and on a busy day two or three cars would pass through town (on a quiet day, none). But there was also a well-attended church, a thriving general store, and a library. In 1953, when Beverly was ten, gas cost 29 cents a gallon, and you didn't need much of it: friends, games, and activities were all within walking distance.

There were fishing contests, talent shows (Beverly once won first prize pantomiming the Rosemary Clooney hit, "Botch a Me," – "I was a real ham"), and even a first "marriage." Beverly points to a photo taken when she was eight that shows her standing next to her main squeeze at the time, Paul (Danny) Ranoldi, both of them in their wedding regalia. All the kids in town attended.

The neighborhood ballgames were co-ed, but Beverly preferred riding. She learned on a pair of horses, Wiffle and Waffle, acquired from Peggy Phillips. And then one birthday, her father took her on a visit to Sandisfield. "As we were leaving, he said, 'I think you have something you might want to take home from here.' And it was a beautiful black horse named Tania. It was quite a thrill."

She often rode with Anita Fleury (nee Kaufman). "We chit-chatted about the boys. Well, we just wondered if someday they might look at us instead of the horses."

She and her sister, Marilyn, were each responsible for caring for a cow, including the milking. The experience didn't take. An agri-



photo by Joe Poindexter



Beverly, clockwise from left: aboard Tania, in her prom dress, and today. Horse and prom dress photos courtesy of Beverly Litchfield

cultural curriculum at Mount Everett, where Beverly went to high

school, was offered only to boys, but that didn't bother her: "I knew all I needed to know about farming and that was that I didn't want to be a farmer," she says. Her mother, she adds, grew up on a farm, where the empty grain bags were bleached, dyed, and recycled into clothing.

Beverly learned to drive on her grandfather's farm when she was eleven or twelve. But not on public roads, right? she is asked. "Well, let's say that," she says, with a quick little laugh that punctuates much of her story telling. "Nobody paid much attention to how old you were."

Along with a freedom to be out and about without parental guidance, there was also, in school at least, a firm code of conduct – and more firmly enforced than would be condoned by today's pedagogical standards. According to Beverly, teachers at New Marlborough Central had zero tolerance for high jinks. "They were strict – and not just strict but mean. They would grab your hair and bang your head on the table or slap your knuckles with a ruler." she recalls. The provocation? "Just look cross-eyed. It depended on what kind of mood they were in."

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Beverly Litchfield, continued from page 1

Perhaps the harsh discipline forged a common bond. At any rate, Beverly grew up in a close-knit community, in which events such as the Saturday church suppers were multi-generational affairs. The boys set up the chairs and the girls provided bouquets, assembled from Queen Anne's lace dipped in food coloring. "We could make flower arrangements for all the tables – just out of Queen Anne's lace, but everyone in a different color," she recalls.

"It was a very interesting, fun, down-to-earth place to live," says Beverly "I do think it's still a wonderful place. Even though it's different, it's still wonderful. I would never want to live anyplace else." □

Danny Ranoldi and Beverly in their "wedding" attire.



THE 2013 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

by Peter Schuyten

This year's Annual Town Meeting, gaveled to order by moderator Scott Farrell a little after 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 6, started off in routine, almost predictable fashion. There was the Pledge of Allegiance, the dispensing of the formal reading of the Warrant, and the approval without comment of the first nine articles on the warrant.

Article 10, which asked the voters to approve the salaries of elected Town officials, drew the evening's first question, from former Tax Collector Bill Garrett, wanting to know why additional clerical duties were apparently being given to the Town Clerk as evidenced by an \$8,936 increase in her salary to cover extra hours. Not so, responded Administrative Assistant Mike Skorput, who explained that he has actually had to reduce the amount of time she spends on clerical work "to almost zero" so that she can keep up with her duties as town clerk, which have been expanding for several years as a result of the state's Open Meeting Law and other changes. Instead, he has had to shift all of her clerical duties to the Board's administrative secretary, a position created and approved by the voters at last year's Annual Meeting. And with that the article was passed with one dissenting vote.

A proposal to create an assistant treasurer position with a \$5,200 salary was included under Article 12, covering salaries and expenses for Town government, prompting a second question from Mr. Garrett, who wanted to know why the position was being created at all when "the treasurer has only three posted hours of work per week." But when Selectman Tara White explained that there needed to be someone authorized "to fill in when Treasurer Pat Mielke is away," and that the salary would only be paid if and when an assistant treasurer was needed, the article passed unanimously.

Article 15 asking voter approval of \$2,404,025 to cover New Marlborough's share of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District's budget, drew two questions from residents wanting more clarity on the district's transportation costs in light of declining school enrollments. District Business Manager Bruce Turner, who was in attendance, replied that the School Committee

had formed a subcommittee to look into the question of school transportation and transportation costs, and with that the article was approved unanimously.

Article 20, dealing with the Town's debt and interest payments, elicited a question from Barbara Marchione about the status of the reimbursement due the Town under a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant used to fund the Hatchery Road repairs several years ago. Mr. Skorput explained that the paperwork for the \$112,000 reimbursement had been filed last August and that it would, when received, go into the general fund and be available to the Town as free cash. In the meantime, he said he would check with Treasurer Mielke to determine the status of the reimbursement, and the article was passed without further comment.

And so it proceeded with the first 31 of 33 articles on the warrant, receiving voter approval with no serious challenges. Even Article 24, a proposal to spend \$560,000 on a new fire truck, which the voters had defeated last year, was approved 65 to 12 after a brief explanation by Interim Fire Chief Chuck Loring of the vehicle's high cost. (That endorsement, however, was effectively overturned, when the voters soundly defeated Question 2 on the ballot at the Annual Town Election a week later exempting the fire truck expenditure from the requirements of Proposition 2 ½. See story below.)

But all of that proved to be the calm before the storm over Article 32, a proposal allowing the Town to borrow up to \$680,000 to repair three of its ailing bridges. The first to speak in opposition was Ms. Marchione, a former selectman, who made a motion to table the article, saying: "I have an issue with this town paying for bridges." She went on to explain that there is funding available at both the state and federal level, "that we all pay for with our tax dollars," including an accelerated bridge program put in place by Governor Duval Patrick, and that the Town shouldn't be "in the business of building bridges." The Town of Becket, she said, is receiving funding "to replace five bridges this year," and concluded by saying, "So we will get these bridges." Dan Litchfield, also a former selectman, seconded Ms. Marchione, saying "the idea

Annual Town Meeting, continued from page 2

that we need to rush this is just ludicrous.”

After the motion to table the article was defeated, Robin Tost asked how long the Town would have to wait for state funding: “I’ve read in the paper it could be ten years,” she said. Selectman White replied that according to the latest update from the state, it would be 2017 at the earliest before funding is available for Hadsell Street and 2018 for the Southfield bridge, “and there’s no guarantee,” she said, “that those dates will stand.”

