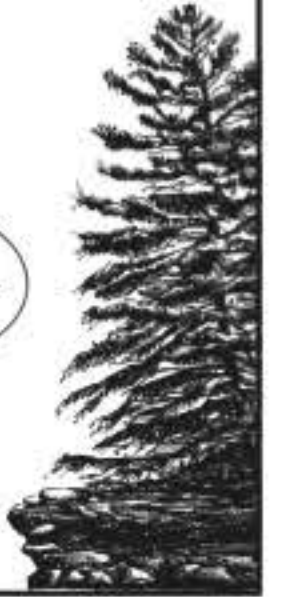




New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

The Annual Town Meeting Wrap-up

by Larry Burke



photo by Larry Burke

The 2016 Annual Town Meeting on May 2 got underway a bit later than the scheduled 7:00 p.m. starting time, due to the registration process for the 178 voters who filled the Great Hall to near-capacity. Moderator Barry Shapiro gavelled the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m. and moved the proceedings briskly through the first thirteen articles of the Warrant in a mere twenty minutes – all approved by unanimous consent.

A motion was then made by Barbara Marchione of Mill River to alter the order of presentation of what would have been the final article on the Warrant, making it the next one to be considered. Her motion was seconded

and approved, so Article 38, which asked the Town to establish a new zoning map delineating five village district boundaries with a special set of dimensional requirements, was brought forward for discussion. Holly Morse, the acting chair of the Planning Board, served as the Board's spokesperson, answering questions posed by opponents to the

proposal, and also hearing a number of citizens speaking in support. Dan Litchfield of New Marlborough Village asked what the problem was that the Planning Board thought needed addressing through the establishment of a separate village zone. Holly Morse responded that this step would save residents of the villages money, since buildings and lots that are currently "non-conforming" would become conforming, and hence the legal fees that are part of the special permitting process that homeowners must go through under the existing zoning bylaws would be eliminated. Tim Newman of Southfield, a proponent of the measure, assured listeners that the new zoning would not excuse residents of the village districts from current state requirements regarding such things as Title 5, as well as Conservation Commission constraints.

After further discussion regarding the factors that led to the specific proposed boundaries, the vote was called. Since passage of this article would effect a change in the Town's Protective Bylaws, a two-thirds favorable vote was required. Moderator Shapiro, instituting a new, simple, and quite effective method of counting the votes, determined that the tally was 94 in favor, 60 against – 61 percent, a bit shy of the two-thirds needed, so the article was defeated.

Moving back then to the warrant as originally presented, the next article that encountered questioning

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was Article 15. June Stalker of Clayton wanted to know why the road crew salaries were increasing by \$10,441. Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring answered that New Marlborough had fallen behind the surrounding towns' wages by between two and four dollars per hour, so this increase would allow for a rather modest 75 cents per hour increase for four employees, plus a necessary 2 percent COLA increase for the Highway Department's secretary.

Still on Article 15, Jean Pollock of New Marlborough Village wanted to know if the Town had saved money on plowing and sanding due to the light winter. The answer from Selectman Tara White was that, yes, in fact the surplus was considerable – \$161,584 – all of which would be certified as Free Cash at the end of June. Article 15 passed, but that surplus from the winter roads account would, like visions of sugarplums, keep dancing in the minds of the attendees for the rest of the evening.

As at every Annual Town Meeting, the biggest expenditure to be voted upon arrived with Article 18 – New Marlborough's portion of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District budget. Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Michele Shalaby presented an overview of the challenges faced by the District and the Town, and this included an amendment to the article to use \$50,000 of Free Cash toward the school assessment. This is an amount approximately equal to

the surplus the Town will see as a result of the measures taken to correct the current school year's assessment error. School Committee representative Fran Lartigue spoke of the chronic problem of reductions in state funding coupled paradoxically with increased mandated

testing and pressure to keep up the level of education. District Superintendent David Hastings tried to put a positive spin on New Marlborough's growing portion of the school budget by pointing out that, "...our town is thriving. New Marlborough Central School is filled to the gills. The number of school-age children in New Marlborough is increasing while Sheffield's is declining, so we own a bigger part of the pie."

photos by Larry Burke



Holly Morse answering questions on bylaw revision

Mark Carson from Hartsville, a member of the Finance Committee, spoke to the fact that his committee had come out against passage of the school budget appropriation. He said, "If 40 percent of the kids cannot afford lunch, then how can we expect their parents to be

able to afford the taxes?" Ira Yohalem, another member of the Finance Committee said that there had been a split vote (3 – 2) within the committee, and that he held the minority opinion that the proposed budget was, "well within the bounds of what every other district is experiencing."

Members of the public also spoke, including Amy Lynn of Southfield, who wondered if the left-over winter roads money could be used to lessen the taxpayers' burden. Selectman Tara White



Voting on the bylaw revision



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explained once again that the surplus funds would not be certified as Free Cash until the next fiscal year arrives. Barbara Marchione attempted to make an amendment to take more money from Free Cash than the \$50,000 that had already been designated, but Moderator Shapiro ruled the amendment improper, to the consternation of some. Attorney Richard Vinette, standing in for Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard, agreed with Mr. Shapiro that he had the authority to do so. The vote was then called for and Article 18, the school budget, easily passed.

The meeting then proceeded fairly smoothly until Article 24, which sought to raise the sum of \$50,000 for the Stabilization Fund. A difference of opinion arose between Dan Litchfield and Michele Shalaby over the method by which the fund was monetized. Mr. Litchfield held that the money used to come from the existing Free Cash account, and not from new appropriations. Ms. Shalaby agreed that Free Cash has been the source for half of the yearly funding (\$50,000), but that the other half has been raised through taxes. The disagreement was not resolved, and the use of the excess winter roads money popped up yet again. Eventually the vote, requiring a two-thirds majority, was taken, this time with 90 ayes and 67 nays, for a 57.32 percent majority... and a defeat of the article.

Article 25 called for a huge increase to group insurance for Town employees, from the current \$150,000 up to \$204,831, and this, predictably, stirred up a reaction. Town Administrator Mari Enoch said there had been a

14 percent increase in employees' family plans, and also that the increase "allows two more employees to come on the plan." Questions included Alicia Ryan of Clayton wanting to know what portion the employees paid in (25 percent), and Peter Scala of Lake Windemere wanting to know how many employees the plan covered (eleven on the family plan). The article then was voted upon and approved, by a narrow margin.

The purchase of a new excavator for the Town was the subject of Article 27, and after some back-and-forth between Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring and several citizens opposed to the expense, the article passed by a large majority.

Article 28, closely related to Article 24, sought to transfer \$50,000 from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund. Barbara Marchione again stood to introduce an amendment to the article, upping the amount to be transferred to \$100,000. The moderator permitted the amendment, which was then adopted by a majority vote, and the amended article then passed as well.

With some discussion sprinkled into the presentation of the remaining articles, including questions on the need for a new police cruiser and the impetus behind the effort to change the name of the New Marlborough - Monterey Road back to the former North Road,

all passed comfortably, and at 9:20 p.m. the 2016 New Marlborough Annual Town Meeting passed into history. □



Michele Shalaby addressing Free Cash issue



Dan Litchfield addressing the meeting

Photos by Larry Burke



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BROADBAND UPDATE

The "Pause" Is Lifted

by Barry R. Shapiro

On May 10, 2016, after over five months of delay to review all aspects of the project to bring broadband to the Berkshires, Governor Baker lifted the "pause" that his office had imposed on funding by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) and set forth new guidelines for the project. The question remains, however: Was this a "pause that refreshes," as in the old Coca Cola commercials, or will the path to broadband remain as tortuous, twisted, and delayed as in the past?

The governor and his colleagues are optimistic that the opportunity for rapid movement is upon us.

"We recognize there is no one-size-fits-all solution to addressing broadband service gaps, and look forward to our new leadership team's efforts to empower community design for operational, financing, and technology models best suiting the unique local needs of communities in Western Massachusetts," said Governor Charlie Baker.

"We are committed to close collaboration with these communities and fostering openness, engagement and problem-solving to address Last Mile challenges," said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito.

"This new Last Mile framework emphasizes collaboration, creativity, and problem-solving," said Housing and Economic Development Secretary Jay Ash. "Our recent deep-dive assessment of the Last Mile project revealed many financial, legal, technical, and operational challenges. These challenges require flexibility, and a focus on results."

Here's what the governor's new guidelines tell us:

- As a result of the governor's "intensive program review," MBI (charged with implementing the expansion of broadband to the unserved communities) is "moving ahead with a fresh look," demanding progress "as quickly as possible," and "shifting to a more flexible, responsive program framework which prioritizes affordable and sustainable solutions and embraces a range of technology and operating options." Put differently, MBI will now "move quickly" and no longer be constrained by "irreconcilable expectations for speed, coverage, affordability, and a one-size-fits-all solution."

- New leaders have been appointed at MBI. Peter Larkin is the new MBI chair and will "ensure that community interests are heard and properly vetted." Bill Ennen is a new liaison to the towns, responsible to "troubleshoot and expedite" and get "the best possible outcomes in the shortest possible time." He will be based in western Massachusetts.

- MBI now recognizes that there are different project models and technology options that may work, including expansion of services by private providers

(such as Verizon, Comcast, Charter, Frontier, and others), extension of existing cable infrastructure, multi-municipal networks, independent municipal networks, and pilot projects. Technology is not limited to fiber and can include wireless, cable, and hybrid systems.

- Guidelines to receive state investment support are now spelled out. Projects must provide access to minimum broadband speeds defined by the FCC (25 mg download, 3 mg upload), demonstrate operating sustainability without ongoing state aid, be affordable, seek a minimum goal of 96% residential service, be endorsed by MBI staff, have financing endorsed by the state, and be approved by the MBI board. The guidelines spell out the state's preference for network operations which are "managed by experienced professional partners when possible."

