



New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING BOXSCORE

By Larry Burke



photos by Larry Burke

The 2014 annual Town Meeting was gaveled to order at 7:05 p.m. on Monday, May 5, by Moderator Scott Farrell. A number of empty seats scattered throughout the Great Hall pointed to a trend of declining attendance in recent years. According to Town Clerk Kathy Chretien, there were eighty-five citizens this year, as compared to 161 in 2010, with lessening numbers every year in between. Why there has been this steady decline in attendance is a bit of a mystery, particularly given the enormous turnout for the November 2013 Special Town Meeting on the proposed changes to the Town's Protective Bylaw.

The Warrant for this year was sizable, with thirty-three articles to consider, but Moderator Farrell moved the meeting along in brisk fashion, receiving unanimous approval of the first eighteen articles in a mere twenty-two minutes, and this included the passage without a murmur of the largest expenditure on the night, \$2,404,025 for the schools. His perfect game ended in the top of the nineteenth, when a question from Peter Scala on police salaries forced him, to avoid a conflict of interest, to hand over the moderating duties temporarily to Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard. As police chief, Mr. Farrell then explained the department's salary distribution. The article then passed without dissent, as did the following two articles.

Article 22, and in particular a line item for funding of the Berkshire County Retirement Fund, created something of a rhubarb when Laura Endacott questioned the increase of the Town's contribution from \$77,978 to \$100,953. Administrative Assistant Mike Scorput attempted to explain the huge increase by saying that the figure is set by the county and is "based on salaries." Selectman Nat Yohalem added,

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As Police Chief Scott Farrell explained departmental salaries, Jeremia Pollard took over temporarily as moderator.

“The Treasurer said this was an adjustment.” Questions ensued, but the selectmen did not have a definitive reason for the big jump, and could only say that the person who really knew the answer, our town treasurer, was not in attendance. Ms. Endacott continued to ask how this could be, how it could not have drawn the attention of the Finance Committee, and whether the Town will be faced with this kind of large increase in the coming years. Selectman Tara White could only answer that, because the figure is determined by county officials, “we cannot know in advance.” A vote was then called, and, despite the general unhappiness over this expense, it passed unanimously.

With Article 24, the meeting arrived at the heart of the lineup. This article asked for a sum of \$93,000 to be transferred from the Free Cash account to pay for the purchase of a new dump truck for the Highway Department. Ned Odegaard asked Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring if he and the selectmen had a long view, a five-year plan, for equipment purchases. Mr. Loring replied that a new grader and a



Chuck Loring answering a question about the plan to purchase a new plow truck for the Town.

new superintendent’s truck should be considered within the next several years. To the question of long-range planning, Selectman Nat Yohalem took the podium to inform the audience that a new committee was in the process of formation – the Capital Improvement Committee – which will study Town needs and provide detailed recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. The committee will be composed of five members: one selectman, one member of the Finance Committee, and three members of the New Marlborough community who have special expertise in financial matters.

The requested expenditure of Article 24, plus the large sums in the upcoming articles 25 and 26 (\$228,000 for a plow truck and \$550,000 for a new fire truck) brought more questions from the floor on the ability of the Town to afford big items. James Tinagero stood to say, “I’m just a simple guy, but I think we’re in trouble.” Laura Endacott and others followed up by asking the selectmen if they believed the Town can afford the cumulative costs of Articles 24, 25, and 26. Tara White answered simply, “Yes.” The contentious air in the room was eased by a round of applause for Jane Burke’s statement of support for Chuck Loring’s request. In the ensuing vote, no dissent was heard, and Article 24 passed unanimously. There was, however, a motion made for a ballot vote on the Article, and after some debate, this motion was soundly defeated.

Chuck Loring then took the podium to make the case for the purchase of new highway trucks, as proposed in Articles 24 and 25. After a few questions, again on future needs of the Highway Department, the question was put to a vote and passed with 64 yeas to only 3 nays. (The purchase of this vehicle would be put to the voters again on May 12, as would the purchase of a new fire truck and the repairs to the Clayton Mill River Bridge, with a two-thirds majority required for passage.)

Article 26 dealt with the purchase of a new fire truck



Moderator Scott Farrell fields a question as the occupants of the head table search for a response.

to replace the 1992 Engine 1. This was the third year that such a request had been made. A presentation by Fire Company President David Smith laid out the ways in which New Marlborough Fire & Rescue has been coping with the limitations of the present, twenty-two year-old vehicle, and how the time had truly arrived for replacement by a fire engine that was up to current codes and specifications. Mr. Smith's remarks were backed up by an independent study of the Town's fire protection needs that the Board of Selectmen had commissioned. He promised the audience that the new truck would be a "work horse," with no more bells and whistles than are required. Former Fire Chief Bill Simpson stood up to state his support for this purchase, saying that, from his knowledge and experience, the figure being asked was "a good deal." The article then proceeded to a vote, and passed unanimously.

On the question of funding the repair of the Clayton Mill River Road bridge, Article 28, discussion sprung up over the choice offered in the warrant – to split the cost by asking to use \$100,000 from the Free Cash account and borrowing the sum of \$80,000. Questions

on the necessity of borrowing led to the formation of an amendment by Barbara Marchione to fund the entire bridge repair from Free Cash. This amendment then passed by a vote of 51 to 16. Passage of the Article followed immediately.

The remaining articles were then set down in order by Moderator Farrell, with some relief help by Prudence Spaulding who explained in wonderful detail just how the Finance Committee came to its split decision (one dissenting member) on supporting Article 32, to fund \$7,400 for new software for the Building Inspector. Her clear account of the pros and cons of this software resulted in a similarly split decision by the voters: 41 for and 19 against.

The annual Town Meeting of 2014 became history at 9:10 p.m.

(On the following Monday, May 12, the voters chose to approve exempting the Town from the provisions of Proposition 2^{1/2} for the purchase of the Highway Department truck and the fire engine. The question on appropriating money for the Clayton Mill River Bridge also passed, but was essentially moot, given the amendment to Article 28, wherein the entire repair will be covered by Free Cash.) □



Prudence Spaulding lays out the facts from the Finance Committee point of view to James Tinagero.

FUNDS AND FREE CASH: A CLARIFICATION

During the Annual Town Meeting, confusion arose over the Town's three pockets of unappropriated monies. Here, according to Town Accountant Tara White is what differentiates them:

Free Cash is what is left over at the end of the budget year from appropriations that were not spent or higher than expected revenues. Any appropriation from Free Cash needs to be authorized by the voters. In the new budget year, any free cash left over from the previous year must be recertified by the Department of Revenue (DOR) before it can be used.

The **Reserve Fund** serves as a cushion against unbudgeted expenses at end of the year. Withdrawals from it are authorized by the Finance Committee, which does not need any other approval.

The **Stabilization Fund** is monies accumulated for the purchase of capital items. Use of this fund must be approved by the voters with at least a two-thirds vote.

As of April 28, there was \$204,565 in Free Cash, \$300,033 in the Stabilization Fund, and \$42,000 in the Reserve Fund. DOR recommends that a town have 5 to 15 percent of its total expenditures in reserves. These reserves consist of the Stabilization Fund and Free Cash once it has been recertified. □

RESULTS of the Annual Town Election

HELD MAY 12, 2014

A total of 443 ballots were cast. Total registered voters 1,010.