Selectman Net Yohalem then stepped to the podium “to clear up some misstatements and lack of knowledge” about the funding request. He explained that two of the eight bridges that are in trouble, representing nearly \$1.6 million in funding, are now on the state’s accelerated bridge list. He said the Town received a \$500,000 MassWorks grant to fund the replacement of the Canaan Southfield Road bridge. He added that a fourth bridge on Lumbert Cross Road has undergone temporary repairs by the Highway Department and that a fifth, the Keyes Hill Road bridge, will be handled in similar fashion. That leaves just three bridges, and of those, he said, quoting from a letter from the state Department of Transportation, the Clayton Mill River Road bridge, with a \$450,000 price tag, is explicitly not eligible for state or federal funding.

The discussion went on for nearly an hour, with

ELECTION RESULTS

Voters elected ten officials to Town offices, but only two races were contested. In the election for a three-year term to the Board of Selectmen, Michele Shalaby outpolled incumbent Larry Davis by a margin of two to one, capturing 229 of the 341 votes cast (there was no visible evidence that Mr. Davis campaigned for his reelection). He was also narrowly defeated to be returned as tree warden, that post going to Peter Marks by a six-vote margin.

The ballot contained four questions relating to financing capital equipment purchases outside the 2 1/2 percent ceiling on tax increases: Three were approved: \$86,000 for a new Highway Department truck; \$78,000



Photo by Jane Burke

Barbara Marchione contributing her comments on the article relating to the repair of bridges.

others stepping up to the microphone in support of the proposal, but in the end it was to no avail. When the vote was finally tallied, the Article 32 went down to defeat 41 votes against versus 38 votes for, a margin that was closer than it seemed since a two-thirds majority, or in this case 53 votes in favor, is required to pass a measure involving Town borrowing.

It was a stunning setback for the Selectmen. Yet, it seems likely the Board will have to go back to the voters at a Special Town Meeting in the near future to request approval of at least part of that funding after a state inspection revealed that the Clayton Mill River Road bridge is deteriorating rapidly and may have to be closed down or reduced to a single lane. □

for a loader; and \$680,000 for bridge repairs. The request for \$560,000 to replace an aging Fire Department truck, was turned down by a margin of 28 votes of the 332 cast on this question.

The candidates voted into office were: Scott Farrell, moderator, Marsha Pshenishny, assessor; Charles Parton and Judith Hattendorf, Planning Board; David Herrick and Prudence Spaulding, Finance Committee; Tammi Palmer, cemetery commissioner; and Brian Mikesell, library trustee.

Of the town’s 968 registered voters, 347 turned out to vote. □

Joe Poindexter



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BOARD OF SELECTMEN



April 22: With all three members present, the Board met with Chuck Loring in a pre-meeting work session to discuss the position of interim fire chief. Mr. Loring had been offered the job by the Board in the wake of Fire Chief Peter Scala's abrupt retirement but had said he wanted time to think it over. Before giving his answer, he asked the Board whether the Town would consider hiring a paid inspector to handle fire department inspections, since the inspections tend to be time consuming and typically have to be done during the day when most firemen are working. The Selectmen indicated they would consider it, noting that the inspection fees could cover at least part of a paid inspector's salary. Then with that out of the way, **Mr. Loring said he would be willing to take on the chief's job at least until a new chief was appointed at the end of June.**

The Board then went into regular session and met with Ismail and Fern Khan who had sent a letter to the Board about an erosion problem on their property caused by excessive drainage from Cagney Hill Road. After discussing various options, the Board decided that an appropriate first step would be for the Khans to call upon the contractor who originally installed the blacktop apron at the top of their driveway to raise it a couple of inches and level it out so the water would flow down the road instead of down their driveway. The Board also met with Sara Kiesel of Mill River Great Barrington Road, who had sent a similar letter to the Board about her driveway, but in this case the Selectmen determined the Highway Department would provide the fix since the problem had been caused by previous road work done by the Town.

The Board granted a permit to Tom Brazie to install a two-by-three-foot sign reading "Idle Hour Farm" next to his driveway at 727 South Sandisfield Road.

Following up on a suggestion he had made earlier in the meeting, Mr. Yohalem directed Administrative Assistant Mike Skorput to ask Town Counsel Jeremiah Pollard to draft an employment contract between the Town and interim Fire Chief Chuck Loring that could be used as a template for similar contracts with other Town department heads. The contract would, in Mr. Yohalem's words, "lay out what the duties are and have either a fifteen- or thirty-day mutual termination clause." Mr. Yohalem also asked Mr. Skorput to send a letter to Barbara Marchione, asking her to let the Board know whether she intends to resign as Emergency Management Director, as she had previously indicated, and what the effective date would be.

Peter Schuyten

April 29: With Mr. Yohalem and Tara White in attendance, the Board acknowledged the retirement of Assistant Deputy Fire Chief Todd Riiska and agreed to accept his fire department expense vouchers upon receipt of a letter from him clarifying his position and responsibilities within the department. Chuck Loring, presently deputy fire chief, was appointed interim chief until June 30, 2013, at which time a new chief would be appointed.

The selectmen took note of the fact that fire department fees for inspections vary considerably – from \$25 for a liquid propane gas tank inspection to \$50 for in-ground tank removal and smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. They deferred to a full meeting of the board consideration of establishing a single fee for all inspections.

Several months ago the Board met with a representative of Blackboard Connect to discuss installation of a reverse service which, when implemented, can be used to disseminate time-sensitive information such as severe weather warnings, road closings, and other emergencies to town residents and key Town personnel. **Barbara Marchione, present at the meeting in her role as emergency management director, pointed out that to date this program had not progressed because of the Town's failure to provide Blackboard Connect with the names of departments and persons to be contacted.** The Board instructed Administrative Assistant Michael Skorput to communicate with the provider to "get the ball rolling."

reported by Owen O. Hoberman

May 6: With all three members present, the Board convened at 6:00 p.m. rather than 6:30, with most of the session devoted to preparing for the Annual Town Meeting coming up at 7:00 p.m. In other business, the Board thanked retiring Highway Superintendent Peter Marks for his three and half years of service. "I think the three of us agree you've done a wonderful job and we're sorry to lose you," Mr. Yohalem said. He also asked Mr. Marks whether he would be willing to stay on for up to four weeks beyond his May 31 retirement date in the event the Board hasn't been able to find a replacement by then. Mr. Marks said he would have to think about it. The Board also scheduled an exit interview with him for May 13.

Mr. Yohalem asked Police Chief Scott Farrell what the Police Department was doing about missing personnel and equipment maintenance files, which, according to Fire Department Captain David Herrick, had disappeared from the fire station. Mr. Farrell replied that Police Department would be handling the matter internally.

Mr. Yohalem suggested the Board contact Fire Company President David Smith, Interim Fire Chief Chuck Loring, and Rescue Squad member Michelle Dawson to poll their members regarding their preference for the next fire chief. "It doesn't have to be a formal process," he said. "They can poll their members any way they want, but what we want is their consensus choice for chief."