- MBI will work directly with each town, "individually or as collaboratives," to support and review projects, with "deadlines" so that projects move forward quickly.

- Using models set forth by the governor, MBI will develop and start posting individual readiness status reports for each town. Examples of readiness elements are broken down into three categories:

1. Town preferences and actions: Towns need to decide what structure they want, adopt bond authorization and debt exclusion, if needed, establish a municipal lighting plant, if needed, and establish inter-municipality agreements, if needed.

2. Financing and funding: Review MBI cost and sustainability analyses, understand and confirm total project costs, review financing options, and develop and obtain approvals for the financing plan.

3. Project details: Review and select technology options, collaboration options, an operator and internet service provider; develop and confirm a sustainable business plan.

News that the "pause" has been lifted was greeted with excitement by Selectman Michele Shalaby. "The governor's administration has broadened possibilities, rather than narrowed them. This allows towns to explore models in which the unprecedented capital investment and risk of operation are shifted to private companies or subscribers, rather than borne by all residents. With unwavering recognition of how vital broadband service is, my colleagues in surrounding towns share my concern for economically-vulnerable residents who will not benefit from this service. Private companies are beginning to make some serious proposals. These proposals will give us a better basis on which to evaluate our options. The Governor's office has indicated that these possibilities

are real and towns can mobilize quickly.”

At about the same time that the governor’s report was issued, WiredWest issued a report making a strong case for the efficiency of a regional network over towns building stand-alone networks, arguing that a large regional network will result in significant cost savings to subscribers.

Notably, the governor’s report makes no reference to WiredWest. It also notes, however, that devising a regional or consortium network (such as that espoused by WiredWest) that will allow a town to exit “with its assets” is a challenge. Before the “pause,” MBI had identified this exit dilemma as a significant issue.

According to a statement issued on the WiredWest website, the governor has more broadly-based reservations about a large consortium approach, which puts him at odds with WiredWest. “The governor indicated he does not believe a grouping of twenty or thirty towns is practical and would be able to agree on critical decisions over time. Despite WiredWest’s experience to

the contrary, he is convinced that long-term cooperation among all the towns within the region would be difficult. He believes that smaller groupings of towns make sense, even though our region has had some different experiences, but acknowledged that towns should be in the driver’s seat of determining if they want to take a regional approach.”

Tim Newman, New Marlborough’s representative to WiredWest, remains optimistic about the role that WiredWest can play. “Overall, WiredWest is encouraged by the lifting of the ‘pause’ and the beginning of clarity around the process. We look forward to meeting and working with the new project leadership, and view the administration’s direct involvement as the signal of a new day, and a real start to getting our towns wired.”

So, bottom line: The responsibility to move forward has now shifted back to the towns where, armed with the new guidelines and a liaison based in Western Massachusetts, rapid progress can be hoped for.

Until then, once again and once again, stay tuned. □

Thank You to Our Contributors!

Vincent Cohan & Susannah Johnston; Beverly, Dan, & Bob Litchfield; and Philip R. Gelzer



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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

April 25: With all three selectmen present, the Board's first order of business was a **utility pole hearing with National Grid**, which was seeking Board approval to relocate three poles and install three new ones at the intersections of Konkapot Road, Clayton Mill River Road, and Brewer Hill Road. As explained by National Grid's Sandra Annis, the company was contacted by the Town's Highway Department which is planning to reconfigure those intersections as part of the Clayton Mill River Road repaving project, eliminating two roadway islands, both of which have utility poles on them. To accommodate the new layout, the utility not only has to relocate the existing poles but also install three new ones because, as Ms. Annis put it, "the spans there are very long. So we have to add a few mid-span poles to shorten the distance." The work will be done mid-summer, she said, depending on the pace of the Highway Department's work, and the utility will not be charging the Town for the relocations. The Board voted unanimously to approve the request.

Holly Morse, acting chair of the Planning Board, appeared before the Board to seek its support for the proposed bylaw changes to establish village district boundaries and new dimensional requirements within the villages to be voted on at the May 2 Annual Town Meeting. She said she'd like to be able to tell the meeting that the changes have the support of the Board, adding: "That's my request." All three selectmen agreed they are in favor of the changes. She also asked whether the Board had any recommendations on how best to present them at the meeting, to which Selectman Nat Yohalem replied, "Keep it as simple as possible."

The Board approved the minutes from the March 28, April 4 and April 11 meetings, and then reviewed and approved the wording of an **advertisement for a new treasurer** to be placed in the *Shopper's Guide*, as well as on Maggie's List and Craig's List, the Town website and the official Massachusetts treasurer's website. As Town Administrator Enoch noted, "There's less emphasis in the ad on municipal experience and more on bookkeeping skills and a thorough understanding of financial controls." Potential candidates are being asked to reply by May 27.

Town Moderator Barry Shapiro and attorney Richard

Vinette, who will be standing in for Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard at the May 2 Annual Meeting, met with the Board to discuss Annual Meeting procedures. Most of the discussion focused on what the Board will do if either the budget doesn't pass, or the proposed Proposition 2½ override allowing the Town to assess an additional \$300,000 in real estate and personal property taxes is voted down at the Town election a week later on May 9. After much discussion, **the Board agreed that if either the budget or the override fails, they will call a special town meeting for early in the 2017 Fiscal Year, which begins July 1, and come back with a new warrant**

"...if everything on the warrant ... is approved at the town meeting, the Town's appropriations will exceed the levy limit by approximately \$160,000...."

and possibly a new ballot question, if an override is still required. As previously reported, if everything currently on the warrant, including the \$2,766,186 school budget, is approved at the town meeting, the Town's appropriations will exceed the levy limit by approximately \$160,000. So the Town is asking voters to raise the limit by \$300,000 to cover its spending needs not only for this year but next year as well.

Under Selectmen's updates, Selectman Tara White said the **Southern Berkshire Regional School District appears finally to have resolved the long-running accounting snafu that resulted in incorrect budget assessments to all five towns in the district.** She said the school administration with the Finance Subcommittee's approval is proposing to take \$177,000 out of the Excess and Deficiency account, which is roughly equivalent to a town's free cash account, and apply it to the Fiscal 2016 budget. This would completely resolve the assessment

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issue by wiping out Sheffield's \$88,000 deficit, while adding to the other four towns' assessment surpluses, in the process giving New Marlborough a \$55,000 credit. The proposal will be presented to the full School Committee for approval at its regularly scheduled Thursday night meeting.

April 29: A special Friday working session was called to order at 10:30 a.m. to go over the warrant in preparation for the Annual Town Meeting. All three selectmen were present, as was Town Moderator Barry Shapiro. The first item for discussion concerned articles which require a two-thirds vote by the Town. Mr. Shapiro also noted he will only allow amendments "that are within the scope" of the article being discussed on the floor.

Chairman Michele Shalaby reported that the School Committee of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District has finally passed an amended Fiscal 2016 budget. As she noted, this resolves once and for all the accounting issues that led to incorrect budget assessments for all five district towns and leaves New Marlborough with a \$55,781 surplus. While this amount will not be certified as Free Cash until the Fall of 2016, Ms. Shalaby, with the Board's concurrence, will propose an amendment on the floor of the Annual Town Meeting that will provide the Town with a way to use the surplus to reduce its 2017 school assessment.

The Board then reviewed a power point presentation prepared by Ms. Shalaby for the budget review meeting scheduled for Saturday, April 30, as well as a one page "At-a-glance" document summarizing the budget and capital appropriations being proposed for the 2017 fiscal year.

April 30: With all three Selectmen present, Chairman Shalaby delivered the power point budget

presentation at 10:00 a.m. to a small audience of town residents assembled in the Great Room of Town Hall. The presentation included a review of the FY15 and FY16 Free Cash account and Stabilization Fund and the proposed \$300,000 Proposition 2½ override.

May 2: The meeting was convened at 6:10 p.m. with all three selectmen present along with the six members of the Finance Committee. Town Administrator Enoch distributed a list of motions the selectmen will read at the Annual Town Meeting, after which Mr. Yohalem asked the Finance Committee to withdraw its recommendation rejecting the school budget. But the Finance Committee members held firm and voted instead to reaffirm their earlier position. The meeting was then adjourned and the Board and Finance Committee went upstairs to the Great Room for the town meeting. (For a look at the results of that meeting see *The Annual Town Meeting Wrap-up* on page 1)

May 16: The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chairman Shalaby. All three selectmen were present. This being the first meeting following the Town Election, the first order of business, after approving the minutes of the April 14, 25, 29, 30 and May 2 meetings, was to reorganize the Board. **Selectman White moved to appoint Selectman Yohalem chair for the coming year. The motion was seconded by Selectman Shalaby, and so voted. Chairman Yohalem then conducted the rest of the meeting.**

The Board reviewed the results of the Annual Town Meeting and the Town election and discussed **next steps in the wake of the defeat of the ballot question** that would have allowed the Town to assess an additional \$300,000 in taxes to fund its 2017 fiscal year budget. Instead, the defeat leaves the Town \$55,000 over the

The School Committee of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District finally passed an amended Fiscal 2016 budget which finally resolves the accounting issue that led to incorrect budget assessments for all five district towns.

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levy limit, with basically two options for dealing with it, according to Mr. Yohalem: One is to reduce the budget by that amount, or call for another override vote for an amount less than \$300,000. He asked the other Board members to review the budget between now and next week's meeting "to see where we can cut safely," and specifically suggested looking at the machinery line item in the Highway Department budget, group insurance, and the treasurer and tax collector salary line items. He also asked the three Finance Committee members who were present at the meeting, Tom Stalker, Prue Spaulding, and Mark Carson, to schedule a Finance Committee meeting as soon as possible and put as one item on the agenda a review of the budget "to see if you have any thoughts as to how, if at all, it could be reduced."