Office	Elected Official	Term	Total votes
Moderator-	Scott Farrell	1 yr	347
Selectmen-	Nathaniel Yohalem	3 yr	279
	(Defeated Peter B. Marks who received 157)		
Town Clerk-	Katherine M. Chretien	3 yr	372
Assessor-	Frederick Friedman	3 yr	331
Planning- Board	James Mullen	5 yr	302
Planning- Board	Charles Parton	4 yr	335
Planning- Board	Holly Morse	3 yr	327
Finance Committee-	Burton Imberman	3 yr	245
Finance Committee-	John N. Pshenishny	3 yr	211
Finance Committee-	Mark Carson	1 yr	345
Board of Health-	Lawrence H. Davis III	3 yr	364
Tree Warden-	Peter B. Marks	1 yr	320
Cemetery Commissioner-	James Palmer	3 yr	371
Library Trustee-	Maureen Hosford	3 yr	352

Question #1: Clayton Mill River Road Bridge **Yes 316** No 94

Question #2: Fire Truck **Yes 250** No 170

Question #3: Highway Truck **Yes 257** No 163

CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

A committee to develop a plan for financing New Marlborough's capital expenditures to be appointed by the Board of Selectmen comprised of five members:

*a member of the Board of Selectmen
a member of Finance Committee
three citizens with backgrounds in finance*

If you are interested in serving on this Committee, please send a note describing your financial experience, to nmbdselectmen@aol.com by Monday, June 16.

Recommendations of others are welcome. Appointments to this Committee will be made by July 1.

If you have any questions, please contact Michele Shalaby at 229-9050 or micheleshalaby@gmail.com.

SENIOR DAY IN SOUTHFIELD

Economists tell us that there is no such thing as a free lunch, but they hadn't checked with the New Marlborough Council on Aging, which held a "Welcome Spring!" lunch at the Southfield Church Hall on May 9 for some forty seniors — free of charge. The guests were served a banquet of chicken marsala, potatoes, green beans, salad, and cupcakes, catered by the Southern Berkshire Regional School District culinary staff, and they were entertained by a madrigal group from Mount Everett High School. Emergency Management Director Ed Harvey briefed the group on measures they should take to prepare for and deal with emergencies.

"It was just terrific, the best we've ever had," says Prudence Spaulding, director of Senior Services, who made sure everyone received a plant to take home. Another luncheon, she says, is being planned for the summer. □



Forty senior citizens enjoy a group lunch.

photo by Ed Harvey

THE ENDECOTT PEAR TREE COMES TO MILL RIVER

New Marlborough's newest residents are long-limbed, fruitful, and about 380 years old. They will begin putting down roots, as it were, as soon as Laura Endacott plants them in her Mill River garden on the bank of the Konkapot River. They are two genetic clones of the Endecott pear tree, planted in Danvers, Massachusetts, by the commonwealth's first governor, John Endecott, some time between 1632 and 1649 and thought to be the nation's oldest surviving cultivated tree.

Ms. Endacott, who claims a distant relationship to the first governor (the variant spelling notwithstanding), was alerted to the availability of the grafts by a cousin, Helen Bristol, who had been in touch regarding their family genealogy. In April, Ms. Bristol sent her two genetic clones of the Endecott pear tree grown by the Endicott-Endecott Family Association from a clone created by the National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS), in 1997.

The Endecott pear tree owes at least a part of its singular longevity to its magnificent resilience. The lone survivor



from Governor Endecott's orchard, the tree has been buffeted by at least six hurricanes, survived the trauma of having the soil around it excavated by a 1940s owner of the property, and narrowly escaped being uprooted by a subsequent corporate owner. Its most remarkable near-death experience occurred in 1964, when vandals stripped it of its limbs and cut down all but six feet of its trunk. An attempt by town officials to graft cuttings from the hacked off limbs into slits made in the trunk failed — apparently because it was done at the wrong time of year. Yet the following year, the tough old tree began putting out shoots of its own.

Today, the Endecott pear tree stands tall under the watchful stewardship of the Danvers Tree and Grounds Department. And if one day disaster does finally fell the nation's oldest cultivated tree, there is some small comfort knowing that two of its offspring are carrying on in the orchard of yet another Endacott. □

Joe Poindexter

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO WARBLERS

We set out in the early light of May 5, a Sunday, in search of the elusive warbler and other birds arriving in New Marlborough as a severe winter turned to spring. A dozen birders, experienced or would-be, had been gathered by the New Marlborough Land Trust and placed under the expert guidance of Amber Spring, a Lenox jewelry designer and birder. We headed up Brewer Branch Road, peering intently into the woods but mostly listening. Ms. Spring, decoding forest sounds, would stop the group from time to time, point into a copse of trees, and name the species flitting



among the branches. For those whose binoculars were rarely quick enough to catch the flash of yellow rump or breast that identified the bird, there was, at the end of the walk, a magnificent merganser diving and emerging in the swift waters of the Konkapot River.

"We want to encourage people to enjoy the richness of our natural habitat," said Land Trust Executive Director Martha Bryan, who accompanied the group. As this outing demonstrated, even in the dim light of an overcast day, the woodland is alive to those who enter it with quiet alertness. □

Joe Poindexter

Thank You to our Contributors!

Anonymous; James Barbieri; Rene & Marjorie Biber; Robert Gerace; Jill Graham & James Kelly; Stuart & Ellen Hochberger; Christopher & Priscilla Morrissey; Elaine & Gerald Rosenberg; Michael Skrak; and Maxine Yunker in memory of Gloria Knapke

Town Business Is Your Business

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



April 28: All three selectmen were present for the first order of new business, which was a discussion with town resident Paul Levin about the increase in littering on his property on Rhoades and Bailey Road. Mr. Levin said the problem's "gotten particularly bad over the last several months," and asked whether a no-littering sign could be posted on or near his property, adding, the problem has "literally gotten out of hand." Chairman Yohalem said the board would confer with Police Chief Scott Farrell and Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring as to the best place to locate a sign and how much it would cost. He said he would ask them to report back to the Board in time for the May 19 meeting.

Next up was Cemetery Commissioner Jim Palmer regarding a letter from Judith Thompson of Knight Road about the shortage of cemetery plots in the town. He said he agreed with her that it was a growing problem: "We're running out of plots and none of them are in level areas. You have to settle for someplace damp or on the side of a hill," he said. As Ms. Thompson, who was also in attendance, explained to the Board, **"This is a time in my life when I'd like to buy a few plots, and while we've got lots of cemeteries we've got no place to bury people,"** she said, adding, "I think townspeople need to be aware of this." Mr. Palmer suggested making a public appeal to residents who might have land they'd be willing to donate for this purpose, saying land donations would need to be a minimum of two acres. For its part, the Board said it would try to find out whether such a donation would be tax deductible.

The Board said it received an email from Berkshire Community College (BCC) about a work-study program in which college students would receive credit for working at Town Hall. Chairman Yohalem called this a "win-win for everybody," with the school furnishing interns to work on "whatever projects we'd give them, and they'd get credit for it at the school," while the Town "would get the use of college-age student labor for no outlay of cash." The Board asked Administrative Assistant Mike Skorput to follow up with BCC.