Mr. Yohalem updated the Board on the status of the Blackboard Connect reverse 911 service. As previously reported, Emergency Management Director Marchione faulted the board at last week's meeting for failing to provide Blackboard Connect with names of Town department members whom they could train on the system. But according to Mr. Yohalem, **Will Brinker, assistant to the Emergency Management Director, told him that he had contacted both the Fire and Highway Departments, and both had declined to participate. Mr. Brinker said he then contacted Ms. Marchione to inform her of this and that she had chosen to do nothing about it.** Finally, according to Mr. Yohalem, Mr. Brinker said he had contacted Town Hall about this matter but didn't get a response there either. So, the Board decided that Administrative Assistant Mike Skorput and Administrative Secretary Nicole Reid should receive the training so that they could train other Town employees in the use of the system. That training session has now been scheduled for June 3, and the highway, police, and fire departments have all been requested to send representatives.

May 13: All three Selectmen were present for the meeting, which was convened at 9:30 a.m. instead of 6:30 p.m., because of Election Day and the fact that Chairman Davis, who is on the ballot, was not permitted to be in the Town Hall while the voting was taking place between noon and 7:00 p.m.

The Board received a letter from Fire Company President David Smith reporting that at its monthly meeting on May 7 the membership voted unanimously to support Chuck Loring for the fire chief's position. However, Mr. Yohalem reiterated the Board's desire

to get a consensus that included members of the Fire Department and Rescue Squad and will be sending a letter to this effect to these groups.

The Board approved the Tax Collector's request to institute summer hours. So starting July 1, her office will be open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The Board also approved a request from the General Store's Dave Herrick on behalf of the U.S. Postal Service to hang a 2 1/2-by-6-foot sign beneath the porch railing of Mill River General Store. The sign would read "Village Post Office" and is being installed in conjunction with some changes being made by the U.S.P.S. in the operation of the Mill River Post Office. According to Mr. Herrick, the changes will be discussed at a meeting on May 23 at the Library and will involve, among other things, shorter weekday operating hours for the Post Office, but Saturday hours will remain the same. (See story on page 15.)

Chairman Davis said the Board is expecting an update from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation on the status of the Clayton Mill River Road bridge, following an inspection late last week (along with the Campbell Falls and Norfolk Road bridges) that found it to be in much worse condition than originally thought. The Board expects that the state will order it closed or, at the very least, reduced to one lane. In all likelihood, that means the Board will have to go back to the voters at a special town meeting sometime in the summer with a new request for funding to fix that bridge since it is a critical access point to the Town for traffic coming from the south. An earlier request for \$680,000 for bridges was rejected by the voters at the Annual Town Meeting, May 6. (See separate report on page 2).

And finally, Assistant Fire Chief Todd Riiska apparently did not resign from the Fire Department, as previously noted in an email received by the Board from former Fire Chief Peter Scala. According to Mr. Yohalem, who ran into Mr. Riiska in the Town Hall parking lot, he resigned only as assistant fire chief, but is still a member of the Fire Department and the Fire Company. □

Peter Schuyten

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FINANCE COMMITTEE

April 11: With David Herrick presiding, and Bill Hattendorf, Burt Imberman, Ira Yohalem, and Prudence Spaulding in attendance, the Committee reviewed the specifications of the new fire truck it had approved at the last meeting: uphill speed of 45 miles per hour carrying 1,000 gallons of water and clad in corrosion-resistant stainless steel. (The Committee was rebuffed by New Marlborough voters, who rejected an expenditure of \$560,000 for a new truck; see page 3.)

Mr. Hattendorf circulated budget approvals totaling \$5,134,799 for FY14. It also approved a transfer of \$17,799 from the Reserve Fund. These figures do not include the borrowings that would be necessary to purchase two Highway Department trucks or embark on bridge repairs.

The session was adjourned with no date scheduled for the next meeting. □

Joe Poindexter, from minutes provided by Prudence Spaulding

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

April 27: All three Commission members – Co-Chairmen John Weinstein and Ned Wilson and Peter Marks – were present for the month's meeting. Last month's minutes were reviewed and approved with minor amendments.

First on the agenda was a Request For Determination of Applicability (RDA) from resident Warren Weldon of 15 Mill River Great Barrington Road. Brian Jefferies, the contractor for the proposed work, accompanied the property owner. The work being permitted was to replace an existing fourteen-by-twenty-foot pole barn with a twelve-by-sixteen foot structure. The new barn would be located within the footprint of the existing barn roughly twenty-five feet from the Umpachenee River. The builder explained that he will hand-dig eight post holes for the foundation of the new barn. The Commission asked that a silt fence be installed at the limit of work and voted to approve the permit pending receipt of a file number from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Next the Commission discussed new business. Contractor Michael White had asked the Commission to make visits to three job sites. It was noted that only one of the projects might require permitting for an RDA.

It was noted that a resident had called DEP directly, complaining about work involving replacing some

clapboard on a house. Mark Stinson of DEP researched the issue and called the Commission secretary to confirm that the work was not in violation of wetlands regulations.

Lastly, the Commission discussed a possible issue on Clayton Mill River Road, where a resident is pumping water from the Konkapot River, leaving a small pump submerged in the water. Ned Wilson said that he would research the regulations for any information pertaining to the issue and, if necessary, he would consult with DEP.

Finally the mail was reviewed. A Certificate of Compliance was received for Neil Blackwell of 115 Clayton Mill River Road. A copy of a Special Permit for Edward Odegaard for work at the Whip Shop in Southfield was received. Two approved Forest Cutting Plans were received, one for applicant Bluebird Hill Development, on 1899 County Road, and the other for Harold Crine on County Road.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m. □

Martha Bryan from minutes provided by Commission Secretary Kathy Chretien

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STONE BY STONE

An Invitation to Observe Cemetery Restoration Close-up

by Joe Poindexter

Time is no friend to cemeteries: It inexorably wears them down; over the centuries, it can obliterate them. In mid-August, the New Marlborough Historical Society will intercede with this process, and New Marlborough residents will be invited to witness remarkable transformations – and to learn the art and craft of cemetery restoration.

Cemeteries age gracefully, bearing witness to generations of a town's residents. Then they begin to deteriorate, and the history written on their headstones fades and finally disappears. That, in short, is the story of the New Marlborough Village Cemetery, deeded to the Town by its first minister, Reverend Thomas Strong, who in 1756 was laid to rest there, the cemetery's first burial.

In the centuries since, whole genealogies of the town's families have taken their places on the slopes of this historic cemetery. More than two dozen members of the Sheldon family, for example, can be traced on a descent of the cemetery's easterly mound. But their identities, and those of hundreds of others buried there, are being erased by rain, frost heave, limb fall, and, perhaps most damaging of all, lichen.

Two years ago, the New Marlborough Historical Society engaged a cemetery restoration firm to inventory this cemetery and describe, stone by stone, its condition. The team, noted preservationists James Fannin and Minnie Lehner, marveled at the proliferation of footstones in the cemetery and the fact that it has been in continuous use to this day – both rare characteristics for historic New England burying grounds. They also described how the ravages of time had toppled stones, broken them, or eaten away at their surfaces.