The Board appointed five members to the Town's new Broadband Committee. They are Tom Stalker and Richard Long, New Marlborough residents who have been assisting the Board with its broadband deliberations since last fall; Owen Wright, a local building contractor and resident of Mill River; Steven Klein, a municipal finance consultant and part-time Mill River resident; and Selectman Shalaby. Mr. Yohalem urged the committee to hold its first meeting as soon as possible because, as he put it, "things are starting to happen." These include, most importantly, the lifting by the governor's office of the so-called pause on funding and other activity by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute. As Ms. Shalaby commented later in the meeting, "The intention seems to be to broaden the options for the towns, make things happen more quickly, and provide more flexibility." (For more on the latest broadband developments, see "Broadband Update: The 'Pause' is Lifted" on page 4).

The Board approved an increase in transfer station fees for the disposal of furniture, electronic equipment, appliances, and tires. "We've been given an increase in our bulky waste stuff by our hauler," Valley Roll-Off

Dumpster Service, explained Solid Waste Coordinator Freddie Friedman, "so we're having to pass that on." Under the new pricing, the fee for disposing of tires will rise to \$5 each from \$1; sofas, couches and mattress will increase to \$25 from \$15, while refrigerators, air conditioners and television sets will go from \$20 to \$25. He said the transfer station attendants have been handing out sheets with the new pricing, and they've also been posted at both the Mill River and Southfield stores. The new fees go into effect June 1.

Under Town Administrator updates, Ms. Enoch reported that Holly Morse has resigned from the Planning Board. This follows the defeat at Town Meeting of the Planning Board's proposed bylaw change establishing village district boundaries with new dimensional requirements. Also, Marilyn Fracasso, a Clayton resident who received two write-in votes at the town election has accepted a position on the Finance

Committee. The Board agreed to send letters of thanks to Ms. Morse for her six years of service on the Planning Board and to Dave Herrick, who's retiring after thirteen years on the Finance Committee, the last four as chair.

Board Secretary Sharon Fleck reported that because of the Verizon strike and other unanticipated delays the request for bids will not go out for the Clayton Mill River Road reconstruction project until March 2017, which means the repaving work won't be done until next summer.

And finally, Mr. Yohalem reported that School Superintendent and Southfield resident David Hastings will once again organize and officiate at the Town's Memorial Day celebration on May 30. He said the parade will begin at 9:00 a.m. and that Mark Bachetti, past Post Commander of the Sheffield American Legion and an Air Force veteran, will be the speaker this year. There will be no rain date. □

Peter Schuyten

**Selectmen appointed
Selectman Yohalem as their
chair for the coming year.**

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THE VIEW FROM THE BOARD

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Annual Town Meeting and Town Election. It was an exemplary demonstration of New England town democracy. The vote counts showed that there are several issues in which we are not overwhelmingly in agreement but our respectful participation showed that we care for each other, as described in the invocation read by Dan Litchfield, chosen by Barry Shapiro. We can all be proud to be a part of New Marlborough.

The work is not (ever) complete. We voted to appropriate an amount that exceeds the Proposition 2½ limit by approximately \$55,000. Because the Proposition 2½ override vote was a negative one, the Town cannot raise enough in property taxes to meet the appropriations voted at Town Meeting. Our budget is not balanced and the Department of Revenue will therefore not allow New Marlborough to set its tax rate until we balance it. In the absence of an exact figure of non-property-tax revenues (motor vehicle excise, fees, licenses, etc.), the \$55,000 is truly an estimate and we will therefore be seeking a larger balancing sum to ensure New Marlborough's ability to meet obligations and Department of Revenue requirements.

Once the figure is determined, the Board and the Finance Committee will examine options. Those currently identified are

- Reduce the budget via a Special Town Meeting.
- Ask for a Proposition 2½ override in another amount at an election.
- Combine the previous two options.

We may also seek some relief from the regional school district. The viability is uncertain at this time but we believe it is a worthwhile request to make and explore.

Subsequently, the capital plan will be revisited. If anything can and fiscally should be removed from the annual budget, it is the \$222,000 of debt service payments we will make on previously purchased trucks and Town Hall repairs. These payments carry interest

and are exempt from the limits of Proposition 2½. Unfortunately, they cannot be paid early. The capital planning effort has been undertaken with the goal of taking no additional debt for such items. Far from complete, the most recent version of the capital plan has us running out of funds within five years. While our vote against raising and appropriating \$50,000 toward the Stabilization Fund gave some very necessary relief to taxpayers, there are consequences we need to address. By not increasing our resources for capital expenses, we are taking a step backward in the capital plan. I believe that we have options to address this and will consider them all. Hopefully, we can also engage more residents who have financial expertise to apply to this effort.

Moving further into the year, we have significant tasks to complete. We have financial roles to fill and processes to improve. Several significant construction projects will be taking place on Clayton Mill River Road and Hadsell Street Bridge, while the State process has begun on Umpachene Falls Road Bridge. Additionally, the Highway Department will be undertaking some smaller repaving projects on Norfolk and Corashire Roads. The effort to bring broadband continues with new direction from the governor's administration. (See *Broadband Update* on page 4.) Opportunities to share additional services will be explored, directly with neighboring towns and through the Governor's Community Compact, led locally by Representative Smitty Pignatelli. With other towns along the route, we will advocate for the state takeover of Route 57. We'll also participate in the efforts to make the Berkshires an age-friendly community and do what we can to address the epidemic of opioid addiction. The longer-term issue of aligning the school budget with population will remain a high priority.

As we move forward, please continue your participation and, as always, contact us with questions, concerns and ideas. □

Michele Shalaby

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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

March 26: Commission members Ned Wilson and John Schreiber convened the meeting and welcomed new Commission member, Rona Easton.

First up was Adam Chait from Fiber Connect, LLC, presenting a Request for Determination (RDA) for his client, Paul Joffe of 390 Tamaridge Way, to dig a trench to install high-density polyethylene telecommunications conduit. Mr. Chait explained that the trench would be approximately eighteen inches deep and run just off the existing paved driveway to the residence, a distance of roughly one mile. Without much discussion the Commission agreed that no further permitting was necessary but requested that Mr. Chait submit a modified plan showing the installation and location of wattles to be installed during the work.

Next Jillian Olsen, consultant from Earth Res Group Inc., addressed the Commission on behalf of the Bosworth Family Partnership of 772 Norfolk Road. Ms. Olsen explained that a well-driller had been hired by Berkshire Mountain Springs to explore the plant site for drilling a new point for water. The exploration involved putting in a temporary access road to a new well location. The temporary gravel road was within the one-hundred-foot buffer zone to a wetland.

The Commission noted that an anonymous complaint

had been filed with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and that the Commission was asked to investigate the well drilling, noting that no permit had been filed with the Commission. The RDA submitted by Ms. Olsen was in response to the Commission's investigation.

After consulting with Mark Stinson from the DEP, the Commission asked that the Bosworths "make the situation right." All parties agreed that the best solution was to leave the access road to the new well location and restore the catchment area with plantings to control erosion and minimize sediment leaching in to the adjacent stream. The Commission gave the permit a negative determination, concluding that while the work was within the buffer zone the wetland resource would not be altered. The Commission additionally requested that a follow-up inspection for compliance be scheduled after the site mitigation was completed.


Selectman Tara White next addressed the Commission regarding their budget request increase of \$4000, raising their budget from \$2000 to \$6000. Ms. White explained that the Selectmen were reviewing a very tight budget to be voted on at the upcoming Annual Town Meeting. Ms. White asked that the Commission consider options for offsetting the budget increase. The Commission agreed to review possible options including hiring a conservation agent who might be shared with neighboring commissions.

Finally, it was noted that a joint meeting of the Monterey and New Marlborough Conservation Commissions was scheduled for April 12 at 6:00 p.m. to review a Notice of Intent filed by the Lake Buel District to draw down the level of the lake.

The minutes from last month's meeting were read and approved with minor edits and the meeting adjourned.

April 30: Commission members Ned Wilson, John Schreiber, and Freddie Friedman convened the meeting.

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To start, Brett Sherry from the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife presented a Notice of Intent (NOI) for work to repair the boat ramp at Thousand Acre Swamp. Mr. Sherry explained that the existing cement pads, roughly twenty-five feet in length, would be replaced. He also noted that the work would be completed by the end of May. The Commission approved the permit as submitted.

Next, Owen Wright of Mill River Builders presented a Request for Determination for his customer Madeline Swartzman of 113 Bockway. Mr. Wright explained that the existing three-season cottage will be winterized and that the new utilities would be located in the basement. Some excavation would be required to upgrade the electrical service. Referencing their observations from the morning's site visit, the Commission approved the permit stating that although the work was within the buffer zone, the wetland resource would not be altered. The Commission did request two conditions to the approval: that a silt fence be installed at the perimeter of the work area and that all unused fill material be exported from the site.

Next, resident Myron Jaffe of 144 Brewer Hill Road presented an RDA for work to prune and remove dead wood from trees on his property. Brewer Brook, a perennial stream, runs through the property. It was noted that the work would not disturb the existing soil grade. The application was approved as submitted.

Then the Commission reviewed the mail. Two forest cutting plans were received: Ronald Frohne of Hulett Hill Road for thirty-five acres and Norfolk Road Nominee Trust of Norfolk Road for twenty-five acres. It was noted that the latter cutting plan was delayed until the winter due to wet and unstable ground this spring. The Commission discussed the notice from the Forest Legacy Program and agreed to send a letter supporting the proposal to develop a Western Massachusetts Forest Legacy Area.

Finally, the Commission discussed the work occurring at 212 East Hill Road and noted that no permits had

been submitted to the Commission. The Commission had observed active excavation within 200 feet of the perennial stream on the property. Since the owner had already been told that the work required a wetlands permit and the owner had not complied, the Commission wrote up a cease-and-desist order. Members Wilson and Schreiber decided to hand-deliver the notice and the meeting adjourned. □

Martha Bryan

First Fridays

JUNE 3
JULY 1
AUGUST 5
SEPTEMBER 2

All programs, free and open to the public begin at 7:30 p.m.