The Board said it would be forming a "capital needs committee" that would report to the Board and to the Finance Committee on the capital needs of the Town over the next five to ten years. The committee would comprise five members, one from the Board of Selectmen, one from the Finance Committee and three town residents, who, in Chairman Yohalem's words, "would have some financial background." Selectman

Shalaby agreed to represent the Board; the Finance Committee will be asked to choose its own representative and the three at-large members will be appointed by the Selectmen. The Board said it will post notices around town and on Maggie's List seeking applicants for the committee.

The Board said it would be sending letters to State Representative William "Smitty" Pignatelli and State Senator Ben Downing requesting a meeting to discuss "regionalization," or the sharing of services and equipment with similar-sized towns. Noting press reports that the two legislators recently discussed regionalization with the Great Barrington selectmen, the letter goes on to state that New Marlborough is also "willing to consider regionalization possibilities" in an effort to promote "the efficient use of Commonwealth funds to provide services to citizens and maintain infrastructure." Currently, the town is sharing a radar-based speed-limit sign with Sheffield, and the Highway Department is talking with nearby towns about sharing a roadside mower. But as Selectman Shalaby noted, "We need leadership from Boston for things to really happen. They can't just beat the drum and say regionalize, regionalize, regionalize. They need to provide leadership on how to do that," she said, particularly since they're apparently starting to say "the future of state aid is questionable."

The Board has drafted a letter formally requesting the state Department of Revenue (DOR) to review the Town's financial operations and make an assessment of its fiscal health. The letter, addressed to Rick Kingsley, head of the DOR's Data Management and Technical Assistance Bureau, says that while the Town doesn't have "any specific concerns at this time," it believes "such a review and assessment will provide measures of improvement to New Marlborough." The letter goes on to note that the review likely would be conducted in late summer, which from the town's point of view would be ideal timing since it would be after the Annual Town Meeting, and after the results of the bi-annual town audit are in.

Peter Schuyten

May 5: The three selectmen, dressed formally for the Annual Town Meeting, met briefly to prepare for the meeting and to discuss state funding of road repair. As in the past fiscal year, the state legislature voted \$100 million to assist towns and municipalities to maintain their roads, but Governor Deval Patrick has, in both years, withheld the money, maintaining it should go to mass transit instead. Chairman Yohalem proposed organizing a group

of South County towns to ask for a meeting with the governor to emphasize the urgency of state aid for local road repair. "We will call whoever is going to the meeting, and we will spearhead it," said Mr. Yohalem.

During preparations for the Annual Town Meeting, Finance Committee Secretary Prudence Spaulding, who was attending the meeting, pointed out a possible misunderstanding in the Finance Committee's position regarding an expenditure of \$180,000 to repair the Clayton Mill River bridge. The warrant stated that the Finance Committee did not approve of the measure. Ms. Spaulding said that her committee approved of the expenditure, but voted for the total cost to come out of Free Cash. The warrant stated that \$100,000 would come from Free Cash and \$80,000 would be borrowed.

May 9: All three selectmen were present for a special Friday morning meeting to resolve a potential conflict regarding the property on East Hill Road that was sold in a March 28 auction to Queens, New York, contractor Zufer Dervisevic. **Mr. Dervisevic claimed that a plot review of the property revealed that the property measured 110 by 130 feet rather than 225 by 130 feet, as is recorded on the assessor's map, and contains not the advertised three-quarters of an acre, but closer to 0.4 of an acre.** He asked that the sales price be adjusted accordingly.

Michele Shalaby's proposal that the Board take no action until the May 12 closing date was approved. The Board agreed to convene on May 12, prior to the closing.

May 12: This being the first meeting following the Town Election, Tara White, in the third year of her second term, was elected chair.

Chastened by the lack of information at the Annual Town Meeting on the steep increase in retirement fund payments (see story, page 1), **the Board voted to require the attendance of the treasurer, members of the Finance Committee, and all heads of departments with a budget at all Special and Annual Town Meetings.** Later in the meeting the Board sought an explanation for the increase. According to Administrative Assistant Michael Skorput, the fund covers a number of Berkshire County towns, which are assessed according to the total of salary payments in the previous year. Mr. Yohalem noted that New Marlborough bears an added burden because of a Board decision in 2002 to cover early retirement for three employees, but a full explanation for the increase this year awaits a visit to the Board by Sheila LaBarbera, executive director of Berkshire County Retirement.

Revisiting the question of the size of the property on East Hill Road sold at auction March 28, the Board was informed that, according to available deeds the lot is not three-quarters but only 0.31 of an acre. Cartographic, Inc., which maps properties for tax assessment, recommended that the East Hill site be surveyed. The Board then went into executive session to discuss the discrepancy.

May 19: With all three selectmen present, Chairman Tara White, opened the meeting promptly at 6:00 p.m. "The first order of business," she said, "is to welcome Nat Yohalem back to the Board. He left some unfinished business, and we're going to put him back to work."

Following approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, the Board called Bonnie Brown of National Grid to present her company's proposal for the placement of a pole on County Road to service a new dwelling being built by Josephine Halverson. After abutter David Sheldon was assured that the pole would not infringe on private property or restrict access to driveways, the selectmen gave National Grid the go-ahead.

Next, Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring came forward to present the results of a request for bids on the two trucks authorized for purchase by voters at the Annual Town Meeting. **Despite advertising in the *Berkshire Record* and the *Central Register*, only one concern, H. P. Fairfield of Skowhegan, Maine, advanced bids for the two vehicles, but in both cases they came in at just under the amount authorized.** The smaller vehicle, a Ford S550, came in at about \$88,000, fully equipped, the larger, a MackGU712, at about \$216,000, which includes a computer-controlled device that regulates the amount of salt the truck spreads on winter roads no matter what the truck's speed of travel. Mr. Loring said that the savings in salt would pay for the regulator in a few years. No one had an answer to Ms. Shalaby's question as to why there was only one bidder for the equipment.

Revisiting an issue raised at an earlier meeting, the Board discussed the wisdom of placing a no-littering sign on Rhoades and Bailey Road at the request of resident Paul Levin, who complained at the April 28 meeting of excessive roadside trash. "Would installing a no-littering sign set a bad precedent?" asked Mr. Yohalem. "The last thing we want is to have these signs all over town." After determining that the cost would be about \$50, the Board voted to install a sign temporarily, so as determine its effectiveness and to see if it created demand for similar signs elsewhere. The Board also left itself the option of moving this one sign around to other parts of town where littering was a problem.

In a matter that brings to mind *Jarndyce v. Jarndyce*, David and Heather Ralph were present once again — this time with their lawyer — to obtain a permit for a house they wish to build on Old Hitchcock Road. The previous issue, modifications to Old Hitchcock Road so that it would be accessible to emergency vehicles, was deemed resolved. **So the permit can be issued? asked the Ralphs. Well, not yet. The Board had still not received a letter of approval from the Board of Health on the potability of the water to the residence.** The Ralphs were incredulous. They had used a test laboratory recommended by the Board of Health and had asked

it for its approval as much as two and a half months ago. "Couldn't we have been notified of the lack of this document, so that we wouldn't have to have paid our lawyer to appear this evening?" asked a frustrated Heather Ralph. The Ralphs suggested that the permit be issued pending Board of Health approval, but Mr. Yohalem pointed out that the process still required a special permit hearing to which abutters are invited. Tara White promised to call Board of Health Chairman Larry Davis the following day.