Restoration – joining stone fragments using special cements, cleaning surfaces with agents that do not further damage the stone, and re-erecting stones within



photo by Holly McNeely

Lichen eats at the headstones of the Sheldon family.

historically accurate foundations – is a time-consuming and costly process. Of the eleven cemeteries in New Marlborough, at least three are in need of extensive repair. Starting August 19 and in the ten working days following, the process will begin. In a special demonstration project, initiated and overseen by Historical Society Vice President John Schreiber, the firm of Fannin.Lehner will undertake repair of headstones and footstones in the oldest section of the New Marlborough Village Cemetery.

The public will be invited to gather at the restoration site, ask questions, and watch as this irreplaceable component of New Marlborough history is brought back to life. Details will be published in future issues of the *5 Village News*. Meanwhile, mark your calendars for a unique opportunity to witness the rescue of a prized piece of our past. □

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THE LOG

New Marlborough Police Department News

Office hours in the Town Hall are 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Wednesdays.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

- | | | | | | |
|----------|------------|---|----------|------------|---|
| March 1 | 10:00 a.m. | CO detector activation East Hill Rd | March 26 | 11:00 a.m. | Suspicious activity, possible breaking and entering, Southfield |
| March 4 | 3:45 p.m. | 911 call, elementary school | | 12:40 p.m. | Erratic operator, driving to endanger and leaving the scene of an accident, Route 183 |
| March 6 | 9:20 p.m. | Breaking and entering, Mill River | | 1:00 p.m. | Located driver of previous call, citation issued |
| March 8 | 12:45 a.m. | Tractortrailer stuck by Southfield Bridge, Norfolk Road | | 4:24 p.m. | Roadway hazard, Clayton |
| | 1:00 p.m. | MVA, Mill River Great Barrington Road | | 4:57 p.m. | Vandalism, Clayton |
| March 9 | 8:30 a.m. | Hit and run accident, Mill River | | 6:55 p.m. | Report of a dog that fell through the ice, Mill River |
| March 11 | 12:30 p.m. | Assist citizen, Mill River | March 27 | 8:40 a.m. | Removed debris from roadway |
| March 14 | 4:10 p.m. | Civil custody notification, Mill River | | 10:00 a.m. | Property returned to owner |
| March 16 | 10:10 a.m. | Motor vehicle stop Rt. 57, unregistered, vehicle towed | April 1 | 9:15 a.m. | Responded to alarm activation, Rte 57 |
| March 17 | 11:30 a.m. | Property damage, Konkapot Road | April 2 | 2:42 p.m. | Suspicious vehicle on New Marlborough Hill Road |
| | 3:45 p.m. | Disabled motorcycle, Hayes Hill Road | | 7:00 p.m. | Larceny/fraud, Mill River |
| March 18 | 10:00 a.m. | Suspicious phone calls, New Marlborough | | 9:20 p.m. | Removed hazard in roadway, Hartsville Mill River Road |
| March 19 | 1:50 p.m. | Welfare check of a child, Southfield | April 3 | 3:56 p.m. | Landlord-tenant issues, Clayton |
| | 2:00 p.m. | Report of suspicious white van, Canaan Valley area | | 9:45 p.m. | Suspicious vehicle, Clayton Mill River Road |
| | 2:45 p.m. | Motor vehicle accident, Brewer Branch Road | April 4 | 7:00 p.m. | License plate found on the side of County Road |
| March 20 | 1:55 p.m. | Burglar alarm activation, Downs Road | April 5 | 2:05 p.m. | Report of intoxicated driver, Mill River |
| | 3:30 p.m. | Domestic/mental health concerns, Southfield | April 8 | 6:00 p.m. | Assisted Sheffield police with mental health call |
| March 21 | 10:15 a.m. | Burglar alarm, Southfield | April 9 | 9:00 a.m. | Report of missing tricycle, Mill River |
| March 22 | 4:30 p.m. | Information given regarding drug users in town | April 10 | 5:00 p.m. | Landlord-tenant dispute/threats, Clayton |
| | 8:46 p.m. | Warrant arrest, Mill River | April 11 | 8:13 a.m. | Burglar alarm Mill River Great Barrington Road |
| | 10:31 p.m. | Warrant arrest, Southfield | | 12:30 p.m. | Suspicious white van, Cross to Canaan Valley |
| March 24 | 5:00 a.m. | Suspicious activity, Southfield | | | |
| | 12:00 p.m. | Assist citizen | | | |
| March 25 | 10:40 a.m. | Suspicious vehicle, Adsit Crosby Road | | | |
| | 11:15 a.m. | Suspicious vehicle, East Hill Road | | | |
| | 3:57 p.m. | Motor vehicle lockout, Clayton | | | |

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	1:55 p.m.	Suspicious pickup truck, Rhoades and Bailey	April 20	3:00 p.m.	Breaking and entering investigation, Southfield
	2:35 p.m.	Suspicious activity Campbell Falls, parties advised		4:00 p.m.	House check, Mill River
	3:00 p.m.	Attempted to serve summons, Rt. 57	April 22	10:50 a.m.	Medical emergency, Southfield
April 13	8:48 a.m.	Assisted Monterey police with arrest during traffic stop.		11:00 a.m.	Burglar alarm, Southfield
	11:00 a.m.	Vehicles in field, Cross to Canaan Valley		11:30 a.m.	Report of dogs running down roadway, Mill River
	12:10 p.m.	Served summons, Route 57		2:00 p.m.	Burglar alarm, Stratford Road
	8:03 p.m.	Fire alarm, Route 57	April 24	4:38 p.m.	Medical emergency Route 57
April 15	9:40 a.m.	Injured animal in roadway, Norfolk Rd		9:30 a.m.	Child/infant car seat installation
	3:30 p.m.	Report of suspicious red truck, Rhoades and Bailey Road		10:40 a.m.	Out of control brush fire, Southfield
April 16	9:00 a.m.	Campbell Falls, removed several beer cans/bottles	April 25	1:00 p.m.	Report of an accident last night
	12:30 p.m.	Animal complaint, Southfield		8:30 a.m.	Officer Mullen out at elementary school with the Pre-K class
April 17	8:55 a.m.	Burglar alarm, Town Library	April 26	9:00 a.m.	Larceny from residence, Route 57
				9:06 p.m.	Burning after hours, Route 57
			April 27	9:45 a.m.	Burglar alarm Route 57
			April 29	1:45 p.m.	Burglar alarm, Peter Menaker Road

Additionally, the department handled twenty LTC renewals and three FID applications