June 3 *Writer and historian Carol Owens on 19th century women at the New Marlborough Meeting House*

July 6 *George Root presents turn-of-the-(19th)-century songs at the Southfield Church*

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WELCOME TO "THE FARM"

By Sandra Walker

Contented clucks fill the air as a brood of hens huddle at the fence to greet Tom Brazie. It's obvious the hens know who is boss around here, and they're waiting to see if Tom is bringing them any treats. But as we stand a few feet from the fence discussing Tom's plans to move the pen and the "Eggheads," as he affectionately calls these red-feathered ladies, the hens lose interest and slowly scatter, scratching, pecking, hunting for tasty morsels in the grass.

Farming, never an easy endeavor, is one Tom Brazie approaches with respect and what appears to be a natural understanding of the connections between land and animals and people. Watching the animals at Brazie's "The Farm," located on Route 183, I got the feeling the pigs, cows, and chickens feel they're part of the Brazie family. Respect was obvious in the attention the animals paid to the Brazies and vice versa.

Both Tom and his wife Laurel, born and raised locally, have deep roots in the Berkshires. Their son, Foster, showing all the signs of impending toddlerhood, sat upon his father's faded toy tractor for a quick photo. The tractor, like many products manufactured long ago, was built to last and in some ways seems symbolic of what's happening at The Farm.

With pregnant sows grazing in one field while a drift of pigs rooted in the woods behind us, Tom discussed his plans. The Farm will sell locally, either directly to people who prefer to take home fully grown pigs or chickens to butcher and process the meat on their own, or Tom will take care of processing and packaging the meat according to United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) standards, making it available for purchase at The Farm and through various other markets.

"It takes months, and in some cases years, to prepare a meal from a farmer's perspective," Tom said, so his goal is to contract with individual families enough chicken, pork and/or beef for each week, a month, or up to a year. I asked Tom about the availability of soup hens, and he stated the laying hens are retired at about five years old. With 135 hens now producing and another 100 chicks expected in June, Tom intends to add 100 egg-layers each year to keep production even, up to about 500, for now. Presently the Brazies collect 70 to 120 eggs per day, and inspect and wash each egg by hand.

Another avenue where The Farm distributes its goods



Tom and son Foster who is sitting on Tom's old toy tractor

is through The Flour Bin Gals, a commercial operation run by Laurel and her mother, where they use The Farm's products to make quiches and chicken pot pies. These and other goods are available at the New Marlborough and Monterey Farmer's Markets and local stores in Mill River and Monterey.

In a large, plastic-covered greenhouse, almost 150 two-week-old chicks reside under heat lamps. As they increase in size, they're gradually moved to larger spaces in the greenhouse until they're big enough to move outside, where they'll develop to full-grown meat birds.

Once outside in pens, similar to the Eggheads, the meat birds live a life ranging through fields previously fertilized by the grazing cows. The chickens follow the cows, spreading their fertilizer, while the birds happily eat grasses, worms, insects, and other nutrients.

The chickens spend their days in the sunlight, and benefit on occasional rainy days when worm-hunting is especially rewarding. Tom explained that although feed is put down for all the birds, they spend most of their time working the fields for several days before cleaning out the natural food sources. When the birds turn to the feed, that's one of the signs it's time for Tom to move the pen again. Besides maintaining healthy fields, this free range and feed program has cut The Farm's feed bill by 50 percent.

Currently, USDA does not have definitive scientific data stating a nutritional difference in egg nutrition due to hen housing. However, there is some evidence that shows eggs from free-range birds are lower in cholesterol and fat, higher in Vitamin A and E, and have double the amount of omega-3 fatty acids. This writer used to live



Tom's cows grazing on a Route 57 field

in Michigan and visited turkey farms where the birds were kept in huge warehouses, never seeing the sun or scratching up a worm. Thinking back to those farms, she couldn't help but notice how much healthier and happier these chickens look compared to those poor turkeys years ago. Raising meat for local restaurants, families, and friends, Tom is attentive to the birds' comfort as well as their final resting place.

Meat birds are ready in about six weeks for the trip to Vermont where they are prepared for consumption before returning to New Marlborough to be sold. Tom spoke of his concern for these birds and the stress of that trip. From day one, he maintains an environment conducive to a happy, healthy bird, and his intent to find a less stressful solution for that last day in the birds' lives seems a natural next step for Tom. As with everything else he's set out to do and has already accomplished, I'm sure we'll hear soon that The Farm has developed another way to transport birds without stress.

Tom's desire to learn about the land began when he started a landscaping company over seventeen years ago. Always with an eye towards farming in the future, Tom learned through experience what works and what doesn't. Self-taught, Tom sought out others who practiced agriculture with a focus on community and continuity and discovered Joe Salatin, an alternative farmer and owner of Polyface Farm in Virginia.

Salatin supports cultivating healthy fields where animals graze in cycles, so the land is continually and naturally fed while also being given time to heal and grow. He also promotes local farming staying local, believing the agribusinesses of today deplete and damage not only the ecosystem, but also communities in general. Polyface Farm serves more than 5,000 families, ten retail outlets, and fifty restaurants through relationship marketing including on-farm sales and metropolitan buying clubs, while managing all farm waste locally. Salatin's philosophy intrigued Tom, and after reading several of

Salatin's books, Tom was able to meet him at a lecture he gave in Concord, Massachusetts.



One of the sows scratching an itch

Nurturing his passion for farming, Tom works the acreage he farms within the limits of what the land and the community allow, maintaining that critical balance among land, animals, and people.

When Tom was asked whether he used medicated feed for the animals, he responded: "In my barn on the white board in bold letters is FWB. It is the most rehearsed set of principles we go by. It stands for Food, Water, and Bedding. If the animals are eating a healthy, plentiful diet, have fresh water available all the time, and are in a clean, dry environment, there is no need to medicate. If an animal should get sick, the vet is called: we figure out how and why the animal got sick and make any adjustments. So far the vet has come to my farm twice in eight years. The first time, one of my cows had a pro-lapsed uterus while giving birth. Everything turned out fine. The second time, one of the beef cows decided to try and sniff a porcupine. The doc brought a pair of pliers and a shot of penicillin and she was up and chewing her cud in no time."

Brazie farms over 150 acres throughout the five villages, transporting his cows and chickens from one field to another during spring, summer, and fall. The rotations of animals grazing and fertilizing aerate the fields and cultivate strong grasses, while crowding out weaker ones. And this all happens while the animals enjoy the outdoors and the healthy benefits of munching on fresh grasses, bugs and nutrients.

Tom said it best: "Every day when I go out into the fields there is endless evidence that these systems work. And because of these systems, the cows are healthy and happy, the chickens are healthy and happy, and most importantly the earth is healthy and happy. A win-win for all."

Anyone interested in learning more about The Farm can reach Tom and Laurel by emailing thefarmnewmarlborough@gmail.com. □



The "meat birds"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



April 18, 2016

To the editor:

I am writing on behalf of my father, Hilton Whitney, a subscriber and enthusiastic reader of the *New Marlborough 5 Village News*. He passed away on August 12, 2014. He was born and raised in Hartsville prior to World War II, went on to college, and then worked and raised his family in the New Jersey – New York City area. He maintained very regular contact with Hartsville as his parents lived in the same house there from their marriage in 1916 to their passing about 1980.

He saw the *New Marlborough 5 Village News* as an important way to build and maintain the spirit and active connections of community in this small Massachusetts town. He appreciated both the news and the stories of old in the publication. In his memory, I am enclosing a contribution to the *5 Village News*.

Please remove Hilton Whitney from your subscription list and best wishes for the future of your publication.

Myles Hilton Whitney
North Adams, MA

On May 16, the Board of Selectmen reluctantly accepted Holly Morse's resignation from the Planning Board.

May 10, 2016

Dear Select Board,

I regret to inform you of my decision to resign from the New Marlborough Planning Board. While my decision is not entirely the result of the failure of the recent bylaw amendment to pass at Annual Town Meeting, that failure was a factor.

It underscored how hard it is, for me, to articulate the message that without updated zoning bylaws, the Town is stranded at odds with its Comprehensive Plan. Having helped to draft that plan, I know its merits. The scenic and historic corridors are not protected, nor are the open spaces, nor are the villages. They remain vulnerable to random development based on an outdated set of rules. Everything the community wants fiercely to protect is at risk. Linked to this exposure, forward thinking about growing our tax base, in a way that does not destroy the fabric of our community, remains a divisive topic for general discussion.

I do not need to tell you our current protective bylaws relegate the Planning Board to the signing of ANR (approval not required) forms. From the perspective of smart growth, this is a disaster. And heartbreaking. Even accepting regulatory change is slow, it is impossible for me to return to the tasks of the Planning Board with any optimism that the Town will act, in relative consensus, to tackle an incremental first step forward the next time out, or the time after that, or the time after that. We may have succeeded in moving the needle in the conversation, but we have also reset the clock backwards, for another two years, before a similar baby-step amendment can come forward. This reflection has caused me to reassess where I put my energies. With three book projects planned for completion this year, I find that I can no longer afford the time and passion continued service on the Planning Board would require.

I learned a great deal covering the Planning Board for the *5VN* for the two years prior to becoming a member. I have been honored to be a member of the Board for the six years since then. I am proud of what we have accomplished. And I am endlessly grateful to all of you for your devotion to town governance.

While I turn my attention fully to my work, I will continue to think how best to address what matters most to me in our community—better mutual understanding. In the end, I believe this is the only fix likely to make us dexterous and good at planning for what lies ahead.

All best,
Holly Morse,
Planning Board, Member

VESSELS

New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery Show, June 17- July 10

The New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery will open its 2016 season on Friday, June 17, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with multi-media art using the theme of Vessels. This invitational show includes basketry, ceramics, drawings, photography, paintings in water colors and oil, quilts, and sculpture. Background on two of the twenty-one local artists is given below.