Moving on, Ms. Shalaby said she was proceeding with a grant application to bring in college interns to assist various departments and committees with clerical work, taking board meeting minutes and other matters. The Board resolved to continue meeting from time to time

on Saturday mornings to accommodate residents who are unable to attend on Monday evening. It established July 12 at 10:00 a.m. as its first Saturday meeting in 2014. **Mr. Yohalem emphasized that all residents, not just second-home owners, were welcome to attend Saturday morning meetings.**

Finally, the Board put on hold a request by the Institute for International Cooperation and Development, a social assistance agency, to place a clothing drop box at the transfer station. The Board said it would prefer an organization that assisted residents of Berkshire County. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. and went into executive session to further discuss the sale of the East Hill property. □

Joe Poindexter

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

April 19: The meeting, delayed until a quorum was convened, began at 10:25 a.m. with Commission members Freddie Friedman, John Weinstein, and Ned Wilson present.

First up, Shannon Boomsma of White Engineering and Robert McMahan, the architect for the project, reviewed the details for a Notice of Intent (NOI) for Christopher Morrissey of 88 Hillside Avenue on Lake Buel. The scope of work included improvements to a single family home, a new foundation, new septic and well, and related site work.

Four abutters to the lot were present to discuss their concerns about the impact of the work to the wetlands and to the neighborhood. Several abutters expressed concern about an alternate route indicated on the plan for access to the site during construction. Abutters also pointed to the generally restricted road access to residences in the neighborhood. Mr. McMahan assured the abutters that strategies were in place to minimize construction vehicle traffic and that the foundation excavation would be dug by a small excavator. The abutters asked whether the Commission could write in stipulations to the permit that would require repair to the road after construction and perhaps limit the hours of work. The Commission maintained that those concerns were not within its purview to regulate.

After the concerns of the abutters were addressed, the Commission complimented the engineer and architect for their thorough proposal and voted to approve the permit as proposed with one condition. The Commission asked that the length of the road proposed for access during construction be limited and not continue past the stair tower indicated on the plan.

Next up, Robert Beusman of 268 Hadsell Street and his pool contractor, Keith Francis, presented a Request for Determination (RDA) for the installation of a lap

pool, new deck, and new carport. The Commission was familiar with the site and agreed that all the work was proposed in an area farther than fifty feet from the mean annual high water line of the adjacent Umpachene River. Acknowledging that proper erosion controls were planned for the project, the permit was given a negative determination (meaning the scope of work is allowable) under an exemption that permits activity in an area that has already been degraded to lawn.

Lastly, Sara Kiesel of 109 Mill River Great Barrington Road addressed the Commission with questions and concerns about the erosion of her lawn by the altered flow of the Konkapot River, following the effects of Hurricane Sandy. After several concerns were addressed, the Commission advised Ms. Kiesel that trying to control the flow of the river is potentially a very costly and likely futile pursuit. The discussion morphed into an admiration of the power of nature.

Finally, in a review of the mail, a Certificate of Compliance was received for the completion of work at 104 Downs Road. □

Martha Bryan

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THE BIG SWAP

Plants and Ideas Were Shared on Garden Day at NMC

By Kenzie Fields

In an effort to cross pollinate, the New Marlborough Central School's Garden Clean-up Day and the Cultural Council's perennial plant swap took place at the school on the same day, Saturday, May 17. Plant swappers and families there to clean up the school's garden were treated to hot coffee, donated by the Southfield Store, and to breakfast (a gift from the school's PTA). The day turned out to be the best kind, cool and sunny. Four long tables were set up to accommodate multiple pots of about twenty different varieties of plants brought to the swap. Participants browsed the selections and asked one another questions about sun and shade tolerance, bloom color, and vigor (always a concern when plants are given away; in other words, exactly how quickly will this species mutate and take over the garden?).

Order of choice was determined by drawing from a deck of playing cards. Dave Hastings, superintendent of schools, drew an ace and went first, choosing wild ginger, a shade-loving ground cover from Laura Endacott's garden. Cards were followed in order and the round began again until all the plants were spoken for.

Vegetable and herb seedlings donated by NMC parent Elizabeth Keen, of Indian Line Farm, were plentiful, so basil and kale, eggplant and parsley, went home with just about everyone. Selectman Michele Shalaby contributed one of the largest plants, a chive resembling Cousin It, and Dave Hastings unloaded a trunk full of enormous rhubarb crowns from the back of his car. The rhubarb started as four individual plants given to him and his wife, Mary, by his parents in 1981, the year they were



New Marlborough Central's Erna Lampman instructs fellow plant swappers on how to volunteer at the school garden.
Photo by Kenzie Fields

married. The tart red stalks have multiplied many times over and are ready to begin new chapters in other gardens around New Marlborough.

Equally valuable as the plants swapped were the tidbits of information, gardening wisdom, and know-how: how to keep chrysanthemums from falling over and flowering too early, how to renovate a strawberry patch, how to propagate lupine, recipes for rhubarb (including rhubarb chili!), how to use lovage, and

how to attract mason bees to your garden using fragmites.

Although the turnout was modest in number, everyone there felt it was a great success and a day worth planning on for next year — including combining the swap with NMC's Garden Day. The children and teachers grow a variety of vegetables and herbs. They also experiment with different gardening methods — straw bale gardening, intensive planting, self-sowing herbs and flowers, and companion planting. On Saturday, volunteers age four and up weeded beds, planted seedlings, and trimmed the living willow "wigwam," which is now mature enough to stand alone, no longer needing a scaffold to give it shape and stability. The hut is large enough to accommodate about ten young children, in a magical and shady living structure.

Those who didn't get a chance to visit the New Marlborough School garden should feel free to contact a school community member, parent, or teacher, to come and see it. Plan to attend perennial plant swap 2015. Diversify your garden, improve your skills, and expand your circle of friends and neighbors. □

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A TALE OF TWO CHURCHES

By David Hosford

The Meeting House on the Green and the United Church in Southfield were both originally Congregational Churches, although only the latter is still in use for religious purposes. While the current buildings are familiar to us as town landmarks, neither looks like anything early parishioners would have recognized.

The Meeting House is actually the third house of worship built in the same location by a congregation organized in 1744. Their first building was relatively small and very simple in style. Some fifty years later, New Marlborough had grown and prospered as a farming community, and a second and much larger structure was erected in the 1790s. However, once again it was a plain building with no steeple, bell, or other features we associate with ecclesiastical buildings. Basically it looked like a rectangular barn with windows and a front entrance centered on the long east side facing the New Marlborough Monterey Road. Inside, the congregation sat in box pews on the ground level opposite the minister in a high pulpit



The Meeting House photo by Larry Burke

with a suspended sounding board on the west wall. There were also narrow balconies for additional seating on the other three walls.

Fast forward another forty years to the 1830s. New Marlborough village had developed into a prosperous town center — Hartsville, Mill River, and Southfield had yet to come into their own and Clayton was still part of Sheffield. By this time the Greek Revival style of architecture had become fashionable in New England. While there were concerns about cost, desire for a building in the new style led the Meeting House congregation to a decision to tear down their “barn church” and replace

it with a modern “Greek temple.”