FIRE AND RESCUE

March 8	1:58 p.m.	Brewer Hill Road medical call	March 30	7:43 a.m.	Clayton Mill River Road medical call
March 9	8:00 a.m.	Mutual aid to Great Barrington structure fire	March 30	3:59 a.m.	Mutual Aid to Stockbridge water rescue
March 9	5:50 p.m.	New Marlborough Hill Road fire alarm	April 3	4:34 a.m.	Canaan Southfield Road medical call
March 10	11:20 p.m.	Mill River Southfield Road medical call	April 7	5:02 p.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road medical call
March 13	8:00 a.m.	Mutual Aid to Sandisfield medical call	April 15	8:03 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Sheffield medical call
March 14	12:00 a.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington medical call	April 22	10:20 a.m.	Norfolk Road medical call
March 14		Mutual Aid to Great Barrington medical call	April 26	9:00 p.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road medical call
March 18	5:18 p.m.	N.M. Hartsville Road medical call	April 26	10:55 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington medical call
March 24	5:52 a.m.	Norfolk Road medical call	April 27	2:40 p.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road brush fire
March 26	6:55 p.m.	Clayton Mill River Road animal rescue	April 28	6:24 a.m.	Canaan Southfield Road medical call
March 28	7:17 a.m.	Lumbert Cross Road medical call			



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Neighbors



Mill River resident **Krista Kennedy**, an art teacher at Monument Mountain Regional High School, was awarded the first annual Berkshire Arts Educator Award by the IS183 Art School of the Berkshires on April 25. The award honors K-12 arts educators who excel at inspiring imagination and creativity in their students – as Krista has been doing for eighteen years. In accepting the award, she noted that “This is a really important time for us to push problem solving and creativity. That’s our job as art teachers.” Congratulations, Krista! (With Krista in the photo are Neel Webber and Linnea Mace, co-workers and fellow award nominees.)



photo by Billy Kennedy

Savage Frieze, former resident of Mill River during the 1980s and 1990s, has died at age eighty-nine at Geer Retirement Community, where he has lived for the past two years. During his many years in New Marlborough, he served terms as town moderator and as a member of the Finance Committee; he was also a steadfast supporter of the New Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department and the NM5VN.

Maureen Guidi and **Joe Krejci**, both of Southfield, were married on April 20 at Our Lady of the Valley Church in Sheffield. From there, they enjoyed a two-week Mediterranean cruise. Their honeymoon was briefly interrupted when, while strolling through a lovely park in Rome, they learned, thanks to the wonders of modern technology, of the May 3-5 Southfield Water Company meltdown. That same technology enabled Joe, who is President and informal chief engineer of the company, to consult with those on the ground in Southfield and help get the water flowing again. Joe and Maureen have since returned to normal life in Southfield; we can all rest easier knowing that two first responders are on call again.



photo by Al Lenardson

compiled by Barbara Lowman: deeuell@yahoo.com

CATHERINE TWING, VALEDICTORIAN

by Jane Burke

Catherine Twing, daughter of Robert and Belinda Twing of Hartsville and this year’s valedictorian at Mount Everett’s graduation ceremonies, has always set high standards for herself. Since she was a young girl, she wanted to follow in the footsteps of her aunt Robin Twing Schultz, who was Mt. Everett salutatorian in 1985. A quiet girl, she credits the loving atmosphere at New Marlborough Central for her later educational success. “It felt like a family and gave me confidence in myself.” At Mount Everett, she found her voice through the Fall Festival of Shakespeare, where she enjoyed performing.

She sought out opportunities to gain leadership skills, including attending the Clayton Church of God summer camps for four years and participating at the American Legion’s Girls State last year. She commented, “At Girls State I realized how special it has been to grow up in a small town, even though sometimes it has been socially limiting.”

Her volunteer experiences have been with Greenagers working on the Gt. Barrington River Walk and helping John Arthur Miller at the Sheffield Senior Center deliver buckets of sand and salt to seniors. She clearly cares about the environment, as she also has been a member of the FFA throughout her high school years.

After travelling around visiting colleges the summers before her junior and senior years, she decided on Castleton State College in Vermont because “I felt immediately at home there and they have one of the oldest social work programs. I plan to be a counselor when I graduate.” They also offered her a full tuition, four-year valedictorian’s scholarship. So far she has received Big Y and Kiwanis scholarships to cover some of the room and board. She hopes to get a few more local scholarships and will be working hard this summer with Greenagers to cover the rest of the expenses.

It seems fitting that the topic of her valedictory speech will be judgment. She feels that, although it is human nature to be judgmental, individuals should try to be more accepting of others. Looking at herself, she realizes that perhaps she has been too judgmental of herself. She looks forward to the new challenges she will have at college next year. □



photo by Jane Burke

OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

On April 26, **Don Beauchamp**, of Clayton, writes: I saw a **killdeer** tonight in a small watery area taking a bath. It was fully under water, then jumped up as I went by on my bicycle.

On April 30, **Don** adds: The past few nights I've seen many **lesser yellowlegs** and **greater yellowlegs** [shorebirds, presumably on migration to more northern breeding grounds]. Then yesterday, at 3:50 a.m., I was awakened by a **barred owl** right outside my window, making a racket, who was then joined by his mate, and the two of them whooped it up big time. Toward evening, I saw a **kestrel**. When I got my binoculars trained on it, it turned and looked right at me, while eating something.



photo by Ed Harvey

On May 1, **Ed Harvey**, of Mill River, sent this photo of a **bald eagle** that he saw that day on Thousand Acre Swamp.

On May 1, **Laura Endacott**, of Mill River, writes: I have been taking photos of a **red fox** since last year. Tammy Lane and the Davis family and I all think that the fox looking at the camera is the momma. We think she had a litter six to nine months ago. (Tammy and her husband, **Mark**, and daughter, **Brittney**, live across the river with **Harold Davis**, in his house.)



photo by Laura Endacott

Then last week, four fox kits were sunbathing and playing around the fox hole. Tammy has confirmed six foxes this year. From the porch, it's easy to spot them playing in the sun without alarming them. Too bad my camera isn't the best.

And on May 3, Laura writes: I just saw my first **hummingbird** at 6:10 p.m. at one of my two feeders. They are back, so get the feeders out and enjoy.

Then, on May 7, she adds: I just saw my first **bald eagle** soar over the Konkapot at 12:10 p.m. I was on the back porch over the river and it flew fifteen to twenty feet over my head. An amazing sight. Also, the bird that built its nest in John Manikowski's barn is definitely a



photo by Laura Endacott

black vulture [whose wingspan is about a foot shorter than the commonly seen turkey vulture and with a white head and wing tips]. I took photos of the bird eating dog food and drinking out of the dog's dish. He or she strutted to within a foot of the sliding glass door. The dogs were going crazy, clawing the glass. That vulture didn't care, wasn't fazed at all.



photos by Laura Endacott

On May 6, **John Manikowski**, of Mill River, writes: I think my **vultures** have hatched. Game warden says to stay away. They are ugali-knee from the start.

Then, on May 12, **John** adds: Funny anecdote today. One of the newly adopted **vultures** was approaching an outside corner of my rustic barn; one **feral cat** approached from another edge. One strolling, one doing the ugali-knee duck waddle. Neither saw the other coming – until (*drum beat here*) too late.

Well, let me tell you, upon eye contact, just imagine when two foreign species meet at dusk in romantic southern Berkshire County, a little weary, wary, and, ahem, warty is all I can come up with right now, all hell breaks loose. Hairs on the back of one, feathers on the back of the other stood on end; I don't recall which was which at the time, but you won't have any trouble outguessing this little tone poem. Well, every which way things floated, flew, and fluttered. Furiously, indeed.