Phyllis Kornfeld began her life as an artist in the traditional way. Her talent was recognized at an early age by a primary school teacher, and her family supported her gift through many years of specialized education. Subsequently, she pursued a successful career as an artist engaged in drawing, painting, and teaching.

Through somewhat serendipitous circumstances, Phyllis was offered an "artist-in-residence" position at three Oklahoma state prisons in the mid-1980s. As she began this work, she was struck by the stark contrast between the richness of the life she had been given and the utter deprivation of the lives of her students. Just as startling to Phyllis was her growing awareness of the innate ability of some of these prisoners to create absolutely beautiful art.

After a short period of time teaching art to prisoners, she was hooked. She found a pleasure and satisfaction in teaching that seemed to liberate her from the increasing pressures to find time to create her own art. Her passion for art began to shift away from the personal expression of her own creativity to enabling the creativity of her students.

Phyllis has selected three of her drawings for the Gallery Show which demonstrate both her creativity as an innovative artist and the almost spiritual influence of her experience with prisoners.

Ceramicist Linda Skipper came late to pottery. Although clay had been a first love in college, her abilities in drawing and painting were the prerequisites for her initial career choice in scenic art. She had to



Top and middle, Ceramics by Linda Skipper; bottom, a Phyllis Kornfeld

move pottery to the back burner for what she thought would be a short artistic diversion.

As head scenic artist for over twenty years for the television production of "Law and Order" and, subsequently, as a scenic artist on other film, television and theater projects, she was required to create quickly-crafted responses to time and budget pressures. She rose to the challenge of show business pressure but looked to the time when her life would calm down and she could again be creative on her own terms.

When she and her artist husband, James Singelis, relocated to New Marlborough, Linda was able to return to the art of her choice. She found a coach with whom she worked closely, as her unique style emerged and deepened. "Simple, graceful, quiet and luminous" are the qualities Linda works for. "Line and space on white pieces create a play with light. Colored pieces are more visually dramatic and the lines are rhythmic and march as a moving pattern."

Art lovers will have an additional chance to see Linda's porcelain work later this summer. Her studio was on the Berkshire Pottery Tour last year, and she will be part of this year's Tour taking place the weekend of September 24 and 25th.

Others artists invited to exhibit their work in the Vessels show include Lee Backer, Dan Bellow, JoAnne Kelly Catsos, Cookie Coyne, Betsey Wells Farber, Ann Getsinger, Nancy Goldberger, Serena W. Granbery, Pat Hogan, Wendy Jensen, Marcie Kammel, Elizabeth Lombardi, Jeanne Marklin, Gwen Melvin, Marjorie Pollack, Peggy Reeves, Larry Silk, Abbe Steinglass, and Terry Wise.

The Meeting House Gallery is located on Route 57 on the New Marlborough Village Green. Beginning on June 18 and running through July 10, the Gallery will be open 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. The exhibit is sponsored by the New Marlborough Village Association. □

Pam Stebbins



LAND TRUST NEWS

Despite the threat of rain, sleet, or possibly snow, the Land Trust's early spring road cleanup got the job done. A dedicated crew of volunteers gleaned forty bags of trash from miles of roads in New Marlborough and was rewarded with a picnic lunch at the Old Inn on the Green. While the consensus was that the amount of trash was up since last fall's cleanup, volunteers managed to make fun out of the work. One volunteer proudly reported his "trash treasure" as a ring-tab-top soda can (circa 1970), testament to the archaeological precision of his work. Another young volunteer admitted she fell in the river along River Road while looking hard for hidden garbage.

Again despite the fickle spring weather, early morning on Mother's Day the Land Trust hosted a birding adventure to catch warblers in their spring migration. Led by expert birder Amber Spring, the group met at a strategic spot in New Marlborough where within a short walking distance there are three distinct bird habitats. Ms. Spring began our two-hour excursion by explaining that our timing was just right. The night before had been clear and calm and, since birds migrate at night, migration was likely very active. Lo and behold – chestnut-sided warblers, yellow-rumped warblers, American redstarts, and yellow-throated warblers – nice gifts on Mother's Day!



photos by Martha Bryan

Martha Bryan

Top: Road cleanup volunteers
Above: Real birders aren't deterred by rain

A NEW SEASON OF FIRST FRIDAYS

On June 3: Remarkable Women of the Revolutionary War Period

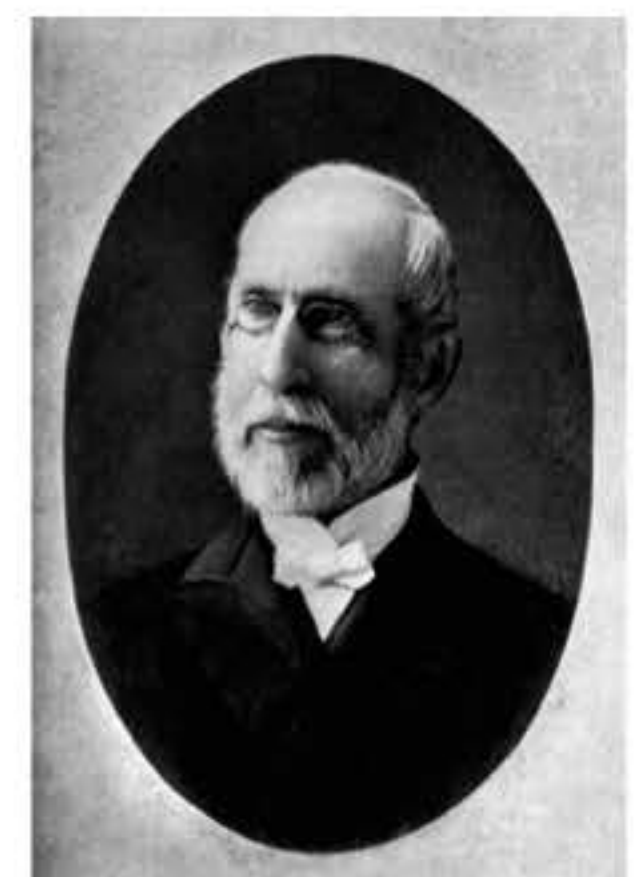
The New Marlborough First Friday series of programs gets started this season on June 3 with a talk by local historian Carole Owens. Winner of this year's Paul and Niki Tsongas Award, recognizing significant contributions to Massachusetts historic preservation, Professor Owens, will discuss 18th century women who made their mark on the Revolutionary War, drawing from her research on her recently published *Remarkable Women of New England: Daughters, Wives, Sisters, and Mother – The War Years 1754 to 1787*. Professor Owens's talk, starting at 7:30 p.m., will be given in the Meeting House Gallery in New Marlborough Village.

On July 1, the Historical Society's second First Friday program will present "Music in the Air, the Life and Work of George Frederick Root." Root was a mid-19th century songwriter who was born in Sheffield and who rose to fame with songs about the Civil War. The performance starts at 7:30 p.m. and will be held at the Southfield Church (not the usual First Friday venue of the Meeting House).

On August 5, the Historical Society will present a program on the history of the Immaculate Conception Church in Mill River, on the occasion of its 150th anniversary. On September 2, Leonard Richards, a professor of history at the University of Massachusetts, will talk on Shays' Rebellion. Professor Richards has characterized the post-Revolutionary War agrarian uprising, which was finally put down in Sheffield in 1787, as "fundamentally altering the course of U.S. history."

All First Friday programs are free and open to the public. □

Joe Poindexter



George Frederick Root

UPCOMING: Events Calendar for May and June

June 3: The Women of 18th Century New England, a First Friday talk by author and historian Carole Owens; 7:30 p.m. New Marlborough Meeting House; sponsored by the New Marlborough Historical Society and free and open to the public

June 7: Much Ado about Life Cycles, a science-as-theater performance by the students of New Marlborough Central School; 6:00 p.m. at Thomas Consolati Performing Arts Center, Mount Everett campus, Sheffield

June 11: White Elephant collection for Elihu Burritt Day sale; 10:00 a.m. to noon, Levine/Olenbush barn opposite Town Hall in Mill River

June 17: Vessels, a themed show of the works of area artists and the first exhibit of the 2016 season, curated by New Marlborough Village Association's Gallery Committee; opening reception at the Meeting House Gallery: 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. The show will remain open Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. until July 10

June 28: New Marlborough Library Film Series presents the documentary *Finding Vivian Maier*; the screening begins at 8:00 p.m. with refreshments at 7:30

July 1: The Life and Songs of George Frederick Root, one of the nation's most popular songwriters in the mid-19th century, will be presented by a group that includes Root's great-great granddaughter – 7:30 p.m. at the Southfield Church, sponsored by the New Marlborough Historical Society and free and open to the public

July 9: White Elephant collection for Elihu Burritt Day sale; 10:00 a.m. to noon, Levine/Olenbush barn across from Town Hall in Mill River

July 15: SMART Art Show, with works by Flying Cloud campers and faculty, opening at the New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., and on view 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays until July 24

July 29: Wild Life, an invitational art show curated by the New Marlborough Village Association Gallery Committee; wine and cheese opening at the Meeting House Gallery, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.; the work will be on display Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. until August 28



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WHY DID THE TURTLE CROSS THE ROAD?

Don't relocate turtles crossing the road.

They know where they are going (usually to lay eggs) and will try to get back there if you relocate them.

If you scare them picking them up and they "pee", that's not urine, it's water the females hold to help them lay eggs. So if they're almost off the road, let them get there while you wait, or carefully move them across, to the side that they were headed toward.

NEW MARLBOROUGH VILLAGE ASSOCIATION RECEIVES GIFT

Music and More is a unique multi-arts series presented in New Marlborough's Meeting House on the Village Green. It was founded in 1991 by Harold Lewin, who passionately dedicated his uncompromising standards and deep knowledge of music to attract acclaimed performers. New Marlborough was Harold's spiritual as well as his physical home. During those many years, in spite of diminishing health, Harold enriched the community with these world-class concerts. Music and More also included exquisite art in the gallery, exciting discussions with award-winning authors, and special media shows.