The search began for an architect and the funds to pay for it all. The committee in charge could not find a suitable “draftsman” for the project in Berkshire County. So Henry Wheeler, the parish clerk, was sent off on horseback to Hartford and subsequently to Suffield, Connecticut, where he engaged the architect Henry A. Sykes to draw up a set of plans in the fashionable

THE MEETING HOUSE: A CAMPAIGN FOR RENEWAL

Its steeple soaring proudly into the New Marlborough sky, the regal Meeting House on the Village Green reaches its 175th birthday this year. Lovingly brought back to life in the early 1970s by the New Marlborough Village Association, the Meeting House has become an essential gathering place for the community. The Music and More series brings world-renowned artists for an annual season of performances. The gallery hosts multiple shows highlighting the work of local and regional artists. The Cultural Council, Flying Cloud, and New Marlborough Central School show off their talents and skills in the sanctuary and gallery. The sanctuary hosts memorials and weddings and the meetings of various local organizations. Without the Meeting House, the cultural and community activities that so enrich New Marlborough would not be possible.

The Village Association’s board of directors, looking at the needs of the Meeting House, has voted to embark on a birthday campaign to raise \$1,000 for each of its years – a total of \$175,000. To date, more than \$71,000 has been donated and pledged. The money raised will go toward improving the Meeting House as a cultural center – with a new set of steps, fixing leaks between the rear wall and the roof, and brightening the interior and exterior with new paint. The gallery will be insulated so that it can be used by the community year round. Any unspent money raised through the campaign will be placed in a special fund dedicated to the ongoing repairs of the building as they become necessary.

Brochures describing the campaign, along with pledge forms, will be in the mail during June. The members of the Village Association Board will be available to answer any questions that potential donors may have. “Our goal is to have a gala birthday celebration when we successfully complete the campaign, which we hope will be by the end of this year” said Louise Yohalem, president of the Village Association. The Village Association can be reached at 528-2785, mail to: info@newmarlborough.org, and www.newmarlborough.org.

Louise Yohalem

new style for a fee of \$25. (Sykes himself never came to New Marlborough, but the building we have today is one his best designs.) The project was finally completed and dedicated in 1839 at a total cost of just over \$4,000. Money was raised by selling off salvage from the old barn church and auctioning off pews in the new one to families whose status was reflected by how close to the pulpit they could afford to sit.

The Meeting House was not, however, the only Congregational Church in town. The South Parish, or Southfield Congregational Church, had been officially recognized by the General Court of the Commonwealth in 1794. Geography was the reason. When New Marlborough village was planning for its second building on the green, some members argued for a more convenient location closer to the real geographic center of the community. For those residing near the Connecticut border, including, notably the Howe, Smith, and Keyes families, the journey to church each Sunday was a four- to six-mile trek each way by horseback or wagon. But compromise proved impossible, and even before the second church building in New Marlborough village was completed, the new breakaway congregation in Southfield had already finished work on its own house of worship.

That original 1794 Southfield building, although very well disguised, still exists. Like its counterpart in New Marlborough village it, too, was a "barn church" in design with a front door facing south on the long side that now overlooks the parking lot. It also had the minister in a high pulpit located on the north wall, most of the congregation in box stalls at ground level, and narrow galleries above on the east, south and west walls for overflow seating. To visualize the exterior, visit Old First Church in Sheffield, ignore the front, walk around to the side, and imagine an entrance in the middle of it. Sheffield eventually turned its building halfway around and added an entrance and bell tower on the narrow side then facing Route 7. Fortunately, in Southfield a narrow end of the building was already in place on the

street side. The church had only to add a front vestibule for a new entrance and as a support for the boxlike base of the steeple. The steeple itself was then constructed on the ground and raised inside the building through the square base. Fundraising for the project was undertaken in 1829 and work completed the following year.

In 1847 a second major renovation at Southfield was undertaken. First, the galleries inside were removed, and the original small-paned windows were also changed out for the three larger ones we still see on each side today. Then a new roof was put on and exterior siding replaced after the addition of a cornice and frieze on three sides of the building. The old box pews were replaced with modern slips and a new pulpit area created at the east end. Finishing touches included new interior woodwork, re-plastering and repainting, bringing the cost of the entire project to slightly over \$1,000.

What's missing from the picture are the horse sheds. At the Meeting House they were laid out in an "L" shape at the back of the church on the northwest corner. Southfield had a single long shed on the north side of its building where the parish hall is now. (A rare survivor can be seen at the little church in Tolland on Route 57.) Horses powered transportation in rural areas then, so it made good sense to provide them protection from

harsh weather in an era when Sunday services often lasted all day.

A lot has changed in New Marlborough during the last 150 years, but a visit to the Meeting House or the Southfield Church will take you right back to the mid-19th century. □

David Hosford, a Southfield resident, was a professor of history at Rutgers University.



The Southfield Church

photo by Holly McNeely

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SOLID BEAUTY

The Season's First Art Show Features Sculpture

By Pam Stebbins

Wood, metal, and stone are transformed into sinuous, expressive, captivating objects of art in the first Meeting House Gallery Show of 2014, an exhibit of sculpture and wall hangings of twelve Berkshire artists. A reception with the artists will open the show on Friday, June 13, at 5:00 p.m.

Sheffield artist Elmer Orobio combines unusual pieces of wood with other materials to create composite sculptures. His process begins with a piece of wood he might find in a local lumber yard or along the road after a storm. He spends time studying the properties of the wood and then begins to apply his talent and creativity to the development of a piece of art. This could involve cutting, sanding, carving, or even painting as his sculpture evolves. As an image begins to emerge, he selects other materials to enhance the piece. He might add other bits of wood or small shells, bones, or stones found locally. His approach is organic: free and fluid without any preconceived design.

Although each of Mr. Orobio's sculptures is unique, several themes recur in his work: movement, community, connections, harmony. One sculpture, entitled "To Fly," shows his ability to impart a sense of space and motion. A large vertical cut from a dead tree resembling the wings of a bird is attached to a support made of wood and stone from which the "bird" will "fly." In some of his smaller wood carvings, he uses the image of fire to convey emotion and the sense of chaos and loss.

Mr. Orobio hopes to complete a new sculpture, titled "Journey," by June 13. The piece is a long wooden plank, sanded to reveal its grain, in which patterns and shapes have been carved to represent various stages of life. Copper wire, threaded through cuts in the wood, connects and unifies the piece, just as the events in one's life journey are connected and unified.

A native of Colombia, where he received a law degree from Universidad Santiago de Cali, Elmer Orobio embarked on a teaching career after enrolling in teacher training at the Rudolf Steiner Seminary in Sao Paulo, Brazil. He moved to the United States in 1999 and now teaches woodwork and clay modeling at the Rudolf Steiner School in Great Barrington. He lives with his wife and two sons in Sheffield.

The show also includes work by Peter Barrett, Jonathan P. Cooper, Sophie Eisner, Maria Gay, Peter Murkett, Ellen Murtaugh, Elaine Radiss, Lucinda Shmulsky, Patrick Stolfo, Michael Thomas, Peter G. Thorne, and Robin Tost. Some of

the pieces will be shown outdoors.

The Meeting House Gallery, sponsored by the New Marlborough Village Association, is located on Route 57 on the New Marlborough Village Green. The Gallery will be open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from June 14 to July 6, between 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. □



Elmer Orobio's sculpture "Ages"

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WATER AND SKY

Look out my window and hear the Umpachene, sometimes fiercely flooding, more often merrily babbling. From the back of the house, each twilight sky offers new delights every few seconds. On North Road, a beaver (do you see it?) lazily paddles across a pond mirrored with reflections, then up a hill the land opens again to sky and clouds and a far horizon. New Marlborough is bursting with natural beauty everywhere — for everyone. □ *Ari Korpivaara*



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Neighbors



Joe Hayes often said that he was born in the family home on Hayes Hill Road and would die there. And so he did, on April 21, at the age of ninety-two, having lived his entire life on the farm, which has been in the family for at least three generations. In recent times, this was made possible in large part by George and Laura Davis, also of Mill River, who cared for him increasingly over the past fifteen years. George had known Joe since boyhood, and would help out at the farm, hunt, or just walk in the woods. He says that Joe was a quiet, gentle man who counseled him that in the woods he would find peace of mind. Joe is shown here on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday.