With better luck, a camera crew would have been on hand to capture and (mercy) shoot the aforementioned love exercise, and we could have all seen some bizarre footage. Unfortunately, my little YouTube attempt appeared more like two minuscule tree frogs shaking hands – paws? – in front of a boxing ring as seen from the nose-bleed section of the Metropolitan Opera House.

On May 13, **Don Beauchamp**, of Clayton, adds to his list of sightings: Last week in the Clayton area, I saw at least **four pairs of yellow warblers**, a pair of **black-and-white warblers**, an **eastern kingbird**, and, yesterday, a **hummingbird** and, at the feeder, several **white-crowned sparrows**, a pair of **rose-breasted-sparrows**, and a **chipping sparrow**.

On May 14, **Elizabeth Goodman**, of Mill River, writes: The **orioles** returned to our yard the first week in May and have been enjoying our wild crabapple tree. It took about a week for them to find the oranges I always put out, but today they almost finished two. I also happened to see our first **hummingbird**. Unfortunately, she was caught in the rafters of our garage, and I had to get the butterfly net out to free her. The highlight of all the bird sightings this spring has been a **scarlet tanager**, which visited our yard yesterday afternoon. So beautiful!

Compiled by Jon Swan, joncswan@gmail.com

THE ELEPHANTS ARE COMING, THE ELEPHANTS ARE COMING!

by Ned MacDowell

“White Elephants” are again in season as the New Marlborough Cultural Council prepares for its annual giant tag sale on Elihu Burritt Day, August 17. The Council is again hosting collection days on the second Saturday of each month at the Levine/Olenbush barn opposite the Town Hall in Mill River. Collections take place from 10:00 a.m. to noon on June 8, July 13, August 3, and August 10.

The perfect complement to your spring cleaning, the White Elephant sale provides a chance to give the items you no longer need or love a second life. “One person’s junk is another’s treasure” is the principle of any tag sale, so your “junk” is what we’re looking for. It’s a winning combination: you clear out unwanted items, your friends and neighbors find “just what they need” at bargain prices, and the Cultural Council’s budget is increased for funding local programs that enrich the culture of New Marlborough.

Here are some white elephant categories: kitchen utensils and cookware, jewelry, tools large and small, fabrics, lamps, hobby and craft supplies, toys, exercise equipment, games and puzzles, musical instruments, sporting equipment, pictures and/or frames, and more. Please, no large or obsolete electronics, and no clothing, furniture, or books. (The Friends of the Library are preparing for their own and always popular book sale, so stay tuned for the time and place for their book collection.)

Once again a silent auction will be a featured part of the white elephant tables. The categories listed above also apply, but silent auction items generally have greater value, are unique “one of a kind” items, or have special appeal. See if there is that something special for the auction table among your belongings. □



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Thank You to Our Contributors!

Ron & Mary Saunders; Carroll S. Woodward Sr.; Joseph Hayes; Michael Skrak; and Sue Connell

MILL RIVER'S RENAISSANCE MAN

John Manikowski Has a Retrospective Art Show

by Ann Getsinger

The creative work of artist John Manikowski was the focus of a major retrospective exhibit at the Meeting House Gallery on the weekend of May 18 and 19. Friends, collectors, and admirers came from near and far for this opportunity to view and purchase original paintings, drawings, prints, one-of-a-kind birdhouses, and hand-made knives – all gathered together under one roof.

“There was a pretty steady flow of people” said Carole Clark, a close friend of the artist, who organized the exhibit, adding that it was “very gratifying for John to see the work representing his career.” The artist was in attendance Saturday afternoon to welcome visitors. Later, he expressed his thanks to for all the hard work of those who put the retrospective together and to all who visited.

That John Manikowski has been called a “Renaissance Man” is not surprising, considering the the enormous range of this fine artist’s work. Everything presented was done masterfully and with John’s distinctive style. From elegant drawings of tree roots entwined with stones, scenes of sparkling water, forests, and fields, birds, and images of his trademark fish, to prints, knives, and huge portraits of Native Americans, the range was impressive.

Born in 1942, John Manikowski grew up in Breckenridge, Minnesota, just across the Bois de Sioux River from its twin city, Wahpeton, North Dakota. His



Photos by Larry Burke



early interest in Native American culture arose from his proximity to the Sioux community in Wahpeton. After receiving a B.A. from Morehead State College in Minnesota in 1965, John took a teaching job, first at Pease Air Force Base in New Hampshire and later at a junior high school in Newton, Massachusetts, before going on to study at the Rhode Island School of Design, where he earned a Master of Fine Art degree in 1972.

In 1973, following a teaching stint at Harvard University, John received a position through the National Endowment for the Arts as Artist in Residence at Monument Mountain High School. That’s how he came to spend the past nearly forty years living in Mill River. “Once I got here I liked it so much I bought my house and ended up staying,” he said.

Starting in the 1970s, John began showing his fine art work in galleries in New York City, Martha’s Vineyard, and the Southwest. He later went on to write and illustrate two cookbooks, along with co-owning two restaurants, first Konkapot Kitchen in Mill River, and later, The Charleston, in Hudson, NY.

In John Manikowski’s world everything is connected through beauty, creativity, and usefulness. A fine artist, outdoorsman, teacher, author, cook, restaurateur, and knife maker, a deeply creative man was well represented in this engaging retrospective exhibit. □



Jason Safronski, John’s apprentice in knife making, explains the process to a visitor.

UPCOMING: Event Calendar for June and July

June 12: Tom Sullivan, native bee expert: lecture on native bees as pollinators and how to attract them. New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Free and family friendly, presented by Project Bee.

June 14: Fabulous Fabric & Fiber, the Village Association's first show of the season opens 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting House Gallery with wine and hors d'oeuvres and remains open Fridays through Sundays, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., until July 7.

June 25: Special Senate Election, to fill the seat vacated by Secretary of State John Kerry, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Town Hall.

June 27: Senior Potluck Luncheon, 12 noon at the Clayton Church Fellowship Hall, hosted by the New Marlborough Council on Aging.

July 25: Senior Potluck Luncheon: 12 noon, Clayton Church Fellowship Hall, hosted by the New Marlborough Council on Aging.

July 26: Visual Metaphors, an invitational show featuring thirty regional mixed-media artists. Ceramics by Ben Krupka, bird carvings by Maria Gay, sculpture from Peter Barret and Patrick Stolfo, paintings by Ellen Murtaugh, Ann Getsinger, and Robin Crofut Brittingham; photography from Lee Backer and Larry Silk. Wine and cheese opening 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on the 26th; open Friday to Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. thereafter until August 25.

Fabulous Fabric & Fiber Show

June 14 to July 7

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BUYING LOCAL?