Each detail of every season was planned by him. Artists were engaged, brochures were designed, ad campaigns executed, program notes and press releases written. At each event, audiences were welcomed and artists properly introduced by the New Marlborough Village Association's own impresario.

Soon after planning the 2015 season, Harold sadly left us.

Joyfully, his music will live with us in perpetuity

thanks to Susan Grant Lewin's gift to the Village Association, in his memory, of his beloved and most beautiful concert-grand Bechstein piano. Thanks to this gift, Music and More's series will

continue its vital contribution of outstanding chamber music to the lively musical community of the Berkshires.

Louise Yohalem



SOUTHFIELD CHURCH SUMMER MUSIC CONTINUES

by Robert Olsen



The second season of sensational sounds at the Southfield Church continues with two offerings in June.

On Saturday, June 4, Hannah Lynn Cohen, who was a 2015 Monument Mountain Regional High School graduate who is now a freshman at Boston University School of Music will present a violin performance.. She returns to bring us another rewarding evening.

Miss Cohen, who first performed at the Southfield Church in 2015, was awarded the Daniel Pearl Berkshire Scholarship and First Prize in the Uel Wade Music Scholarship Competition before heading to Boston University last fall. Returning with Miss Cohen is pianist and cellist Noah Krauss, another Monument Mountain graduate. Mr. Krauss is pursuing a double bachelor's degree in performance in piano and cello at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Last summer, Ms. Cohen and Mr. Krauss gave an excellent performance of the Handel – Halvorsen Passacaglia.

On Saturday, June 18, harpsichordist Mariken Palmboom will present a program called J.S. Bach and his Dutch Musical Ancestry. She will take the audience on a journey from Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck, to his star pupil Heinrich Scheidemann, and then on to his main student and successor (Dutch born, like Sweelinck)

Johann Adam Reincken, and finally to Reincken's admirer, J.S. Bach.

Ms. Palmboom began her piano studies at an early age and turned her attention to the harpsichord at the age of sixteen, when she entered the Early Music department at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague, Netherlands. At the Royal Flemish Conservatory she did post-graduate studies where she obtained a master's degree in solo performance and the first prize with greatest distinction. In 1986 she received a special award in the International Harpsichord Competition in Bruges, Belgium. She has performed as a soloist and continuo player in Europe and in the United States. A Berkshires resident since 1997, she teaches harpsichord and piano to many young students. On Sunday mornings you can hear her play the organ at the First Congregational Church in Worthington, Massachusetts. Her harpsichord was made by Carl Dudash of Norfolk, Connecticut. It is an honor to have a musician of Ms. Palmboom's caliber perform for us. Be sure to join us for her musical journey!

Both concerts will begin at 7:00 p.m. The Southfield Church is located at 234 Norfolk Road in the village of Southfield. The concerts will be followed by a reception on the lawn, weather permitting, featuring gelato from The Southfield Store. There is no admission charge for either concert; donations will be collected to support the artists. As always, your generosity is encouraged! □

WORLD'S FARE MADE LOCAL

Cantina 229, Reopening in July, Gives New Meaning to Fresh

By Joe Poindexter

The distance between farm and table is about to get a bit shorter. With the reopening of Cantina 229 in New Marlborough village, diners can look forward to a menu with vegetables picked that morning — or a chicken dish prepared from a fowl killed and dressed perhaps just the day before. “Can you imagine how many hands an eggplant or a tomato or a head of lettuce [from a farm in the Midwest or California] has gone through?” asks Josh Irwin, co-owner and head chef of Cantina 229. For the offerings that will appear on the Cantina menu, the answer might be as low as two: a neighborhood farmer’s and Mr. Irwin’s.

Cantina 229, which had a successful run of “Taco Tuesdays” last summer, is back in business with offerings that draw on cuisines from around the world, but heavily influenced by ingredients available across town. Starting July 1, the restaurant will be open Friday through Tuesday, 5:00 to 9:00 p.m., plus during brunch hours on Sunday. And, yes, yielding to its fans, Taco Tuesdays will also be back. As it happens, Cantina’s new beginning coincides with a new addition to the family. On May 11, Josh’s partner and Cantina co-owner Emily Rachel gave birth to a son, Jasper Michael Irwin. “We have a family to take care of,” says Josh, explaining why the dinner service will be on the early side. In recognition of its remote rural location – on Route 57 about a quarter mile west of the Meeting House – the restaurant will accept reservations. In all, there is indoor seating for thirty-six, including a communal table, plus four tables outside.

To prepare for year-round opening, the couple has winterized the restaurant building, a structure across the

driveway from their residence. This required replacing screened openings with glass and installing radiant heat, plus a wood stove for coziness. While they were at it, they redid the interior — also with a preference for what was available nearby. The counter facing the open kitchen uses spalled maple from Berkshire Products of Ashley Falls. A new bar (seats eight) was created from Douglas fir planking that had been stored on the property by its former owner, Sam Mills. The bar’s paneling had once been doors on a barn, also on the property.

Josh, who will be in charge of the kitchen, learned classic French and Italian cuisines during stints at restaurants in the Washington, D. C., neighborhood of Georgetown, and Boston. He then went on a pilgrimage “to develop my palette,” he says, spending five months in India, two in Thailand, four in China, and a month in Istanbul. He calls his approach to cooking “world’s fare made local.” The local element is prominently displayed on a blackboard inside the restaurant, listing the farms that will supply Cantina: among them, Berkshire Bounty, Howden, Barking Dog, Hay Meadow, and Farm Girl Farm. Josh plans to be in touch with growers on a daily basis to help determine what might go on the evening’s menu. A garden within view of the Cantina will augment their offerings with specialty vegetables – Chinese long beans, albino beets, zebra tomatoes, for instance. Additionally, the pigs Josh and Emily are raising will supply pork, their chickens will supply eggs.

You don’t get the farm much closer to the table than that. □



Cantina 229 co-owners Josh Irwin and Emily Rachel

photo by Joe Poindexter



Gedney Farmers' Market




When: Starting Friday May 27th, and will be open every Friday all season, rain or shine, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Where: Gedney Farm, in the back field adjacent to the patio area. Stop by to shop, and then enjoy a drink, food, a stroll and the wonderful ambience created by the wood-fired argentine grill and the serene fields of the property.

What: Baked goods, meats, eggs, fresh flowers, vegetables, herbs, soups, honey, cheeses and more.

Most products from members of our New Marlborough community. Stock up for the weekend!



You can't get any more local than this!!

NEIGHBORS



Alex Holman, of Mill River, passed away on April 3. He had suffered a fall at home, and in the words of his wife, Adele, "...the end was swift and merciful." Alex had just enjoyed going out to celebrate his ninety-sixth birthday; in mid-May they would have celebrated their sixty-sixth wedding anniversary.



photo courtesy of the Holman family

The Holmans purchased the former Congregational Church from the congregation in December 1976, to create a part-time residence. By Memorial Day of 1977 they were able to occupy the converted living space, and in June, 1978, they hosted an open house for the former

congregation that was attended by more than 125 people.

Alex loved Mill River, and over the nearly forty years that they lived here, the Holmans hosted numerous events involving the community such as fundraisers for the library and Gould Farm, New Marlborough Historical Society events, and a number of art shows. They also established the tradition of bell-ringing on July 4 as mandated by Congress in 1976 to celebrate the country's bicentennial. The Holmans have continued this annually, with anywhere from fifteen to fifty participants.

Alex's enjoyment of and dedication to Mill River and New Marlborough was long-lived. His constancy will be missed. □

Neighbors compiled by Barbara Lowman: deeuell@yahoo.com

OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

I'm sure many of our readers missed hearing from **Don Beauchamp** last month. It turns out he had a major computer crash, "wiping out everything, including 15,000 photos." Fortunately he had his pictures backed up on SD cards and is back in business. As you will see, he has had a busy month observing nature. On May 8, Don wrote: "Thanks to the New Marlborough Land Trust and Amber, our bird expert, for a great walk this morning, a little wet at first, but plenty of birds to be seen and heard. Not to outdo the walk, but I came home to see my first **hummingbird** of the season, a **Baltimore oriole**, and a **yellow-rump warbler**; and then a bit later an **indigo bunting** and a **butterfly**. The **indigo bunting**, a male, brilliant in color, was scared away from the platform feeder by a **cardinal**. I also saw a **wood thrush**. What a great day! And the **bluebirds** who were here all winter are still around, but not nesting in box. A **house wren** had taken that space over. You will notice in my photo that the **oriole** is on the hummingbird feeder (top right). He and a **downy woodpecker** and a **grosbeak** have spent all day on it, having already eaten all the oil seeds I put out. Kind of piggy!"



photos by Don Beauchamp

On the following day, Don's wildlife neighbors in Clayton continued to stop by: "I have had a **pileated woodpecker** in the yard, **northern flickers** (right) for a day on the lawn, two male **mallards** walking around for the last four days, and a **rose-breasted grosbeak**. Plus, a nice red **fox** ran through the yard and back across the road. I don't know if this will show up well in the photograph, but it is the wing tip of the pileated woodpecker preening himself. He was on the far side of the tree, but I could see movement, and then his wing tip would appear and then retract, so I took a couple of photos. I guess he was getting ready for a date!"