Joe Hayes

Amy O'Brien, daughter of **Debbie and Kevin O'Brien** of Southfield, graduated on May 11 from American University in Washington, D.C. She carried a double major in law and society and psychology, with a minor in Spanish. Her plans are incomplete at the moment, but the possibilities seem endless.



Amy O'Brien



Aoife Posey Burke

Aoife Posey Burke was born on Sunday, April 20, at Fairview Hospital to **Joseph Burke and Kate Feuer**. Aoife (a Gaelic name, pronounced Eepha) checked in at twenty-one inches, weighing seven pounds nine ounces. Congratulations to Joe and Kate, and to the delighted paternal grandparents, **Jane and Larry Burke** of New Marlborough.

Gloria Knapke, a Mill River resident since 1969, passed away on April 28 at the age of ninety-two. She was an elementary art teacher in Levittown, New York, for thirty-two years, retiring in 1999, but she remained physically and intellectually active for the next fifteen years. In addition to golfing and exercising regularly, she loved to sit on her back porch in Mill River and paint.

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Gloria was a longtime member of the Friends of the New Marlborough Town Library, and its president for at least fifteen years. A staunch supporter, she attended virtually all activities at the library, whether for children or adults, loved Elihu Burritt Day, and was a mainstay of the library's annual Burritt Day book-and-bake sale.



Gloria Knapke

Southfield artist **Joby Baker** is showing his recent work in an exhibit at the Lauren Clark Gallery, 25 Railroad Street, in Great Barrington. The show began on May 24 with an opening reception, and will run through June 8. The gallery is open Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11:00 to 7:00; and Sunday, noon to 4:00 p.m. It is closed Tuesdays. Joby warned opening day visitors to "get in line at 4:00 a.m., because it'll be mobbed!" The oil-on-canvas painting at left is entitled "Sandman."



"Sandman" by Joby Baker

Mill River resident and chef **Jean Claude Vierne** died suddenly on April 16. Born in the south of France in 1951, he developed an early interest in cooking from his mother's and grandmother's love of the food of Provence. He pursued a formal education when the family moved to Paris and, upon graduation, worked for several restaurants and resorts throughout France. He came to New York City in 1973, where he was a sous chef, and later executive chef in major restaurants.

He and his wife, Nikki, moved to Mill River in 1989 and opened La Tomate, a French bistro, in Great Barrington, which was open until 2001. Jean Claude then shifted to teaching, with cooking classes at Berkshire Community College and Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. Jean Claude and Nikki also conducted small-group cooking classes at their home in Mill River from 2012 to the present. He hosted the weekly "Food Show" on WBCR-FM in Great Barrington. His view of life in the Berkshires was evident in his favorite saying: "Mill River is the center of the universe." □



Jean Claude Vierne

OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

On April 19, **Charlie Parton**, of New Marlborough village, writes: Yesterday midday Teena and I saw a pair of small ducks in a pond. A beautifully marked black male who was flirting the whole time we watched. The female was interested but coy, brown with a white patch on her head. He, on the other hand, had a lovely bright-white inverted V on his side and painted white splotches and a tinge of red as he turned his head into the light. At a distance we first thought wood duck, but no, they were a wandering pair of sea ducks come in for the breeding season; *Histrionicus histrionicus*, better known as Harlequin ducks. We'll see if they decide to pick that pond for their nursery.

On April 21, **Tom Coote**, who lives on East Hill Road, writes: A mother bear and her three cubs passed in front of our car Friday evening around 5:30, crossing Route 183 just a mile or two east of York Lake. They all appeared to be in top shape.

On April 21, **Don Beauchamp**, of Clayton, writes: This morning, goldfinches hung for hours at the feeder, cleaning out the black-oil sunflower seeds. I crossed the bridge and went up the lane by the old frog pond and found a painted turtle sitting in the mud. First one I have ever seen there. The bluebirds are acting funny. Every morning adults come out and fly around, then sit in the sun, soaking up the rays. But I've seen no sign of young. The adults stay pretty close to the house but sometimes fly across the yard, leaving it unguarded for a while. Also watched a cardinal feed its fledgling.



photo by Don Beauchamp

On April 22, **Leslie Wheeler**, of Cagney Hill Road, writes: On Friday, April 18, we arrived at our home after a two-week absence to find two beavers frolicking in the pond. They were not a welcome sight, because we don't want our pond dammed and flooding its banks, as happened a few years ago when a beaver couple moved in. We're hoping they can be persuaded to leave, as the earlier pair eventually were. One did, in fact, leave the next day, but one remained. Here's a shot of him, taking a break from the water.



photo by Leslie Wheeler



photo by Don Beauchamp

On April 27, **Barry Shapiro** of Mill River, writes: This morning, at 9:50, on our way to Town Hall for the road clean-up, Marjorie and I noticed what seemed to be a very large dog standing next to 600 Hayes Hill Road. Dog it was not; bear it was. The bear proceeded to walk up on the deck of the house and then down the other side. It looked at us briefly and then ran off into the woods. We've no idea if the residents were aware of their mid-morning guest.

On April 27, **Larry Burke**, who lives on Route 183, writes: A male kestrel just landed on the wire outside my office window.

On April 27, **Daniel Doern**, of Mill River, writes: Spring is here and so are new critters. Yesterday, **David Cichetti** and I spotted these four (of five) baby foxes, or kits, on Clayton Mill River Road two houses down from the Wrinkles' house. David took this shot as we drove by.



photo by David Cichetti

On May 7, **Robert Twing, Jr.**, of Hartsville, writes: Yesterday, at about 6:30 p.m., I watched these little guys for about thirty minutes at a house on Konkapot Road. The mom was a safe distance away, watching me.

On May 7, **Don Beauchamp** writes: Yesterday, I saw a pair of wood ducks in a small puddle in the field across the river; they flew south into the trees. The next day I walked down to tree line, and one of them took off from the underbrush, so they may be nesting there.



photo by Robert Twing

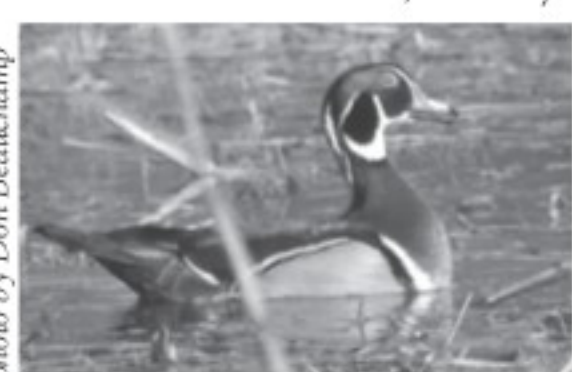


photo by Don Beauchamp

On May 14, Don adds: On Saturday, May 10, a Connecticut warbler visited my apple tree; then Sunday, Mother Nature provided entertainment with an indigo bunting, also the call of the whippoorwill that night. And Tuesday, the female American redstart, right, let me take her photo; the male was there by the river, but wouldn't sit still. □



photo by Don Beauchamp

Compiled by Jon Swan, joncswan@gmail.com



The Road (Cleanup) Crew: On April 27, New Marlborough residents were gathered by Land Trust Executive Director Martha Bryan (kneeling, left) for their semi-annual neatening up of town highways and byways — later to be rewarded by the ever-popular hamburger and hotdog lunch at Old Inn on the Green. Right, Paul Hess, left, and Glenn Chamberlain stack some of the harvest for its trip to the transfer station.