Keep Berkshires Farming, an organization initiated in the south-county region by the Great Barrington Agricultural Commission, is conducting a survey of Berkshire residents to determine where we shop and the extent to which we seek out local producers to fill our

refrigerators and larders. New Marlborough residents can participate by completing the survey on line at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/KBF/SC. Hard copies of the survey can be obtained from Gwen Miller at gwenmiller@berkshireplanning.org. □

REDUCING THE HOURS AT THE MILL RIVER P.O.

by David Lowman and Joe Poindexter

It's no secret that the red ink has been flowing at the U.S. Postal Service – and not just to print forever stamps. In the three months ended in March of this year, U.S.P.S. lost \$1.9 billion, on top of \$1.3 billion in the previous quarter, and has already hit its legislated debt limit of \$15 billion. One response has been to reduce the workforce: last year, it eliminated 46,000 career employees. On May 23, the Postal Service announced that the cuts had reached New Marlborough.

Starting as soon as June 29 (pending a "safety and security inspection"), service in the Mill River Post Office will likely be reduced from forty-two and a half to twenty-two and a half hours a week – 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturdays. The new opening hours are in response to a survey mailed to Mill River postal patrons in mid-April asking for their preference among four cost-saving

scenarios. These were: reduce window service hours; discontinue delivery to mail boxes; transfer the service to a contract provider; or consolidate with another post office. Respondents – 92 of the 102 answering the survey – overwhelmingly preferred option one, fewer hours of operation.

At the May 23 meeting, held at the New Marlborough Public Library, Postal Service representatives Christine Brock and Danielle Harpin said that of the 700 post offices in our region (Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Western Massachusetts), 111 had been targeted for cost savings. Post offices already affected include those in Lenoxdale and East Otis. Southfield is on the list but will be spared any changes until the retirement of the current postmaster, Bob Winterbottom. Further information can be obtained from Ms. Harpin at Danielle.A.Harpin@USPS.gov. □

MAILBOX

To the editor:

Thank you to all the voters of New Marlborough who participated in the Town election. I'm honored to be elected to the Board of Selectmen and look forward to representing and serving everyone in New Marlborough. Many citizens have contributed their opinions and ideas, and I hope that will continue. I'm here for everyone!

Michele Shalaby



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Young Voices

A sampling of the views and reviews of our newest – and youngest – contributors.

CHILDREN'S BOOK EDITOR

TRACY MACK An interview by Charlotte Smith, a fifth-grader at St. Mary's School in Lee

*On Sunday, March 17, Tracy Mack, editor of *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* and other books by Brian Selznick, appeared at the Mahaiwe Theater with Brian for a screening of the movie *Hugo*. She talked with Charlotte Smith following the screening.*

What is your connection to New Marlborough?

My parents live in Mill River, and my brother and his family lived in Southfield for many years. My niece and nephew attended New Marlborough Central, and through them, my husband and I discovered the school and fell in love with it. We live in Ashley Falls, and our son and daughter go to NMC. Next year all three of our children will be there.

Tell us about your job as an editor.

I work at Scholastic, the largest children's publisher in the world, where I am an acquiring editor, which means I read a lot of manuscripts and then decide whether I feel they merit being published. I have to feel passionate about the books I take on because I am committing myself to working on them, sometimes for years. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* was three years in the making!

When I am reading or editing manuscripts, I always look for and think about what will resonate with kids. With three children of my own, I have my own little laboratory at home – and I test-drive books I am thinking of acquiring or books in progress with my kids all the time. My nine-year-old daughter, Ruby, naturally thinks like an editor. She gives very thoughtful, incisive feedback.

What is your favorite part about working with Brian Selznick?

I met Brian in 1994 when I hired him to illustrate a novel in stories called *Our House: The Stories of Levittown* by Pam Conrad. We became fast friends and have since collaborated on nine other books. Brian is such an innovative thinker and a brave bookmaker. He is always looking to stretch himself creatively and push the boundaries of what's been done before – he is a true pioneer. He is also extremely collaborative and invites me into his creative process very early in a book's creation. Ideas fly back and forth at lightning speed. And because we are both very spontaneous, we often interrupt each other to share our inspirations before they are forgotten.

What books are you now working on?

I have several books coming out that I am very excited about! One is a new Beginning Reader series, of which the first, appearing in July, is called *Tony Baloney: School Rules* by Pam Muñoz Ryan, illustrated by Edwin Fotheringham. And I am over the moon for *A Home for Mr. Emerson* (coming in April 2014), a picture book biography about New England's native son and a little-known true story in his life. At the center of this book is Emerson's deeply held belief that we should all build our lives around the things we love. It is such a simple idea, and one that I hope will resonate with children and adults. □

MY WEEK AT WA WA SEGOWEA by Paige Lussier, a third-grader at Muddy Brook Elementary School

Have you ever been to Camp? Last July I went to day camp at Wa Wa Segowea and had so much fun! You could sleep over, too. I slept over on Thursday night. Camp Wa Wa Segowea is good for people who are just starting camp and for people that have been going to camp for a long time. You could do everything from cheer leading to survival camp. Also, you get to swim everyday! You get to play games in the water and on ground with counselors.

You are assigned to a cabin. The day campers have a cabin to get changed for swimming and other activities. You can also rest in the cabin on the bunks. The people that stay overnight have the cabin to store their pajamas and other things, and they sleep in their cabin every night. There is a big cafeteria where all the campers eat breakfast, lunch, and dinner together. The food is really good there.

My favorite thing to do at camp was the Olympics. You get assigned to a group. Then your group picks a name and a cheer. Then, all the fun games begin. Our name was the Mean Green Fighting Machines. I loved my week at Camp Wa wa Segowea and I hope, if you go, you will too! □



School News

MOUNT EVERETT AGRICULTURE FAIR

by Danielle Melino and Catherine Twing

The agriculture program at Mount Everett Regional High School is holding its annual Agriculture Fair on June 12 on the school's campus from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Each year the school hosts local farmers and agriculture specialists who make our local agricultural economy viable. The event is an opportunity for the school and community to meet with these people, see displays, and participate in activities. There will be a variety of live animal demonstrations including the Mt. Everett FFA members showcasing their special projects.

There are always lots of animals and environmental education activities. All ages can enjoy the offerings. It is a great chance to experience local agriculture and learn more about where your food comes from. The fair is free and open to the public. Come celebrate our community's rich agricultural heritage and its importance in sustaining our local way of life. Anyone interested in being a vendor may contact Danielle Melino by email at dmelino@sbrsd.org or by phone at (413) 229-8734 x135.

Danielle Melino is Mount Everett agricultural program leader; Catherine Twing is a member of the school's FFA

On Their Way

On June 3, nine Mount Everett High School seniors from New Marlborough (among forty-three in all) will celebrate graduation under the shed at Tanglewood. Here are their plans for the next stage of their education: Carina Alden will pursue her passion for meteorology at Lyndon State College, Lyndonville, Vermont. Stephanie Chretien will enroll in Elms College, Chicopee, Massachusetts, to

study early childhood education. Eli Cook chose North Bennet Street School in Boston, where he will learn about preservation carpentry. Blake Ferrara will spend a year at Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield, before transferring to MassArt in 2014, where he plans to major in metals and blade-smithing. Danielle Guidi will attend Anna Maria College in Paxton, Massachusetts, to study nursing. John Ormsbee chose Lincoln Tech in Hartford, where he will study heating, venting and air conditioning. Catherine Twing will attend Castleton State College, Castleton, Vermont, to get a degree in social work. Anna Zdziarski will be going to Colby Sawyer College, New London, New Hampshire, to become an athletic trainer. Stefan Zdziarski will attend Green Mountain College in Poultney, Vermont, to study environmental science.