Barry and Marjorie Shapiro report: "On April 28, we were taking an early morning walk on Brewer Hill Road with our Havanese, Rusty the Wonder Dog, when we spotted a large black shape moving through the brush about 100 feet from us. It was a very large **bear**, and, as it came out onto the road, it stopped and looked at us. We looked back. Rusty barked. Off ran the bear, obviously scared stiff of a twelve-pound dog. The bear tore across the road and through an adjacent field, moving faster than we could have imagined. It was quite a sight. We subsequently learned that bears, even large ones, can run as fast as racehorses for short distances and that it's never a good idea to run from one!"

photo by Barry Shapiro



Daniel Dorn, of Mill River writes, "Yes, the **robin** is one our most common birds. Does that mean she is less amazing any of the other, more rare, species? David and I have been watching this industrious mother-to-be make her nest on top of one of the lattices we build for our clematis plants. She has been working very hard! She starts

before the sun comes up, works through the morning, then seems to rest in the heat of the afternoon. First, she started gathering straw and laid down a foundation, then she sculpted the base of a nest, now she is making a cup-like home for her eggs. She uses her beak, her wings, her legs, her body, every part of her body! She doesn't seem to mind us coming in and out nearby, nor does she mind our eight-pound Yorkie patrolling his territory every morning, all the time barking! These past few days have been amazing! I wonder why the house wrens have been stopping in to check things out!!?"

John Schreiber, who commutes from New Marlborough Village to Springfield reported:

"Driving home from work along Route 57 in Tolland on May 10, I spotted a huge moose munching in a swamp at side of the road. I stopped and took pictures as the beast looked calmly at me. Wow!"



photo by Daniel Dorn



photo by John Schreiber

Sandra Walker, who lives in the vicinity of Hartsville, has, like Don Beauchamp, had plenty of wildlife moments in the past month: "On April 29 I looked out the window to see a beautiful fox chasing a squirrel. The squirrel ran right up the tree and Ms. Fox stood at the bottom of the tree looking up in frustration, exactly how Max, our Bernese, looks when he tries to chase them. I think there is a den in the woods below us and of course, we have fresh fat squirrels here stuffing their faces at the feeders every day. I've heard the pups barking but haven't seen one yet."



photo by Sandra Walker

On May 14, Sandra writes, "We have a wire line running between our deck and a tree where we hang the feeders. It's too high for the bears to reach, but we attract all sorts of diners, as you can tell by the crew that came for breakfast this morning. Along

with the red squirrel, there are goldfinches, house finches, and a chickadee. Other visitors to the feeding station included a rose-breasted grosbeak and a young bear. Hawks and owls are also here dining on the birds at the feeder. My husband says, 'Everybody has to eat.'"

On the subject of continuing to feed our feathered friends at this time of year, **Robin Tost**, who lives down by Umpachene Falls, checked in on May 16 to say, "I still have feeders out during the day and have been rewarded with a flood of colorful returnees who really want suet in these cold, windy days. Rose-breasted grosbeaks, red-bellied woodpeckers, and a gloriously orange male Baltimore oriole take my mind off the swarm of cowbirds...."



photo by Sandra Walker

Those of us who subscribe to Maggie's List will have noted the excitement around town on the return of ruby-throated hummingbirds. **Larry Burke** sees them regularly at the window of his greenhouse, feasting their eyes on the nasturtium, geranium, and bougainvillea blossoms, and he has now set out a feeder for them so they don't injure themselves by banging into the windows. A possible side effect of the hummingbird feeder was the appearance on the morning of May 16 of an extremely large, absolutely gorgeous black bear, right outside the house. No camera close enough to capture the moment, unfortunately. □

Compiled by Larry Burke, lburke2@me.com

AND NOW, BATS

by Angus Kerr

As we watch the sun setting behind the trees, we begin to hear the sounds that only come in the dark: the chirping of spring peepers, the yipping of a coyote, the croaks of a bullfrog, or the low hoot of an owl. However, there are animals stirring out there that we don't hear. After their long dormancy during the cold, bats have emerged from hibernation. At dusk, they can be seen flying out of barns and spreading across the countryside hunting for insects. Although bats seem silent as they fly through the forest, they actually make very high-pitched calls, known as echolocation – their means of navigating in the dark.

The ultrasonic calls emitted by bats, including our local species, the big brown bat, *Eptesicus fuscus*, and the little brown bat, *Myotis lucifugus*, (bats do not have the most creative common names in the animal kingdom) are too high-pitched for a human to hear, as the sounds are usually between 20 kilohertz (kHz) and 100 kHz. The upper range of human hearing is 20 kHz.

During winter, our local bats roost in old buildings, attics, barns, or caves, where they hibernate. Bats are able to withstand temperature changes of 50 degrees celsius, allowing them to survive in harsh climates. While the weather is rarely a problem for these hibernators, a deadly fungal disease is. The White Nose Syndrome is a fungus that affects

continued on page 22

And Now, Bats, continued from page 21

the muzzle of hibernating bats, creating a white mass on the nose (hence the name). This fungus consumes the body fat of the bats during hibernation, causing them to wake up, which then leads to their deaths from frostbite or starvation. Since the disease was discovered in 2006, millions of bats have died, and our local bat colonies have been decimated.

So why do we care about these animals anyway? Well, these fuzzy mammals are invaluable to our ecosystem. Some species help pollinate our fruit trees and flowers, and they help keep the insect population under control, consuming up to 1,000 mosquitoes an hour. So, next time you sit outside watching the sun disappear behind the trees and slapping at bugs, keep one eye on the sky and spare a good thought for our furry, bug-feasting friends. □

THE LOG: FIRE AND RESCUE

April 2	9:38 p.m.	Old County Road Medical Call	April 9	3:28 a.m.	Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call
April 4	9:52 a.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road Medical Call	April 12	4:55 p.m.	Norfolk Road Medical Call
April 5	8:53 a.m.	Norfolk Road Medical Call	April 23	3:52 a.m.	East Hill Road Fire Alarm
April 6	8:50 a.m.	Mutual Aid to Sandisfield Medical Call	April 25	9:30 a.m.	Corashire Road Medical Call
April 9	12:56 a.m.	Canaan Southfield Road Motor Vehicle Accident	April 27	6:32 p.m.	Norfolk Road Medical Call
			April 29	8:15 p.m.	New Marlborough Hill Road Fire Alarm

Spring Dance Thank You: The members of the New Marlborough Fire Company wish to thank all who purchased tables and/or attended the Fire Company's 2016 Spring Dance. The turnout was terrific, the food was fantastic, and the music was great. Awards were presented to Chris Boults, EMT of the Year; Winonah Carpenter, Volunteer of the Year; Ed Harvey, Firefighter of the Year; and David Herrick, Honorary Chief.

Thank you to all of the evening's table sponsors: The Yohalem family and friends, Paul Joffe and family, Doug and Julia Trumbull, CMC of the Berkshires, Michael White Construction and the Mill River General Store, Herbert and Jeanine Coyne and Southfield Corporation, the Tatlock family, Steve and Elaine Mack, Margaret and Joseph Koerner, John and Becky Schreiber, Fred and Mary Jo Friedman and Haymeadow Pond Farm, and Edward and Claire Stiepleman.

The Fire Company also wishes to thank Brad Wagstaff, Leslie Miller, Michael Smith, and all of the great staff at Gedney Farm, as well as David Malachino and the band, Cornerstone, for a wonderful evening.

Mark your calendars for the Pig Roast on August 20!



Free 911 Signs Available: For a limited time, free 911 signs will be available to New Marlborough residents. The New Marlborough Fire Company has received a generous donation from the Kiwanis Club of Sheffield and is using the funds to purchase 911 signs for residents who have not yet posted their 911 numbers.

The signs, which typically cost \$20, can be ordered through David Herrick at the Mill River General Store. Any resident needing help installing a sign should simply mention it to David. We'll take care of it from there and gladly install the sign.

All residents should have a 911 sign posted at the end of the driveway and visible from both approaches to the home. A clearly visible 911 number is important to providing a timely response in the event of an emergency. □

David Smith

THE LOG

POLICE DEPARTMENT (SELECTED ENTRIES)

- April 2 1:28 a.m. A mystery is cleared up when a caller, complaining of a neighbor banging on her wall over the past two hours, is determined to have been calling from Marlborough, Massachusetts, and had mistakenly been given the New Marlborough Police Department phone number.
- April 4 9:47 a.m. Motor vehicle accident at the intersection of County and Mill River Great Barrington Roads
- April 5 9:00 a.m. A Canaan Southfield Road resident reports an IRS scam phone call threatening her with a lawsuit.
- noon A Brewer Hill Road resident reports an IRS scam phone call threatening him with a lawsuit.
- 3:05 p.m. Chased down after running a car off the Mill River Great Barrington Road, the driver of a Dodge pickup admits to having been distracted while using a cigarette lighter.
- April 6 2:11 p.m. A Hartsville Mill River road resident reports yet another threat of a lawsuit by an IRS scammer.
- April 8 6:22 p.m. Alerted to two all-terrain vehicles speeding on Clayton Mill River Road, officer advises joy-riders to obey speed limits – and wear helmets.
- April 9 12:46 a.m. The search for the driver of a Subaru that rolled over on Canaan Southfield road ends when a neighboring resident calls to say that the driver has shown up at his residence.
- April 15 12:05 a.m. Canaan Southfield Road resident reports that a pickup truck has smashed the fence in her front yard, hit the corner of her house, and knocked over a TV satellite dish. A check of the truck's license plate identifies the owner as a resident of Clayton Mill River Road.
- 9:00 a.m. Having noticed evidence of spilled motor oil and tire tracks on the lawn, the owner of an unoccupied house on Brewer Hill Road requests police surveillance of her property.
- April 18 11:41 a.m. A Brewer Branch Road resident alerts the department to a possible abandoned vehicle outside her home.
- April 20 9:18 a.m. The department notifies the animal control officer about a dead cat found by a Mill River village resident.
- 9:21 a.m. A Canaan Southfield Road resident reports that a squirrel seems to be caught in her chimney.
- April 21 2:41 p.m. An employee of a New Marlborough business alerts the department, on advice from his lawyer, to threats from his employer and the forcible entry into his office.
- April 22 5:23 p.m. A Berkshire Woods Road resident is arrested for driving with a revoked operator's license.
- April 24 7:52 a.m. A Clayton Mill River Road resident calls in a raucous disturbance at a neighbor's house.
- April 26 1:30 p.m. A caller reports the smashing of several mailboxes in the vicinity of her Hartsville New Marlborough Road residence.
- 1:43 p.m. After checking a Clayton Mill River Road resident's suspicions that a request for a contribution from an "American Legion" solicitor, was a scam — the caller asked that a check be left on the doorstep overnight for pickup the following morning — an officer determines that the Legion was testing a new solicitation method and the call was legitimate.
- April 28 12:45 p.m. The department is asked to assist with traffic control, as Great Barrington police attend to a fatal collision between car and freight train on Route 23 in Great Barrington.
- April 29 12:03 p.m. Assist in the reloading of lumber that has dropped from a pickup truck on New Marlborough Hill Road at its intersection with Route 57
- 3:29 p.m. An Ormsbee school bus driver reports being followed by a black Nissan sedan despite being given several opportunities to pass.
- April 30 11:32 p.m. Investigation of an outdoor fire on Brewer Branch Road near its intersection with Brewer Hill Road reveals that it was set by campers.