MAILBOX



To the Voters of New Marlborough,

Thank you for re-electing me to the Board of Selectmen. I appreciate your confidence in me and your support. During the next three years I will represent you to the best of my ability.

Sincerely,
Nat Yohalem

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A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE COMPANY

A few thank-you's are in order this month. First, thank you to everyone who turned out at the Annual Town Meeting on May 5 and then at the Town Election May 12, to vote in support of the replacement of the town's twenty-two-year-old fire engine. Members of New Marlborough Fire and Rescue appreciate the confidence that voters expressed by way of their support.

Additionally, thank you to those in the community who asked questions of us about this new equipment, whether on the Town Meeting floor, at the Transfer Station, at the Mill River General Store, or simply approaching us as neighbors. A purchase this significant should not be a no-questions-asked affair. It should include conversation, and we continue to welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have. It is not our fire engine. It is New Marlborough's fire engine, and we will keep you posted on its construction as it progresses.

Lastly, thank you to everyone who turned out to support the Fire Company's annual Spring Dance at Gedney Farm. With an estimated 150 guests, it was one of our largest turnouts of late, and we are looking forward to an even larger turnout next year. It is important

to note that the event would not have been possible without the support of our table sponsors — Herbert and Jeanine Coyne, Haymeadow Pond Farm (Mary Jo and Fred Friedman), Doug and Julia Trumbull, the Yohalem family and friends, Michael White Contracting, and the Mill River General Store — and the great work of Leslie Miller, Brad Wagstaff, Michael Smith, and the rest of the staff at Gedney Farm. And, thank you to Firefighter Winona Carpenter, who again chaired the Spring Dance.

As for the evening itself, in addition to dinner and dancing, we recognized new Fire and Rescue members Danielle Guidi, Brittany Lane, and Matt Wright. Travis Weigle was recognized for ten years of service to the department. Captain Ed Harvey and firefighters Dan Pollock and Matt Wright were recognized for their quick response and good work on the night of the December structure fire in Mill River. Ed Harvey was additionally recognized as the Emergency Medical Service's Responder of the Year, and firefighter Courtney Davis was recognized with the new Brotherhood Award and as the Firefighter of the Year. A good time was had by all. □

David Smith

FIRE AND RESCUE

April 1		Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call	April 13	6:30 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call
April 2	6:10 a.m.	Hayes Hill Road Medical Call	April 15	1:02 a.m.	Shunpike Road Wires Down
April 4		Mutual Aid to Sandisfield Medical Call	April 15	10:23 p.m.	New Marlborough Hill Road Fire Alarm
April 7	12:02 p.m.	East Hill Road Brush Fire	April 18	8:15 a.m.	Norfolk Road Medical Call
April 8	9:31 a.m.	New Marlborough Southfield Road Fire Alarm	April 21	3:28 p.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road CO Alarm
April 8		Norfolk Road Medical Call	April 22	3:53 p.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call
April 8	8:34 p.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Wires Down	April 23	4:42 p.m.	Adsit Crosby Road Wires Down
April 10		Corashire Road Medical Call			

FIVE-ALARM FUN

Gedney Farm was bursting with energy and good cheer April 26, as the Fire Department and Emergency Services hosted their annual Spring Dinner and Dance. The evening's band provided a very danceable beat, and Fire Company President David Smith presented its Fireman of the Year award to Courtney Davis, who had distinguished himself with the organization's top attendance record. As it happened, it was the birthday of the company's newest member, Brittany Lane, which was splendidly celebrated with a giant cake whose icing depicted a brilliant red fire truck. □



Courtney Davis receives an award from David Smith, right, and Ed Harvey, center.

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Aug 9 Tatiana Dimitriades, violin; Jonathan Bass, piano
Sonatas for violin and piano by Prokofiev (Op. 94a in D major),
Schumann (Op. 105 in A minor), and Beethoven (Op. 47 in A major,
"Kreutzer").

Aug 23 From Satie to Gershwin: Music, Dance, and the
Spoken Word

Dancers from Berkshire Pulse; Choreography by Tom Masters
Pianist Doris Stevenson; Narration by actor Nancy Morrison
Erik Satie's humorous Sports et Divertissements for piano, narrator, and
dancers. Also Brahms, Gershwin, William Bolcom and Frederic Rzewsky.

Aug 30 Baroque Gems with musicians from Aston Magna
Free Pre-Concert Talk at 3:30pm

Laura Jeppesen, viola da gamba; Frank Kelley, tenor;
Catherine Liddell, theorbo; Daniel Stepner, baroque violin
Music from Monteverdi through Bach.

Sept 6 Carol Wincenc, Flute; Escher String Quartet
Grammy-nominated Carol Wincenc plays with Escher, "one of
the finest quartets of their generation" (The Guardian)
Mozart, Haydn, Debussy, and Yuko Uebayashi's Misericordia.

Sept 13 Time Flies!

Karen Akers / American Songbook

Don Rebic, piano

One of America's premiere concert and cabaret stars. Post-concert
gala wine tasting hosted by Domaney's of Great Barrington.

Sept 20 Lydian String Quartet

Free Pre-Concert Talk at 3:30pm

Daniel Stepner and Judith Eissenberg, violin; Mark Berger,
viola; Joshua Gordon, cello

Franz Schubert: Quartet No. 13 in A minor, Op. 29, D. 804,
"Rosamunde"; Maurice Ravel: Quartet in F major; Dmitri
Shostakovich: Quartet No. 8 in C minor, Op. 110.

Sept 27 Award-Winning Authors ~ 20th Anniversary!

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UPCOMING: Events Calendar June

- June 7: Mount Everett High School Graduation**, Cheer on six New Marlborough graduates at Tanglewood, Lenox, 10:00 a.m. to noon
- June 12: Restoring Historic Headstones** — join the New Marlborough Historical Society for a morning of cleaning headstones. 10:00 a.m. to noon, followed by lunch.
- June 13: Wood, Metal, Stone**, opening reception for the Village Association's first 2014 art exhibit, mostly sculpture, all dazzling; 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Meeting House Gallery. The show is on view 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday until July 6.
- July 19: Garden Tour**, The Cultural Council's annual presentation of notable New Marlborough gardens, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tickets (\$10), giving locations, will be available starting in mid-June at the Mill River General Store
- July 26: Portals**, doorways, actual and metaphorical, through the eyes of painters, sculptors and other area artists opens to a Friday evening reception, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting House Gallery. On view thereafter 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Friday to Sunday until August 24.