Music to Our Ears

The Mount Everett concert band, concert choir, and madrigal singers took a tuneful tour of competitions in Williamsburg, Virginia, April 10 to 13. And they took home an armful of trophies from an awards ceremony at Busch Gardens. The madrigal singers won first place in the Renaissance group category; the choir won third place in the Division A mixed concert choir category; and the concert band won fourth place in the Division A concert band category. The concert band also received the "Esprit de Corps" award, which is presented to the most professional group of musicians. Afterwards, there were rides at the amusement park and comparing (musical) notes with the other competitors. All in all it was a great experience for the students. □



photo by Nan Smith

The entire student body of New Marlborough Central School enthusiastically participated in the May 15 performance of *Under Our Feet*, the theatrical culmination of a school-wide geology project. Flying Cloud Institute's science educator Dale Abrams worked with students in all classes as they learned about geological formations, glaciers, wind and water erosion, soil formation, plants, and decomposition. The students put their knowledge to work in creating a play, including costumes, props, and songs, with theater educator Kristin Sparhawk. The play was the first opportunity for the school to use the new performance space at the New Marlborough Meeting House, which will provide an excellent theater venue for future school productions.

NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE LIBRARY

Adult Fiction

Fly Away, by Kristin Hannah
The Hit, by David Baldacci
The 12th of Never, by James Patterson
The Apple Orchard, by Susan Wiggs
Best Kept Secret, by Jeffrey Archer

Adult Nonfiction

Cooked: A Natural History of Transformation, by Michael Pollan
The Book Whisperer: Awakening the Inner Reader in Every Child,
 by Donalyn Miller
Bunker Hill: A City, a Siege, a Revolution, by Nathaniel Philbrick

Children's Fiction

The Deer Watch, by Pat Lowery Collins
House of Secrets, by Chris Columbus
Road Trip, by Gary Paulsen
Bluebird, by Bob Staake
The Matchbox Diary, by Paul Fleischman
Slugs in Love, by Susan Pearson

Children's Nonfiction

Touch a Butterfly: Wildlife Gardening with Kids, by April Pulley Sayre
Poems To Learn by Heart, by Caroline Kennedy
Lisa Loeb's Songs for Movin' & Shakin': The Air Band Song and Other Toe-Tapping Tunes, by Lisa Loeb
Let It Begin Here!: Lexington and Concord: First Battles of the American Revolution, by Dennis Fradin
Revolutionary Friends: George Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette, by Selene Castrovilla

LIBRARY SUMMER 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

**The Library will be closed June 10
 for carpet cleaning. We will open
 Tuesday June 11 at 1:30 pm.
 Sorry for any inconvenience.**

DENNIS J. DOWNING

ATTORNEY & COUNSELLOR AT LAW

17 MAHAIWE STREET,
 GT BARRINGTON, MA 01230

Tel: (413)528-5040 Fax: (413)528-5095
 e-mail: downing.law@verizon.net

NATIVE BEES in the BERKSHIRES

Project Bee welcomes native bee expert and lecturer
Tom Sullivan on June 12th from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at the Meeting House
 Gallery in New Marlborough. Tom will discuss how native bees are
 crucial pollinators and how we can attract native bees by offering floral
 resources and nesting habitat. Family friendly and free.



Sponsored in part by the New Marlborough Cultural Council/Massachusetts Cultural Council.

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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 CONTRIBUTION OF \$_____ (payable to NM5VN)

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Town Times

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

Emergency calls: Police, Fire, and Medical: 911

Transfer Station hours:

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

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

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

PERMITS ARE DUE ON JULY 1

They are available at
the Town Hall in Mill River

FEE IS \$100

CAN BE PAID BY MAIL,

PLEASE ENCLOSE A SELF-ADDRESSED
STAMPED ENVELOPE

New Marlborough Highway Department

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

Joe Poindexter, issue editor; Diane Barth, designer;
Pam Stebbins, Kenzie Fields, Jane Burke,
Charlie Parton, David Lowman, Barbara Lowman,
Martha Bryan, Jon Swan, Peter Schuyten,
Larry Burke, Marianne Swan, Debra Herman
Contributing writers: Janice Boults, Laura Endacott,
Ann Getsinger, Mary Richie Smith, and Tara White

New Marlborough 5 Village News

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All copy must be submitted no later than June 15.

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

PO Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259

5villagenews@gmail.com

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SERVICE SECTOR

- ♦ **Benchmark Real Estate:** Nancy Kalodner, Broker/Owner. Offering New Marlborough the finest professional real estate services since 1979. Call 528-9595
- ♦ **Berkshire Environmental Research Center (BERC):** Thomas Coote. Lake & pond management, wetland delineation, ecological research, rare/invasive species assessment. 413-644-4509. tcoote@simons-rock.edu
- ♦ **Berkshire Geo-Technologies:** Civil engineering – perc testing, septic designs, wetland permitting, residential & commercial site design, structural evaluation & design. Located in Monterey. Please call 413-429-4888
- ♦ **Campbell Falls Carpentry:** Licensed and insured contracting at campbellfallscarpentry@gmail.com (413)229-6097 and (413)429-7677. Mass Contractors # 7614140, HIC# 170377
- ♦ **Cale's Pet Care:** Pet sitting, dog walking, small farm care. Experienced, caring, and reliable. Call Cale James at 229-2271
- ♦ **Corashire Realty:** Serving New Marlborough for 40 years. Let experience, knowledge, and personal attention work for you. 528-0014
- ♦ **Design+Planning:** Christopher Blair; Since 1986, creative, budget aware design. Achieve your goals for additions, alterations to an existing home or new construction. 413- 528-4960. christopher.f.blair@verizon.net.
- ♦ **DesignFirstBerkshires:** Architectural design, space planning and renovation management. 413-528-6169 or info@designfirstberkshires.com.
- ♦ **Fine Jewelry:** Designers and manufacturers; custom orders/commissions welcome; expert repairs. 45 years experience. Sachs Reisman, Inc. 25 Maple Ave., Sheffield 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
- ♦ **James Edelman:** General Contractor, Real Estate Sales. Best Results. Construction License #090773. Home Improvement Registration #152035. Real Estate Sales License #9086247. 413-528-0006 or cljvedelman@aol.com
- ♦ **Quality Painting Services:** Beautifying homes in the Berkshires. Offering interior/exterior painting, staining, sheetrock repair. Pressure washing decks. Contractor registration #173566. Josh Taber, 413.269.8948
- ♦ **Susan M. Smith:** Attorney At Law; Concentrating in the areas of Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Elder Law, Real Estate and Zoning Matters. ssmithlaw@hughes.net or 229-7080
- ♦ **Reiner White:** General Contractor; 413-229-8450

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