NEW MARLBOROUGH SCIENCE FAIR

By Evie Kerr, Grade 6, Undermountain Elementary

On May 17, the students of New Marlborough Central School were buzzing with excitement – it was the first NMC Science fair! Grades K-4 were allowed to participate in the science fair, and with about eighty children at the school, twenty-four students participated. About seventy people attended the science fair; it was a good turnout. The students of NMC chose their own topics. There was a great variety of projects, from “Static Electricity” by Indigo Travis to “Axolotl Salamander Regeneration” by Rose Wilson. Some of the projects were locally based, like “Insects of Mill River” by Digby Kerr or “Backyard Animals” by Liam Smith.



photos by Evie Kerr

While this was happening in the New Marlborough Central School basement, in the cafeteria the kindergarteners were showing their robots. They made the robots out of cardboard, tin foil, cans, and other craft supplies to learn about geometric shapes, while having fun.

The Science Fair was a wonderful way to show off the curiosity and creativity of New Marlborough Central School's students. □

From the displays it was clear that the students really put their minds to being scientists and finding answers to their own questions. Digby Kerr chose to investigate the insect life of Mill River where he lives, while Mirabelle Meyers chose to explore how flowers get their water.

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THE MOUNT EVERETT MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL - "PETER PAN"

photo courtesy of SBRSD



photo by Fiona Kerr



photo by Fiona Kerr

Mount Everett Middle School students presented Peter Pan on the weekend of May 13 -15. Ralph Petillo directed the cast of twenty-three students in a delightful dramatic performance with impressive vocal numbers directed by Courtney English. Once again the cast members from New Marlborough were thoroughly convincing in their roles: Mickey Masters as Mr. Darling and Chief Tiger Bamboo, Mary Shalaby as Peter Pan, Evie Kerr as Brave Shrub, and Maile Handy as Pirate Murphy. Although they had to put this production together on a shortened timetable, they were flawless in their delivery. A real treat for all in attendance.

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And After the Fire, by Lauren Belfer
Prayers the Devil Answers, by Sharyn McCrumb
Beyond the Ice Limits, by Douglas Preston

Adult Nonfiction

Valiant Ambition, by Nathaniel Philbrick
Laughing Without an Accent, by Firoozeh Dumas

Children's Fiction

The Hidden Oracle, by Rick Riordan
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It Ain't So Awful Falafel, by Firoozeh Dumas
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Children's Nonfiction

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The Finest Hour *Girls in the Band*
Orange Is The New Black, Season 3

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Be Frank with Me, by Julia Claiborne Johnson
Boar Island, by Nevada Barr
Beyond the Ice Limit, by Douglas Preston



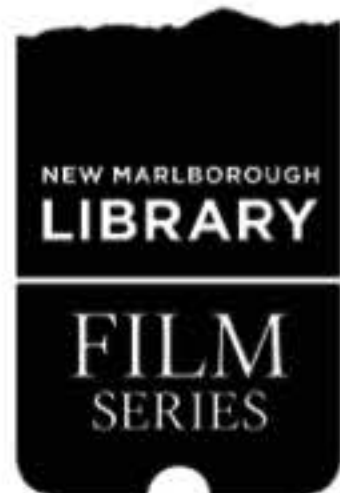
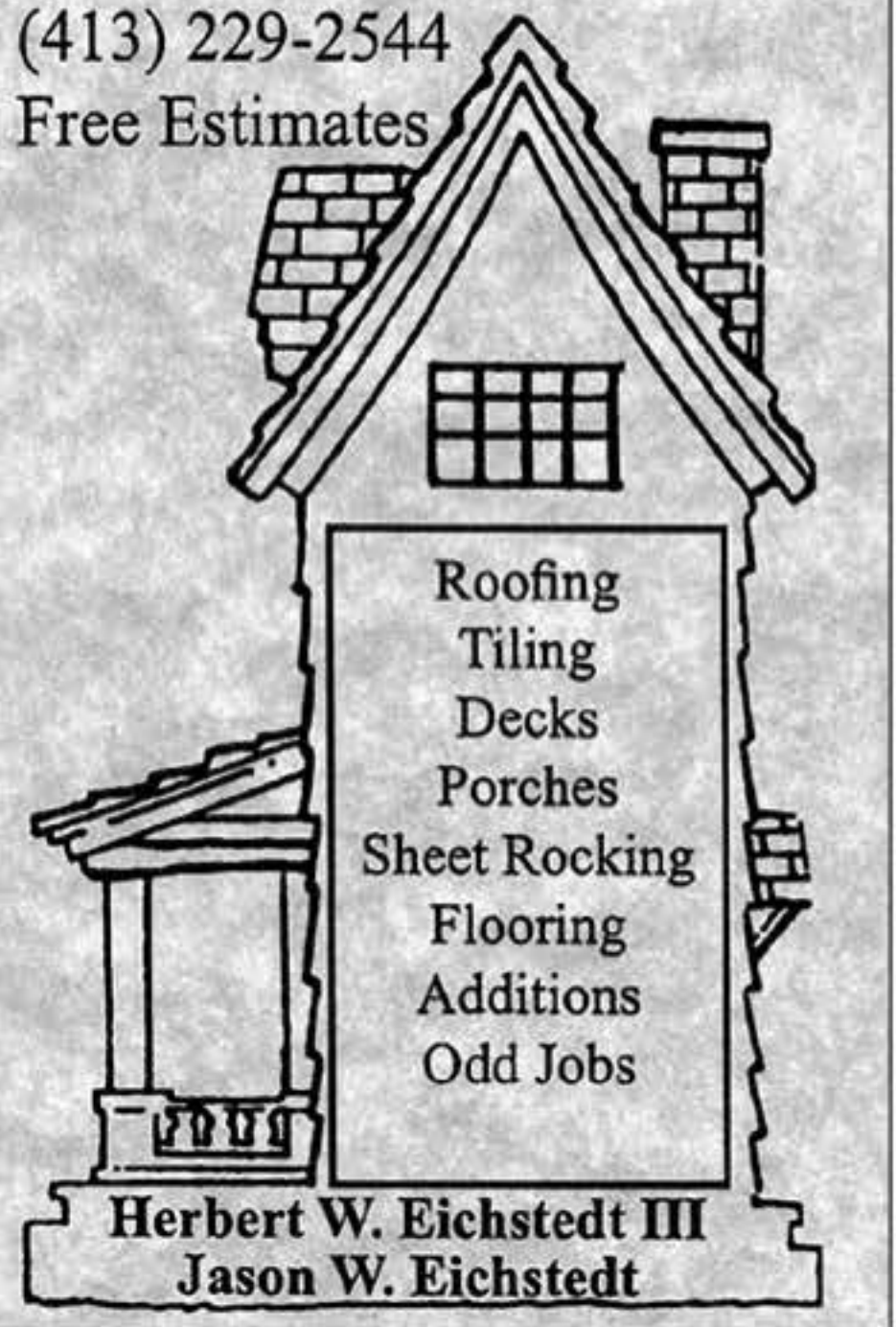
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The New Marlborough Library Film Series presents:

Finding Vivian Maier on Tuesday, June 28, at 7:30 p.m.

Plot Summary

An amateur historian, John Maloof, discovered the photographic work of Vivian Maier, a mysterious nanny in Chicago who took over 100,000 photos that went unseen until after her death. He crusaded to turn her into one of the 20th century's greatest street photographers. According to publicity material about the film, "Maier's strange and riveting life and art are revealed through never-before-seen photographs, films, and interviews with dozens who thought they knew her." There has been controversy about this film since Vivian was a recluse who died without having any say in what happened to her photographs. Apparently she had them in a storage space and didn't pay the rent so the photographs showed up at an auction. A question perhaps to be discussed could be - is it wrong to make millions of dollars off of someone's secret passion without their permission?

Directed by: John Maloof and Charlie Siskel.

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.
- ◇ **Town Administrator:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- ◇ **Planning Board:** Second and fourth 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 9 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
- ◇ **Post Office:** Mill River Window: Monday - Friday 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Southfield Window: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
(The Southfield PO lobby is open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)
- ◇ **Town Treasurer:** Monday & Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- ◇ **Tax Collector:** Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 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

Transfer Station Hours:

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

PERMITS ARE DUE ON JULY 1

They are available at the Town Hall in Mill River for July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

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Emergency calls:

**Police, Fire, Medical
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Located on Mill River-Southfield Rd.
Hours: Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
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We welcome advertisements from businesses owned by New Marlborough residents.

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

NM5VN Editorial Team

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

New Marlborough 5 Village News

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The next issue will be dated July 2016.

All copy must be submitted no later than June 17.

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

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- ♦ **Project Bee** meets on the last Saturday of every month from 10:30 until noon at the New Marlborough Library in Mill River. See www.projectbeeline.org or Project Bee on Facebook.
- ♦ **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
- ♦ **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.