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

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June 14 to July 6



"Maple Burl" by Jonathan P. Cooper

Opening on Friday, June 13, 5 to 7 PM

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Peter Barrett, Jonathan P. Cooper,
Sophie Eisner, Maria Gay, Peter Murkett,
Ellen Murtaugh, Elmer Orobio,
Lucinda Shmulsky, Patrick Stolfo,
Michael Thomas, Peter G. Thorne, Robin Tost

Gallery Days are Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays 11AM to 4PM
At the New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery
On Rt 57 New Marlborough, MA

 Presented by The New Marlborough Village Association

NEW MARLBOROUGH GRADS

Six students from New Marlborough will walk across the stage at Tanglewood on June 7 to receive their diplomas.

Kyle Carson, son of Mark and Karen Carson of Harstville Mill River Road, will be leaving behind a legacy as an outstanding musician and actor during his years at Mount Everett High School. He has played clarinet and saxophone in both the Jazz Ensemble and the High School Band, sung in the chorus as well as the elite Madrigal Singers and Dial Tones groups, and performed in every musical theater production. He has also had a role in every Shakespeare production. He plans to attend St. Michaels College in Vermont where he will major in music education and minor in theater.

Brandon Eichstedt, son of Thomas and Teresa Eichstedt of New Marlborough Hill Road is also interested in building a career in music. Outside of school he has been playing guitar, piano, and drums and looks forward to starting a band. While exploring where that might lead he will be learning carpentry from his father.

Brittany Lane, who lives on Clayton Mill River Road, has plans to go to Berkshire Community College next year. Inspired by the commitment to the New Marlborough Fire Department of her parents, Mark and Tammy Lane, Brittany has already become a member of the department


and plans to study fire science. Fireman Ed Harvey has led her to another interest: digital photography.

Peter Regan IV, son of Ann Regan of Konkapot Road, plans to pursue a career as a physical trainer for a sports team. He credits Jessica Tomich, his physical education teacher at Mount Everett, for his interest in the field. He also enjoyed his experiences on the high school wrestling and soccer teams. Next year, he plans to complete some prerequisites at Berkshire Community College and then go on to Westfield State University to get a degree in Exercise Science.

Erica Sullivan moved from Ashley Falls to Clayton with her mother, Ramona Bauer, last year. She has been active in many aspects of Mount Everett including soccer, tennis, band, FFA, and Shakespeare. After her many successes helping organize parties and events during high school, she has decided to pursue a career in event planning and will attend Nichols College in Dudley, Massachusetts, to obtain a degree in business.

Sabrina Van Deusen, daughter of Tim and Cindy Van Deusen of Clayton Mill River Road, has enjoyed building her skills in art at Mount Everett with her art, technology, and English teachers. She plans to take a year off before continuing her formal studies in digital techniques for making art. □

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THE LIFE OF WATER

By Broc Kerr

With the sound of running water all around us at this time of year, the Flying Cloud Institute has led a residency called “The Life of Water” program at New Marlborough Central for children K-4 to help them develop an awareness and understanding of our interactions with this aspect of their environment and the ecosystems surrounding it.

Through April and May, Flying Cloud staff specialists Kristen Sparhawk (Theatre Arts) and Dale Abrams (Earth and Life Science) worked with teachers in a series of classes and field trips focused on themes targeted at the different age groups, including the changes in water, weather, and aquatic life cycles through the seasons; human needs for water, its role in growing food, and in providing energy, and the historic uses of water power in Mill River. All students traveled to the Joffe Sanctuary to better understand the wetlands ecosystem. They looked at the science behind the water cycle, the seasons, and water power to ponder questions such as:

- *How does the movement and transformation of water affect ecosystems?
- *How do humans use water, and how does this affect ecosystems?
- *What relationship is there between ecosystems and the health of the water system?

The classes culminated in a final performance on May 20 at the New Marlborough Meeting House, with the children singing and playing roles of water droplets, the Konkapot River, and early New Marlborough settlers, in a dramatization of the water cycle and the importance of



Young environmentalists on the trail.

the role it played in the area’s early colonial history.

With the watersheds, ponds, streams, and marshes of our area being some of our greatest local assets — providing critical wildlife habitats and defining features of the region’s natural beauty — it’s inspiring to see the next generation of decision makers so engaged in learning the principles that will guide the roles they will play in their future stewardship.

This experience was made possible through grants from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the New Marlborough Cultural Council.

As part of the Life of Water project, students from Tom Masters’ grade 3/4 Class took field trips not only to the Joffe Sanctuary but also to the Lower Carroll Mill site in Mill River to explore one of the best preserved mill sites along the Konkapot River. On their return they wrote their reflections. Here are two of them:



The Joffe Land

By Kierra O’Rourke

The branches falling from the tree create the beaver’s home, with stick, and grass, and mud and leaves. They chew the tree until they fall and start to build a home.

They make it all their own.

They use their home to hide away from the hunters on the shore.

The Paper Mill

By Charlotte Micklewright

The river rushes nearby, the strong current carrying anything in its way along with it.

The mill is huge, looming towers of mossy rock foundations.

Mossy wall separates rooms in a basement of the mill.

The walls have long since tumbled over, revealing crumbling mountains of mossy limestone.

Grass and bushes cover the tops of the walls and platforms.

Leaves fill the base and it is hard to imagine people working in this massive place.

NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE LIBRARY

Adult Fiction

Frog Music, by Emma Donoghue
The Other Story, by Tatiana de Rosnay
The Painter, by Peter Heller
Unlucky 13, by James Patterson
All the Light We Cannot See, by Anthony Doerr
Burial Rites, by Hannah Kent
The Cartographer of No Man's Land, by P.S. Duffy

Adult Nonfiction

Flash Boys: A Wall Street Revolt, by Michael Lewis
Plan Your Estate, by Denis Clifford
Every Landlord's Legal Guide, by Janet Portman
A Fighting Chance, by Elizabeth Warren

Children's Fiction

The Finisher, by David Baldacci
House of Secrets: Battle of the Beasts, by Chris Columbus
Aviary Wonders Inc. Spring Catalog and Instruction Manual: Renewing the World's Bird Supply Since 2031, by Kate Samworth
Dream Dog, by Lou Berger
Big Bug, by Henry Cole

Children's Nonfiction

The Secret Life of the Woolly Bear Caterpillar, by Laurence Pringle
Hot Dog! Eleanor Roosevelt Throws a Picnic, by Leslie Kimmelman
A Pond Full of Ink, by Annie M. G. Schmidt



SUMMER LIBRARY HOURS

APRIL 1 - OCTOBER 31

Mon. - Wed. - Sat.:

10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Tues. & Fri.:

1:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Thurs. 1:30 - 5:30 p.m.



Field Trip: Massachusetts Secretary of Education Matthew H. Malone paid a late May visit to New Marlborough Central (here with the school's second and third graders) to witness first-hand how a small, rural K-4 delivers excellent education.

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

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

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

CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NEEDED TO CONTINUE THE PAPER!

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

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

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

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Town Times

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

Emergency calls: Police, Fire, and Medical: 911

Transfer Station hours:

Wednesday: 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

PERMITS ARE DUE ON JULY 1

They are available at
the Town Hall in Mill River

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(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;
Martha Bryan, Jane Burke, Larry Burke, Kenzie Fields,
Barbara Lowman, David Lowman, Peter Schuyten,
Barry Shapiro, Pam Stebbins, Jon Swan, Marianne Swan
Contributing writers: Ann Getsinger,
Mary Richie Smith, Jodi Rothe, Tara White
Index: Donna Weaver

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All copy must be submitted no later than June 15.

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

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

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